



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chief Executive's Directorate  
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## Scrutiny Committee

# AGENDA

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Rooms 1&2  
Town Hall  
Stockport

Meeting: Wednesday, 14 July 2010  
Tea: 5.00 pm (Stopford House)  
Business: 6.00 pm

#### Substitutes

Councillors who require a substitute to be appointed should inform Democratic Services using the pro-forma by 4.00 pm on Friday Monday 12 July 2010. Councillors who wish to arrange their own substitute should inform Democratic Services of the name of their substitute prior to the commencement of the meeting.

#### 1. MINUTES

(Enclosed)

To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June, 2010.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers to declare any interest which they may have in any of the items on the agenda for this meeting (including whipping declarations).

#### 3. CALL-IN

To consider any call-in items.

##### (a) Reference ED1234 'Secondary School Re-organisation in Stockport'

(Executive Decision Record and report enclosed)

#### 4. REVENUE OUTTURN 2009/10

(Previously circulated)

To consider a report of the Corporate Director, Business Services

This report sets out the 2009/10 outturn position on the Council's general fund revenue account. It includes:

- A summary of the revenue budget and outturn position for 2009/10;

- Details of the revenue outturn position with regard to cash limits, non-cash limits and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG);
- Details of the outturn position with regard to schemes provided with priority funding;
- Proposals for the utilisation of cash limit and non cash limit surpluses;
- Details of the movements on earmarked reserves, general fund and schools' balances occurring during 2009/10.

The report was previously considered by the Executive at its meeting held on 14 June 2010.

**The Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the report.**

Officer contact: Christine Buxton Tel: 474 4124 email: [christine.buxton@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:christine.buxton@stockport.gov.uk)

## **5. CAPITAL OUTTURN 2009/10**

(Previously circulated)

To consider a report of Corporate Director, Business Services.

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee with regard to the progress in achieving the priority outputs and outcomes of the 2009/10 capital programme and to seek approval for amendments to the three year programme to reflect the outturn position, notification of additional funding and other changes to the programme between years.

The report was previously considered by the Executive at its meeting held on 14 June 2010.

**The Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the report.**

Officer contact: Christine Buxton Tel: 474 4124 email: [christine.buxton@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:christine.buxton@stockport.gov.uk)

Councillors are encouraged to submit questions on the financial and performance monitoring reports prior to the meeting in order to enable a detailed response to be available at the meeting. Questions should be submitted to either Steve Worthington Tel: 474 3239 or email: [steve.worthington@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:steve.worthington@stockport.gov.uk) or David Tomlinson Tel: 218 1634 or email: [david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk)

## **6. THE ROLE OF HEALTH VISITORS**

To consider a report of the NHS Community Health Stockport (Enclosed)

This report has been produced for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee following a request for a report "detailing the role of the health visitor and some of their impacts on services", and information about "their referral rates to CAMHs". Also included are the current whole time equivalents and an itemised list of most of the intervention delivered by Stockport health visiting service.

**The Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment on the report.**

Officer Contact: [gillian.frame@stockport-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:gillian.frame@stockport-pct.nhs.uk)

## **7. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY**

(Enclosed)

To consider a report of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People, detailing the provisions of the child poverty strategy.

A presentation will also given be at the meeting.

**The Committee is requested to note the report, and to discuss the priorities and direction of the Strategy**

Officer Contact: Viki Packman Tel: 474 5709 email: [wiki.packman@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:wiki.packman@stockport.gov.uk)

## **8. CYBER-BULLYING SCRUTINY REVIEW**

(Enclosed)

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy)

This report details the findings of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Review 'Cyber-Bullying'.

**The report sets out a number of recommendations which the Committee is requested to consider and agree.**

Officer contact: David Tomlinson, Tel: 218 1634, email: [david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk)

## **9. SCRUTINY REVIEW SELECTION PROCESS**

(Enclosed)

To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy) which details the relationship between the Business Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency (BITE) strategy and the scrutiny review process in the current municipal year alongside the arrangements for scoping of reviews identified under the BITE Strategy.

**The Committee is requested to consider the process to be followed for identifying scrutiny review topics for the current municipal year and how scrutiny activity can align with any of the BITE service reviews.**

Officer contact: Steve Callender Tel: 474 3184 email: [steve.callender@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:steve.callender@stockport.gov.uk)

## **10. RESUME OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 10 JUNE 2010**

(Enclosed)

To note the resume of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 10 June, 2010

Officer contact: Jonathan Vali Tel: 474 3201, email: [jonathan.vali@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.vali@stockport.gov.uk)

## **11. SCHOOLS FORUM**

To note the minutes of the meetings of the Schools Forum held on 21 January and 13 May 2010. (Enclosed)

## 12. AGENDA PLANNING

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To consider a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Democracy)  
(Enclosed)

The report sets out planned agenda items for the next two meetings of the Committee and Forward Plan items that fall within its remit.

**The Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the information in the report and put forward any agenda items for future meetings.**

Officer contact: David Tomlinson, Tel: 218 1634, email: [david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:david.tomlinson@stockport.gov.uk)

Agenda officer contact: Steve Worthington on 474 3239, e-mail: [steve.worthington@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:steve.worthington@stockport.gov.uk) or Fax: 0161 474 3240

If you require a copy of the agenda or a particular report(s) by e mail or in large print, braille or audio, please contact the above person for further details. A minicom facility is available on 0161 474 3128.

A loop system is available in the meeting rooms in the Town Hall. Please contact the Town Hall Reception on 0161 474 3251 for further details.

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information.  
Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000.  
Email: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej informacji, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

যদি এই খবরগুলি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی انٹرپرائزنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

خدمات ترجمہ رایگان این اطلاعات در صورت نیاز موجود میباشد. لطفاً با شماره تلفن 0161 477 9000 یا واحد ترجمہ (اینترپرائزنگ یونٹ) ما تماس بگیرید.

تنوفر خدمت ترجمہ شفویة اذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا المعلومات. نرجو الاتصال اربن رینیول علی رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Meeting: 2 June 2010

At: 6.00 pm

### PRESENT

Councillor Jenny Humphreys (Chair) in the Chair; Councillor Ann Smith (Vice Chair); Councillors Ben Alexander, Colin Foster, Ann Graham, Les Jones, Mags Kirkham, Wendy Orrell, Paul Porgess, Iain Roberts, Maureen Rowles and Lisa Walker.

### **1. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 7 April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

With regard to the request for further information in respect of the take-up of school meals at Werneth School (Minute 10 referred) the Committee was given an oral update. A number of positive lessons had been learnt and these would be disseminated to all schools in the form of a case study when all the information had been received.

It was suggested that consideration could be given to a future scrutiny review on school meal uptake.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda.

The following interest was declared:-

#### **Personal Interest**

Councillor	Interest
Wendy Meikle	As a Counsellor for looked after children (Agenda Item 7, Minute 7 Corporate Parenting Strategy).

### **3. CALL-IN**

There were no items to consider.

### **4. QUARTER 4 2009/10 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an overview of the performance during the 4th Quarter of the 2009/10 financial year and performance during the 2008/09 academic year. It also detailed a year end performance forecast for performance indicators where data was available. The report included LAA targets (2008-2011) and national indicators relevant to children and young people.

The Committee was informed that the report format had been amended in accordance with previous suggestions. The report showed significant positive improvements in respect of local agreements and national indicators in regarding 'Be Healthy', 'Stay Safe', 'Enjoy and Achieve' and 'Positive Contribution and Economic Wellbeing'. In general, Stockport Council was performing at a higher level than neighbouring Greater Manchester Authorities although a number of exceptions were detailed within the report.

The Corporate Director also reported that there had been an impact and heightened awareness with regard to keeping children safe as a result of issues relating to a previous high profile national case. As a result, the Directorate had received an increase in referrals, but a review of the new cases did not suggest that services had not been previously provided at the right level.

In response to a Councillor's question regarding hospital figures in respect of treatment in regarding alcohol related incidents, the Committee was informed that the figures related to actual admissions and that this had led to concerns, particularly from the Police.

The Committee was also informed of the need to ensure that Children's Centres continued to deliver high quality outreach services into appropriate catchment areas in order to reach the children with the most need. With regard to meeting Phase 2 targets by 2011, the Committee was informed that national evidence had shown mixed success rates in the identity and provision to the groups of families with greatest need and that it was a high priority in Stockport to ensure that children's centres in deprived areas were well developed and effective.

It was further reported that the police had completed a review of children missing from care and from home and that related investigations cost 3% of the police budget. The report showed good relationships between the police and social workers but less so between the police and schools and that this was currently being addressed.

Councillors asked further questions with regard to alcohol and drugs issues with regard to young people and how these were addressed within schools; and the composition of figures of fatalities of young people. The need to understand where accidents occurred was understood and once results were evaluated, resources would be targeted and the Committee would receive an associated update report.

With regard to the reported increase in figures relating to people with learning disabilities, the Committee was informed that the figures had been no higher than anticipated. Numbers were counted more accurately than in the past and that due to the economic downturn, there was less available finance to address and combat the problem.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **5. 2009/10 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE ON PROVISIONAL OUTTURN POSITION**

The Corporate Director, Business Services submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the 2009/10 revenue budget provisional outturn position. The report contained draft figures and a report on the final position would be presented to the next Executive Meeting on 14 June 2010 and forwarded to the subsequent cycle of Scrutiny Committees.

The Corporate Director reported that a balanced outturn had been achieved in 2009/10 as predicted; although contingencies would be needed as part of the Council's medium term strategy as significant pressures were anticipated in future budgets.

In response to a Councillor's question, it was reported that the provision of school transport was currently under review and that the Committee would be informed of the results in due course.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **6. STOCKPORT MANAGING MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY (OFFERTON HIGH SCHOOL INCIDENT REPORT)**

At the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in April 2010, the Committee had requested a report in relation to the tragic incident at Offerton High School.

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing information on training, further action taken together with the various provisions in place for monitoring processes through a self assessment tool for schools. The policy and the checks to ensure that there was adequate recording had been circulated to all schools in Stockport including private schools and Stockport College.

It was further reported that 112 schools from a total of 117 in Stockport had attended the necessary training and Councillors expressed concern that there were five schools remaining, stating that all schools needed to participate and that senior managers needed to ensure that this occurred. In response it was reported that all secondary schools in Stockport had attended and had been given a key message on dealing with emergencies. In addition, schools had been encouraged to carry out risk assessments as part of policy and procedure within which ambulance accessibility to schools was included.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **7. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY**

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the background, aims, objectives and provisions

of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and its role relating to looked after children in Stockport.

In response to Councillor's questions it was reported that children fared better in foster care than in care homes and that foster care was positively sought where possible. It was reported however, that residential care homes had specific conformities, targets and work programmes and that great care was taken to build trust and close relationships between social workers, foster parents and the child. A care leavers' group had suggested that the term 'Looked After Child' (LAC) should refer to being 'Loved, Appreciated, Cherished' and while Councillors accepted that this could prove difficult in a number of cases, there was a continuous focus and commitment by social workers and the directorate to enable this to happen as much as possible.

The smallest details of quality of care were under constant scrutiny and the Authority continued to strive towards the provision of the best service it could possibly provide. Only enthusiastic and committed individuals were employed who could build sound and positive relationships with children while providing as much support, care and affection as possible.

Councillors commented on the extremely high standards provided in the two care homes for looked after children in Stockport.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Director, Children and Young People be requested to provide figures in respect of the numbers of Looked After Children placed in Stockport from other Local Authorities.

## **8. YOUNG CARERS SCRUTINY REVIEW – EXECUTIVE RESPONSE**

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Review on Young Carers.

The Committee was informed that several of the recommendations had already been acted upon such as progress in providing help through the initiation of a support service.

Councillors commented on the need to ascertain the number of young carers that had been identified through the system. In welcoming the Executive's response, Councillors requested that the response from the management team as detailed in recommendation 12 should be forthcoming as soon as possible in order to set the funding arrangements for the five year pilot scheme.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Director, Children & Young People be requested to send the final Report and the Executive response to the Minister of State for Children and Families for comment.

## **9. RESUME OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 11 MARCH 2010**

The resume of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 11 March 2010 was considered (copies of which had been circulated).

In response to a Councillor's question with regard to less support for services for pockets of deprivation, the Corporate Director, Children and Young People commented that the Children's Trust was sensitive to individual needs and focussed on children in care and priority by geography. It tackled as many issues as possible within the constraints of a finite budget and therefore it was impossible to address all problems as comprehensively as the service would prefer. Every effort was made to make decisions on allocation as clear and transparent as possible.

With regard to the remodelling of local partnership arrangements, it was suggested that these could be considered as part of future work programme discussions.

RESOLVED – (1) That the resume of the meeting of the Children's Trust Board held on 11 March, 2010 be noted.

(2) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) be requested to investigate the possibility of the provision of a link to new Children's Trust Board agendas as and when they were issued for the benefit of all Councillors.

## **10. AGENDA PLANNING**

The Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the planned agenda items for the Committee's next meeting and Forward Plan items which fell within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the remodelling of local partnership arrangements be included within the work programme for the November meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.



**Executive Decision Record (a)**

**Reference (b)**  
*(for use by  
Democratic Services)*  
**Subject**

ED1234

**Date of Decision(c)**

14 June, 2010

Secondary School Re-organisation in Stockport

**Details of, and  
reasons for,  
decision  
(Summary) (d)**

The Executive Meeting has considered a report in connection with the organisation of secondary schools in Stockport, particularly in the east of the borough. It centred around proposals to:-

- Modify provision at Marple Hall School, whilst removing further excessive capacity.
- Remove excessive capacity at Werneth High School.
- Modify provision at Stockport School to reinstate capacity
- Undertake public consultation on the proposed closure of Offerton School

The Executive Meeting agreed that:-

- the general direction of the secondary strategy be noted and supported.
- public consultation be undertaken on the proposal to close Offerton School.
- the capital receipts from the proposed closure of Offerton School be ring fenced as the core funding for investment in secondary schools.

**Decision taker (e)**

Executive

**Directorate and  
Reference (f)**

Children and Young People's  
Tel. Richard Bates/Stephen Bell on 0161 474 3832/3846

**Alternative  
options  
considered**

None

**Conflicts of Interest and Standards Committee Dispensations (h)**

Councillor Martin Candler declared a personal interest in the item as a Governor at Marple Hall School.

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee or "exempt from call-in" (j)**

Children and Young People

<b>FOR USE IN DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>			
Record Created/Received in Democratic Services	15 June, 2010		
Decision Published	16 June, 2010		
Call-in Deadline	4.00pm	22 June	2010
Called In	22 June		
Date of Scrutiny Committee	14 July 2010		
Scrutiny Committee Decision	<b>Refer to DM</b>	<b>Refer to CM</b>	<b>NFA</b>
Outcome (k)			
OPERATIVE DATE (l)			

**Report to: Executive**

**Date: 14 June 2010**

**Report of: Corporate Director, Children & Young People**

**Title: Secondary School Re-Organisation in Stockport**

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The borough faces a number of pressing issues regarding the organisation of secondary schools and there are longstanding concerns about the quality and suitability of the Council's secondary school accommodation.
- 1.2 Our secondary schools are in urgent need of repair and we also have an 'over-capacity' problem so many schools are now too large for the numbers of children in their areas. Most schools are above the efficient 5% to 10% spare places expected by the Department for Education (DfE) and in 2010/11 there will be 16% spare places across the borough (increasing to 23.3% by 2014/15). This is because the secondary school population is falling (from 17,300 pupils in 2004 to approximately 13,250 in 2014). Without intervention we will have almost a quarter of our secondary places empty in 2014 and this is not a viable system. Although numbers are projected to begin to rise again during 2016 to 2020 there is currently no indication that they will return to previous high levels.
- 1.3 There are three reasons why the over-capacity issue needs to be tackled:
- 1.3.1 **The quality of provision.** At a time of rapid curriculum innovation schools want to offer a broad and balanced curriculum and extend their provision to meet the needs of their community. Schools are currently working hard towards the new 14-19 entitlement for 2013 when the new Diploma Learning Lines should be available to all young people. Co-operation over curriculum innovation and partnership are compromised by Stockport schools' struggle to balance their budgets. Resources which should be spent on teaching and learning are being diverted into the upkeep of buildings. Rationalisation of provision would offer a better environment for concentration on improving outcomes for young people.
- 1.3.2 **Financial considerations.** As secondary schools reduce in size, their income falls because the main determinant of the grant allocated to them is their pupil numbers. However their overhead costs remain constant or may increase (eg through higher energy costs) causing financial difficulties. Projections indicate that half of Stockport's secondary schools will have deficit budgets by 2014 if no corrective action is taken. At worst, the deficit for one school is projected to be as high as £1.3million. Schools are working hard to improve standards while more of their resources are used to fund buildings which are too large and their resources are decreasing. Overall, based on the current Government funding formula, the budget for Stockport's secondary schools will be £6million less in 2014/15 than today as a result of the lower numbers of pupils.

- 1.3.3 **Creating outstanding secondary schools.** Stockport does not have a secondary school judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding. Rationalisation of secondary provision would create a more sustainable set of establishments better able to undertake the journey from Satisfactory to Good and from Good to Outstanding.
- 1.4 Under previous plans for Building Schools of the Future (BSF) the Council shared a *Strategy for Change* document in Spring 2009. The principles agreed were to:
- Develop school sites as ‘community hubs’ incorporating where possible libraries, community services, medical clinics, sport and cultural facilities;
  - Create modern flexible accommodation that reflected the latest ideas in educational thinking for personalised learning;
  - Create new specialist facilities to support the new 14-19 Diplomas and other curriculum developments;
  - Co-locate special schools, pupil referral units and education support services where mutually beneficial;
  - Rebuild the large secondary schools to a smaller scale, reducing excessive surplus places in provision overall.
- 1.5 The current political and economic national context suggest that the Building Schools of the Future (BSF) programme will not continue in its present form, but whatever opportunities develop for wide scale capital investment, Stockport cannot build a case for national funding until there is clarity about how the excessive capacity will be reduced. The re-organisation strategy should be one that can be strengthened and enhanced by any future capital injection that may become available.

## 2 Excessive Capacity Analysis

- 2.1 Analysis of the falling secondary school population led to a focus on two areas of the borough – the South and the East. The East group contains Stockport School, Offerton, Werneth, Marple Hall and Hazel Grove High. In 2014/15 these schools are projected to have 2,164 surplus places between them as shown in Table 1:

Table 1

Stockport School	256	Marple Hall	518
Offerton	477	Werneth	485
Hazel Grove	428		

- 2.2 It would be appropriate to maintain up to 1,000 spare places across these schools for any future expansion and to allow for parental choice. This leads to a need to remove approximately 1,200 places.
- 2.3 The South Group schools are Bramhall High, Cheadle Hulme High, Hazel Grove High and The Kingsway. Hazel Grove High is included in the South Group as well as the East because changes in either area will affect the school. In 2014/15 these schools will have 1,611 surplus places between them as shown in Table 2:

Table 2

The Kingsway	429	Bramhall	420
Cheadle Hulme	334	Hazel Grove	428

- 2.4 It would be appropriate to maintain up to 700 spare places across these schools for any future expansion and parental choice. This means the removal of approximately 900 places.
- 2.5 The three faith schools (St. James', Harrytown, St. Anne's) plus Priestnall and Reddish Vale Technology College do not have a significant surplus places issue to face and so have not been included in the tables above.
- 2.6 Initial discussions with secondary headteachers have considered a wide range of alternatives to remove surplus capacity both in the East of the borough and in the South. The option of closing schools has, inevitably, come to the fore as the issues of educational standards and financial viability have become more acute; and it is clear that urgent action is now needed in the East group of schools. It must also be noted that a system of applications for school places that is led by parental choice is uncertain, so it would be helpful to see the consequences of any changes in the East before finalising any plans for the South.
- 2.7 The proposals presented here to resolve the excessive surplus places issue represent a sequence of actions that will require investment. Should entry to the BSF programme - or whatever external funding arrangements are established - be available to Stockport in future, the plans can be accelerated and the solutions enhanced by the addition of community and other facilities but the strategy would remain the same unless there is major national shift in policy for secondary schools.
- 2.8 Other steps indicated in this paper are longer term aspirations that would again require additional funding.
- 2.9 It must be emphasised that the proposed actions are designed to deal with excessive surplus places. The removal of any one of these actions would mean that secondary provision would remain outside the target 5-10% surplus places thereby continuing the waste of resource which empty buildings cause. In addition, failure to reduce surplus places is likely to lessen Stockport's case for entering BSF (or any replacement scheme) because Stockport's surplus places - and our strategy to resolve them - are reported annually to the DfE.

### 3 East Schools Proposals

- Close Offerton School,
  - Modify provision at Stockport School to reinstate capacity,
  - Modify provision at Marple Hall School whilst removing further excessive capacity,
  - Remove excessive capacity at Werneth High School.
- 3.1 Offerton School has the largest number of surplus places, currently at 32% and well beyond the national expectations (5%-10%). It is projected to increase to 42%

in four years' time with all the additional severe budgetary pressures this brings. The admissions figure for new pupils joining the school in Year 7 in September 2010 indicates the depth of problem facing Offerton. From a catchment area where 201 pupils in Offerton could have joined the school, there were only 86 'first choices' for Year 7 (this figure excludes the 52 children in catholic education in Year 6 who go on to secondary catholic education).

- 3.2 Standards at Offerton School are below expectations with only 37% of Year 11 students achieving five or more GCSEs (including English and mathematics) in 2009. Standards are expected to improve in 2010. In its most recent Ofsted inspection (November 2009) the school was judged to be Unsatisfactory and was given a formal Notice to Improve. In May 2010 the school had a monitoring visit by Ofsted. While acknowledging that improvements had been made, Ofsted judged the school to be making inadequate progress.
- 3.3 Offerton's buildings are some of the poorest in the authority with a backlog of repairs estimated at around £5million. There have been several repairs to the roofs of the three main buildings over the years but these patch repairs are now failing and without significant investment the fabric of the school will deteriorate rapidly over the next few years. These ageing buildings are reaching the point of being beyond economic repair.
- 3.4 As numbers of pupils continue to decline more space is available in other schools and pupils from Offerton could be accommodated in neighbouring schools<sup>1</sup>. The school which would attract most pupils is likely to be the nearest, Stockport School, and modifications / extension to this school would mean more parents from Offerton could have their 'first choice' school. An increase of around 120 places on top of the current underused capacity at Stockport School would mean an additional 270 pupils from the Offerton area could choose to attend what would become their closest secondary school.
- 3.5 Marple Hall School has the capacity for 1,700 pupils but is projected to have only 1,320 on roll in 2011. The removal of poor quality outbuildings and other surplus accommodation would necessitate the remodelling of other parts of the school to provide specialist design & technology facilities but would reduce Marple Hall to a 1,500 capacity school. This would allow some capacity to ensure that pupils from the Offerton area can continue to take up places. The creation of the facilities to support design and technology is beyond what the school could fund with its devolved capital funding and would require additional investment.
- 3.6 Werneth School has capacity for 1,439 pupil places although currently they have 1,098 on roll and are projected to fall further to under a thousand pupils. The removal of approximately 140 places would stabilise the school at 1,200 places, some of which pupils from the Offerton may choose to take up. As with Marple Hall School the aim would be to physically remove some of the school's poorest accommodation.
- 3.7 In terms of removing excessive capacity, these three intertwined proposals would remove around 1,270 surplus places as pupils who might have chosen Offerton in

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<sup>1</sup> Stockport School, Werneth, The Academy and Marple Hall have increasing surplus places.

the future fill up spare capacity at other schools. However, this action alone will not return Stockport's schools to the level of surplus places expected and further actions will be required. Below is an indication of the actions anticipated but a decision on which to implement relies upon a re-assessment of the situation in 2012 when the consequences of these proposals are fully understood.

#### 4 **Anticipating Actions in the South of the Borough**

- 4.1 In addition to the proposals described above for the East of the borough, options for the South will need to be prepared in the very near future. All four "South" schools are projected to experience surplus places above the national trigger of 25%, so the excessive surplus places will need to be removed from the system. However, it is prudent to defer any significant decisions until the impact of any actions taken in the East of the borough have been understood; this is largely because the pattern of school preferences for parents and children could be affected by changing range of choices.
- 4.2 The Council and schools in the "South" are actively considering possible proposals which will physically remove the excessive accommodation, focusing upon the parts of the school estate that are in the poorest condition. However, in line with the earlier BSF proposals, these discussions also encompass the need to consider the possibility of conversion to alternative use by other services or the community as part of a Borough-wide strategy to ensure efficient use of resources.
- 4.3 The series of actions described above for the East and the South will also remove a significant element of the current secondary schools' repairs backlog whilst providing enhanced provision via council-supported schemes at three of the remaining secondary schools.

#### 5 **Future Considerations**

- 5.1 Longer-term possibilities which need to be noted include:
- Recent changes to the system for commissioning education for 16-19 year olds which saw the abolition of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) have given the Council an enhanced role in planning provision. This, coupled with the introduction of new Diplomas highlighted above, creates an opportunity to consider innovative capital developments with our local Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges.
  - As stated in the paragraph 1.4 above, an aspiration would be to co-locate special schools, pupil referral units and education support services where mutually beneficial therefore opportunities to co-locate establishments for some of our most challenging pupils should be seized as they become available. Stockport specialist provision for pupils with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties has, for example, recently relocated its Key Stage 4 provision into the Town Centre.
  - Stockport's three Catholic High Schools are finding the funding of their schools problematic due to their relatively small sizes. The Council is currently in

discussion with the two relevant diocesan authorities and the schools to ensure the issues of capacity and efficient, effective use of resources are addressed.

- **Conclusions**

- 5.2 This paper has outlined an approach to tackling the excessive surplus places issue facing the borough's secondary schools. The steps outlined for the East group of schools will result in improved facilities at three secondary school sites and will reduce or remove £12million of the current repairs backlog.
- 5.3 Without this strategy schools may struggle to improve their current standards, and facing up to the challenge of creating 'outstanding' schools would prove more difficult than at present as income levels decline.
- 5.4 It is anticipated that further options will be presented to the Executive in Spring 2012 for consideration alongside updated projections and a more secure understanding of what national investments in secondary school provision will be available.

## 6 **Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Executive is requested to:
  - 6.1.1 Note and support the general direction of the secondary strategy.
  - 6.1.2 Approve that public consultation be undertaken on the proposal to close Offerton School.
  - 6.1.3 Approve the ring-fencing of capital receipts from the closure of Offerton School as the core funding for investment in secondary schools.

## Revenue Outturn 2009/10

Report of the Corporate Director, Business Services

### 1 Introduction

This report sets out the 2009/10 outturn position on the Council's general fund revenue account. It includes:

- A summary of the revenue budget and outturn position for 2009/10;
- Details of the revenue outturn position with regard to cash limits, non-cash limits and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG);
- Details of the outturn position with regard to schemes provided with priority funding;
- Proposals for the utilisation of cash limit and non cash limit surpluses;
- Details of the movements on earmarked reserves, general fund and schools' balances occurring during 2009/10.

### 2 2009/10 Revenue Budget

- 2.1 The following table summarises the changes to the revenue budget that have arisen since the previous report of 19 May 2010

	Approved Budget £000	Revised Budget £000	Increase/ (Reduction) £000
Cash Limits	180,249	180,408	159
Non-Cash Limits	47,555	47,396	(159)
<b>Total</b>	<b>227,804</b>	<b>227,804</b>	<b>0</b>

- 2.2 In addition to the virements previously reported on 19 May a further transfer of £0.159m from Non-Cash Limits to Cash Limits is proposed, mainly to deal with the allocation of Performance Reward Grant monies.
- 2.3 A breakdown of the revised budget by Portfolio is shown at Appendix One and a list of virements which have taken place since the previous report is included at Appendix Two.

#### 2009/10 Outturn Position

- 2.4 Prior to any year-end appropriations to or from general fund balances the outturn for both cash and non-cash limited budgets shows an

overall surplus of £1.994m, as set out in the table below and detailed in Appendices Three and Four.

	Approved Budget £000	Provisional Outturn £000	(Surplus) £000
Cash Limits	180,408	180,337	(71)
Non-Cash Limits	47,396	45,473	(1,923)
<b>Total</b>	<b>227,804</b>	<b>225,810</b>	<b>(1,994)</b>

- 2.5 The overall outturn position comprises a mix of surpluses and deficits across Portfolios. Each Portfolio's position is described more fully in section three of this report with the outturn position for non-cash limits being detailed at section four.

#### Budget Savings Proposals

- 2.6 The original budget for 2009/10 included £2.137m of efficiencies retained by portfolios to stay within indicative cash limits and a further £2.380m of savings proposals to balance the overall budget. All portfolios report that they have achieved the efficiencies and savings identified and any pressures that were reported throughout the year take into account the savings in the original budget setting process.

### **3 Portfolio Cash Limits**

- 3.1 As shown in Appendix Three there is a net outturn surplus of £0.071m within portfolio cash limits, prior to any contributions from balances to support cash limit spending.
- 3.2 In line with the Council's approach to cash limit budgets it is proposed that portfolio surpluses and deficits are, in the main, carried forward within general fund balances and returned to portfolio holders in 2010/11. A detailed breakdown of cash limit surpluses and deficits is shown in Appendix Four.

#### Adults and Health Portfolio

- 3.3 The provisional outturn indicates a surplus of £0.003m arising from a small excess of income over expenditure in the Adult and Community Education Service.
- 3.4 The remainder of the Adults and Health Portfolio is reporting a balanced position at outturn after taking account of the previously approved re-profiling of £1m within the pooled budget contributions between the Council and NHS Stockport for 2009/10 and 2010/11, and appropriations from reserves.
- 3.5 The portfolio has faced pressures during the year most notably home care support within older people and care management for those with

physical disabilities and mental health needs. Increased income has helped to offset these pressures in the year and looking forward developments in the electronic monitoring of homecare will assist the portfolio in the management of these expenditure budgets.

- 3.6 As ever, close monitoring of the portfolio's cash limit budget will continue in order to manage these demand led expenditure budgets.

#### Children and Young People Portfolio

- 3.7 The provisional outturn position for the Children and Young People Portfolio shows a small surplus of £0.006m after making use of earmarked reserves and fully utilising the contribution from Council general balances of £0.250m agreed by the Executive in November to fund the placement costs of Looked After Children.
- 3.8 The third quarter revenue monitoring report indicated an anticipated use of £0.773m CYP general reserves to balance to breakeven. However, the outturn position shows a significant improvement since that report and the expected call on general reserves has not been required.
- 3.9 The report for quarter three highlighted a deficit of £0.292m on the placement costs of Looked After Children (LAC). With the application of the funding from balances and activity levels not being as high as anticipated the costs of placements of LAC has now matched the provision.
- 3.10 There are improvements from the previous report on the LAC Team and Kooth budgets where £0.050m of costs have been met from under utilised Sure Start Grant and £0.062m of costs met from Area Based Grant. There was a projected deficit of £0.310m on Children with Disabilities but this now reduced by the application of £0.080m of surplus Aim Higher Grant. The residual deficit of £0.239m on Children with Disabilities has been largely offset by a surplus on the staffing and administration budget for Looked After Children.
- 3.11 The previously anticipated deficit on SEN home to school transport is finalised at £0.441m. This deficit has been offset from the following surpluses; £0.060m on the provision for School Access as the price for a school bus pass was reduced, £0.103m on Premature Retirement Costs, £0.169m on management and administration and a surplus created by the transfer of additional eligible expenditure to Sure Start Grant totalling £0.116m.
- 3.12 Finally, a deficit of £0.142m on Services for Young People due to one-off redundancy costs associated with a restructure will generate efficiencies from 2010/11 onwards. This deficit has been met from one off funding and earmarked reserves in 2009/10.

### Communities Portfolio

- 3.13 The Communities Portfolio is reporting a surplus of £0.197m. This is largely made up of a one-off surplus as a result of the completion of work to support the winding up of Brinnington Community First and action being taken to mitigate anticipated reductions in grant funding during 2010/11 of £0.186m. There is also a further surplus of £0.011m in the Council Secretariat service arising from staff turnover.

### Customer Focus Portfolio

- 3.14 The Customer Focus Portfolio is almost at a break-even position with a small surplus of £0.001m.

### Environment Portfolio

- 3.15 The Environment Portfolio is reporting a balanced position for 2009/10. At quarter three, a £0.060m surplus was forecast but the Executive approved a temporary contribution for the same amount to the Transportation Portfolio for the diversion of street cleansing staff onto winter gritting duties.

### Finance Portfolio

- 3.16 The Finance Portfolio position remains unchanged since quarter three and is reporting a surplus of £0.091m due to staff turnover within the Chief Executive and Business Services Directorates.

### Leisure Portfolio

- 3.17 The Leisure Portfolio is reporting an overall deficit of £0.008m which comprises a mixture of surpluses and deficits across different services as detailed in the following paragraphs.
- 3.18 Arts, Heritage and Culture is reporting a deficit of £0.023m resulting from a fall in visitor numbers which has affected the income generating ability of the service. The 2010/11 strategy for this area is focused on encouraging increased visitor numbers to Stockport and attractions such as Staircase House.
- 3.19 Cemeteries and Crematoria have a surplus against budget of £0.045m. Following the unusually harsh winter, there has been an above-trend increase in the number of burials and cremations during the final quarter and the severe winter weather meant work on grounds maintenance and grass cutting was postponed until the spring.
- 3.20 In the Sports Development service, there were some prior year invoices which had to be processed for payment in 2009/10 resulting in an outturn deficit of £0.036m. The deficit is one-off in nature and will not recur in 2010/11.

- 3.21 Finally, the Library service has ended the year with a small surplus of £0.006m against a service cash limit of almost £4m.

#### Regeneration Portfolio

- 3.22 The Regeneration Portfolio is reporting an outturn deficit of £0.061m. The largest variance relates to the Town Centre Market, £0.044m. As reported at quarter three this is one-off in nature with prior year's structural problems being resolved after a review of the operations of the market. The remaining deficit of £0.017m is the result of increased charges for CCTV.

#### Transportation Portfolio

- 3.23 The Transportation Portfolio is reporting an outturn deficit of £0.122m which is the result of the severe winter weather continuing into January 2010.
- 3.24 Highways maintenance is reporting a further deficit of £0.080m which is over and above the £0.060m contribution from the Environment Portfolio and £0.190m from non-cash limits resulting from additional winter gritting needing to continue into quarter four.
- 3.25 The car parking service is reporting a deficit of £0.042m. This is largely due to the impact of the poor weather on the ability to enforce parking charges for a number of days in January 2010.
- 3.26 Income pressures on the car parking service remain but there are strategies in place in conjunction with the highways maintenance team to derive economies of scale on car parking maintenance and utility costs.
- 3.27 In line with the approach taken at quarter three and in previous years, it is recommended that the Transportation Portfolio is not required to carry forward the deficit arising from the severe winter weather, £0.122m, into 2010/11. Therefore a contribution of £0.122m from general balances is proposed.

#### Licensing, Environment and Safety Committee

- 3.28 The Licensing, Environment and Safety committee is reporting a deficit of £0.036m which is largely due to a decline in the income received from Health Education Fees. This service area will be reviewed in 2010/11 to re-align budgets and to address some of the pressures now being experienced.

#### Planning and Highways Committee

- 3.29 Following the adjustment from general fund balances agreed by Executive on 23rd November 2009, the Committee has achieved a balanced position for 2009/10.

## **4 Non-Cash Limits**

- 4.1 As shown in Appendix Three there is a net outturn surplus of £1.923m within non-cash limits. This comprises a mixture of surpluses and deficits across different items.
- 4.2 As signalled in the quarter three report there is a surplus of £1.269m against capital financing costs resulting mainly from the combination of historically low borrowing costs coupled with a relatively high return on investments.
- 4.3 There is also an additional surplus of £0.683m resulting from the Council's efforts to pursue refunds of overpaid VAT. This was anticipated but not approved and notified until quarter four. The figure includes overpaid VAT going back for a number of years against a number of income streams including Library (non-books), Car Parking and Sports Coaching.
- 4.4 The year end subsidy claim for Housing Benefits (rent allowances and rent rebates) has given rise to a surplus of £0.365m and there is a small surplus in the Registrars Service of £0.035m due to higher than anticipated income receipts.
- 4.5 There are deficits on dividends from Manchester Airport (£0.250m) and Solutions SK (£0.279m). The deficit on the airport dividend was first reported at quarter one following the airport group's annual general meeting. The deficit on the Solutions SK dividend results from the impact of accounting standard FRS 17 (Retirement Benefits) preventing the company from distributing an expected dividend of £0.601m from the profits it has made; off-set by the use of the dividend smoothing reserve, £0.322m. This will be reviewed during 2010/11 to ensure the Council can benefit from the profits accumulated by SSK.
- 4.6 As previously forecast, the Coroners Service has ended the year with a deficit due to increased accommodation costs. The final deficit for the year is £0.157m.
- 4.7 Finally, there are smaller surpluses against Council Tax Benefits Admin and Overpayments, £0.205m, LABGI Grant, £0.037m and Subscriptions and Fees, £0.015m.

## **5 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and School Balances**

- 5.1 The forecast on the DSG has reduced from a forecast deficit of £0.558m at the third quarter to a deficit of £0.489m at outturn. The change relates to number of variations, the most significant being a reduction in the deficits associated with Pupil Referral Units and Support Services from £0.098m to £0.008m. The forecast deficit on school meals has increased to £0.190m due to a claim for £0.049m from SSK due to the winter closure of schools and a corresponding loss of estimated income of £0.070m. The most significant deficits on

SEN support to schools, £0.453m, and external placements of pupils in Independent Schools, £0.220m, were broadly as anticipated.

- 5.2 After making use of the schools clawback of excessive balances of £0.166m the residual deficit will be met from the rebate on schools rate revaluations £0.323m. Therefore the anticipated utilisation of £0.090m of DSG from 2010/11 is no longer required to balance the 2009/10 position.
- 5.3 Overall School and DSG balances have increased by £0.108m to £8.947m. By Sector, primary school balances have reduced by £0.546m and secondary school balances have increased by £0.719m (Appendix Six provides further details). The balance control mechanism is being applied in accordance with the Stockport Scheme for Financing Schools and over the autumn, Schools will be required to justify any assignment from excess balances above the set thresholds, prior to implementation of the 2009/10 clawback calculation.

## 6 Priority Initiatives Funding

- 6.1 Around £2.3m of funding was made available during 2009/10 to support priority initiatives, some of which involve expenditure into 2010/11. A total of £1.6m has been spent by the end of the financial year. Some £0.15m will be available for retention or re-allocation to other priorities in 2010/11, leaving a balance of £0.55m to be carried forward to finance existing commitments and schemes/programmes where funding has been committed into 2010/11. Further details are provided at Appendix Five.

### Performance Reward Grant (PRG)

- 6.2 In addition to the above resources, the Executive also endorsed two separate allocations of PRG monies approved by the Stockport Partnership in December 2009 and February 2010. Agreed revenue PRG allocations are summarised as follows:

	<b>£000</b>
Partnership Office (5 year budget 2009/10 to 2013/14)	1,000
December 2009 Allocations	332
February 2010 Allocations	1,185
	<b>2,517</b>

- 6.3 As allocations were made late in the year, spending has yet to get underway in most areas but the Partnership Office and the scheme 'Supporting Children at Key Stage 2' will require funding totalling £0.139m in 2009/10.

## 7 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 7.1 Details of the 2009/10 HRA outturn position are included in a separate report shown elsewhere on the agenda.

## 8 Earmarked Reserves and General Fund Balances.

- 8.1 Taking account of recommendations earlier in the report around the use of cash limit and non-cash limit surpluses, set out in sections three and four above, the table below shows the movements and final position with regard to earmarked reserves and general fund balances.

	<b>Balance as at 01/04/2009 £000</b>	<b>Increase/ (Reduction) £000</b>	<b>Balance as at 31/03/2010 £000</b>
DSG and School Balances	8,839	108	8,947
General Fund Earmarked Reserves	20,882	4,877	25,759
General Fund Balances	9,072	(1,485)	7,587
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,793</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>42,293</b>

- 8.2 The following table shows the movement on general fund balances during 2009/10 in line with the recommendations set out in both this report and in reports presented earlier in the financial year.

<b>Contributions To/(From) General Fund Balances in 2009/10</b>	<b>£000</b>
<u>Previously Approved</u>	
To support the overall 2009/10 revenue budget	(1,000)
2008/09 Cash Limit Surpluses/Deficits c/f to 2009/10	(1,329)
Brought Forward Deficits - Regeneration, Transportation and Planning and Highways	(620)
In Year Pressures - Children and Young People, Finance Transportation and Planning and Highways	(530)
<u>Recommended (See Paragraph 3.27)</u>	
Further Winter Maintenance Pressures	(122)
<u>Provisional Outturn Surpluses</u>	
Cash Limit	193

Non-Cash Limit	1,923
<b>Net Decrease in General Fund Balances</b>	<b>(1,485)</b>

- 8.3 General fund earmarked reserves have increased by a net value of £4.877m. A full list of general fund earmarked reserves is included at Appendix Six. The reasons for significant movements on earmarked reserves are disclosed at Appendix Seven. The most significant changes are summarised below:
- £1.637m reduction in the PCT/Council Partnership enablement fund reflecting payments to the PCT and the Council's contribution to pooled budgets in lieu of PCT contributions;
  - £2.989m increase in the insurance reserve reflecting a transfer from the insurance provision based on advice from the Council's insurance advisers;
  - £3.102m accrued Performance Reward Grant earmarked for specific partnership projects. This is Partnership grant which is claimed and due but not yet allocated to projects.
- 8.4 In addition, the Financial Management Service has undertaken a thorough review of the Council's Balance Sheet and identified a number of grants and contributions worth £1.041m which could be combined into a new reserve to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2011/14 Plan. Given the challenging outlook for public finances and the economy over the medium term, it is recommended that such a reserve is established to support initiatives designed specifically to reduce the Council's anticipated Medium Term savings requirement (currently estimated at between £10m - £12m per annum) on an ongoing and sustainable basis.
- 8.5 In overall terms, the level of general fund balances stands at £7.587m at 31 March 2010, of which £0.193m is earmarked as net cash limit surpluses carried forward; leaving £7.394m as 'available' general balances to carry forward into 2010/11. The approved 2010/11 budget includes a contribution to balances of £1.072m. This brings available general fund balances up to £8.466m to support the 2010/11 budget.
- 8.6 Having reviewed the risk analysis of the 2010/11 budget the Corporate Director, Business Services considers that the original figure of £6.8m is still required to support the approved 2010/11 budget at this stage, leaving a 'surplus' balance of £1.666m. However, the Government has announced that it will be making cuts to local authority specific grants in 2010/11. Furthermore, the prospects for 2011/12 and beyond grow increasingly bleak. All in all it would appear sensible to retain the balances position as it stands.

## **9 2009/10 Statement of Accounts**

- 9.1 The draft Statement of Accounts for 2009/10 is currently being prepared and will be presented to the Audit Committee for approval on 29 June 2009. The process of finalising the Statement of Accounts typically gives rise to late adjustments which may impact on the outturn, reserves and/or balances position disclosed in this report.
- 9.2 In these circumstances, it is proposed that the approval of changes to the outturn, reserves and/or balances position is delegated to the Corporate Director, Business Services, in conjunction with the Executive Councillor (Finance). Any material changes will be reported to the Executive at the earliest opportunity.

## **10 Conclusions**

- 10.1 The modest net cash limit surplus of £0.071m (£0.193m if contributions from balances are approved) includes a mix of surpluses and deficits across portfolios.
- 10.2 2009/10 has been a challenging year in many ways with the Council having to deal with significant issues in relation to income budgets in areas such as car parking, planning and the property investment estate. The severe winter weather also generated additional cost pressures. These have been in addition to the 'normal' pressures faced in dealing with demand for adults and children's services and maintaining all activities through the continuing economic downturn.
- 10.3 Despite having to deal with such difficulties the Council has been able to continue to invest additional resources in priority areas to deliver improvements in performance against targets. This demonstrates the Council's ongoing focus on achieving value for money. The 2009/10 budget requirement included significant efficiency targets and the reallocation of resources to priority service areas through the PIF, PIP and Stockport Boost funding arrangements. With the exception of targets for income on Car Parking, Planning and Building Control, all of these elements of the budget have been successfully delivered.
- 10.4 The non cash limit side of the budget has benefited from prudent treasury management, further VAT rebates and a beneficial position in relation to housing benefit subsidy. Surpluses in these areas more than offset the pressures experienced on airport dividends and within the Coroners Service.
- 10.5 Looking ahead, the Council faces a significant challenge in developing a sustainable 2011/14 Medium Term Financial Plan. The new government has already signalled it intends to cut funding during this financial year and there are likely to be further more significant reductions in resources from 2011/12 onwards. Of particular concern is the Government's intention to freeze Council Tax levels which,

without any financial assistance, would have a significantly detrimental impact on the Council's finances.

- 10.6 Finally, although the Council's balances position is above the minimum included in the February budget, it is firmly recommended that these funds remain set aside since the outlook for public finances is gloomy with the prospect of public spending restraint not seen since the 1980s.

## **11 Recommendations**

- 11.1 The Executive is asked to note the report and approve:

- the treatment of portfolio cash limit surpluses and deficits as set out in section three of the report;
- the treatment of the non cash limit surplus as set out in section four of the report; and
- the appropriations to or from general fund balances and earmarked reserves as set out in section eight of the report including the establishment of a new Medium Term Financial Strategy Reserve worth £1.041m.

- 11.2 It is also recommended that approval of any amendments to the outturn, reserves and/or balances position arising from the finalisation of the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts is delegated to the Corporate Director, Business Services in consultation with the Executive Councillor (Finance) and that any such amendments are reported to the Executive at the earliest opportunity.

## 2009/10 Revenue Budget (Revised)

Key	Portfolio/Item	Approved Budget £000	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Revised Budget £000
	<b><u>Cash Limits</u></b>			
	<b><u>Executive Functions</u></b>			
A&H	Adults and Health	66,165	0	66,165
CHYP	Children and Young People	38,598	7	38,605
COM	Communities	9,152	5	9,157
CUF	Customer Focus	9,852	(5)	9,847
ENV	Environment	11,796	0	11,796
FIN	Finance	14,967	154	15,121
LEI	Leisure	11,585	0	11,585
REG	Regeneration	2,962	0	2,962
TRN	Transportation	11,864	(2)	11,862
	Sub Total	176,941	159	177,100
	<b><u>Non-Executive Functions</u></b>			
LIC	Licensing, Environment and Safety Committee	1,851	0	1,851
PLA	Planning and Highways Committee	1,457	0	1,457
	Sub Total	3,308	0	3,308
	<b>Total (Cash Limits)</b>	<b>180,249</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>180,408</b>
	<b><u>Non-Cash Limits</u></b>			
NCL	<b>Total (Non-Cash Limits)</b>	<b>47,555</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>47,396</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>227,804</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>227,804</b>

### Virements and Other Budget Adjustments

#### Previously Approved by Executive

Item	Type*	Amount £000	From	To	P/T**
Allocation of Performance Reward Grant	V	139	NCL	FIN/ CHYP	T

#### Presented for Approval by Executive

Item	Type*	Amount £000	From	To	P/T**
Civic Accommodation	V	20	NCL	FIN	T
Directorate/Portfolio Outturns Budget Re-Alignment	BR	7	Var	Var	T

\* V=Virement and BR = Budget Re-alignment

\*\* P = Permanent and T = Temporary

## 2009/10 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN AS AT 31/03/2010

Key	Portfolio/Item	Revised Budget £000	Provisional Outturn £000	(Surplus)/ Deficit £000	Var- iance** %
	<b><u>Cash Limits</u></b>				
	<b><u>Executive Functions</u></b>				
A&H	Adults and Health	66,165	66,162	(3)	0.0
CHYP	Children and Young People	38,605	38,599	(6)	0.0
COM	Communities	9,157	8,960	(197)	(2.2)
CUF	Customer Focus	9,847	9,846	(1)	0.0
ENV	Environment	11,796	11,796	0	0.0
FIN	Finance	15,121	15,030	(91)	(0.6)
LEI	Leisure	11,585	11,593	8	0.1
REG	Regeneration	2,962	3,023	61	2.1
TRN	Transportation	11,862	11,984	122	*
		177,100	176,993	(107)	(0.1)
	<b><u>Non-Executive Functions</u></b>				
LIC	Licensing, Environment and Safety Committee	1,851	1,887	36	1.9
PLA	Planning and Highways Committee	1,457	1,457	0	0.0
		3,308	3,344	36	1.1
	<b>Total (Cash Limits)</b>	<b>180,408</b>	<b>180,337</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>*</b>
NCL	<b><u>Non-Cash Limits</u></b>	<b>47,396</b>	<b>45,473</b>	<b>(1,923)</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>227,804</b>	<b>225,810</b>	<b>(1,994)</b>	<b>*</b>
	<b><u>Financed by</u></b>				
	Council Tax	130,700	130,700		
	Formula Grant	81,551	81,551		
	Area Based Grant	12,074	12,074		
	General Fund Balances	3,479	3,479		
		<b>227,804</b>	<b>227,804</b>	<b>(1,994)</b>	

\* After the contribution from balances to finance the Transportation Portfolio deficit (£0.122m), the cash limit surplus increases to £0.193m and the overall surplus increases to £2.116m

\*\* Expressed as a percentage of 'Revised Budget'

## Appendix Four

## Details of variations against budget

Portfolio/Service	Explanation	(Surplus)/ Deficit £000
<b>Cash Limits</b>		
<u>Adults and Health</u>		
Adult and Community Education	Small surplus of income over expenditure	(3)
		(3)
<u>Children and Young People</u>		
Strategy and Performance	Surplus on PRC	(103)
	Surplus on management admin	(169)
Social Care and Health	Deficit on respite services for Children's Disabilities	239
	Surplus on staffing budget of LAC Team	(238)
Learning and Achievement	Deficit on SEN Transport	441
	Surplus on School Access budget due to lower prices for bus passes	(60)
Inclusive Communities	Transfer of costs to utilise surplus Sure Start Grant	(116)
		(6)
<u>Communities</u>		
Social Inclusion, Neighbourhood Renewal and Community Safety	Early action taken to mitigate anticipated reductions in grant funding and completion of work to support the winding up of Brinnington Community First	(186)
Council Secretariat	Staff Turnover	(11)
		(197)

## Appendix Four Continued

Portfolio/Service	Explanation	(Surplus)/ Deficit £000
<u>Customer Focus</u>	Small surplus	(1)
		(1)
<u>Environment</u>	Break Even	0
<u>Finance</u> Business Services/Chief Executive's Directorates	Staff Turnover	(91)
		(91)
<u>Leisure</u> Arts, Heritage and Culture	Falling visitor numbers impacting on income generation	23
Cemeteries and Crematoria	Increase in burials and cremations during final quarter of year	(45)
Sport Development	One-off costs resulting from processing prior year invoices	36
Library Services	Small surplus	(6)
		8
<u>Regeneration</u> Regeneration Stockport Market	CCTV One-off write off of invoices. Not structural in nature.	17
		44
		61

## Appendix Four Continued

Portfolio/Service	Explanation	(Surplus)/ Deficit £000
<u>Transportation</u> Parking	Further decline in parking income. Winter weather reduced ability to issue PCNs.	42
Highways Maintenance	Higher than anticipated winter gritting needed due to adverse weather conditions	80
		122
<u>Licensing, Env. and Safety</u> Health Education	Decline in income received from fees	36
		36
<u>Planning and Highways</u>	Break Even	0
<b>Cash Limit (Surplus)/Deficit</b>		<b>(71)</b>

## Appendix Four Continued

<b>Portfolio/Service</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>(Surplus)/ Deficit £000</b>
<b>Non-Cash Limits</b>		
Capital Financing Costs	Low borrowing rates coupled with relatively high return on investments	(1,269)
Overpaid VAT	HMRC Refund	(683)
Rent Allowances/Rent Rebates	Figures based on final claim submitted May 2010	(365)
Registrars	Higher than anticipated income receipts	(35)
Dividends	Manchester Airport Solutions SK Ltd	250 279
Coroners Service	Accommodation Costs	157
Other Items	Council Tax Benefit Admin and Overpayments LABGI Subscriptions and Fees	(205) (37) (15)
<b>Non-Cash Limit (Surplus)/Deficit</b>		<b>(1,923)</b>
<b>Overall (Surplus)/Deficit</b>		<b>(1,994)</b>

**PRIORITY SCHEMES AS AT 31/03/2010**

<b>Portfolio/Scheme</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Approved Allocation £000</b>	<b>Provisional Outturn £000</b>	<b>Carry Forward £000</b>
<u>Pre 2009/10 Schemes</u>				
Developing intergrated systems with PCT	A&H	2	2	0
Tackling childhood obesity	A&H	2	2	0
Improving priority deprived areas	COM	39	39	0
Community engagement - Area Committees/Debates	COM	30	30	0
Performance Management System	CUF	19	19	0
Volunteering Matters / Youth Matters	CHYP	30	30	0
Two roving stewards for local centres	ENV	50	50	0
Imp mechanical sweep of roads,footpaths & parks	ENV	30	30	0
Area cond officer team addl enforcement & clean	ENV	36	36	0
Total Pre 2009/10 Schemes		238	238	0
<u>2009/10 Priority Improvement Provision (PIP)</u>				
Age Concern Gardening Service	A&H	51	51	0
Intensive Partnership Sweeps	COM	35	35	0
Community Engagement	COM	40	18	(22)
Support to Youth in the Borough	CHYP	30	30	0
Sports Outreach Programme	CHYP	23	23	0

Portfolio/Scheme	Portfolio	Approved Allocation £000	Provisional Outturn £000	Carry Forward £000
<u>2009/10 Priority Improvement Provision (PIP) ctd...</u>				
Improving Cleanliness	ENV	266	112	(154) *
Town Centre Stewards	ENV	50	50	0
Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour in Parks	LEI	65	43	(22)
Pothole Mole	TRN	175	175	0
Street Name Plates - Council Crest	TRN	15	15	0
Total 2009/10 Priority Improvement Provision (PIP)		750	552	(198)
<u>2009/10 Priority Initiatives Fund (PIF)</u>				
Apprenticeship Programme	CUF	180	59	(121)
Stockport into Work	CUF	120	65	(55)
Litter Bins	ENV	85	82	(3)
Town Centre Festive Lights	REG	65	65	0
Markets and Underbanks Promotion	REG	50	44	(6)
Total 2009/10 Priority Initiatives Fund (PIF)		500	315	(185)
<u>2009/10 Stockport Boost Initiative</u>				
Mental Health Interventions	A&H	50	50	0
Café social enterprise	A&H	17	17	0
Debt advice	COM	157	61	(96)
Debt support worker	COM	13	0	(13)

Portfolio/Scheme	Portfolio	Approved Allocation £000	Provisional Outturn £000	Carry Forward £000
<u>2009/10 Stockport Boost Initiative ctd...</u>				
Employments Rights Advice by CAB	COM	15	4	(11)
Awareness raising, signposting and communications	CUF	31	31	0
Support for LACs apprenticeships	CHYP	10	10	0
NEETS Hotline	CHYP	40	30	(10)
Business Start up programmes - ISUS programme	REG	150	47	(103)
Business Start up programmes - Silver Entrepreneurs	REG	25	0	(25)
Meet the Buyer	REG	18	13	(5)
Stockport Employment Programme	REG	70	18	(52)
Business advice & guidance etc	REG	30	16	(14)
Support for small retailers in District Centres	REG	50	50	0
Business Incubator/Business Start-up centre	REG	150	150	0
Free car parking	TRN	15	10	(5)
Total 2009/10 Stockport Boost Initiative		841	507	(334)
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>2,329</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>(717)</b> *

\* £0.154m will be re-allocated to new priorities in 2010/11 leaving £0.563m to carried forward for existing commitments and schemes/programmes originally intended to continue into 2010/11.

## Movement in Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Reserve	Balance as at 01/04/2009 £000	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Balance as at 31/03/2010 £000
<b>School Balances</b>			
Nursery Schools	652	(59)	593
Primary Schools	5,724	(546)	5,178
Secondary Schools	2,012	719	2,731
Special Schools	204	180	384
Centrally Held	247	(186)	61
<b>School Balances - Total</b>	<b>8,839</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>8,947</b>
<b>General Fund Cash Limit</b>			
<u>Adults and Health Portfolio</u>			
Specific Adult Social Care Grants	670	(174)	496
PCT/Council Partnership Enablement Fund *	1,100	(1,637)	(537)
Future Years Commitments	681	(74)	607
High / Complex Needs	565	0	565
Joint Aids Store Reserve	55	0	55
Other Reserves	9	17	26
	3,080	(1,868)	1,212
<u>Children and Young People's Portfolio</u>			
Laptop Insurance	167	61	228
School Staff Insurance Scheme	519	289	808
Children & Young People Specific Projects	939	7	946
Youth Offending Team Projects	133	0	133
Teenage Pregnancy Reserves	109	10	119
MOSAIC (Young People's Drug Strategy)	108	(64)	44
Local Safeguarding Children Board	296	(146)	150
Children's Fund Reserve	10	91	101
Interpreting Unit	0	150	150
Other Reserves	23	2	25
	2,304	400	2,704

\* Reflects reduced PCT contribution to pooled budgets which will be repaid in 2010/11

## Appendix Six Continued

	Balance as at 01/04/2009 £000	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Balance as at 31/03/2010 £000
<b>Earmarked Reserve</b>			
<u>Communities Portfolio</u>			
Neighbourhood Renewal	350	0	350
Asylum Seekers	883	(81)	802
Supporting People Programme	825	69	894
Future Years Commitments	138	107	245
Furnished Tenancies	57	43	100
Rent Deposits	19	(14)	5
First House Maintenance Sinking Fund	0	29	29
Elections Reserve	0	43	43
	2,272	196	2,468
<u>Customer Focus Portfolio</u>			
ICT General Reserve	333	(170)	163
ICT Sharepoint/MEA Reserve	464	(271)	193
	797	(441)	356
<u>Environment Portfolio</u>			
Civic Amenity Sites	10	0	10
	10	0	10
<u>Finance Portfolio</u>			
Balance of Risks Reserve	752	243	995
Financial Management System	100	135	235
Business Services Development Fund	100	0	100
Workforce Strategy	548	328	876
Financial Management Competency & Fraud	130	0	130
Business Continuity	100	(6)	94
Debt Collection Interface	55	0	55
Risk Management	67	(67)	0
Hat Works/Wellington Mill Sinking Fund	161	(1)	160
	2,013	632	2,645

## Appendix Six Continued

	Balance as at 01/04/2009 £000	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Balance as at 31/03/2010 £000
<b>Earmarked Reserve</b>			
<u>Leisure Portfolio</u>			
Mill Lane, Shawcross Fold and Romiley Forum	84	(12)	72
Sports Trust	199	(146)	53
Recreation Centres	62	(62)	0
Museum Conservation	58	(12)	46
Other Reserves	26	(1)	25
	429	(233)	196
<u>Regeneration Portfolio</u>			
Town Centre Promotions	0	7	7
	0	7	7
<u>Transportation Portfolio</u>			
Delegated Budgets for Area Committees	161	(68)	93
Sponsored Signs	62	36	98
Transpennine Trail	40	0	40
Electric Scooter Reserve	4	0	4
	267	(32)	235
<u>Planning and Highways Committee</u>			
Planning and Delivery Grant	8	14	22
	8	14	22
<b>General Fund Cash Limit - Total</b>	<b>11,180</b>	<b>(1,325)</b>	<b>9,855</b>

## Appendix Six Continued

	Balance as at 01/04/2009 £000	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Balance as at 31/03/2010 £000
<b>Earmarked Reserve</b>			
<b><u>General Fund Non-Cash Limit</u></b>			
Efficiency Reserve	1,740	(465)	1,275
Insurance Reserve	3,561	2,989	6,550
SSK Dividend	322	(322)	0
Revenue Contributions to Capital Expenditure	997	(396)	601
Protection Of Surplus Property	363	(37)	326
Early Retirement Contributions	238	111	349
SEMMMS / A555 Relief Road	574	517	1,091
Priority Funding Reserve	238	434	672
LABGI 'Boost' Reserve	841	(841)	0
PRG Revenue Reserve	0	3,102	3,102
MTFS Reserve	0	1,041	1,041
Waste Strategy	828	69	897
<b>General Fund Non-Cash Limit - Total</b>	<b>9,702</b>	<b>6,202</b>	<b>15,904</b>
<b>General Fund Reserves - Total</b>	<b>20,882</b>	<b>4,877</b>	<b>25,759</b>
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>29,721</b>	<b>4,985</b>	<b>34,706</b>

## Explanation of significant movements in earmarked reserves

Reserve	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Explanation
<b><u>General Fund Cash Limit</u></b>		
<u>Adults and Health Portfolio</u>		
Specific Adult Social Care Grants	(174)	Use of reserve to support projects financed from specific grants received in previous years
PCT/Council Partnership Enablement Fund	(1,637)	Reflects payments to PCT and Council's contribution to pooled budgets in lieu of PCT contribution
Future Years Commitments	(74)	Balance transferred to Adult Social Care Grants Reserve (above)
<u>Children and Young People's Portfolio</u>		
Laptop Insurance	61	Surplus on scheme to help meet future claims and off-set premiums
School Staff Insurance Scheme	289	Surplus on scheme to help meet future claims and off-set premiums
MOSAIC (Young People's Drug Strategy)	(64)	Reducing the incidence of substance misuse by young people
Local Safeguarding Children Board	(146)	Jointly funded service combining Probation and Health funds. Utilised for specific projects
Childrens Fund Reserve	91	Set aside to meet future commitments
Interpreting Unit	150	Set aside to meet future commitments

## Appendix Seven Continued

Reserve	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Explanation
<u>Communities Portfolio</u>		
Asylum Seekers	(81)	Utilised to meet costs associated with Brindale House
Supporting People Programme	69	Surplus against programme
Future Years Commitments	107	To fulfill future year commitments
Furnished Tenancies	43	Deposits associated with furnished tenancies
Elections Reserve	43	Sinking fund to meet future costs associated with local and national elections
<u>Customer Focus Portfolio</u>		
ICT General Reserve	(170)	Utilised for specific ICT projects
ICT Sharepoint/MEA Reserve	(271)	Release to fund 2009/10 Microsoft EA (smoothed payments)
<u>Finance Portfolio</u>		
Balance of Risks Reserve	243	Range of cover extended in 2010/11 on a trial basis
Financial Management System	135	Set aside for SAP upgrade and specialist support
Workforce Strategy	328	To fund HR initiatives and equal pay claims handling
Risk Management	(67)	Combined with Balance of Risks Reserve

## Appendix Seven Continued

Reserve	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Explanation
<u>Leisure Portfolio</u> Sports Trust	(146)	Utilised for Repairs and Maintenance on leisure centres and Grand Central
Recreation Centres	(62)	£0.035m used for Peel Moat loss of income. Remaining £0.027m combined with Sports Trust Reserve
<u>Transportation Portfolio</u> Delegated Budgets for Area Committees.	(68)	In-year contributions and releases to fund the work of Area Committees
Sponsored Signs	36	Contribution to cover maintenance works for sponsored signs
<b><u>General Fund Non-Cash Limit</u></b>		
Efficiency Reserve	(465)	To fund BITE initiatives in Finance and Business Transformation Teams
Insurance Reserve	2,989	To meet insurance claims where both the amounts and timings of claims are uncertain. The large increase reflects a transfer from the insurance provision based on advice from the Council's Insurance advisers.
SSK Dividend	(322)	To mitigate the impact of a nil dividend payout in 2009/10
RCCO Reserve	(396)	Use to finance 2009/10 capital programme commitments

## Appendix Seven Continued

Reserve	Increase/ (Reduction) £000	Explanation
Early Retirement Contributions	111	Set aside to support service transformation and meet one-off redundancy costs
SEMMMS / A555 Relief Road	517	To cover future development costs associated with the SEMMMS project
Priority Funding Reserve	434	Net increase in Priority Initiatives Funding set aside for commitments in 2010/11
LABGI 'Boost' Reserve	(841)	Allocated to projects designed to mitigate the impact of economic recession in 2009/10
PRG Revenue Reserve	3,102	Accrual of revenue Performance Reward Grant earmarked for Partnership projects
MTFS Reserve	1,041	Set aside to support Corporate Initiatives and special projects
Waste Strategy	69	To meet anticipated costs arising from the Waste Disposal PFI Contract

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

### **Cash Limits**

The Council operates a system under which each portfolio is only held responsible for those areas of income and expenditure over which they can exert control. Cash Limits are approved before the financial year commences and each Portfolio is responsible for ensuring that their net expenditure does not exceed their cash limit for that year.

### **Non-Cash Limits**

Items which are largely outside of the direct control and influence of the Council are managed outside of Portfolio Cash Limits. This includes items such as levies and precepts determined by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and joint authorities, together with demands on services which the Council cannot avoid meeting (such as Housing Benefit payments and Capital Financing Costs).

### **Forecast Outturn**

This is the forecast of the net income or expenditure for the financial year on each budget heading.

### **Virement**

The switching of budget provision from one budget head to another. Virements must be properly authorised by the appropriate committee or by officers under delegated powers.

### **Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**

The minimum amount which must be charged to an authority's revenue account each year and set aside to repay debt, as required by the Local Government Housing Act 1989.

### **Reserves**

Amounts set aside to meet expenditure which the Council may decide to incur in future periods, but not allocated to specific liabilities which are certain or very likely to occur. Earmarked reserves, as opposed to General Balances, are allocated to a specific purpose or area of spending.

## **Provisions**

Amounts set aside for liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur but where there is uncertainty as to the amounts involved or the dates on which they will arise.

## **Abbreviations used**

### Portfolios - Executive Functions

A&H	Adults and Health
CHYP	Children and Young People
COM	Communities
CUF	Customer Focus
ENV	Environment
FIN	Finance
LEI	Leisure
REG	Regeneration
TRN	Transportation

### Portfolios – Non-Executive Functions

LIC	Licencing, Environment & Safety Committee
PLA	Planning and Highways Committee



## Capital Outturn 2009/10

### Report of the Corporate Director, Business Services

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Executive with regard to the progress in achieving the priority outputs and outcomes of the 2009/10 capital programme and to seek approval for amendments to the three year programme to reflect the outturn position, notification of additional funding and other changes to the programme between years.
- 1.2 Generally there is a good degree of flexibility in using the resources associated with the capital programme between financial years and the programme is set within a three year time frame. The flexibility of the resources recognises that capital projects can be complex and whilst resources are time limited and often linked to specific schemes it is often difficult to forecast the exact physical and financial profile of some individual projects and therefore split the overall capital programme accurately into strict financial years.

#### 2 Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12

- 2.1 The following table summarises the outturn position for 2009/10 and shows the programme for 2009/10 through to 2011/12.

Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000	Portfolio	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
842	Adults	1,133	(291)	2,389	632
20,732	Children & Young People	23,380	(2,648)	26,646	19,093
39,037	Communities	38,298	739	31,947	13,788
109	Customer Focus	109	0	330	0
4,134	Environment	4,145	(11)	2,398	0
8,448	Finance	10,241	(1,793)	9,617	500
1,627	Leisure	1,545	82	739	440
1,220	Regeneration	1,279	(59)	513	50
14,639	Transportation	14,781	(142)	17,088	8,093
<b>90,788</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94,911</b>	<b>(4,123)</b>	<b>91,667</b>	<b>42,596</b>

- 2.2 The three year capital programme incorporates changes approved by Council on 25 February 2010 and includes further changes to reflect amendments to resource notifications underpinning the programme.

- 2.3 The 2010/11 and 2011/12 programme above incorporate some of the changes which flow from the variations in the 2009/10 programme and resources. Of the £4.123m surplus, £2.830m of the unused resources will be carried forward and expenditure re-phased within the three year programme. Details of the rephasing by portfolio can be found at Appendix Three.
- 2.4 Both the Communities and Leisure Portfolios have brought forward funding from 2010/11 and utilised grants and external contributions to meet the over achievement, £1.210m, of programmes in 2009/10.
- 2.5 Most of the remaining £2.503m is within Children and Young People portfolio and these schemes are in the process of being reviewed. The review will determine the resources required for the remaining the schemes. Any further rephasing and the reallocation of resources that are not longer required will be reported in the first quarter 2010/11 Report.
- 2.6 Appendix One sets out the changes to each year of the three year programme, full details of the variations and amendments by portfolio are included in Appendix Three.

### **3 Portfolio Programme Key Outcomes**

- 3.1 Key outcomes and performance measures achieved through capital expenditure for each portfolio's programme are included in Appendix Three. Highlights from each programme are provided below.
- 3.2 Adults and Health Portfolio achieved expenditure of £0.842m compared to a programme of £1.133m. Work has commenced on a wide range of schemes that will continue into 2010/11 and the unused resources will be carried forward. In particular there are a number of schemes associated with the Social Care project which have been delayed but are now agreed and are due to commence in 2010/11.
- 3.3 Children and Young People Portfolio achieved expenditure of £20.732m compared to a programme of £23.380m. A surplus of £2.648m of which £1.898m relates to Council controlled schemes and £0.659m relates to schools controlled schemes.
- 3.3.1 Significant outcomes and outputs have been achieved in year with the largest part of the programme in the Primary sector providing new class bases, remodelling, upgrades and refurbishments. The whole of the Children's programme is complex and entails the extensive co-operation of schools to deliver. There is a surplus in the spending of the Sure Start Grant which is targeted at early year's providers, some projects have been delayed until the summer holidays to minimise disruption.
- 3.4 Communities Portfolio achieved expenditure of £39.037m compared to a programme of £38.298m. This is a significant achievement and highlights are included below.
- 3.4.1 The HRA programme, within Communities, continued its effective performance in delivering schemes to reduce the number of non-decent homes within the Borough. Additional works of £0.236m have been completed earlier than planned,

which helped in reaching the target of only 4.8% non-decent homes by the end of March 2010.

- 3.4.2 Communities Strategic Housing programme also performed well and delivered many key priority outcomes. For example 254 grant funded adaptation schemes were completed in privately owned and housing association properties.
- 3.5 Customer Focus Portfolio achieved expenditure of £0.109m matching its capital programme for 2009/10, with both schemes, New Ways of Working and Customer Services Development, achieving their programmes.
- 3.6 Environment expenditure was £4.134m, which is only very slightly lower than the programme total of £4.145m. The Waste Collection scheme in particular has managed to achieve targets ahead of schedule.
- 3.7 Finance Portfolio achieved expenditure of £8.448m compared to a programme of £10.241m. This variation is largely in connection with profiling expenditure related to the New Civic Complex. Work is progressing well and the project remains on target for completion in November 2009.
- 3.8 Leisure Portfolio has over achieved its programme, with expenditure of £1.627m compared to a programme of £1.545m. The majority of the expenditure relates to the NNDR scheme, Target Life Hazel Grove, and funding has been rephased from 2010/11 to meet this spend.
- 3.9 Within the Regeneration Portfolio expenditure of £1.220m compares to a programme of £1.279m. The variance is due to rephasing of the Offerton Precinct Development and Gateway Facelifting schemes to 2010/11.
- 3.10 Within the Transportation Portfolio expenditure of £14.639m compared to a programme of £14.781m successfully delivered number of large and varied schemes with significant priority outcomes.

#### **4 Priority Initiatives and Performance Reward Grant**

- 4.1 The Alexandra Park scheme, under Priority Initiatives, was rephased from 2008/09 and the full £0.075m has now been spent.
- 4.2 Good progress has been made on 2009/10 Priority Initiative schemes; of the £0.500m allocated £0.494m has been spent. The remaining resource is being rephased to 2010/11 to complete these schemes.
- 4.3 In 2009/10, £0.190m Performance Reward Grant (PRG) was allocated to Stockport Boost Centres and this was fully spent. A further £1.005m PRG has been awarded to capital schemes in the two rounds of allocation. All these schemes are due to get underway in 2010/11.

#### **5 Resourcing the 2009/10 Capital Programme**

- 5.1 All variations to the 2009/10 programme are contained within the original resources allocated to projects.

- 5.2 Appendix Two shows the resources that have been utilised to fund the 2009/10 capital programme. The programme is largely funded by Capital Grants and Ringfenced Supported Borrowing, providing resources of £30.879m and £26.156m respectively. Unsupported Borrowing and Directly Funded Borrowing make up £17.227m of the programme. The sources of funding are set out in the Explanation of Terms, which can be found at the end of this report.
- 5.3 Financial monitoring reports throughout the financial year have highlighted the impact that the economic downturn is having on achieving capital receipts which underpin the programme. There were sufficient capital receipts actually received to meet the financing requirements of the programme in 2009/10.

## **6 Prudential Indicators**

- 6.1 The Prudential Code sets out the indicators that must be used to demonstrate that capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. These prudential indicators are designed to support strategic financial planning and local decision making. As part of the annual budget setting process the prudential indicators are set for the forthcoming year and the following two years. The estimated and actual indicators for 2009/10 are set out in Appendix Four.
- 6.2 The estimated prudential indicators were reported in the 2009/10 Capital Programme reported to the Executive on 9 February 2009 and these were based on the 2009/10 Capital Programme at that time. Subsequently, there have been a number of additions and rephasings resulting in a larger capital programme for 2009/10.
- 6.3 There is a reduction in the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream and this is mostly due to lower interest rates for borrowing.
- 6.4 In the February 2009 report, it was estimated that the impact of every additional £1m expenditure would have an impact of £0.18p on Council Tax. The additional Non-HRA expenditure in 2009/10 has been calculated to have an impact of £0.15 and this is largely due to a greater amount being spent through unsupported and directly funded borrowing than estimated.

## **7 Statement of Accounts 2009/10**

- 7.1 The Statement of Accounts for 2009/10 is being prepared and will be presented to the Audit Committee for approval on 29 June 2010. The process of finalising the Statement of Accounts typically gives rise to late adjustments which may impact on the capital outturn and resourcing position outlined in this report.
- 7.2 In these circumstances, it is proposed that the approval of changes to the outturn, resourcing and prudential indicators is delegated to the Corporate Director, Business Services in conjunction with the Executive Councillor (Finance).

## **8 Conclusion**

- 8.1 The capital programme outturn for the year is £90.788m. This is one of the largest and most varied capital programmes to date and has achieved significant outcomes and outputs and boosted the local economy.
- 8.2 The 2010/11 programme has been adjusted to reflect variations to the programme that have occurred across portfolio programmes in 2009/10.

## **9 Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Executive is asked to:
- ◆ Approve the changes to the capital programme shown in Appendix One.
  - ◆ Approve the resourcing of the capital programme set out in Appendix Two.
  - ◆ Note the progress on capital schemes as set out in Appendix Three.
  - ◆ Note the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix Four.
  - ◆ Delegate the approval of any final changes to the capital outturn, resourcing and prudential indicators to the Corporate Director, Business Services in conjunction with the Executive Councillor (Finance).

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10– 2011/12**  
**CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME SINCE QUARTER 3 REPORT TO EXECUTIVE**  
**MEETING 15 February 2010**

<b>2009/10</b>	<b>Original Programme</b>	<b>As at 15 Feb 2010</b>	<b>Additional / Reduced Programme</b>	<b>Virement / Rephased</b>	<b>Revised Programme</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Adults & Health	1,315	1,133			1,133
CYP	27,810	23,354	30	(4)	23,380
Communities	34,367	38,224	12	62	38,298
Customer Focus	229	109			109
Environment	4,356	4,145			4,145
Finance	2,773	10,241			10,241
Leisure	1,179	1,627		(82)	1,545
Regeneration	864	1,273		6	1,279
Transportation	12,980	14,075		706	14,781
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,873</b>	<b>94,181</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>94,911</b>

<b>2010/11</b>	<b>Original Programme</b>	<b>As at 15 Feb 2010</b>	<b>Additional / Reduced Programme</b>	<b>Virement / Rephased</b>	<b>Revised Programme</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Adults & Health	360	1,860	80	449	2,389
CYP	24,440	30,021	20	(3,395)	26,646
Communities	30,659	27,844	4,262	(159)	31,947
Customer Focus	0	330			330
Environment	1,835	2,217	170	11	2,398
Finance	2,000	8,367	(500)	1,750	9,617
Leisure	440	857		(118)	739
Regeneration		156	295	62	513
Transportation	13,766	15,605	1,345	138	17,088
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,500</b>	<b>87,257</b>	<b>5,672</b>	<b>(1,262)</b>	<b>91,667</b>

<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Original Programme</b>	<b>As at 15 Feb 2010</b>	<b>Additional / Reduced Programme</b>	<b>Virement / Rephased</b>	<b>Revised Programme</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Adults & Health	270	632			632
CYP	14,785	15,972		3,121	19,093
Communities	10,269	10,644	2,925	219	13,788
Customer Focus		0			0
Environment		0			0
Finance	500	500			500
Leisure	440	440			440
Regeneration		50			50
Transportation	10,535	7,162	925	6	8,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,799</b>	<b>35,400</b>	<b>3,850</b>	<b>3,346</b>	<b>42,596</b>

## Appendix Two

## RESOURCING THE 2009/10 – 2011/12 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

<b>Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>2009/10 Budget £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Budget £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Budget £000</b>
	Supported Borrowing				
26,156	Ringfenced	26,179	(23)	16,681	0
4,322	Non Ringfenced	5,943	(1,621)	4,336	8,061
30,897	Capital Grants	31,629	(732)	35,609	17,395
	Unsupported				
4,851	Borrowing	5,528	(677)	11,217	3,250
	Directly Funded				
12,376	Borrowing	13,628	(1,252)	12,225	3,856
3,032	External Contributions	2,788	244	949	277
1,319	Capital Receipts	1,385	(66)	2,275	1,089
19	Commuted Sums	90	(71)	34	0
	Revenue Contributions				
7,816	(RCCO)	7,741	75	8,341	8,668
<b>90,788</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94,911</b>	<b>(4,123)</b>	<b>91,667</b>	<b>42,596</b>

## Appendix Three

## Adults and Health Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme

Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000	Scheme	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
8	Asset Management Plan	6	2	0	0
2	Mental Health Schemes:	0	2	164	123
70	Redcroft	76	(6)	6	0
0	Progress House	20	(20)	0	0
150	Narrow Boat	150	0	0	0
30	Wellbeing Centre	55	(25)	36	0
0	IT Software (Care First)	5	(5)	35	0
0	Dignity in Care	5	(5)	5	0
0	IT Infrastructure	0	0	255	0
56	Social Care	147	(91)	385	147
259	Common Assessment Framework	300	(41)	1,113	362
267	York House & Ashlea Offices	369	(102)	152	0
0	Lifestyle Service (PRG Round 1)	0	0	30	0
0	Refurbish Learning & Disability Res Centre (PIF)	0	0	50	0
0	Transforming Adult Social Care	0	0	158	0
<b>842</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>(291)</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>632</b>

Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000	Resources	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
38	Supported Borrowing Ringfenced	61	(23)	59	0
0	Non Ringfenced	0	0	0	0
804	Capital Grants	965	(161)	2,093	632
0	Unsupported Borrowing	5	(5)	85	0
0	Directly Funded Borrowing	0	0	0	0
0	External Contributions	0	0	0	0
0	Capital Receipts	0	0	0	0
0	Commuted Sums	0	0	0	0
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)		102	(102)	152
<b>842</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>(291)</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>632</b>

Adults & Health Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 £'000</b>	<b>2010/11 £'000</b>	<b>2011/12 £'000</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Refurbish Learning & Disability Res Centre		50		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement from finance portfolio
Transforming Adult Social Care		158		Grant	New funding allocation
Redcroft	(6)	6		Grant	Rephase to 10/11
Asset Management Plan	2			SB	Virement from Wellbeing Centre
Wellbeing Centre	(2)			SB	Virement to Asset Mangement Plan
Mental Health Schemes	2	41		Grant	Virement from Progress House and rephase to 10/11
Progress House	(20)	(23)		Grant	Virement to Mental Health schemes and rephase to 10/11
Wellbeing Centre	(23)	23		SB	Rephase to 10/11
IT Software (Care First)	(5)	5		USB	Rephase to 10/11
Dignity in Care	(5)	5		Grant	Rephase to 10/11
York House & Ashlea Offices	(267)			RCCO	Reallocation of grant funding
York House & Ashlea Offices	267			Grant	Reallocation of grant funding
York House & Ashlea Offices	(102)	102		RCCO	Rephase to 10/11
Social Care	(91)	91		Grant	Rephase to 10/11
Common Assessment Framework	(41)	41		Grant	Rephase to 10/11
<b>Total</b>	<b>(291)</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Adults & Health Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

### **Mental Health Schemes**

(a) Redcroft conservatory and structural improvements – the works are mainly completed and paid for in 2009/10, with just a small amount of cost likely to come through in 2010/11. The total cost may go slightly over the original provision but this will be contained within the Adults programme.

(b) The Narrow Boat scheme – the work and spending proceeded according to the agreement and the boat is now in service and being used (currently moored in Poynton but mainly to be used on the Marple canal). All the allocation was used.

(c) Progress House conversion of loft space and other improvements – the structural work is now complete and little spending was required in 2009/10. The remaining provision will be carried forward into 2010/11 and be available for other schemes.

(d) Wellbeing Centre – the costs this year are associated with the building lease as previously agreed. Some improvements are needed to internal environmental conditions at the Centre to provide better conditions for building users, and cost options are currently being identified. Any spending on this will now be in 2010/11.

(e) A number of new Mental Health Schemes are currently being considered for the unallocated future provision – a Market Garden scheme £150k (but land yet to be identified); and a Wellbeing Centre bistro/café £70k (but no commitments made as yet); and it also depends on funding being available after 2010/11.

### **IT Software (Carefirst)**

This provision will be used to purchase additional software for the Carefirst programme. There was in fact no spending against this scheme in 2009/10 and the provision will now be carried forward into 2010/11.

### **Dignity in Care Grant**

The remaining £5k provision from this grant to improve facilities in private sector care homes had been put aside for one provider, but it hasn't been claimed and will now be added to the monies to be used for the new Dignity in Care programme being funded from Social Care monies in 2010/11.

### **IT Infrastructure**

A plan for the use of this resource to improve IT provision within adult social care is currently being considered, but it will now take place in 2010/11. Further details will be available in due course.

### **Social Care**

Consideration has been given by the adult social care senior management team to a number of schemes to be funded from the Social Care capital grant in 2009/10 and 2010/11. These include:

- Sanderling House activity room £65k (mainly complete);
- Broadband for learning disability supported properties £60k (about to start);
- A Dignity in Care programme to improve facilities in care homes £50k (about to start);
- Improvements to a number of Resource Centres recently transferred across to Communities £10k (mainly complete).

However, a significant amount of the original provision will be rephased into 2010/11 due to delays in agreeing the schemes.

### **Common Assessment Framework for Adult Demonstrator Sites**

This is a new provision brought in this year. It refers to a significant grant from the Department of Health to fund a pilot scheme in Stockport (one of only nine across the country) whose aim is to test and evaluate innovative approaches to effective information sharing between health and social care, and partner organisations. It is a three year grant, mainly capital but with a small amount to support revenue spending.

There is a project leader based in adult social care and the first phase of expenditure has already taken place. A significant element of the first year programme will now slip into 2010/11 but without risk to the funding.

### **York House and Ashlea Office bases**

There was significant spending in the final quarter and both schemes are progressing well. Some spending will be rephased into the 2010/11 programme. Due to changes in priorities, a small amount of the original RCCO provision put aside for these schemes will not now be required and is available for other capital uses in 2010/11.

In total, spending on the Adults programme in 2009/10 amounted to £842k against the Q3 forecast of £1,133k (just under 75%). Some schemes didn't proceed as quickly as expected, but this is about rephasing rather than schemes not taking place and it is requested that the 2010/11 capital programme is amended accordingly.

## Children & Young People Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 3 March 2010

The table below highlights the key blocks of schemes in the programme

Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000	Scheme	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
2,057	Early Years	3,082	(1,025)	2,389	1
7,398	Primary Sector	7,377	21	10,056	10,745
1,415	Secondary Sector	1,516	(101)	380	282
1,149	Special Sector	504	645	2,387	0
1,519	Cross Sector	2,091	(572)	1,372	3,081
517	Special Educational Needs	969	(452)	997	634
1,301	Other Schemes	1,806	(505)	952	0
<b>15,356</b>	<b>Council Controlled Schemes</b>	<b>17,345</b>	<b>(1,989)</b>	<b>18,533</b>	<b>14,743</b>
5,376	Individual School Schemes	6,035	(659)	8,113	4,350
<b>20,732</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,380</b>	<b>(2,648)</b>	<b>26,646</b>	<b>19,093</b>

Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000	Resources	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
0	Supported Borrowing Ringfenced				
1,364	Non Ringfenced	2,880	(1,516)	777	5,307
17,935	Capital Grants	18,907	(972)	20,722	12,273
56	Unsupported Borrowing	95	(39)	2,678	260
236	Directly Funded Borrowing	200	36		
1,141	External Contributions	1,239	(98)	536	58
0	Capital Receipts	0	0	1,664	714
0	Commutated Sums				
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	59	(59)	269	481
<b>20,732</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,380</b>	<b>(2,648)</b>	<b>26,646</b>	<b>19,093</b>

Children & Young People Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>		
Playbuilder	30			Grant	Virement from Transportation - match funding for Playbuilder
MOSAIC	9			External Conts	Additional funding
Playbuilder	(13)			External Conts	Adjustment to funding
Behaviour Support Centre (PRG)		20			New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Reddish Vale Technology College - Roof		83		External Conts	Essential work to avoid damage to the building
Cheadle Hulme High School - Additional Roof Work		35	15	Various	Additional work required to complete the scheme
St Matthew's CE Primary School		11		External Conts	Essential work to fire alarm
Playbuilder		39		External Conts	Additional funding
Adjustment to accounts re DFC transferred to external contributions		(444)		Grants	Adjustment to use of DFC
Various	(390)			RCCO	Grant funding allocation
Various	390			Grants	Grant funding allocation
Extended Schools			(233)	Grants	Finishing of grant
General - Unallocated Funding	(220)	220		Various	Rephased to 2010/11
Reddish North Primary School		(833)		Grants	Rephased to 2011/12
Rose Hill Primary School		(1,578)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
All Saints CE Primary School (Marple)		(178)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
Hazel Grove Primary School		(200)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
Mersey Vale Primary School		(150)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
Reddish Vale Technology College		(100)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
Stockport School		(100)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
Moorfield Primary School		(200)		Various	Rephased to 2011/12
Various			3,339	Various	Rephased from 2010/11
<b>Total</b>	<b>(194)</b>	<b>(3,375)</b>	<b>3,121</b>		

## Children & Young People Capital Programme 2009/10 Outturn

The outturn to the 31st March 2010 on Council Controlled Schemes is £15.356m. This is 88.5% of the programme.

### Progress on Specific Schemes

#### **Early Years**

There has been rationalisation of the Children's Centres Capital Works programme and prioritising areas of greatest need within Stockport's Children's Centres. As a result there have been delays to the initial work programme for a number of schemes. The major schemes involved are:

#### ***Bramhall Children's Centre – Phase 3***

A delay to the initial work programme for this scheme occurred. However, this valuable exercise amongst many other things, confirmed the need to progress this much needed scheme which is on site and due for practical completion this summer. As there will be no interruption to the reception areas, this site has been designated as a Children's Centre.

#### ***Cheadle Hulme Children's Centre – Phase 3***

Through more detailed discussions regarding the service provision, it has been decided through the rationalising process highlighted above to prioritise this scheme at Cheadle Hulme Library and the neighbouring property of Chad's Theatre. This scheme is programmed to commence on site towards the end of this calendar year with completion by early March 2011. As there will be no interruption to the reception areas, this site has been designated as a Children's Centre.

#### ***Stepping Hill Children's Centre – Phase 3***

Due to further detailed discussions with the host for this site, it has resulted in the need for only very minor capital investment for signage. This site has been designated as a Children's Centre.

#### ***Edgeley & Cheadle Heath – Additional Work***

This scheme has been re evaluated and a more comprehensive scheme has been requested with a completion deadline of March 2011. Confirmation of the cost will be confirmed on completion of the revised sketch scheme expected by the end of May 2010.

The Council has been awarded Sure Start Grant to allow capital work to be undertaken at early years providers largely in the private and voluntary sectors, although some grant could be used at the Council's schools. The grant was for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Initially it was proposed to spend £1.807m in 2009/10. Under Local management of Schools the Council does not have direct control over when a school spends its programme. In addition, a couple of projects have had to be put back until the summer holidays because the work would have caused too much disruption.

#### **Primary Sector**

Significant progress has been made on the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) schemes and all the PCP grant allocated for 2009/10 has been spent.

Schemes at the following schools have been completed:

Broadstone Hall Primary School – New class bases  
 Norbury Hall Primary School - Refurbishment  
 Norris Bank Primary School - Remodelling  
 Queensgate Primary School – New class base and rewire  
 St Bernadette's RC Primary School - Remodelling  
 St Paul's CE Primary School - Remodelling  
 Westmorland Primary School - Extension

Most of the issues that were delaying the new primary school at North Reddish have now been resolved and it is envisaged that a start will be made on site in the near future.

The new primary school at Rose Hill has now been designed and planning permission has been fully supported. The scheme will be going out to tender in the near future.

Progress has also been made on a number of non PCP schemes and the schemes at the following schools have been completed:

Adswold Primary School – Roof and boiler replacement  
 Arden Primary School – Fire alarm  
 Bridge Hall Primary School – Boiler and asbestos roof replacement  
 Brookside Primary School – Boiler  
 Didsbury Road Primary School – Boiler  
 Greave Primary School – Replacement of fan convector heaters  
 High Lane Primary School – Replacement of fan convector heaters  
 Lane End Primary School – Boiler  
 Ludworth Primary School – Replace pitched roof  
 Lum Head Primary School – Replacement of fan convectors  
 Meadowbank Primary School – Replace asbestos roof and fire alarm  
 Moorfield Primary School – Rewire Infant block  
 Orrishmere Primary School – Replacement of fan convector heaters  
 St Elizabeth's CE Primary School – Boiler  
 St Mary's CE (Reddish) Primary School – Replacement of fan convector heaters  
 St Matthew's CE Primary School – Make playground safe  
 St Thomas' CE Primary School (Marriott Street) – Replace flat roof and rewire  
 Tithe Barn Primary School – Rewire  
 Whitehill Primary School – Rewire  
 Woodley Primary School – Resurface flat roof  
 Various Schools – Install gas interlocking in school kitchens

## **SECONDARY SECTOR**

The final payments in respect of highway work needed when the new Stockport Academy was constructed have now been paid.

The first phase in respect of the replacement of fan convector heaters at The Kingsway High school has been completed.

The final phase of the relocation of the School Music Service to Offerton High School has been completed.

The following schemes have been completed in year:

Bramhall High School – Final phase of the rewiring work  
 Cheadle Hulme High School – Refurbishment  
 Harrytown High School – Refurbish tennis courts  
 Marple Hall High School – Refurbish tennis courts and upgrade fire alarms  
 Offerton High School – Refurbish of changing rooms and repairs to paths  
 Reddish Vale Technology College – Refurbish boiler house  
 St James' High School – Refurbish tennis courts  
 Stockport School – Refurbish pipework  
 Various Schools – Install gas interlocking in school kitchens

## **SPECIAL SECTOR**

A Government grant has been obtained to provide a facility at Windlehurst Special School to allow the teaching of cookery. Although the grant will not be received until 2010/11, other funding has been identified to allow this important work to commence in 2009/10. Work has been progressing well and it is envisaged that the scheme will be completed by the end of June 2010.

A targeted capital fund grant has been obtained for the financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11 to allow schemes to be progressed to ensure the provision of 14-19 Diploma Lines and also to provide better facilities for pupils with special educational needs.

Schemes were identified at both Heaton Special School and Lisburne Special School and work is on site and ahead of schedule. Unfortunately it would appear the contractor at Lisburne Special School has gone into liquidation and steps have been put in place to ensure that this scheme is completed on time.

The extension of the Moat House Pupil Referral Unit has been delayed due to design problems but work has now commenced.

## **CROSS SECTOR**

£1,282K has been spent out of an allocation of £1,538k on ICT Harnessing Technology. However the grant which is the major funding source for this activity does not have to be spent until the end of August 2010.

The grant for Home Access for Targeted Groups has been spent.

It has been necessary to only spend £24k out of the £100k health and safety contingency.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

The phase 1 of the scheme at Valley Special School to refurbish the toilet and create a haven room is now complete. Phase 2 of the works to refurbish a classroom and create a quiet room is due to be completed at half term.

The scheme to improve the paths at Marple Hall High School in order to improve disabled access is out to tender. Planning permission has been applied for and subject to this being granted it is planned to carry out this work during the summer holidays.

The ramp work at Vernon Park Primary School has now been completed. It is proposed to start work on the refurbishment of the toilets in the near future.

## **OTHER**

The Council has been awarded a grant for 2009/10 and 2010/11 which together with other external contributions is to be used to provide playbuilder schemes at various locations across the Borough. All the schemes scheduled for 2009/10 have either been completed or are just awaiting the delivery of safety surfaces to be delivered from overseas.

The Council received a grant of £217k in 2009/10 to increase the uptake of school meals. Schools were requested to bid for this grant and allocations were made to successful schools late in 2009/10. To date expenditure has not as yet been uploaded from the school's SIMS systems into the Council's financial management system. It is proposed to visit all schools that received grant to ensure that all the proposed work has been completed later in 2010/11.

A Big Lottery Fund grant in respect of Sleddale Close for £35k has been entered into the CYPD capital programme in error and should have been included in another capital programme of the Council.

## **INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL SCHEMES**

There was a programme of £471k for extended school schemes in 2009/10. This funding is devolved to schools and as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 £330k had been spent by the schools. This grant funding ceases at the end of 2010/11 and schools will be closely monitored in 2010/11 to ensure that all the grant funding is spent.

The Council has been awarded a two year grant in 2009/10 and 2010/11 to develop the introduction of several 14-19 Diploma Lines in various secondary schools and colleges across the Borough. A project board has been established and many meetings have been held with schools and colleges to develop a strategy. Some of the expenditure will be made by the Council and some funding will be devolved to schools to allow them to purchase equipment etc. All the grant will be spent by the end of 2010/11.

The major item in this element of the capital programme is the Devolved Formula Capital grant which is devolved directly to schools and is therefore completely out of the control of the Council.

## Communities Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme.

<b>Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
34,681	<b>HRA</b>	34,445	236	25,166	8,941
	<b>Strategic Housing</b>				
1,386	Disabled Facilities Grant	1,300	86	1,416	678
955	Renewal	1,375	(420)	1,078	1,025
1,117	Affordable Housing		1,117	372	219
	Alleygating (PRG Round 1)		0	100	
	Alleygating Edgeley (PRG Round 2)		0	100	
<b>3,458</b>		<b>2,675</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>3,066</b>	<b>1,922</b>
	<b>Other</b>				
7	Brinnington Shops	8	(1)	25	
750	New Build - Dorset Avenue	1,028	(278)	278	
	New Build - Mendip Court	0	0	484	
	New Build - Marhill Court	0	0	543	
	Affordable Homes		0	1,591	2,925
129	Safer Stronger Communities	129	0	129	
	CCTV upgrade		0	200	
	Home Security		0	40	
	Tackling inequalities		0	150	
	Employment & Enterprise Base in Brinnington (PRG Round 1)		0	30	
	Employment & Enterprise Base in Brinnington (PRG Round 2)		0	50	
12	Neighbourhood NW Grant	12	0		
0	Coroners	1	(1)	195	
<b>898</b>		<b>1,178</b>	<b>(280)</b>	<b>3,927</b>	<b>2,925</b>
<b>39,037</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,298</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>31,947</b>	<b>13,788</b>

<b>Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
26,034	Supported Borrowing Ringfenced	26,034		16,622	
754	Non Ringfenced	754		754	754
2,824	Capital Grants	2,375	449	2,454	1,328
7	Unsupported Borrowing	18	(11)	684	
750	Directly Funded Borrowing	1,028	(278)	2,896	2,925
852	External Contributions	469	383	372	219
0	Capital Receipts	40	(40)	375	375
0	Commuted Sums				
7,816	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	7,580	236	7,790	8,187
<b>39,037</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,298</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>31,947</b>	<b>13,788</b>

#### Communities Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 £'000</b>	<b>2010/11 £'000</b>	<b>2011/12 £'000</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
HRA	(15)			SB	Sustainability transfer to Playbuilder
HRA	35			Grant	Consolidation of Stansbury Place CYP project within HRA
HRA	42			External Contribution	GM Procure 'Sense of Place' contribution to sustainability projects
HRA	236	(236)		RCCO	Rephase from 2010/11
Decent Homes Funding (HRA)		2,000		SB	CLG confirmed total level of Decent Homes Funding
Renewal		(372)		USB	Virement to Affordable Housing
Affordable Housing		372		External Contribution	Virement to Affordable Housing
Affordable Housing			219	External Contribution	New allocation of funding
Strategic Housing	353			Grant	Utilised Regional Housing Pot Grant
Strategic Housing	383			External Contribution	Utilised Regional Housing Pot Grant & Affordable Housing
Strategic Housing (DFG)	(10)	10		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
Strategic Housing	97			Grant	Allocation of grant funding

(Renewal)					
Alleygating Edgeley (PRG Round 2)		100		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Employment & Enterprise Base in Brinnington (PRG Round 2)		50		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
CCTV Upgrade		200		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Home Security		40		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Tackling Inequalities		150		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Brinnington Shops	(1)	1		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
New Build Dorset Avenue	(278)	278		DFB	Rephase to 2010/11
New Build - Mendip Court		(75)		DFB	Reduction in funding required
New Build - Mendip Court		(137)		DFB	Reduction in funding required
Neighbourhood NW Grant	12			Grant	Grant funding awarded
Coroners	(1)	1		Grant	Rephase to 2010/11
<b>Total</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>219</b>		

Communities Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

**HRA**

The table below provides an analysis of expenditure incurred as at 31 March 2010.

<b>Analysis of HRA Expenditure</b>	<b>£000</b>
Kitchen and Bathroom Replacements	15,626
DDA and Fire Safety Works	1,358
Heating Replacements and storage heaters	2,524
Fees (Including staff capitalisations)	2,034
Concierge	1,842
Overcladding and Roofing of Non-Traditional Properties	1,036
Rewires	2,686
Planned Works - other external works	920
GM Procure / Value Works Fees	806
Miscellaneous works	615
Planned Works - Fencing	1,003
Sustainability Works	947
Asbestos Removal	403
Roofing	660
Lift Replacement	839
Decorating Allowances	301
Energy Saving	207
Windows and Doors	319
Montague House - flat to pitched roof	168
Property Conversions	143
Carecall	245
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>34,681</b>

Milestones reached.

During the financial year 2009/10, SHL continued to concentrate on reducing the number of non-decent homes in the borough. Included in this work are approx 2769 properties which have had kitchen and bathroom refurbishment works. This worked helped in reaching the target of 4.8% non-decent homes by the end of March 2010.

The programme successfully spent £34.769m against a budget amount of £34.534m. This gives an over commitment of £0.236m.

Another success is the continuation and growth of the concierge control room at the Bredbury Technical Services depot. This project has been to upgrade the CCTV and Concierge system at Lancashire Hill. These systems are now controlled from Bredbury in a state of the art control centre.

Customer satisfaction remains high. Performance against a target of 93%, SHL reached a year end figure of 95% customer satisfaction for investment works in 2009/10. This figure was based on a return rate of 62%. These figures represent an all time high for the organization.

It should be noted that the successes achieved in 2009/10 have been achieved against a backdrop of significant challenges. These include the Audit Inspection and also the successful bid of £5m of accelerated funding. This extra funding required the smooth and speedy acceleration of the workforce put an extra strain on the management of the programme.

## **Strategic Housing**

### Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants

Demand for DFGs has remained consistently high, with a total of 254 schemes completed during the financial year. This demand continues to put significant pressure on staffing and contractor resources, and whilst the team are keeping on top of the workloads. Work is progressing on developing a single contract for the delivery of stairlifts, which will not only reduce officer time input, and help alleviate some of this pressure, but also reduce the process time from assessment to installation

Work on the block schemes progressed well up to December, but since then has been affected by the weather. Despite this, during the year, a total of 122 properties in Shaw Heath benefited from facelifting works, making a significant impact on the area.

### Affordable Housing

The spend on affordable housing relates to four schemes, as follows:

- Marbury Road - a mixed scheme of shared ownership houses, two large four bed houses for rent and two wheelchair adapted bungalows for rent, completed last financial year, with support of £293k grant from the HCA
- Osbourne Road – a learning disability group home for four people, completed Q1, with £154k grant from the HCA and £150k from affordable housing monies
- Hollybank – a learning disability group home, completed Q4. The payment relates to acquisition/start on site, with total HCA grant of £263,500 and £350k from affordable housing monies
- Offerton Fold – a learning disability group home, which started on site in Q3. The payment relates to acquisition/start on site with total HCA grant of £245k and £245k from the affordable housing monies
- Park Road – a learning disability scheme, which started on site in Q4. The payment relates to acquisition/start on site with total HCA grant of £292k and £292k from the affordable housing monies
- Blossoms Hey – a learning disability scheme, which started on site in Q4. The payment relates to acquisition/start on site with total HCA grant of £240k and £240k from the affordable housing monies.

## **Brinnington Shops**

Project management fees of £0.003m have now been paid and the remaining sum of money has been rephased into 2010/2011.

This sum has been earmarked to carry out some reinstatement works to the landscape areas and recent work completed by Neighbourhood Renewal is addressing the latest local resident needs/desires for this area. This work will take them past the March 2010 deadline, so Neighbourhood Renewal would like to retain this sum as match funding for further refurbishment work they find necessary at the end of the consultation period.

## **New build**

### **Lantern Close (Dorset Avenue)**

The total borrowing is £1,028k. However, up to the year end £750k had been drawn down and the remainder is to be transferred early in 2010/11.

### **Mendip and Marlhill Court**

Good news here as the revised tenders from the contractors for the build have come in lower than we budgeted for, the programme has been amended to reflect the revised costings.

### **Safer Stronger Communities Fund**

£0.067m has been paid to Victim Support for target hardening properties vulnerable to crime. A small amount has been made available to pay for computer hardware for the Spotlight (Offender Management) Team. £0.061m has been spent on alleygating areas identified through Positive Path Management.

## **Coroners**

The Coroners have moved from Greek Street to Mount Tabor as a temporary solution. A Project Board has been set up and is to provide information in the form of a PID (Project Initiation Document). The options and proposals will be considered in conjunction with Trafford and Tameside Councils, from which appropriate recommendations to the Executive will be made in a future report.

## Customer Focus Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme.

<b>Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
18	New Ways of Working	18	0	60	
91	Customer Services Development	91	0	120	
0	Sharepoint / Unified Communication Platform	0	0	150	
<b>109</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
0	Supported Borrowing Ringfenced				
0	Non Ringfenced				
0	Capital Grants				
29	Unsupported Borrowing	29	0	80	
0	Directly Funded Borrowing				
0	External Contributions				
80	Capital Receipts	80	0	120	
0	Commuted Sums				
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	0	0	130	
<b>109</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>0</b>

### Customer Focus Capital Programme Amendments

There are no amendments.

## Customer Focus Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

### **NWOW (Capital)**

The plan to roll out phase 2 of the Lone worker project in Q2 2010/11 is still on target. The Asset Management Group, through the new Ponsonby project, is now managing any bids for further works / investment that may be needed to be undertaken to support achievement of the VFM performance indicators set by the Audit.

### **Sharepoint / Unified Communications Platform**

The revised implementation plan for the Sharepoint project (early stage of the unified communication implementation) is progressing. A redesign and rebuild of the basic Sharepoint structure has been completed and pilot Sharepoint sites have been developed for Council Members and members of Information Management Steering Group. The pilots are still running.

There has been no change in the status of the related projects which inhibit introducing the full functionality of Sharepoint.

### **Customer Services Development**

This was largely for the upgrade of the CRM system and ongoing rolling replacement of ICT equipment. There are one or two exceptions eg replacement of the water heaters at Houldsworth Mill.

More of the same for 10-11. However the outcomes of the Systems Thinking work will dictate the way in which the CRM system operates in the future, so it's too early to say what the actual spend will be. It's critically important that these rephased monies are retained.

## Environment Capital Programme Progress at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme.

Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000	Scheme	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
425	Rosehill Household Waste Recycling Facility	451	(26)	26	
3,579	Waste Collection	3,564	15	2,202	
130	PIF -Improving Cleanliness	130	0		
	Carbon Reduction Programme (PRG)			40	
	Recycling Litter Bins (PRG)			80	
	Community Orchard (PRG)			50	
<b>4,134</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>0</b>

Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000	Resources	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
0	Supported Borrowing				
0	Ringfenced				
0	Non Ringfenced				
0	Capital Grants	0	0	170	
130	Unsupported Borrowing	130	0	0	
3,579	Directly Funded Borrowing	3,564	15	2,202	
0	External Contributions				
425	Capital Receipts	451	(26)	26	
0	Commuted Sums				
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)				
<b>4,134</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>0</b>

## Environment Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 £'000</b>	<b>2010/11 £'000</b>	<b>2011/12 £'000</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Rosehill Household Waste Recycling Facility	(26)	26		Capital Receipts	Rephase to 2010/11
Waste Collection	15	(15)		DFB	Rephase from 2010/11
Carbon Reduction Programme (PRG)		40		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Recycling Litter Bins (PRG)		80		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Community Orchard (PRG)		50		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
<b>Total</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Environment Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

### **Waste Collection**

The plan was to deliver approximately 180,500 bins to 105,000 households over a 7 month period. All bins arrived from the manufacturer on time and to schedule. 180,556 bins were delivered out to 104,773 households ahead of schedule with the rollout completed on Thursday 19 November 2009. 75,944 Blue Bins were delivered and 104,612 brown bins.

The 2010/11 delivery programme is being planned and there are no anticipated problems or issues to a successful delivery of the programme within the budgeted allocation.

### **PIF – Improving Cleanliness**

Two small mechanical sweepers have been purchased to tackle detritus on footpaths and on the Highway. This will expand fleet of the existing double-shift and night-time patterns and to provide an interim shift – effectively triple shifting four small mechanical sweepers.

A replacement jetter has been purchased which will be utilised for graffiti removal.

All spend has been processed and the budget has been fully utilised.

## Finance Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme.

<b>Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
1,944	Loan to Solutions SK	1,944	0		
496	Asset Management Plan Stopford House	718	(222)	667	
59	Refurbishment New Civic Complex & refurbishment	345	(286)	286	
5,958	PIF Unallocated	7,009	(1,051)	6,742	
0	LAMP	125	(125)	125	500
(43)	SWITch (was ERP Phase II)	0	(43)		
34		100	(66)	1,797	
<b>8,448</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,241</b>	<b>(1,793)</b>	<b>9,617</b>	<b>500</b>

<b>Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
84	Supported Borrowing Ringfenced	84			
124	Non Ringfenced	148	(24)	24	
49	Capital Grants	49			
901	Unsupported Borrowing	1,643	(742)	2,875	500
7,290	Directly Funded Borrowing	8,317	(1,027)	6,718	
0	External Contributions				
0	Capital Receipts				
0	Commutated Sums				
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)				
<b>8,448</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,241</b>	<b>(1,793)</b>	<b>9,617</b>	<b>500</b>

Finance Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 £'000</b>	<b>2010/11 £'000</b>	<b>2011/12 £'000</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Asset Management Plan	(222)	222		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
New Civic Complex	(981)			DFB	Virement - funding for Stopford House
New Civic Complex	636			USB	Virement - element of funding that is USB
Stopford House	345			USB	Virement - funding for Stopford House
Stopford House	(286)	286		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
New Civic Complex	(24)	24		SB	Rephase to 2010/11
New Civic Complex	(112)	112		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
New Civic Complex	(915)	915		DFB	Rephase to 2010/11
PIF 2009/10 Unallocated		(500)		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement to various portfolios
PIF 2007/08 Unallocated	(85)			Grant	Funding is USB
PIF 2007/08 Unallocated	85			USB	Funding is USB
PIF 2007/08 Unallocated	(125)	125		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
SWITch	(66)	66		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1,750)</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>0</b>		

Finance Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

**New Civic Complex & Refurbishment (including Stopford House schemes)**

The demolition of Ponsonby House commenced in June 2009.

Quarter 4 has seen a quantum leap relative to the completion of the stone cladding to the facades at all five levels. The Curtain wall system has commenced and by week ending 28 May will be 50% complete.

The three level links to Stopford House are fully scaffolded and the render system is currently being installed to both respective elevations.

The Plant room on the roof is fully constructed and weathered. The mechanical and electrical installation will commence in due course

Internally the three lift shafts are fully constructed and the lift installation to Stair Core 2 (single lift) is currently being executed.

The main roof will be fully weathered by mid June

Partition walls and service risers are 75% complete to all floors.

The first fix mechanical & electrical installations are approximately 20% complete.

The project remains on programme for completion mid November 2010.

### **Stopford House refurbishments/removals**

There are two projects currently in pre-contract planning as follows;

1. Ground floor South End Reception. Proposal to accommodate approximately 50 staff to serve the Ground floor of the New Civic Building (NCB).
2. The proposed relocation of the OD & L Suite from Regal House to the First floor North End currently occupied by EH & TS who will relocate into the NCB.

The SMBC New Civic Building Estimated Relocation Costs 2010/11 related to the inhabitation of the NCB have been updated in to illustrate the individual relocation total costs of each inclusive of fees.

Stopford House 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Refurbishment were fully completed in March 2009 with all defects being rectified and signed off in December 2009. The Final Account is nearing agreement and will be paid off during 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010/11. The balance due of c£34,000 will be declared as an outstanding liability at year end

### **Stopford House Toilet Refurbishment**

The refurbishment of 1<sup>st</sup> Floor North End male & female toilets has been on-going and some delays have been experienced with the delivery of the shower cubicles and the solid grade laminate wall & cubicle panels.

The 1<sup>st</sup> floor toilets are programmed for completion by 21 May 2010, with the exception of the bench seating and locker units, which will be delivered on the 2 June 2010.

It is intended to commence work on the South End 4<sup>th</sup> floor female toilet and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor South End Male toilet week commencing 24 May 2010. Both toilets will be refurbished concurrently.

Currently forecasting a revised completion date for the whole project of the 7 July 2010.

### **Asset Management Plan**

A summary of the works in the last phase of the current AMP programme were set out in detail in the Quarter 2 report. Schemes are progressing largely to programme. There has been a re-phasing of the programme to 2010/11 due to slippage on certain works, the main element relating to Energy Conservation Schemes.

**SWiTch**

In December 2009, a 12 month joint procurement project was completed with Stockport, Wigan and Trafford Councils to purchase a new HR/payroll system. The project has made substantial savings in undertaking a joint procurement exercise and it has been agreed to implement a single system to be shared by all three Councils. The new Midland 'i-trent' system will be hosted by Wigan Council. However, it will operate on 3 separate databases, which will give a greater degree of flexibility and security.

With the procurement process now complete, the project has moved into the implementation phase. The implementation is split into two distinct phases; Phase 1 will see the implementation of 'core' HR/Payroll functionality, by April 2011; Phase 2, employee and manager self service (plus any additional functionality over and above that implemented in phase 1 by April 2012. Most of the costs will now be incurred in 2010/11 and the programme has been re-phased accordingly.

## Leisure Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme.

<b>Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 Programme £000</b>	<b>2009/10 Variation £000</b>	<b>2010/11 Programme £000</b>	<b>2011/12 Programme £000</b>
36	Bradshaw Hall Playing Fields	36	0		
31	Schemes to be funded from NNDR Savings	31	0	234	400
2	Refurb at Cheadle Pool & Target Fitness (NNDR)	16	(14)		
317	Gym Improvement at Target Fitness & Romily (NNDR)	300	17		
363	Target Life Hazel Grove - Bar Alteration (NNDR)	200	163		
195	Libraries Self Service (RFID)	195	0	171	
5	Libraries ICT	5	0		
62	Bramhall Hall	54	8	238	
191	Offerton Community Play Facilities	195	(4)	4	
19	Pavillion at William Scholes Playing Field	90	(71)	34	
76	Refurbishment of Walls Bramhall Park	76	(0)		
75	Alexandra Park PIF 08/09	75	0		
96	Increasing Allotment Provision PIF 09/10	100	(4)	4	
97	Dry Leisure & Community Facilities - Reddish PIF 09/11	100	(3)	4	
19	Cemeteries Infrastructure	29	(10)	10	
40	Schemes in Parks	40	0	40	40
3	Other	3	0		
<b>1,627</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>440</b>

Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000	Resources	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
0	Supported Borrowing				
0	Ringfenced				
19	Non Ringfenced				
1,231	Capital Grants	19		0	
350	Unsupported Borrowing	1,086	145	296	440
0	Directly Funded Borrowing	342	8	409	
8	External Contributions				
19	Capital Receipts	8			
0	Commutated Sums	90	(71)	34	
1,627	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)				
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>440</b>

#### Leisure Capital Programme Amendments

Scheme	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	Funding Source	Reason
Bradshaw Hall Playing Fields	17			DFB	Virement of surplus funding
Refurbishment of Walls Bramhall Park	(17)			DFB	Virement of surplus funding
Schemes to be funded from NNDR Savings	(110)			USB	Virement of funding between NNDR schemes
Target Life Hazel Grove - Bar Alteration (NNDR)	110			USB	Virement of funding between NNDR schemes
NNDR Schemes	166	(166)		USB	Rephase from 2010/11
Pavillion at William Scholes Playing Field	(82)			Grant	Correction to grant funding position
Pavillion at William Scholes Playing Field	(71)	34		Commutated Sums	Part rephased to 2010/11
Alexandra Park PIF 08/09	(75)			Grant	PIF allocation is USB
Alexandra Park PIF 08/09	75			USB	PIF allocation is USB
Various	(158)			Receipts	Virement - funding is USB
Various	158			USB	Virement - funding is USB
Bramhall Hall	8	(8)		DFB	Rephase from 2010/11
Offerton Community Play Facilities	(4)	4		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
Increasing Allotment Provision PIF 09/10	(4)	4		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
Dry Leisure & Community Facilities - Reddish PIF 09/11	(3)	3		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
Cemeteries Infrastructure	(10)	10		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Leisure Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

### **Bradshaw Hall Playing Fields**

All building construction works have now been completed on site and the facility is ready for use. We are currently waiting for football foundation auditors to sign off the final documentation.

### **NNDR Savings**

#### Heroes gym (Target Life Priestnall sports hall balcony conversion)

Quotes have been received from three leading equipment contractors. Consultation with members of the public is yet to happen and the school has been informed.

The decision is held in abeyance as the School has had a squash court conversion completed recently. The fitness gym is arriving in June 2010 with 13 lots of resistance equipment and 12 lots of CV equipment from Life fitness

#### Cheadle Hulme bar conversion

Consultation with the school and public is now complete.

Improvements to foyer and reception areas are to be included in the project plan drawn up for closed session's area for Paris, A2A and Obesity

#### Target Fitness Marple

The locker and cubicle refurbishment is now complete.

#### Target Fitness and Romiley car park extension

Plans have been drawn and based on advice from the Highways Service. Evidence gathering and a consultation process is now in place.

#### Target Fitness and Hazel Grove extension

Stage 1 of the project was expected to be completed in April 2010

Stage 2 – The refurbishment of the old studio is underway. This work includes plastering, new lights, a new sound system and fitness equipment

#### DDA adaptations

The adaptation to the changing room project at Target Life Lapwing was completed in March 2010

### **Offerton Community Play Facilities**

All projects are now nearly complete with some minor work to be done to Poise Brook soccer field (nets and planting).

### **Play**

We are working in partnership with Stockport Homes, Play Development (CYPD) and other members of Stockport's Play Partnership to deliver a programme of play space improvements across the Borough. This is through Playbuilder (DCSF), Big Lottery, Community Spaces grant funding, Commuted sums for play, Community fundraising and Stockport Homes contributions at 16 sites.

Work has been completed at 11 Playbuilder sites at Moat Walk, Brinnington, Unity Park Reddish, Great Moor Park, Walnut Tree play area, Cheadle Heath, Hollywood Park Edgeley, Peak Street play area Stockport, Bradshaw Hall play area Cheadle Hulme, Marbury Road play area Heaton Chapel, Heaton Norris Park play area and St Thomas's Recreation Ground play area, Offerton

Work is underway on site at Heathbank Road, Cheadle Hulme and consultation has started at Crescent Park play area Heaton Norris and Heaton Mersey Park play area in Phase two of the Playbuilder funded schemes.

### **Pavilion at William Scholes**

All construction works have been completed and the building is now being fully used by football, cricket and athletics' teams. It has been well received and the process of drawing together final documentation is underway to achieve practical completion (awaiting sign off from the football foundation auditors)

### **Refurbishment of Walls at Bramhall Park**

This project which commenced in 2008/09 is now complete.

### **PIF**

#### Alexandra Park

Project is complete and to budget with the facility being fully operational.

#### Increasing Allotment Provision

The project gained momentum during the final quarter and now in excess of 130 plots have been created with only minor works still outstanding to be completed in the beginning of 2010/11.

#### Dry Leisure & Community Facilities – Reddish

Business Plan for CIC has been finalised and approved. The CIC has been set-up and the transfer of funds took place during November 2009.

### **Libraries**

All staff related hardware was purchased and installed including 4 hand held stock scanners, 22 staff tag pads and the tags to be applied to 400,000 items of stock. The vast majority of library stock has now been tagged ready for the rollout of the self service kiosks.

In October 2009 the first kiosk at Brinnington Library went "live". This was closely followed by Marple library which was also refurbished and redecorated. In the last quarter of the year self service kiosks in a further 3 libraries were installed and agreed the rollout schedule for the remaining libraries.

For 10/11 there is a roll out schedule which will enable us to install the remaining kiosks by January 2011. During 2009/10, necessary adjustments were made to library counters using library revenue budgets as only minor cabling & electrical work was required. In 2010/11, capital funding will be used as detailed in the original spending plan for more extensive remodelling of library counters which will allow for the installations of the kiosks.

### **Cemeteries Infrastructure**

The remaining £10k of the programme is to be rolled forward in 2010/11. It will be spent in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and is to support the next phase of development on the Ash Plot burial section at Mill Lane Cemetery.

**Bramhall Hall and Park**

The production of the Conservation Management Plan is on track and making good progress. Public consultation events/publicity were planned over Easter together with production and distribution of second newsletter.

## Regeneration Capital Programme Progress as at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010-06-03

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme.

Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000	Scheme	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
39	Offerton Precinct Devlpmnt	80	(41)	41	
354	St Peters Square Phase 3	358	(4)	4	
1	Town Centre (Rivers)	(2)	3	13	
7	Gateway Facelifting	35	(28)	118	
124	Covered Market	115	9	0	
10	Town Centre Land Prep	6	4		
9	THI Hillgate	9	0	41	50
300	Support for Plaza HLF Bid	300	0		
29	PIF - Mobile CCTV	30	(1)	1	
47	District Centres	48	(1)		
190	Stockport Boost Centres	190	0		
100	Loan to Stockport Plaza	100	0		
10	Staircase House/Stockport Story	10	0		
	Financial Support for new businesses (PRG Round 1)			30	
	Financial Support for new businesses (PRG Round 2)			40	
	Learner Lounges (PRG)			45	
	Call centre training & development			100	
	Vacant shops occupation			50	
	Youth U/E and enterprise			30	
<b>1,220</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>50</b>

Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000	Resources	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
	Supported Borrowing				
0	Ringfenced				
0	Non Ringfenced				
324	Capital Grants	315	9	133	0
355	Unsupported Borrowing	382	(27)	249	50
150	Directly Funded Borrowing	150			
85	External Contributions	126	(41)	41	
306	Capital Receipts	306		90	
0	Commuted Sums				
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)				
<b>1,220</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>(59)</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>50</b>

Regeneration Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>		
Offerton Precinct Development	(41)	41		Ext Cont	Rephase to 2010/11
St Peters Square Phase 3	6			Ext Cont	Additional Funding
St Peters Square Phase 3	(4)	4		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
St Peters Square Phase 3	5			USB	Virement from Town Centre (Rivers)
Town Centre (Rivers)	(5)			USB	Virement from Town Centre (Rivers)
Town Centre (Rivers)	3	(3)		USB	Rephase from 2010/11
Gateway Facelifting	(28)	28		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
Covered Market	9	(9)		Grant	Rephase from 2010/11
Town Centre Land Prep	4			USB	Funding to cover overspend
THI Hillgate	(9)			Grant	Correction to funding allocation
THI Hillgate	9			USB	Correction to funding allocation
PIF - Mobile CCTV	(1)	1		USB	Rephase to 2010/11
Financial Support for new businesses (PRG Round 2)		40		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Learner Lounges		45		Grant	New allocation of PRG by Stockport Partnership
Call centre training & development		100		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement from finance portfolio
Vacant shops occupation		50		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement from finance portfolio
Youth U/E and enterprise		30		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement from finance portfolio
<b>Total</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>0</b>		

## Regeneration Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

### **Mobile CCTV**

Two cameras have been erected in Hazel Grove District Centre and are currently being monitored from the council's CCTV control room. The provision of cameras will help to reduce both crime and the fear of crime by local business and users of this centre. This centre is fast becoming one of Stockport's main focuses for 'night-time economy' uses and their associated problems. The impact of the cameras will be monitored on an ongoing basis. One camera is to be permanently sited in Hazel Grove whilst the project allows for one camera to be redeployed in other priority District or Local centres as needs require.

### **District Centres Christmas Lights**

A total of 396 elements installed and illuminated. The displays were not only dramatic displays throughout the festive season but also a major contributory feature for switch on and special festive events supported in 12 centres.

### **St. Peters Square Phase 3**

The work on phase 3 which commenced in Feb 2010 is now almost complete. The top surface of the car parking spaces is due May 2010.

### **Town Centres Rivers**

Works have been ordered for Ford Street, Newbridge Lane and Knightsbridge and are on-going. The remaining programme is to be re-phased into 2010/11 and work planned includes the treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

### **Gateway Facelifting**

Due to issues with planning permission, a consultation exercise is currently underway to recommence the design of the Market & Underbank Gateway Entrance Features – the aim is for them to be installed in 2010/11.

There have been issues with the Hatworks Chimney lighting scheme in relation to the lighting units which has led to some delay. However the issues have now been resolved and NPS are preparing planning applications for submission.

### **THI Hillgate**

A revised planning application is currently under consideration by the council. Non-grant assisted works have commenced on Institute/ Clarkes buildings and graveyard, including the installation of security fencing to the whole site.

### **Support for the Plaza**

The Plaza refurbishment was completed on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and repayment of the £100k loan to fund internal décor works has now commenced.

## Transportation Capital Programme Progress at 31 March 2010

### Overview of Progress to 31 March 2010

The table below highlights the key schemes in the programme

Expenditure as at 31 March 2010 £000	Scheme	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
5,373	LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	5,430	(57)	4,583	
142	PIF	140	2		
854	Highways Structures	935	(81)	1,275	
850	Dan Bank Slope Stabilisation	850	0	1,866	
566	Highways Maintenance	566	0	2,500	
2,500	Invest to Save	2,500	0	1,500	2,000
21	Merseyway Carpark	27	(6)	0	931
	Unallocated		0	0	3,000
882	LTP Highways Maintenance	882	0	1,506	
2,839	Retaining Walls Major Scheme	2,839	0	3,588	2,162
467	S278 Schemes	467	0		
145	Other	145	0		
	Local centre & shop front improvements			150	
	Improved Street Lighting			120	
<b>14,639</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,781</b>	<b>(142)</b>	<b>17,088</b>	<b>8,093</b>

Expenditure as at 31/03/2010 £000	Resources	2009/10 Programme £000	2009/10 Variation £000	2010/11 Programme £000	2011/12 Programme £000
0	Supported Borrowing Ringfenced				
2,080	Non Ringfenced	2,161	(81)	2,781	2,000
8,942	Capital Grants	8,999	(57)	10,037	3,162
2,142	Unsupported Borrowing	2,140	2	4,270	2,000
21	Directly Funded Borrowing	27	(6)	0	931
954	External Contributions	954			
500	Capital Receipts	500			
0	Commutated Sums				
0	Revenue Contributions (RCCO)				
<b>14,639</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,781</b>	<b>(142)</b>	<b>17,088</b>	<b>8,093</b>

Transportation Capital Programme Amendments

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2009/10 £'000</b>	<b>2010/11 £'000</b>	<b>2011/12 £'000</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Playbuilder	(30)			Grant	Virement to CYP - match funding for Playbuilder
Dan Bank Slope Stabilisation	(1)			Grant	Final grant settlement
Retaining Walls	654			Grant	Increase in grant funding
S728 schemes	83			Ext Cont	Allocation of funding
LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	400			Various	Reallocation of financing
Highways Structures	(153)			Various	Reallocation of financing
Highways Maintenance	66			Various	Reallocation of financing
LTP Highways Maintenance	(842)			Various	Reallocation of financing
S278 Schemes	384			Various	Reallocation of financing
Other	145			Various	Reallocation of financing
Various	(288)			Ext Cont	Allocation of grant funding
Various	288			Grants	Allocation of grant funding
LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	(57)	57		Grant	Rephase to 2010/11
Highways Structures	(81)	81		SB	Rephase to 2010/11
Merseyway Carpark	(6)		6	USB	Rephase to 2011/12
Local centre & shop front improvements		150		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement from finance portfolio
Improved Street Lighting		120		USB	Allocation of 10/11 PIF Capital Funding - virement from finance portfolio
<b>Total</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>6</b>		

## Transportation Capital Programme - Progress on Specific Schemes

### **Bridges and Structures**

#### Highway Structures

At Q4 all projects completed. Springswood Culvert scheme, Great Egerton Street Bridge, High Street support beam, Merseyway Concrete Repairs, Otterspool Bridge, Cataract Bridge, Compstall Bridge and Dan Bank Phase 2 trial piling schemes completed by the end of Quarter 4.

#### Retaining Walls

Hanson Mews, Dog Hole Clough, Tan Pit, Longhurst Lane and Dooley Lane Retaining Walls all now complete. Brinksway, Brinksway Trading Estate, Springmount Retaining Wall and Royal Oak retaining walls all on site.

### **Highways**

All schemes successfully delivered within programme.

### **Integrated Transport**

#### **ITCs**

Works to bus stop schemes on Airport Routes and the Hyde Corridor are complete. Three additional phases for Bramhall, Romiley and The Heatons are planned for next year and the signal junction at Stockport Road and Lower Bents Lane as part of the Hyde Road corridor is also set for next year.

The Sainsbury Transport Package has progressed with Hazel Grove Station and Chester Road underway in the last quarter and progressing in to the following year. Commercial Road, Bramhall Moor Lane, and Dialstone Lane traffic management schemes are all scheduled for next year.

### **SEMMMS**

#### Marple, Hollins Lane / Chadwick Street

The re-phased works on Chadwick Street Car Park and the scheme around the junction of Hollins Lane and Stockport Road is complete apart from some re-paving around Bus Stop improvements which is outstanding and is planned for the next financial year.

#### Woodley Precinct

The scheme is complete.

#### Cycling and Walking Schemes

Routes along canals and through Parks have progressed well and will continue with additional funding set for next year. Tangshutts Park linking a route with safer routes to schools has been complete with lighting and pathway improvements. Sustrans contributions are to be used for completing the route in Romiley before the end of June 2010.

Offerton Estate

The scheme to provide bus stop improvements is complete and further proposals are all planned for the next financial year with an additional allocation.

Controlled Pedestrian Crossing Upgrades

Thirteen crossing and junction sites were all delivered successfully to programme and a new programme is scheduled to include two outstanding sites, but this is dependant on additional external funding.

Cheadle Traffic Management

The scheme has been completed now with United Utilities completing the power connections.

Romiley Precinct

This scheme to re-pave and add street furniture features to the area outside the Forum was rapidly progressed and completed in this quarter and has received many plaudits.

**Integrated Transport**Didsbury Road

Work has rapidly progressed through all the phases and near completion. Work for Phase 2 is complete apart from having to return to do some snagging. Phase 3 was well underway with Phase 4 now in progress, which finalises the scheme at the Stockport end of the corridor. Phase 4 will continue in the first quarter for continuity of work at the year end when there is less construction work available, but will draw to completion.

Cheadle Heath Junctions

The two major junctions in Cheadle Heath along Edgeley Road are under construction. The junction with Bird Hall Lane is near completion with some reinstatement work required. Works for bus stops and other paving in Cheadle Heath have also been completed but major works to the carriageway involve traffic restrictions and temporary traffic management are continuing utilising holiday periods to minimise disruption where possible.

Local Safety Schemes

The programme is substantially complete.

Hillgate and Market Place

The final completion along Hillgate's footways depends on re-development schemes in the area and funded through these, but Covent Garden is now complete. The Market is complete and the final phase for Millgate and Churchgate was completed in this final quarter to avoid the Christmas period, so all these projects are now successfully complete this financial year.

**Milestones since last Report****Highways**

The schemes delivered are as follows:-

I2S Footway Programme -  
 Footway improvements 27 no  
 Footway slurry seal 4 no

Carriageway Preventative Programme –  
 C/way surface dressing 6 no  
 C/way micro asphalt 7 no

Carriageway Structural Programme –  
 C/way resurfacing 19 no

PIF Drainage Programme -  
 Network improvements 8 no

### **Integrated Transport**

#### **General Scheme Progress**

There has been excellent and accelerated progress of schemes for many of the larger more complex schemes through from design to the construction stage. This has provided a significant amount of work and expenditure in the final quarter as predicted and planned with just a few of the larger schemes being completed in the next quarter. A new programme has been developed for the coming year and progress is already being made on these schemes.

#### **Medium Term Outlook**

### **Integrated Transport**

This is the final year of LTP2 and SEMMMS ITE funding and GMITA is developing LTP3 with an accompanying funding bid for the next three. The local authorities are supporting the development of LTP3 and developing local programmes in accordance with the bid guidance. However the level of funding which will be available is unclear.

### **Highways**

No major issues at this stage.

### Prudential Indicators

The table below compares the Prudential Indicators as reported in the 2009/10 Executive Capital Programme Report to the 2009/10 actual outturn.

Prudential Indicator	2009/10 Estimate	2009/10 Actual
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Non – HRA	56,051	56,107
HRA	29,822	34,681
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,873</b>	<b>90,788</b>
<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Non – HRA	7.88	7.60
HRA	16.50	11.79
<b>Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March 2009</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Non – HRA	245,804	242,568
HRA	123,821	127,611
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>369,625</b>	<b>370,179</b>
<b>Incremental impact of new capital investment decisions on council tax</b>	<b>£ p</b>	<b>£ p</b>
Non – HRA	0.03	0.15
HRA	0.00	0.00

#### Explanation of Prudential Indicators used

##### Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This the proportion of the Net Revenue Budget to be made up of financing costs (interest payable in respect of borrowing and leases, premiums/discounts for the repurchase of debt written out to revenue, interest and investment income, revenue provision).

##### Capital Financing Requirement

The capital Financing Requirement measures the authority's cumulative underlying need to borrow as a result of capital investment.

##### Incremental impact of new capital investment decisions on Council Tax and Housing Rents

This indicator demonstrates the impact of the capital programme on the council tax and housing rents. There is no impact where capital expenditure

is met from grants, external contributions, capital receipts and revenue financing. However, where capital receipts fund capital expenditure there is an opportunity cost of interest from the receipts that would have otherwise been invested.

## **EXPLANATION OF TERMS**

### Supported Capital Expenditure Revenue – Non Ring Fenced

The Government will include within the Formulae Spending Share for Capital Financing, the capital financing costs of the borrowing for this element of the capital programme. The Council can spend the money on any capital scheme. However, experience shows that particularly in Housing, Education and Transport, if expenditure significantly departs from the guidelines, the individual Government Department reduces future funding if expenditure is lower than the guideline.

### Supported Capital Expenditure Revenue - Ringfenced (or specific)

The Government will include in the Formulae Spending Share for Capital Financing, the capital costs of the borrowing for this element of the capital programme. This borrowing is given for specific services and cannot be transferred to another service.

### Supported Expenditure Capital

The government have identified particular areas where the support for capital expenditure will be made by way of a capital grant. Currently where grants are made they can only be used for the purposes for which they are given and are therefore ringfenced.

### Other Capital Grants

The Council receives grants from many sources for capital purposes. These include English Heritage and National Lottery Funds. These can only be used within the parameters set by the grants making organisation.

### Capital Receipts

- Sale of Council Houses and Repayment of Mortgage Advances – 75% of the receipts have to be paid over to the Government, 25% are retained by the Council as General Fund Receipts and can be used by any service.
- Sale of HRA Land – 50% of the sale of council housing land can be utilised for any project. The balance is paid over to the Government.
- Sale of general council land – 100% of the sales of other land can be utilised on any projects.

### Revenue Contributions

The Council can make contributions to fund capital from its revenue budget. Specific revenue contribution can be made from earmarked reserves, the Council's share of the Standards Fund and the major repairs allowance received through Housing Subsidy.

### Commuted Sums

Cash contributions received from developers that must be utilised for a specific capital purpose.



# Agenda Item 6

## The Current Role of Health Visitors

### Introduction

This paper has been written for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee following a request for a report "detailing the role of the health visitor and some of their impacts on services", and information about "their referral rates to CAMHS". Also included in the paper are the current whole time equivalents and an itemised list of most of the intervention delivered by Stockport health visiting service.

### Primary role

The primary role of the health visitor is leading and delivering the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) which is an evidenced base programme using a family focused public health approach for all 0-5 year olds.

### Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

The HCP commences pre-birth during the antenatal stage up until a child is 19 years old. The focus of the programme is universal provision that concentrates on prevention and early intervention but also recognises the need for 'progressive' services. Although it is called the *Healthy* Child Programme it acknowledges the different roles and responsibilities of health practitioners, children service's practitioners, educational providers and others working with children and their families.

With the advancement taking place in neuroscience and genetics and understanding of how early childhood development can be both promoted and damaged health visitors have a pivotal role in supporting parents in the care of their child in order that the child achieves across the whole spectrum.

Health visitors interventions, in some respects reflect the importance of forming strong child-parent attachment in the first years of life and incorporates information about the adverse effect that maternal anxiety and depression in pregnancy and antenatally can have on child development. Having authoritative parenting combined with warmth, with an affectionate bond of attachment between the child and primary carer from infancy, with parental involvement in learning, breastfeeding and psychological resources are all protective factors which health visitors are skilled at assessing, supporting and providing evidenced based interventions where there are deficits.

In order to deliver the HCP the health visitors has a number of roles:-

- Team Leader
- Hands on role
- Supporting vulnerable families
- Child Protection
- Named Health Visitor for General Practices



### Team leader

Stockport Health visitors lead a team of professionals and para professionals that compose of staff nurses, nursery nurses and support assistants. They also work very closely with midwifery services and are currently tightening their communications to ensure a fully integrated pathway to care delivery.

### Hands on role

As well as being the team leader the health visitor undertakes most primary visits (following the birth of the baby). In cases where the family is well known to the health visitor and only accesses the universal service and is multi-parous (i.e. having their third or subsequent child) the decision may be taken that the staff nurse undertakes the primary assessment. Following this assessment which may take more than one home visit the health visitor may delegate aspects of the care plan to the appropriate member of the team or make a referral for additional services.

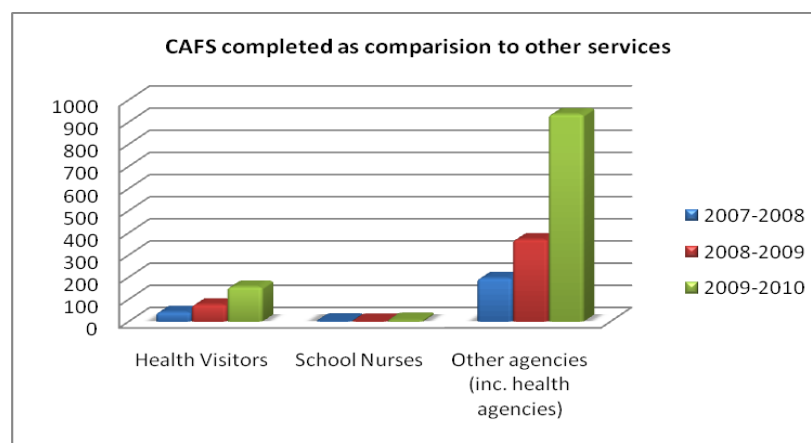
### Supporting vulnerable families

#### Antenatally

This is a key element of the role. If midwifery services identify additional needs (mental health issues, drug abuse, child protection, teenage pregnancy, domestic abuse etc) in pregnancy then both services (health visiting and midwifery) work closely together to agree and deliver a supportive and protective care plan for the pregnant mother and partner.

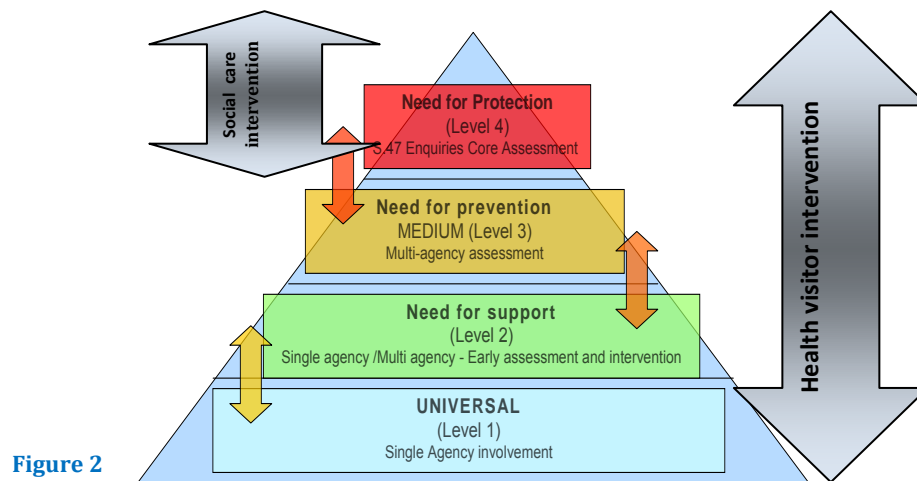
#### Postnatally

Health visitors are increasingly holding numbers of families with higher level of risk. There has been a steep rise in the number of Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) completed with health visitors ranked highest in terms of the professional group completing the most CAFs. The CAF is an assessment tool that is triggered when more than one agency is working with a child and the level of need has reached level 2 or 3 (see figure2). In 2005 – 2010 the total number of CAFs were completed in Stockport was 731. Just over 40% (298) were completed by NHS staff with health visiting being the largest source of NHS referrals (40%).



**Figure 1**

Health visitors tend to be the Lead Practitioner in the Team Around the Child (TAC) process. The TAC is a meeting with parents where the level of need has reached 2 or 3 and more than one agency is working with a child and family (see figure 2). Of the 1722 initial TAC meetings 16% were chaired by health with 57% of these meetings being led by health visitors and 10% by school nurses. After an initial TAC there is a high probability that the child and family will require a review. During the past 5 years of the 18% of all review meetings (560) completed by health 50% (280) have been led by Health Visitors and approximately 140 (25%) by School Nurses.



### Child protection

It has been accepted that health visitors keep children safe; more so in terms of health visitors' specialist skills (HMG, DCSF, 2010). Health visitors are "crucially important in protecting children" (HMG, DCSF, 2010, s.2.88). Health visitors are currently heavily involved with children at level 4 (see figure 2). When a child dies at the hands of their carers this draws national and local attention; unfortunately the excellent interventions by the health visitor to protect children are not publicised. It must be noted that recently Community Health Stockport health visitors have been directly responsible for preventing two child deaths. These serious incidents will undergo a management review - to see how all agencies involved with those babies could improve their systems. When undertaking child protection health visitors must have time to develop and maintain effective contact with the child and family (HMG, DCSF, 2010). A statutory framework underpins this element of the role, so when it comes to role prioritisation safeguarding is ranked the highest.

During a 6 month period (from 1.10.2009 to 31.03.2010) there were 38 case conferences and 120 reviews. Involvement in case conferences and reviews clearly involves a considerable time commitment for the health visiting service.

### Early intervention Safeguarding Nurse

A specialist safeguarding nurse (a health visitor) based within the Local Authority early intervention safeguarding team has been in post since October 2009. This has been a pilot

project to last a year and was created partly in response to one of Lord Laming's recommendations "The Protection of Children in England" May 2009.

An interim evaluation has demonstrated some good outcomes. Social workers have reported benefits in having valuable health information to inform their assessments of vulnerable children and their families. Inter-agency communication has been improved where the nurse has been able to give timely feedback of social care assessments to health professionals. The health visitor has also been able to gather detailed information from the referrer to facilitate an appropriate social care response. Full evaluation of the project will be undertaken shortly by the Associate Director of Children and Families. Regardless of the outcome of this integrated working due to funding it is unlikely that this post will continue.

Shared responsibility and effective joint working between different agencies is imperative in order to protect children from harm and promote well-being.

### **Named health visitor for General Practices (GP)**

An important function of the name health visitor role is establishing and maintaining effective communication mechanisms with GPs. General Practice is the repository for nearly all child health information and it is absolutely imperative that effective communication channels are established between health visitors and General Practice in order to safeguard children and provide effective healthcare interventions. On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 the service moved from a general practice registered population to a geographical children centre reach area footprint, making effective communication channels even more crucial.

Whenever there has been a child death or significant harm, case reviews tend to find that there are two fundamental issues:- record keeping and communication. As such Stockport health visiting (and school nursing service) have radically changed the child health records to make them more effective and efficient; and, with the move to a Children Centre footprint, have concentrated efforts on improving communication between GPs and the health visiting service (and school nursing). Effective communication between all health professionals that dovetail with children and families, chiefly GPs and midwives, is crucial in order to achieve positive outcomes for each child. In Stockport there are 53 GP practices, each one has a named health visitor.

### **Health visiting whole time equivalents**

The following table (figure 3) shows the number of whole time equivalents within the health visiting service. The number of health visitors has reduced due to skill mixing; coupled with an increase in the number of nursery nurses (para professionals) and staff nurses. This reflects the requirements of the HCP and need for health visitors to be working with the difficult things that require their specialist skills, knowledge and experience.



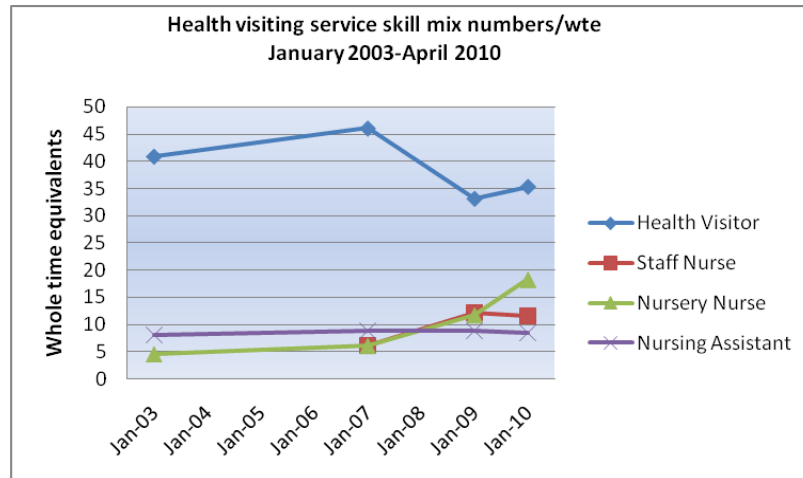


Figure 3

## Interventions

Current list of health intervention and elements of the Healthy Child Programme delivered by Stockport health visitor

- Primary visit (initial assessment following the birth)
- Selected antenatal following referral from the midwife
- Named nurse for General Practices
- Prescribing medicines for treatment
- Neonatal Behaviour Observation / Neonatal Behaviour Assessment Score
- Looked After Children health assessments
- Mental Health as per NICE 6 week and 3 month contact
- Breast feeding advice and support
- Bottle feeding advice and support
- Advice re growth, feeding, failure to thrive
- Nutrition and weaning advice
- Support parents re baby's sleep problems, feeding problems
- Care of Next Infant (following previous sudden infant death)
- Parenting advice
- Behaviour advice
- Initial conferences
- Review conferences
- Support children with disabilities
- Ordering equipment and dressings for children
- Support for children with continence problems
- 9 to 12 month paediatric health reviews
- 2 year old(questionnaire)
- 4 year old (questionnaire)
- Targeted Schedule of Growing Skills (detail developmental assessment when developmental delay is suspected)
- Referrals to Child Development Unit
- Referrals to 2 year panel
- Child protection referrals
- Support parents with learning disability
- Solihull approaches at home visits to support parents and carers - foster carers, parents with Mental Health issues, parenting, behaviour etc
- Lead number of groups - Early Days, Stay and Play etc
- Talking together (for language delay)
- Baby and toddler clinics

- Lead professional
- Chair TAC meetings
- Contribute to protection plans and Team Around the Child plans
- Follow up neonatal blood tests
- Follow up missing children
- Follow up domestic abuse referrals
- Follow up all Accident and Emergency referrals
- Port health (for new entrants into the country for children 0-5 years)
- Find 'hard to reach' children
- Follow up children who haven't been immunised
- Refuge liaison
- Brindale House liaison

### **CAMHS**

The Committee requested information about health visitors referral to CAMHS which has reduced. This is quite simply due to two main factors; the CAMHS pathway accepts children from 5 years onwards and if a child shows emotional or mental health issues under five this is appropriately managed through specialist parenting services. Secondly the health visitor's role has shifted from 'cradle to grave' to predominantly the 0-5 year group therefore any child over this age would be referred by the school nurse or GP, hence the respective increase in GP referrals to CAMHS.

### **Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)**

*"Changing the world one baby at a time"*

It is useful to highlight another key element of the HCP which although not health visiting works closely with the service and midwifery and provides evidence based intervention for the most vulnerable (2-5%) of the children and families in Stockport.

The primary purpose of the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is to reduce the impact of multiple deprivation and improve the short and long term health and well-being outcomes of children born to vulnerable young first time mothers (under 19 years) and reduce the short and long term cost of caring for these children and families.

This is the only programme, supported by three random controlled trials, that clearly demonstrate that it can break the cycle of intergenerational underachievement (health, education, employment, social etc).

Pregnant young women are offered intensive, structured therapeutic home visits until the child reaches two years of age. The programme works with identifying the strengths of young people, then encourages them to fulfill their aspirations for themselves and their babies. The Family Nurses who deliver the programme are drawn mainly from health visiting and midwifery and they receive master's level training to equip them for the new role. The FNP is based on the theories of human ecology, attachment and self-efficacy.



The FNP started in Stockport in September 2008 and 111 young mothers with their partners were recruited to the programme which is licensed to run until October 2011 when the last child should reach two years and are handed over to health visiting service.

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**Associate Director – Children and Families**

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**Draft Child Poverty Strategy****Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People****MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Child Poverty Act was passed in March 2010, and established a national accountability framework to meet the target of ending child poverty by 2020.

As a part of this framework the duty has been placed upon Local Partnerships to carry out a needs assessment of child poverty within their area and to develop a strategy to combat the causes and consequences of child poverty at a local level.

The child poverty problem is a complex and multi faceted one which interacts with a wide range of other local issues, strategies and agendas. It is important to realise that this is not exclusively a children's agenda but a community wide one. Research shows that when children experience poverty they can lack the opportunities and experiences enjoyed by their peers leading to a gap in achievement and well being between those who have and those who have not. Children who fall behind their peers are at risk of low aspirations, social exclusion, poor health and limited life chances in the future. Child poverty is a burden to local services and wastes talent at the expense of the whole community.

**INFORMATION**

This Child Poverty Strategy 2010-13 for Stockport has been developed in accordance with the duty placed upon local authorities by the Child Poverty Act, March 2010. We are required to develop and publish an Action Plan by March 2011.

The Child Poverty Strategy Group are seeking comments regarding the priorities of the strategy, which will inform the work on the Action Plan in the autumn.

All feedback will be collated and considered in September, following the three month consultation period, and used to inform the future work of the strategy group. Any responses to this exercise will be taken into account in refining the strategy document further and ultimately in developing an action plan to deliver this agenda.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Members are requested to note the report, and to discuss the priorities and direction of the Strategy

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Anyone requiring further information should contact Viki Packman on telephone number 0161 474 5709 or alternatively email [wiki.packman@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:wiki.packman@stockport.gov.uk)



## **Child Poverty Strategy- Consultation Questions**

### Section 1:

Do you have any comments about the definition of child poverty in Stockport in 1.3, pg.6?

### Section 3:

Do you have any additional analysis that should be considered as part of the strategy?

### Section 6:

Are the aims and objectives clear in 6.1, pg.19?

Are there any other relevant strategies that contribute to addressing child poverty and ought to be included in Section 6.2.1, pg.21?

### Section 7:

Do you have any comments about the 5 'we will' priorities identified in the strategy pg.31-33?

Are there any additional priorities that you think ought to be included?

Do you agree have any comments about the proposed actions listed under each 'we will' priority, pg.31-33?

Are there any measures, performance or national indicators, that you think ought to feed into any of the priorities? Please explain you rationale.



# **STOCKPORT CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY 2010-13**

## **DRAFT- APRIL 2010**

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DRAFT

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

1.1.1 In March 1999 the Government announced a pledge to halve the level of child poverty in the UK by 2010/11 and eradicate it within the following decade. The Child Poverty Act, March 2010, enshrined this promise in legislation and established a national accountability framework to meet the targets. As a part of this framework the duty has been placed upon Local Partnerships to carry out a needs assessment of child poverty within their area and to develop a strategy to combat the causes and consequences of child poverty at a local level.

1.1.2 The child poverty problem is a complex and multi faceted one which interacts with a wide range of other local issues, strategies and agendas. It is important to realise that this is not exclusively a children's agenda but a community wide one. Research shows that when children experience poverty they can lack the opportunities and experiences enjoyed by their peers leading to a gap in achievement and well being between those who have and those who have not. Children who fall behind their peers are at risk of low aspirations, social exclusion, poor health and limited life chances in the future. Child poverty is a burden to local services and wastes talent at the expense of the whole community.

## 1.2 Defining Child Poverty

1.2.1 The Child Poverty Bill defines 'child' as a person under the age of 16 or a young person whose parents qualify for child benefit. We feel that this definition would exclude some particularly vulnerable young people in the 16-19 age range, particularly those Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). We believe that it is important that these groups are included in any definition of child poverty and so the Stockport Child Poverty Strategy, in keeping with our Children's Plan, will include all children and young people aged 0-19.

1.2.2 Under the Bill 'poverty' is defined in terms of income using a tiered approach of absolute low income, relative low income, material deprivation combined with low income and persistent poverty. The relative poverty measure will be the most widely used and currently 2.9 million children live in relative poverty in the United Kingdom, one of the highest figures in Europe.<sup>1</sup>

### **Child poverty means growing up in a low income household**

The *Relative Low Income* measure captures those children living in a household whose income is less than 60% of the contemporary median, equivalised by household type.

The *Combined Low Income* and Material Deprivation measure captures those children whose household income is less than 70% of the median, and who go without a range of necessary items and activities.

The *Absolute Low Income* measure captures children in households that fall below a specific poverty line, which rises each year in line with prices.

The *Persistent Poverty* measure captures children who have lived in relative low income in at least three of the last four years.<sup>2</sup>

1.2.3 In real terms the relative poverty baseline of 60% of the national median income would equate to approximately £195 per week for a single adult with two dependent children under 14; and £279 per week for a couple with two dependent children under 14.<sup>3</sup> This figure is measured after deduction of income and council tax and housing costs, therefore representing what the household has available to spend on all other needs, from food and heating to travel and entertainment.

<sup>1</sup> 'Measuring Child Poverty', Department for Work and Pensions, December 2003

<sup>2</sup> Draft Interim Statutory Guidance February 2010

<sup>3</sup> The latest national statistics on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) for 2007/08

### 1.3 Defining Child Poverty in Stockport

1.3.1 As an authority Stockport tends to mimic national trends very closely, therefore we would expect our baseline relative low income measure (60% of the median income) to be near to the national average. **In Stockport the relative poverty measure of 60% of the median income is calculated using CACI Paycheck data from 2008 and equates to £18,836 per annum.**<sup>4</sup> In comparison to this the national baseline stood at £15,257 according to the 2009 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

1.3.2 The borough is extremely polarised with some families living in small areas that fall within the 1% most deprived in England.<sup>5</sup> Therefore our Child Poverty Strategy must consider both the median and the extreme levels of poverty within the borough and work to improve the life chances and experience of all of our children.

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<sup>4</sup> The median household income for the borough (2008) was £31,393, 60% of this equals £18,836. It is important to note that the income and employment baseline does fluctuate significantly, often out of tune with the national economic climate.

<sup>5</sup> Stockport Strategy 2020, p.9

## 1.4 National Research

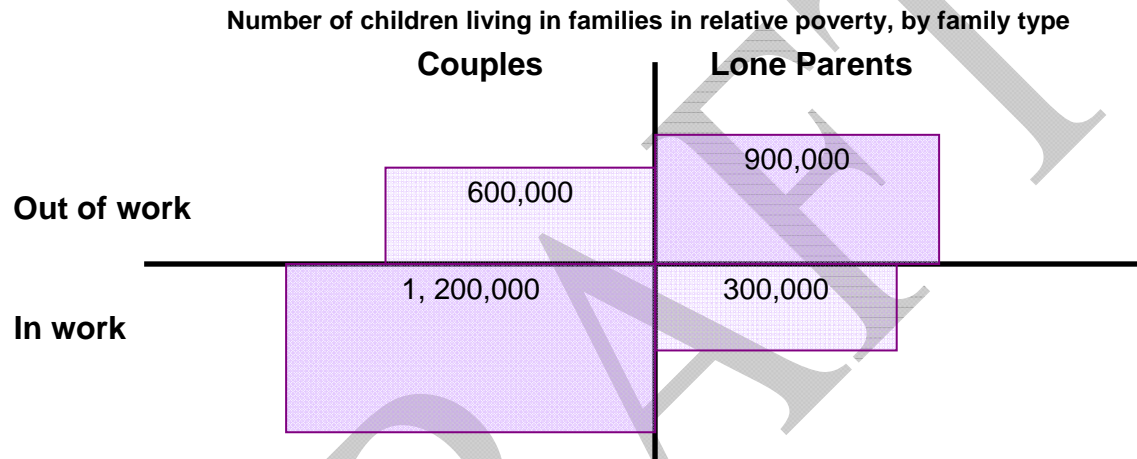
.4.1 National research has shown that there are a number of risk factors that increase the chances of a child living in poverty. Exposure to several of these factors increases the likelihood that a child will experience poverty. Save the Children have compiled the following list that outlines the cohorts that are most at risk of living in poverty, and also severe poverty.<sup>6</sup>

- children in workless households
- those whose mothers (or fathers in the case of single fathers) have low educational attainment
- children in single-parent households
- those living in socially rented accommodation (that is rented housing owned and managed by local authorities or registered social landlords)
- children in families with disabled adult(s)
- children from minority ethnic groups
- children in large families of four or more children
- those with young parents (under 25)
- children whose parents have no savings/assets
- younger children (under 5)

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<sup>6</sup> 'Measuring severe child poverty in the UK', a Save the Children Policy Brief, January 2010.  
[http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Measuring\\_child\\_poverty\\_in\\_the\\_UK.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/Measuring_child_poverty_in_the_UK.pdf)

1.4.2 National analysis shows that work *is* still the best route out of poverty. Poverty rates for those who move into work are half as much as for people out of work but, as the diagram below shows, over half children in poverty now live in *working* rather than workless households. This means that it is not enough to simply try to move more people into work; ways of reducing *in-work* poverty also need to be addressed.<sup>7</sup>



\* Note that there are 2.9 million children in relative poverty. The numbers do not add to 2.9 million due to rounding

1.4.3 The highest risk group are those children in **couple families** where **only one parent is working** on a part time basis, often where the presence of **disability**, young children and large families may distance these families from participating more fully in the labour market. Children in **workless lone parent households** are also at a high risk of being in poverty.

<sup>7</sup> HBAI 2007/08

1.4.4 According to the HM Treasury Review of Child Poverty in 2004 efforts to eradicate child poverty should be focused on the following areas

- increase employment opportunities, raising incomes for those who can work
- increase support for those who cannot work
- improve the effectiveness of public services that tackle material deprivation, for instance housing
- improve those public services – education, for example – that can contribute most to increasing the future life chances of children in households with low income and ensure public services and the welfare system work well together when families face crisis points in their lives
- improve services for children and their families living in deprived areas

### **1.5 The Child Poverty Strategy Group**

The Child Poverty Strategy Group has been specifically established to address the challenge of tackling child poverty and is driving this agenda forward. The membership of the strategy group reflects the complexity of the issue with senior representatives from key areas within the Council including inclusive communities, youth offending, revenue and benefits, neighbourhood renewal, economic development, human resources, advice and information service, data and performance, disability partnership, Stockport Homes, transport as well as delegates from our partners in children's health, social housing and the third sector. This is a strong and committed partnership working group who will steer the use of resources to meet out priorities and ensure that the spotlight remains focused upon tackling child poverty in Stockport.

## 2. The Importance of Tackling Child Poverty

**2.1 Reducing inequalities is central to what we want to achieve.**<sup>8</sup> Stockport is the third most polarised borough in England and Wales, with extreme differences in wealth and deprivation. The fastest growing health inequalities in Greater Manchester along with significant gaps between the life expectancy of people living in the most deprived and most affluent parts of the borough present major challenges

- The Council's commitment and that of our partners, to tackling inequalities is captured and articulated in our current Local Area Agreement, Stockport Strategy 2020 and the Council Plan.
- Children and young people remain a key priority for the council in terms of improving life chances, particularly for those who are more vulnerable. We have a strong tradition of working in partnership to produce innovation and improvement in service delivery and recognise the importance of the need to reduce inequalities and ensure that every child gets the best start in life and is supported into adulthood.
- The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has prioritised those areas where there is a concentration of problems like high unemployment, ill health and poor levels of skills as the most deprived neighbourhoods in Stockport. These 'Priority 1' areas have been identified using findings from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007.<sup>9</sup> The strategy has a strong emphasis on supporting people into work and ensuring those working have the right skills to progress.

**2.2 Growing up in poverty can impact upon a child's life chances.**<sup>10</sup> According to the Child Poverty Bill and accompanying guidance:

- Growing up in poverty can damage a child's cognitive, social and emotional development, which are all determinants of future outcomes. While some children who grow up in low-income households will go on to achieve their full potential, many others will not.
- Tackling child poverty will improve the childhood experiences of many children, who will then experience greater opportunities and social inclusion. As a result, these children should have better outcomes, particularly health and educational attainment, in childhood and beyond.

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<sup>8</sup> The Stockport Council Priority of Reducing Inequalities is taken from the Stockport Strategy 2020, the Council Plan 09-12<sup>8</sup> and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, January 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Stockport's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, January 2010

<sup>10</sup> The Child Poverty Act, March 2010

- Experiencing poverty in childhood affects children's outcomes as adults, and these, in turn, affect their children, thus creating cycles of deprivation. Breaking this intergenerational cycle of poverty should therefore have huge benefits for future generations.

**2.3 In April 2007 the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee prioritised child poverty for consideration by a Scrutiny Review.**<sup>11</sup> The Scrutiny Review made the following recommendations

1. The Council adopts as a discipline the question 'How does this address child poverty?'
2. Children and Young People's Directorate consider making explicit the contribution of key priorities and issues within the Children and Young People's Strategic Plan to tackling child poverty in Stockport.
3. Service managers regularly review data to ensure that services are still being delivered to the right children
4. Council's Executive, and in turn the Stockport Partnership, consider making explicit the contribution of targets and indicators within the Local Area Agreement (LAA) to tackling child poverty in Stockport.
5. Information collected in the childcare sufficiency assessment, and the related work of the Disability Partnership, is used to focus services on deprived areas and vulnerable groups and be made available on Profiling Stockport.

**2.4 We are passionate about delivering measurable improvements to children's lives.** We are ambitious for all children and young people, and we are committed to reducing inequalities.<sup>12</sup>

**2.5 'Releasing the potential of the region's people and tackling poverty' is named as a priority in the new Regional Strategy for the Northwest (RS2010).**<sup>13</sup> The draft highlights the following issues as important to Greater Manchester:

- Improve the early years experience for hard-to-reach groups, particularly in the most deprived areas
- Improve life chances in the most deprived areas by investing in lifelong skills development and other forms of support so that people can compete in the modern labour market, thereby linking opportunity and need
- Significantly improve transport connectivity into and within the city region
- Expand and diversify the city region's economic base through digital infrastructure

<sup>11</sup> The scrutiny review is available via the Stockport Council website at

<http://www.stockport.gov.uk/services/councildemocracy/democracy/decisionmakingscrutiny/scrutiny/workofscrutiny/scrutinyreviews/tacklingchildpoverty?view=Standard>

<sup>12</sup> The Stockport Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11

<sup>13</sup> The new Regional Strategy for the Northwest can be viewed online at <http://www.nwregionalstrategy.com/files/RS2010%20A5%20Summary.pdf>

### 3. Local Context

The Stockport Child Poverty Strategy has been developed in the context of both local, regional and national research and guidance. This has helped to shape the vision and key priorities of the Stockport strategy.

#### 3.1 The Stockport Story of place<sup>14</sup>-

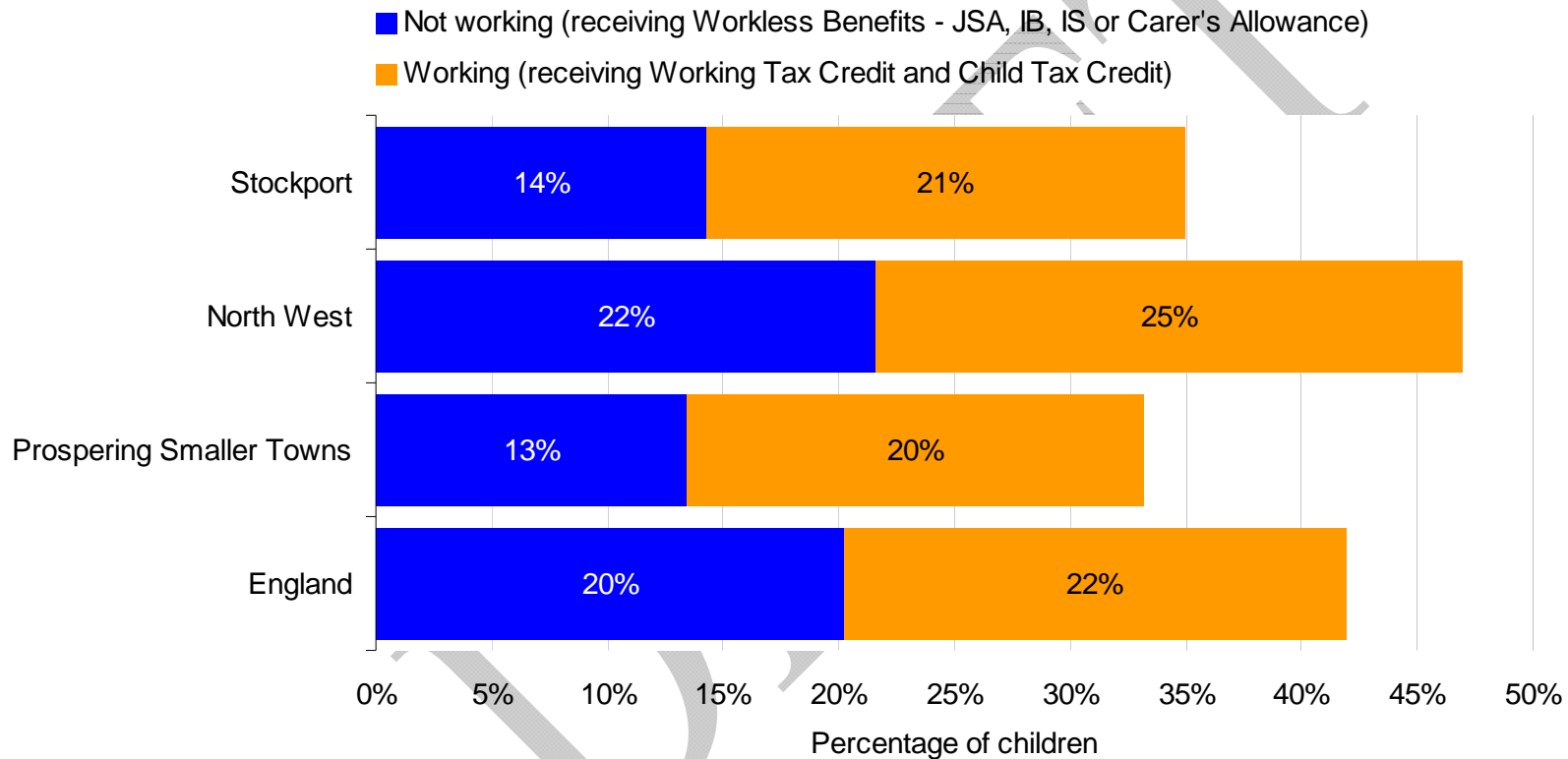
- Whilst Stockport's unemployment rate remains below the regional and national levels evidence suggests that it is increasing at a faster rate. In addition, the unemployment rate in the borough's more disadvantaged wards is increasing at a lower rate than the borough average, suggesting that this recession is impacting in a way not experienced in previous recessions.
- The number of Stockport residents claiming Job Seekers Allowance in December 2009 was lower than both Greater Manchester and the North West region averages although there were disparities within the borough. Brinnington had significantly higher numbers of claimants at three times the borough average, this was the second highest number in the whole of greater Manchester. Notably a substantial proportion of Stockport JSA claimants, 39.3%, are described as long term, i.e. have been claiming for in excess of 6 months.
- The average life expectancy in Stockport is higher than the national, North West and Greater Manchester averages. Levels of obesity, smoking, cancer mortality and circulatory disease mortality are all lower than the average Greater Manchester and North West levels. There are disparities between wards within the borough, Brinnington experiencing the lowest life expectancy with 12 years difference between the lowest and highest.
- Housing affordability is an increasing issue for younger people and families setting up home in Stockport. Indeed, a recent study demonstrates that Stockport is the second most expensive place in the North West in terms of affordability. There are significantly high levels of owner occupied housing and this coupled with high housing costs is reflected in a high and increasing demand for social rented housing. There is also evidence of increasing numbers of housing repossessions and housing benefit claimants. The proportion of poor quality housing is around the national average but below that of both Greater Manchester and the North West.

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<sup>14</sup> The Story of place is taken from the Stockport Council Plan 09-12, available at:  
[http://interactive.stockport.gov.uk/contents/policyregister/Redirect.aspx?DOCUMENT\\_NO=232](http://interactive.stockport.gov.uk/contents/policyregister/Redirect.aspx?DOCUMENT_NO=232)

### 3.2 Relative Poverty in Stockport

Using the relative poverty measure there are 400,000 children are living in poverty across the North West region. According to Department of Work and Pensions latest figures in May 2008 Stockport had 8,550 children, aged 0-18, living in households claiming out of work benefits, that is approximately 14% of all children and young people in the borough.



### 3.3 A Summary of the Every Child Matters Profiles

Our strategic focus in Stockport will be informed by the priorities identified in the Children and young People's Plan and outlined below under the Every Child Matters Categories:

#### Be Healthy

- Breastfeeding initiation rates in the priority areas are well below the Stockport average. The Brinnington and Reddish Cluster has the poorest rates over time, with further low levels recorded in the Stockport Central and Marple and Werneth Clusters.

#### Stay Safe

- Hospital admission figures, categorised by injury type (including both unintentional and deliberate injury to children and young people), indicate higher levels in both Brinnington and Reddish and Stockport Central Clusters than the rest of the borough. Nearly half of all referrals to Social Care teams come from the Priority areas with almost 60% residents of the Brinnington and Reddish and Stockport Central Clusters.

#### Enjoy and Achieve

- The inequality gap between those claiming free school meals and the rest of their cohort is greater in Stockport than National and other Authorities. Key Stage 2 free school meal pupils do well and are significantly above other similar cohorts, however, at key stage 3 there is a significant gap in achievement between free school meal pupils and their peers.
- School absence rates are more prevalent for the free school meal cohort, especially in the secondary sector.

#### Positive Contribution

- In 2008/09 Stockport had 50 (about 15%) first time entrants into the Criminal justice system from Priority 1 areas. About half of all the priority 1 offenders were from Brinnington.
- Stockport's teen conception figures have been consistently below the national and North West figures since 1997. However, ward level data shows that there are significant differences in the numbers of teen pregnancies by area.

#### Economic Wellbeing

- The take up of formal childcare by low income families within Stockport is strong although the most recent data relate to 2006/07. Take up appears to be less in the Brinnington and Reddish Cluster with the Cheadle Cluster showing low take-up in the Heald Green Children's centre reach area.

## 4. Performance measures

4.1 The dedicated national indicator to measure children living in poverty is NI 116, the proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% median income. However, child poverty concerns more than just household income and so a basket of national indicators around the agenda has been developed to monitor a range of factors that relate to both the causes and consequences of child poverty.

4.1.2 There is a strong expectation that local authorities will be influenced by the nationally recommended performance indicators around this agenda and so this basket of National Indicators is drawn from national recommendations as well as local priorities.<sup>15</sup> It is recognised that this basket of indicators does not entirely capture all activity which works to reduce child poverty and mitigate its effects but it will give some indication that progress is being made in the right areas.

4.2 The following indicators have been identified by the Stockport Child Poverty Strategy Group (those in bold are recommended as part of the National Indicator Basket)

NI 53 Proxy Improve breastfeeding rates with focus on areas of deprivation

NI 70 Hospital admissions - unintentional and deliberate injuries to C&YP

NI 81 Inequality gap in Level 3 qualification by the age of 19

**NI 82 Inequality gap in Level 2 qualification by the age of 19**

NI 87 Secondary school persistent absence rate

**NI 102a Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers KS 2**

**NI 102b Achievement gap between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers KS 4**

**NI 106 Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to HE**

NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System 10-17

**NI 112 Under 18 conception rate**

**NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty**

**NI 117 Proxy Reduce NEET young people in P1 areas**

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<sup>15</sup> The National Indicator Basket has been identified by the Child Poverty Unit to closely reflect the drivers of child poverty that can be influenced by the local authority and its partners.

**NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families**

**NI 151 Overall Employment Rate**

NI 152 Work age people on out of work benefits

**NI 153 Work age people on out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods**

**NI 161 Number of L1 qualifications in literacy**

**NI 162 Number of L1 qualifications in numeracy**

**NI 163 population qualified to L2+**

NI 164 population qualified to L3+

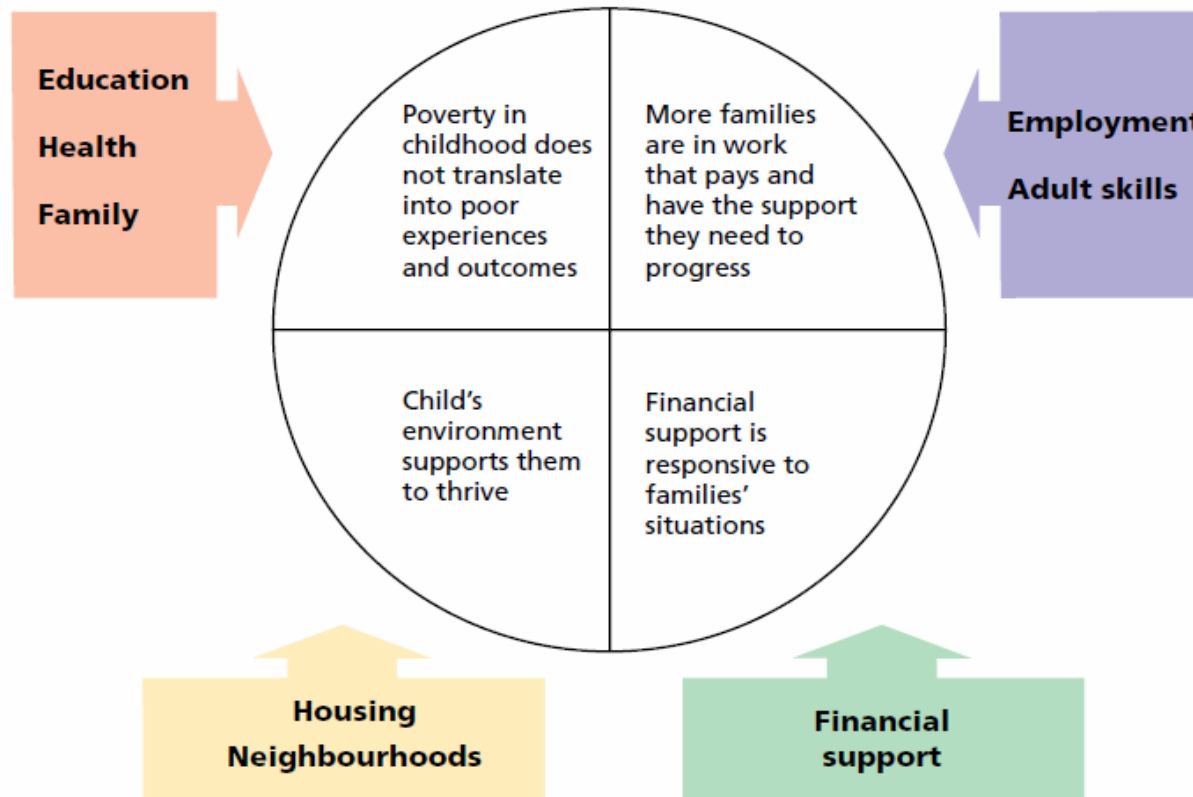
**NI 166 Median earnings of employees in the area**

#### **4.3. Accountability and Governance**

Progress on the Child Poverty Strategy will be reported to the **Inclusive Communities Partnership** which is one of a family of thematic partnerships reporting to the **Children's Trust Board**. The Children's Trust Board reports to the **Stockport Partnership** (the local strategic partnership) ensuring that the Child Poverty Strategy will have relevance to Stockport's Sustainable Communities Strategy and Local Area Agreement.

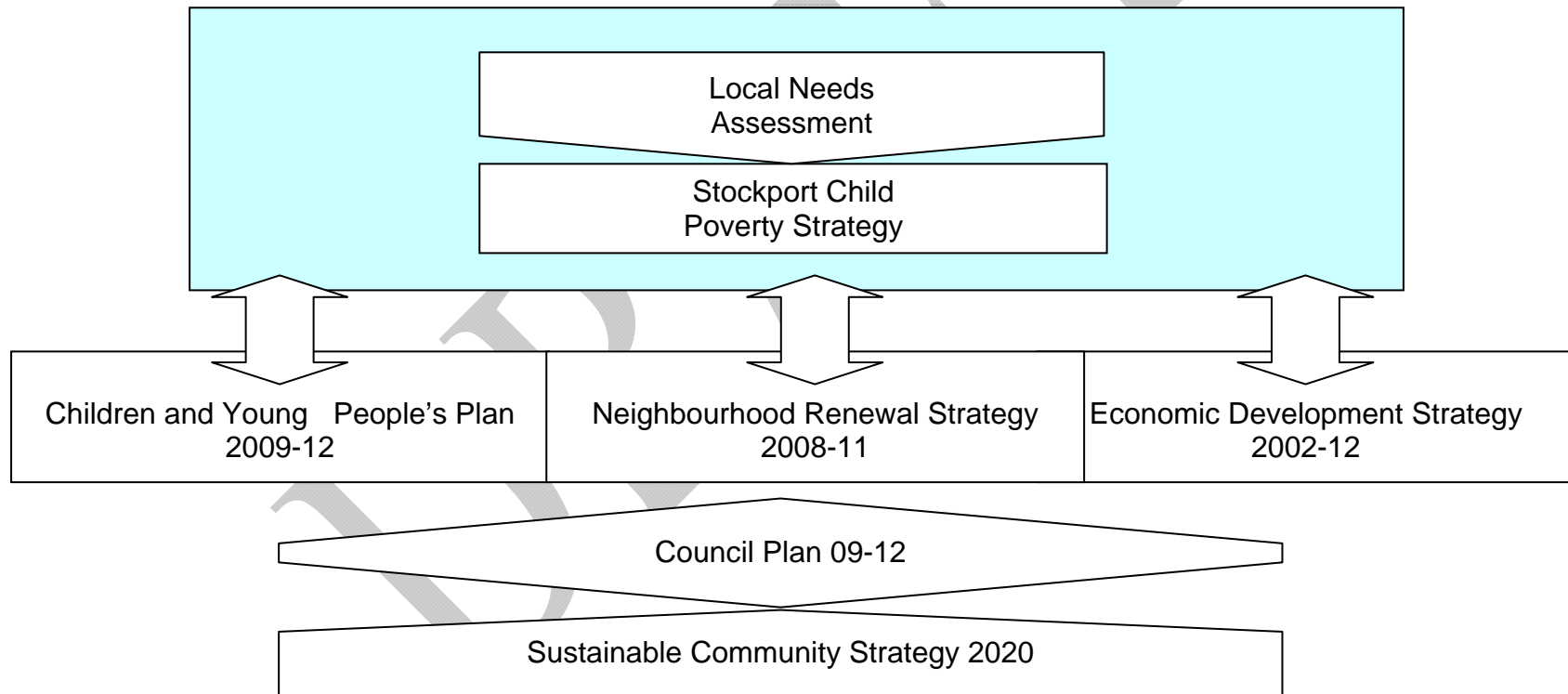
## 5. The Strategy Building Blocks

5.1 The Child Poverty Unit has identified four policy building blocks which focus on different drivers of poverty- financial support, employment and adult skills, education, health and family and housing and neighbourhoods. Local authorities are expected to develop their priorities in relation to these four key areas and utilise them in the development of local child poverty strategies and action plans. The following diagram illustrates how the building blocks of the strategy, shown on the outer edge of the diagram below, work toward reaching the aspirations of the strategy detailed in the central circle.



5.2 A service mapping exercise carried out in preparation for this strategy has demonstrated that there is a wealth of activity already happening within the borough to improve outcomes for residents within each of the policy building blocks set down by the Child Poverty Unit to advance the child poverty agenda. It is important then that this strategy does not duplicate or detract from these work streams and the progress that they are making. The Child Poverty Strategy will build upon and add to the work of other key strategies already in place within the Stockport Partnership, particularly the Children and Young People’s Plan, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.

The following diagram sets out the links between the key supporting strategies and local structures.



## 6. Aims and Objectives

6.1 The Stockport Child Poverty Strategy aims to set out our local vision for tackling the causes and consequences of child poverty within the borough and therefore improve outcomes for our children. This section first outlines our overarching approach to tackling child poverty and then our priorities under each of the policy building blocks identified by the Child Poverty Unit.

6.1.2 We know that in order to break the cycle of poverty our service delivery has to be responsive to the needs of the whole family and local community. Public services have an important role in supporting families and key factors here are ensuring they are welcoming and accessible to the whole family. The strategy will therefore prioritise reducing the poverty of opportunity and circumstances where families experience a poverty of offer and work to increase the opportunity for financial inclusion and capability and improved life chances.<sup>16</sup>

6.1.3 The Child Poverty Strategy seeks to impose a broad, overarching guiding principle across the partnership; to charge the Council and its partners with the duty of ensuring that all current and future practice has a family centric approach. The overriding value that this strategy seeks to add to is to impose the discipline of considering how each and every work stream considers the needs of Stockport families<sup>17</sup> and the best practice to allow families easy and timely access to services and provide a sharper focus on eradicating child poverty. This approach to family centric service provision links strongly with the work of the Neighbourhood Management Board in the priority one areas.

**As an authority we have been charged with the duty of working to eradicate<sup>18</sup> child poverty and we direct this challenge to all our partners.**

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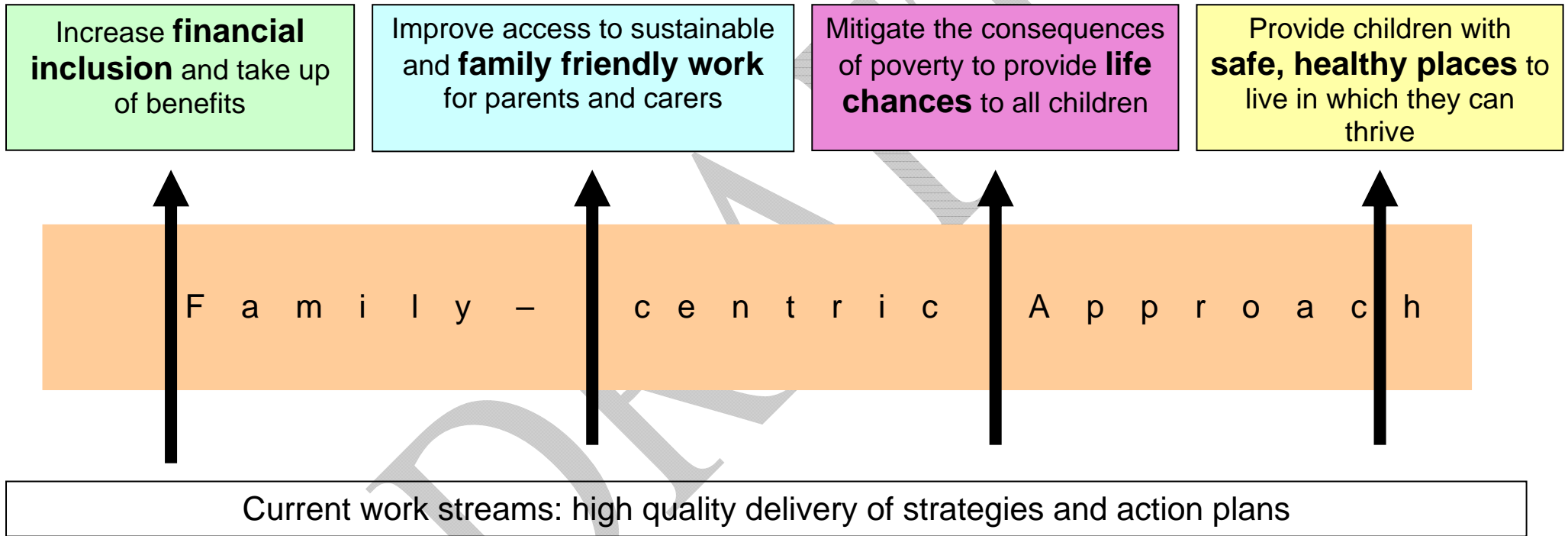
<sup>16</sup> Support for All; the Families and Relationships Green Paper , a DCSF publication, January 2010

<sup>17</sup> In keeping with the recommendations of the Child Poverty Scrutiny Review, April 2007

<sup>18</sup> The Child Poverty Bill defines the eradication of poverty as less than 10%

### 6.2 An overview of the Stockport Child Poverty strategy

The current priorities and work streams of the Stockport Partnership are working to address many of the issues that impact upon the Child Poverty Agenda and to improve outcomes for Stockport residents.



**6.2.1 Summary of Stockport Strategies that currently contribute to the policy building blocks**

There is currently a wealth of work aiming to reduce the level of poverty within the borough and mitigate its effects across the Stockport Partnership. This work is enshrined in the following key strategies:

	FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORK	FINANCIAL SUPPORT	LIFE CHANCES	PLACE
The Stockport Strategy 2020				
The Council Plan 2009-12				
Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy				
Economic Development Strategy 2002-12				
Stockport Council Workforce Development Strategy				
Sustainable Travel Plan 2007-2010				
Adult Education, Employment and Skills Strategy				
Children and Young People’s Strategic Plan 2009-11				
Teenage Pregnancy Strategy				
Children’s Centre Strategy				
SEN and Inclusion Strategy				
Parenting Strategy				
NEET Strategy				
Affordable Warmth strategy				
Stockport Homes Financial Inclusion Strategy 2010/2011				
Family Info Link Strategy				
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment				
Youth Offending Strategy				

Play Strategy				
Benefit Take up Strategy				
Healthy Child Programme				

**6.2.2 Links to the Neighbourhood Management Approach**

The Stockport Child Poverty Strategy is strongly connected with the work and approach of the Neighbourhood Management Board in delivering the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies in the priority areas. The Neighbourhood Management approach is locality based with each priority area’s Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy being delivered by a multi agency team. This approach is being piloted in Brinnington Estate as an integrated neighbourhood delivery pilot and will be rolled out across the other priority areas in due time. The Neighbourhood Management Board has recognised that there are many families in the Priority 1 areas who experience a range of issues and who have a number of services intervening on their behalf and thus has decided to take a family focussed approach to delivering the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and to explore a joined up approach of service delivery for the most vulnerable families who have a number of needs.

### 6.3 Key Areas of Work

6.3.1 Through joint working the Stockport Partnership will seek to tackle the causes and effects of child poverty. This document outlines the overall strategic direction and long term vision for tackling child poverty in Stockport and mitigating its effects, with a view to developing a dedicated action plan at a later date following full consultation to agree the vision and priorities.

6.3.2 The strategy focuses on the following key areas of work developed by the Child Poverty Strategy Group and informed by national drivers and research

- Increasing **financial inclusion** and take up of benefits- through services that are responsive to the needs of the family
- Improving access to sustainable and **family friendly work** for parents and carers- so that more parents can access paid work and have sufficient support to progress within it
- Mitigating the consequences of poverty to provide **life chances** to all children- to ensure that poverty in childhood does not translate to poor outcomes in adulthood
- Providing children with **safe and healthy places** to live in which they can thrive- helping communities to help themselves

## 6.4 Local Case Studies

The following case studies demonstrate the work currently contributing to each of the policy building blocks.

### 6.4.1 Increasing financial inclusion and take up of benefits amongst families

At present families do not always take up the benefits to which they are entitled, either due to a lack of information or unwillingness to engage with the benefits system.<sup>19</sup> The Child Poverty Unit has estimated that if all families in the UK were claiming their correct benefits then 400,000 children would be lifted out of poverty immediately. Where the parents are not able to work sustainable, affordable financial support which is responsive to families' needs and changing circumstances is vital to lift children out of poverty. Tackling debt and financial exclusion is also fundamental as debt and lack of savings can exacerbate the experiences of low-income families and makes families more vulnerable to sudden income shocks, such as losing a job, and more likely to experience low standards of living.

#### Nationally:

In the last ten years, financial exclusion has emerged as a policy concern in the context of a wider agenda around social exclusion. The Government has set out its strategy to tackle financial exclusion in *Financial Inclusion: An Action Plan for 2008–11* (HM Treasury, 2007) which outlined the Government's plans to encourage savings through the Child Trust Fund as well as promoting access to bank accounts for the households of children living in poverty. A new Government produced guide to benefits and tax credits will help local practitioners who work directly with families to advise parents of what support is on offer, who is eligible for it and how they go about claiming.<sup>20</sup>

#### Locally:

Stockport has a variety of advice services including Citizens Advice Bureaus, Stockport Direct Advice Centres, Debt Advice Services, Welfare Rights Services and Stockport Homes Financial Inclusion Advice, all of which aim to aid people to claim their full entitlements and provide impartial financial advice. The Stockport Take Up Partnership works to raise awareness of entitlement to benefits amongst vulnerable groups of people in Stockport, and help them to claim those benefits. The group runs targeted take-up campaigns and produces user friendly leaflets for families and staff that work on the front line. The partnership has strong links with Stockport Community Advice and Information Network (SCAIN), a network of providers of advice, advocacy and information on

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<sup>19</sup> Ending Child Poverty, mapping the route to 2020, p, 25

<sup>20</sup> Ending Child Poverty, mapping the route to 2020, p, 26

social welfare matters and family law, in the provision of quality assured services, which are accessible to local communities in Stockport. There is also an active Credit Union encouraging families to save and preventing the use of illegal money lenders.

### **Case Study 1- Stockport Direct Local Centre**

Mr X called into the Stockport *Direct* Local Centre at Cheadle Hulme seeking advice about a housing problem. He and his pregnant wife and young child were living in private accommodation but their flat was damp and their landlord was refusing to act on the problem. The Direct Centre Advisor began by advising him of his options around applying for re-housing through Stockport Homes or another housing association and also told him about the Council's Housing Standards' team, who might be able to help get the landlord to fix the damp.

Through the rest of their discussion a number of other problems emerged. Mr X was self employed and having a particularly difficult time in the recession and were struggling to live off his wife's Maternity Allowance of £123 per week plus child benefit. The family had no money to credit the fuel payment meters and had arrears of Council Tax. The adviser carried out an in depth assessment of the family circumstances and ascertained that they were eligible for considerable extra weekly income. The family's circumstance had changed radically since their last assessment for benefits meaning they were now entitled to an extra **£251 per week**. In addition to this the adviser also informed Mr X that his wife would be eligible for a Sure Start Maternity Grant and Pregnancy Grant & Healthy Start vouchers. Mr X returned to the Centre with his wife and this claim resulted in an additional £620!

### **Case Study 2- Tackling Illegal Money lending**

Many bad debtors who urgently need money will borrow money from illegal money lenders. A £500 illegal 'loan' can soon become an unlawful debt of over £5000 with no end in sight for the debtor. The threat of violence should the payments not be met compounds the aura of fear that keeps people paying and prevents them from going to the authorities. This constant worry around making payment causes huge stress on family life and has been known to split apart families.

From September 2009 to March 2010 the Stockport East Neighbourhood Police, working in conjunction with local trading standards officers and the National Illegal Money Lending Team, has executed fourteen search warrants in connection with illegal money lending. Alongside the enforcement activity the police, trading standards and community organisations have been promoting the use of credit unions as an alternative to going to the loan sharks. Inspector O'Brien, with the Stockport East Neighbourhood Police team feels that "Enforcement on it's own will only achieve so much, the culture in some areas has to change so that communities feel supported and have access to the advice and services they need which will prevent them going to the sharks in the first place. While our investigations into the loan sharks are still in their early stages, it's this that will ultimately stop this kind of offence."

#### 6.4.2 Improving access to sustainable and family friendly work for parents and carers

Paid employment is the single most important factor in reducing the risk of poverty. Work is associated with better family and childhood outcomes more broadly. Employment is associated with better physical and mental health and improved well-being for parents. It can foster a sense of self-confidence and self esteem. On average, children in workless families experience poorer health and do worse at school than those in working families.<sup>21</sup>

##### Nationally

Parliament has recently enacted the Welfare Reform Act that became law on 12 November 2009. This contains reforms to the welfare and benefit system intended to improve support and incentives for people to move from benefits into work. In terms of helping people into work, The Act:

- reforms the benefits system by abolishing Income Support and moving all claimants on to either Jobseeker's Allowance if they are well or Employment and Support Allowance if they are sick
- aligns the contribution conditions between Employment and Support Allowance and Jobseeker's Allowance
- introduces a regime of benefit sanctions for non-attendance at Jobcentres
- requires job search by partners of benefit claimants
- introduces work-focused interviews for over-60s
- requires work-related activity in return for receipt of Employment and Support Allowance

The overall impact, irrespective of benefits received, is of greater support for all to return to work, where possible, with the emphasis on "*what people can do, not what they can't*". In return there is a greater conditionality in terms of undertaking activity to move towards employment in return for receiving benefits.

##### Locally, and sub-regionally

Stockport is increasingly becoming involved in strategies and initiatives to tackle worklessness and skills development, both in terms of nationally procured programmes, as well as locally funded activity, including the development of a Stockport Adult Education, Skills and Employment Strategy. Access to affordable childcare is of course a key requirement, supported by the development of Stockport's Children Centres, and support organisations such as Family Info Link. Greater Manchester also has greater devolved powers from Government (within City Region pilot) in order to set its own Employment & Skills Strategy and deliver initiatives to meet needs.

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<sup>21</sup> Ending Child Matters 2020, March 2010, p.17

**Case Study 3 - Jobcentre Plus Lone Parents Outreach Service**

Jobcentre Plus has a clear role to play in supporting parents into employment and the weekly outreach service which is delivered in the Brinnington Ward is an example of what is happening in priority neighbourhoods. A Jobcentre Plus Adviser is based at First House, Brinnington every Wednesday and undertakes prearranged Work Focused Interviews for Lone Parent customers. She is also able to see drop in customers and offers advice across the range of Jobcentre plus services. The Adviser can undertake a detailed search of local job vacancies and provide parents with help in getting back to work, including advice on their childcare options and the assistance available with this cost.

Information on the other financial support that is available once they have secured employment, along with personalised 'better off in work' calculations is also on offer. This outreach facility was established several years ago and has always been extremely well supported by parents in the Brinnington area, who would otherwise struggle to get to their local Jobcentre Plus office with young children.

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**Case Study 4 – Access to affordable childcare**

The brokerage service enables Family Info Link, Stockport Family Information Service, to be proactive in helping parents where lack of access to childcare or early years provision can be a barrier to returning to education or employment. The service is available to any individual who needs it and is also targeted at more vulnerable families through partnership work with a range of other agencies Family info Link contact the family to discuss options and the type of childcare that best meets their needs and connects them to providers. If families request it Family info Link will visit them at home and accompany them when visiting providers, or arrange for their support worker to do so. This level of support builds the confidence of families who, in many cases, have not used formal childcare before and sets a foundation for their continued use of childcare, enabling them to take advantage of personal, social and educational support available to them

One example of the service in use is to help secure childcare for families referred by Stockport Homes who needed to attend a jobseekers course on the following day.

### **6.4.3 Improving life chances today in order to prevent poverty tomorrow**

Over the long term, preventing early disadvantage and giving all children the chance to fulfil their potential will be key to a sustainable eradication of child poverty. Inequalities begin at the earliest stages of life and accumulate at each subsequent phase of the life course and whilst interventions later in life are still critical they are far less effective without early underpinnings. Tackling poverty and economic inequality will bring rewards for reducing other life inequalities too such as poor health and low life expectancy as well as helping to achieve the wider Every Child Matters outcomes. It will also work to break the cycles of poverty as young people are most likely to move on to positive labour market outcomes if they have done well in education or training.<sup>22</sup>

#### Nationally:

The government agenda around improving life chances was encapsulated in the Childcare Act 2006, the focus of which was firmly around early intervention and prevention services based upon the evidence that the biggest gains are in interventions for young children, particularly around health, educational and social development. The Act introduced the Early Years Foundation Stage as a priority focus for service providers and local partnerships and much of the national investment in this area has been channelled into the Sure Start Programme. There has also been a move towards service provision ‘thinking family’, to ensure that all services are joined up around the needs of the whole family and take into account family circumstance.

#### Locally

There are now 19 Sure Start Children's Centres across Stockport, covering every area of the borough. These are at different stages of development but all are operational at some level, with the majority offering an increasing range of services to families. These Children's Centres provide easy access to a range of community health services, parenting and family support, integrated early education and childcare, and links to training and employment opportunities for families with children under the age of five, or who are expecting a child. Children's Centres are a key mechanism for improving outcomes for young children, while reducing inequalities between the poorest children and their peers, as well as helping bring an end to child poverty.

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<sup>22</sup> 2020, p.31

**Case Study 5- Yellow School Buses**

Yellow School Buses help to make sure that pupils are on time for school and that they're well behaved on the journey. They also mean that parents don't need to do the school run which in turn helps to reduce congestion and is better for the environment. Routes are designed to serve pupils with pick-up and drop-off points near their homes and each route has the same CRB-checked and specially-trained driver every day.

As of November 2009, a yellow bus operates to take pupils to Reddish Vale Technology College service from the Brinnington Estate. This area has a high Indices of Multiple Deprivation score; this would normally mean a lower than average levels of attendance at school however Reddish Vale currently has an attendance level of 92% from the Brinnington area. Therefore introduction of the Yellow School Bus service has the potential to increase this attendance level even higher especially where walking routes or current bus services are unattractive.

There are also Yellow School Bus services in operation in Stockport which take children from to Harrytown High School from Heavily and Brinnington, to Werneth School from Brinnington, and to St. Anne's RC High School from Reddish.

#### 6.4.4 Providing children with safe and healthy places to live in which they can thrive

The area in which children grow up affects their life chances and their parents' prospects for gaining secure sustained employment. Those living in the most deprived areas tend to have significantly poorer levels of educational achievement as well as employment levels and general wealth. In addition to this those families living within more deprived areas can face additional barriers to accessing services and job opportunities, such as poor transport connections and more limited networks.

##### Nationally:

In 2001 the Government set out a national strategy which outlined a commitment to improving the unacceptably bad conditions in some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the country. *A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal* set out the principle that no one should be subject to disadvantage because of where they live. The strategy focused on area based partnership working to tackle the root causes of deprivation with particular emphasis on employment and community cohesion. The Neighbourhood Renewal Agenda set out two long term goals which local partnerships are now working towards, namely to reduce worklessness and crime in all the poorest neighbourhoods and to narrow the gap on these measures between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country

##### Locally

As part of Stockport Council, the Neighbourhood Renewal team works closely with communities to bring about improvements to local services and the environment and support for residents who get involved in the renewal. Currently work is focused in the priority areas Adswold, Bridgehall, Brinnington, Heaton Norris, Lancashire Hill and the Town Centre. There are firm plans to establish Neighbourhood Management Boards in each priority area to create a neighbourhood based multi agency team to effectively deliver each areas local area action plan underpinning the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy. The Neighbourhood management approach has a distinct focus on considering the needs of families in delivering services and aims to effectively join up services wherever possible.

### **Case Study 6- the Brinnington Masterplan**

A key element of Stockport's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is that of the production of physical regeneration master plans for the borough's Priority 1 Areas which will identify those aspects of the Priority 1 Areas' physical environment that are in need of regeneration. The master plans will include a vision for what these areas will look like in the future, a visual interpretation of that vision and a strategy for how the regeneration will be undertaken. Although they will be led by physical schemes aimed at improving the built environment and public realm, the master plans will be holistic strategies that will also aim to have a positive influence on the social and economic issues that affect these areas.

The master plans will also provide a framework through which future improvements can be implemented and help identify where there are opportunities for funding. It is envisaged that the master plans, being long term and holistic strategies, will mean that the Council and its partners will be better placed to bid for future social, economic and physical regeneration funding streams.

Brinnington Estate has been identified as the first of the Priority 1 Areas to be considered under for this initiative. Brinnington experiences high levels of deprivation and is ranked in the top 2% most deprived areas for England and Wales. It has not qualified for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding because of the overall affluence of Stockport at a borough-wide level. The recent regeneration of a local shopping area with community facilities and a shared ownership housing scheme, combined with other regeneration work currently being undertaken as part of Stockport Homes Decent Homes programme, has increased optimism in Brinnington. There is now a pressing need to capitalise on this and to continue to regenerate the area via a comprehensive strategy that will continue bring about benefits for the whole community.

Brinnington Master Plan is now in the latter stages of its development having been through a public and stakeholder consultation process last year and its principle aims are to:

- Develop a clear vision for the physical regeneration of Brinnington, including opportunities, for new development which has the support of the local community and key stakeholders;
- Provide a clear way forward to facilitate the sustainable and high quality regeneration of Brinnington.
- Prepare a robust delivery strategy with projects that can be phased and realised within the overall vision.

## 7. Our Priorities

The priorities for the Stockport Child Poverty Strategy have been developed based upon identified gaps and the child poverty needs assessment.

### 1. We will adopt a family centric focus in all that we do

#### Proposed Actions

- Ask the question ‘how does this incorporate the needs of the family?’ of all we do
- Seek customer participation in evaluating and the commissioning of services

### 2. We will increase financial inclusion and take up of benefits amongst families

#### Proposed Actions

- Ensure that all residents can access help and impartial advice to help themselves out of debt
- Increase the take up of benefits amongst families
- Make financial capability learning opportunities readily available to educate families and children in the practicalities of budget management
- Maximise the take up of Care to Learn amongst young parents

**3. We will improve access to sustainable and family friendly work for parents and carers**

**Proposed Actions**

- Champion flexible working arrangements and act as a beacon for family friendly work to other employers within the borough
- Support parents and carers in the return to work
- Ensure that there is sufficient childcare for low income families

**4. We will improve life chances today in order to prevent poverty tomorrow**

**Proposed Actions**

- improve the provision of services for 10-14 year olds who have been identified as a high risk group for becoming disengaged, to ensure that they remain engaged in education or training to support future employment and avoid common risks
- Narrow the attainment gap for children in poverty
- Work towards strong service integration and early intervention

## **5. We will provide children with safe and healthy places to live in which they can thrive**

### **Proposed Actions**

- Improve the condition of social housing
- Tackle fuel poverty to ensure our children have warm homes
- Narrow the income gap between those families living in social housing and those in private accommodation
- Provide safe play facilities for our children
- Focus resources on our priority 1 areas

## **8. Action Plan**

The intention is to ensure sufficient consultation to have our vision and priorities agreed with a view to the action plan being developed after consultation.

## **9. Arrangements for review and monitoring of the strategy**

This strategy will take Stockport to the national 2020 deadline to eradicate child poverty. The Children's trust will be ultimately responsible for the monitoring of the strategy through the governance structures outlined in section 4.3. More detailed arrangements for the monitoring and review of the strategy will be put in place alongside the action plan following the consultation on the aims.

DRAFT

### **Cyber-bullying Scrutiny Review**

**A Joint Report of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee  
and the Young People's Select Committee**

**May 2010**

*"If you don't do something about Cyber-bullying now it will only get worse,  
technologies are advancing so quickly - we need to respond."*

*- YPSC 2010*

## Foreword and Acknowledgements

At the start of this review I believed, like many people, that bullying / Cyber-bullying had been addressed through various policies, anti bullying weeks / events in schools, charters and a much better educated and informed parents, teachers and young people. I also believed that we would discover that schools and the Local Authority were well on top of the situation and that problems around bullying was a thing of the past. The Local Education Authority has been proactive in a variety of ways in helping schools to recognise and to deal with Cyber-bullying as have National Government.

However, the Young People's Select Committee, (who requested this Review) were telling a different story. The Panel watched a DVD about Cyber-bullying and we were told by the Young People that the issues raised in the DVD were not isolated incidents by any means and that Cyber-bullying in particular was a growing and largely unresolved problem.

Social Networking websites like Facebook and communication tools such as MSN have become a 'must' for all Young People and we found, during our visits to schools, that almost all of the children we spoke to in both primary and secondary schools had access to these sites. The minimum age for registering on Facebook for example is 13. We were finding children in Primary Schools (therefore under 13), were registered, often with the knowledge of their parents.

We found that young people were getting into problems with some websites and often, had little idea of how to deal with them. Due to a 'locked down' system operated by the LA, teachers are unable to teach children how to use these sites safely. More often than not it was also found that parents had little ideas of how to deal with problems that occurred on these sites even if the Young People were willing to talk about it to parents or another adult. Many Young People are worried that action may be taken to prevent them from being registered on these websites if they report a problem.

The Panel visited a number of primary and secondary schools to talk to Young People from across the borough about Cyber-bullying. It became apparent that Young People are quite sceptical about measures taken in schools to tackle Bullying / Cyber-bullying, for example, Anti Bullying Policies / Charters, Anti Bullying Weeks, Posters and information posted on walls etc.

An important aspect of the Review came from a visit to Hull to find out about the Restorative Approaches which the Hull Local Authority have introduced into all of their Children and Young People's services across the Borough. The results have been profound in reducing bullying, anti social behaviour, exclusions / suspensions from school.

It was felt by all of us who visited the school in Hull, that this is an approach to Bullying (and other social problems) that we would like to see further explored by the Stockport Local Education Authority and we recommend that research takes place immediately in order to establish the feasibility of such a programme being introduced in Stockport, even if in the first instance this is only at a Primary level. Restorative Approaches complement the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning model currently adopted by local schools.

This review has highlighted many aspects of Cyber-bullying and Bullying more generally. It is relevant to all those working with young people and its conclusions need to be taken seriously by those who take responsibility for making policy regarding young people, including School Governing Bodies.

I would like to highlight and stress the importance of the Cyber-bullying survey carried out by a number of schools across the Borough. Responses show very clearly that the problem of Bullying / Cyber-bullying is a considerable one for young people and needs serious and urgent attention. The results from the survey are presented in detail in the 'Findings' section of the Review

I would like to thank all those involved in this review and particularly those officers who have brought their experience and commitment in informing the work of the Panel.

I would also like to thank all of the schools and the pupils we visited as part of the Review for their co-operation and hospitality and for making the time to speak with us. I would also like to thank the schools that took part with the Cyber-bullying survey; the results from this survey have been highly informative. We received an extremely high response rate from those schools that took part which I am sure is an indication of how important this issue is to them.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to the Young People's Select Committee whose contribution to this review has been invaluable. They have attended every meeting, have come prepared and have responded intelligently and thoughtfully to all of the issues raised. The Review would not have been as thorough and as valuable as it has turned out to be without them.

It is vital in order to effectively safeguard our Young People that more research is undertaken into tackling this problem of Cyber-bullying / Bullying.

I really do hope that the Executive grasp the opportunity to respond positively to the recommendations we make so that the Local Education Authority can build on initiatives already in place.



**Cllr Ann Smith**

**Vice Chair, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee**

## Panel Members



Cllr Colin Foster



Cllr Anthony O'Neill



Cllr Jenny Humphreys



Cllr Pam King

## Young People's Select Committee

Christian Booth

Hannah Booth

Jack Campbell

Leigh Davies

Alice Elliot

Rhiannon Evans

Dom Firth

Solomon Hamer

Faye Hudson

Rebecca Humphreys

Jake Mairs

Abigail Newton

Kate Pickford

Joseph Rowland Light

Damson Tregaskis

Ashley Whetter

Emma Woodhead

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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee decided at the beginning of the Municipal Year 2009/10 after a consideration of potential Scrutiny Review topics that in addition to a Review on Young Carers they should acknowledge the input provided by the children and young people of Stockport and work with them on a topic which they identify as being an area of concern. It was agreed by the Committee that the Review Panel should work jointly with the Young People's Select Committee (YPSC) on a topic of joint interest.
- 1.2 Bullying had been an issue raised by the YPSC at a Scrutiny Meeting in February 2009 and therefore it was agreed that the Review Panel would work in partnership with the YPSC on an in-depth study of Bullying in Stockport. After discussions by the Panel and members of the YPSC it was decided that Cyber-bullying would be the main focus of the Review. The YPSC explained that this is a growing issue in schools and, because of its very nature, is a difficult subject for schools and the Local Authority to grasp.
- 1.3 It was agreed by all members of the Panel that a closer look into the school policies of both prevention and reaction to bullying could be achieved by investigating Cyber-bullying as a way of bullying more generally.
- 1.4 This Review presents a number of Recommendations which aim to target the strategies put in place to combat Cyber-bullying and other forms of bullying. The Recommendations aim to improve the options and support available to young people across the borough and the way this is communicated to both the young people and their parents. This Review recognises that by both building a supporting culture in school and robust governing structures out of school it may be possible to combat this new and dangerous form of bullying. These Recommendations have been written jointly by Councillors and by members of the Young People's Select Committee, it is hoped the Council's Executive will agree that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. In the words of one member of the YPSC "to ignore bullying is to condone it"
- 1.5 The Review Recommendations are:

### **Recommendation 1**

**Schools must widen their Communication Strategy for staff, pupils, and parents.**

#### **This must include:**

- Schools making it clear to their young people the following; the definition of bullying, the key types of bullying (homophobic, faith based etc NB: this can happen through Cyber-bullying) who to tell in school, what is likely to happen to the bully, what type of support can be offered to the victim.

- Schools should display information prominently about national and local organisations who can help children with bullying. Schools should place this information in easily accessible places such as School Diaries, Screensavers, School Intranet, Flat Screens, Mouse Mats and Whiteboards.
- Schools should continually involve young people in refreshing the information highlighted above and in evaluating the 'school rules' concerning bullying to prevent posters / information becoming wallpaper and ignored. Schools need to consider how this process is done to ensure pupil engagement.
- Schools should update their current anti-bullying policies to very clearly highlight the issues of Cyber-bullying. Policies need to be written with an audience in mind and where necessary different versions need to be available e.g. one for parents, one for pupils and one for school staff / governors. The policies should be made available on the websites, and should be supported by the schools charter and parental newsletters.
- Schools should help make parents / pupils aware of the signs and symptoms of bullying and the consequences of bullying for the bully and ensure this is placed on their website etc
- Schools should expand the use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support the communication strategy. The VLE should also be used to house Cyber-bullying specific information to inform students. Where possible schools should explore the use of a parents portal where important information can be shared effectively with the home and the insertion of a report button to alert staff of bullying.

## **Recommendation 2**

**Schools should adopt a cross curricular approach and supplement the ICT curriculum to support the understanding young people have around Cyber-bullying.**

### **This must include:**

- Schools should plan a whole school supplementary teaching programme that will complement the cyber-safety messages within the ICT curriculum. (High Schools)
- Schools should plan whole school programmes of work that will prepare young people for dealing with Cyber-bullying, both understanding and preventing it. Prevention of Cyber-bullying is equally as important. (Primary especially Key Stage 2)

- Schools should consider using specific materials that have previously been unavailable in school due to the locked down systems to help young people arrange their security settings, becoming responsible users away from school.
- The Local Authority should review the locked down system for schools and should prepare and support schools to move from a locked down to a managed system.
- Schools need to be encouraged to use a safe and secure artificial chat environment to educate children and young people about Cyber-safety and its links to Cyber-bullying.

### **Recommendation 3**

**The Local Authority should consider adopting a Restorative Approach across the borough in an attempt to create a consistent response to incidents of bullying.**

**Additions to this further consideration / research could include:**

- The Local Authority should continue to promote SEAL and Community CAMHS Jigsaw as a means of preparing schools for a Restorative Approach.
- The Local Authority and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LCSB) should develop a working partnership with Hull as an Authority which is pioneering Restorative Practices to explore a borough-wide approach in Stockport.

### **Recommendation 4**

**Governance arrangements in relation to bullying must be strengthened.**

**This must include:**

- A Governor with responsibility for bullying should monitor the communication strategy, principally by looking at where information is displayed.
- The Curriculum Committee should review the anti-bullying supplements that have been produced for the curriculum
- The anti-bullying policy should be scrutinised and reviewed annually with the purpose of examining Cyber-bullying

- The Governors request of Headteachers (through their termly report) an update on any significant work that has been undertaken within this agenda. Headteachers could then report either individual incidents or if they wish more general preventative work that has been undertaken.

## **The Review**

### **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee decided at the beginning of the Municipal Year 2009/10 after a consideration of potential Scrutiny Review topics that in addition to a Review on Young Carers they should acknowledge the input provided by the children and young people of Stockport and work with them on a topic which they identify as being an area of concern.
- 2.2 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee has maintained close links with children and young people from across the borough and completed a Scrutiny Review into 'Children and Young People's Participation' (completed January 2007) which investigated the ways and initiatives through which children and young people could become more engaged and participate in positive activities. It was agreed by the Committee that the Review Panel should work jointly with the Young People's Select Committee (YPSC) on a topic of joint interest.
- 2.3 Bullying had been an issue raised by the YPSC at a Scrutiny Meeting in February 2009 and therefore it was agreed that the Review Panel would work in partnership with the YPSC on an in-depth study of Bullying in Stockport. The exact scope of the Review would be decided by the joint Review Panel on beginning the Review. After discussions by the Panel and members of the YPSC it was decided that Cyber-bullying would be the main focus of the Review. The YPSC explained that this is a growing issue in schools and, because of its very nature, is a difficult subject for schools and the Local Authority to grasp. The YPSC requested that Cyber-bullying be looked at as a way of looking at bullying more generally. It was agreed by all members of the Panel that a closer look into the school policies of both prevention and reaction to bullying could be achieved by investigating this one, although significant, form of bullying.
- 2.4 It was agreed that working jointly with the YPSC would both honour the Committee's commitment to support youth participation and would also be a good opportunity for the members of the YPSC to directly support the Scrutiny process.

### **3. Terms of Reference**

- 3.1 The main aims of this Review were agreed at the first Panel Meeting by members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee and by

members of the Young People's Select Committee (YPSC). At the first meeting it was agreed that a Review focusing on bullying would be too broad and therefore a tighter remit would be needed to add value. The issue of Cyber-bullying was raised by members of the YPSC as an area of concern, it was then agreed that bullying policies need to be looked at further by focusing on Cyber-bullying in Stockport Schools.

3.2 The objectives of this Review were:

- To obtain an understanding of Cyber-bullying, its impacts and the policies put in place in Stockport Schools to combat it. In addition to this, the Review must also investigate further what impacts these policies have and how they are communicated to children and young people across Stockport.
- To collect baseline data on Cyber-bullying in Stockport and further information on the support mechanisms available to the victims of bullying and the policies put in place to reduce bullying in schools.
- To gather evidence from and consult with professionals working on safeguarding and Cyber-bullying issues both at regional and national levels as well as obtaining a local perspective into the issues highlighted above.
- To gather evidence from and consult with children and young people from across the borough on issues relating to bullying and Cyber-bullying and provide them with an opportunity to give their views for improving support and prevention policies.
- To identify and analyse good practice for reducing bullying in schools and support options available to the victims of bullying / Cyber-bullying.
- To conclude with what is needed to best support schools combat bullying / Cyber-bullying and what is required to best educate young people and their parents about issues surrounding Cyber-bullying.

**4. Methodology**

4.1 The committee established a Scrutiny Review Panel to undertake the Review comprising;

Cllr Ann Smith  
Cllr Anthony O'Neill  
Cllr Colin Foster  
Cllr Jenny Humphreys  
Cllr Pam King

4.2 The Committee agreed to work jointly with the Young People's Select Committee (YPSC) throughout the Review. The YPSC for the purpose of this Review comprised of;

Christian Booth  
Hannah Booth  
Jack Campbell  
Leigh Davies  
Alice Elliot  
Rhiannon Evans  
Dom Firth  
Solomon Hamer  
Faye Hudson  
Rebecca Humphreys  
Jake Mairs  
Abigail Newton  
Kate Pickford  
Joseph Rowland Light  
Damson Tregaskis  
Ashley Whetter  
Emma Woodhead

4.3 This report is the final report of the Committee and is based on the Panel's findings.

4.4 The Panel met six times and gathered evidence from the following people to inform the Review:

#### Witnesses

Healthy Schools Lead  
Werneth School  
Participation Manager, Services for Young People  
Werneth School  
Local Safeguarding Children's Board Training Manager  
Secondary Jigsaw Team  
Primary Behaviour Support Service  
Senior Advisor for Safeguarding in Education  
Werneth School  
Werneth School  
Werneth School

Tanya Cross  
Dave Eadsforth  
Georgina Edye  
Freya Harper  
Helen Harrison  
Karen Knowles  
Jeanette Maude  
Lynn Perry  
Sam Robinson  
Jake Thompson  
Jennifer Willis

4.5 The Review was also informed by two consultation exercises aimed at obtaining the views of children and young people across Stockport. This will be discussed in more detail below.

4.6 The Review followed the timetable detailed below:

### **Meeting One – 25<sup>th</sup> November – Agreeing Terms of Reference and Setting the Scene**

#### Purpose

- To identify the Review theme and for the Young People's Select Committee (YPSC) to be introduced as Panel Members.

#### Activities

- YPSC to be introduced to Panel and present their aims and objectives.
- Bullying Background Report – discuss background and aspects of bullying in Stockport Schools
- Project Planning – discuss Review themes / aims and agree terms of reference and consultation methods.

### **Meeting Two – 21<sup>st</sup> January – Cyber-bullying - Introduction and Protection**

#### Purpose

- To receive an introduction to Cyber-bullying. To understand national directives on how to protect young people and to investigate how Stockport Schools address this issue.
- To agree and confirm consultation methods / timetable

#### Activities

- Note the Background Information Reports and by using them as a base, make further enquiries.
- Watch the DVD produced by DCSF on Cyber-bullying to assist investigations.
- Through noting the key lines of enquiry highlighted in the Discussions Paper and through discussions with expert witnesses, investigate Cyber-bullying in Stockport and what Schools can do to protect young people.
- Note areas for potential recommendations.
- Discuss and agree consultation method / timetable.

### **Meeting Three – 24<sup>th</sup> February – Reporting Processes and Responding to Bullying**

#### Purpose

- To investigate how Cyber-bullying and other forms of bullying are reported in schools and how schools respond.
- To investigate how schools should respond to bullying by looking through guidance notes.
- To evaluate examples of school policies in Stockport

#### Activities

- Note the Background Information Reports and by using them as a base, make further enquiries.

- Read and discuss the current school 'anti-bullying policies' as published on their websites.
- Through noting the key lines of enquiry highlighted in the Discussions Paper and through discussions with expert witnesses, investigate how Cyber-bullying is reported in Stockport schools and discuss how schools should respond.

### **Meeting Four – 25<sup>th</sup> March – Culture and Support in Schools**

#### Purpose

- To investigate the culture in schools to bullying including zero tolerance and long term objectives.
- To investigate the links between primary and secondary schools regarding Cyber-bullying
- To investigate support methods in schools by looking at 'best practice'.

#### Activities

- Note the Background Information Reports and by using them as a base, make further enquiries.
- Listen and respond to presentations given by representatives of Werneth School on what they have done to tackle bullying and to create a positive 'culture' in their school.
- Listen and respond to presentations given on Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and on Community CAMHS Jigsaw.
- Through noting the key lines of enquiry highlighted in the Discussions Paper and through discussions with expert witnesses, investigate how supportive 'cultures' are created in schools and how schools may best offer support to the victims of bullying.

### **Meeting Five – 20<sup>th</sup> April – Results and Recommendations**

#### Purpose

- To evaluate the results of all consultation exercises
- To propose and agree Review Recommendations

#### Activities

- Discuss and evaluate the results from the two consultation exercises – The Cyber-bullying Questionnaire and the 'School Council Visits'
- Discuss the Review's primary objectives and emphasis now all the evidence has been submitted.
- Agree and create Review Recommendations.

## **Meeting Six – 26<sup>th</sup> May – Finalising the Review**

### **Purpose**

- To go through a first draft and to agree the Review's contents.
- To agree who should be send a copy of the Review and when / how the Review Recommendations should be monitored.

### **Activities**

- Discuss the draft Review and agree on any required changes.
- Discuss the circulation of the final Review and how it should be monitored.
- Discuss the Review process and identify areas of learning for any future Reviews.

### **Consultation**

- 4.7 It was agreed by all Panel Members that children and young people from across Stockport need to be consulted as part of the research into Cyber-bullying and into the effectiveness of anti-bullying policies in Stockport schools. By consulting with the children and young people who directly work with the anti-bullying policies put in place and who may experience Cyber-bullying it was agreed the Review would be in a stronger position to recommend improvements and reflect the most salient issues.
- 4.8 It was agreed that a mix of face to face consultation and an opportunity for an anonymous response was needed for the consultation to obtain a fair reflection of experiences from across the borough. With this need for a mix of methods agreed it was decided that representatives of the Panel would meet with a number of 'School Councils' from across the borough to ask about Cyber-bullying and school policy. In addition the Panel and the YPSC would design a 'Cyber-bullying Questionnaire' which was to be completed by as many willing students / schools as possible.
- 4.9 A questionnaire was designed by the YPSC (see appendix) and sent to participating schools. The results from this are presented in the 'Findings' section of this Review. Representatives of the Panel also visited seven schools to speak with pupils face to face about the issues concerning them. The results from these discussions are also presented in the 'Findings' section of the Review.

### **Local Authority Visit**

- 4.10 During the Review process the Panel was given information on 'Restorative Approaches' and in particular further discussions were had on the approaches adopted by the Local Authority and the schools in Hull. It was agreed therefore that the Chair and a number of supporting Officers would visit Hull and investigate their work further. The results from this visit are presented alongside those of the two consultation exercises discussed above.

## 5. Background to Cyber-bullying

What is Cyber-bullying?

- 5.1 Cyber-bullying can be defined as being 'the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), particularly mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else.' Cyber-bullying is a new and destructive form of bullying that does not relent and is not confined to a location or situation like the more 'conventional' forms of bullying. Cyber-bullying is '24/7' and has the power to enter the home through the varied ICT equipment available. Preventing Cyber-bullying is a difficult challenge because of the many different forms it can take.
- 5.2 Cyber-bullying can be direct harm to others by using ICT, for example hurtful comments or it could also be the sharing of information / images between others with the intention of causing upset to an individual. The audience of this information sharing can be very large and reached rapidly. The difficulty in controlling electronically circulated messages means the scale and scope of Cyber-bullying can be greater than other forms of bullying. People who Cyber-bully may also attempt to remain anonymous which can increase the distress for those being bullied.
- 5.3 It is important to note that in some instances Cyber-bullying can be unintentional. Cyber-bullying can be the result of individuals not thinking, sending something as a joke or having a lack of awareness that results in someone being deeply affected. Although this may not be widely perceived as being Cyber-bullying the impacts are the same and needs to be addressed.
- 5.4 As technologies advance and become increasingly available to young people the challenges and balance needed between the freedoms given to young people using these technologies becomes ever more difficult. It is not just the increased understanding of technologies that causes difficulties in preventing Cyber-bullying but additionally the range of technologies available to young people and how these can be used to bully.
- 5.5 Technology can be used both positively and negatively, the table below explores the range of ways today's technology can be used:

Technology	Great for:	Examples of misuse:
<b>Mobile Phones</b>	Keeping in touch by voice or text, taking and sending pictures and film, listening to music, playing games, going online and sending emails. Useful in emergency situations and for allowing children a greater sense of independence.	Sending nasty calls or text messages, including threats, intimidation, harassment. Taking and sharing / or distorting humiliating images. Videoing other people being harassed and sending these to other phones or internet sites.

<b>Instant Messenger (IM)</b>	Text or voice chatting live with friends online. A quick and effective way of keeping in touch even while working on other things.	Sending nasty messages or content. Using someone else's account to forward rude or mean messages via their contacts list.
<b>Chatrooms and Message Boards</b>	Groups of people around the world can text or voice chat live about common interests. For young people, this can be an easy way to meet new people and explore issues which they are too shy to talk about in person.	Sending nasty or threatening anonymous messages. Groups of people deciding to pick on or ignore individuals. Making friends under false pretences – people pretending to be someone they're not in order to get personal information that they can misuse in a range of ways – e.g. by spreading secrets or blackmailing.
<b>Email</b>	Sending electronic letters, pictures and other files quickly and cheaply anywhere in the world.	Sending nasty or threatening messages. Forwarding unsuitable content including images and video clips, or sending computer viruses. Accessing someone else's account, e.g. to forward personal emails or delete emails.
<b>Webcams</b>	Taking pictures or recording messages. Being able to see and talk to someone live on your computer screen. Bringing far-off places to life or video conferencing.	Making and sending inappropriate content. Persuading or threatening young people to act in inappropriate ways. Using inappropriate recordings to manipulate young people.
<b>Social Networking Sites</b>	Socialising with your friends and making new ones within online communities. Allowing young people to be creative online, even publishing online music. Personalising homepages and profiles, creating and uploading content.	Posting nasty comments, humiliating images / video. Accessing another person's account details and sending unpleasant messages, deleting information or making private information public. Groups of people picking on individuals by excluding them. Creating fake profiles to pretend to be someone else, e.g. to bully, harass or get the person into trouble.

<b>Video Hosting Sites</b>	Accessing useful educational, entertaining and original creative video content and uploading your own.	Posting embarrassing, humiliating film of someone
<b>Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)</b>	School site, usually available from home and school, set up for tracking and recording student assignments, tests and activities, with message boards, chat and IM.	Posting inappropriate messages or images. Hacking into someone else's account to post inappropriate comments or delete schoolwork.
<b>Gaming Sites, Consoles and Virtual Worlds.</b>	Live text or voice chat during online gaming between players across the world, or on handheld consoles with people in the same local area. Virtual worlds let users design their own avatars – a figure that represent them in the virtual world.	Name-calling, making abusive / derogatory remarks. Players may pick on weaker or less experienced users, repeatedly killing their characters. Forwarding unwanted messages to other devices in the immediate vicinity.

5.6 It is important to note that there are 4 Criminal Acts under which young people could be prosecuted for issues to do with Cyber-bullying:

- Public Order Act 1986
- Malicious Communications 1988
- Protection from Harrassment Act 1997
- Communications Act 2003

The consequences of arrest could be:

- If police have reasonable grounds to suspect an offence they may arrest a pupil
- Search any premises (home) for crime accessories
- Seize any accessories associated with the crime eg; personal computer, mobile phone
- Detain at police station for interview, finger prints, DNA
- Send the information to the Independent Safeguarding Authority

The consequences of a conviction could be:

- The infomation may show up on Criminal Record Bureau check
- May restrict university/college opportunities

<sup>1</sup> Taken from 'Cyber-bullying: a whole-school community issue', DCSF 2007

- May restrict job opportunities (large numbers of occupational areas require CRB checks)
- May restrict travel abroad

5.7 Cyber-bullying is a relatively new issue for schools, parents, Local Authorities and young people to address. All have a duty to deal with the issue when it arises but just as importantly all have a duty to prevent Cyber-bullying from happening in the first instance. The best way to deal with Cyber-bullying is to create an environment where it is hard for it to succeed. As highlighted above, Cyber-bullying is a new and constant form of bullying and can be channelled though many different ways. The 'Findings' section below details the issues relating to Cyber-bullying from a Stockport view point and outlines some of the information presented during the researching of this Review and in addition details the results of all consultation exercises.

## **6. Findings**

6.1 The findings detailed below come from discussions held during Panel Meetings with local practitioners, council officers and with young people. The findings also outline the results of the two consultation exercises which were carried out by the Review Panel and the Young People's Select Committee. In addition to the results of the consultation exercises, key discussions which took place during the Review are presented.

### **Key Discussions**

6.2 During the Review process the following areas formed key discussion points, the results of which are presented below. These areas are:

- Important Issues Regarding Cyber-bullying: an Introduction from the YPSC
- School Policies: Initial Thoughts
- Culture and Support in Schools

#### Important Issues Regarding Cyber-bullying: an Introduction from the YPSC

6.3 During initial discussions, the YPSC raised a number of issues regarding Cyber-bullying and its links to schools. The YPSC stressed the importance of the issue and explained how this relatively new form of bullying is having an impact on young people across the borough. The YPSC argued that the explosion of new technologies and the mass use of the internet and mobile phones has allowed bullies to utilise new ways of bullying. Through discussions, the YPSC were keen to note that Cyber-bullying is not a reason for bullying but a way in which people bully others and as such should be investigated as a tool for bullies.

6.4 In explaining Cyber-bullying to Panel Members, individuals from the YPSC highlighted their experiences of Cyber-bullying and noted areas of concern. Although technologies such as mobile phones and Instant Messengers (IMs) were an issue and allowed for Cyber-bullying to take place, the vast majority of problems gravitate around video websites such as YouTube and Social

Networking sites such as Facebook. Although Social Networking sites such as Facebook have many great benefits to them it was reported they also pose the biggest single challenge when tackling Cyber-bullying and is often the method through which Cyber-bullying occurs.

- 6.5 During initial discussions, the YPSC also discussed the important role schools have to play in addressing the Cyber-bullying issue. It was argued that simply banning mobile phones and access to Social Networking sites was not enough to safeguard against Cyber-bullying. Cyber-bullying knows no boundaries and also cannot be regulated to certain times of the day. It was argued that schools have a role to play in both educating children and young people about cyber-safety and the dangers of Cyber-bullying but also to create an environment in which victims of Cyber-bullying can ask for support. It was reported by some members of the YPSC that they felt schools have a mentality of 'not in school – nothing we can do about it'. It is important to note that this is not the case for all schools. The meeting was informed that schools have a legal duty to safeguard and support children and young people even if it is with an issue that may not happen directly in the classroom. Cyber-bullying is an ever present form of bullying and as such falls into this duty of care.
- 6.6 In addition to school policies and culture (discussed below) the YPSC also highlighted the difference between Cyber-safety and Cyber-bullying. It was argued that schools were successfully teaching children and young people about issues relating to Cyber-safety but failing on Cyber-bullying. It was also argued parents, with the help of schools need to increase their understanding of Cyber-bullying, its effects, spotting the signs, and the ways in which victims can be supported. The natural reaction of a parent to take away something e.g. a mobile phone if it is causing distress is not helpful as this results in victims not reporting incidents of bullying and also deprives the victim of something that is important to them.

#### School Policies: Initial Thoughts

- 6.7 In researching Cyber-bullying and school practices the Panel and YPSC read and discussed many anti-bullying policies published on school websites from across the borough. A number of significant observations were made by the Panel and by the members of the YPSC. These observations shaped later discussions with local practitioners and council officers and also contributed to the Review Recommendations.

The observations were made:

- The language used by a number of anti-bullying codes was deemed inappropriate for the target audience. The codes / policies need to be clear and easy to understand which a number were not.
- The need to ensure the effective communication of the anti-bullying codes to all pupils and teachers, not just governors and senior staff was discussed. It was noted that the majority of the policies were relatively dry, inaccessible

and uninteresting for young people, and it was felt that it would be beneficial to have more accessible versions of the codes around schools so that they could be easily viewed and understood by young people. In other words the codes and policies should be written with a target audience in mind.

- Anti-bullying codes need to be placed where they can be easily seen and accessed by young people and by parents. Too many are hidden away. It was also noted that far too many schools failed to put any mention of bullying on their websites and the majority of schools failed to put their policies on the internet where they can be accessed by both parents and pupils.
- Many of the policies evaluated did not contain any information specifically on Cyber-bullying. As this is a growing area and one which is not fully understood by parents it was felt that this should be addressed as a priority. The YPSC believed that Cyber-bullying should have its own section in anti-bullying policies and should also be published on school websites to assist both parents and pupils.
- It was noted that some of the school policies contained support for parents and advice on how to spot whether someone is being bullied. Information on the signs of bullying should be contained in policy documents / codes to increase their impact.

- 6.8 In all, the Panel and YPSC were pleased with the general messages contained in the policies however believed there were significant areas for improvement as highlighted above. When discussing the target audience it was also suggested by the YPSC that the young people themselves take part in the writing of the policies / codes and so take ownership of the message they convey.
- 6.9 It was agreed that these policies had to be well communicated to all involved in school and offer support for any potential victim of bullying. The parents, teachers, governors and young people themselves must agree and understand the anti-bullying rules and policies in order to reduce the amount of bullying and to best support the victims. At the very least, the current policies do attempt to address bullying, and it was agreed that to ignore bullying is to condone it.
- 6.10 In a discussion on school governance and the role these structures play in supporting initiatives to combat Cyber-bullying it was understood that Schools are governed by a 'Governing Body' which is made up a representatives from the school, the parents, and the wider community. Together they formulate the policies which they then expect the Headteacher to implement within school. To carry out its functions the Governing Body often meet as smaller committees to look at policies and examine evidence they have about how effectively the school is carrying out its duties. Each of these committees then reports back to the full Governing Body who ultimately determine the future direction of the school.

## Culture and Support in Schools

- 6.11 Creating the right culture in schools is one aspect of tackling bullying. Creating an environment in which children and young people feel comfortable to deal with incidents of bullying and feel empowered to report it is an important addition to the support schools can offer.
- 6.12 In looking at the links between culture and support in schools the following services and concepts were explored in more detail with the results presented below:
- SEAL – Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning
  - Community CAMHS Jigsaw
  - Good Practice – Werneth School
  - Restorative Approaches (inc Hull Visit)

### *SEAL – Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning*

- 6.13 SEAL is an approach to promote the social and emotional skills that underpin effective learning, positive behaviour, regular attendance, staff effectiveness and the emotional health and wellbeing of all who learn and work in schools.
- 6.14 SEAL was born out of the National Strategies Primary & Secondary Behaviour & Attendance strategies and was a way of introducing emotional intelligence into the curriculum. SEAL is split into 5 domains - motivation, empathy, social skills, self awareness and managing feelings and though it does have a curriculum resource it is first and foremost 'a way of being' and dictates the emotional climate of a school depending on the skill base of the community in the 5 domains. Its premise is in the fact that if you do not have skills in these domains first then it is impossible to take advantage of other learning opportunities within school.
- 6.15 As a concept, SEAL has been adopted in Stockport. SEAL is a proactive measure for learning and a way of creating the right culture to best combat forms of bullying. This approach is in Stockport Primary Schools but has had some difficulty in being introducing at a Secondary level. It is believed that a SEAL approach in all schools would help to tackle bullying as it would improve the dialogue between school staff and pupils. SEAL also supports a proactive culture needed to prevent bullying in the first instance. SEAL is still relatively new and is far from being implemented in all Stockport schools but nevertheless it is having an impact on the schools where it is currently being adopted.

### *Community CAMHS Jigsaw*

- 6.16 Community CAMHS Jigsaw is an initiative set up to respond to the needs of vulnerable secondary aged students in Stockport. Jigsaw is jointly funded by Stockport LEA and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Development Strategy. The team comprises of a coordinator, 2 teachers, 2 mental health practitioners, 1 drama therapist and 1 administrator. Jigsaw

aims to work alongside mainstream secondary schools and detached education services to improve the educational and emotional opportunities for those students experiencing mental health difficulties and to offer support for their families and carers.

Jigsaw's aims are:

- To Promote emotional and behavioural wellbeing and where possible prevent difficulties arising
- To provide early intervention for students and families
- To provide consultation and advice for secondary school staff
- To ensure multi-disciplinary working and networking with other services to create a more integrated approach
- To provide new perspectives on students mental health problems which lead to care and treatment strategies being redesigned when and where appropriate.

6.17 Jigsaw work with young people who exhibit some or many of the symptoms highlighted below. Importantly these have been presented in many of the School Anti-bullying Codes as symptoms of bullying:

- Mood Swings
  - Irritability, unusual aggressive outbursts without apparent risk to self or others
  - Sadness/ low mood
  - Low self-esteem, reduced confidence, reduced engagement
  - Without concern of risk to self
- Anxiety and Fears
  - Generalised, separation, health, social phobias including school phobia
  - Panic attacks
  - The above of which have a mild to moderate impact upon daily functioning.
- Somatic problems
  - Physical pains that have an unidentified physical cause such as abdominal pain which have been assessed by a physician
- Sleep problems
  - Waking up in the night, difficulty falling asleep, early morning waking, night mares
- Grief reaction/ bereavement issues
  - Short term emotional support and school liaison with a view to signposting onto specialist services if needed
- Deliberate Self Harm - Without suicidal ideation or need for medical intervention.

- Short term work to promote alternative coping strategies and self management of risk with view to referral onto specialist services if needed.

#### 6.18 Jigsaw Interventions:

- Individual Interventions

1:1 work usually involves the whole team supporting the young person and parents for 6-8 weeks. The Mental Health Practitioner might offer: Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for anxiety, depression or OCD; support with self-harm, eating disorders or suicidal ideation. In addition a Drama Therapist can offer a therapeutic intervention. The Child and Family Worker will offer to support parents with positive praise and parenting strategies, sibling rivalry, boundary setting and general advice on coping with their child's specific mental health difficulties. The Teacher will liaise with appropriate school staff and home, as well as working 1:1 with the young person, using a variety of Brief Solution Focused approaches.

- Group Interventions and Training

Delivered by the Teachers, preferably with involvement of appropriate school staff.

1. Group Interventions, primarily for Year 7 students, groups of 8-12, a 1-hour session per week, for 9 weeks. Jigsaw deliver Self- Esteem courses for vulnerable or 'acting out' students, Friendship Skills courses, particularly successful with up to 15 girls and Managing Anxiety courses.
2. Anti-Bullying Interventions, for whole Year 7 cohorts. Delivered to each form: a drama workshop focusing on being an active bystander and having a sense of collective responsibility, followed by a classroom-based lesson featuring a quiz focusing on cyber bullying, mobile phone bullying and racist bullying – and how to keep safe. An ICT lesson focusing on cyber safety.
3. Establishing Lunchtime Sanctuaries, for use by vulnerable students who are having difficulties coping with unstructured time in school. Jigsaw can also help staff sanctuaries in the first few weeks of use.
4. Peer Mentor Training – Year 10/11. A three-lesson session focusing on the role of peer mentors/prefects, including staffing lunchtime sanctuaries. The session covers: active listening skills; acknowledging fears; recognition of stress and strategies for coping with it; issues of confidentiality; fostering an effective rapport and culture within the sanctuary. This can be delivered for up to 24 pupils per session; we are happy to deliver multiple sessions for schools with a larger number of peer mentors.

5. Anti-Bullying Information Evening for Parents – a presentation delivered in conjunction with school staff to enable parents to be better placed to support their children. Other agencies can be involved.
- 6.19 Jigsaw contributes to creating the right environment for children and young people to report bullying and to positively react to it. Initiatives such as Peer Mentor Training and Anti-bullying drama work supports schools in combating bullying and helps schools offer a wider range of support available to victims. There are some problems with schemes such as Peer Mentoring in assuring its continuity and growth. In addition it has been difficult to engage with parents regarding bullying and Cyber-bullying, however, positive steps have been taken through Community CAMHS and the impacts this has on combating bullying.

*Good Practice – Werneth School*

- 6.20 Werneth School had been identified as a school which is proactive in its measures to tackle bullying and in creating a positive culture. The school has made a number of significant changes over recent years which has resulted in positive feedback from students. Representatives from Werneth School (teaching staff and pupils) came to speak with the Review Panel and the YPSC. The information presented by Werneth is highlighted below:

**Werneth School –**

In 2005 Werneth School conducted a student survey which revealed that the majority of their students did not feel safe or felt that they could not report bullying in school. This marked the beginning of a Review at Werneth regarding their anti-bullying policies and how to create a culture to empower students to deal with and report bullying.

The Review involved school staff and students and as a result the following has / is happening at the school:

- *Implemented student suggestions* – student designed information posters / packs, installed an email address as a way of reporting bullying, peer mentoring scheme, installed CCTV to improve security.
- *Anti-bullying Roadshow* – Werneth support local feeder Primary Schools regarding anti-bullying messages and involves students in teaching the Primary pupils.
- *Anti-bullying week* – introduced wristbands designed by the students, increased the information around school to raise awareness, the school radio station distributed more information about Cyber-bullying and bullying to advise students what they can do if they are being bullied or know of someone who is being bullied.
- *PSE Lessons* – there is now dedicated lesson time where bullying is discussed in a classroom setting

- *Vertical Forms* – rather than traditional Form Classes split by age Werneth have Forms which are made up of pupils from all year groups and have been re-branded as 'families'. Students agreed to this radical change of the basic Form structure which has helped combat any 'gang culture' which stemmed from age groupings. The Vertical Forms expose pupils of different ages to different experiences and provides all pupils with a support network which assists in tackling bullying.
- *Peer Education* – Werneth created work material and information DVDs with the students. Students created the DVDs and supporting information on topics such as anti-social behaviour. Student ownership increases the likelihood that the information is adsorbed by the pupils.
- *Reporting* – students report to School Governors and Staff about issues important to them and have the ability to make recommendations for improvements.
- *Parent Training* – Werneth have delivered 'Parent Information Events' regarding bullying and Cyber-bullying to improve parental knowledge. More needs to be done to strengthen the link between school and the home but this is a good start.

A student survey in 2009 highlighted a vast improvement from the 2005 results. Students now feel more empowered to report incidents of bullying due to the change in culture at the school and importantly more students feel safe in school.

Werneth do not claim to have eradicated bullying but by creating a better culture, by improving the reporting processes and by allowing the students to take ownership of creating and delivering information it is believed they are well placed to tackle bullying when it occurs.

### *Restorative Approaches*

- 6.21 Restorative Justice can be defined by its fundamental principle, namely that, when one person has harmed another, the most useful response is to try to repair the harm done, rather than to retaliate against the perpetrator. Restorative Approaches / Practices are not the same as Restorative Justice however the core elements of resolving problems through building relationships and open dialogue is similar.
- 6.22 Restorative Approaches such as 'talking circles' have been adopted in a number of schools across the country as a proactive way of controlling the climate of a class and to build an open and supporting culture. It is believed that a Restorative Approach in schools will not only improve dialogue between pupils and staff but will also improve academic results and reduce bullying and violence in the classroom. It is believed that will also help combat bullying

- 6.23 Hull has made great strides in using Restorative Approaches in their schools. As part of researching the Review the Chair of the Review Panel supported by Officers visited Hull to investigate their processes and the value of adopting the approach in schools. The Hull 'Case Study' is presented below:

### **Case Study: Collingwood School, Hull<sup>2</sup> -**

#### *Background*

Hull, led by the Local Authority and by working closely with the 'Hull Centre for Restorative Practices' and the 'International Institute for Restorative Practices' is endeavouring to become a 'restorative city'. The aim is for everyone who works with children and young people to become trained in and be able to deliver restorative practices. There is a belief in Hull that this project will lead to 'social regeneration' which will benefit the City and the region as a whole.

In 2006 Collingwood Primary School was given 'special measures' status by Ofsted, within two years of adopting 'Restorative Approaches' under new Head Estelle Macdonald the school achieved 'outstanding'. The solution focused approach and the use of positive language driven by 'Restorative Approaches' seemed to turn the school around.

The statistics post adoption of Restorative Approaches regarding behaviour and punctuality support the project –

98.3% reduction in classroom exclusions during lessons in Key Stage 2

92.0% reduction in exclusions from break

86.7% improvement in punctuality

As part of the challenge to turn Hull into a 'Restorative City' over 5200 people have been trained in 'Restorative Approaches' including, school staff, police officers, local community enforcement officers, children's homes staff, community wardens, social service and family resource centre staff, foster carers, health service workers and voluntary community groups.

#### *Hull Visit: Observations*

At the beginning of each day all staff take part in a 'Staff Circle' which consists of staff sitting together taking it in turns to voice their opinion on a topic to begin the conversation, (this could be anything from something that made you smile that week to opinions on Government) following this is an opportunity for all staff to share any worries they may have. This allows staff to share problems and to offer joint solutions. It is argued that by going through this process on a daily bases the group learn to trust and share thoughts, feelings and problems and also creates a sense of 'shared support and accountability'.

<sup>2</sup> Some information taken from 'Restorative Practices E.FORUM' 2009, Laura Mirsky, International Institute for Restorative Practices.

### Proactive and Reactive Circles –

Twice a day the children take part in 'circles'. These are similar to the 'Staff Circles' and are designed to encourage openness between the children and to improve communication skills. The feelings of each member of the class are plotted on the 'feelings board' at the beginning of the day. Those who are worried or sad etc are asked if this is because of home or school and asked what can be done about it. The worried or sad person is then assigned a volunteer 'support partner' of their choosing to help them during the day. The teacher plots the feelings and reasons each day to monitor progress and support required for each pupil. After everyone has discussed how they are feeling and what support (if any) they require they then move to discuss a topic like with the 'Staff Circle'. This exercise brings the class closer together and gives an opportunity for everyone to communicate and to express ideas. This process is described as a 'Proactive Circle' as it is something they always do regardless if anything has happened.

Reactive Circles occur in response to an action, they are a way of problem solving. These circles can be run purely by the children themselves, be facilitated by school staff, or may also involve parents as an when the situation dictates. These circles give an opportunity for everyone to speak in turn about what they think happened (assuming the circle is to resolve a difference or an action that has caused anger / pain) and then everyone is requested to give what they think the consequences of the action should be. Often differences are sorted and the consequences are agreed by the two parties. Where parents have become involved there has been a high level of support for the process and for the outcomes. There have been instances where parents have not been engaged with the process, however, in nearly all instances this has changed over time as parents become familiar with the concept.

To support the Circles, information boards are placed around school and in play areas with guidance questions, for example -

*When things go wrong* – 1) What happened 2) What were you thinking of at the time 3) What have you thought about since 4) Who has been affected by what you have done? , In what way? 5) What do you think you need to do to make things right?

*When someone has been hurt* – 1) What did you think when you realised what had happened? 2) What impact has this incident had on you and others? 3) What has been the hardest thing for you? 4) What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

Cyber-bullying is often an anonymous action and is not as clear cut as an incident in the playground for example. For this, a 'Restorative Approach' would utilise an 'Unacceptable Unacknowledged Responsibility Circle' through which the issues and impacts of Cyber-bullying are discussed but without knowing who the victim or the bully is. An open discussion on the impacts of an action often results in an individual admitting responsibility or a sudden change in behaviour.

### *Comments and Observations about Restorative Approaches*

- 'Restorative Approaches' is not just about improving behaviour but is about building community and relationships. It is a proactive approach aimed to improve communication of ideas and expression of feelings.
- The proactive nature of 'Restorative Approaches' is outlined by the circle time given to those who show no sign of any problems, this approach helps the early identification of issues.
- The 'support partner' role gives the children and young people a chance to experience community responsibility and support in a school setting.
- It is important that people do not ask 'why' something has happened but instead to get individuals to 'tell a story' and express feelings openly.
- 'Restorative Approaches' works with SEAL, the two ideas compliment each other.

Although 'Restorative Approaches' is still a relatively new concept the positive results in Hull are evident. The concepts surrounding this approach should be investigated further to identify the merits which could be applied in Stockport to good effect.

## **Consultation Results**

### **Cyber-bullying Questionnaire**

6.24 The questionnaire was designed by the Review Panel and YPSC with a view to send to any school in Stockport which would be willing to take part. All schools were contacted with 13 schools (3 Secondary 10 Primary) agreeing to circulate the questionnaire. The individual schools were assured they would remain anonymous to support an open and fair response. The results and evaluations are outlined below:

### **Number of Completed Questionnaires: 1346**

6.25 NB: Not all sections / questions were completed by the participants therefore some of the results below may seem to be wrong when in fact they are accurate to the best of our understanding. For example 530 Primary Children took part but the total of Male and Female children totalled 524 which indicates 6 children failed to indicate their sex. Other minor discrepancies throughout the results are a result of 'blank' entries.

## **Breakdown of Returns**

Primary – 530 (Male 258 Female 266)  
Secondary – 797 (Male 400 Female 367)

## **Results**

### **Q) Do you use Facebook (or equivalent Social Networking Site)?**

Yes – 951

Primary – 251 (Male 129 Female 120)  
Secondary – 682 (Male 326 Female 331)

Year 7 Students – 132 (out of 167) (Male 58 Female 73)

Year 7 and Primary – 383

#### Further Analysis

70.65 % of participants use Facebook  
47.36 % of Primary participants use Facebook  
85.57 % of Secondary participants use Facebook  
54.95 % of Primary and Y7 participants use Facebook \*

\* All Primary and Y7 children are under the age of 13 which is the age restriction put in place by Facebook.

### **Q) Do you use MSN or any other Instant Messenger?**

Yes – 928

Primary – 271 (Male 130 Female 138)  
Secondary – 640 (Male 301 Female 317)

#### Further Analysis

68.95 % of participants use MSN or other Instant Messenger  
51.13 % of Primary participants use MSN or other Instant Messenger  
80.30% of Secondary participants use MSN or other Instant Messenger

### **Q) Do you use a mobile phone that has access to the Internet?**

Yes – 798

Primary – 224 (Male 111 Female 110)  
Secondary – 558 (Male 272 Female 265)

### Further Analysis

59.29 % of participants use a mobile phone that has access to the Internet  
42.27 % of Primary participants use a mobile phone that has access to the Internet  
70.01 % of Secondary participants use a mobile phone that has access to the Internet

#### **Q) Do you post images on-line?**

Yes –	763
Primary –	184 (Male 81 Female 102)
Secondary –	561 (Male 241 Female 302)

### Further Analysis

56.69 % of participants post images on-line.  
34.72 % of Primary participants post images on-line.  
70.39 % of Secondary participants post images on-line

#### **Q) Do you ever blog?**

Yes –	319
Primary –	112 (Male 56 Female 54)
Secondary –	205 (Male 103 Female 96)

### Further Analysis

23.70 % of participants blog  
21.13 % of Primary participants blog  
25.72 % of Secondary participants blog

#### **Q) Do you know of anyone who has been Cyber-bullied in your school?**

Yes –	234
No –	1052
Don't Know –	34
No answer –	26

### Further Analysis

17.38 % of participants did know of someone who had been Cyber-bullied of which 78 (33.33 %) were from a Primary school and 150 (64.10 %) were from Secondary.

Those who said they knew of someone who had been Cyber-bullied can be split as follows:

Primary –	Male 33	(42.31 %)
	Female 44	(56.42 %)
Secondary –	Male 63	(42.00 %)
	Female 82	(54.66 %)

78.16 % did NOT know of anyone who has been Cyber-bullied

2.53 % did not know either way

1.93 % failed to answer

**Q) If someone has been Cyber-bullied in your school what happens to help them?**

Responses:

Response	Number
No response	253
Tell the Headteacher	12
Tell parents	30
Tell teacher and parent	50
Told to stop it	48
Class discussion to try and help (teacher, victim, culprit speak together)	22
School will sort it out / they get help	140
Tell the Police	14
Told to stop and take away Facebook	8
Tell teacher	153
Don't know	409
I try to help victim	28
They are bullied everyday	3
Tell someone (not specific)	70
Victim's parent told the culprit's parent	2
Delete the bully from Facebook / MSN	15
Not much / nothing	29
School bans all email except school-related email	8
School offers "Drop In" sessions to discuss worries / problems	17
Teacher, Police and parents	10
They tell you to stay away from them	3
Victim advised to stay off the internet	4
Tell anti-bullying coordinator	17
Call Child-line	1

Further Analysis

12.80 % - School would sort it out / help them (general / non-specific response)

14.00 % - They would tell a teacher / teacher would help

37.42 % - Did not know what would happen to help.

2.65 % - Nothing would be done to help.

**Q) If you were ever Cyber-bullied who would you tell? (e.g. parents / carers, teacher, other member of staff, friend, no-one)**

Responses:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>
No response	46
Headteacher	6
Parents (mum / dad or both) / carer	361
Parents and friends	170
Parents and a teacher	209
Everyone EXCEPT parents / carers	2
Everyone INCLUDING parents, teachers and friends.	143
Nobody / fear of retribution and consequences	87
Teacher	64
A group (non-specific)	6
Adult (non-specific)	18
Headteacher and class teacher	1
Headteacher and parents	10
Police	6
Teacher and friends	20
Sibling	18
Whoever is closest to me	1
Parents, friends and youth worker	3
Learning Mentor	3
Don't know	17
Friend	134
Someone I trust	7
I wouldn't be bullied	5
Fight back	8
Call Child-line	1

### Further Analysis

27.77 % of participants would tell their parents if they were being Cyber-bullied of which 168 (46.54 %) were from a Primary school and 191 (52.91%) from Secondary. Of those who would tell their parents from a Primary 91 (54.17 %) were Male and 75 (44.64 %) were Female. Of those who would tell their parents from a Secondary 106 (55.50 %) were Male and 77 (40.31 %) were Female.

67.92 % (883) of participants would tell their parents or their parents and someone else. Of these participants 408 (46.20 %) were from a Primary school and 466 (50.51 %) were from Secondary. Of those who would tell their parents or their parents and someone else from a Primary 194 (47.55 %) were Male and 209 (51.23 %) were Female. Of those who would tell their parents or their parents and someone else from Secondary 219 (47.00 %) were Male and 235 (50.43 %) were Female. 76.98 % of all Primary participants would tell their parents or their parents and someone else with 58.47 from Secondary.

6.69 % of participants would tell nobody through fear of retribution of which 27 (31.03 %) were from a Primary school and 59 (67.82 %) were from Secondary. Of those who would tell nobody from a Primary 18 (66.67 %) were Male and 9 (33.33 %) were Female. Of those who would tell nobody from Secondary 40 (67.80 %) were Male and 10 (16.95 %) were Female.

### **Q) What would your school do if they realised that one or more of the pupils / students were Cyber-bullying other people?**

Responses:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>
No response	81
Suspend them	91
Tell them off / tell them to stop it	249
Tell Police	43
Talk to bully and their parents	77
Don't know	273
Give detention with Headteacher	33
School will sort it out (not specific)	166
Tell Headteacher	27
Tell Headteacher and get parents involved	18
Tell parents / carers	27
Exclude/send to new school	56
Tell parents and never let them go on Facebook again	10
School would do nothing	33
Excluded / tell the Police	13

Teachers would delete accounts and block access	37
Tell them off & give detention	22
Tell Gordon Brown	1
Hold Assembly to say what's going on	48
Hold another bullying week	3
Limit computer access	16
Find out why people are being bullied	9
School Council	9

### Further Analysis

19.68 % - Believed school would tell them off / tell them to stop it

7.19 % - Believed school would suspend them

2.61 % - Believed school would do nothing

21.58 % - Did not know what school would do. Of those that did not know what school would do 83 (30.40 %) were from a Primary School and 185 (67.77 %) were from Secondary. 15.66 % of all Primary participants did not know what school would do with 23.21 % of all Secondary.

### **Q) Do you think that all the staff at your school are clear about what to do if there was an incident of bullying in school?**

Responses:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>
No response	72
Yes	805
No	222
Not sure / don't know	140
A little bit / sometimes	57
Most of them	49

### Further Analysis

63.19 % of participants did believe all members of staff are clear about what to do if there is an incident of bullying. Of those who believe all members of staff are clear 414 (51.42 %) were from a Primary school and 389 (48.32 %) from Secondary. 78.11 % of all Primary participants believed all school staff are clear about that to do with 48.80 % of Secondary.

17.43 % of participants believed not all staff members are clear about what to do if there is an incident of bullying.

19.31 % of participants were unsure if all staff members are clear about what to do if there is an incident of bullying.

**Q) Do you think all the staff in school react to an incident of bullying in the same way?**

Responses:

Response	Number
No response	126
Yes	260
No	481
Sometimes	32
Don't know	374
Yes and no (maybe)	41
Most of them	27

Further Analysis

21.31 % of participants did believe school staff react to an incident of bullying in the same way.

39.43 % of participants did not believe school staff react to an incident of bullying in the same way.

**Q) How would you report an incident of Cyber-bullying in your school? e.g. telling someone, using a worry box etc**

Responses:

Response	Number
No response	99
Tell teacher / tell teacher anonymously	281
Don't know	69
I would try to talk to them alone (sort it out yourself)	12
Tell someone (not specific)	447
Put a question / note in the 'Askit' box (worry box)	155
Tell the Police	3
Ask school to write letter to bully's parents	5

Tell teacher and parent	22
Tell parents and relatives	19
Tell Headteacher	47
Tell Headteacher and Police	3
Put on the (school?) news / newsletter	1
Phone someone	1
Delete the message	2
Fight back	5
Tell (school) office	15
Tell nobody	27
Tell teacher and friend	9
Head of Year	49
Tell someone I trust	22
Prefect / Peer Mentor	12
Email the teacher	21
Email the anti-bullying coordinator	18

### Further Analysis

22.53 % of participants would report an incident of Cyber-bullying by telling a teacher. 29.03 % of participants would tell a teacher or a teacher and somebody else.

12.43 % of participants would report an incident of Cyber-bullying through a 'worry box' type system. Of those that would report via a 'worry box' 128 (82.58 %) were from a Primary school and 27 (17.42 %) from Secondary. 24.15 % of all Primary participants would report Cyber-bullying by using a worry box with 3.39 % of Secondary.

2.17 % of participants would tell nobody.

### **Q) What does your school do to try and stop Cyber-bullying happening?**

Responses:

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>
No response	150
Tell us what has been going on / send letters	68
Try to make the bullies stop it / talk to bullies	78
Tell their parents	28
Tell us to stop using the internet	25
Give detention and send to Headteacher	13

School do their best / try to sort it out	62
Don't know	324
Make the bully known to the others	3
Tell Headteacher and take away Facebook / certain sites	32
Tell their parents and give detention	3
Send bully to Headteacher	10
Tell the Police	7
School would do nothing	57
Delete the message	2
Tell us to be nice	13
Phone up (not specific)	2
Posters / talk about in class / have assemblies	304
Send bully somewhere else	6
Cameras / CCTV	4
Put privacy settings on	16
Inform website owners	3
Deny access to sites AND PHSE lessons	21
Cancel all sites	36
Bully put into seclusion	5
Anti-bullying Charter	3
Anti-bullying Day / Week	44
Ban mobile phones	16
Miss their treat/take away privileges	4
School monitor the computers	2

### Further Analysis

25.42 % of participants said that school tries to stop Cyber-bullying by talking about it in class, have assemblies and by making posters. Of those who said that school tries to stop Cyber-bullying by talking about it in class, have assemblies and by making posters 123 (40.46 %) were from a Primary school and 177 (58.22 %) were from Secondary.

4.77 % of participants said that school do nothing. Of those who believed school do nothing 11 (19.30 %) were from a Primary school and 44 (77.12 %) were from Secondary.

27.09 % of participants did not know what school do. Of those who did not know what school do 80 (24.69 %) were from a Primary school and 239 (73.77 %) were from Secondary. 15.09 % of all Primary participants did not know what school do with 29.99 % of Secondary.

**Q) Does your school have an anti-bullying charter?**

Responses:

Response	Number
No response	116
Yes	408
No	164
Don't know	655

Further Analysis

33.17 % of participants did think their school has an anti-bullying charter. Of those who believed their school has an anti-bullying charter 199 (48.77 %) were from a Primary School and 204 (50.00 %) from Secondary. 37.55 % of all Primary Participants believed their school has an anti-bullying charter with 25.60 % of Secondary.

13.33 % of participants did not think their school has an anti-bullying charter.

53.25 % of participants did not know if their school has an anti-bullying charter.

66.59 % of participants did not know or thought their school does not have an anti-bullying charter. Of those that either did not know or thought their school does not have an anti-bullying charter 305 (37.24 %) were from a Primary school and 501 (61.17 %) from Secondary. 57.55 % of all Primary participants did not know or thought their school did not have an anti-bullying charter with 62.86 % of Secondary.

**Q) What does your school do to help new pupils / students settle into your school?**

Responses:

Response	Number
No response	149
Encouraged to play with them	48
Try to make them happy in school	60
Assign a buddy	252
Show them around	279
Help them	98
Don't know	220
Be kind/nice	132
Delete all cyber-bullying messages on computers	2
Provide a "guidebook" in the classroom	3

Tell them the rules	10
Induction day / welcome certificate	31
Transition lessons	6
Day with Year Group only	2
Induction with transition lessons	4
Induction with transition lessons and day with Year Group only	3
Look-outs (group to keep an eye out for bullies)	6
Mezzanine	3
Nothing	35

### Further Analysis

21.05 % of participants said that school would assign new pupils / students a buddy.

23.31 % of participants said school would show a new pupil / student around

### **Conclusions**

6.26 The questionnaire clearly highlights a number of shortfalls and areas of concern however it also conveys some positive messages about what schools and the LA are doing right about tackling bullying. Areas of concern, such as young people not being aware of support or how to access support are addressed by the Review Panel. The key messages from the questionnaire are outlined below and reflected in the Review Recommendations.

#### Key Areas of Note:

- There is a high number of young people under the age of 13 who admit to accessing Facebook even though they are below the age restriction put in place by the website. This statistic is supported by the evidence from the School Council Visits which also suggest a high number of primary children openly using Social Networking Sites.
- There is a high number of young people using a mobile phone with access to the internet. The percentage of primary children with access to the internet on their phone is higher than anticipated by the Panel.
- The high number of young people posting images online is alarming. Over 70% of Secondary and nearly 35% of Primary pupils post images on-line. The access to and the misuse of images is often a way in which Cyber-bullying takes place.
- The range of answers from children and young people when asked what happens to help victims of Cyber-bullying suggests that there is no clear understanding on the support available. This could be a reflection of the failings schools have in communicating what support is available.

- The high number of 'don't know' answers throughout the returns suggests a lack of clear understanding by the children and young people on school procedures and increases the need to strengthen communication with students.
- A significant number of children and young people would tell a parent or a parent and someone else if they were being Cyber-bullied. It is important therefore that parents are equipped with the understanding and skills needed to support a victim of Cyber-bullying. In addition it is important that parents know who to contact in school about this issue and have information available on the school's website.
- Although the majority of students 'did not know', a significant number believed their school would take an extreme response to Cyber-bullying e.g. exclusions, blocking the internet and bringing in the police. This 'all or nothing' belief held by the children and young people may explain why more would discuss the issue with their parents over teachers through fear of possible retributions and may also highlight a lack of a phased response policy from schools.
- A good number of children and young people felt that school staff are clear about what to do if there was an incident of bullying in school. Although the children and young people are not clear about what they will do, there is a base level of confidence in school staff.
- The high number of children and young people that did not know their school has an anti-bullying charter is not surprising when put into context with other evidence provided by the questionnaire and throughout the Review. This return confirms problems with communication between the pupils and the school.
- The vast majority of children and young people believe that something is done by their school (although there is no clear agreement on what) to support new students which helps the reduction of bullying.

## **School Council Discussions**

- 6.27 A number of schools from across Stockport were approached with a view to take part in the Scrutiny Review into Cyber-bullying. Both Secondary and Primary schools from different areas of the borough agreed to take part. Seven schools (2 Secondary 4 Primary and 1 Pupil Referral Unit) received a visit from one or more of the Review Panel for discussions on Cyber-bullying.
- 6.28 Each school allowed the Panel Members an hour to speak with their School Council or volunteers to openly discuss Cyber-bullying and other related issues. The information was recorded and is also presented below. The participants were assured that none of their comments would be attributed to an individual or to a school thus allowing them to speak freely.

6.29 There are six key areas which came from the School Council Discussions, these are:

- The use of information technologies
- The understanding of / issues linked to Cyber-bullying
- The Awareness of school policies / what to do
- The work done in schools on bullying
- The issues regarding Facebook
- The areas for improvement / suggestions for the future

### **The Use of Information Technologies...**

The following sites / technologies were discussed by the children and young people:

- *Facebook* – clearly the most used social networking site by children and young people across Stockport. This site is used by the vast majority of those who took part with a significant number of primary school children also actively using the site. Facebook is discussed in greater detail below.
- *MSN* (an instant message / chat function, more popular with secondary pupils)
- *Mobile Phone* – many children and young people have a mobile phone with a significant number having a phone with internet access. Although phones are not allowed in school many do use them regularly and 'rely' on them outside of school. All of the participating secondary pupils have a mobile phone and in addition there was a significant majority of primary school children also regularly using them.
- *Other websites* – the following websites were also discussed by a number of participants as being a place where they socialise with others: Bebo, Myspace, Club Penguin (primary), Moshi Monsters (primary).

### **The Understanding of / Issues linked to Cyber-bullying...**

- It is rare that Cyber-bullying is the only form of bullying someone has to face. Often Cyber-bullying is one of a number of ways someone would bully the same person.
- Cyber-bullying can involve more people than traditional bullying methods, it is not just one person sending messages, bullying through websites and pictures naturally increases the involvement of others.
- Cyber-bullying is an anonymous yet very public way of bullying someone. The effects of Cyber-bullying e.g. people laughing at someone for what seems like no reason (pictures / websites etc being passed around and viewed by everyone) causes high amounts of distress.

- It was highlighted that Cyber-bullying may be inadvertent bullying as comments on pictures etc may not be said with an intention to cause harm but may be misinterpreted.
- Cyber-bullying was described as being a subtle build up of little comments that when added together can cause a lot of hurt. It is a much longer-term form of bullying when compared to more violent actions.
- Pupils noted it was a hard issue for schools to deal with as much of the problem takes place outside of school on home computers or over the phone. There was agreement however that schools both had a right and a responsibility to deal with this issue even if it solely occurs outside of school as it directly impacts on life in school.
- There was some confusion between 'Cyber-safety' and 'Cyber-bullying' especially with the younger pupils. Although the two issues share common themes and are linked, often the younger ones were confusing the two. Some pupils were arguing Cyber-bullying is something done by strangers and that 'nasty' comments over the internet by someone you know is not Cyber-bullying. (Further work could be done to explain the differences between Cyber-safety and Cyber-bullying and that by understanding them both a child is best placed to tackle any problems they encounter)

#### **The Awareness of School Policies / What To Do...**

- A number of different ways to report / respond to Cyber-bullying were highlighted by participants including: tell a teacher, tell parents, tell a learning mentor, tell other members of the school support staff, tell a peer mentor, tell a prefect, use a worry box, email a relevant address with issues, deal with it yourself, keep the evidence, block someone who is bullying you, and tell a friend.
- At a number of the schools the anti-bullying policy and procedure for reporting bullying is outlined in the pupils' individual work diaries.
- The pupils at these schools where the policy is outlined in the school diary knew of the correct reporting procedures or knew where it was located if required.
- Many pupils however were not sure if their school had an anti-bullying policy and were unclear what options were available to them other than 'tell a teacher'.
- Many of the pupils at primary schools would tell a teacher if they felt that they or a friend were being Cyber-bullied. Many also said they would tell their parents. Those in secondary school would be less likely to tell anyone in the first instance and then may tell an appropriate member of staff. Some highlighted a fear of having access to ICT taken away from them if Cyber-bullying was reported to parents and school staff.
- Children from a number of primary schools recalled the 'Zip it, Block it, Flag it' message they had been taught in relation to Cyber-safety and how the same message also applies to Cyber-bullying.

- Some schools have information posters on Cyber-bullying put in classrooms and corridors around school however it was argued by the young people these work best when they are refreshed on a regular basis and / or designed by the young people themselves.
- The school policies on bullying should be reviewed on a regular basis by the young people at the school. (Policies need to be refreshed by the young people to allow them to take ownership and to ensure it isn't ignored – it is a policy for the pupils by the pupils rather than something imposed on them)
- Not everybody reads the anti-bullying codes – too much writing or written in a way which makes it difficult to understand. Also there are too many posters in classrooms, if they are not changed regularly to keep them fresh they get ignored.

### **The work Done In Schools On Bullying...**

- The majority of young people had watched an information DVD on Cyber-bullying however not all schools followed this up with support lessons.
- Peer Mentoring – this was discussed by a number of schools as a way of supporting the victims of bullying. It was reported that someone who was being bullied could approach a trained 'peer mentor' (an older student Y10 or Y11) for support and advice before seeing a teacher. Many argued this worked well and provided an option to those students who would feel uncomfortable seeing a teacher. It was argued this was a good option for year 7s.
- Pupils from a number of the primary schools discussed activities they had done on their Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) about Cyber-bullying and Cyber-safety. It was noted that activities in a virtual environment rather than just relying on classroom discussions was better for the children and young people that took part. School staff also highlighted the benefits of a VLE such as the ability to monitor information being posted by their pupils and it being a quick and effective way of communicating information.

### **The Issues Regarding Facebook...**

- Nearly all secondary school pupils actively access Facebook on a regular basis. A significant number of primary pupils also say they are currently using Facebook or plan to do so in the near future.
- Many of the participants from both secondary and primary say they regularly use the chat function on Facebook.
- Many participants highlighted Facebook as being a major problem and where the majority of Cyber-bullying can and does take place. Activities such as the taking / sharing and manipulation of photos, hurtful comments made through chat and 'tagging' photos, the setting up of

'hate' groups / campaigns and finding out information used with an intention to bully, are all ways in which Facebook can be used to cause harm.

- A significant number of participants reported not being fully confident on how to access and change their security settings on Facebook. Many felt that they would benefit from this being taught in schools. Although understanding security settings would not stop hate groups or hurtful comments it would reduce the access for any potential bully to receive pictures and information which then could be used to bully.
- A number of participants noted that they did not use Facebook as much as they would like through fear of Cyber-bullying.
- A significant number of the participants who use Facebook and who are under the age restriction (13) do so with the knowledge of their parents. These young people claim their parents know and in some instances are allowed access on the condition their parents have access to their profile.
- Many of the younger participants have joined Facebook because their older siblings and/or parents already use it. Peer pressure and fear of being left behind is also a significant driver behind joining Facebook.
- It was reported that incidents relating to Facebook could result in physical harm, for example verbal bullying spilling over to physical bullying and in addition to this children and young people reported incidents of 'friends' threatening to 'beat them up' if they didn't add them on Facebook.

### **The Areas For Improvement / Suggestions For The Future...**

- As highlighted above school codes need to be constantly reviewed and refreshed by the pupils.
- School policies could be split and tailored for their audience e.g. one for staff, one for parents and one for pupils.
- Information posters work best when designed by the young people themselves, however, regardless of their origin they need to be refreshed or their impact will be lost.
- More advice and information about Cyber-bullying for the younger pupils. It was argued that the older ones (Y9-10) receive more information through PSHE lessons and so education needs to be tailored to younger pupils as well.
- Explanations of the differences between Cyber-safety and Cyber-bullying need to be clearly explained to all pupils. Through knowing what Cyber-bullying is and by understanding how to stay safe using ICT a pupil is best placed to protect themselves and to be empowered to seek additional assistance.
- Although Facebook is banned in schools it would be of great benefit if lessons on internet security with specific regard to social networking sites were to be given to all children and young people regardless of age restrictions.
- It was suggested by the pupils that schools should do more to teach parents about Cyber-bullying, the pressures that come with increased

technologies and also support them to understand the influence and impacts of Facebook.

- The following methods were identified as being good to circulate information about Cyber-bullying: anti-bullying week, new and eye-catching posters, use of a flat screen, PSHE lessons, assemblies, form times, through the VLE and IT lessons.
- Pupils noted that teachers / school support staff need to monitor reported incidents of bullying long after it has been addressed as reporting bullying can sometimes make it worse. It was suggested teachers should 'follow up' meetings with those involved to make sure any problems remain 'sorted'.

## **7. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 7.1 During the course of this Review the Panel has spoken to officers from the Local Authority, representatives of Stockport Schools, local practitioners, experts from national organisations, individuals from a pioneering school and most importantly, children and young people from across the borough about the issues that are most important to them.
- 7.2 All members of the Review Panel and the Young Peoples Select Committee (YPSC) agree that Cyber-bullying is a growing problem for children and young people across Stockport. It is an issue not unique to the borough but nevertheless something that the Local Authority in partnership with Schools and supporting agencies has a duty to address. Cyber-bullying poses a different threat from the more 'traditional' forms of bullying and it is important that because of this it is given the special attentions it requires.
- 7.3 This Review presents a number of Recommendations which aim to target the strategies put in place to combat Cyber-bullying and other forms of bullying. The Recommendations aim to improve the options and support available to young people across the borough and the way this is communicated to both the young people and their parents. This Review recognises that by both building a supporting culture in school and robust governing structures out of school it may be possible to combat this new and dangerous form of bullying. These recommendations have been written jointly by Councillors and by members of the Young People's Select Committee, it is hoped the Council's Executive will agree that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. In the words of one member of the YPSC "to ignore bullying is to condone it"
- 7.4 The Review Recommendations are:

### **Recommendation 1**

#### **Schools must widen their Communication Strategy for staff, pupils, and parents.**

##### **This must include:**

- Schools making it clear to their young people the following; the definition of bullying, the key types of bullying (homophobic, faith based etc NB: this can happen through Cyber-bullying) who to tell in school, what is likely to happen to the bully, what type of support can be offered to the victim.
- Schools should display information prominently about national and local organisations who can help children with bullying. Schools should place this information in easily accessible places such as School Diaries, Screensavers, School Intranet, Flat Screens, Mouse Mats and Whiteboards.
- Schools should continually involve young people in refreshing the information highlighted above and in evaluating the 'school rules' concerning bullying to prevent posters / information becoming wallpaper and ignored. Schools need to consider how this process is done to ensure pupil engagement.
- Schools should update their current anti-bullying policies to very clearly highlight the issues of Cyber-bullying. Policies need to be written with an audience in mind and where necessary different versions need to be available e.g. one for parents, one for pupils and one for school staff / governors. The policies should be made available on the websites, and should be supported by the schools charter and parental newsletters.
- Schools should help make parents / pupils aware of the signs and symptoms of bullying and the consequences of bullying for the bully and ensure this is placed on their website etc
- Schools should expand the use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support the communication strategy. The VLE should also be used to house Cyber-bullying specific information to inform students. Where possible schools should explore the use of a parents portal where important information can be shared effectively with the home and the insertion of a report button to alert staff of bullying.

## **Recommendation 2**

**Schools should adopt a cross curricular approach and supplement the ICT curriculum to support the understanding young people have around Cyber-bullying.**

### **This must include:**

- Schools should plan a whole school supplementary teaching programme that will complement the cyber-safety messages within the ICT curriculum. (High Schools)
- Schools should plan whole school programmes of work that will prepare young people for dealing with Cyber-bullying, both understanding and preventing it. Prevention of Cyber-bullying is equally as important. (Primary especially Key Stage 2)
- Schools should consider using specific materials that have previously been unavailable in school due to the locked down systems to help young people arrange their security settings, becoming responsible users away from school.
- The Local Authority should review the locked down system for schools and should prepare and support schools to move from a locked down to a managed system.
- Schools need to be encouraged to use a safe and secure artificial chat environment to educate children and young people about Cyber-safety and its links to Cyber-bullying.

## **Recommendation 3**

**The Local Authority should consider adopting a Restorative Approach across the borough in an attempt to create a consistent response to incidents of bullying.**

### **Additions to this further consideration / research could include:**

- The Local Authority should continue to promote SEAL and Community CAMHS Jigsaw as a means of preparing schools for a Restorative Approach.
- The Local Authority and the Local Children's Safeguarding Board (LCSB) should develop a working partnership with Hull as an Authority which is pioneering Restorative Practices to explore a borough-wide approach in Stockport.

#### **Recommendation 4**

##### **Governance arrangements in relation to bullying must be strengthened.**

##### **This must include:**

- A Governor with responsibility for bullying should monitor the communication strategy, principally by looking at where information is displayed.
- The Curriculum Committee should review the anti-bullying supplements that have been produced for the curriculum
- The anti-bullying policy should be scrutinised and reviewed annually with the purpose of examining Cyber-bullying
- The Governors request of Headteachers (through their termly report) an update on any significant work that has been undertaken within this agenda. Headteachers could then report either individual incidents or if they wish more general preventative work that has been undertaken.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix One – Committee Membership**

#### **Scrutiny Committee Membership**

##### **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

Cllr Jenny Humphreys	(Chair )
Cllr Ann Smith	(Vice-Chair)
Cllr Ben Alexander	
Cllr Chris Baker	
Cllr Paul Bellis	
Cllr Owen Breen	(Until May 2010)
Cllr Colin Foster	
Cllr Anne Graham	(May 2010 - )
Cllr Susan Ingham	(Until May 2010)
Cllr Pam King	(Until May 2010)
Cllr Mags Kirkham	(May 2010 - )
Cllr Hazel Lees	(Until May 2010)
Cllr Anthony O'Neill	(Until February 2010)
Cllr Wendy Orrell	(May 2010 - )
Cllr Paul Porgess	
Cllr Iain Roberts	

Cllr Maureen Rowles (May 2010 - )  
Cllr Lisa Walker (May 2010 - )

Rev Alan Bell – Representative of the Church of England Diocesan Education Committee

Mr Mark Ratcliffe - Parent Governor  
Ms Maxine Baxandall- Parent Governor

### **Scrutiny Panel Membership**

Cllr Ann Smith (Chair)  
Cllr Anthony O'Neill  
Cllr Colin Foster  
Cllr Jenny Humphreys  
Cllr Pam King

### **Young People's Select Committee**

Christian Booth  
Hannah Booth  
Jack Campbell  
Leigh Davies  
Alice Elliot  
Rhiannon Evans  
Dom Firth  
Solomon Hamer  
Faye Hudson  
Rebecca Humphreys  
Jake Mairs  
Abigail Newton  
Kate Pickford  
Joseph Rowland Light  
Damson Tregaskis  
Ashley Whetter  
Emma Woodhead

### **Officer Project Team**

David Tomlinson – Scrutiny Officer / Project Manager  
Steve Worthington – Democratic Services Officer  
Lynn Perry – Children and Young People's Directorate  
Georgina Edye – Children and Young People's Directorate  
Ginny Williams – Policy Support Team  
Jane Edmondson – Policy Support Team

### **Appendix Two – Cyber-bullying Questionnaire**

## Children and Young People's Scrutiny Cyber-bullying Review 2009/10

Year group \_\_\_\_\_

Male or female \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the answer you wish to give**

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Do you use Facebook (or equivalent social networking site)? | Y or N |
| 2. Do you use MSN or any other Instant Messenger?              | Y or N |
| 3. Do you use a mobile phone that has access to the internet?  | Y or N |
| 4. Do you post images on-line?                                 | Y or N |
| 5. Do you ever blog?   | Y or N |

**Please answer the following questions. Use the comments section to record you thoughts.  
Use the final column to rate how well you think these things are dealt with in your school.**

Question	Comments	How effective was this in your school? 1 -----5 (not at all) (very)
6. Do you know of anyone who has been cyber-bullied in your school?		Not applicable
7. If someone has been Cyber-bullied in your school what happens to help them?		
8. If you were ever Cyber-bullied who would you tell?  (e.g. Parents/carers, teacher, other member of staff, friend, no-one)		Not applicable
9. What would your school do if they realised that one or more of the pupils/students were Cyber-bullying other people?		

Question	Comments	How effective was this in your school? 1 -----5 (not at all) (very)
10. Do you think that all the staff at your school are clear about what to do if there was an incident of bullying in school?		
11. Do all the staff in school react to an incident of Cyber-bullying in the same way?		
12. How would you report an incident of Cyber-bullying in your school?  (e.g. telling someone, using a worry box etc.)		
13. What does your school do to try and stop Cyber-bullying happening?		
14. Does your school have an anti-bullying charter?		Please circle  Yes    No    Don't Know
15. What does your school do to help new pupils/students settle into your school?		

**THANK YOU** for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Your answers are very important to us.

We will make sure that the information you have given us is treated sensitively and that your identity will never be made known. Please make sure that you have **NOT** written your name on the top of the questionnaire.

**COMMITTEE:** CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010

**REPORT OF:** ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY, AND DEMOCRACY)

**REPORT TITLE:** SCRUTINY REVIEW SELECTION PROCESS

---

1.0 **Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the relationship between the Business Improvement, Transformation and Efficiency (BITE) strategy and the scrutiny review process in the current municipal year alongside the arrangements for scoping of reviews identified under the BITE Strategy.

2.0 **Current position**

- 2.1 The BITE strategy was developed in order to ensure the viability of the Medium Term Financial Plan. The purpose of the BITE strategy is to ensure the delivery of efficiency savings and improvement in the next financial year and thereafter for the next 2/3 years. The intention is to achieve this through a mix of actions stemming from the Corporate Efficiency Plan, BITE interventions and the “normal” requirement for annual efficiency savings.
- 2.2 In pursuance of this, and following a value for money/benchmarking exercise across the whole of the Council’s operations, some 25 services have been put forward for a more in-depth exploration using the BITE approach to assess the scope for efficiencies and improvement within these targeted areas. This is essentially step 3 of a BITE intervention. It should be noted that apart from this major programme of BITE scoping exercises, it is expected that all other services will continue to contribute to efficiency savings in the normal way.
- 2.3 The services within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee which are included in the scoping exercise and the reason for their inclusion are as follows:

**Connexions** (Gross Budget £2.486m)

What’s in scope – To review the current policies and practices underpinning the delivery of Connexions, and its relationship to other relevant council functions, policies and practices with a view to identifying service efficiencies

**Disability Provision** (Gross Budget £1.349m)

What’s in scope – To review the policy and practice in relation to the provision of respite support for children, young people and their parents and carers.

**Looked After Children** (Gross Budget £13.606m)

What’s in scope – To review the current policy and practice in relation to external placements for looked after children.

**Special Education Needs** (Gross Budget £2.737m)

What’s in scope – currently under discussion, but understood to concern a review of the processes for accessing SEN support.

**School Improvement** (Gross Budget £3.140m)

What's in scope – currently under discussion, but understood to concern a review of service provision in light of expected government cuts in grant funding and options for ensuring the viability of continued service provision.

**Youth Service** (Gross Budget £5.535m)

What's in scope – currently under discussion, but understood to concern a review of service provision in light of expected government cuts in grant funding and options for ensuring the viability of continued service provision.

- 2.4 The scoping exercise during June and July will involve leaders of the relevant services, supported by members of the Business Improvement Team, Vanguard consultants or a mix of both gaining a more detailed understanding of how their 'system' is currently operating. The exercise will provide benefits for both the team and the organisation.
- 2.5 The scoping exercise will provide the teams with:
- a greater understanding of current performance from a service user perspective
  - an understanding of the scope for improvement
  - an appreciation of the costs associated with delivering the current system and the scope for reducing them
  - an informed choice about what the next course of action should be.
- 2.6 The whole scoping exercise will provide the council with:
- much greater clarity about where the efficiency savings will come from
  - which service areas should progress down the BITE systems intervention/systems thinking route
  - A programme re delivery of projects in year 1
  - A replicable approach for years 2 and 3
- 2.7 The outcomes of the scoping exercise – the anticipated efficiencies and how these might best be realised – will subsequently be reported to the Corporate Leadership Team to determine the programme of action and priorities for levering out efficiency savings. It is expected that some of these efficiency savings will require a policy decision on the part of the Council and therefore elected members will be kept closely informed of the progress.

**3.0 Scrutiny Review Process**

- 3.1 At the start of the municipal year, Scrutiny Committees identify suitable topics for scrutiny reviews during the course of the year, and other issues that they wish to include within their respective work programmes. The Committees have access to a range of information, including:
- Performance information
  - Issues identified by Area Committees (current issues identified by Area Committees are listed in Appendix 1)
  - An overview of key issues affecting directorates over the next 12/18 months supplied by Corporate Directors.

- 3.2 Last year scrutiny committees were engaged in a process to consider both the priorities of the Council for the next financial year and the medium term financial strategy. To help start planning for the significant challenges that face the Council the Executive requested Scrutiny Committees' views on what they considered should be priorities from 2011/12 onwards given the financial prospects, and also areas where efficiency savings and other cost reductions could be achieved. This took place in the autumn committee cycle. It was a process driven by scrutiny chairs and a final report was prepared that was then considered by the Executive. There were benefits from this process as well as some lessons learnt. The benefits largely focussed on an opportunity to engage members from all parties at an early stage in the financial planning and decision making re priority service areas. Any lessons regarding making sure robust business cases were prepared for members consideration can be incorporated into any further engagement with scrutiny committees in the same way.
- 3.3 This year, Scrutiny Committees also need to have regard to the Coalition Agreement published by the new government and issues within it relating to local government when seeking to identify review topics. Whilst detail is still emerging about how the financial savings required by local government are to be distributed across service areas, scrutiny committees will need to take account of the information announced to date to help inform their review selection. It will be important to ensure that scrutiny committees are kept up to date with the emerging picture for Local Government.
- 3.4 The BITE Strategy is a commitment of significant resources to deliver business improvement and efficiency across the council and to deal with the council's medium term financial strategy. Scrutiny reviews also absorb significant resources from the Policy & Performance team within the Chief Executive's Directorate, as well as within the service areas that are engaged with each scrutiny review.
- 3.5 In order to ensure the most efficient use of resources, it is important that any scrutiny reviews undertaken this year do not duplicate/cut across services that are undergoing systems thinking interventions. It is also possible that the scoping exercises that are to be undertaken shortly may identify issues that would merit scrutiny involvement in subsequent stages of the systems thinking route and the opportunity exists to engage scrutiny committees in the BITE Strategy work.
- 3.6 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 15 June agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Committees should meet with the relevant Corporate Director to consider the best way forward to identify scrutiny review topics having regard to the BITE strategy and the need to promote best value and efficiency. The outcomes of these meetings will be reported verbally at the Committee meeting.
- 3.7 Once the outcome of the scoping work being undertaken in June /July is known this will be reported to scrutiny committees to further help inform the identification of scrutiny reviews that will add value to improving service delivery across the council.

- 3.8 In relation to wider consultation with scrutiny committees on the priorities and medium term financial strategy, the scrutiny Co-ordination Committee supported a further process for the committees during the autumn cycle to consider any outcomes of the BITE programme including any further consideration of priorities. By this stage the Council should be operating in a climate of more information on the financial picture and this will no doubt require further consideration of our medium term financial strategy for 2011 onwards. The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee will again drive this process and collectively report back to the Executive. 202

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the process to be followed for identifying scrutiny review topics for the current municipal year and how scrutiny activity can align with any of the BITE service reviews..

#### **Further information**

To discuss this report or for further information please contact Steve Callender telephone number 0161 474 3184 or e-mail [steve.callender@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:steve.callender@stockport.gov.uk)

**Area Committee Suggested Review Topics**

The following issues were suggested as potential scrutiny review topics for this Scrutiny Committee by Area Committees:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Area Committee</b>
The role and function of the Youth Service	Heatons and Reddish
The management and performance of Children's Centres	Werneth



**RESUME OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 10 JUNE 2010****Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Democracy)****1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

To consider the proceedings of the last meeting of the Children's Trust Board on 10 June 2010.

**2. INFORMATION****2.1 The Trust Board considered the following items:-****Young Inspectors Programme**

*Caroline Gallogly, Communication & Engagement Manager, Children & Young People's Directorate, Stockport Council - 07891949065*

The Board considered a presentation on the Young Inspectors Programme by two Young Inspectors, which was a project funded by the National Children's Bureau to engage with hard to reach young people in inspecting local services to make recommendations for service improvements.

So far the Young Inspectors had visited three youth centres, the Children's Rights Service, Grand Central leisure centre, the Kooth Service and Connexions. There would be a follow-up review of these services after six months with an opportunity for the services to respond to the recommendations made by the Young Inspectors.

For those involved locally, there was a concern that the National Programme gave too great a focus on quantity, rather than quality without sufficient emphasis on the 'added value' that the Inspectors could provide. Local experience provided no evidence that payment for the young inspectors increased participation.

It was commented that although the national funding may not be available in future years there may be a role for the Young Inspectors to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement with Youth Parliament and other groups in decision making.

The Board agreed to consider that the findings of future Young Inspector Reviews into local services, and that further consideration be given to how the Young Inspectors Programme can be further utilised in the wider Children's Trust consultation and engagement processes.

**Matters Arising**

In relation to 'Performance Monitoring – Third Quarter Performance Report' it was reported that funding for the Social Care in Partnerships with Schools (SCIPS) Workers has been secured for the current financial year. A letter would shortly be sent to Head Teachers suggesting a process for establishing a buy-back service. Early consultation had provided positive feedback for the proposal.

### **Fourth Quarter Performance Report and Partnership Progress Update**

*Geraldine Gerrard (Head of Information, Performance & Business Transformation), Children & Young People's Directorate, Stockport Council - 474 3837*

The Board considered the 2009/10 fourth quarter performance report and the chairs of the tactical partnerships were invited to give a brief summary of performance pertaining to those indicators that had been allocated to them.

It was reported that future performance reports would seek to provide a more thematic structure linked to the more effective monitoring of the CYP Plan. Strong performance in respect of Foundation Stage in the Priority One Areas was highlighted, although for other indicators performance was variable.

It was further commented that a number of the targets may have appeared to be performing poorly (red) despite being in the upper half of statistical neighbours and considered nationally to be green. Some areas, like statutory education targets were forced into this position because of Department for Education rules on target setting.

The Board then discussed the future of the performance monitoring regime in light of the decision to abandon the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), but the need to continue to monitor statutory Performance Indicators. It was commented that although the CAA process would no longer be followed, it was important to continue to challenge all partners to improve outcomes and to monitor that progress against meaningful targets, particularly through the CYP Plan 'We Wills'.

It was further commented that performance and target setting for the Trust needed to take account of the developments with the Place Board, and the need to monitor activity in all the Priority One areas. In some cases, positive activity was being understated in performance monitoring.

It was suggested that in light of the changes to the national performance monitoring regime the tactical partnerships should identify the most important and meaningful performance measures upon which the success of the partnerships themselves could be judged, taking into account the CYP Plan 'We wills'; the 'must-win' activity that partners must do to achieve improved outcomes; the meaningfulness of the target, and the accuracy of the data being collected. The Board would then have the role of challenging partnerships on their choices and holding partners to account for performance.

### **14-19 Partnership**

It was reported there had been positive work around developing the apprenticeship programme, targeted particularly around 18 year olds from the NEET group, including the development of a more co-ordinated approach across Stockport providers through an Apprenticeship Association. The Chair commented that there was a move across the Stockport Partnership to encourage partners to either provide opportunities themselves or to encourage their suppliers to take on apprentices.

Members identified a number of potential risks including potential reductions in funding, particularly for post 18, the paucity of placements within the private sector and the likely reluctance on the part of employers to provide placements in a time of potential redundancies. It was also commented that the NEET classification itself often included

young people within it who would not be actively looking for work or training, such as young mothers and so caution should be exercised with the figures.

### **Health Partnership**

#### NI 70 – ‘Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people’

It was reported that there were ongoing issues with financing of equipment to help reduce preventable accidents. Unfortunately this was an area of activity where it was difficult to prove savings through increased investment, and cost could be prohibitive. It was suggested that there may be smaller areas of funding that could be accessed, but further analysis on the cost-benefit of this investment would be helpful.

#### NI 48: Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents

It was reported that performance on this target was currently red, due to two fatalities. Close monitoring of this indicator would take place to ensure this did not represent an increasing trend.

### **Integrated CIC Management Board**

It was reported on the recruitment of a new Board Member who was a specialist in emotion health, and it was hoped this would provide added impetus to the work to improve emotional wellbeing.

#### NI 64 - ‘Child Protection Plans lasting two years or more’

It was reported that Child Protection Plans lasting two years or more had been misreported as the timeframe for measuring the indicator had been miscalculated. This indicator had now gone to green.

### **Local Safeguarding Children Board**

It was reported that Mr David Mellor had recently been appointed the new independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

#### NI68 – ‘Percentage of referrals to children’s social care going on to initial assessment’

It was reported that following discussion at the Board about this indicator and the need to ensure the accuracy of judgements about referrals, the LSCB had responded and commissioned a piece of work to ensure that those children who are referred but did not go on to initial assessment were none the less receiving good service from partners through the various care pathways

### **YOT Management Board**

#### NI 19 – ‘Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders’

It was reported on success in reducing rates of offending, although the rate of decline was slower in priority areas and more focus would be provided to addressing this. Members reflected that there was a greater police presence in these areas which may

have the unintended consequence of increasing first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System and thereby exacerbating the problem and hampering performance, although fewer crimes would be going undetected.

The Board then discussed Restorative Justice as an approach to reducing reoffending for low level activity as experience in other areas, particular Cheshire, had shown its effectiveness in avoiding entry into the criminal justice system (CJS), which in turn prevented young people gaining criminal records and damaging their future life-chances, improving community cohesion and reducing costs.

It was reported that there was work already taking place within schools and Children's Homes, targeted at Priority One areas. It was commented that a number of projects often ceased when a young person reached 13, which meant that post-13 young people were potentially being avoidably criminalised.

Concern was raised about the validity of the comparison of statistics between the Priority One areas and other parts of the borough due to the disparate population groupings. Using a 'per head of population' statistic would be more valid.

The Chair stressed the importance of addressing youth justice across all of the Trust's activities to prevent the criminalisation of young people for minor incidences, particularly through Restorative Justice which was a more cost-effective and positive approach to tackling crime and disorder amongst young people.

The Board then agreed (1) that a report be submitted to the tactical partnerships inviting them to identify the key 'must-win' performance indicators for inclusion in the next CYP Plan, and that these be reported back to a future Board Meeting; (2) that a report be submitted on reporting mechanisms for the Priority One areas and the role of the Place Board, and (3) That a presentation be made to the next meeting on Restorative Justice/ Youth Justice and Criminality.

#### **Update On Statutory Co-Operative Guidance March 2010**

*Geraldine Gerrard (Head of Information, Performance & Business Transformation), Children & Young People's Directorate, Stockport Council - 474 3837*

The Board considered a report on the key elements of the recently published Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts from the Department for Education (formerly Department for Children, Schools and Families). From April 2010, the Children's Trust was now a statutory body and had responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of future Children and Young People's Plans.

The Board noted the report and agreed that the responsibility for co-ordinating the Annual Behaviour and Attendance Report be assigned to the Education Partnership.

The Board also agreed not to invite further representation from children and young people, parent or carers at this time in light of previous discussion about the appropriateness of engagement through the formal Board structure, but requested all partners to give consideration to ensuring regular engagement with these customers.

#### **Child Poverty Strategy**

*Viki Packman (Head of Integrated Prevention Services), Children & Young People's Directorate, Stockport Council - 474 5709*

The Board considered a report and a presentation on the development of the Child Poverty Strategy for Stockport. The Strategy was a statutory duty for local authorities, and had been developed to build on and dovetail into existing plans and the core provision of the Council and its partners. The commitment to reducing child poverty was likely to be strengthened as a result of a review commissioned by the Government and being lead by Frank Field MP.

The Child Poverty Act defined a child in relative poverty in the UK as one who lived in a household whose income was less than 60% of median household income for that area. In the case of Stockport the median household incomes was approximately £31,000 with a net income of £18,836, meaning 35% of households in Stockport were in relative poverty. Of these, most of were households where at least one parent is working, rather than through where both parents were workless.

The Strategy identified five broad priority areas:-

1. adopt a family centric focus in all that we do
2. increase financial inclusion and take up of benefits amongst families
3. improve access to sustainable and family friendly work for parents and carers
4. improve life chances today in order to prevent poverty tomorrow
5. provide children with safe and healthy places to live in which they can thrive

A further action plan would be developed for consideration by the Board in the autumn.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- The analysis provided appeared counterintuitive and belied the view of Stockport as a prosperous borough. The Priority One areas accounted for 1500 children, yet there were 28,000 children in relative poverty according to the analysis.
- The Stockport Partnership had suggested that the Strategy go further and commit to reducing absolute poverty.
- The Action Plan would seek to address some of the actual effects of inequalities rather than on abstract figures, such as those suggested by Wilkinson and Pickett in 'The Spirit Level'.
- It was important to address and prevent generational poverty, through targeted work at preconception and during pregnancy, which was being done through the PCT. Increasingly midwives were operating through the Children's Centres and thus providing access to a range of services to help mothers and their families.
- Educational achievement between Key Stage 3 and Level 2 qualifications was a key determining factor in family poverty, particularly in single parent households and research was due to be published soon that would hopefully help develop the Action Plan.
- Targeting the aspirations of young people was important, as well as developing 'soft skills' that would help them to make informed choices. The project working with year 9 girls from Brinnington to raise aspirations and self-esteem was an innovative approach to this problem.
- The professionals' use of the word 'poverty' would not necessary accord with the perception of the situation amongst the public and may hamper the aims of the Strategy. There had been some research by the Equalities Commission about how

the public themselves tended to think of poverty as being down to the faults of the individual rather than due to more systemic issues. 210

- Although the impetus of the Strategy was to tackle ‘child poverty’, the factors effecting this and the services involved in overcoming it were often on the periphery of the Children’s Trust. The issues involved were more around ‘family poverty’ and the scope beyond this Board. It would be more appropriate for the Stockport Partnership to take ownership of it and disseminate its priorities through its thematic partnerships.

The Board then endorsed the approach and content of the draft Child Poverty Strategy, subject to the comments made.

The Board also agreed that the Stockport Partnership should be informed that the Children’s Trust Board believed that because of the far reaching and cross cutting nature of the strategy and the issues associated with child poverty the responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the Child Poverty Strategy should rest with the Stockport Partnership as the local strategic partnership.

### **Children’s Trust Constitution**

*Jonathan Vali, Principal Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive’s Directorate, Stockport Council – 0161 474 3201*

The Board considered a revised constitution that had been amended to take account of the decision of the last meeting to amend the access to information provisions in respect of Board meetings, and in light of the provisions of the Statutory Guidance.

The Board agreed to amend the constitution as set out in the report, agreed that the quorum arrangements remain the same, and agreed to invite further representation from the Pennine NHS Foundation Trust and the Strategic Housing Service from the Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the resume be noted.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Reports and Minutes of the Children’s Trust Board – 10 June 2010

Children’s Trust Board documents can also be found on the web page at [www.stockport.gov.uk/childrenstrust](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/childrenstrust)

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Jonathan Vali on telephone number 0161 474 3201 or alternatively e-mail [jonathan.vali@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.vali@stockport.gov.uk)

**SCHOOLS FORUM**

Meeting: 21 January 2010  
 Held at: Stockport Academy 4.15 pm

**PRESENT****Members****Non School Members**

- |                 |   |                            |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Teachers' Panel | - | Dawn Strachan              |
| SMBC            | - | Councillor Jenny Humphreys |
| Virtual School  | - | Nick Higgins               |

**School Members**

- |                            |   |                      |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Primary Headteachers       | - | Cathy Lyall          |
|                            | - | Jon Roper            |
|                            | - | Mike Harding         |
|                            | - | Bernadette Singleton |
| Primary School Governors   | - | Gillian Stunell      |
| Secondary Heads            | - | Mike Gledhill        |
|                            | - | Charles Lowry        |
|                            | - | Evelyn Leslie        |
| Secondary School Governors | - | Paul Beatty          |
|                            | - | Ian Roberts          |
| VA Governors               | - | Susan Palmer         |
|                            | - | Rev Alan Bell        |
| Nursery School Head        | - | Joanne O'Raw         |
| Learning Support Service   | - | Martin Wakeling      |

**Observers**

- |              |   |                   |
|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Tim McCarthy | - | Stockport Academy |
|--------------|---|-------------------|

**Officers****Children & Young People's Directorate**

Andrew Webb  
 Donna Sager

Andy Simpkins

Business Services Directorate

Rachel Rosewell  
Reena Kohli

Chief Executive's Directorate

Steve Worthington

**1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Julie Eltrincham, Charles Nevin, Tropez Martin, Deborah Woods, Richard Bates and Mark Weldon.

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 8 December, 2009 were approved as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

(i) Early Years Funding Formula

It was reported that the Early Years Funding Formula was due to be implemented in April 2010. This had been initially delayed until April 2011, but Stockport had applied to be a 'Pathfinder Authority' which would commence in April 2010. Nursery Schools representatives expressed concerns in respect of the 'drastic changes' resulting from the Early Years Formula.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to Pathfinder Status for Stockport from April 2010.

(ii) School Meals Availability

In response to a Member's question, the Forum was informed that school meals for children aged between 3-4 years could be purchased providing that charges were reasonable.

**4. SEN PERSONALISATION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO FUNDING FORMULA**

The Corporate Director, Business Services and the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposed revisions to the SEN Personalisation allocation of Schools Funding Formula.

An element of the SEN personalisation Formula was driven by key Stage 3 data and as this data was no longer available, therefore an alternative driver

to this part of the formula required consideration. The report also demonstrated school level impact of the top-slicing of the SEN Personalisation by £840,000 as agreed by the Forum in December 2009. However, since that meeting, the figure had been reduced to £340,000 and the potential impact of changing the formula driver to teacher assessments was illustrated in Appendix 1 to the report. In addition, data on the impact of key stage 2 data was circulated at the meeting.

Several Members expressed concern at the proposals on the impact on individual schools and a number of questions were submitted on behalf of the Secondary Heads Consortium, together with a pre-prepared statement. In response to a question in respect of potential litigation if the needs of an SEN child were not met, the Forum was informed that the impact would rest with the school, but only if the advice of the local authority had not been followed. It was recognised that the clash of interests between the LEA and schools needed further clarification.

In response to further questions, the Forum was informed that Stockport Council's SEN funding was in excess of contemporary local authorities and it was recognised that meeting children's SEN needs wasn't always related to finance.

Regarding a question relating to monitoring of the budget and the prospect of a central recovery plan, it was recognised that the rate of growth of the SEN budget was causing concern during a time of decline and that there may be a need for the Authority to take a harder line on future funding.

RESOLVED - Nine for two against

(1) That the impact of top-slicing of 2010-11 budgets be noted and that the decision of the Forum made at its meeting held on 8 December 2010 (minute 4 refers) be re-affirmed.

(2) That £90,000 be top-sliced from the SEN/Personalisation element of the indicative Individual Schools Budget (ISB) in order to address the deficit from the current financial year. In addition a further deduction from the SEN/Personalisation element of the indicative ISB of up to £250,000 to be added to the SEN budget to address the projected deficit in 2010-2011.

(3) That the current statementing process and guiding principles be re-evaluated in order to identify a long term solution to the budget deficit.

(4) That Teacher assessment could be used as an alternative driver to the lowest third of attainers as per Key Stage data, however for 2010-11 budget, Schools Forum expressed the need to maintain the current formula drivers until the sub-group to the Schools Forum had reconvened.

(5) That a Schools Forum Sub-group be set up in the new financial year in order to consider the part of the formula which is driven by attainment data.

## **5. LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

The Corporate Director, Business Services and the Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing proposed revisions to the scheme for financing schools. The Forum was requested to provide responses to the consultation on Office On-line by mid-February. It was noted that primary schools would provide individual responses and that the Secondary Heads Consortia would provide a collective response.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **6. EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) requesting approval for funding of the educational support service for Looked After Children (LAC), now known as the Virtual School Team for LAC. The funding would come from the combined services element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which reflected historic funding practice in Stockport prior to the DSG being introduced.

RESOLVED – That the funding of the Virtual School Team for LAC be confirmed and signed off by the Schools Forum to be met through the combined services element of the DSG.

## **7. EARLY YEARS SINGLE FUNDING FORMULA**

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted.

## **8. LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICE IN THE SECONDARY PHASE**

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) proposing changes to the delivery and funding of the Learning Support Service in the Secondary Phase, to enable Stockport to offer a more targeted and equitable service. This would ensure high quality intervention to young people with learning difficulties, their families and schools in order to enhance performance.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to a detailed consultation phase with schools in order to take this proposal forward.

## **9. SCHOOL FORUM MEMBERSHIP**

The Corporate Director, Children & Young People submitted a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing current procedures for elections for membership to the Schools Forum and the need for an election as a result of the resignation of the Primary Governor none VA representative.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that clarification of the current Schools Forum membership be sent to all Members.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS****(1) DSG 2011/ 12**

The Committee was informed that there hadn't been a headroom allocation within the current budget. However, should any headroom allocation be identified it would be reported back to the Schools Forum as soon as possible.

**(2) Rachel Rosewell**

The Forum was informed that this would be Rachel's last meeting as she would be taking up a position at Manchester City Council. Members thanked Rachel for her excellent work and valuable contribution to the Schools Forum.

**11. TO NOTE THE DATE AND VENUE OF TWO NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 9 March at 4.15pm at the Stockport Academy.

Thursday 13 May at 4.15pm at the Stockport Academy.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.



**SCHOOLS FORUM**

Meeting: 13 May 2010  
 Held at: Stockport Academy: 4.15 pm

## PRESENT

**Members**Non School Members

- |                        |   |                            |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Teachers' Panel        | - | Dawn Strachan              |
| Stockport Council      | - | Councillor Jenny Humphreys |
| PVI Early Years Sector | - | Renee Dickens              |
| Stockport Academy      | - | Tim McCarthy               |

School Members

- |                              |   |                      |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Primary School Headteachers  | - | Cathy Lyall          |
|                              | - | Bernadette Singleton |
| Primary School Governors     | - | Reverend Alan Bell   |
|                              | - | Malcolm Graves       |
|                              | - | Charles Nevin        |
|                              | - | Gillian Stunell      |
| Secondary School Headteacher | - | Charles Lowry        |
| Secondary School Governors   | - | Ian Roberts          |
|                              | - | Susan Palmer         |
| Nursery School Headteacher   | - | Joanne O'Raw         |
| Nursery School Governor      | - | Tropez Martin        |
| Special School Governor      | - | Terry Conlon         |

Observers

Councillor Mark Weldon - Executive Councillor (Children & Young People)

Paula Thomas – Business Manager, Harrytown Catholic High School

Andy Holt –Relationship Manager for Schools, Business Services Directorate, Stockport Council

OfficersChildren & Young People's Directorate

Donna Sager  
Richard Bates

Business Services Directorate

Simon Finch  
Reena Kohli

Communities, Regeneration & Environment Directorate

Darren Pegram

Chief Executive's Directorate

David Clee

**1. WELCOMES/ INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed Malcolm Graves, who had recently been appointed as a Primary School Governor representative on the Forum, and Simon Finch, who had recently taken up the post of Strategic Accountant in the Business Services Directorate. He also welcomed Paula Thomas, Business Manager, Harrytown Catholic High School, and Andy Holt, Relationship Manager for Schools in the Business Services Directorate, who were attending the meeting as observers.

**2. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Paul Beatty, Patricia Goodstadt, Jon Roper, Mike Harding, Mike Gledhill, Deborah Woods and Andrew Webb.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 21 January, 2010 were approved as a correct record subject to the name of Deborah

Woods being recorded in the list of attendees as a Special School Headteacher.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

##### **Charging Policy for Additional Hours in Nursery Provision**

It was reported that it had been agreed that the base rate charge for additional hours in nursery provision would be the same irrespective of the status of the provider and a letter was to be sent to all schools to that effect.

#### **5. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) SUB-GROUP**

The Service Director (Strategy and Performance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) in connection with the meeting of the SEN Sub Group which had been held on 16 April 2010.

It was noted that the key messages identified in paragraph 2 of the report needed to be discussed at meetings of the Primary and Secondary Heads Consortia.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

#### **6. SCIPS – FEEDBACK FROM THE SECONDARY HEADS CONSORTIUM**

The Chair reported that there were currently six SCIPs workers employed in schools, but that there was only funding for three to continue. A bid had been made to the Children's Trust to cover the shortfall of approximately £100,000.

It was reported that the Secondary Heads Consortium had considered funding for one year on a cluster basis, funding to be drawn down by primary and secondary schools in that cluster on a 'buy back' basis.

Further discussions and consultations would take place to see if any additional funding could be put towards the employment of the SCIPs workers.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

#### **7. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES (DCSF) SCHOOL FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) CONSULTATIONS**

A representative of the Corporate Director, Business Services submitted a report of the Corporate Director, Business Services and the Corporate Director, Children and Young People (copies of which had been circulated) outlining announcements from the DCSF, released on 15 March 2010, which covered schools funding to 2013 as follows:-

- Investing for the future: protecting the front line: school funding 2010-13;
- Consultation on the future distribution of school funding;

- Guidance for local authorities on managing surplus school balances.

Responses to the future distribution of school funding were required by 7 June 2010.

The Service Director (Strategy and Performance) proposed holding a one day workshop on efficiency and value for money working in schools.

RESOLVED – (1) That the announcements on schools funding 2010-13 be noted.

(2) That a one day workshop be arranged for all schools on efficiency and value for money working.

(3) That a working group comprising Charles Lowry, Gillian Stunell and Ian Roberts meet to consider the Forum's response to the implications of the consultation proposals and an e mail inviting comments on the Forum's proposed response be sent all members of the Forum. (Cathy Lyall and Joanne O'Raw to forward any comments particular to the primary and nursery sectors by e mail).

## **8. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT**

Representatives of the Corporate Director, Business Services and the Corporate Director, Communities, Regeneration and Environment submitted a report of the Corporate Director, Business Services and the Corporate Director, Children and Young People (copies of which had been circulated) relating to potential changes to the Schools Finance Regulations (England) in 2011/12 which would affect the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget from 2011/12. There would be a pressure on the 2011/12 DSG budget as a result of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Trading Scheme.

RESOLVED – That the potential implications of the Carbon Reduction Commitment be noted.

## **9. DRAFT FORWARD PLAN AND ROLE OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM**

The Service Director (Strategy and Performance) submitted a joint report of the Corporate Directors, Business Services and Children & Young People (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the reports to be presented to the Forum during 2010/11, and the roles and responsibilities of the Forum.

The issue of the greater representation of primary schools on the Forum compared to secondary schools was raised.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the Service Director (Strategy and Performance) be requested to look at the balance between the representation of the different sectors on the Forum, and a report be submitted to the next meeting.

(3) That Lynn Merilion, Principal of Stockport College, be invited to fill the vacancy for the 14-19 Sector on the Forum.

## **10. ELECTRONIC INCOME COLLECTION FOR SCHOOLS IN STOCKPORT**

The Service Director (Strategy and Performance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) setting out the business case for Stockport to procure a system which would enable parents and carers to pay online for school meals and school services using credit and debit cards, and seeking the views of the Forum in taking the proposal forward.

Members of the Forum generally felt that further work should be carried out in relation to the proposal, including a comparison of the cost of not procuring the system.

RESOLVED – (1) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Forum containing further information on the proposal, including the comparative cost of not procuring the system.

(2) That discussions take place with the Business Managers of schools with regard to their views on procuring the system.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Early Retirement Costs**

The Chair reported on the funding available to support the one-off early retirement of teachers and the process undertaken to ensure the affect on the curriculum was minimised.

RESOLVED – That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

### **(b) Susan Palmer and Reena Kohli**

The Chair advised the meeting that this would be the last meeting of the Forum which would be attended by Susan Palmer and Reena Kohli. Susan had resigned from her position as voluntary aided secondary school governor on the Forum, and Reena was leaving her post in the Accountancy Section of Stockport Council to take up a new post with Manchester City Council. On behalf of the Forum, the Chair thanked them for their work and contributions, and wished them well for the future.

## **12. DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED – That future meetings of the Forum be held at 4.15pm at Stockport Academy on the following dates:-

- Tuesday 22 June 2010
- Thursday 21 October 2010
- Tuesday 18 January 2011
- Tuesday 15 March 2011.

The meeting closed at 5.58 pm.

g:\Minutes 2010\Schools Forum – May 2010

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**COMMITTEE:** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010

**REPORT OF:** ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY AND DEMOCRACY)

**REPORT TITLE:** AGENDA PLANNING

**1) PLANNED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS**

(Committee Members are asked to note that agenda items are indicative at this stage and will be subject to change and added to following this meeting)

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010**

Item	Type/Purpose
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Corporate Performance Report	Monitoring Report
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Monitoring Report	Monitoring Report
Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report	Monitoring Report
Accident Prevention and Accident Statistics.	Report Request
St Joseph's School Amalgamation Report	Consultation / Information Report

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Item	Type/Purpose
Children's Trust Report	Monitoring Report
Children and Young People's Plan - Refresh	Consultation Report

**RELEVANT ENTRIES IN JULY 2010 FORWARD PLAN**

There are no relevant entries in the July 2010 Forward Plan regarding the remit of this Scrutiny Committee

