

STRATEGIC PLAN Priority 1 - Supporting safe and thriving communities

Key Indicators						
Outcome	Indicator	National	Target	Latest	Previous	Good is
1.1	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for those adopted children (days) (Q2)	593	Better than 2012-15 National	363	421	Low
1.1	Percentage of those children remaining in long-term placements (Q2)	68%	Higher than national	76.8%	76.4%	High
1.1	Percentage of adult safeguarding service users who were asked what outcomes they wanted (M Sep 2016)	N/A	75%	68%	69%	High
1.1	Percentage of adult safeguarding service users who were satisfied that their outcomes were achieved (M Sep 2016)	N/A	95.0%	92%	94%	High
1.2	All recorded crime (M Sep 2016)	N/A	40,873	41,767	41,253	Low
1.3	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions (Annual 2016/17)	N/A	393	-	320	Low
1.4	Number of tailored interventions to protect vulnerable residents based on the risk, threat and harm to the individual (Q2)	N/A	250	141	63	High

Key Actions and Milestones	
Outcome	Milestone
1.1	To embed fully the Child & Family Assessment process, and review it
Progress	The child and family assessment process was introduced earlier in the year and has been kept under review. The early indicators from this period remain positive as to be expected with any new process, changes are made as necessary to ensure the process if embedded successfully
1.1	To implement the Looked After Children & Care Leavers Strategy's annual action plans
Progress	Implementation of the Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy Annual Action Plan 2016-17 commenced in April 2016. Progress on the annual action plan is monitored by the Looked After Children & Care Leavers Strategy Group and the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. Progress for quarter 2 is scheduled to be reported to the committee on 12 December.
1.1	To strengthen preventative and early identification strategies so that children & young people at risk of emerging threats are protected and supported
Progress	In July 2016 the Children's Society were commissioned to provide a specialist Child Sexual Exploitation service and therapeutic Child Sexual Abuse service across Nottinghamshire. The key areas of work within the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children (TETC) programme continue to be developed and implemented, including the establishment of a TETC Universal Team within the Support to Schools Service. Development Workers have also been deployed in the Early Help Unit to support schools where concerns about children and young people arise.
1.1	To implement the Children's Social Care Recruitment and Retention Plan (2016-18)
Progress	A Children's Social Care Recruitment & Retention Plan has been adopted which includes the introduction of a Market Factor Supplement for staff in the frontline child protection teams from 1 April. The Social Work Support Officer (SWSO) programme has also been extended until 31 March 2017, including a roll-out to the remaining District Child Protection Teams, the Fostering Service and the Court Service. A programme of rolling recruitment is ongoing and performance continues to be closely monitored.
1.2	Develop effective partnerships between Public Health, Trading Standards, Community Safety and Social Care to continue to develop new ways to address issues threatening the safety of vulnerable people.
Progress	The Safer Notts Board Champion for Vulnerable People has secured partnership funding to second a second Social Worker into the Community Safety team from October 16. The social worker will assist the the Vulnerable Person Panels (VPP) in the South of the County with a number of complex cases with a mental health dimension as part of work to improve the way VPPs manage such cases in future.
1.3	Implement and monitor the Annual Road Safety Plan for 2016/17.
Progress	The 55 actions in the Road Safety 'Decade of Action' plan which were reviewed in May 2016: 52 actions are on target or completed with 2 actions cancelled and 1 action postponed which are listed below: - Drivers - In Car Safety - Mobile Phones - This action is currently under review and is under consideration for an appropriate campaign to be run in in 2017. Discussions have been held with the police about the potential to bring this forward to link to a campaign week in November if funding can be secured. - Drivers - Training Scheme for additional Road Safety Education (RSE) to be included in driving lessons in Bassetlaw area cancelled due to Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) funding withdrawal (2015) - Adults Pedestrians - Campaign postponed
1.4	Increase and improve work with agencies and organisations to protect residents from frauds, scams and other crimes by building on partnerships with police and social care.
Progress	Recruitment processes have been completed for a temporary Community Care Officer and a temporary Trading Standards Officer to provide additional capacity to tackle mass marketing scams prevention work. The officers will conduct interventions with lists of identified multiple scams victims provided by the National Scams Hub and undertake awareness raising work at Royal Mail sorting offices in the County to identify further potential scam victims from the volume of mail received.

Summary
<p>The Council continue to put in place measures which contribute towards effective protection and support for vulnerable adults and children. For example, development work has continued within the Tackling Emerging Threats to Children programme and the Children's Society has been commissioned to provide specialist support across Nottinghamshire. There has also been funding secured for the secondment of a second social worker within the Community Safety team to assist the Vulnerable Person Panels in the south of the County and the management of complex mental health dimension cases.</p> <p>Analysis of data collected during the period indicates a positive contribution towards protecting and supporting vulnerable people, with strong improvement in adoption timescales, an improvement in stability of children in long term placements and an increase in the number of tailored interventions to protect vulnerable residents. Within adult safeguarding, the percentage of service users who have been asked their outcomes has increased since 2015, highlighting the contribution of work taking place to make safeguarding personal. However it is currently below the target set for 2016.17.</p> <p>Partnership work is taking place to help to make Nottinghamshire a fair and safe place to do business with funding secured for a temporary Community Care Officer and a temporary Trading Standards Officer to carry out early intervention work with social care colleagues to identify potential scam victims.</p> <p>Pressures and Challenges: There are pressures which are currently being managed but could impact upon the timescales of some of the work being carried out by the Council. For example managing the demand on resources arising from historic abuse cases whilst continuing to provide high quality services to today's vulnerable children and young people, in the context of increasing demand on services.</p> <p>There is also the challenge to continue to reduce the reliance on agency social work staff, particularly in frontline child protection teams, and to maintain a focus on improving outcomes for our Looked After Children and Care Leavers.</p> <p>For the adults safeguarding measure for the percentage of service users' asked for outcomes, it should be recognised that in practice there can be a number of reasons which are out of the control of the council that can prevent the service user being asked. These include the service user refusing to engage in the process or not having the capacity to express what their desired outcomes are.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN Priority 2 - Protecting the environment

Key Indicators						
Outcome	Indicator	National	Target	Latest	Previous	Good is
2.1	Number of visitors to Country Parks (Rufford and Sherwood) (Q2)	N/A	765,000	421,268	191,811	High
2.2	Percentage of household waste reused, recycled or composted (Q1)	N/A	44.0%	42.70%	43.00%	High
2.2	Percentage of Local Authority Municipal Waste Land filled (Q1)	N/A	15.00%	7.40%	8.40%	Low
2.2	Number of volunteer hours for natural and historic environment projects (2016/17)	N/A	5,608	-	5,608	High
2.3	Change in weather corrected carbon emissions from energy use in Council buildings (Annual 2016/17)	N/A	67,457	-	64,233	Low

Key Actions and Milestones	
Outcome	Milestone
2.1	Transition of Sherwood Forest Country Park to management by the RSPB
Progress	During the period the County Council prepared a planning application for the Country Park for submission to Newark & Sherwood District Council in October 2016. It is anticipated that a decision will be made during December 2016 and subject to the granting of planning permission, the RSPB are expected to commence preparatory works early in 2017.
2.1	Secure a partner for the commercial operation at Rufford Abbey Country Park so that the site can operate with reduced Council subsidy
Progress	The Council is seeking to achieve a long-term, sustainable future for Rufford Abbey Country Park to conserve (protect and enhance) the heritage of the historic abbey buildings and the surrounding parkland and to develop a modern and attractive visitor offer. Preparatory work was completed during the quarter to enable the Council to appoint a preferred partner to operate and manage the commercial operations and visitor offer at Rufford Abbey Country Park at Culture Committee on 1 November 2016.
2.1	Develop a number of programmes at a landscape scale to benefit biodiversity, heritage, local people and the economy, working closely with the Local Nature Partnership and other partnerships and partners.
Progress	The development stage of Miner to Major, a landscape partnership scheme for Sherwood Forest, is currently underway with a view to submitting the stage 2 application to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in February 2017, following the mid-term review with HLF in September. NCC is the lead partner and accountable body for this project which, if successful, will unlock more than £3m of investment.
2.2	Reduce reliance on landfill by utilising the Eastcroft Energy and Sheffield Energy Recovery Facility and moving waste up the waste hierarchy (minimise, reuse, recycle and energy recovery)
Progress	The Council has made significant utilisation of the Eastcroft Energy Facility as a result of improved availability at the site. The use of the new Newark and Worksop Transfer Stations is ensuring full utilisation of available capacity at the Sheffield Energy Recovery facility. Construction on the Welshcroft Close transfer station, which will handle waste from Ashfield and Mansfield is due to be completed in March 2017 and this will provide a long term delivery point for ensuring that landfill diversion is maximised. Actions are now agreed to improve recycling performance at District Council level in 2016/17, with improved garden waste collection schemes in Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood, and Bassetlaw intending to introduce their new garden waste collection scheme from April 2017.
2.5	Support bus quality partnerships including the Mansfield and Beeston Statutory Quality Bus Partnership, and introduce Voluntary Quality Bus Partnerships (VQBP) for Worksop.
Progress	The Greater Nottinghamshire Bus Integration Partnership (GNBIP) and North Notts Bus Quality Partnership (NNBQP) continue to meet on a six monthly basis as they seek to deliver public transport improvements across the County. The developed schemes (Mansfield and Beeston Statutory Quality Partnerships and Worksop Voluntary Quality Partnership) continue to be monitored and are performing very well. The GNBIP and NNBQP are the over-arching partnerships within which these specific schemes sit.

Summary
<p>A positive impact has been made towards helping to protect the environment through the increased use of Eastcroft and Sheffield Energy Recovery Facilities and reductions in waste sent to landfill. Also, residual waste from Ashfield and Mansfield is being sent for Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) production. However this alone does not demonstrate the whole picture for achieving this outcome, as household waste recycling levels are below target following the removal of statutory targets for district councils, and the impact of national initiatives such as greater use of light-weighting of recyclable materials and the transition from printed media to digital media. The Council is working to incentivise district councils to introduce or improve kerbside green waste collections to help achieve the target in the future.</p>
<p>NCC continues to carry out actions to help protect the countryside such as the work to appoint a preferred partner to operate and manage the commercial operations and visitor offers at Rufford Abbey Country Park. This project is focused upon achieving a long-term, sustainable future for Rufford Abbey Country Park, in order to conserve (protect and enhance) the heritage of the historic abbey buildings and the surrounding parkland and to develop a modern and attractive visitor offer.</p>
<p>Pressures and Challenges: There are a number of external factors which create challenges and impact upon the ability of the Council to help to protect the environment. This is mainly a result of budgetary restrictions placed on projects and the impact of economic activity.</p>
<p>For example In the current financial climate, traditional sources of match funding for major projects such as Landfill Tax and European funding streams are becoming increasingly restricted. This presents difficulties for both the project partners and the major grant giving bodies such as Heritage Lottery Fund.</p>
<p>In addition, increased economic activity is driving significant waste growth and adding to more costs however waste is treated even if it is recycled. This causes direct budgetary pressures and potential for further increases in inflation. Reducing budgets and drive to charge for services where possible.</p>
<p>Also, the changes in policy steer and removal of statutory targets at a national level, along with the possible impact of Brexit, create a challenge, as most waste legislation is driven by the EU. Improving consistency in policies cross border may help Recycling Centre management.</p>

Key Indicators						
Outcome	Indicator	National	Target	Latest	Previous	Good is
3.1	Number of development schemes brought forward by the County Council and partners that are prioritised in future Growth Plans (2016/17)	N/A	3	-	4	High
3.3	Total number of premises passed by a fibre-based broadband infrastructure (Q2)	N/A	7,856	6,349	3,587	High
3.5	Percentage of young people aged 16-17 not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Q1)	N/A	2.0%	1.6%	1.2% (Q1 2015/16)	Low
3.5	Number of young people taking up apprenticeships through the Council's investment in youth employment (Q2)	N/A	16	0	0	High

Key Actions and Milestones	
Outcome	Milestone
3.1	Support Nottinghamshire projects to access capital investment through the D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan, Growing Places Fund, Regional Growth Fund and the Nottinghamshire Investment Fund
Progress	Three employment sites, one at Harrier Park, Hucknall and the two Nottingham Employment Zone (EZ) sites at Boots and Beeston Business Park continue to be directly supported by the Council or indirectly through D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) related routes, be it via their status as EZ sites and/or via Growing Places Fund/Growth Deal funding. A number of Nottinghamshire based proposals have been included within the Local Growth Fund Round 3 (LGF3) submission to Government, seeking capital support via a Growth Deal.
3.3	Deliver phase 1 of the Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire programme Contract 2
Progress	The Better Broadband for Nottinghamshire Programme is currently in Phase 1d of delivery. 7,856 additional premises are expected to be passed by fibre based broadband infrastructure by the end of 2016-17. The roll-out is proceeding as scheduled with 2,688 homes passed during quarter 2 against this annual target.
3.3	Deliver the Hucknall improvement scheme to regenerate the town centre
Progress	Work on the scheme started in October 2015 with the demolition phase completed prior to Christmas 2015. The construction of the new road began in January 2016 and has continued during the quarter. The road is scheduled to open to traffic on Monday 28th November 2016 with the pedestrianisation of High Street to be completed in May 2017.
3.3	Work with Via East Midlands to ensure Service Level Agreement (SLAs) are met to ensure an effective and efficient highway services are delivered
Progress	A governance structure for the contract with Via East Midlands has been developed and is now in place: - The Term Operational Board - the body which oversees the Via contract - meets monthly. - The Health and Safety subgroup has been formed. - A number of key processes have been established and are underway including the completion of the risk register, insurance protocol and invoicing arrangements. - Via have nominated their representative who will be responsible for the day to day communications with the County Council's Service Manager. - Via are in the process of producing a series of Method Statements which will codify how its services are to be delivered. - A Contract Management Team has been established to ensure Via adheres to its contractual obligations, this team will review the quality and cost effectiveness of the Services and Works undertaken by Via on behalf of the County Council. - The retained Client has undertaken the recruitment of a number of 'Compliance Officers' who will ensure that Via complies with its Statutory obligations.
3.4	We continue to pay all central employed staff the Living Wage Foundation rate as a minimum which will also apply to new employees.
Progress	As part of its commitment to fair pay and modelling this as good practice to other employers in Nottinghamshire, the Council adopted the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage rate and implemented this for its lowest paid frontline employees from 1st April 2014. The current national Living Wage Foundation increase to £8.25p an hour is due for implementation in November 2016.
3.5	Work with employers as part of the Economic Development Strategy to promote the benefits of apprenticeships, to promote the take-up of apprenticeships and maximise the opportunities of the apprenticeship levy.
Progress	Marketing activities have taken place to engage employers for the craft Academy project, which starts targeting by the end of December 2016. A further 27 apprenticeship places will be recruited to and be supported by the Say YES to an Apprentice Grant project, following identification of unspent grants due to early leavers from the programme.

Summary
<p>The Council continue to contribute towards helping to minimise the barriers to growth by improving countywide infrastructure, such as the provision of broadband which is currently well on track to meet the year-end target of 7,856 premises passed by fibre-based broadband infrastructure.</p> <p>There has also been a focus on providing training and apprenticeship opportunities for the local workforce. This has been through marketing activities that have taken place during the quarter which have promoted projects aimed at engaging employers to offer apprenticeships. It is expected places will be recruited to by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Key Pressures and Challenges: There are a number of external factors which may have an influence upon NCC ability to stimulate economic growth. The third quarter of 2016/17 will see the Government's decision concerning the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund and Growth Deal submission, anticipated at or around the time of the Autumn Statement on 23 November 2016. Resources from the D2N2 LEP's Growing Places Fund remain available and it is being actively promoted across the LEP area. During this quarter the Council's Economic Development Capital Fund was opened for further investments in Nottinghamshire businesses; the third quarter of 2016/17 will see the awards being made. This fund contains European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) projects, and there has been a period of uncertainty as a consequence of the outcome of the EU Referendum, with clarifications anticipated in the build up to the Autumn Statement,</p> <p>Works on High Street, Hucknall require close liaison with the local traders to ensure continued access to shops. This will be managed through existing ongoing site liaison arrangements. Dependent on its severity, poor winter weather may also prove a challenge should it occur for a sustained period of time.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN Priority 4 - Providing care and promoting health

Key Indicators						
Outcome	Indicator	National	Target	Latest	Previous	Good is
4.2	The number of older adults currently in long term residential and nursing care (M Sep 2016)	not yet available	2,275	2,395	2,406	Low
4.2	The number of younger adults currently supported in long term residential and nursing care (M Sep 2016)	not yet available	650	651	652	Low
4.4	The rate of delayed transfers of care from hospital, and those which are attributable to adult social care and those which are attributable to social care and the NHS jointly (M Aug 2016)	not yet available	2	1.63	1.80	Low
4.4	The proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services (Q2)	not yet available	91.2%	86.0%	80.6%*	High
4.5	Percentage of identified Health and Wellbeing Board partners that have tobacco declaration action plans agreed and in place (Q2)	N/A	100%	73%	73%	High

Key Actions and Milestones	
Outcome	Milestone
4.1	We will support the development of new Extra Care Housing and Supported Living Services for older and disabled adults
Progress	<p>During quarter 2, construction started on the development of two new Extra Care schemes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowbridge Road Extra Care Scheme in Newark is being developed in partnership with Newark & Sherwood District Council and Newark & Sherwood Homes. This new scheme is set to open in early 2018, providing 60 new homes for older adults, of which 40 will be used by the County Council to provide older adults with an alternative to residential care. • Townview Extra Care scheme in Mansfield is being developed in partnership with Mansfield District Council. This new scheme is set to open in early 2018, providing 42 new homes for older adults, of which 10 will be used by the County Council to provide older adults with an alternative to residential care.
4.4	We will develop and implement a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) which will set out how we intend to secure delivery of the vision for health and social care services across Nottinghamshire including Nottingham City
Progress	<p>Following the June 30 submission and the panel feedback from leaders of the national bodies, work is underway to address the priority areas for action for our STP submission by 21 October. A number of workstreams are being established to consider how we might take forward proposed activities set out in the draft plan. Each area has a key individual sponsor and a senior responsible officer (SRO). Following submission of the revised draft STP, we intend to publish a public-facing summary to help further the dialogue with public and patients.</p>
4.4	We will ensure that all partners have signed the tobacco declaration for Nottinghamshire and have action plans to achieve their organisational and Health & Wellbeing Board aspirations with regards to Tobacco Control
Progress	<p>In quarter two we have focussed on preparation for wider work that is due to start in October with the Strategic Tobacco Alliance Group. This work will involve establishing Tobacco Declaration Working Groups that will take this work forward with partners.</p>

Summary

The key indicator for quarter 2 shows that improvement has continued, with work contributing towards enabling people to live independently and reducing the number of people in long term residential care. For example construction has now started on the development of two new Extra Care schemes, one in Newark & Sherwood district and the other in Mansfield district. When completed in 2018, these will offer 50 homes across the two schemes which will be used by the authority to provide older adults with an alternative to residential care.

Partnership work is taking place which is focused on targeted interventions to help to improve public health and well-being. For example there has been a focus in quarter 2 by the Strategic Tobacco Alliance Group on the preparation of establishing working groups with partners to take forward the aspirations of the Health & Wellbeing Board regarding tobacco control.

Key Pressures and Challenges: It needs to be highlighted that there are currently external factors which could influence public's perception of the STP. This is because there has been much media commentary as well as debates in Parliament in recent weeks over the supposed 'secrecy' associated with the development of nationwide STPs. Critics claim that plans across the country are being developed 'behind closed doors' and that citizen involvement is lacking.

Here in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire we have been keen to get on the front foot and build a dialogue with staff, partners, other sectors, with the local community, and with the media. We know that our draft proposals will only work if they are forged from the views of staff and local people.

The STP website is being built by Nottinghamshire County Council's digital team and will host newsletters and other material. We have met as many media requests as possible, with the Council's Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health and Public Protection providing interviews for BBC radio 4 and participating in national debates such as the recent NHS Expo panel of experts lined up by the Health Service Journal.

* Methodology for calculating this measure changed in April 2016

STRATEGIC PLAN Priority 5 - Investing in our future

Key Indicators						
Outcome	Indicator	National	Target	Latest	Previous	Good is
5.1	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (KS2) (2016p)	53.0%		53.3%	New Measure	High
5.1	Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C in English and Maths at GCSE (KS4) (2016p)	62.6%	Higher than national average	65.6%	59.7%	High
5.1	Attainment 8 average score (KS4) (2016p)	49.8		50.6	47.8	High
5.1	The average point score per entry (KS5 - including colleges) (2016p)	32.23	Narrow the gap with National Average	30.23	New Measure	High
5.2	FSM6 Attainment gap at age 11 for pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (KS2) (2016p)	New Measure	Gap narrowed compared to 2014/15	-	New Measure	Low
5.2	FSM6 Gap for pupils achieving A*-C in English and maths at GCSE (KS4) (2016p)	26.8%		30.4%	29.4%	Low
5.4	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 per 100k (Q2 cumulative)	N/A	Lower than 2015-16	147	71	Low
5.5	Uptake of early education places for eligible 2 year olds (Summer Term 2016)	N/A	Higher than stat. n'bour average	70.7%	63.8%	High

* FSM6 - free school meals at any point in the past 6 years

Key Actions and Milestones	
Outcome	Milestone
5.1	To develop effective working relationships with key partners to further raise standards of attainment and improve progress of all children and young people in Nottinghamshire Provisional data for 2016 indicates a significant improvement in attainment levels. At KS2, 53.3% of Nottinghamshire pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, compared to 53% nationally. The percentage of pupils achieving A*-C in both English and maths in Nottinghamshire secondary schools at the end of year 11 (KS4) was 65.6%. This represents an increase of 5.9% in comparison with 2015. Nationally, 62.6% of state funded schools achieved this measure, an improvement of 3.4%. Nottinghamshire is now placed 40th out of 151 Local Authorities for this measure.
5.2	To implement the Closing the Gap Strategy with an enhanced focus on addressing the East Midlands Challenge to improve the attainment and progress for vulnerable learners An extensive programme of CtG focused activities and collaborations is underway in 2016/17 to develop a cohesive offer to secure readiness for learning for vulnerable groups as identified in the East Midlands Challenge. Provisional data indicates a narrowing of the attainment gap at Early Years between FSM children and the rest. According to provisional data for KS4, 42.2% of FSM6 achieved A*-C grades in Eng & maths (a 5.1 % improvement on 2015). 72.6% of Non FSM6 achieved this combined measure (6.1% improvement on 2015). As a result gap in Nottinghamshire widened by 1 percentage point.
5.3	To use place planning analysis and early years' data, to secure funding (basic need and section 106) to ensure there are sufficient school and early year places across the county Since 2012/13, NCC has secured and spent capital funding of over £72 million and created 5,500 primary places and over 200 secondary places. 1700 of these primary places are available for September 2016, and include 250 new reception places. For the next round of basic needs allocations, NCC has secured £20.45 million for the financial year 2018/19. Six capital bids have been submitted to DfE to create 330 extra early years places for eligible 3 and 4 year olds, each worth £1m, thus removing pressure on places for 2 year olds. The decision for these bids should be known before the end of 2016.
5.4	To improve the standards of assessment and planning for families across early help services The Child and Family Assessment Tool has been implemented which is aligned with assessments being used in Children's Social Care. The Family Service's quality management framework demonstrates a consistent level of quality across the assessment audited.
5.4	To support the development of Family Support Workers in all publicly funded school settings Regular workshops now run in each locality for school based workers to network, gains skills and to provide mutual support. These sessions are professionally led. Online child development training, developed with Nottingham University, will also be available to all staff in schools by the autumn half term.
5.4	To deliver a sustainable model to reduce offending by young people The funding and provision model for the Youth Justice Service has been fully reviewed and a new model agreed. It is now being implemented and will include integrated management with wider Family Services.
5.5	To improve access to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) The single point of access within CAMHS has been embedded, supported by the new Primary Mental Health Function which provides training, case consultation and advice to GPs, schools and school nurses. Work is underway to improve information provided to children, young people, families and referrers about CAMHS. This will include both written and web-based information. Waiting times have begun to improve for CAMHS access; this will continue to be monitored on a monthly basis.
5.5	To reduce the number of children and young people with an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan at risk of being without a school place The Integrated Children Disability Service lead for both EOTAS and VCEC children and young people with an EHC Plan is monitoring placements at risk and those children and young people who are not on a school roll. Working with the appropriate colleagues including special school head teachers to embed a robust place planning system which will allow us to forecast future placement needs. This work will be reflected in the Local Area SEND Strategic Action Plan which is currently being developed.

Summary

There have been a number of updates to education outcomes since last quarter. For the new more demanding key stage 2 assessments, provisional data in combined reading, writing and maths shows the LA is broadly in line with the national average. There has also been positive increases in headline measures at key stage 4 with A*-C grades in English and maths increasing by nearly double that witnessed nationally, demonstrating significant progress in working towards the outcome of children and young people attaining higher educational standards. However, the gap between pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years has widened, thus impacting upon the attainment gap in education. First time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system per 100,000 10-17 population has witnessed a fall from 171 reported in quarter 2 this time last year to 147 this year.

Key Pressures and Challenges: There are a number of key pressures and challenges which may impact upon the support schools are able to provide to vulnerable groups. For example the pressures on school budgets may increasingly impact on schools' ability to enhance provision particularly for vulnerable groups. In addition, there is continued ongoing budgetary pressures on LA teams responsible for supporting and challenging schools around the closing the gap priority and early help.

Whilst initial funding has been secured for school expansions, there may be challenges around securing the additional funding needed and the positive engagement of Governing Boards with Basic Need school expansion projects.

There is also a challenge around capacity within special schools which we are working to address through the strategic SEND Review. Reluctance at some schools around the admission of particularly complex children and young people with behavioural issues is also challenging.

Significant work is underway to improve the information reported by CAMHS, so that progress can be tracked in relation to improved access.