



The Merton Children and Young People's Plan 2010-11

April 2010

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Introduction

Merton's Children's Trust has been producing and delivering overarching Children and Young People's Plans, reviewed and refreshed regularly, since 2006. This latest plan covers the period until April 2011 when we will be required to produce a revised, statutory, plan based on new regulations and guidance.

We have used our well-established Children's Trust partnership to review progress in delivering our original plan. This has told us how far we have come in improving the lives of children and young people in Merton in line with the national Every Child Matters outcomes framework. We have looked at a detailed needs analysis and agreed a set of priorities for the year ahead and beyond. We have also agreed a set of actions which will support the achievement of these priorities.

The plan will continue to be monitored on a regular basis through reports to our Children's Trust Board.

Our Vision and Values

Partners in Merton's Children's Trust share the highest ambitions. We want to provide outstanding services which promote and improve the life chances and life choices of all children and young people in the borough. We are particularly determined to help those facing particular obstacles or challenges overcome them and to narrow the gap in outcomes which exists between these children and their peers whilst keeping our ambitions for all children high. Our vision, therefore, is of a robust Children's Trust partnership, working across universal, targeted and specialist services and across all the Every Child Matters outcome areas, helping children and young people in Merton be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution and enjoy economic wellbeing. In the current financial context it is even more important that we use our collective resources wisely and well, getting the most benefit from the investment of all agencies in the borough.

Our ambitions and vision are supported by a number of key values:

Taking care of the whole child: Our Children's Trust partnership will work with parents and carers to ensure children and young people's education, safeguarding, health, cultural, leisure and sporting needs and aspirations are met in a holistic way.

Think Family – supporting and enabling parents and carers: We will help build capacity and resilience in our children and young people and their parents, making families stronger – supporting them during challenging times but working towards maximising independence and personal responsibility.

Higher standards, raising the bar: We have the highest ambitions for all our children and young people. We will work together to ensure our children and young people get the best start in life and develop the knowledge, skills and self-confidence needed for successful adulthood.

Catching up, keeping up and closing the gap: Some children and young people will need access to appropriate targeted and specialist services to help them achieve positive outcomes. We will continue to develop the right mix of provision and partnerships to promote choice, inclusion and equitable outcomes.

Delivering through partnership: We appreciate the diversity and individual autonomy of partners but believe that our Children's Trust partnership adds value both in terms of joint commissioning and integrated provision of services.

Spending public money wisely and well: We want to offer the best quality services at a price we can afford. We will work effectively as partners to make sure that we make the very best use of the funding available ensuring resources are appropriately targeted and will seek the most efficient ways of delivering our services.

Putting you first – listening to the child, young person and parent voice: We will seek to promote the meaningful engagement of all users of children's services who we want to provide feedback, and to inform and shape the development of our services.

Sustainable communities: We are delivering services to a growing and changing population of children and young people with changing needs and aspirations. We must be responsive to these changes and recognise the importance of our services, working alongside others, in promoting and supporting sustainable communities in Merton.

Where are we now?

To make a judgement about our progress in achieving our ambitions for children and young people in Merton, we need to note the results of external evaluation, reflect on data about our community and produced by our services, listen to feedback from CYP and parents, and examine the achievement of specific objectives. Each of the following chapters addresses these issues in some detail. In summary, however, since 2007:

- Children's services in Merton have consistently been rated by external assessment (eg JAR; APA; CAA) as good with good capacity for further improvement. Some of our services have been rated as outstanding
- Our Children's Trust partnership is considered strong with increasing joint commissioning and integrated delivery of universal, targeted and specialist services
- Our Child Wellbeing Model is now well embedded and, with the use of Common Assessment, provides a clear framework through which children and young people with additional needs can be identified as early as possible and agencies can assess and plan to meet these needs in an integrated and timely manner
- We have continued to deliver robust safeguarding services overseen by our Local Safeguarding Children Board and have responded locally to the national concerns emerging from cases such as Baby Peter with a detailed action plan for further improvement
- Outcomes for children who need to be looked after in public care have improved with effective permanency planning and specialist health and education provision increasing the focus on these outcomes which have typically been poorer for this group
- We have developed eleven Children's Centres with a wide range of services provided by council, health service and voluntary sector partners. In addition to the universal provision, using our Supporting Families framework and our multi-agency team approach, the Children's Centres are improving the targeted element of their work in line with the challenge to this provision nationally. We have also recently opened an innovative Intergenerational Centre, one of whose aims will be to deliver intergenerational approaches to parenting, family support and family learning
- We have progressed implementation of our parenting strategy, seen as one of the key levers for improved outcomes for children. We have appointed parenting 'experts'/leads who are improving the co-ordination and targeting of the wide range of parent support services available in the borough
- Education results in Merton have continued to rise with improvements at both Key Stage 2 and, one of the most improved nationally, at Key Stage 4. Exclusion rates for Black and Minority Ethnic young people have reduced and are no longer

disproportionate. We are on track to open new 6th forms provision by September 2010. SEN provision in our mainstream schools has been remodelled and we have begun the construction of new SEN secondary provision.

- Nearly all of our schools are providing the full core offer of extended services providing study support, play, parenting support, swift access to targeted and specialist services and increased community access to school facilities. A major feature of this success has been the operation of the school 'clusters' model including joint planning and commissioning of extended services across schools.
- We have completed the integration of our youth support services bringing together the commissioning and provision of youth, youth offending, Connexions, teenage pregnancy and drug and alcohol services for young people. We have progressed the development of a targeted youth support model with our secondary schools. With the strong backing of the multi-agency Youth Partnership, these services are working effectively with higher participation and accreditation rates, lower levels of NEETs, reduced levels of re-offending and continued relatively low levels of teenage pregnancy
- Work to integrate health, social care and education services for children with disabilities has also been progressed with a core co-located team due to be in place in Spring 2010. This service, with a broader 'virtual' element will develop and operate a more integrated approach to assessment and care planning with easier pathways for families to access services
- We have developed, with children and young people, a 'participation promise', achieving a mandate for this from the Children's Trust Board. We have progressed our commitment to increasing the involvement and empowerment of young people in matters effecting them through establishing councils in most schools supported by boroughwide children's council and youth parliament structures. We have also been at the forefront of devolving decision making powers to young people, for example in respect of the Youth Opportunities fund and in youth service re- commissioning

Key Challenges

The context in which the Children's Trust is operating has changed significantly, both nationally and locally, since the development of our original CYPP. In building on the achievements noted above, agencies in the Children's Trust will need to meet a number of key challenges:

- An anticipated sharp reduction in funding levels to Local Authorities, NHS bodies, Police Service etc after a concerted period of overall growth in children and families services budgets. Savings have begun to be made already at a local level and

'transformation' projects in both the Council and NHS Sutton and Merton have been initiated. The drivers for these projects are the achievement of significant economies and efficiencies but also service improvement.

- Indications are also that channels of funding will also be subject to change following a national election win by either of the main political parties with schools and general practitioners, for example, taking on further commissioning roles. Such changes will impact on strategic commissioning as well as on models of service delivery
- The overall population of children and young people is rising sharply in Merton, increasing demand on all of our services - this factor, alongside the funding pressures noted above, will make decisions on the balance of investment across universal, targeted and specialist services particularly critical in the future
- If we are to achieve our ambitions to provide outstanding services to children and families in the borough in the context of the changes and uncertainties signalled above, we will need to retain a strong focus on performance management and improvement across all partner agencies aligning our resources to our priorities and making the maximum impact for the resources available.

Priorities for the Future

The following priorities have been agreed by the Children's Trust Board for implementation in 2010-11 and beyond. They have been identified through workshops at Board level and in stakeholder events at which needs analysis was shared and self-evaluation of progress against the ECM outcomes undertaken. They are designed to focus service delivery where it is most needed, to further support our ambitions to narrow gaps in positive outcomes and to maximise value for money in terms of the investments made by the partner agencies in Merton's Children's Trust.

Being Healthy

We will make further progress in promoting the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Merton, in particular through:

1. Focusing activity on further reducing levels of obesity which we consider is a key enabler of good health, wellbeing and positive outcomes more broadly.
2. Improving the alignment and embedding of our drugs and alcohol strategies within our integrated youth support services.

Staying Safe

We will maintain a robust approach to safeguarding and protecting children and young people in Merton from harm and neglect, in particular through:

3. Consolidating our CYP well being model, further developing the CAF as a tool for the early identification and planning for those children and young people with additional needs and further implementing the role of Lead Practitioner across Children's Trust agencies.
4. Strengthening our focus on domestic violence and its impact on the wellbeing of children and young people.

Enjoy and Achieve

We will continue to challenge underperformance, raise standards, increase levels of pupil attainment and increase pupil choice, in particular through:

5. Ensuring more schools and settings are good or better and working in a targeted way with early years settings, schools and extended services on specific activities to support our overall Narrowing the Gap project .
6. Tackling known gaps in provision such as extending our post 16 academic and vocational offer to young people in the borough and further progressing our SEN and Inclusion Strategy

Positive Contribution

We will continue to support children and young people in Merton to make positive contributions in their communities, in particular through:

7. Strengthening our focus on reducing the incidence of bullying, anti-social behaviour and violence both perpetrated and experienced by children and young people.
8. Further increasing the participation of young people in the functioning of Children's Trust agencies, in local democratic processes and in volunteering.

Economic Wellbeing

We will increase our focus on improving the economic wellbeing of children, young people and families in Merton, in particular through:

Progressing our partnership approach to minimising the impact of poverty on children and young people.

Strengthening our focus on supporting transitions within and beyond children's services for young people vulnerable to poorer outcomes including those with disabilities, special educational needs and young people looked after.

Service Management

We will ensure appropriate and effective management of the delivery of services, further strengthening our partnership approach and maximising value for money, in particular through:

9. Strengthening governance arrangements for the LSCB and CT ensuring CP and safeguarding arrangements are robust locally and implementing our local 'Laming' action plan.
12. Strengthening our work with parents and families through adopting a 'Think Family' approach building resilience and increasing capacity.
13. Developing our 'one workforce' strategy in respect of recruitment, retention, learning and development across the children's workforce in Merton.
14. Delivering more for less through exploring new options for joint commissioning, integrated and shared delivery of services – both across local Children's Trust agencies and those external to Merton - where it makes sense to do so.

Findings of Needs Analysis

A full needs analysis was undertaken by the Children's Trust for the preparation of this plan. The full analysis can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/plansandpolicies/cypplan.htm>. The summaries of the borough profile and Every Child Matters outcomes are shown below

1. Borough profile

1.1 The total **Merton Population** is rising, but the under 5 population in particular is rising much faster, this has implications for early years and school place planning for universal services and is also expected to increase demand for targeted and specialist services.

1.2 The **ethnic diversity** of the borough is increasing, this is most prominent in children and young people below secondary age. This difference between the adult and child population requires further communication. The rapid expansion and diversification of Merton children and young people requires flexible and adaptive service delivery and poses a challenge with regard to issues such as community cohesion.

1.3 Due to **population expansion** it is anticipated there will be a need for an increase in services, which are universal, targeted and specialist. For example population expansion alone could increase -

- The demand for primary school places by up to 17 classes
- Looked after children by 8% over the next five years

1.4 Overall, Merton has moderate **Deprivation rates**, however rates are not evenly spread across the borough, the east side of the borough has relatively high rates of deprivation and pockets of deprivation exist across the borough.

2. Be Healthy

2.1 **Immunisations rates** in Merton are relatively low compared to the national average, compared to the London average, Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) immunisation rates are above average.

The Sutton and Merton PCT: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008 *identified that MMR take-up rates should be improved by offering vaccination at a range of sites including schools.*

2.2 NHS Dental Health registration rates are low, across Merton, with much lower than expected rates seen in the east of the borough. The most recent data shows that overall Merton children have good dental health

2.3 Sport uptake is high, analysis by gender and ethnicity are being used to ensure uptake is both comprehensive and equitable.

50% of young people, and 44% of parents would like to see more sporting activities on offer, and the top sports requested were football and other team sports, access to the gym, cycling, martial arts and skateboarding (*Merton Review of Youth Activities*). Barriers to taking part in sport were identified as lack of time; friends would not come; and cost (*Pro-Active London School Sports Survey*). *Merton's Children's Council* suggested that not enough time is spent on sport in schools, and on sports competitions with other schools.

2.4 Breastfeeding is increasing across the borough, from 35% to 49.5% in the last year. However recording and general data quality issues remain, these require resolution so targeting can be more refined to geographic areas and to particular groups. The latest data shows Merton performance is below expected levels.

2.5 Obesity rates by year 6 of the primary phase are high, at the current rate of 21.3% which is nearly 2% higher than the national average, is targeted to reduce to 19.9% by 2010/11. Pupils attending schools in the east of the borough show the highest rates, and so require targeting to support the obesity prevention agenda. Uptake of school meals in primary school is below the national average and continues to be prioritised in order to support the obesity reduction agenda.

Fewer pupils than the national average stated that they receive adequate advice and information on eating healthy food (*TellUs 3*).

2.6 Substance misuse services are treating higher than average rates of females and proportionately lower rates of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups than the Merton population profile. Merton pupils report higher than average rates of cannabis use, but lower than average rates of drinking. Overall pupils report lower than national average of substance misuse, but the Merton rate is above the national average.

Fewer pupils than the national average say that the quality of substance misuse information and advice in Merton is 'good' enough (*TellUs 3*). Young people suggested drug education should acknowledge the positive as well as negative aspects of substance misuse, and focus on harm minimisation and medical impact (*Substance Misuse Needs Analysis*).

2.7 Teenage pregnancy rates although reduced from 1998 levels, the rates of reduction have slowed.

56% of pupils stated that they receive adequate advice on sex and relationships, this is in line with the national average (*TellUs 3*).

2.8 Mental and emotional and health.

65% of young people in Merton are emotionally healthy compared to 63% nationally (NI150). The top concerns for pupils are 'exams', and 'my future'; they are significantly more worried about these issues than the national average (*TellUs 3*).

2.9 The incidence of low birth rates in Merton is lower than National and London averages at 6.7%, but much higher than the south west London average of 4.6%. Lavender Fields ward is the only ward with higher than national average rates.

2.10 Looked After Children health assessments at 83% are below national (85%) and statistical neighbour averages (90%). Whilst the dental component performs well, the broader health assessment completion rate at 73% is mostly responsible for the below average performance.

Merton's Children in Care Council have highlighted 'better access to health information' as one of the aspects of the London Pledge to Children in Care that needs to be focused on in Merton.

3. Stay safe

3.1 Bullying remains a concern for Merton children and young people. The *TellUs 3* survey records that nearly half of Merton pupils report being bullied in the last four weeks. The *TellUs 3* survey also showed that Merton schools were viewed at good a dealing with bullying, Merton ranks 4th highest of London boroughs.

Pupils have fed back that bullying in schools is most likely to happen in the playground, classroom or corridor (*Annual Bullying Survey*). In terms of ways to stop bullying, pupils are in favour of: peer support; a 'worry box' to confidentially highlight bullying issues; the SEAL programme; MissDorothy.com; police officers to speak to pupils about the consequences of bullying; and anti bullying days throughout the year (*Merton Children's Council*). Young LGBT people identified safety at home and outside school as one of their top concerns (*Merton Sustainable Visioning Consultation*).

3.2 More pupils than the national average feel 'a bit' or 'very' **unsafe going to and from school** (*TellUs 3*), however when compared to the rest of London, Merton pupils feel safer than average. '**Crime**' is the top concern for young people, followed by 'bad behaviour', and more young people than the London average said that the council does enough to protect young people (Merton Young Residents' Survey).

Young people do not feel safe on buses at night, and in response to this Safer Transport Teams patrol problem areas. Young people value having more information about Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and opportunities to express their views about community safety on ward panels (*Metropolitan Police Service consultation sessions*).

Overall, fewer Merton residents than the London average perceived anti-social behaviour and crime as a problem, and more than the London average stated that the police and local services are successfully dealing with these issues. (*Merton Place Survey 2008/09*)

3.3 There has been a welcome decline in **road traffic accidents** involving children and young people. Where there has been a reduction from 54 in 2006/07 to 37 in 2008/09.

Children and young people value the information and training sessions that are delivered on kerb-side training, on-road cycle training, learner driver programme for 17-24 year olds; health, personal safety and citizenship responsibilities (*Feedback on Merton's Road Safety Team training and information sessions*).

3.4 **Referral rates to Children's Social Care** have doubled, but the number going on to initial assessments has decreased a little, but more initial assessments lead to core assessments. Referrals are continuing to increase in 2009/10.

Over half of users of the Merton's Access and Assessment Service said that their social worker was 'good or excellent' in terms of being helpful. Perceptions of how much of a difference interventions made are split; half of the users said that the social worker made a difference and half said they did not (*Access and Assessment user survey*).

3.5 Rates per 10,000 of Looked After Children (from 23.7 to 28.7 and **children with a Child Protection Plan** (from 29.7 to 33.2) have increased over the last 3 years. Looked After Children rates are about half the national rate, whereas the rates of children with a Child Protection Plan are higher than the national average (in 2007/08 Merton was 31.93 compared to a national rate of 26.5). Rates of both of these groups are continuing to increase in 2009/10.

3.6 The stability of placements and length of placements for Looked After Children are below average.

3.7 Feedback from Merton's children in care includes: a request for better health information; more information in advance about a placement; opportunity to buy a bike; regular meetings to express views; simple process to feedback if they are unhappy; involvement in planning for leaving care (*Merton's Children in Care Council*).

Those who have taken part in Merton's pilot projects to extend, beyond age 18, the point at which young people leave care, have feedback that they have valued the opportunity to leave care later. Young people who have chaired their own review/ pathway plans have said that they have felt more in control of the process and feel they could have chaired from a younger age.

3.8 Rates of referrals to Children Social Care for Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Substance misuse are rising. This is partly because of improved identification and recording.

3.9 There were 2460 reported instances of **domestic violence** in the borough in 2008, this equates to 7 per day.

3.10. Feedback from Merton's **disabled young people** aged 14-25 includes: further education should better prepare young people for work; better access to independent travel training; there needs to be a wider range of youth and sports activities, and respite opportunities; feeling less safe to go out at night than in the day; and there should be more crossings on busy roads (*Your Shout Group of disabled young people*).

4. Enjoy and achieve

4.1 **Childcare provision** in the borough is well developed, but Ofsted inspection scores show improvements are required, as currently only 59% of provision is rated good or better.

There is a high level of satisfaction expressed by users of Merton's Children's Centres services, the main benefits identified being: children are occupied, entertained, have fun and are happy; social interaction and community cohesion; the range and choice of activities, equipment and toys; and helpful staff. Users asked for more sessions to be on offer with more flexibility (*Children's Centres Survey*).

Enquiries to Merton's Family Information Service continue to increase, especially contact with the outreach service. The majority of service users are parents of children under 1 looking for childcare, and the level of satisfaction with the service is consistently high.

4.2 **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile** results are good overall, but further work is required in order to narrow the gap of the lowest performing 20%.

28% of respondents to *Merton's Annual Resident's Survey 2008* said that nursery education is good or excellent, this is in line with the London average.

4.3 **Key Stage 1** results are below the national average. The weakest performance is in writing which is below the national average at level 2 and 3. The performance of girls is also below national expectations and requires further intervention. The attainment gaps of pupils living in deprived areas and those of certain ethnic groups are already apparent at this key stage.

4.4 **Key Stage 2** performance is above national averages, progress rates are good and performance at level 5 remains consistently good. There are clear performance issues relating to pupils from a deprived background and from a number of ethnic groups including Black groups and Mixed-other. Targets to narrow these gaps are included in the National Indicator set.

4.5 Perceptions of the **quality of Merton's primary education** are mixed with significantly more young people than the London average, but fewer Merton residents overall than the London average, saying that primary schools are good or excellent (*Annual Residents Survey*).

4.6 Key Stage 4 - GCSE performance has improved significantly over the past two years, the headline measure of 5+A*-C including English and maths is now only 0.6% below the national average. Further sustained effort is required to maintain and improve further at this key stage. The spread of performance of pupil groups (deprived pupils and some ethnic groups) is marked at this key stage, although good progress has been made in recent years especially with regard to Black pupils performance.

The perception of the **quality of Merton's secondary education** is lower than the London average, with fewer young people and residents overall saying that Merton's secondary schools are good or excellent (*Annual Residents' Survey*).

4.7 More pupils than the national average said that they try hard at school all the time and enjoy school all or most of the time. However, more pupils than the national average said that they need more help from teachers; a quieter, better behaved class; fewer bullies; and more help with homework (TellUs 3).

4.8 Secondary school attendance, in particular persistent absence is an issue for the borough, the rate was reduced to 6.1% in 2008/09 and is targeted to reduce to 5.5% 2009/10. Primary school attendance rates are marginally below the national average.

4.9 Extended services are on track to be delivered to all Merton schools by September 2010, the borough is currently ahead of target with 51 of the 54 schools delivering the full core offer.

82% of young people said that they attend at least one activity outside school and the top three stated were libraries, sports and gym and after school clubs. Young people said they would most like to attend: sports facilities; a place to meet friends and others, and parks and playgrounds (*Young Residents Survey*).

Children, young people and residents' requests for what Merton's current and new play sites should offer include: natural play with sand, water, trees and rocks; exciting climbing equipment; and areas to relax as well as play (*Play Pathfinder Consultation*).

Young users of Merton's Library Service express a high level of satisfaction with what's on offer. They value access to a range of books, computers and support with homework. Benefits of the library included improving reading, learn and find things out and do better at school.

4.10 **Level 3** performance is an issue for the borough, current performance is below local and national averages. The increased uptake of the Educational Maintenance Grant shows that more pupils are able to access further education, further analysis is required to track outcomes for these young people.

42% of young people said that Merton's sixth form colleges are good or excellent and while this is a reduction since the previous year, it is in line with the London average (*Young Residents' Survey*).

5. Positive Contribution

5.1 A higher proportion of Merton pupils, than the national average, say that they have expressed their **views about the local area** via questionnaire and via their school council, and that their views are listened to in decision making (*TellUs 3*). A significantly higher proportion of young people in Merton, than the London average, say that the council keeps them informed, listens to their concerns and involves them in decision making (*Young Residents' Survey*).

5.2 **Young people say that they feel part of the community** and that ways to improve Merton included reducing anti-social behaviour, more recycling, less littering, doing more voluntary work, more community events, more clubs for young people, and more support for people with problems.

5.3 Participation in **positive activities** is above National and London averages. However this only accounts for year 10 (*Tellus 3*). A more comprehensive view of participation across the full 11-18 range is being sought through pooling information from across the partnership. This will enable the targeting of particular groups which may have differential rates of uptake.

Disabled young people requested a wider range of youth and sports activities (*Your shout group*). 39% of young people said that activities for young people are good or excellent which is the same as the London average (*Young Residents' Survey*). Young people requested an increase in arts activities and somewhere to go and meet friends. They also said that activities need to be more affordable, available at the weekends rather than in the week, and that information about activities is not getting through. Survey findings showed that parental concerns over safety were a barrier to participation. Overall sports were the most popular positive activity. (*Merton Review of Youth Activities*).

5.4 **Volunteering** numbers of young people continue to increase and more young people want to have the opportunity to volunteer.

Fewer pupils than the national average said that they have been involved in volunteering (TellUs 3). Young people involved in volunteering cite that they acquire a broad range of transferable skills and feel a sense of contribution to the community (*Volunteer Centre Merton Youth Volunteering case studies*).

5.5 **Permanent exclusions** have nearly doubled over the last three years. The borough has a well developed placement protocol to ensure permanently excluded pupils are re-integrated into the education system.

5.6 **Fixed term exclusions** have dropped since 2006/07, but have seen a small rise in the number of pupils excluded between 2007/08 and 2008/09, when there were 782 pupils with one instance or more of fixed term exclusion. Currently the borough is not meeting LAA stretch targets.

5.7 Over the year September 2008 – August 2009, 832 **Children and Young People were accused of crimes**. This represents 26% of all accusations of crime in the borough. The vast majority of young offenders were male (83%). 36% of Young offenders were of Black ethnicity, this is more than double the expected rate, as only 16.3% of the young population are of Black ethnicity.

Young people agree that the police are necessary but suggest that the police should communicate with young people with more respect. They value opportunities to meet with the police to learn about their services, and to give feedback about how they feel about the police. Issues discussed have included stop and search, and terrorism profiling policies. (*From a range of consultation sessions between the Metropolitan Police Service and young people*).

5.8 **Young people are most commonly victims of** Violence Against the Person, Theft and Handling or Robbery. Further measures to prevent crime and to better educate young people in crime awareness is on-going.

Young people do not feel safe on buses at night and in response to this Safer Transport Teams patrol problem areas. These teams access youth opinion through their travel on the buses and their work delivering code of conduct messages in assemblies at schools across the borough. Safer Neighbourhood Teams actively seek youth representation on their ward panels. (*From a range of consultation sessions between the Metropolitan Police Service and young people*).

5.9 Merton **Young Offending** rates are in line or better than London averages in terms of first time entrants and re-offending. However young people from Black ethnic groups are over represented in these groups.

6. Economic well-being

6.1 The borough has been successful in reducing the number of young people who are **not in education, employment or training (NEET)** from 7.5% in 2004/05 to 5.8% in 2008/09. Further progress towards the 2009/10 NEET reduction target and beyond will be challenging given the current economic downturn.

6.2 In terms of **groups within the NEET cohort**, both males and White young people are disproportionately represented

6.3 **20% of young people who are NEET are young parents, parents to be or carers of children.** Clearly affordable childcare and the further implementation of the employability toolkit will aid the reduction of young people who are NEET amongst this group.

6.4 More Merton's pupils than the national average **aspire to go to University**, and say they need more help to **plan their future** (*TellUs 3*). More young people than the London average are worried about education and the lack of jobs, and fewer than last year stated that Merton's sixth form colleges are good or excellent (Young Residents' Survey).

6.5 Take **up of working tax credit remains relatively static** in Merton, increasing the take up is a challenge especially for groups which are vulnerable, or otherwise find accessing the benefits system difficult due to language or other barriers.

6.6 **The Child-Well Being Index**, rates the borough poorly for housing and material well-being. Further action to improve the housing options for families with children is a key challenge for the borough, but given the expected increase in housing there is an opportunity to influence this building programme.

6.7. 86% of respondents to **Merton's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment** felt that additional childcare would be of use to them. The majority of these wanted childcare in order to remain in work, increase their working hours, or access training opportunities. Affordability was cited as the main barrier to accessing childcare, and this was especially the case for the parents of disabled children who said they often relied on family members to provide childcare. Overall parents requested longer and more flexible hours, especially related to school age childcare.

6.8 The ***Black and Minority Ethnic Homelessness Research Project*** conducted highlighted The **Your Shout Group** of young disabled people aged 14-25 highlighted that further education should better prepare young people for work, and that there needs to be better access to independent travel training to go to college.

6.10 **The Independence and Transitions meetings** organised by young people who are involved in Merton's pilot projects to extend the age at which young people leave care, highlight that young people are happy that they can remain in placement beyond 18. They would value peer mentoring support from older care leavers; skills training on budgeting, personal safety and cooking; and a handy-person to help with moving into their own accommodation. Parents of care leavers have requested more involvement with their young person during the transition period.

Be healthy - Summary of progress to date, and key priorities and objectives for 2010/2011

Our focus has continued to be partnership working in the reduction of health inequalities, with more services being delivered in an integrated way through children's centres, schools and through our early intervention and prevention strategy.

We have increased our support to parents through our Parenting Strategy, developing the universal offer through antenatal and postnatal Health Visiting, Children's Centre and Extended Services advice and support groups, and strengthening the information that we provide to parents through our Family Information Service (FIS). We have used additional Government funding to recruit two Lead Parenting Practitioners and to deliver targeted Parenting Programmes, focusing on those parents with the greatest needs. We are also working in a wider way to 'Think Family', especially with those professionals that work with adults with drug and/or alcohol issues or mental illness to ensure that they are supported in their parenting role.

Although rising, our breastfeeding prevalence remains lower than both regional and national averages. Recent investment has led to the appointment of an infant nutrition advisor, and community services are working toward the Unicef Baby Friendly accreditation that aims to further improve breastfeeding rates.

As part of the National Child Measurement Programme, 88% of Reception (age 5) and Year 6 (age 11) children had their height and weight measured this year. Although too early to predict clear trends, for the second year, our levels of Reception age children overweight or obese have fallen, but the level of obesity in Year 6 children appears to remain static. From September 2009, we

introduced Alive'N'Kicking, a commissioned intervention programme that provides free structured advice and support to children and young people (and their parents) identified as being overweight and ready to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Overall the borough has high uptake rates of sport with 92.1% of children and young people doing 2 or more hours in school, compared with 76.5% nationally. We are now working toward the new government target of 5 hours or more. We are developing free play opportunities within Merton, as part of our Play Strategy.

96% of Merton schools have now achieved the National Healthy School status, and we have over achieved our quality target of 26% of schools accredited as 'good' using the locally developed enhanced assessment criteria.

Work continues on our Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, with renewed efforts on raising awareness of condom distribution, and the provision of easily accessible sex and relationship advice, through additional investment from the NHS Sutton and Merton, and continued emphasis on the certification scheme to train teachers and nurses to deliver PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education). Teenage pregnancy rates have stabilised, with smaller peaks and troughs, with a 19.4% reduction since the 1998 baseline. However, we are not on trajectory to meet our 2010 target. We have renewed our emphasis on working with schools to support improved PHSE Sex and Relationships Education provision following review of policy and practice.

We have taken the opportunity, given the strong links between teenage pregnancy, alcohol and drug misuse and truancy, to look more holistically at these services, taking a whole systems approach, through more robust joint commissioning, based on good needs assessment. Fewer young people than the national average say that the quality of substance misuse information and advice in Merton is 'good' enough (TellUs3), and we are in the process of re-commissioning our Youth Awareness Programme.

Improving the mental health and psychological well-being of children and young people has been a key priority in Merton for a number of years. We now have a spectrum of services available and are fully compliant in all four areas of measurement within NI 51 - Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services - supported through a new Psychological Well-Being and Mental Health Partnership Board. We are further improving access to Comprehensive CAMH (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) Services through a single point of access for all referrals. A useful summary of the views of children and young people and an indication of mental well-being was provided through the TellUs3 survey, where Merton scored the fourth highest in outer London, with a rating of 65.4% compared to the 61.6% London average.

We have increased the level of Occupational Therapy and addressed the waiting times that were too long for this service.

We will focus activity on reducing obesity as an enabler for improved health and well-being. This work will be across the age range from antenatal support and advice across the spectrum of universal, targeted and specialist work.

We will continue to develop our parenting offer, ensuring that our targeted work reaches those parents with greatest need and that the support offered is flexible. We also need to help parents know about the wide range of support that is available.

We will review our community health services as we implement our integrated service for children with disability and complex health needs, ensuring that families receive the best possible care, and that we achieve value for money.

We will continue to strengthen our joint commissioning of services to support young people's risk taking behaviours, targeting the services to those at greatest need.

We need to ensure we continue to deliver and improve the level of mental health services in Merton whilst working within the current financial climate.

We will review the delivery of dental health promotion and undertake to ensure that more Merton children are registered with an NHS Dentist.

Be healthy action table 2010-11

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduction of childhood obesity.	<p>Adopt and implement the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) as the best evidence based vehicle to raise levels of breastfeeding prevalence.</p> <p>Requirements for issue of certificate of commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breast feeding policy in place, • action plan to achieve baby friendly accreditation, • CEO and Director commitment to implement the plan. 	<p>Certificate of commitment issued - September 2009.</p> <p>Complete Stage 1 Assessment - Sept 2010.</p> <p>Complete Stage 2 - September 2011</p> <p>Full accreditation - March 2012.</p>	SMCS	Obesity Strategy UNICEF Accreditation
	Use results of annual measurement of height and weight of Reception and Year 6 stages to target services to areas of greatest need.	Targeted school-based early intervention projects, using Enhanced Healthy Schools Status as a vehicle to target vulnerable groups.	Healthy Lifestyles Reference Group	
	Coordinate and implement the 'Start for Life' and Change4Life Early years programme, and a range of other health services, across Children's Centres.	<p>Start4Life and Change4Life - Early years initiatives being delivered in Children's Centres.</p> <p>Engage PVI (private, voluntary and independent) settings as part of awareness campaign.</p> <p>Reception age height and weight measurement improving</p>	Healthy Lifestyles Reference Group	Change4Life Government Initiative Obesity Strategy National Child Measurement Programme
	Increase uptake of school lunches	Negotiate new catering contract in secondary		Obesity

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	by improving the dining 'experience' in secondary schools.	schools - September 2010. Develop strategy for improvement -December 2010. Continue to gather further evidence base for improvements, and propose potential changes - December 2010.		Strategy
	Promote the drinking of water as part of a 'Nothing tastes better than Pure Water' campaign.	Market the slogan widely using a range of media- May 2010. Develop a range of healthy lifestyle materials to use at events across the year, in Merton-June 2010. Develop and deliver a campaign promoting the drinking of water in at least 3 schools (identified through the Healthy Schools agenda) - March 2011.	Healthy Lifestyles Reference Group	Obesity Strategy
	Through roadshows, promote the free swimming opportunity for all children.	3 roadshows delivered - March 2011.	Healthy Lifestyles Reference Group	Obesity Strategy
	Increase uptake of primary immunisation programme completed by 2 years of age. Increase uptake of pre school and leavers immunisation boosters. Deliver HPV programme in schools.	90% by March 2010. 80% by March 2011. Rolling annual programme 80% - August 2010. Catch up complete- August 2011.	SMCS in conjunction with Primary Care	DoH Monitoring
Improve service provision for children and young people	Complete implementation of integrated disability service.	Improved score for NI54 'Parental experiences of services for disabled children -	Integration Programme	Aiming High for Disabled

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
with disabilities.		December 2010	Board	Children
	Improve opportunities for disabled children with health and lifting and handling needs, to take part in extended services positive activities and short breaks.	Improve the number of children and young people accessing extended services and other activities.	NHS Sutton and Merton	Aiming High for Disabled Children
	Complete review of children's therapy services.	Revised specification - March 2011.	NHS Sutton and Merton	
	Improve access to community and home-based care that will avoid hospitalisation and provide good end-of-life care.	Revision of children's community Nursing Provision - March 2011.	NHS Sutton and Merton	NSF for Children
Reduction in risk taking behaviours amongst young people, including substance misuse teenage pregnancy and smoking amongst young people.	Complete the re-commissioning of young people's alcohol and substance misuse provision.	Contract signed - September 2010.		Substance Misuse Strategy
	Further integrate interventions to tackle teenage pregnancy, substance misuse, exclusions and persistent absence.			
	Ensure appropriate changes to delivery of SRE (Sex and Relationship Education) and improved access to targeted contraceptive and sexual health services.	SRE delivered in line with National Standards. Reduction in NI 113 - Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 20 year olds, and NI 112 - Under 18 conception rate. Improved access to services by vulnerable groups such as Youth Offenders, Looked After Children and Care Leavers, and Young Carers.	Teenage Pregnancy Board	TP Strategy

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	Implement smoking reduction initiatives in schools	No Smoking Day lesson plan competition 10 March 2010.	NHS Sutton and Merton	
	Continue the programmes with PCT Strategic Plan funding after March 2010, specifically to target more vulnerable young people. The programme will be established in The Smart Centre, Melrose School and the YMCA.	New Programmes established by Increase in number of young people quitting smoking.	NHS Sutton and Merton	
Maintain and improve the range of CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) delivered as 'Comprehensive CAMHS'.	Ensure easy access to mental health services through the development of a Single Point of Access and CAMH Pathway.	Single Point of Access and Pathway up and running - April 2010. Evaluate effectiveness of pathway - December 2010.	Psychological Well-being Partnership Board	
	Further develop the capacity to deliver early intervention and prevention initiatives, and to build resilience in children young people and their families.	Continue to rollout SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) in all Merton Schools. Increase the targeted parenting offer in conjunction with the specialist (Tier 3) team. Improve the information available for children young people and their parents. Further develop the workforce through training and support and access to E-Learning opportunities. Confidential drop-in school nursing sessions.	Psychological Well-being Partnership Board	
	Continue to ensure access to mental health services for vulnerable groups such as young	Ensure compliance to Youth Justice Service standard for mental health assessment. Ensure targets for LAC Health Assessments	Psychological Well-being Partnership	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	offenders, and looked after children (LAC).	are met and work with pan-London colleagues on the LAC Passport offer.	Board	
Reduction in childhood dental decay.	Review current dental contract in relation to dental health promotion delivered to children and young people	Revised specification - March 2011.	NHS Sutton and Merton	
	Improve signposting of NHS Dentistry through Children's Centres and Extended Services	Increased uptake of NHS dentistry by March 2011.	NHS Sutton and Merton	

Be healthy – National Indicators

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 50 Emotional health of children (F)	64.3%	63.3%	61.1% (2008)	N/A
NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services (F)	15	14	15	16
NI 52 Take up of school lunches (F)	Primary 33.3% Sec0ndary: 37.4%	Primary: 39.3% Secondary: 35.1%	N/A	Primary:40% Secondary: 37%
NI 53 Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth (F)	Uptake: 49.5% Coverage: 66.9%	N/A	N/A	Uptake: 60% Coverage:95%
NI 54 Services for disabled children (F)	60 (2009)	61 (2009)	N/A	60
NI 55 Obesity in primary school age children in Reception (F)	8.8%	9.6%	11.3%	13.6%
NI 56 Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6 (F)	18.7%	21.3%	18.4%	19.9%
NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high-quality PE and sport (F)	83%	81%	N/A	65% (3 hrs)
NI 58 Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children (score 0 - 40) (F)	14.2	13.8	11.8	15

Stay safe Summary of progress to date, and key priorities and objectives for 2010/2011

Merton continues to deliver robust safeguarding services to ensure that young people feel safe and are kept safe and has been graded as good overall in the Ofsted component of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (2009).

The Merton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) continues to work to its Business Plan (2008-11) regularly reviewing objectives. An Independent Chair for Merton LSCB has been appointed who will also chair Sutton's LSCB and progress developing shared safeguarding functions giving greater independent scrutiny and critical friend opportunities alongside training and development opportunities. The Merton LSCB Annual Report 2008-09 described progress that has been made.

The Child Death Overview Panel has been established collaboratively with NHS Sutton and Merton and the London Borough of Sutton.

Section 11 audits have been undertaken by all partners across Merton's LSCB to enable organisations to identify safeguarding strengths and areas for development. E-learning in safeguarding has been piloted to enable staff to access safeguarding training easily and at appropriate levels.

A DVD has been funded and produced through Merton's LSCB detailing the experiences of children being supported by the Domestic Violence Groupwork programme, run and managed by partners across Merton's LSCB and the Children's Trust.

A refreshed Domestic Violence Sub-Group will report into the Laming Group focusing on a range of core business in domestic violence: protocols, training, awareness, capability and multi agency joint work.

The Merton LSCB web pages have been reviewed and updated and the structure, terms of reference and chairing arrangements of the Merton LSCB sub-groups have been reviewed to strengthen partnerships and increase focus on shared safeguarding priorities.

The Merton LSCB Laming and Children's Trust Sub-group continues to progress Merton's Laming Action Plan, and has established an audit tool for senior managers across the Merton LSCB for reviewing points of referral where concerns about a child's safety are received. Supervision training for social care staff has also been prioritised to ensure guaranteed time and quality focus on safeguarding. Protocols between referring agencies and social care services for substance misuse and adult mental health are being reviewed and

updated. The Merton LSCB was fully represented and actively engaged in Multi-Agency Critical Incident exercise training run by police services in December 2009. The Laming Sub-group continues to report into the Merton LSCB and Children's Trust Board.

Joint working between police and social care piloted last year has continued to develop. Government Office for London has recognised the model for triage of police notifications about children coming to their notice and funded some additional developmental work and evaluations to be undertaken, consolidating further work developing referral pathways for children and young people into our preventive services prior to escalation to a child protection response.

The Merton LSCB Training programme continues to offer a range of safeguarding training both general and specific, and has run some relevant current courses on issues such as e-safety and use of the internet, and sexual exploitation of young people for both statutory and voluntary sector organisations. Evaluations continue to be very positive and courses for child protection awareness and training at all levels have been oversubscribed. Training continues to incorporate current issues and many multi agency discussions have been held about recent child deaths and subsequent service and individual scrutiny.

Partner agencies continue to work well together to protect children. Last year's rise in referrals into children's social care resulting in increased activity levels both within safeguarding and child in need arenas has broadly been sustained. Numbers of children subject to child protection plans has continued a slow and steady increase with an average above previous years. Numbers of children in care have risen in part due to the impact of the Southwark Judgement which requires authorities to treat vulnerable young people aged 16 and 17 as requiring accommodation under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

Recruitment and retention of social work staff continues to challenge the Local Authority although the launch of a new recruitment microsite has generated more interest in Merton positions.

Priorities for children's services in Merton include continuing to embed Merton's Child Well-Being Model and lead practitioner mechanisms across the Children's Trust. Merton's latest CAF evaluation has demonstrated that over 1000 CAF's have been completed with over 800 families and over 300 practitioners taking a lead role. Next steps include further implementation of the lead practitioner role and development of step up and step down processes to ensure smooth transition of families between the levels of need.

Our second safeguarding priority is to strengthen the focus on domestic violence work and its impact on well-being. Work continues through the promotion of family support services and targeted intervention in serious cases. Next steps include further embedding the

London safeguarding guidance, ensuring a range of practitioners are equipped to work with domestic violence and continuing to support partnership work across a range of mechanisms to promote the domestic violence awareness and reduction of harm.

The issue of sexualised bullying has emerged and we are developing a partnership action plan. Bullying is a concern to our young people who report high levels of bullying. But, they also report very high levels of confidence in schools to deal with the issues. We have had a strong focus on anti bullying in schools and on transport, and this focus will be broadened by the new multi agency anti bullying group which will better coordinate work across all aspects of bullying.

Stay safe action table 2010-11

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
Reduction in the fear of bullying amongst young people.	Establish the Anti bullying forum and agree a borough wide anti bullying strategy.	Forum established by end June 2010 Strategy to Children's Trust Board by end Sept 2010.	Multi agency anti-bullying group	
	Reduce sexualised bullying involving young people.	Agree sexualised bullying prevention plan by June 2010.	Sexualised Violence Forum	
Further embed the common assessment framework (CAF) and lead practitioner mechanisms within the Children's Trust partnership.	Deliver training in the CAF and the revised Merton Child and Young Person Well-Being Model (MWBM) across Children's Trust agencies.	Ongoing Training Programme.	Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division.	MWBM Common Assessment Framework.
	Regular monitoring of CAF data to inform training and delivery strategy.	Quarterly CAF monitoring – ongoing reporting to Children's Trust Board.	Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division.	MWBM Common Assessment Framework.
	Undertake qualitative study of CAF implementation	Report on findings to Children's Trust Board by end September 2010.		
	Mandate and deploy the named lead practitioner model in Children's Trust agencies	Lead practitioner proposals to the Children's Trust Board in June 2010.	Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division.	
Strengthen focus on domestic violence and its impact on children and young people's well-being.	Establish multi-agency protocol to support early identification/risk assessment and planning for children in these circumstances	Protocol agreed by end September 2010.	MARAC	Domestic Violence Strategy.

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	Development work between Police Public Protection Desk and Access and Assessment Team on response to Domestic Violence referrals	Workshop to be delivered by March 2011.		
	Evaluate domestic violence groupwork inc Caring Dads programme	Report to LSCB/GOL by July 2010.		
Strengthen partnership approach to safeguarding children.	Implement local action plan arising from the DCSF response to Lord Laming's national progress report on safeguarding.	Review progress of the local action plan - September 2010.	LSCB and CTB	
	LSCB Chair to be standing member of Children's Trust Board	Attendance from April 2010.		
	Clarify/Strengthen the LSCB's relationship to the Children's Trust Board.	LSCB Report to each CTB. Annual LSCB Report to be signed off by CTB.	LSCB Chair/Head of Social Care	
	Work with schools and settings on learning safeguarding lessons from new Ofsted inspection regime and relevant SCRs	Ongoing targeted work with schools.	Education Division	
	Establish network group of named/designated safeguarding leads across CT agencies	Group/TOR established by June 2010.		
	LSCB QA subgroup to establish a framework for	Draft framework in place by September 2010.	LSCB	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	sampling and reviewing safeguarding decisions.			
	Increase the involvement of community sector and the faith sector in the Local Safeguarding Children Board .	Nominated representatives identified by July 2010.	LSCB	MLSCB Business plan.
	Progress exploration of joint working with LB Sutton on safeguarding practice.	Joint LSCB Chair appointed. Feasibility study on joint Learning and Development and Quality Assurance strategy to LSCB by Sept 2010.	LSCB	MLSCB business plan
	Implement ContactPoint action plan.	Update report on implementation to CTB in June 2010.	Commissioning, Strategy and Performance Division.	ContactPoint project plan.
Progress local family support and preventive strategies.	Annual review of family support; EIP; IYSS commissioned services to inform commissioning decisions.	Review complete by March 2011.	Commissioning, Strategy and Performance Division.	
	Review/refresh parenting strategy action plan.	Refresh completed by September 2010.	Commissioning, Strategy and Performance Division.	Parenting strategy.
	Establish and Implement a young carers' strategy.	Strategy to be completed by April 2010. Establish commissioning intentions	Commissioning, Strategy and Performance Division.	.

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
		by January 2011.	Carers Support Merton.	
	Undertake sustainability planning for FIP/MST initiatives	Recommendations to CSF DMT/CTB by Dec 2010	Commissioning, Strategy and Performance Division.	
Improve outcomes for children in care.	Review Implementation of local Care Matters action plan.	Report to CSF DMT by July 2010.	Social Care and Youth inclusion Division.	
	Review compliance with the pledge for looked after children	Report to CSF DMT by July 2010.	Social Care and Youth inclusion Division.	
	Improve business practices (using LEAN process) for the recruitment of foster carers and adopters	Findings/recommendations of LEAN Workshops to CSF DMT by April 2010.	Social Care and Youth inclusion Division.	
	Review arrangements for housing advice/allocation for care leavers following transfer of housing stock to Priory Homes	Review/revised protocols completed by June 2010.	Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division	
Improve the experience of service use by families with children with disabilities .	Implementation of project plan for establishing the integrated service for children with disabilities.	Core team co-located by April 2010 Ongoing development of integrated assessment/care planning processes and procedures.	SM ICWD Service	
Reduce the numbers of children and young people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.	Implement road and travel safety promotion strategy in all Merton schools, after school clubs and local colleges.	Ongoing implementation	Environment and Regeneration Department.	Merton road safety plan

Staying safe - National Indicators

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 59 Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral (F)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NI 60 Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement (F)	90%	78%	80%	75%
NI 61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (F)	20%	75.8%	76.5%	50%
NI 62 Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements (F)	14.7%	10.7%	N/A	0-20%
NI 63 Stability of placements of looked after children:length of placement (F)	57.1%	67%	68%	60%
NI 64 Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more (F)	5.6%	5.9%	8	0-9.99%
NI 65 Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (F)	12.4%	13.3%	11	10%
NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (F)	99.1%	90.9%	91.8%	100%
NI 67 Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (F)	100%	99%	100%	100%
NI 68 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment (F)	34.2%	63.3%	62%	40%
NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying (F)	44.7%	47.2%	42% (2008)	N/A

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 71 Children who have run away from home/care overnight (F)	12	8	8	12

Enjoy and achieve - Summary of progress to date, and key priorities and objectives for 2010/2011

Opportunities for children and young people to enjoy their education and achieve well have continued to improve in Merton.

Children's Centres have now been firmly established offering a wide range of services and childcare opportunities, which have been well received by Merton parents. Multi agency teams are now working well particularly in offering coherent support for vulnerable families. Provision for very young children has improved and the Early Years Foundation Stage is now in place in all settings and schools. Ofsted inspection and the increasing reliability of the Foundation Stage profile have allowed the local authority to target training and support where it is most needed.

Standards have improved at the most crucial points - the end of KS2 and the end of KS4. At Foundation Stage, Merton pupils are performing at around national average levels, there is a drop at KS1 but by the end of KS2 Merton pupils are performing at or slightly above pupils nationally and the progress they have made is good.

Our lowest performing schools have been supported by the Improving Schools Programme. This has been very successful (success recognised by the National Strategies) with outcomes improving significantly in the ISP schools. For some years Merton secondary school pupils were below national levels at KS4 but in 2008 there was a step-change in results which was sustained in 2009. Merton pupils are now performing at around national averages in their GCSE results. An area of focus in secondary schools has been GCSE outcomes in non-core subjects. This has been very successful and contributed to the big improvement in the percentage of pupils gaining 5 A* - C's in 2008 and 2009.

Results in the borough's sixth forms have continued to improve. – as recognised by Ofsted inspections. We have taken significant steps towards offering increased post-16 choice for pupils by embarking on an ambitious programme to develop 6th form provision in all Merton secondary schools. Plans have progressed well and the sixth forms will open in September 2010

In common with many London boroughs, Merton is experiencing an unprecedented increase in demand for primary places. As a result some Merton primaries have already expanded and further growth is planned. In others, facilities have been greatly improved through the careful targeting of Primary Strategy funding.

Both nationally and in Merton there are certain groups which underperform. While the performance of white pupils in Merton schools has improved to national average levels, there is still work for us to do to improve outcomes for our black pupils. Other groups that nationally underperform, for example, looked after pupils and travellers are now well supported in Merton and results are improved.

Schools, settings and colleges are now better able to identify individual pupils and groups who underperform as a result of greatly improved assessment and tracking. This has allowed schools to develop appropriate targets for pupils and classes and to ensure pupils engage in useful intervention programmes including 1 to 1 tuition for pupils in both primary and secondary schools.

Improved assessment and tracking has also enabled the Local Authority to better target training and support for schools where there is underperformance. We have been helped in this through partnership with London Challenge which has offered support for school partnerships and further training opportunities. A large proportion of our schools is now involved in one of the London challenge groupings. Schools are also well supported by the Extended Services clusters across the borough. These clusters are now very firmly established and through them schools are offering a huge range of activities and services, many targeted at the most vulnerable or deprived children and families. 52 out of 54 of our schools now provide a full extended service offer. Merton's schools also showed an improvement in terms of their Ofsted inspection outcomes with more schools graded good or better. Where schools were judged unsatisfactory the Local Authority has taken robust action to improve them as speedily as possible.

Provision for pupils with special educational needs has been comprehensively reviewed and a new strategic plan is being implemented. This has included greater provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Speech, language and Communication needs within mainstream schools. The building of a new Centre of Excellence for pupils with complex and profound needs is now well under way.

The LA has successfully established the virtual behaviour service and (something about exclusions)

Attendance at Merton primary schools is at the national average, slightly below in Merton secondary schools and above the national average in special schools.

Enjoy and achieve action table 2010-11

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
Develop provision in all phases that engages and motivates children and young people through a wide range of opportunities.	Embed the Transforming Education Board to plan for and implement the Estates Strategy.	Firm plans in place for primary expansion for September 2010 and 2011. Building Schools for the Future Readiness To Deliver document submitted Individual school plans underway.	Commissioning, strategy and performance division	School organisation plan
	New 16-19 provision in September 2010.	Building programme implemented by July 2010. Training for schools delivered and evaluated. Target number of students on roll – September 2010. Target number of new LDD places filled.	Commissioning, strategy and performance division and SSQ	School organisation plan
	Implement 14-19 strategic plan.	14-19 milestones monitored termly by 14-19 strategic Partnership. LDD provision extended . Preparation for participation age changes in place (17+ by 2013).	Education Division	14-19 strategic plan NEET reduction strategy
	Consider the role of Supplementary Schools	Provision of current faith supplementary schools mapped – summer 2010. Further needs analysis complete 2011.	MVSC	
	Progress the children's centres development plans and the Intergenerational Centre plans Adventure playground open.	Milestones included in the plans and monitored termly Ofsted inspection outcomes Phase 2 of Adventure Playground complete March 2011.	Education Division	EY team plan Youth Service Plan

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	Progress extended services strategy targeted programmes.	Milestones included in the strategy and monitored termly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summer uni participation • disadvantage subsidy pilot programme outcomes • disadvantage subsidy plans for 2010/11 established in Clusters and Schools 	Education Division	Extended schools team plan
	Deliver the Play Strategy and roll out of related programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • phase one completed autumn 2010 • phase two plans in place following consultation autumn 2010 	Education and Environment and Regeneration	Play Strategy
Improve attainment and increase rates of progress for children and young people.	Implement a range of targeted intervention programmes.	First year evaluation summer 2010 of ECAT. Planning in place for Y2 Summer 2010. Targeted schools engaged in CLLD. ECAR/ECCC programme from Sept 2010.	Education Division	SSQ team plan EY team plan
	Improve EYFS outcomes through targeted interventions in schools/settings.	EYFS outcomes show similar and improving attainment across all 6 areas. Reduce gap in attainment between lowest 20% and the median.	Education Division	EY team plan SSQ team plan
	Increase participation in Children's Centre services by 20%.	Childrens Centres evaluations Ofsted outcomes.	Education Division	EY team plans
	Promote a comprehensive parenting/family learning offer in all schools and settings.	Audit completed by Summer 2010 Parent Support Advisers in place in all schools and impact/ evaluations planned Parenting courses well subscribed and completed.	Education Division	Team Plans Parenting Strategy Adult Education Plan

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
Further develop the quality of leadership and management in schools and settings with a focus on moving from satisfactory to good and from good to outstanding.	Implement CPD /workforce development programmes to improve leadership, governance, teaching and pupil support skills at all levels.	Present programme implemented with good evaluations and participation. New programme developed for Sept 2010.	Education Division	CWD plans Team plans
	Support schools, settings and children's centres in self-evaluation and self improvement.	Training opportunities in place SEFs completed by end July 2010 Ofsted outcomes match self-evaluations monitored termly. World Class Primary Plan in place – summer 2010.	Education Division	EY and SSQ team plans
	Implement actions from secondary behaviour review to move more schools from satisfactory –good for behaviour.	Termly evaluations by schools Ofsted outcomes.	Education Division & Secondary behaviour partnership	Youth Inclusion team plan
	Develop school clusters to prepare for 21Century schools agenda.	Commissioning training delivered Primary Challenge Groups termly evaluations. Pilot outcomes from approved provider groups.	Education	SSQ team plans Extended Services team plans
Narrow the attainment gap between pupil groups.	Implement a range of narrowing the gap projects in partnership with SWLSEP, London Challenge and Merton schools to focus on FSM	SWLSEP project started Spring 2010. Narrowing Gap projects completed by July 2011. Improved achievement of target pupil	Education Division	SSQ plan City Challenge SWLSEP

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	pupils and other identified groups.	groups reported in summer 2010.		Plan
	Implement range of strategies to reduce gaps between pupils with SEN/LDD and other pupil groups by ensuring appropriate rates of progress for all pupils.	Data tracking in special and mainstream schools. School Improvement Partner monitoring Ofsted outcomes.	Education Division	Inclusion and SEN plan
	Support schools in updating and implementing Single Equalities strategies including regular monitoring of racist incidents.	Advice disseminated Autumn 2009. SIP reports on Equalities Spring 2010. All schools engaged in racist incident reporting.	Education Division	Equalities team
Improve the provision and raise achievement for vulnerable children and young people.	Develop closer multi-professional links to support targeted families through Children's Centres, Targeted Youth Support and Volunteering projects.	Transformation Project Board monitoring Development of work of "lead professionals" . Pupil achievement outcomes summer 2010, 2011.	MVSC Education division	CSC plans
	Implement the Virtual School for Looked After Children plan.	Monitored termly by Steering Group.	Virtual School Team	SSQ and CSC
	Implement the SEN strategy	Plan monitored by Transformation Board	Education Division	SEN Strategy
Increasing the engagement and participation of children and young people, especially those from targeted families.	Improve attendance at all phases with a focus on reducing the number of persistent absentees.	Termly review of data Performance monitoring in CSF. Ofsted Outcomes.	Education Division	EWS team plan
	Reduce number of permanent and fixed term exclusions..	Termly review of data. Recommendations of the Behaviour Review delivered.	Youth Inclusion	VBS team plan

Enjoy and achieve - National Indicators

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 72 Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy (A)	56%	49%	46%	59.1%
NI 73 Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (A)	74%	72%	73%	82%
NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (A)	48%	49.8%	54%	N/A
NI 76 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 55% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2 (A)	1	1359	146	0
NI 78 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths (A)	1	440	40	0
NI 79 Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (A)	72%	76.7%	73.3%	N/A
NI 80 Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (A)	51%	49.8%	50%	N/A
NI 81 Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (A)	22%	25.1%	17.6%	N/A
NI 82 Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (A)	58%	23.7%	67.2%	N/A
NI 84 Achievement of 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalent (A)	46%	50.2%	48.7%	60%

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 85 Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics, Chemistry and Maths) (A)	Physics - 25 Chemistry - 57 Maths - 69	Physics - 24,703 Chemistry - 36,328 Maths - 57,618	Physics - 2550 Chemistry - 4917 Maths - 7726	N/A
NI 86 Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour (A)	50%	76.1%	83%	62%
NI 87 Secondary school persistent absence rate (A)	5.9%	5.6%	5%	5%
NI 88 Percentage of schools providing access to extended services (A)	70%	73%	N/A	100% (by July 10)
NI 89 Reduction in number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time taken to come out of the category (A) a) no. in special measures b) length of time in special measures	(a) 2 (b) 12	N/A	(a) 29 (b) N/A	(a) 0 (b) 0
NI 90 Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas (A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
NI 91 Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training (F)	76.7%	83.5%	N/A	86% (2011)
NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest (A)	33.8	35.6%	36.8%	27.2%
NI 93 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (A)	85.0%	82%	85.0%	92%
NI 94 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (A)	78%	78%	80%	90%

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 99 Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 (A)	33%	49%	49%	50%
NI 100 Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 (A)	33%	44%	44%	50%
NI 101 Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths) (A)	9%	16%	16%	67%
NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4 (A)	KS2:18.1% GCSE:16.5%	KS2 - 22.3% KS4 - 27.8%	KS2 - 18.7% KS4 - 20.7%	N/A
NI 103 Special Educational Needs – statements issued within 26 weeks (F)	a) 90.4% b) 86.7%	N/A	N/A	a) 89% b) 89%
NI 104 The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold (A)	47.9%	51.0%	45.7%	N/A
NI 105 The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths (A)	45.3%	45.6%	44.5%	35%
NI 106 Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education (A)	05/06 21.1%	05/06 19.4%	N/A	N/A

Positive contribution - Summary of progress to date, and key priorities and objectives for 2010/2011

We have made good progress in enabling our children and young people to make a positive contribution, by engaging them increasingly in decision making and participation in the community, and were graded as good (level 3) on this aspect of our work in the Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment (2008).

We are embedding the '**participation promise**' in all operational services within the children's trust, which ensures that children and young people's views are having a real impact on decisions about their care and the services they receive.

We want to take this ambition further in the next plan by setting up a virtual participation team to ensure greater consistency across all areas of participation, and we will also be running an engagement strategy looking at increasing young people's engagement in council democratic processes including consideration of a youth mayor.

We have increased the number of places to go and things to do for children and young people. The Play Pathfinders project is refurbishing our parks. And, we have commissioned services, in direct response to young people's requests, which provide activities at the right times – mainly Fridays and Saturdays. We have made good progress on Accredited Outcomes across the Youth Service and its partners with 702 accredited outcomes achieved, exceeding the annual target of 550 by March 2009, so more young people are achieving awards for their engagement. And, we have made good progress in increasing opportunities for young people to become involved in volunteering. The Government has issued a new target related to the take up of positive activities by young people. A baseline was released in January 2009 based on the Tellus survey. This shows that 70.2% of young people are engaged in positive activities. This was at a higher level than other boroughs in London. Aiming High strategy and funding to ensure that children and young people with disabilities access positive activities has begun well. A range of provision has developed from a detailed needs analysis; we particularly want to ensure that mainstream provision is enabled successfully to be in a strong position to help children and young people with disabilities who want to access mainstream leisure/youth provision can do so.

We want to take this further in our next plan making sure that young people know when things are happening and where, targeting the funding of positive activities better, and making sure that those providing activities do so safely and well.

Youth re-offending rates have reduced, with the target for re-offending met due to a sustained strategy and a well-developed partnership with Merton Police. However, overall, the number of offences increased in 2008/09, with a significant rise seen in violence against people. A Serious Youth Violence Action Plan has been produced and is being implemented. Concern about crime remains high amongst young people so work will remain focused on preventing young people from offending, in particular the implementation of the new Family Intervention Project, and continuing to focus our national pilot of Multi Systemic Therapy with our partners in Kingston. Both of these projects targeted those with very significant needs.

The Youth Justice Service is performing well, but we want to ensure risk is always effectively reviewed, so we will be setting up an additional governance structure to ensure safety. We must also be vigilant to reducing youth offending as we have seen rises in serious youth crime towards the end of 2009/10.

Positive contribution action table 2010-11

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
Reducing incidents of anti social behaviour and violence perpetrated and experienced by children and young people.	Set up the Family Intervention Project (FIP) and evaluate its effectiveness. Implement the FIP 2010-11, ensuring effective multi agency support.	Recruit additional housing worker - June 2010. Establish the FIP referral routes, and support the first cohort of families - September 2010. Evaluate the first year of FIP - December 2010. to inform commissioning decisions - April 2011.	Think family group	Capacity and capability framework YJB
	Continue to implement the Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) and evaluate its effectiveness.	Evaluate MST and building into commissioning decisions - December 2011.	MST project board	CAMHS Commissioning
	Reduce 1 st time entries to criminal justice system by setting up triage system with the Police.	Implement triage process and monitor its effectiveness from April 2010, evaluate 2011.	Youth Crime prevention Board	Capacity and capability framework YJB
		Implementation of youth rehabilitation orders and monitor effectiveness from April 2010 evaluate 2011.	Youth Crime prevention Board	Capacity and capability framework YJB
	Reduce reoffending.	Implement the serious youth violence action plan - July 2010.	Youth Crime prevention Board	Capacity and capability framework YJB
	Review and refresh the quality assurance systems in Youth Justice.	Set up developed additional governance structure to ensure risk is reviewed - June 2010.	YJ governance group	Capacity and capability framework YJB
	Further embed targeted youth support models in secondary schools, special schools and	Review all school action plans – December 2010.	Youth inclusion team/ Extended services	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	Further Education.			
	Further embed the multi agency team model 0-12 supporting families.	Review the relationship of VBS / EWS and supporting families.	Early Years	
	Develop "Think Family " interventions across services.	Identify areas of synergy where think family work may be possible.	Think Family group	
		Establish strategic buy in through looking at areas of mutual activity or spend.	Think Family group	
	Ensure effective parenting support to the parents of young offenders or potential offenders.	Run PEIP intervention programmes and other preventative schemes well targeted at need.	Youth Justice	Capacity and capability framework YJB
Increasing engagement of young people in the process of local democracy and the functioning of the children's trust agencies.	Further embed the 'participation promise' by writing it into commissioning agreements, and each Children, Schools and Families Department service and team plan.	All Children's Trust partners to roll out the promise.	Children's Trust Board	All CSF team plans include actions to implement the promise - May 2010. Partner's Action plans
		All commissioned projects to agree to implement the participation promise as part of their contract - April 2011.		Partner's action plans
	Implement Youth Engagement Action plan.	Take forward all actions in the action plan and review progress.	Youth Engagement group	
	Set up the Virtual Participation Team and write action plan to include further developments of the Youth Parliament and	Set up young commissioner's programme - summer 2010. Write and implement the action plan - April 2011 to agree common approaches to a	VCSF/VCM	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	Children's Council - June 2010.	range of participation issues.		
		Set up the adventure playground children forum December 2010.		
		Develop the implementation of the "You're Welcome" standards across health - April 2011.	NHS Merton and Sutton	
		Celebrate and disseminate Youth Participation good practice via MYP - April 2011	Merton youth partnership	
Promote Positive activities for children and young people.	Improve commissioning through developing the summer university model and improving the quality of providers.	Summer university expanded to 5 -19 year olds – summer 2010.	Extended services and Youth Service	
		London Youth Quality mark achieved by all 3 year commissioned providers - April 2011.	MVSC	
		Development of preferred provider list of small providers - April 2011.	CSF commissioning	
		Let a Leisure centre contract which takes account of the needs of all potential users in Merton including young people by December 2010.	Leisure services	
	More targeted positive activities for young people.	Disadvantage subsidy for pupils expanded to all schools, including mapping all positive activities of all pupils – April 2011.	Extended services	
	Implement Aiming High and short breaks for children and young people with disabilities and their families.	Implement the action plan - April 2011.	Shorts breaks implementation group	
	Ensure play and youth provision is target to areas and groups with	Establish a positive activities asset plan for Merton by March 2011.	Youth Inclusion team	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	need in Merton.			
	Implementation of play strategy and Play Pathfinders project.	Implement the action plan including setting up the Adventure Playground at Intergenerational centre - April 2011.		
		Implement strategy to consider feasibility of a BMX cycling project in Mitcham.	Leisure services/ Youth Inclusion / St Marks Academy	Asset plan
		Develop a program of intergenerational volunteering - April 2011.	Intergenerational partnership	
	Finalise and launch the web site for young people about things to do and places to go.	Website handed over by designers - May 2010. Website launched - June 2010.	Website implementation group	
Review adolescent key working arrangements in Merton with a view to developing a new model	Identify synergies/duplication across existing roles; draft proposals for new model.	Establish, review and develop the change process covering: model, staffing, management, lead professional and work force development by September 2010.	Youth Inclusion	Transformation plan
Engage Children and Young people through schools and their leisure time in London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics games activities	Increase school registration on the Get Set website Establish a training programme for Young Ambassadors who can deliver Olympic themed assemblies, workshops & sports events to young people Raise aware of 2012 games through National Schools Sports week and other sporting festivals Schools/education organisations to gain access to the 2012 Education logo through	Increase penetration (as per LOCOG statistics) of registrations in borough to 50% by July 2010 and to 80% by Jan 2012 First round of Ambassador training April 2010 Schools to be informed of application process for Get Set Network by Sept 2010. 10 schools/organisations to have achieved status by July 2011. 65% of young people 5-16 take part in 3 hours of PE and sport in 2010/11.	Schools Sports Partnership & Playing for Success	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	applications to LOCOG to join the Get Set Network	20 primary schools to receive an Olympic themed assembly delivered by sports leaders each academic year		

Positive contribution - National Indicators

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities (A)	70.2%	69.5%	67.9% (2008)	N/A
NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10–17 (F)	1290 (per 100,000)	1472 (per 100,000)	1610 (per 100,000)	N/A
NI 112 Under 18 conception rate (calender year)	-19.4% (2007)	-10.7% (2007)	-10.7% (2007)	30.7%
NI 114 Rate of permanent exclusions from school (all schools + academies) (A)	0.16%	0.11%	0.13%	N/A
NI 19 Youth re-offending rate (F)	0.79	0.74	0.71	1.05
NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody (F)	5.3%	5.8%	8.1%	7.6%
NI 44 Ethnic composition on Youth Justice disposals - White (F)	-10.4	-1.4	-11.7	N/A
NI 44 Ethnic composition on Youth Justice disposals - Mixed (F)	1.9	0.6	2.2	N/A
NI 44 Ethnic composition on Youth Justice disposals - Black/Black British (F)	15.7	3.4	15.3	14
NI 44 Ethnic composition on Youth Justice disposals - Asian/Asian British (F)	-4.7	-2.0	-4.8	N/A
NI 44 Ethnic composition on Youth Justice disposals - Chinese/Other (F)	-2.4	-0.6	-0.9	N/A

Economic well-being - Summary of progress to date, and key priorities and objectives for 2010/2011

The foundation for the achievement of economic well-being starts from the child's early years childhood experiences and relates to social and emotional wellbeing and achievement of qualifications on leaving compulsory education. Successful outcomes in early years are seen as critical to successful attainment in later stages of education. National and local data confirms that young people who achieve 5 +GCSE A*-C are able to choose from a broader range of options of future careers, and their lifetime earnings are likely to be greater than their counterparts whose achievements were not as great.

In Merton outcomes for 'Achieving Economic Well-being' continue to improve year on year. There is very good support for young people to prepare for working life, with good coordination of 14-19 education and training provision. Very good progress has been made in reducing the level of young people who are NEET and opportunities for further expansion of 6th form provision in Merton will provide better opportunities for the 14 – 19 phase of education. In 2008 the level of young people achieving 5+ GCSE's A*-C was 61.8%.

The percentage of young people obtaining at least one qualification during this period is 97.9%, which is marginally below the national average of 98.6%

Inspection outcomes for 16 – 19 provision are improving but there is still more to do to ensure an even approach.

Young offenders engaged in appropriate education and training continues to perform well with Merton performing well above local and national performance levels.

Merton continues to perform well in ensuring that 82% of 16-19 year olds with learning difficulties and/or disabilities participate in education, employment or training compared to 72% in the previous year.

In Merton it is recognised that children who live in families free from poverty and who access a range of children's and family support services are more likely to achieve economic wellbeing. Improving levels of attainment for all children and young people in Merton schools, and narrowing the gap in attainment between pupil groups remain high priorities.

In Merton, our early intervention work supports families who require universal and targeted provision across the whole range of service providers across the statutory and private and voluntary sectors. 6,136 children aged 0-4 are registered with one of the boroughs eleven children's centres, over 4,000 children taking up their free entitlement to early years learning and childcare at the age of 3 and 4 and 89 vulnerable 2 year olds are

supported to access free childcare. Our employability work is recognised as a regional example of good practice with 205 families being supported into training and or employment.

Our early years outcomes at the end of the EYFS are above average and our narrowing the gap for the lowest 20% remains a priority for the forthcoming years.

Improving quality across the childcare and early years sector remains a key focus and there has been an improvement in settings graded as outstanding and good by OFSTED.

The extended school programme is delivering a vast range of services, including a core offer of childcare, varied menu of activities and parenting support and the pilot for the targeted disadvantaged subsidy supporting identified children. The school based Parent Support Advisors are supporting local parents with identified issues and signposting onto to other services as required.

Our parenting programmes continue to deliver across a wide range of topics from Money Smart to targeted programmes for vulnerable families all contributing to parents' ability to support their own and their children's economic well being.

Supporting families to take up their benefit entitlements and tax credits remains a focus for our work. 18% of the eligible population in Merton take up their entitlement for the childcare element of the childcare tax credit, which compares nationally, but needs to be improved.

Dissemination of and access to information is recognised as good with the Family Information service and the Connexions IAG service providing comprehensive information across the borough by phone, inn communicates and electronically

Merton continues to perform well in ensuring looked after children and care leavers are helped to achieve economic well-being. Performance is good in supporting care leavers in suitable accommodation with 100% achievement.

Whilst overall outcomes are improving there is still more work to be done and through consultation the following priorities have been identified.

- Better information advice and guidance for young people at an earlier age. (with parental involvement)
- Improve the support available at key transition points for young people so they are better supported and will remain in education employment and training.
- Ensure that schools adapt their curriculum offer so that there are more opportunities for work experience and volunteering. Both locally and further a field.

- Increase the level of Apprenticeship opportunities locally. This includes the local authority and the PCT.
- Work with parents and professionals to ensure a higher take up of tax credits and benefits
- Financial inclusion and assessment of family's financial circumstance is considered as part of an overall assessment to support vulnerable families (disabilities, lone parents etc) to access the full range of benefits and services to which they are entitled but do not necessarily take up.
- Multi agency and partnership working to maximise resources and pathways of support - think family
- Support young people aged 18 -24 who had already accessed further education but are now finding progression routes limited.
- Greater emphasis on parental involvement and interventions to support families.
- Increase and develop the range and opportunities of positive activities for young people. Make sure that activities lead into further opportunities for work experience and volunteering.
- Support parents to access affordable, good quality inclusive childcare to enable them to resume employment and achieve economic well-being.
- Increase access to a wide range of post-16 options across education, training and paid employment.
- Encourage the need for community support to help parents and young people.
- Targeting of information and support at key transitions in children's and their family's lives.

Economic well-being action table 2010-11

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
To minimise the negative impact of poverty on children and young people.	Engage with and empower vulnerable families to access the full range of information, advice and guidance benefits and services to which they are entitled to but do not necessarily take up.	<p>Deliver 11 targeted promotion and monthly information surgeries in Children's Centres and schools about benefits take up – ongoing April 2010 – March 2011.</p> <p>Increase by 20% the numbers of families supported by the Employability Programme.</p>	Head of Education	<p>NI118</p> <p>Service Plans</p> <p>Child Poverty Action Plan</p> <p>Early Years Outcome Duty Plan</p>
	Improving information, advice and guidance for young people and their families in schools and colleges.	<p>Launch new Family Information Website June 2010.</p> <p>Support 350 families as part of the Child Poverty Pilot Supporting Separating Families and 3 Helping Parent Manage their Money pilots March 2011.</p> <p>Clear careers education, information advice and guidance programme as part of the curriculum from year 7. March 2011</p>	Head of Education	Economic Development Strategy and Economic Skills Strategy
	Gain a greater understanding of the impact of housing on outcomes for children	Needs analysis of homeless youths aged 16 -24. Completed end June 2010		Economic Development Strategy and

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
				Economic Skills Strategy
	Deliver the actions in the Child Poverty Action Plan and Merton's London Child Poverty Pledge	Actions delivered March 2011.	Head of Education	
	Deliver the actions in the Children's Centre and Extended School strategic plans working closely with all partners and JCP	11 Children's Centres by 2011. 100% schools offer extended services September 2010.	Head of Education	
	Deliver the statutory duties within the Child poverty Bill (expected end of March 10).	Child Poverty Assessment October 2010 Child Poverty Strategy March 2010	Head of Education	Statutory Guidance
Improve the provision and raise achievement, aspirations and opportunities for vulnerable children and young people	Implement a range of narrowing the gap projects and plans including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWLSEP Narrowing the Gap project • London Challenge Narrowing the Gap projects • Cluster narrowing the gap projects • Early Years, Childcare and Children's Centre Programmes • Extended Services Business Plan (including 	Completed July 2011 Completed July 2011 Completed July 2011 Ongoing Completed July 2011	Head Of Education School Standards and Quality Manager	

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
	SHINE, Disadvantaged subsidy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Virtual School for Looked After Children plan • SEN action plan for additional resourced provision in mainstream schools 	Ongoing Ongoing		
	Improve 16-19 provision for SEN pupils Further progress the development of the SEN Centre of Excellence	Plan for introduction of Foundation Learning Tier starting Spring 2010 External review of provision Spring 2010 Development of Cricket Green post-16 provision to start Sept 2010	Head of Education	14-19 Strategy
	To improve the quality of, Information, Advice and Guidance across IYSS arrangements	Each service delivering IAG to produce a self assessment and action plan against the 12 IAG standards by September 2010 Conduct a review of services involving young people to assess impact. November 2010 Undertake an assessment of the skills and qualifications of practitioners delivering IAG services and produce training plan to improve the IAG workforce. Summer term 2010	14-19 Partnership Board IYSS	School College Partnership Agreement IYSS CFBT Connexions 14 – 19 plan 14- 19 Partnership Board

Key objective	Activities to achieve the key objective	Progress milestones (including date: month/year)	Lead	Link to other plans
Young People to engage in further education, employment or training on leaving statutory education	Deliver the NEET reduction Strategy and September and January Guarantee	<p>Refine the NEET strategy in light of DCSF Recommendations.</p> <p>Meet LAA target for NEET and achieve 0.5% of Not Known.</p>	<p>IYSS & Schools</p> <p>NEET Reduction Group</p>	LSP Economic Development Strategy 14-19 Strategy
	<p>Implement the 14 – 19 Strategic Plan: Further diploma development Extending 14 – 19 offer and developing pathways in preparation for raising participation age. Deliver the joint actions across the Children’s Trust partners (JCP, Connexions, LBM and 3rd sector).</p> <p>Young People are ready for employment, with explicit focus on the most vulnerable young people.</p>	<p>Increase the progression routes for young people aged 18-24 Deliver the Future Jobs Fund with a clear exit pathway to apprenticeships By September implement an Individual Advice and Guidance Strategy with all schools and providers, building on the web-based 14-19 prospectus CHOICE to enable young people to develop an electronic Individual Learning Plan.</p> <p>By September have in place clear plans that identify and target intervention with young people under the age of 16 at risk of becoming NEET, together with post-16 tracking and monitoring to enable a focus on those dropping out at 17 and those who have become NEET.</p>	14-19 lead	

Achieve economic well being - National Indicators

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 46 Young Offenders' access to suitable accommodation (F)	98.6%	95.3%	93.7%	95%
NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation (F)	100%	89.6%	88.1%	100%
NI 148 Care leavers in employment, education or training (F)	63.6%	63%	65%	64%
NI 198 Children travelling to school - mode of travel (A)	18.2% (2007)	28.7% (2007)	21.7% (2007)	N/A
NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty (new definition) (F)	21.8% (2007)	21.6% (2007)	32.5% (2007)	N/A

National Indicator Description	Merton Performance 2008/2009	National Performance 2008/2009	London Performance 2008/2009 (GOL)	Target 2010/2011
NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (F)	5.8% (2008)	6.7% (2008)	5.8% (2008)	5.5%
NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families (F)	18.7% (2007/08)	17.8% (2007/08)	18.7% (2007/08)	28%

Appendix 1 Children's Trust arrangements

Children's Trust co-operation arrangements are the means by which key local services for children come together in partnership to improve children's well-being. It is not a separate legal entity – each partner retains its own functions and responsibilities within the partnership framework.

The Children's Trust Board is the statutory¹ body that every local authority area is required to have which oversees the working of the Children & Young People Plan as **the agreed joint strategy of the partners of the Children's Trust** to co-operate to improve children's well-being. The Board is responsible for the Plan's inception, monitoring and revision, though delivery remains the responsibility of the partners, both individually and together. The Board is facilitated by the local authority.

Merton Children's Trust arrangements: subgroups

There are a considerable number of specialist partnerships, which sit under and are accountable to the Children's Trust Board, some of which also report to other thematic partnerships, e.g. Safer Merton. Some are permanent and some come together to deliver specific pieces of work, so the structure of the Children's Trust arrangements is fluid and changes frequently.

For more information see: <http://www.mertonpartnership.org/mp-home/mp-themes/childrenstrust.htm>

Children's Trust Board

In Merton the Children's Trust Board is also the Children and Young People Thematic Group of The local Strategic Partnership which has overall responsibility for the Sustainable Community Strategy, of which the CYPP is a key element

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

1.1. Merton's Children's Trust / Thematic Partnership exists in order to secure improvements to the well-being of children and young people in Merton in the following areas:

¹ Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

- Their physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- Protecting them from harm and neglect
- Their education, training and recreation
- The contribution they make to society; and
- Their social and economic well-being.

- 1.2. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership will develop and implement a whole system and cross-agency approach to the provision of services for children and young people.
- 1.3. The duty to co-operate to improve the well-being of children and young people has a statutory basis in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004
- 1.4. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership is also the key governance body in respect of the children and young people theme of Merton's Sustainable Community Plan.

2. Working Arrangements

2.1. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership will consist of the following members:

Role/ Representation	Reports to/ Represents
Chair. Director of Children Schools and Families Department	LBM Corporate Management Team
Cabinet Lead Member for Children's Services	LBM Cabinet
Vice Chair. Community Empowerment Network (CEN) representative	Involve
Vice Chair. Executive Director, NHS Sutton & Merton	NHS Sutton & Merton
Chair of Local Safeguarding Children Board	Merton Local Safeguarding Children Board
Children's Health Services Manager	NHS Sutton & Merton Provider Services
Community Empowerment Network (CEN) representative	Involve
Borough Commander	Metropolitan Police
Chief Executive Merton Voluntary Service Council	Merton Voluntary Service Council
Director South London Sub-Regional Unit	South London Connexions
Principal	South Thames College

Role/ Representation	Reports to/ Represents
External Relations Manager JobCentre Plus, South London District	JobCentre Plus/Employment sector
Primary Headteacher	Primary Heads Group
Special Schools Headteacher	Special Schools Heads Group
Secondary Headteacher	Secondary Heads Group
Cultural Partnership Manager/ E & R.	Leisure & Cultural Partnership. LB Merton – Environment & Regeneration
Senior Representative	Housing Department
Mental Health Trust Director	SWLStG NHS Trust
CAMHS Child Clinical Psychiatrist	SWLStG NHS Trust
Representative GP	General Practitioners and Commissioning Practices

NB – Senior officers from Children’s Trust / Thematic Partnership partners attend according to specific agenda items but are not voting members of the Board.

Each member of the Children’s Trust Board / Thematic Partnership nominates a deputy for the purposes of attending meetings of the Board in his or her absence .

Meetings of the Children’s Trust Board / Thematic Partnership are held every two months and will not normally last more than two hours. Agendas and papers are sent to Board members one week before each meeting. In exceptional circumstances papers may be tabled at the discretion of the Chair.

The minimum number of Board / Thematic Partnership members for decision-making purposes is two-thirds of the full Board membership.

3. Key Accountabilities

3.1 The key accountabilities of the Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership are as follows:

- The quality of outcomes for children and young people
- The assessment of local need
- The strategic plans to secure improvements in outcomes for children and young people
- The budgets and other resources available to ensure planned improvements are achieved
- The quality and effectiveness of strategic partnership arrangements;
- The monitoring and achievement of the strategic objectives and targets outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan, the Sustainable Community Plan and Merton's Local Area Agreement;
- The monitoring and performance of service integration and delivery;
- Consultation with and the engagement of stakeholders;
- The overall strategic direction set by the partner agencies' executive bodies;
- Oversight of the development of the children's workforce;
- Inspections of children's services locally

3.2. Decisions taken by the Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership will apply to those actions carried out in partnership. The decision to commit resources to those actions rests with the executive bodies of the constituent agencies.

3.3. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership is responsible for those services where there has been an agreement between constituent agencies to operate a joint service.

3.4. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership is responsible for any pooled budgets or joint financing of services.

4. Functions

4.1. To set the strategic direction of services for children, young people and their families in Merton

4.2. To monitor the achievement of better outcomes for children, and ensure effective performance against all agreed key indicators

4.3. To be the accountable body for the Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Review of children's services

- 4.4. To approve, monitor and drive forward the implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan and Community Plan objectives relating to children and young people
- 4.5. To monitor and ensure delivery of targets relating to children and young people within Merton's Local Area Agreement.
- 4.6. To ensure that constituent agencies are responsive to local needs
- 4.7. To ensure that there are effective links between agencies and that there are arrangements in place for integrated service planning, commissioning and delivery
- 4.8. To formally agree core contributions of each agency to service development and to secure resource commitments for key priorities
- 4.9. To approve, review and monitor appropriate business plans / work programmes
- 4.10. To make strategic decisions about joint appointments of staff, co-location of services and the management of available premises and accommodation for children's services
- 4.11. To set the strategic direction for joint commissioning
- 4.12. To ensure that integrated processes are developed and implemented across all agencies in regard to information sharing; the common assessment framework; the lead professional and the deployment of the Information Sharing Index
- 4.13. To establish the local framework and priorities for the development of the children's workforce
- 4.14. To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for all relevant young people to make a successful transition to adult services.

5. Work programme

- 5.1 The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership sets an annual work programme.
- 5.2. An annual report on the work of the Board / Thematic Partnership will be produced.

6. Principles and Conduct

- 6.1. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership will adopt the principles of the code of conduct introduced by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life, setting standards to which partners and members of the thematic partnership should conform.
- 6.2. The Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership will also uphold the Merton Compact principles that highlight the joint aims of the way that the Merton Partnership engages with the voluntary and community sector.
- 6.3. Members of the Children's Trust Board / Thematic Partnership should take steps to ensure that they:

- Communicate any proposals to their own agency and to constituent organisations within their sector
- Secure a mandate to make decisions about partnership activities on behalf of their agency and sector
- Ensure that contributions agreed by individual agencies towards partnership actions are implemented.

Nolan Principles

The code of conduct introduced by the Nolan Committee on standards in public life sets standard to which Partners should conform. These seven principles as applied to the Merton Local Strategic Partnership are:

- **Selflessness** – partners should take decisions solely in terms of public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
- **Integrity** – partners should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) role.
- **Objectivity** – In carrying out Children’s Trust / LSP business partners should always make choices on merit.
- **Accountability** – partners are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their role within the Children’s Trust / LSP
- **Openness** – partners should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty** – partners have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their role with the Children’s Trust / LSP and to take steps to resolve any conflicts in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Leadership** – partners should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Compact Principles

The local strategic partnership strives to build upon and work towards the Compact Principles. These set a framework for working with the voluntary and community sector. The principles are as follows:

- Valuing community and voluntary action as essential to the quality of life in Merton.
- Respecting the differences and diversity between the public sector and the voluntary and community sector.
- The public sector and the voluntary and community sector have distinct but complementary roles in the development and delivery of service.
- Each sector has its own responsibilities and constraints.

- Respecting the independence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).
- To maximise the effectiveness of the VCS investment in its infrastructure.
- The relationship between sectors should be open and respectful and demonstrate trust.
- Each sector should strive for excellence and equality of access.
- When working together contributions from each sector should be given equal consideration and respect.
- Organisations in each sector have the right to contribute to and if necessary, challenge matters that affect them.