

OXFORDSHIRE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD - 21 NOVEMBER 2007

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BLOCK

The Children and Young People's Block of the Local Area Agreement has as its stretch target improvement in achievement at GCSE A*-C.

In addition there are 11 non stretch targets.

This report focuses in detail on actions being taken to address under-achievement in relation to the GCSE target and also identifies and comments on the other two areas where performance is not matching the target expectation. In relation to all other indicators the attainment of LAA targets appears to be on track.

Actions to address under-achievement at KS4 focusing on Local Area Agreement (LAA) target: 51.2% 5+A* -C (En & Ma):

- All schools will receive a letter specifying requirements for improvement.
- 9 schools significantly below estimates will have paired visits from a senior officer (Director or Head of Raising Achievement Service (RAS) and a Cabinet Member) to emphasis expectation of achievement and require action plan to achieve targets. School Improvement Partners (SIPs) will be accompanied at the target-setting meeting by a Senior RAS Officer in these schools to ensure a sufficiently robust challenge.
- Schools where 5+A*-C and 5+A*-C (En &Ma) gap and English/mathematics and mathematics/science achievement is large will be targeted for support/intervention.
- Letter to all governors from Director about governing body (GB) role in challenge and accountability.
- Cabinet committed to challenging schools through direct membership of GBs.
- National Strategies working with Local Authority (LA) in 3 targeted schools where contextual value added (CVA) is low
- Successful schools will be paired with targeted schools to raise achievement funded through the school intervention grant
- Joint determination by LA/OSSHTA (Oxfordshire Secondary School Headteachers' Association) to raise achievement and meet LAA target. Current aggregated targets if achieved would secure 54%. A number of OSSHTA/LA joint action groups have been established to accelerate progress to meet targets.
- Following discussion with HOS, Director for CYP&F has commissioned a review of services to support raising attainment to ensure most effective strategies are in place to raise achievement in the secondary phase and that all necessary steps have been taken to ensure LAA stretch target of 51.2% 5+ A* - C (En & Ma) is achieved in 2008

Detailed Actions:

Universal

Continue to use 14-19 Strategy to further develop more personalised curricula increasing the number of A*-C grades in vocational subjects.

- Provide third day of 2+3 (English and mathematics + 3 other subjects) training for KS4 leaders and deputy heads focussed on raising achievement at 5+ A*-C (En & ma). Strongly encourage attendance not just by project schools but also those with large gap 5+A*-C and 5+ A*C (En & ma), poor outcomes in relation to Fischer Family Trust (FFT) data and significant drops in standards at 5+ A*-C and/or 5+ A*-C (En & ma). Disseminate strategies used in successful schools
- Implement reviewed middle leadership development with coherent approaches across subject leader networks. Implement planned 3 generic middle leader courses targeting Foundation Subject and Non-National Curriculum subject middle leaders.
- Use Leadership Network Conferences in February and April to embed further understanding of the relevance of the 14-19 agenda, school leader's part in contribution to it, and the range of learners whose success will be secured by the diplomas and a range of more diverse and differentiate curriculum strategies.
- Use Leadership Network Conference in November to raise understanding of the needs of vulnerable learners in specific groups and of the messages young people are giving us through the Sounding Board and the Young People's Survey.

Targeted

- Provide additional support from 14-19 consultant in those partnerships making slower progress on 14-19 development.
- Complete Functional Skills training for providers.
- When KS4 curriculum map is complete review co-ordinating and advisory support to 14-19 partnerships.
- Target SNS in-school support to schools with large gaps between 5 A*-C and 5 A*-C En Ma; differentiate in response to subject results. KS3 analysis and support through subject networks.
- Engagement of SIPs with Secondary National Strategy (SNS) support and other brokerage activity through early continuing professional development (CPD) and partnership with area advisers.
- Specific schools where there are concerns about standards and/or achievement outcomes to be focus for SIPs early term 1.
- SIPs collect estimates of current year 11 progress towards 5 A*-C (En & ma) targets at term 2 meeting, monitor progress from key recommendations of 2+3 2007 monitoring and interview identified students in 2+3 target group.
- 2+3 team to promote presentations to whole staff or middle manager meetings in schools in priority category, poor %5+ A*-C (En & ma) outcomes and/or big gaps 5+ A*-C and 5+ A*-C (En & ma).
- Review Whole School consultant days and provide adviser 1:1 support for leaders responsible for KS4 outcomes in selected schools with weak 5+ A*-C/5+ A*-C (En & ma) outcomes or large gaps between the two measures.

- Communicate with schools about additional or reduced consultant support following KS4 2007 outcomes. 25% consultant days in hand.
- When individual subject results are available, check against brokerage records and SIP Standard Achievement analysis to ensure that appropriate support has been brokered for schools where poor performance in a Foundation or non-National Curriculum (NC) subjects will significantly affect 2008 outcomes.
- When ICT results are available ensure that ICT support is reviewed and that curriculum mapping against the BECTA framework is developed.
- Implement development of consultant senior and middle leaders in conjunction with Oxfordshire Secondary Headteachers Association. Guide support to schools where the Leadership to learning links are weak.

Intensive

- Implement Whole School Agreements developed with school leaders in priority schools in June/July 2007 and co-ordinating consultant/Area Adviser review details of support activities in the light of KS4 outcomes.
- Peers School (Ofsted Notice to Improve (Ntl) Category); implement integrated plan including intensive focus on year 11, the school's 2+3 plan and individual teachers in KS4 requiring support. Use supported school reviews to help school direct priorities and support.
- Chiltern Edge (Ntl): Implement LA Action Plan including additional 1:1 generic coaching programme allocated to underperforming teachers of more able students (Ofsted priority) as well as strand consultant support as identified in 2007 whole school agreement focus on improvement on weak GCSE results. Use supported school reviews to help school direct priorities and support.

Conceptions Among Under 18 Year Olds

Non Stretch Target

Conceptions Among Under 18 Year Olds

Oxfordshire's teenage pregnancy rate has risen by 8.8% since the baseline was set in 1998, against a reduction in the national rate of 11.8%. During the period of the LAA a number of actions have been put in place to reverse this trend and, although currently data is only available from 2005, it is clear that Oxfordshire is performing less well than similar authorities. Because of this the Joint Area Review has identified this area for one of its additional investigations.

The Teenage Pregnancy Board is now chaired by Louise Chapman, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. At the last meeting of the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Board, a report was presented and agreed which proposed a wide range of actions to seek to have a significant impact on reducing teenage conception.

These actions include:

- The development of accessible young people friendly sexual health services across a range of settings.

- In future commissioning of termination services by the PCT should include provision of contraceptive advice.
- Targeted programmes of work with high risk groups.
- Inclusion of outreach and sexual health services in the Extended Services agenda.
- Improve targeted health promotion and support for young people by universal services including sexual health advice and support in non health settings.
- Identification of teenage pregnancy 'hot spots' as focus for intensive work within schools around the SRE/PHSE programme and through dedicated youth support service outreach.
- Substance misuse workers providing contraceptive and sexual health advice.
- Extension of the availability of free 'morning after' contraception for under 18 years old in pharmacies.
- 80 condom distribution points are now in place across the county.

While taken together, these actions should over time, contribute to a reduction in conceptions, it is highly unlikely that the ambitious target for March 2009 will be achieved.

Stability of Placement for Looked After Children

This non-stretch target is concerned with the percentage of looked after children who have been looked after for 2.5 years or more and who have been in the same placement for 2 years or have been placed for adoption. This has shown a small decline on 06/07.

Highly pertinent to this target are legal changes which impact most particularly on children and young people in the most stable of placements. Whereas the indicator is based upon only two placements choices (being looked after or adoption), a third, Special Guardianship, has been introduced. This allows for foster carers to apply for an order which removes the child from the looked after system but, unlike adoption, only continues during childhood. There have been a number of such orders in Oxfordshire, all of which have, of course been made on children who had been in placements for substantial periods. This inevitably impacts negatively on the achievement of the target.

Great emphasis is placed on seeking to prevent placement breakdown and a Placement Support Team is now in place. Additionally foster carers have ready access to psychologists and other specialists who work with their foster children and them to help to overcome significant behaviour difficulties that are a consequence of the lives of abuse and neglect that many of them have experienced prior to entering the system.

Mike Simm
12 November 2007