



Oxfordshire Children & Young People's Trust

# Needs Analysis

**Oxfordshire Children and  
Young People's Plan  
2010-13**

---

---

**January 2010**

<b>Contents</b>		<u>Page</u>
1.	<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	4
2.	<a href="#">Setting the Scene: the Oxfordshire context</a> .....	5
3.	<a href="#">Be Healthy</a> .....	14
4.	<a href="#">Stay Safe</a> .....	20
5.	<a href="#">Enjoy and Achieve</a> .....	30
6.	<a href="#">Make a Positive Contribution</a> .....	38
7.	<a href="#">Achieve Economic Well-Being</a> .....	42
8.	<a href="#">Summary of Key Issues</a> .....	48

**Index:**

<a href="#">Oxfordshire population breakdown and forecasts</a> .....	5
Area Populations	
Ethnicity	
Population change by ethnic group, 2001 to 2007	
Ethnic groups in schools	
Deprivation	
Child Well-being	
Urban and rural deprivation	
Single Parent Families	
Children in low income housing	
Free schools meals	
<a href="#">Be Healthy</a> .....	14
Infant mortality	
Life expectancy	
Teenage pregnancy rates	
Breastfeeding rates and smoking in pregnancy rates	
Chlamydia screening	
Vaccination programmes	
Emotional health and well-being	
Obesity and physical activity	
Oral health	
Substance misuse	

<b><u>Stay Safe</u></b> .....	20
Injured children	
Elective home education	
Young carers	
Children affected by domestic abuse	
Disabled children	
Common Assessment Framework	
Initial assessments	
Core assessments	
Child protection plans	
Serious case reviews	
Looked after children	
Stability of placements of children in care	
Adoption	
Privately fostered children	
<b><u>Enjoy and Achieve</u></b> .....	30
Key Stage 4	
Key Stage 2	
Key Stage 1	
Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	
Increase in autism	
School inspections	
<b><u>Make a Positive Contribution</u></b> .....	38
Bullying	
Positive activities	
Youth Offending	
School Attendance	
School Exclusions	
<b><u>Achieve Economic Well-Being</u></b> .....	42
County Council's 14-19 Education Plan	
Level 2 attainment by 19 year olds	
Levels 3 attainment by 19 year olds	
Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	
Young people not in education employment or training	
Apprenticeships	
Children's Centres	

# 1. Introduction

This needs analysis is an underpinning document of Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13. It has helped to inform the three priorities on which Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's Trust (OCYPT) will focus over the next three years.

The analysis is broken down into five sections, which reflect the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes. Each section aims to draw together the views from external inspection, the Ofsted profile of Oxfordshire, Government Office for the South East findings, the thoughts and comments of local children and young people, the findings of existing research and surveys as well as Children and Young People's Trust interpretation of the performance data. Each section concludes with a summary of the evidence and key messages.

The judgements made at external inspection are taken from the most recent Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment of services for children and young people, which was issued in December 2008 and refers to the delivery of services from April 2007 to March 2008. This information can be found on the Ofsted website.

The views of children, young people, parents and carers are from a range of sources but drawn mainly from the Oxfordshire Children and Young People Survey carried out by Childwise in spring and summer 2009. This collected responses from 4947 children and young people aged 4 to 19 years across the county. 53 schools and colleges took part and booster samples were conducted by the county council to include those with disabilities, ethnic minorities, teen parents, young carers, looked after children, those in temporary or rented accommodation and fringe groups such as those who are outside the school system or not in education, employment or training (NEET). An additional set of findings was produced to reflect the needs of minority groups.

The research and surveys are from a range of sources which are referenced throughout the analysis. The performance data has been drawn from information produced by the Children, Young People & Families Directorate and is informed by the national indicators used to measure performance across the country. Details on health inequalities are drawn from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009 supplement) as well as Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust's interpretation of local need through the Director of Public Health's Report, 2009. Views of local communities have been drawn from the report produced on, 'Community-led plans in Oxfordshire: their potential contribution to strategic planning'.

## 2. Setting the Scene: the Oxfordshire context

This section gives key information on Oxfordshire's changing population, highlighting areas of change both geographically and demographically. It reviews the levels of deprivation across the county and identifies where children are living in poverty.

### Oxfordshire population breakdown and forecasts

- In 2008, an estimated 639,800 (Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year estimates) people lived in Oxfordshire, of these 155,700 (0-19) are children and young people.
- Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East region. Over 50% of people in Oxfordshire live in settlements of less than 10,000 people.
- The population of Oxfordshire has more than doubled since the 1940s. The ONS 2006 based projections <sup>1</sup> estimate that there will be 36,000 more people living in the county in 2016 than there were in 2009, an increase of 5.6%.

The figures below are taken from the Oxfordshire County Council 2009 population forecasts, which forecast ward level population changes to 2016.

	2009 Population	Projected 2016 Population	Percentage Change(%)
<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>134,027</b>	<b>141,535</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Banbury	44,874	45,675	1.8
Bicester	29,937	31,916	6.6
Kidlington	13,405	13,352	-0.4
<b>South Oxfordshire</b>	<b>127,277</b>	<b>137,602</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Didcot	23,143	30,583	32.1
Henley	10,624	10,909	2.7
Thame	11,073	11,244	1.5
<b>Vale of White Horse</b>	<b>119,762</b>	<b>127,492</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Abingdon	33,088	33,775	2.1
Wantage	11,437	12,043	5.3
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>104,496</b>	<b>107,693</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Carterton	15,441	16,189	4.8
Witney	27,042	28,716	6.2
<b>Oxford City</b>	<b>144,438</b>	<b>153,408</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Source: Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts 2009

<sup>1</sup> The Office for National Statistics population projections are trend based, with assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration being based on observed levels.

Forecasts predict a rise in population in Oxfordshire in general but many rural areas are forecast to see declining child populations by 2016. These falls are in absolute numbers as well as in terms of the proportion of children and young people that make up the total population. Over half of the 15 wards forecast to have a 15% or greater decline in 0 to 19 year olds are rural. Those forecast to be most affected are Garsington and Great Milton in South Oxfordshire and Ascott and Shipton in West Oxfordshire.

Ward	District	Absolute change 2009-16	% (0-19) change 2009-16	Rural-Urban Code	Rural-urban description
Charlbury and Finstock	West Oxon	-199	-25%	2	Town and Fringe
Garsington	South Oxon	-120	-22%	3	Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings
Ascott and Shipton	West Oxon	-61	-22%	3	
Great Milton	South Oxon	-97	-21%	3	
Witney North	West Oxon	-170	-21%	1	Urban > 10k
Bicester West	Cherwell	-350	-20%	1	
Wroxton	Cherwell	-68	-19%	3	Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings
Wheatley	South Oxon	-183	-19%	2	Town and Fringe
Aston Rowant	South Oxon	-87	-19%	3	Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings
Woodcote	South Oxon	-119	-19%	2	Town and Fringe
Craven	Vale of White Horse	-80	-19%	3	Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings
Abingdon Peachcroft		-156	-16%	1	Urban > 10k
Sandford	South Oxon	-67	-16%	3	Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings
Burford	West Oxon	-31	-16%	2	Town and Fringe
Otmoor	Cherwell	-63	-15%	3	Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings

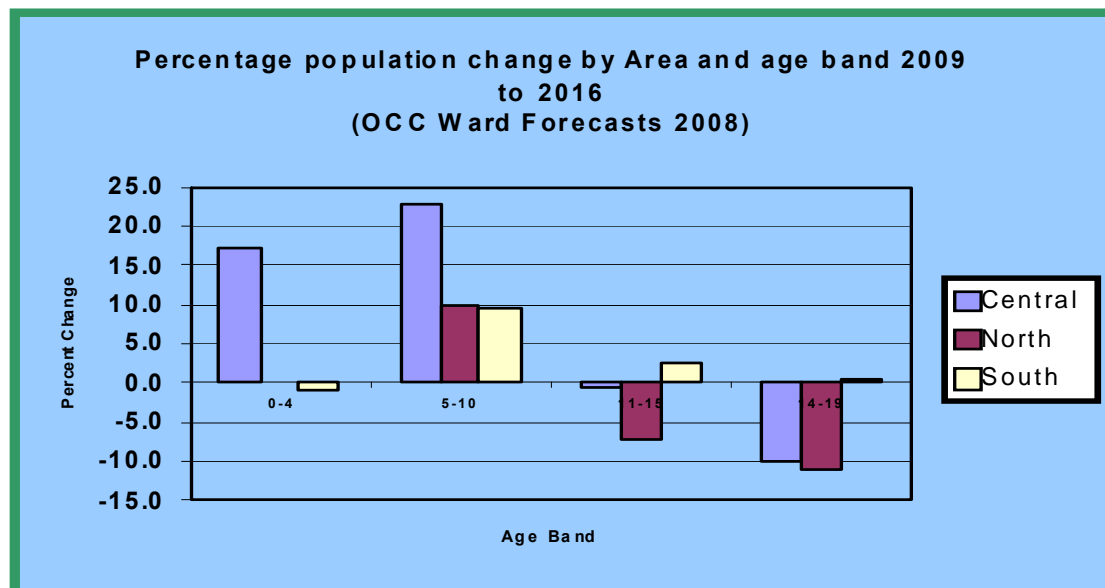
Source: Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts 2009

### Area Populations

Oxfordshire County Council has recently restructured to enable integrated delivery of its children's services. There are now three areas (Northern Oxfordshire, Central Oxfordshire and Southern Oxfordshire), with 13 locality based partnerships served by multi-disciplinary teams.

The provision of services is based on four age ranges: pre-school (0 to 4 years), primary (5 to 10 years), secondary (11 to 15 years) and the 14 to 19 years age group. The next seven years (2009-2016) show real pressure on the preschool population in the predominantly urban Central Area with a 17% increase; evidence of this is already apparent in 2009.

All areas will see pressure on the primary school age population; 23% in the Central area and a 10% rise in the other two areas. 11 to 15 and 14 to 19 bands are both predicted to fall by up to 10% although the Southern Area may see a 2.5% rise in secondary population over the next seven years.



### The ethnicity of Oxfordshire's population

Around 7% of Oxfordshire's population is non-British (mid year estimates, 2007). Oxford hosts the most ethnically diverse population, with 17% of the population (26,000 people) of non-white ethnic groups. This compares with 6.4% in Cherwell, 5.5% in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and 4.2% in West Oxfordshire.

The Asian or Asian British ethnic group is the largest non-white group in Oxfordshire, with a population of 19,000, of which 9,400 live in Oxford. The Chinese or 'Other Chinese' ethnic group make up the next largest ethnic minority group, with a population of 13,100 of which 7,600 live in Oxford: at 5% of Oxford's population the proportion of Chinese in Oxford is significantly higher than the proportion in the population across England (1.5%).

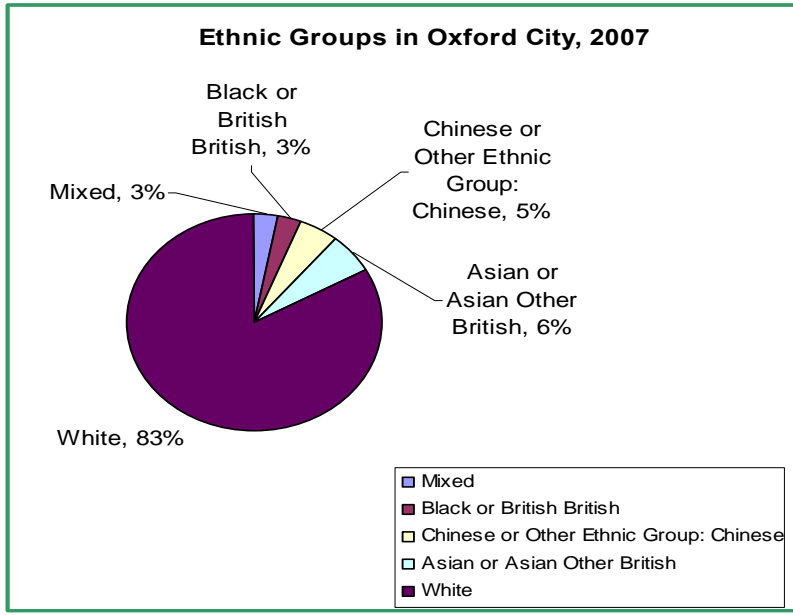
### Population by ethnic group and district

	All people	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Chinese	Mixed
<b>Cherwell</b>	137,600	128,900	3,600	1,600	1,500	2,100
<b>Oxford</b>	151,000	125,000	9,400	4,800	7,600	4,200
<b>South Oxfordshire</b>	128,400	121,500	2,600	1,400	1,400	1,500
<b>Vale of White Horse</b>	117,000	110,600	2,100	1,100	1,700	1,500
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	101,600	97,400	1,200	900	1,000	1,200
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	635,500	583,300	19,000	9,700	13,100	10,400

Source: Office for National Statistics estimates of ethnicity, mid 2007 (experimental statistics)

## Ethnic groups in Oxford City, 2007

Source: Office for National Statistics ethnicity estimates, 2007 (experimental statistics).



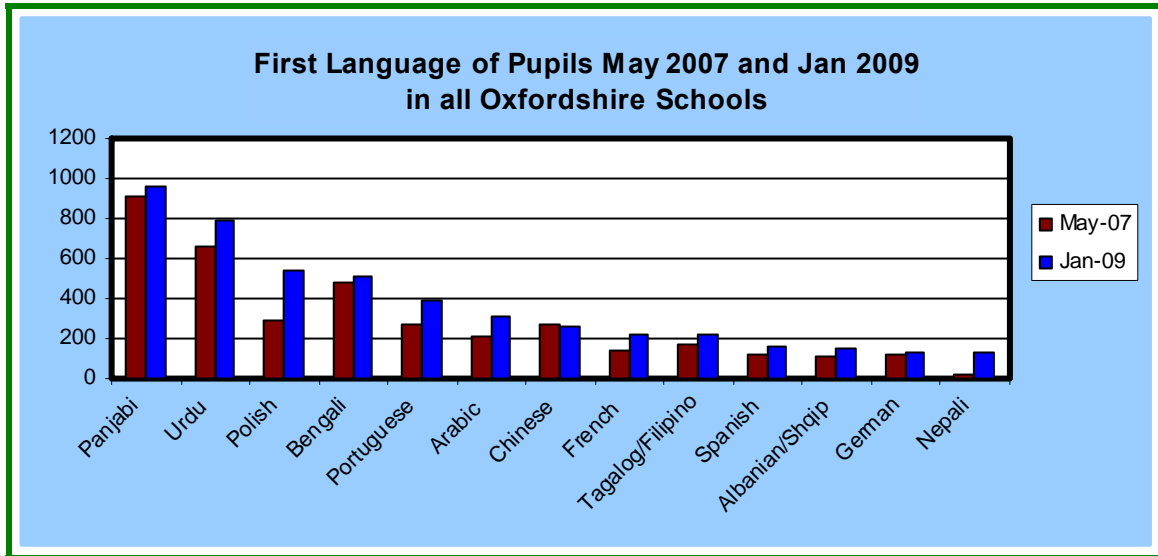
## Population change by ethnic group, 2001 to 2007

The number of White British in Oxfordshire fell slightly (-0.4%) from 2001 to 2007, whilst the number of Other White increased by 36.9%. This corresponds to the arrival of migrants from the eight Accession countries from 2004. All other ethnic groups have also increased over this period, with several groups doubling or more than doubling in size (Asian or Asian British: Indian and also Other Asian; Black or Black British: African).

## Population change in Oxfordshire, 2001 to 2007 by ethnic group

	mid-2001	mid-2007	% change
All Groups	607,300	635,500	4.6
White: British	545,600	543,200	-0.4
White: Irish	7,600	7,100	-6.6
White: Other White	24,100	33,000	36.9
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	2,100	2,900	38.1
Mixed: White and Black African	800	1,400	75.0
Mixed: White and Asian	2,300	3,300	43.5
Mixed: Other Mixed	2,000	2,800	40.0
Asian or Asian British: Indian	4,200	8,400	100.0
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	4,100	6,100	48.8
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	1,200	1,900	58.3
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	1,300	2,600	100.0
Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	2,500	3,900	56.0
Black or Black British: Black African	2,100	5,000	138.1
Black or Black British: Other Black	500	800	60.0
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese	3,900	7,300	87.2
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other	3,100	5,800	87.1

Source: Office for National Statistics ethnicity estimates, 2007 (experimental statistics)

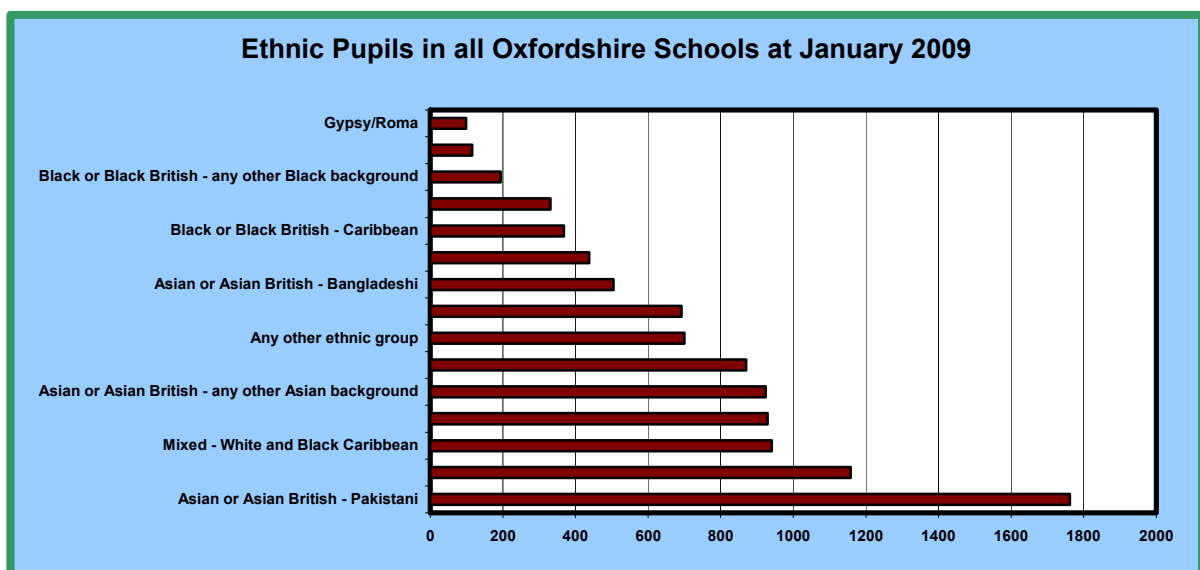


### Ethnicity of pupils in all Oxfordshire schools

The 2001 Census, which is often used as a source of information, is now less likely to effectively reflect the mix of ethnicity within the county in 2009. The latest school census, conducted in January 2009, gives us a more up-to-date picture of the change in ethnicity in local schools since 2007.

Whilst the actual numbers of young people are relatively small, the groups are growing and changing in significance.

A substantial increase in the Polish school population, up almost 90% in just over 18 months, demonstrates the new challenges that the schools face. A Nepalese community is emerging along with growing Arabic and Portuguese communities. The percentage of French and Spanish native speakers has also risen during this time (60% and 39% respectively).



## Deprivation

The number of children living in poverty is extracted from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009 supplement), which has calculated that the figure is just over 13,000. This is an increase of just over 1% from 12,880 in 2008.

The table below shows the numbers of children living in poverty and the resulting changes between this year and last year:

Area	Number of children living in poverty		Children living in poverty as a proportion of all children		Changes JSNA 2008 - 09	
	JSNA '08 source2006	JSNA 09 source2007	JSNA '08 source2006	JSNA 09 source2007	in terms of No.'s	In % terms
<b>Cherwell</b>	3,075	3,080	11.9%	11.4%	0%	-5%
<b>Oxford</b>	4,785	4,875	21.8%	22.4%	2%	3%
<b>South Oxon</b>	1,930	1,915	7.9%	7.5%	-1%	-5%
<b>Vale</b>	1,770	1,815	7.3%	8.2%	2%	10%
<b>West Oxon</b>	1,320	1,340	6.8%	7.0%	1%	2%
<b>OXFORDSHIRE</b>	12,880	13,025	11.1%	11.3%	1%	1%

Source: Department of Work & Pensions

Whilst Oxford city may have fewer children as a proportion of its population than all other districts, it still has the highest concentration of children living in poverty. There are five wards in Oxford that that have almost a third or more of children living in poverty: Northfield Brook, Blackbird Leys, Churchill, Barton and Sandhills and Rose Hill and Iffley. One ward in Cherwell – Banbury Ruscombe – has a similarly high proportion of its children living in poverty.

There are 35 wards with above average proportions of children under 16 years living in poverty. The table below shows the number and percentage of those children in each ward. The yellow cells show those wards which were above average both this year and last. The bold red font shows those wards where poverty has increased in absolute numbers and as a proportion of all children.

Oxford	Number	%	West	Number	%
<i>Northfield Brook</i>	790	37.6%	<b>Witney Central</b>	120	<b>15.3%</b>
<b>Blackbird Leys</b>	515	<b>34.9%</b>	Witney South	135	11.6%
<b>Churchill</b>	270	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>Cherwell</b>	Number	%
<b>Barton and Sandhills</b>	505	<b>32.5%</b>	<i>Banbury Ruscote</i>	720	31.8%
<b>Rose Hill &amp; Iffley</b>	380	<b>32.5%</b>	<b>Banbury Neithop</b>	280	<b>22.6%</b>
<b>Littlemore</b>	315	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>Banbury Grimsbury and Castle</b>	325	<b>17.2%</b>
<b>St. Mary's</b>	115	<b>24.1%</b>	<i>Banbury Hardwick</i>	255	15.2%
<i>Lye Valley</i>	300	24.1%	<b>Bicester Town</b>	115	<b>14.8%</b>
<b>Cowley Marsh</b>	210	<b>23.7%</b>	Kidlington South	200	13.1%
<b>Headington Hill and Northway</b>	170	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>Vale</b>	Number	%
Carfax (incl Holywell ward)	50	21.6%	<b>Abingdon Caldecott</b>	225	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Cowley</b>	230	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>Faringdon &amp; The Coxwells</b>	190	<b>13.4%</b>
St. Clement's	100	19.1%	<b>Abingdon Northcourt</b>	120	<b>13.2%</b>
<b>Iffley Fields</b>	175	<b>18.6%</b>	Abingdon Abbey and Barton	105	12.7%
<b>Hinksey Park</b>	125	<b>14.4%</b>	Abingdon Ock Meadow	90	12.0%
Jericho and Osney	80	12.4%	<b>South</b>	Number	%
<b>Quarry &amp; Risinghurst</b>	125	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>Didcot Northbourne</b>	190	<b>16.1%</b>
Summertown	120	11.9%	Berinsfield	175	13.8%
			Didcot All Saints	160	13.2%
			<b>Great Milton</b>	60	<b>11.7%</b>

white cells show wards not above average last year

yellow cells were above average both this year and last year

**Bold red** shows wards where poverty has increased in absolute numbers and as a proportion of all children

**Light red** shows wards where poverty has increased as a percentage but absolute numbers haven't risen

*Light red italics* shows wards where the numbers in poverty have increased but the proportion has fallen

**Bold green** shows wards where poverty has fallen in absolute numbers and as a proportion of all children

**Light green** shows wards where the numbers in poverty have remained the same but decreased as a proportion

## Child Well-Being

The Child Well-Being Index published in January 2009 ([www.communities.co.uk](http://www.communities.co.uk)) compares local authorities in England and looks at data covering health, education, crime, housing, the environment, overall wealth and children in need. Each local authority is given an overall score and ranked.

### Variations across the county

Analysis of this data and the child poverty information highlights that the county average is sufficiently good to mask inequalities, unless they are looked for carefully.

There are marked differences within districts across the county. West Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire score in the top ten per cent of all districts nationally, while Cherwell is in the middle and Oxford City is in the bottom third of districts. Further analysis reveals that even the positive scores hide some very small pockets of rural deprivation.

There are ten small areas roughly within the bottom ten per cent of all areas in England with high child poverty. Nine of these are in Oxford City: Barton and Sandhills OO5A, Cowley Marsh O13B, Northfield Brook O18C, St Mary's O11F, Rose Hill and Iffley O16E, Churchill O10C, St Clement's O11A, Blackbird Leys O18A and Northfield Brook O18B. One is in Banbury: Banbury Grimsbury and Castle OO4B.

The Department for Work and Pensions identified 13,025 children in Oxfordshire as living in poverty, in 2007 (defined as children living in families in receipt of standard worklessness benefits). These children represent 11.3% of all children in Oxfordshire, an increase of 1% (from 12,880) in 2006.

### Urban and rural deprivation – Children living in poverty

(Source: Dept for Work and Pensions)

Rural-urban description	District	Ward Name	Rate of children in poverty
Urban > 10k	Oxford	Northfield Brook	37.6
	Oxford	Blackbird Leys	34.9
	Oxford	Churchill	33.2
	Oxford	Barton and Sandhills	32.5
	Oxford	Rose Hill and Iffley	32.5
Town and Fringe	Vale of White Horse	Faringdon and The Coxwells	13.4
	West Oxfordshire	Chipping Norton	10.2
	Vale of White Horse	Sutton Courtenay and Appleford	9.9
	South Oxfordshire	Wallingford North	9.5
	Vale of White Horse	Harwell	9.3
Village, Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings	South Oxfordshire	Berinsfield	13.8
	South Oxfordshire	Great Milton	11.7
	Vale of White Horse	Greendown	10.1
	South Oxfordshire	Garsington	9.9
	South Oxfordshire	Sandford	9.4

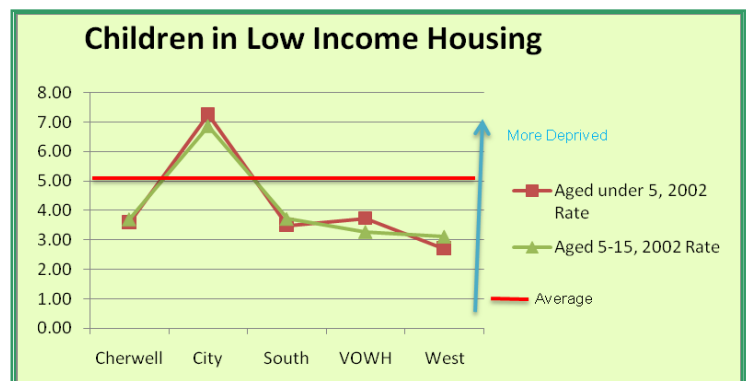
According to the Department for Work and Pensions 2007 statistics, 11.3% of children in Oxfordshire are living in poverty (2007). The areas with the highest rates of child poverty in Oxfordshire are predominantly urban, however, Berinsfield and Great Milton are two rural wards with a child poverty rate above the Oxfordshire average.

### Single parent families

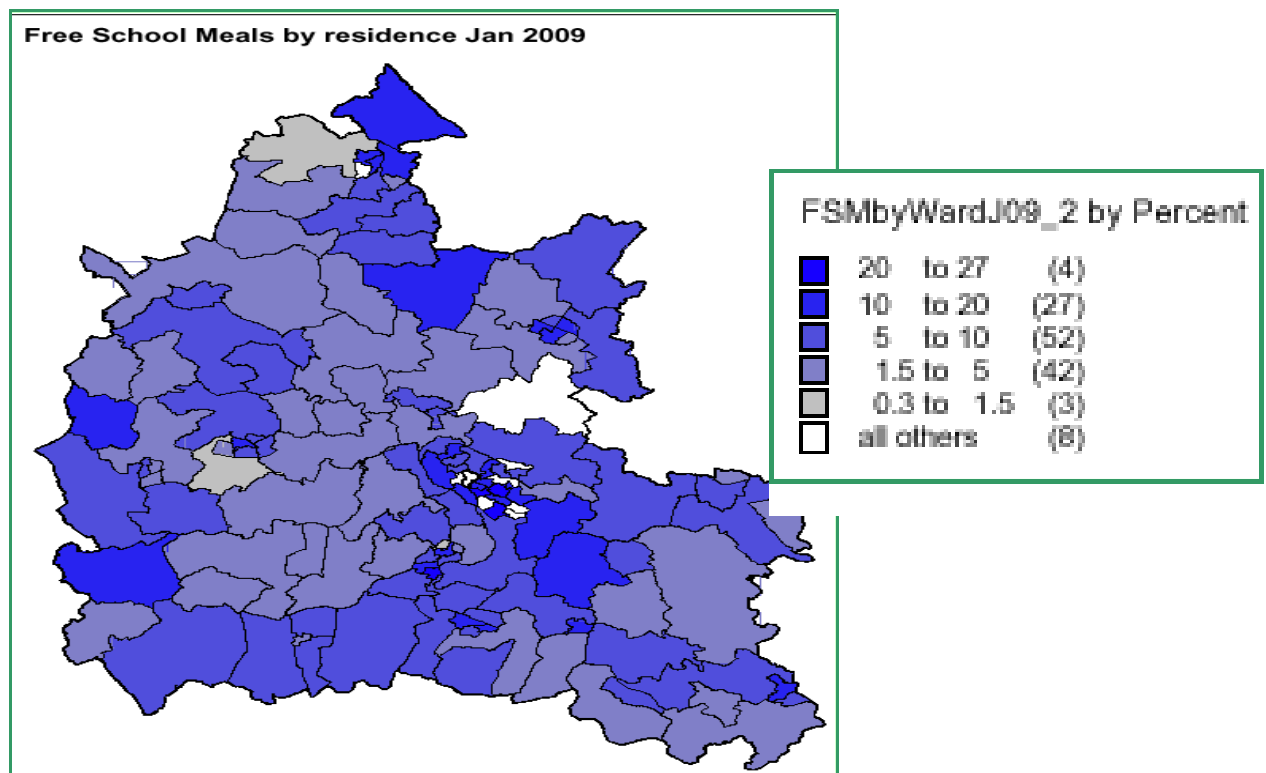
Whilst the percentage of single parent families does not vary significantly across the county the actual numbers do. There are comparatively high single parent households in Blackbird Leys, Northfield Brook and Banbury Ruscot wards.

### Children in low income housing

This profile of the districts shows the breakdown of children in low income housing across the county and the stark contrasts that prevail. The profile for children aged 5 to 15 years is virtually identical with that for those under five years, indicating that low income status is persistent.



Eligibility for free schools meals is used as an indicator for deprivation. Over the last two years, the percentage of children eligible for free school meals in and around Banbury and Oxford City has risen. The darker areas show where there is greater eligibility.



By comparing eligibility for free school meals by ethnic groups we are able to identify potential health inequalities between groups. The table below shows the higher percentage of children from minority ethnic groups, who were eligible for free school meals in 2008.

Ethnic groups	% eligible	Number eligible
White	8.1	4,860
Mixed	17.4	450
Asian	14.4	400
Black	23.4	250
Chinese / other	7.7	60

(Source: APHO and Dept of Health. Crown Copyright 2009).

### What are the key issues we take from this evidence?

- The county average is good but there are **marked differences across the county**. West Oxfordshire, the Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire score in the top ten per cent of all districts nationally, while Cherwell occupies a middle-ranking position and Oxford City is in the bottom third of districts.
- There are **ten small areas** roughly within the bottom ten per cent of all areas in England with **high child poverty**. Nine of these are in Oxford City: Barton and Sandhills OO5A, Cowley Marsh O13B, Northfield Brook O18C, St Mary's O11F, Rose Hill and Iffley, O16E, Churchill O10C, St Clement's, O11A. Blackbird Leys O18A and Northfield Brook O18B. One is in Banbury: Banbury, Grimsbury and Castle OO4B.
- **Rural deprivation** is masked due to the relatively small population numbers. According to the Department for Work and Pensions 2007 statistics, 11.3% of children in Oxfordshire are living in poverty (2007). There are two rural wards with a child poverty rate above the Oxfordshire average.
- **Inequalities** can be identified in terms of location, ethnicity, income and gender, which are then repeated in other aspects of children's lives.
- The **ethnic breakdown of the population** is changing. The number of 'Other White' increased by 36.9% from 2001 to 2007. This is reflected in the school populations, with a substantial increase in the number of Polish pupils. All other ethnic groups have also increased over this period, with several groups doubling or more than doubling in size (Asian or Asian British: Indian and also Other Asian; Black or Black British: African).

## 3. Be Healthy

This section outlines what we need to address in order to help young people lead healthier lifestyles. Two further documents provide a more comprehensive analysis of need within Oxfordshire: the annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009 Supplement), produced by the PCT and Oxfordshire County Council and The Director of Public Health's Report 2009. This analysis attempts to summarise the key issues.

## What inspectors say about us

The contribution that the council, alongside its partners, makes to improve the health and well-being of children and young people was rated as good by Ofsted inspectors in 2008. It was graded 3 out of 4, with 4 being the highest. In particular, they commented on the success of the Healthy Schools programme, Child and Adolescent Mental Health work and the health assessments of looked after children.

Inspectors highlighted the increase in the conception rates for 15 to 17 year olds, which, although they are better than national rates, are a challenge for the Children's Trust in Oxfordshire. Inspectors also raised some concerns about the numbers of young people receiving substance misuse treatment.

## What children and young people tell us through the Childwise Survey

- **about health in general** – as they get older they are less likely to eat breakfast (24% of 17-19s hadn't eaten) and more likely not to have eaten fruit or vegetables in the last day (13% of 17-19s hadn't had any). Eating problems tend to peak amongst 14 to 16 years old, with one in twenty mentioning it.
- **about advice and information** – parents are the main source of health advice although this decreases with age. Older children are more likely to go to friends for help (68% of 17 to 19s) on sex and relationships.

Disabled children are less likely to talk to friends about their problems (about half of them will). They are more likely to turn to professional sources of information such as a teacher or doctor.

39% of 15 to 19 year olds have heard of the new Chlamydia screening programme and 28% knew where to get a test.

- **about alcohol, smoking and drugs** – 72% of 11 to 19 year olds have ever drunk alcohol, 51% have ever been drunk, 29% have smoked cigarettes, and 17% have taken illegal drugs. 68% agree that alcohol is a problem among children and young people. 88% of Asian young people felt this to be the case.

Disabled young people and girls specifically were much more likely to agree that there was lots of pressure from friends to drink alcohol (61%). Although disabled young people are less likely to have ever drunk alcohol.

## What research and surveys tell us

People who suffer more deprivation tend to have poorer health. Research and analysis from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2009 Supplement) highlight a number of factors, which are reflected in this Needs Analysis:

### Infant mortality

Infant mortality in Oxfordshire was 3.9 deaths per thousand live births, which represents 92 deaths in those under one year of age for the three-year period from 2005-07. This is considerably lower than the England average (4.9 deaths per thousand). However, there is some local variation: Cherwell has the highest rate (5.3 per thousand or 1 per 190) and South Oxfordshire which has the lowest rate (2.1 or less than 1 per 475).

## Life expectancy

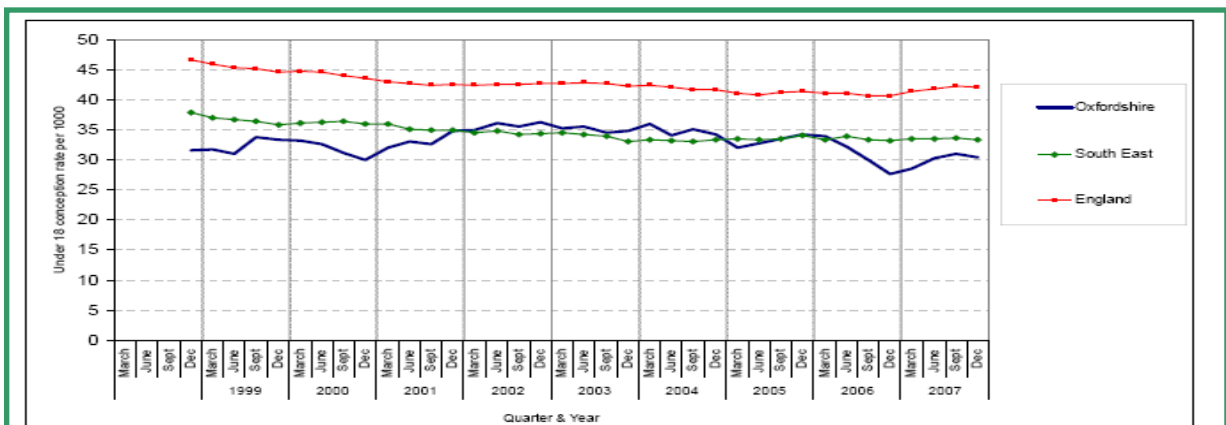
Life expectancy varies across the county and by gender. In all cases the Oxfordshire life expectancy is better than the England average. The highest life expectancy for both males and females is in the Vale of White Horse. The lowest is in Oxford, which is much closer to the England averages of 77.7 male years and 81.8 female years.

Early deaths from cancer have fallen in line with those of England. It is estimated that nearly one in four of the adult population binge drink and one in four smoke. Although the death rate from smoking is better than the national average, smoking still accounts for over 800 deaths a year.

Source: Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) and Department of Health © Crown Copyright 2008.

## Teenage pregnancy rates

Overall levels of teenage pregnancy are lower than the national and regional average. However, 2007 has shown an increase in rates and Oxfordshire remains a national outlier for poor performance because the rate of improvement is too slow.



Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit

This chart shows that overall levels of teenage pregnancy are lower than the national and regional average. Results in 2006 were good but 2007 has shown increased rates once again. Oxfordshire remains a national outlier for poor performance because our rate of improvement is too slow.

Across Oxfordshire the latest (2007) teenage conceptions rate is 29.8 per 1,000 (or 350 conceptions), an increase from 27.5 per 1,000 (or 320 conceptions) in 2006. The 2007 data showed a -5.6% change in rate from the 1998 baseline. This change in rate is the second lowest in the Thames Valley and compares poorly with a national change in rate of -10.7%. Once again, relatively low county averages mask hot spots such as Banbury and Oxford City, which account for over 50% of conceptions. 80% of conceptions are to young women aged 16 and 17 years.

The following table shows the small areas in the county with the highest rates of teenage conception.

Locality	Ward name	2004-06
Banbury	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle	113.59
Oxford	Lye Valley	93.33
Oxford	Littlemore	90.30
Banbury	Banbury Neithrop	86.96
Oxford	Northfield Brook	83.54
Oxford	St Mary's	80.19
Oxford	Iffley Fields	78.69
Banbury	Banbury Rustcote	74.47
Oxford	Cowley	74.07
Oxford	Cowley Marsh	69.77
Witney	Witney Central	69.77
Banbury	Banbury Hardwick	69.07
Oxford	Rose Hill and Iffley	68.05
Brize Norton	Brize Norton and Shilton	68.83
Oxford	Blackbird Leys	63.38
Source: NHS Oxfordshire Decision Support		

Whilst extremely low in number, all of the Serious Case Reviews in the last few years within Oxfordshire have involved families where mothers were teenagers when they had their first child. Serious Case Reviews are undertaken when a child dies (including suicide), and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the death.

### **Breastfeeding rates and smoking in pregnancy rates**

Breastfeeding is acknowledged as key to giving children a good start in life and Oxfordshire as a county reports a rate of 78.4% compared to 71%, which is the England average. (Source: APHO and Department of Health. Crown Copyright 2009). However, local figures show a discrepancy between wards. Ten wards report less than 45% initiation rates: Banbury Ruscott, Banbury Neithrop, Banbury Easington, Banbury Hardwick, Blewbury & Upton, Banbury Calthorpe, Didcot Park, Didcot All Saints, Didcot Northbourne, and Banbury Grimsbury and Castle. It should be noted that numbers at ward level are small.

The number of expectant mothers smoking in pregnancy is lower in Oxfordshire than nationally. The percentage of mothers smoking in pregnancy where the statistics were known in 2007-08 was 8.1% compared with the English average of 14.7%. However, as noted in the JSNA, there are certain localities where these rates are much higher e.g. Oxford South East, Abingdon and Berinsfield and Banbury.

Oxfordshire NHS figures for 2006-2008 show that there is a correlation between mothers smoking at the time of delivery and breastfeeding initiation rates and that the age of the mother is significant. For example, in 2008 the percentage of mothers aged under 18 years smoking at the time of delivery was 27.3%, which was the highest rate amongst all age groups. Conversely 43.6% of mothers aged under-18 years initiated breastfeeding, which was the lowest rate of all age groups (the average rate was 69.1%).

## Chlamydia screening

In 2008/9, 10.1% of the population (15 to 24 year olds) were screened for Chlamydia in Oxfordshire. Across England, 15.9% of the population was screened. Oxfordshire was ranked 139 out of 152 Primary Care Trusts in England. The results showed that 38 per 10,000 tested positive for Chlamydia.

## Vaccination programmes

The PCT in Oxfordshire now has a more accurate information management system for immunisations. Figures for 2008-09 show that immunisation take up for MMR and pneumococcal vaccination for children is good in the county and there have been improvements in all localities apart from Abingdon / Berinsfield. The highest take up of the MMR vaccinations was in the Vale of White Horse, where the figure was 91% and the lowest rate of take up (84%) was in Summertown. The need to further increase this figure remains.

The Director of Public Health has highlighted the need to check the immunisation history of people moving into the area and to offer them immunisation to fill any gaps. Whilst high rates of vaccination in Oxfordshire have protected the local population from measles in 2008, there were two outbreaks of mumps. Both of these outbreaks demonstrated the impact of poorer coverage among people moving into Oxfordshire compared with those who spent their early childhood in the county and had received immunisations locally.

## Emotional health and well-being

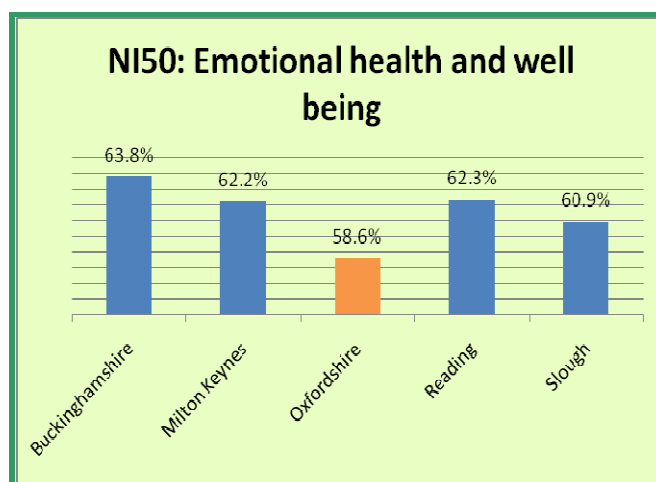
The Director of Public Health's Annual Report for Oxfordshire 2008-09 reported that one in six adults has a mental health illness at any one time. The implications for children, in particular those that care for family members, are therefore significant.

Children who were interviewed in 2008 as part of a council led project called Success, talked about their feelings on school education, they told us that mental health is a major issue, they :

- think that schools need to be more aware of mental health issues
- need more counselling / support, which should be better advertised and last long enough to make a sustainable difference
- that young people fall through the gap between the Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and adult mental health services.

Through the TellUs Survey, we are able to gauge young people's sense of their relationships. The results of the 2008-09 TellUs 3 Survey were that 58.6% young people surveyed had good emotional health and well-being. This was not as positive as the results for the rest of the Thames Valley.

Persistent absence from schools in Oxfordshire has reduced over the last three years to be at approximately 5% by 2008-09. However, in May 2009, an analysis of



the schools' coding for absences indicated that illness is the substantive reason for absences, constituting approximately 45-48% of all persistent absence. It is understood that mental health issues, anxiety and phobias are a presenting factor.

## What our performance data tell us

### Obesity and physical activity

The National Child Measurement Programme results for 2008-09 showed slightly lower levels of obesity in the 91% of the Reception Year group measured on 2007-08, than (7.2% compared to 8%). Oxfordshire's results were slightly better than national results. However, results for the 88% of the Year 6 group measured showed no improvement on previous years – 15.4% of Year 6 were measured as obese.

The physical activity of children and young people is also monitored in Oxfordshire (and nationally) as an essential factor in achieving good health. In 2007-08, 90.2% of children and young people, aged 5-16 years, in Oxfordshire spent at least two hours per week on high quality PE and school sport. This was slightly above the England average of 90%. (Source: APHO and Dept of Health. Crown Copyright 2009).

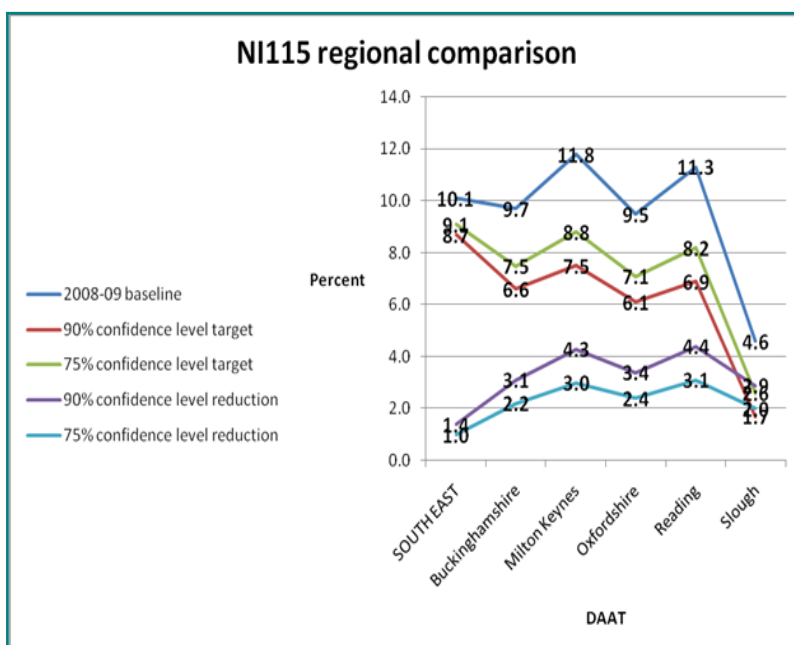
### Oral health

The average number of teeth per child age five, which was actively decayed, filled or had been extracted in 2005/06, was at 1.1 in Oxfordshire compared to an England average of 1.5. Lower level information is not available to identify local disparities. (Source: APHO and Dept of Health. Crown Copyright 2009).

### Substance misuse

Through the TellUs Survey, we are able to gauge young people's use of substances. We use a national indicator for this – NI 115 substance misuse by young people. According to the 2008-09 TellUs 3 Survey, 9.5% of all young people in Oxfordshire, who responded to the survey, have frequently used illicit drugs, alcohol or volatile substances. This is below the regional average of 10.1 %.

The NI 115 regional comparison graph shows the percentages across the Thames Valley which shows Oxfordshire performing better than other areas.



The 2008-09 TellUs 3 Survey returned the findings that, of the young people who responded that they drank two or more times a week:

- 50% were truant from school in the last year
- 43% had nothing, or crisps/ chocolate for breakfast
- 25% receive help for learning / behavioural needs
- 19% never have a family meal.

#### What are the key issues we take from this evidence?

- The health of people in Oxfordshire is generally better than England and regional averages. Children's health is better than the England average. However, more than 13,025 children are living in poverty and we know from data on deprivation that there are **significant inequalities within Oxfordshire by location, gender, income and ethnicity which impact on health.**
- **Under-18 conceptions** have increased across the county and Oxfordshire is not on course for the target trajectory to reduce conceptions by 45% by 2010. There are particular concentrations in Banbury and Oxford City.
- Evidence indicates that **teenage parents** are more likely to want to leave school as soon as possible and that approximately 80% of them are likely not to be in employment, education or training.
- **By the time that children reach Year 6, 15.4% of them have been measured as obese.** (Figures for 2008-09). This compares to just 7% of children in reception measured in the same year.
- **Immunisation rates** need to be maintained and the Director of Public Health has highlighted the need to check the immunisation history of people moving into the area and offering them immunisation to fill any gaps.

## 4. Stay Safe

This section considers the needs of families, children and young people who benefit from extra help, ranging from early intervention to high level support.

#### What inspectors say about us

External inspectors rated services for improving the outcomes for children and young people in terms of staying safe as 'adequate' in 2008. This equates to being rated 2 out of 4, where 4 is the highest score. Inspectors also highlighted the good use made of kinship care and the strong performance in terms of arranging adoptions for looked after children.

The inspectors commented that improvements should be made in the performance of the council's frontline referral and assessment services and the timeliness of reviews of care plans for looked after children.

The operational functioning of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) was noted as an area for development. A subsequent assessment commissioned by the DCSF in March 2009 reported that the OSCB was now good.

### What children and young people tell us through the Childwise Survey

- **about travel** – young people from Asian backgrounds were less likely than the majority white British population to be driven to see their friends or go out (50%).
- **about feeling safe at home** – 96% of young people agree that they feel safe at home all the time, 95% feel safe near where they live during the day and 84% feel safe on the way to and from school/college. However, those who feel less safe at home or in their local area include disabled young people, those with special needs, looked after young people and those young people with Asian / Black backgrounds. Those young people in temporary accommodation don't feel as safe at home.
- **about feeling safe at school** – 95% of children feel safe in the classroom and between lessons and a similar number feel safe on the way to and from school. Once again, however, the minority groups highlighted above feel less safe at school and travelling there too. In terms of age groups, young people in the first years of secondary school feel less safe at school (64% compared to 80% of primary school children and 84% of 17 to 19 year olds).

### What research and surveys tell us

#### Feedback from the Oxfordshire Children in Care Council

These are some of the headlines from the Children in Care Council work plan drawn from the comments of children and young people. They say that we should:

- **support** families to stay together and get back together
- **ensure** that structures and processes exist to ensure that the local authority acts in a manner of a good corporate parent
- **ensure** that every child and young person in care has safe and stable placements, good health care and information, which respects the right to confidentiality
- **ensure** that every young person has suitable and affordable housing, is encouraged to achieve their potential in education, has good preparation on the road to adulthood and is supported to make a positive contribution to decisions affecting their lives and service developments.

### What our performance data tell us

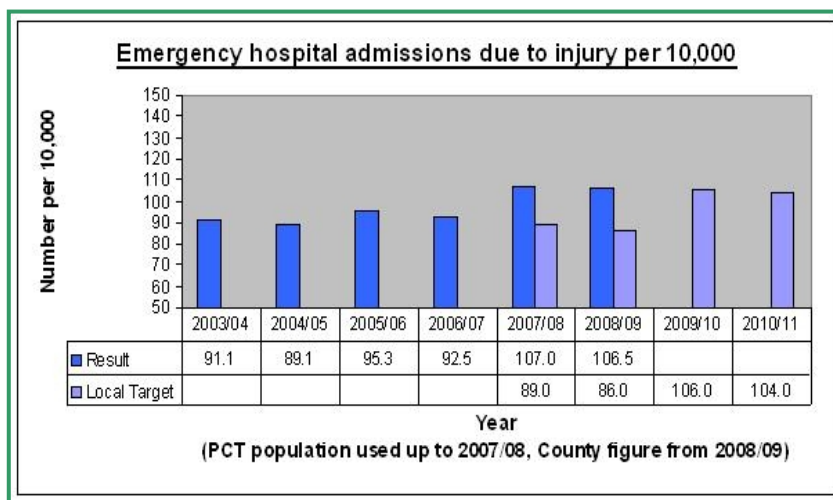
#### Monitoring how agencies safeguard vulnerable groups of children in Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of Oxfordshire's children and young people and to challenge those providing support to them. It has set up a monitoring and evaluation sub-group to help it achieve this. The group reviews a broad range of information from hospital admissions caused by injuries, domestic abuse, children missing education or educated at home, allegations made in education and social care settings, to self harm by young people, multi-agency audits and child protection. Much of this

information is provided within the analysis below and has led to the increased focus on neglect by the Safeguarding Board.

### Injured children

Nationwide, there are increasing numbers of children and young people admitted to hospital as a result of injury. There is a clear link between severe injuries and deprivation, so the admissions are not only important as part of 'staying safe', but also reflect on how authorities reduce the effects of deprivation.



In Oxfordshire, there were 1,411 admissions in 2008-09, equivalent to 106.5 per 10,000 population aged under 18. Nationally, there are increasing numbers of children and young people admitted for self-harm, so work is underway in Oxfordshire to identify these admissions.

### Elective home education

There are a wide variety of reasons for home educating e.g. distance or access to local school, religious or cultural beliefs, philosophical or ideological beliefs, dissatisfaction with the system. As a result, a wide variety of approaches to educational provision are taken and the majority of families are providing a suitable education. However, some families are known to use home educating to avoid problems rather than for its principles and children may not be accessing suitable education. For example, 2.5% of families are reported as having chosen Elective Home Education (EHE) to avoid prosecution. There is concern that home educating may be used to cover child protection issues and that vulnerable children may add to their vulnerability by being in elective home education.

This is why the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board monitors this information. The number of pupils registered as having EHE in Oxfordshire was 330 in 2008/09, which has been a gradual increase over the last six years despite a slight dip in 2008/09. According to findings of the Badman 2009 *Review on Elective Home Education* this figure may be between two to four times higher, as registration with the local authority is not compulsory.

### Young carers

Young carers are defined as, "anyone under the age of 18 whose life is in some way restricted because of the need to take responsibility for the care of someone who is ill, has a disability, is experiencing mental distress or is affected by substance misuse."

The Young Carers Strategy 2008-13 estimates that there are 11,000 young carers in Oxfordshire. 750-800 young carers are connected to services within the county, the

majority of which are between eight and 15 years old. There are no specialist services for under eights and over 15 year olds. The strategy comments that countywide there is inconsistency in the targeting of services towards young carers in the highest need.

The Childwise Survey reported that one in 20 children aged seven upwards, say that they care for a family member with a disability (5%). The survey also reported that the proportion of young carers with a disability was higher than average and that they are more likely to feel sad and depressed a lot of the time. Young carers are also more likely to have been bullied.

### **Children affected by domestic abuse**

The impact of children witnessing domestic abuse is defined in legislation as abusive irrespective of whether the abuse is directed towards the child.

Anecdotal evidence reported to the OSCB in November 2008 suggested that a significant proportion (approximately 70%) of Oxfordshire's children with complex / acute need were likely to have been affected by domestic abuse. Serious case review analysis has introduced additional evidence: it identifies domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health as the 'toxic three' associated with death or serious injury to children. The current priority is therefore to develop capacity for early identification, assessment and signposting for families affected by domestic abuse.

### **Disabled children**

There is a lack of data, both nationally and locally, on the numbers and characteristics of disabled children and their use of local service provision that impedes effective planning. The Thomas Coram Research Unit (June 2008) estimates that the mean percentage of disabled children in English local authorities to be between 3% and 5.4%; children with severe and multiple impairments are estimated to be 1% of the local child population.

The Childwise Survey reported that disabled children are socially isolated, four times less likely than their peers to go out or go to see friends. 24% do not go to out of school/college clubs and activities at all. Disabled children are highly vulnerable to bullying. 10% said they did not feel safe in their local area in daylight; only 43% felt their local park felt safe; 33% worried about older children 'hanging around'.

### **Preventative work: the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in Oxfordshire**

The CAF is an assessment tool designed specifically to help practitioners assess needs and organise help for families at an early stage. As at June 2009, over 600 Common Assessments were in progress or completed and 570 teams of staff were in place around children young people and their families. This would indicate a good take-up.

Emotional, social and behavioural issues are the predominant presenting issues for young people with Common Assessments. Analysis shows that, in these cases, parents are often experiencing significant difficulties such as acute housing issues; domestic violence; mental health problems; alcohol and drug abuse and debt. The presenting issues are often complex and entrenched, meaning that CAF is not always being used, as was intended, as a tool to intervene early before problems

escalate. For example, in Didcot, 87% of Common Assessments have been completed for those whose needs are complex and often long standing family problems.

Most of the children who have had Common Assessments completed are White British, the majority age group is 5 to 11 and most involve boys. A significant number of the cases involve a disabled child or family member. This is as high as 50% in one locality (Oxford South-East), with an average of 20% in other localities. The service regards having a disability as having a physical disability, a learning disability, ADHD, a syndrome on the Autistic Spectrum Disorder, or mental health problems.

Over 60% of professionals who lead on the CAF come from a school background; the majority within that background are either headteachers or special educational needs co-ordinators.

### Organising support to safeguard children from harm

Social care support for families is organised according to need. Contacts to the service are screened, and if necessary, become referrals, and more information is gathered. Many contacts and referrals can be helped without need of further assessment, so the best indicator of initial need is the rate of initial assessments rather than the rate of referral per head population.

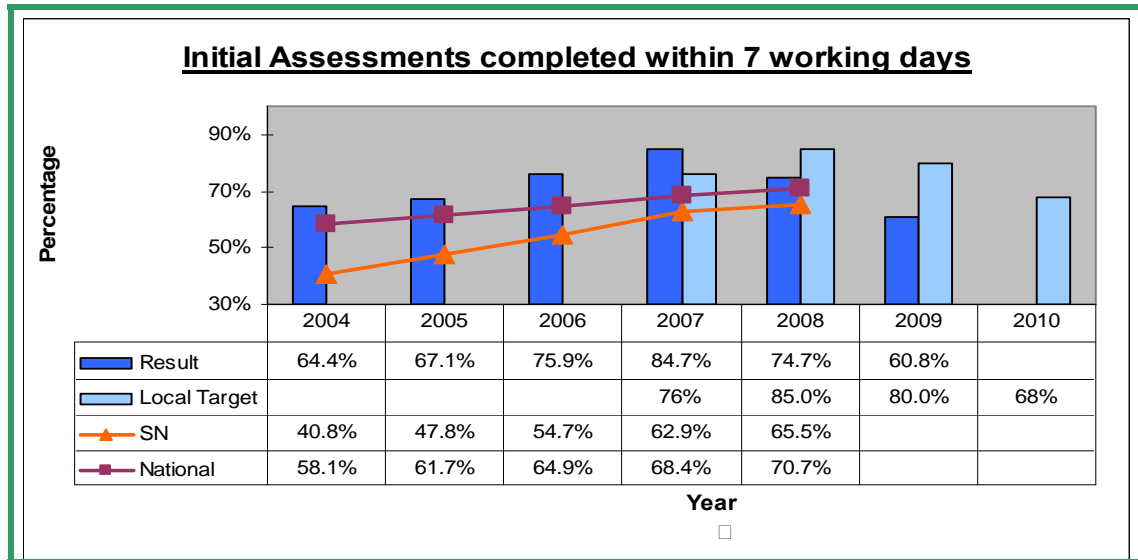
Historically, Oxfordshire had a low rate of referral, and many of these progressed to an initial assessment. However, in 2007-08, at Ofsted's recommendation, Oxfordshire changed practice to record many more 'contacts' as 'referrals'.

This led to a much higher number of referrals (420 per 10,000 children) of which, 45% progressed for further support through an initial assessment. In 2008-09 there were 362 referrals per 10,000 children in Oxfordshire, 55% of which progressed for further support through an initial assessment (IA). The actual rate of initial assessments per 10,000 children in Oxfordshire is very similar to our neighbours.

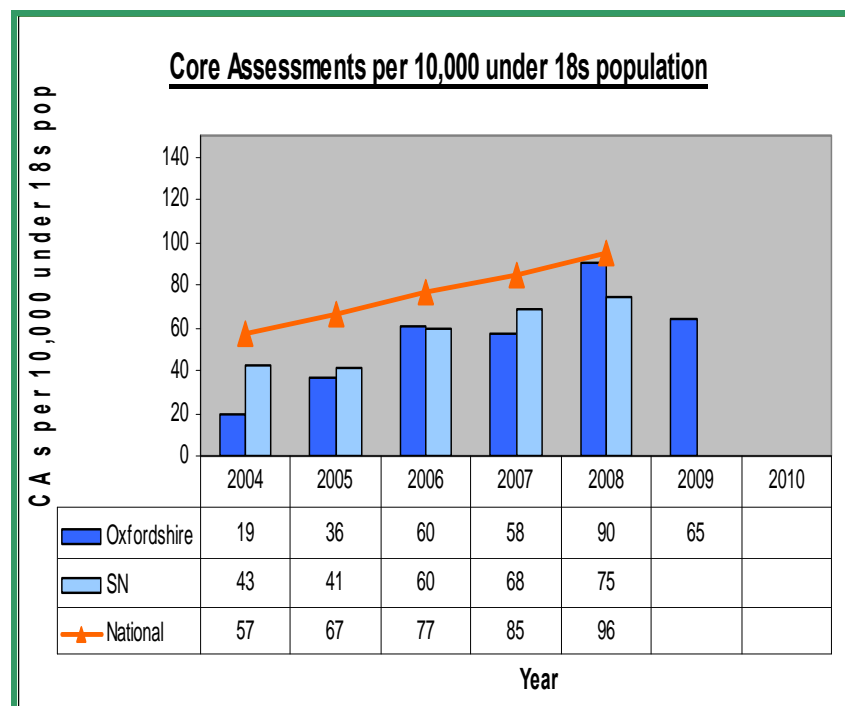
All data is 2007-08, except Oxfordshire 2008-09 update	Rate of referral	% of Referrals leading to IA	Effective rate of IA per 10,000 population
Oxfordshire 2008-09 update	<b>362</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>199</b>
Oxfordshire 2007-08	<b>420</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>192</b>
Cambridgeshire	519	42.7	222
Bath and North East Somerset	371	39.8	148
West Berkshire	341	48.1	164
Hertfordshire	309	61.4	189
Wiltshire	234	99.6	233
Hampshire	227	81.4	185
Gloucestershire	346	83	287
Bracknell Forest	396	54.4	215
Bedfordshire	305	71	216
Buckinghamshire	276	71.1	197
Statistical neighbour average	<b>311</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>207</b>
England	490	59.4	291

Data derived from Social Care analysis tool (Ofsted)

The timeliness of the initial assessments gives an indication of how quickly teams are working with families to identify needs and get the right level of support at the right time. In 2008-09, 61% of these assessments were completed on time (within seven days), which was a lower figure than in previous years. However, the introduction of the new electronic system has temporarily affected the council's ability to record this work.



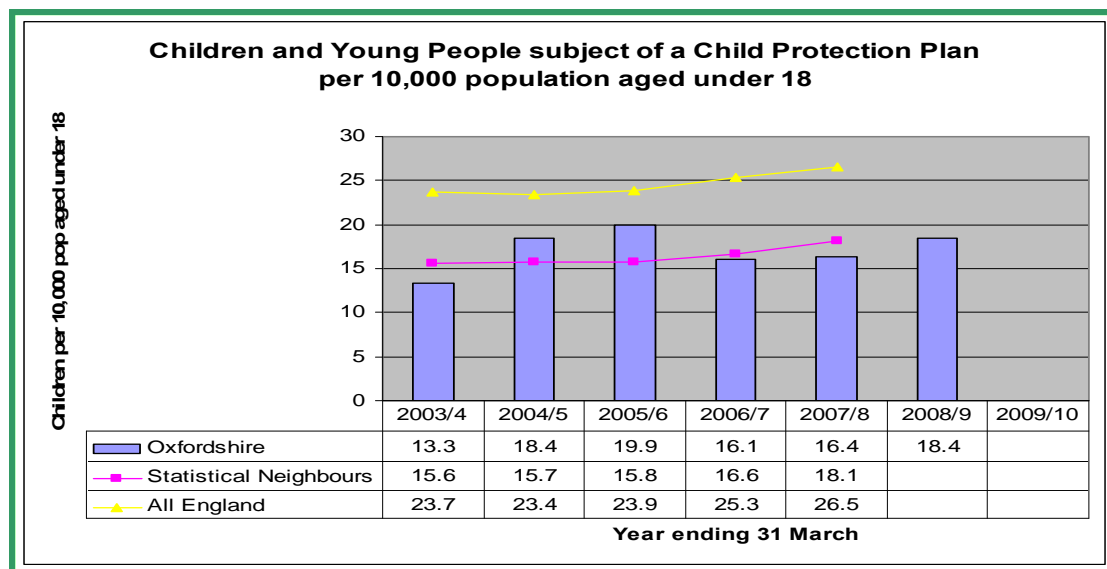
The rate of core assessments gives an indication of higher levels of need as they are used to identify problems and plan higher levels of support. Oxfordshire assessed a similar proportion of the population to our neighbour authorities. The drop in core assessments between 2007-08 and 2008-09 reflects the move to



### **Protecting the most vulnerable**

Children considered to be at risk have a child protection investigation, and if there is still concern, the case goes to an initial case conference. In 2008-09, 81.8% of children who had a child protection conference went on to have a child protection plan, slightly lower than the previous year, 85.9%.

The number of children with a child protection plan at any time reflects the number of new plans and the number of plans that are brought to an end plus the number of plans maintained. Last year, 260 new plans were made and 240 plans ended, so the overall rate of children with a plan increased. However, Oxfordshire has a relatively low rate compared with similar authorities.



Ideally, children should not have a child protection plan for more than two years. In 2008-09, 10.8% of plans that ended had lasted longer than two years. This is much higher than similar authorities (4.6%) and nationwide (5.3%). By the end of July 2009, the rate had fallen to 6.6%.

The number of children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time has dropped significantly over the past couple of years from 16.9% to 11.5%, which would demonstrate good practice. All children with a child protection plan have a social worker and all children's care is reviewed on time.

### **Analysis of Serious Case Reviews**

Serious Case Reviews (SCR) are undertaken when children die, or are seriously harmed in the care of their parents or carers; there have been seven in the past three years. A number of themes have emerged from these Reviews which highlight the need for improvements in multi-agency working. They include (1) information sharing and collaboration, including core group working and attendance at child protection conferences (2) closer working between Child Protection and Multi-Agency and Public Protection Arrangements (3) improved management of neglect cases (4) provision of specialist training in certain areas including working with difficult and aggressive parents, carers and staff supervision. Whilst extremely low in number, all of the SCRs in the last few years within Oxfordshire have involved families where mothers were teenagers when they had their first child. Serious case review analysis has introduced evidence that identifies domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health as the 'toxic three' associated with death or serious injury to children.

## **Looked After Children**

### **The population**

At the end of March 2009, there were 413 children and young people looked after by Oxfordshire County Council, the majority of which are accommodated with foster carers. This number is fairly consistent over the past three years as is the proportion of boys to girls, which was 60:40 at that time. 45.2% of these young people are aged 10 to 15 years, the next highest proportion (26.6%) is aged 16 to 17 years old. The vast majority 74.6% are White British children.

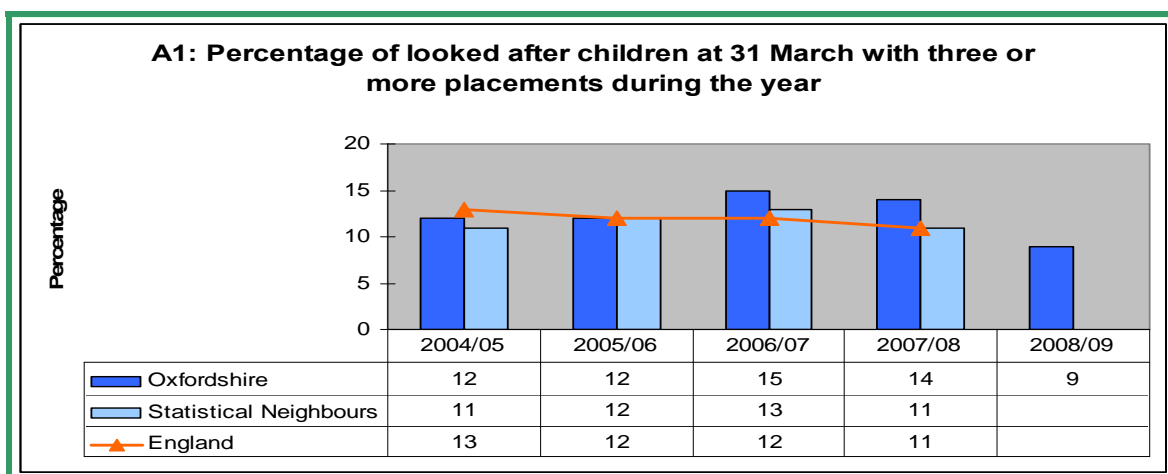
10.6% (44) of the looked after population at 31 March 2009 were unaccompanied asylum seeking children/young people. All were boys and were aged between 13 and 17 (54% were aged 16 or 17). 66% were Afghan. In 2008-9, the majority were placed with foster carers.

Whilst the end of the year figure remains fairly constant, the throughput has been steadily increasing: from 2006-09, the numbers entering care rose from 163 to 228, with this year showing a 30% increase. However, there was an even faster rise in the numbers leaving, largely to family-based placements with 44% returning home and an increasing number exiting to other permanent placements, i.e. Adoptions, and Special Guardianship Orders and Residence Orders.

The number of looked after children per 10,000 population compares well to the national rate and that of the South East region. There are, however, a number of factors which look certain to increase numbers of children in care in Oxfordshire and nationally. It is likely that those children will represent an increasingly older and complex profile. Government policy is to encourage young people to stay in care to a later age and a recent Judgement, the Southwark Judgement, strengthens the rights of 16 and 17 year old homeless young people to receive children's services under section 20 of the Children Act .i.e. most of them will be eligible for full looked after and leaving care services.

### **The stability of placements of children in care**

The stability of the placement that the council locates for these young people is key to ensuring continuity and the council monitors this frequently to ensure that suitable places are consistently found for young people. This is a target for the Children's Trust within its Local Area Agreement. The indicator which measures if a young person has had more than three moves in one year has improved consistently over the last three years from 15% of looked after children in 2006-07, to 9% in 2008-09. This is mainly due to the establishment of a new Placement Duty system and re-focused Family and Placement Support, which have meant that the chances of matching children and young people to an appropriate placement are increased at an early stage, and the increase in the numbers of Residence, Special Guardianship and Adoption orders.

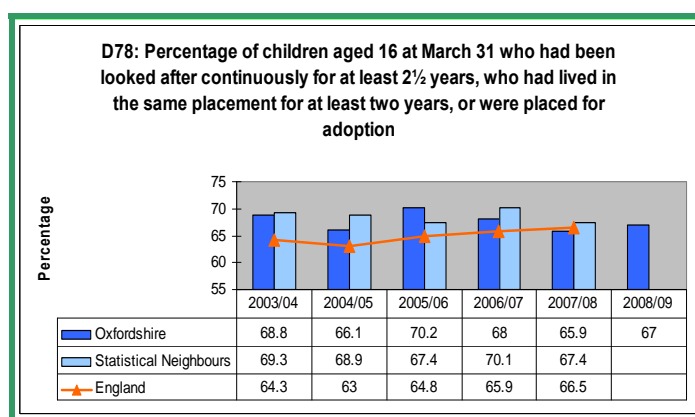


Another national indicator is the percentage of children aged under 16 looked after continuously for at least two and a half years, who have lived in the same placement for two years or were placed for adoption.

### How close young people in care live to their home

Looking at the distance from home that the young people are now living, once in council care, enables the service to gauge what type of

placements it needs more of. This is monitored by the proportion of children who entered care in the year who are placed more than 20 miles from home at the end of the year. This has increased from 14.3%, in 2006-07 to 19.8% in 2008-09, and whilst the most current figure is in line with similar authorities, this figure is far greater than the England average of 11.9%. The council is working to create more placements within Oxfordshire. Since the majority of placements are with foster carers, the recruitment and retention of these is vital: a new recruitment programme is showing early signs of success, and better support services and payment for skills programmes have a beneficial effect on retention.



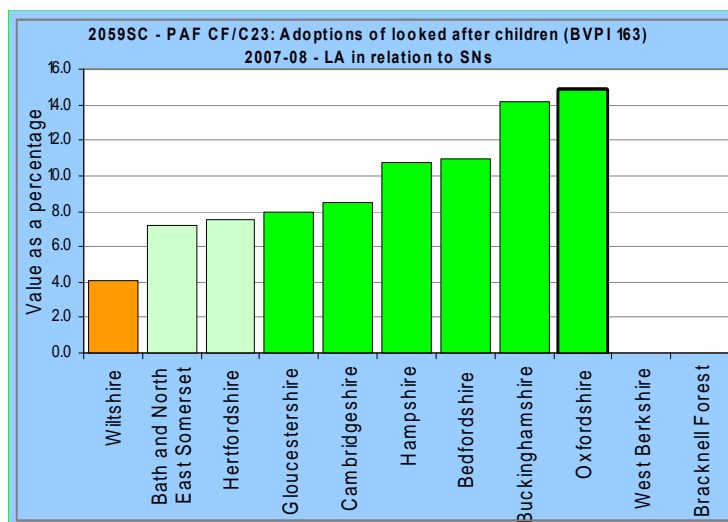
### How frequently their care needs are reviewed

The timeliness of the reviews of looked after children is significant in that it demonstrates the strength in planning for the best possible outcome for the young person concerned. This also impacts on the long-term stability of placement for that young person. Over the last three years, Social Care teams have improved timeliness from 81.3% in 2006-07 to 89.7% in 2008-09. This is still regarded as an area for improvement; similar authorities have achieved 88%, although the national average was already 90% in 2007-08. The children and young people are active participants in their reviews. In 2008-09, 94.3% of the children participated in all their reviews.

## Adoption

For children who cannot live with their birth families, adoption and Special Guardianship Orders help by providing supportive new families. Oxfordshire has been very successful in finding new families for these children compared with similar authorities.

82% of children were found an adoptive family within a year of the decision that adoption was the best plan for the child. This is a little slower than comparable authorities in 2007-08 (87%) but quicker than the national average (76%.)



## Privately fostered children

A privately fostered child is defined as one under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) that is cared for by someone other than a parent or close relative as defined in section 105 of the Children Act 1989. Private foster carers may be from an extended family, such as a cousin or great uncle. They may be a friend of the family, or other non-relative, or someone unknown who has advertised to offer to privately foster a child. A child is not privately fostered if the person caring for him or her has done so for fewer than 28 days and does not intend to do so for longer than that. Privately fostered children are a diverse and potentially vulnerable group.

Oxfordshire County Council has a duty to monitor these arrangements as well as cases where a child is proposed to be, but is not yet, privately fostered.

There has been a steady increase in the number of children entering private fostering. Within each year, new private fostering arrangements begin and end, so the number of children in a private foster placement at year end only gives part of the picture.

Item	2006	2007	2008	2009
Notifications of new private fostering arrangements received during the year.	13	21	33	42
Number of children under private fostering agreements at 31 March.	11	15	16	20

## What are the key issues we take from this evidence?

- In Oxfordshire, there were 1411 **admissions to hospital for injury** in 2008-09, equivalent to 106.5 per 10,000 population aged under 18.
- The Young Carers Strategy 2008-13 estimates that there are 11,000 young carers in Oxfordshire. 750-800 **young carers** are connected to services within the county. The majority are between eight and 15 years old. There are no specialist services for under eights and over 15s.

- Most of the 600 children who have had **common assessments** completed are White British, the majority age group is 5 to 11 and more are boys. A large proportion has a disability.
- A number of themes have emerged from Serious Case Reviews which highlight the need for improvements in **multi-agency working** in particular in the review and management of cases of neglect.
- Serious case review analysis has introduced evidence that identifies **domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health** as the 'toxic three' associated with death or serious injury to children.
- Our progress measures show that we need to continue to improve our performance when assessing and reviewing the needs of children within our care:
  - The volume and **timeliness of initial assessments** undertaken by social workers fell between 2007-08 and 2008-09, from 74.7% to 60.8%.
  - The **timeliness of the reviews** of children and young people looked after by the council has improved over the last three years from 81.3% to 89.7% in 2008-09. Whilst on a par with similar authorities (88%) it is below the national average (90%) as recorded in 2007-08.

## 5. Enjoy and Achieve

### What inspectors say about us

At external inspection in 2008 Oxfordshire County Council was regarded as making an adequate contribution to improving this outcome for children and young people. The overall grade was 2 out of 4, with 4 being the highest. However, inspectors commented that the council had a good understanding of its strengths and weaknesses in contributing to this outcome.

Strengths were noted as school attendance, a lower than average level of permanent or fixed exclusions from schools for pupils and a good record of supporting children with special educational needs.

Areas that need development were highlighted as the success of pupils at Key Stage 1 in terms of reading, writing and mathematics; the percentage of students at Key Stage 4 who achieve five or more GCSEs and a higher than average proportion of students with statements in secondary schools being excluded for a fixed term.

### What children and young people tell us through the Childwise Survey

- **about school** – the proportion of children who enjoy school drops with age, only 16% of 11 to 16 year olds always enjoy school, however, as they reach sixth form this figure improves to 37%.
- **young** people from Asian or Black backgrounds were more likely to have help with their learning and fifth had help with their behaviour. Young people from Black backgrounds were more likely to have had an exclusion letter sent home (14%) or to have been sent home for a while (10%). 16% of fringe groups had help with their behaviour.

- **15% of disabled children** said that they didn't enjoy school and more than half of them rated the noise in classrooms as bad.
- **about school facilities** – boys were more negative about school playgrounds, fields and toilets than girls but were more likely to agree that they had a say in how things were run at school. Teen parents were less positive about their classrooms in general; only 58% of them rated them as good overall compared to 80% of other 11 to 19 years olds.

### What local research and surveys tell us

Children were interviewed in 2008 as part of a council led project called Success, they told us the following:

- We should encourage optimism and ambition in schools – for everyone.
- Schools need to be more aware of mental health issues
- Young people want learning / practical / life skills in all schools – including sexual health, money, cooking, careers.
- Young carers need teachers to understand that sometimes they can't do their homework or it will come in late.

Children told us in the 2008 TellUs 3 Survey that:

- 25% of Years 3 to 11 have bunked off school at least once in the last year, 13% a few times or quite often.
- 51% of Years 3 to 11 say that there is enough for them and their friends to do.
- 34% Years 3 to 11 say their local park feels safe.

### What our performance data tell us

Performance data covers pupil attainment at each key stage in their learning: Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Key Stage 3 testing was abolished in 2008 and will not be reported on in this needs analysis. There is a range of national performance indicators relating to each stage, which enable comparisons to be made against national trends and statistical neighbours.

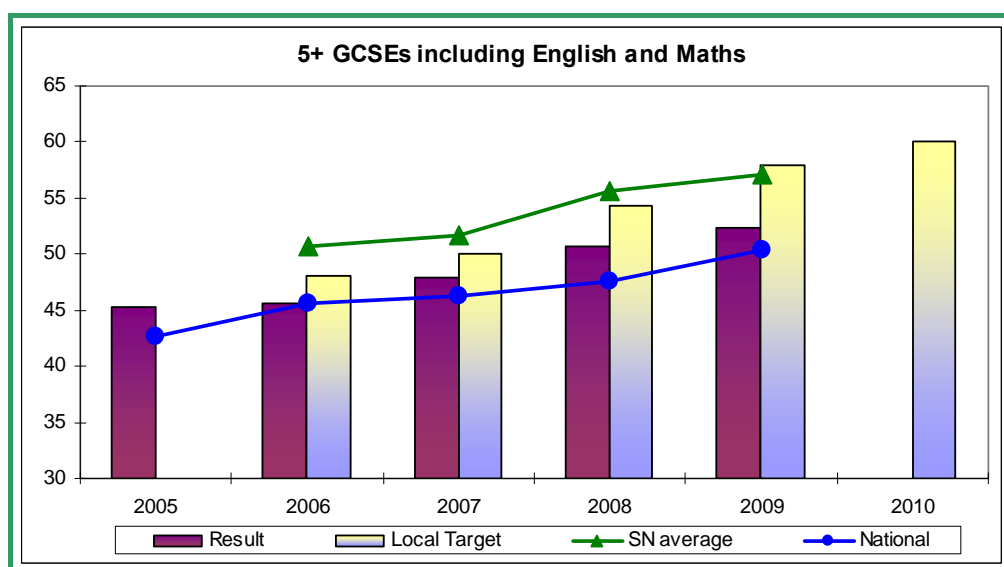
As the performance of pupils at Key Stage 4 is of particular significance, the needs analysis will begin with an assessment of performance for this older age group and work backwards.

#### Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 covers pupils in Year groups 10 and 11. Pupils are usually assessed at the end of Year 11; in the summer of 2009 this involved 6,310 pupils.

**The percentage of Year 11 pupils achieving five A\*-C grades including English and maths at GCSE** is a key performance measure for the county's Local Area Agreement. This figure has improved consistently over the past three years to **52.4%** in 2009. However, Oxfordshire performs poorly compared to its statistical neighbours, placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 11<sup>th</sup> in 2009 (SN average is 57.1% and the highest performing 65.3%).

Below are the actual figures for 2005 to 2008 and the targets for 2009 and 2010 in Oxfordshire.



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Result</b>	45.3	45.6	47.9	50.7	52.4	
<b>Local Target</b>		48	50	54.3	58	60
<b>SN average</b>		50.7	51.7	55.6	57.1	
<b>National</b>	42.6	45.6	46.3	47.6	50.4	

The results for the measure of five GCSEs A\*-G including English and maths in 2009 is 92.7%, which remains consistent with the 2008 figure.

In 2009, all 32 maintained secondary schools reached the government's floor target, which requires at least 30% of a school's Key Stage 4 pupils to attain five A\*-C including English and maths. However, the two academies remain below this target, with the percentage of pupils attaining this target being 26% at North Oxfordshire Academy and 18% at The Oxford Academy, both figures slightly down on the previous year.

There is also a wide range of performance between schools achieving five or more A\*-C grades including English and maths: from Matthew Arnold (70%) and Bartholomew (69%), to Oxford School (33%) and the two academies. The schools showing the largest increases in 2008-09 are King Alfred's (43%-59%); Larkmead (36% to 49%), Oxford School (22% to 33%).

### **The gap between the more vulnerable groups and the rest of the population at Key Stage 4**

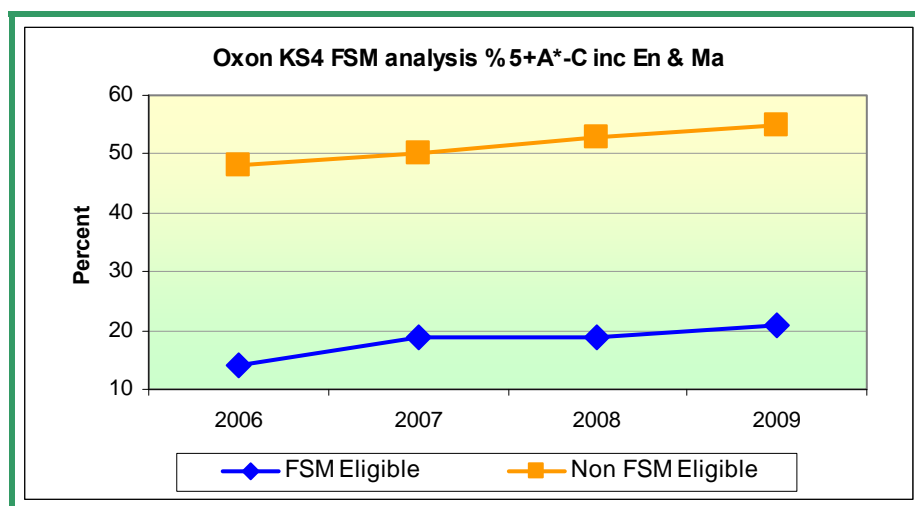
In summer 2008, 92.5% of pupils in Oxfordshire achieved five passes A\*-G at GCSE; this was in comparison with 1.5% of pupils at the Pupil Referral Unit. Of the 248 young people identified as having behavioural, emotional and social difficulties in 2008, 49% achieved five passes A\*-G and 52% of these would need improved performance to narrow the gap between them and the rest of the cohort. Of the 154 young people starting interventions with the Youth Offending Service, 45% achieved five passes at GCSE which was an increase from the previous year. The same is apparent for other vulnerable groups such as young people on the child protection

register, in receipt of social care services, those who are looked after, those who are absent from school, those who are have more than one fixed term exclusion from school and those in receipt of mental health services.

The 2008 results showed that Black and Asian ethnic groups performed less well than the overall cohort, and less well than the national averages for those groups. Over 35% of both the Bangladeshi and Pakistani GCSE cohorts would need improved results to close the gap between themselves and the mainstream.

The 2009 results showed that Black and most Asian groups performed less well than the overall cohort, and the national averages. However, the Bangladeshi cohort showed a dramatic improvement of 26.2% to 65.5% from 2008, and exceeding the national cohort by 17.1%, with a cohort of almost exactly the same size. The gap between the Pakistani and national cohort has closed to 1.6%.

The GCSE performance of children in receipt of free school meals has been consistently 30 percentage points adrift of the mainstream cohort over the past few years. The following chart shows the discrepancy in performance in Oxfordshire.

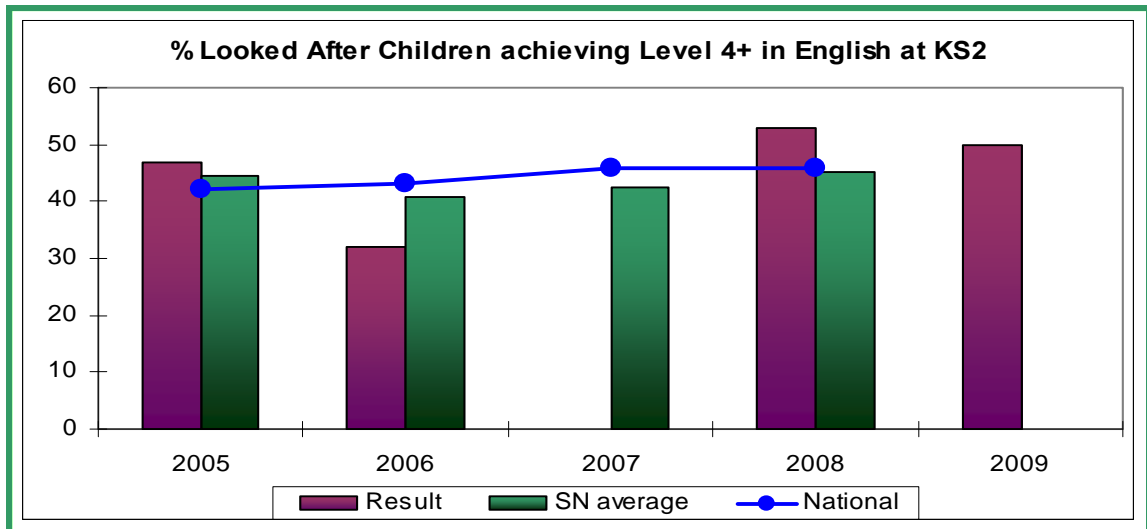


In summer 2008, girls out-performed boys by 8.1%, which reflects the situation nationally, but this is greater than the difference in statistical neighbours' median figures (7.4%).

In 2009, girls out-performed boys by 6.2%, compared to a national gap of 7.4%. In 2009 the statistical neighbours' median was greater than Oxfordshire's at 8%.

In 2009, 25% of KS4 students were classed as having an SEN need. School Action and Statemented pupils both showed a drop in attainment from 2008, although School Action Plus saw a rise of 4%. Of 173 pupils with a Statement, 4% achieved the 5+ A\*-C EM threshold. The number of Statemented pupils has dropped by 106 from 2008.

The achievement of **looked after children at GCSE**, including English and maths, is a key performance measure for the county's Local Area Agreement. The results since 2005 have been below target and the national average. The provisional figure for 2009 shows the results have increased to 8% (4 out of 48 children) from a dip of 5% in 2008.

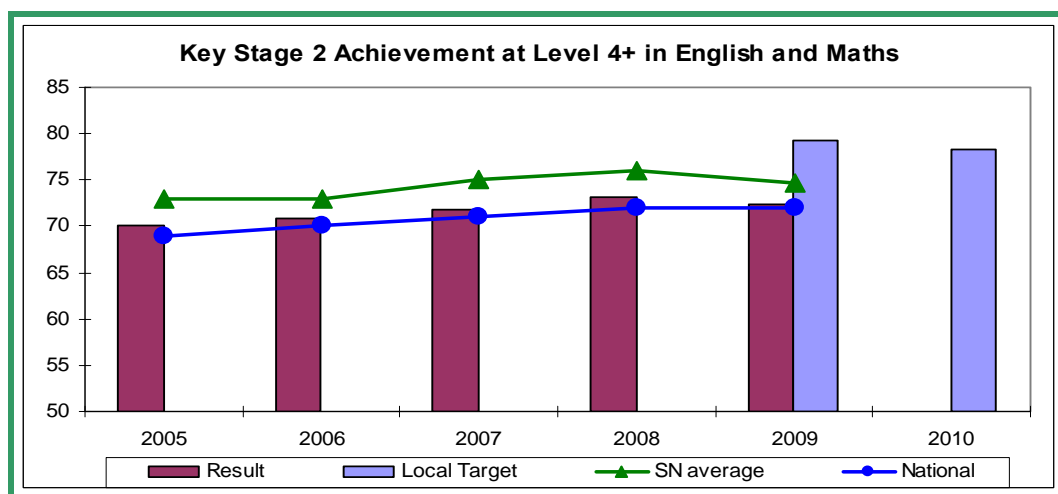


## Key Stage 2

**Key Stage 2** covers pupils in Year groups 3 to 6, culminating with tests at the end of Year 6 in English, maths and science. In 2009 the test cohort was 6307 children.

In 2009, **72.4%** of pupils achieved **Level 4+ in both English and maths**, which was a slight decrease from 73.1% in 2008. The percentage of pupils achieving **Level 4+ in maths** increased slightly in 2009 from 78.4% to **78.7%**, which is in line with the national level of 79%. The percentage of pupils achieving **Level 4+ in English** decreased slightly this year from 81.5% to **80.6%**, however, the percentage achieving Level 4+ in writing increased from 67.3% to 68.1% in 2009.

At Key Stage 2, Oxfordshire performs in line with national averages, although it consistently ranks towards the lower end when compared with its statistical neighbours, ranking eight out of 11 for percentage achieving Level 4+ in both English and maths; 9 out of 11 for percentage pupils achieving Level 4+ in English and joint 7<sup>th</sup> out of 11 for percentage of pupils achieving Level 4+ in maths.



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Result</b>	70	70.9	71.8	73.1	72.4	
<b>Local Target</b>					79.3	78.4
<b>SN average</b>	73	73	75	76	74.6	
<b>National</b>	69	70	71	72	72	

There is a significant difference in attainment between the genders in English results, with 86% of girls compared to 75% of boys achieving Level 4+ in 2009 and in writing the gap increases to 16%.

Looking at the attainment of different ethnic backgrounds, children from Asian and Black backgrounds have lower proportions of children reaching Level 4+ compared to white British children. In 2009, out of the cohort of 283 children from Asian backgrounds, 72% achieved Level 4+ in English and 69% in maths and out of the cohort of 104 children from Black backgrounds 64% achieved Level 4+ in English and 60% in maths. On the whole, these represent increases on 2008 figures especially the maths results for Asian children which has increased by 11 percentage points. Achievement at Key Stage 2 is particularly low for children from Black Caribbean backgrounds (57% in English and 57% in maths), White Irish Travellers (13% in English and 25% in maths) and White Romany children (38% reaching L4+ in English and maths).

10% (639) of pupils at the end of Key Stage 2, 2009 were in receipt of **free school meals**. 58% of this cohort achieved Level 4+ in English in 2009 and 56% in maths which is lower than the overall cohort. Data is not currently available to compare nationally but last year the Oxfordshire Free School Meal (FSM) cohort was lower than all statistical neighbours and eight points below the national figure. This was a fall from 61% in 2007, when three neighbours had lower scores. The maths free school meals performance was 10 points lower than the national score in 2008 at 53% with two neighbours showing lower scores. This was a point lower than 2007 when Oxfordshire was bottom of its neighbour's table.

About 21% of the Key Stage 2 cohort (1,320 pupils) were classified as **SEN** (without a statement) in 2009. Of these pupils, 42% achieved Level 4+ in English and also in maths. These figures are very similar to the previous years. A further 2% of children (121) have a statement and the proportion achieving Level 4+ in English is 31% (increasing from 19% in 2008) and in maths 38%.

### Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 measures the progress of children in Years 1 and 2 at primary school with a teacher assessment of pupils at the end of Year 2. In **2009, 6,265** pupils were assessed.

In **2009** the figures for **reading (84.2%)** and **writing (80.4%)** increased slightly from 2008 figures (83.7% and 78.4%) with maths and science remaining constant at 90.0% and 92% respectively. In reading, writing and maths Oxfordshire remains in line with the national averages. However, Oxfordshire was ranked the lowest of all its statistical neighbours in 2009 for in maths (90% reaching Level 4+ compared to SN average 90.9%), reading (84.0% compared to SN average of 87.4%) and writing (80.0% compared to SN average of 83.9%).

Again there is a **gender** split with girls outperforming boys at Level 2+ by 8% in reading, 13% in writing and 4% in maths.

Whilst the cohorts of **minority ethnic groups** are relatively small, discrepancies can be found in the performance of these groups against the white British group of pupils. In 2009, 76% of the cohort of 108 black pupils and 75% of the cohort of 292 Asian pupils achieved Level 2+ in reading compared to 86% of the cohort of 5113 white British pupils. In particular low proportions of children from Black Caribbean (61%), White Irish Travellers (20%) and White Romany (31%) backgrounds achieve the Level 2+ target in all areas (figures for reading shown above).

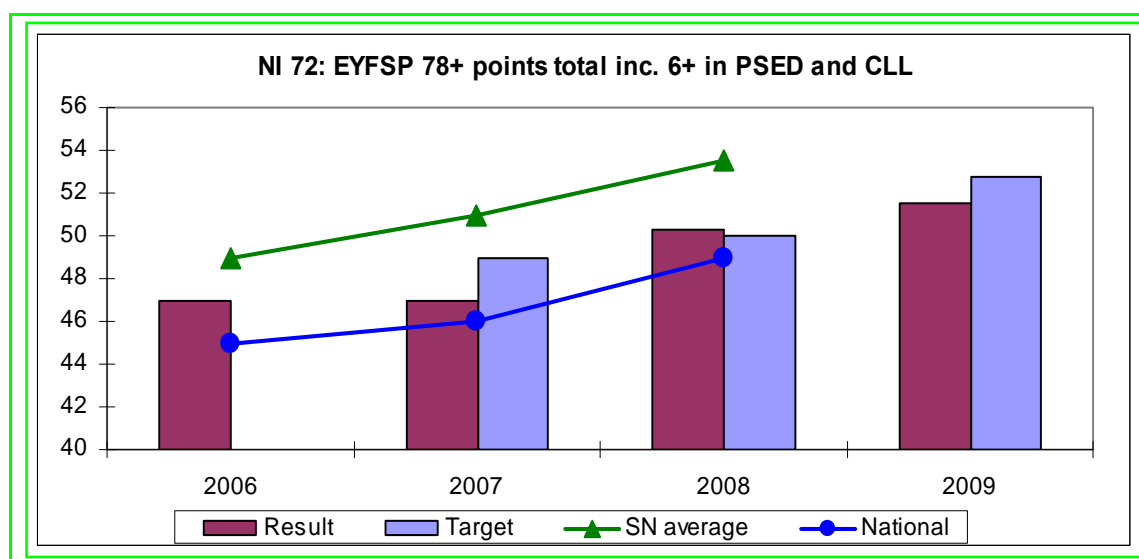
The Key Stage 1 attainment results for children in receipt of **free school meals** in Oxfordshire are lower than the county figure with 66% in reading, 77% in writing and 80% maths achieving Level 2 or above in 2009 out of a cohort of 666 pupils.

In 2009 approximately 18% of the cohort (1100 pupils) had **SEN** (without a statement) and of these 36% achieved L2+ in writing, 45% in reading and 65% in maths. A further 47 pupils had a statement of SEN and of these the proportion achieving L2+ falls further to 23% in writing and 36% in reading.

### Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

This concerns the progress made by children at the end of the Foundation Stage, which could be undertaken in school or in private, voluntary and independent settings. In 2009 this included **6,948 children**.

Up to 117 points are awarded for 13 different strands of learning. Performance is measured by the **number of children who achieve at least 78 points in total, with at least six points in all of the communication, language and literacy (CLL) and personal, social and emotional development (PSED) strands**. Oxfordshire's results have increased steadily since 2006, reaching **51.5%** in 2009. The national figures for 2009 are not yet available but in 2007 and 2008 Oxfordshire performed slightly above the national average but below statistical neighbours.



	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Result</b>	47	47	50.3	51.5
<b>Target</b>		49	50	52.8
<b>SN average</b>	49	51	53.5	
<b>National</b>	45	46	49	

The 2009 figures show a marked gender split with 45% of boys achieving 78 points including six in communication, language and literacy and personal, social and emotional development, compared to 61% of girls.

The achievement of children from Asian and Black backgrounds is noticeably lower than for children from other backgrounds. 35% of children from Asian backgrounds (out of a cohort of 334 children) and 33% of children from Black backgrounds (out of a cohort of 141 children) compared to 55% of children from White British backgrounds. None of the 18 White Gypsy / Romany children achieved this indicator, with a similar picture in previous years.

6% (406) of the children had SEN without a statement and of these only 8% achieved the 78 points with 6 points in CLL and Parenting Learning Development Team target.

The gap between the **lowest achieving 20% in the EYFSP and the rest** has steadily closed from 38.4% in 2006 to **33.5% in 2009**. 2009 national data is not yet available, but in previous years this has been similar to national figures but again a larger gap than for our statistical neighbours.

### **Increase in autism**

An increase in the number of children diagnosed with autism has led to an increase in the numbers placed in out of county provision by 100%. This has had a significant impact on budgets. It should be noted however, that Oxfordshire is a very low user of out county provision compared to the national average (a rate of 5.5 per 10,000 population compared to 9.5 per 10,000 in England).

### **Total number of pupils with autism in out of county placements**

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<b>Pupil Numbers</b>	10	9	9	18

### **School inspections**

Ofsted inspects schools regularly. Grades are awarded as: outstanding; good; satisfactory and inadequate.

91 schools were inspected during 2008/09. This included 78 primary schools, nine secondary schools and four special schools.

12% of schools were rated as outstanding. The primary schools were: Hagbourne, Edward Feild, Hook Norton, Aston Rowant, Whitchurch, Chilton and The ACE Centre

Nursery School. The secondary schools were Langtree and Bartholomew. The special schools were Northern House and Fitzwaryn.

59% of these schools were rated good or better. This includes 59% of primary schools, 44% of secondary schools and 100% of special schools.

4% schools were rated as inadequate. They were all primary schools: Tetsworth, The John Henry Newman, St Christopher's CofE, and Thameside.

### What are the key issues we take from this evidence?

- For all key stages Oxfordshire performs in line or above the national averages, but towards the lower end of the statistical neighbours groups.
- In **Key Stage 1** Oxfordshire was below all statistical neighbours in all areas of reading, writing and maths. There is a marked gender split particularly in writing where girls outperform boys by 13%.
- In **Key Stage 2** results are towards the lower half of the statistical neighbours group particularly in English where Oxfordshire ranks 9th. This is reflected in minority groups such as Asian and Black ethnic groups and also those young people in receipt of free school meals.
- The percentage of students at **Key Stage 4** who achieve five or more A\*-C GCSEs is improving gradually but Oxfordshire does not perform well enough against similar authorities. In summer 2008, Oxfordshire achieved 50.5% compared to the average of its statistical neighbours (53.7%). It was second to last out of the group of 11 statistical neighbours.
- Between 2004 and 2009, the performance of **looked after children at Key Stage 4** has been below target and below national average with only 8% achieving five GCSEs A\*-C grades including English and maths in 2009.
- Overall, children from Black or Asian backgrounds and White Romany / Irish Travellers perform less well than the overall cohort at all key stages and less well than the national averages for those groups.
- Analysis of performance through from Early Years Foundation Stage Profile to Key Stage 4 shows that those **gaps, which exist at Foundation Stage in attainment between more vulnerable groups and the rest still exist at Key Stage 4** and in many cases the gap is wider.
- 91 **schools** were **inspected by Ofsted** during 2008/09. 12% of schools were rated as 'outstanding' 59% of these schools were rated good or better, 4% schools were rated as inadequate.

## 6. Make a Positive Contribution

This section aims to understand local need in terms of children and young people as they grow, develop self-confidence and learn to deal with significant life changes and challenges. In particular it looks at how well young people in Oxfordshire engage in decision making and whether they choose to be develop positive relationships, be law abiding and choose not to bully and discriminate.

It reviews the needs identified through the work of the Youth Offending Service, which deals with those young people coming in to contact with the Youth Justice System.

### What inspectors say about us

In 2008, Ofsted inspectors rated the council's contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect as outstanding. It was graded 1 out of 4, with 4 being the highest. No areas of weakness could be found.

Strengths were noted as outstanding means of consulting and listening to children and young people from a variety of backgrounds; highly effective programmes to deal with anti-social behaviour and excellent proportion of looked after children participating in the review of their care.

In the 2007 Joint Area Review, the Youth Offending Service was assessed as good and in 2008 the Youth Justice Board went on to assess it as good and low risk.

### What children and young people tell us through the Childwise Survey

- **about being listened to** – 53% think their school and college listens to them at all. Those least convinced include 14 to16s, those that live in the city and Cherwell and disabled young people.
- **about local councils** – 24% know what their local councils do and 14% feel they are kept well informed by their local councils.
- **about volunteering** – 75% of 11 to19 year olds have volunteered in some way in the last year. Those aged 11 to13 are more likely to have done jobs, raised money, taken part in a sponsored event, and volunteered at all (79%).
- **about paid jobs** – 35% of 11 to19s have a paid job, working on average 7.7 hours per week. The number with a job and average hours worked, increase with age (by 17 to19years 55% work on average 9.6 hours per week.) There is highest involvement in the Vale of the White Horse and South Oxfordshire.
- **about bullying** – 33% of those surveyed had been bullied and 74% had told someone about this. Significantly half of those from Asian backgrounds have been bullied in the past year, with 14% saying that this was because of their race or religions (particularly Bangladeshi young people – 36%). Only six in ten of those from Asian backgrounds who have been bullied have told someone about it. Young carers are more likely to be bullied; 37% said that they had been bullied at school over the last year and 21% out of school. Looked after children are also more likely to have been bullied.

Girls are twice as likely to have been the target of cyber bullying than boys (9% of girls). However, boys were nearly four times as likely to have been bullied about their sexuality than girls.

- **about how their school or college deals with bullying** – children at secondary school are less confident about the outcome were they to seek help with bullying. They are least aware of any options and least confident about the effectiveness of anti bullying methods in place. Those bullied at school are less likely to enjoy school or feel that they are doing well.

## What research and surveys tell us

### More on bullying

The TellUs Survey, reports on children who have experienced bullying in the last year. This figure was 54.4% in Oxfordshire in 2008-09 and was the second highest amongst similar councils.

### Positive activities

The TellUs Survey also reports on young people's participation in positive activities. In the 2008-09 survey, 71.7% responded positively to the question Young people are asked if they have participated in a positive activity in the last four weeks. This ranked Oxfordshire 4<sup>th</sup> out of five when compared to the rest of the Thames Valley.

The 80 Community-led plans in Oxfordshire include the views of communities on young people's needs. In 2007 a report was compiled, which reviewed 30 plans. Whilst this report is now two years old the main issues and priorities have not changed radically. The report: *Community-led plans in Oxfordshire their potential contribution to strategic planning*, highlighted the need for more positive activities for younger members of their communities. This included recreational or meeting places; reviving youth groups or accessing a youth worker and improving communication with older children. As well as natural play spaces, play and holiday schemes for younger children. A final point was being able to access existing facilities within the local community for children e.g. school play areas and rooms.

## What our performance data tells us

### Youth Offending

Overall, the number of young offenders in Oxfordshire has reduced over the past three years. There has been a cumulative reduction of new entrants into the criminal justice system by 29% since 2005/06. Oxfordshire is one of the best performing areas in the country in terms of re offending. The rates are in the top 20% nationally at 34.9%.

In 2007-08, the total number of offences was 2,002, which was an 18% reduction on the previous year. The total number of young offenders was 1,358, which was a 13% reduction on the previous year.

In contrast to the national trend, young people from black and minority ethnic groups are not disproportionately represented across the disposals in the Youth Offending Service. However, over the last four years there has been a higher proportion of young people of mixed race heritage in custody, particularly in Oxford City and Cherwell. There has also been a higher proportion of young people of black heritage involved in pre-court orders and in custody, once again in Oxford City. Children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups are over-represented in the county's preventative schemes, which is positive in terms of ensuring young people from these groups stay out of the Youth Justice System.

Targeted preventative multi-agency work in Barton, a previously identified hot spot, has seen a 41.2% reduction in court order for under-18s on the estate since 2004. Other hot spots in the county are Didcot in the Southern area and Ruscote and Bretch Hill in the Northern area.

Since April 2008, there has been a gradual increase in custodial sentences within Oxfordshire. The aim is that they should represent under 5% of sentences being made. For 2008-09, Youth Justice Board comparison data reported the Oxfordshire figure at 4.4%, which was lower than the national figure of 6.1%. An analysis of custody cases from May 2008 to May 2009 shows that 31 custodial sentences were made in Oxfordshire between the Youth and Crown courts. The majority of the young people were male (two female), were aged 16-17 years and were white (24). Further analysis is being undertaken to understand the connection with high custodial remands.

### School Attendance

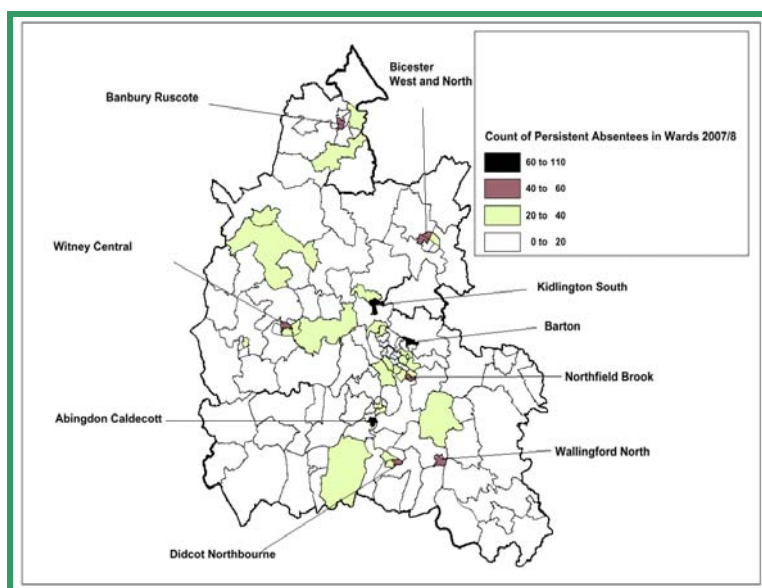
The secondary school persistent absence rate is another key performance measure for the county's Local Area Agreement. Persistent absentees miss at least 63 sessions during the academic year.

A link can be made between attainment and attendance. On average 30% of persistent absentees fail to achieve Level 1 qualification at GCSE (five A\*-G including English and maths).

Oxfordshire reduced levels of persistent absence at secondary level for three years between 2005 and 2008. Provisional figures for 2008/09 indicate a continuation of this trend. This is better than the national figure and close to statistical neighbours.

An analysis of schools' coding of their absences for all identified persistent absentees in May 2009 indicated that illness is the substantive reason for absences constituting approximately 45-48% of all persistent absence, with emotional well-being and mental health issues being presenting factors.

The map shows the persistent absentees for 2007/8 by ward. Kidlington South, Abingdon Caldecott and Barton have the highest rates.



### School Exclusions

Permanent exclusions have been reducing in the county from 73 in 2005-06 to 65 in 2007-08. The most common reasons for permanent exclusions are 'persistent disruptive behaviour' and 'verbal abuse or threatening behaviour' to an adult. These have been the only reasons for the permanent exclusion of girls. Nearly all the young people permanently excluded are white.

The majority of permanent exclusions concern boys and peak in Years 8-10.

A fixed term exclusion will be for a fixed number of days. There were 3903 fixed term exclusions in 2007/8, a figure that fell to 2921 in 2008/9. There is a connection between attainment and school exclusions; 20% of pupils with at least two periods of fixed term exclusions (over a two year period) were unable to reach a Level 1 qualification at GCSE in 2007 (5 A\*-G including English and maths).

The majority of fixed term exclusions by school were in the Northern Area in 2007/08 (40%), but the majority in 2008/9 were seen in schools in the Southern area (43%).

Significantly, young people with special educational needs account for 20% of the secondary roll yet they account for 80% of young people permanently excluded. It should be noted that many of these young people have SEN for Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD).

### What are the key issues we take from this evidence?

- Evidence from the Childwise Survey would suggest that **bullying** is an issue which affects all young people. Minority groups in Oxfordshire are particularly affected. Girls are twice as likely to have been the target of cyber bullying than boys. Young people have told us that they have less confidence in the options to deal with it as they get older and progress into secondary school.
- Evidence from the Childwise Survey shows that **disabled children are highly vulnerable to bullying** and are socially isolated. Findings from the Childwise Survey suggest that they are four times less likely than their peers to go out or go to see friends.
- Over the last 12 months there has been a gradual increase in **custodial sentences** within Oxfordshire rising from an average of 4.3% for the year 2008-09 to 8.1% by June 2009.
- **Hot-spots of youth** crime have been identified as Barton in the Central area, Didcot in the Southern area and Ruscote and Bretch Hill in the Northern area.
- **Young people with special educational needs** account for 20% of the secondary roll yet they account for 80% of young people **permanently excluded**. Many of these young people have Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD).

## 7. Achieve Economic Well-being

This section covers what we understand of young people's needs as they prepare for their working lives. It concerns how we ensure that they are equipped with the right skills and experience. It provides an understanding of how well young people are doing at gaining qualifications, continuing in learning and succeeding in employment. It also looks at the provision of learning and the progress made by young people dependent on their starting point.

## What inspectors say about us

In 2008, Ofsted inspectors rated the council's contribution of services to improving outcomes for children and young people in this aspect as 'inadequate'. It was graded 1 out of 4, with 4 being the highest.

Inspectors commented on Oxfordshire's robust 14-19 strategy and steady improvements in outcomes for looked after children although the challenge to increasing the numbers with Level 2/3 qualifications at 19 still remains.

Areas for development included the achievement of Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications for young people aged 19, which are improving but fall below that of statistical neighbours. In addition the proportion of young people completing Year 11 who continue in learning needs to come in line with similar council areas.

## What children and young people tell us through the Childwise Survey

- **about leaving school** – 23% of children and young people surveyed told us that they were undecided about what they want to do after they leave school, compared to 34% in 2007.

Only 8% felt that they wanted to leave as soon as possible, compared to 10% in 2007. However, we have learnt that more vulnerable groups feel differently e.g. 13% of those in rented accommodation, 17% of young carers, 24% of teenage parents are more likely to plan to leave school as soon as possible.

- **about information and advice in general** – more needs to be done to give young people enough information and advice about the future – 52% feel that they are getting enough information but 31% do not.
- **about information and advice when they are not in education, employment or training and may also be teenage parents** – they are positive about current support but more needs to be done about support and advice available at school. (Over one third of those who were not in education, employment or training and teenage parents did not agree that they were given the time and support at school to discuss what they wanted to achieve). 77% of young teen parents do know about learning provision directed specifically at them (Care to Learn).

Some felt that courses could be "more flexible" and one young person added, "so I'm not constantly battling with the fact my GCSEs were crap. I'm clever enough to do a diploma (national) course but I can't prove it."

- **about information and choice of courses when they are in temporary accommodation** – compared to other 17-19s this group is far less likely to feel that they are getting the right amount (22% against 61% of other 17-19s).
- **about how to manage their finances** – just under half of looked after young people (45%) felt they were taught enough. A third of disabled young people fell in to this category.
- **about going to university** – 52% of girls compared with 41% of boys had decided to go to university. However, only 27% of disabled children had decided to pursue this route.

## What research and surveys tell us

### **The County Council's 14-19 Education Plan and the Government Office for the South East Progress**

Much of the information below is drawn from the 14-19 Education Plan, which can be found on the county council's website and the Government Office for the South East Progress Check on the 14-19 programme of work (Autumn 2009). The Progress Check looks at key performance measures set out by the Oxfordshire 14-19 Partnership and evaluates progress.

The plan reports that in 2008, 90.7% of 16 year olds were offered a place in full-time learning under the September Guarantee arrangement, which ensures that every young person will have an appropriate offer of learning the September after they turn 16 and the following year if they have left education or training at this point.

23 out of 33 secondary schools have piloted electronic Individual Learning Plans called Plan-It, which are designed to assist young people and the adults who advise them to make decisions and take action regarding their future pathways. In 2008, 50 young people piloted an online Common Application Process to assist them with their application to learning providers post-16.

Information from the associated 'Oxfordshire 14-19 statistical indicators' reports that in November 2008, 141 young people took up diplomas.

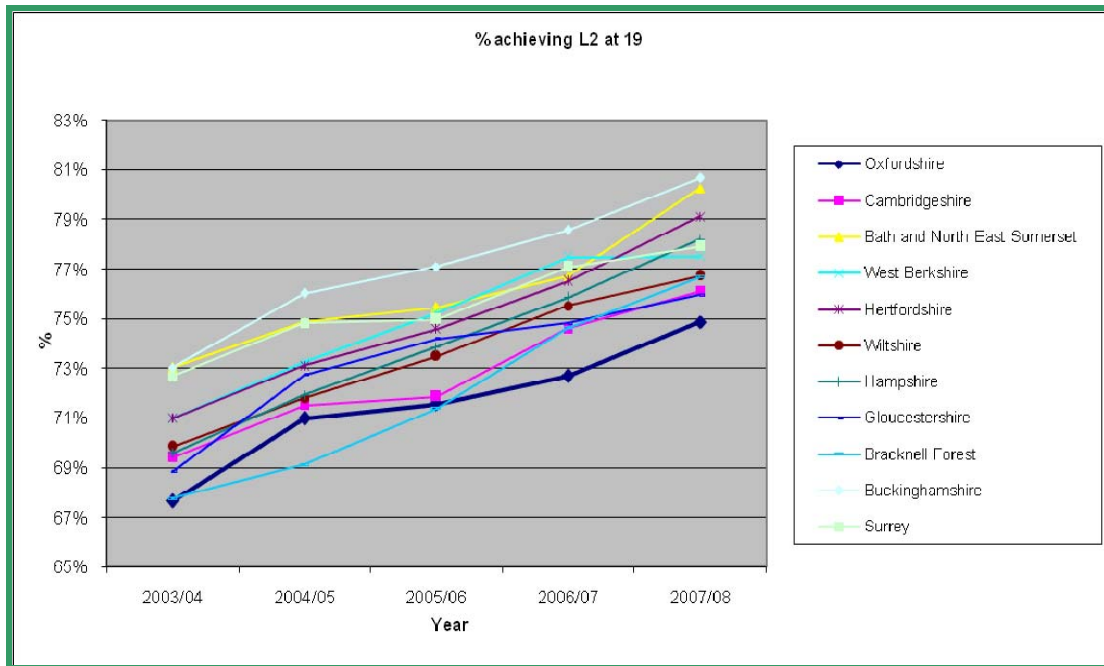
## What our performance data tells us

### **Levels 2 and 3 attainment by 19 year olds educated in Oxfordshire**

- Level 2 qualifications are the equivalent to a pass at GCSE A\*-C
- Level 3 qualifications are the equivalent of full A Level grades A-E

### **Percentage of young people achieving Level 2 at age 19\_ – comparison with statistical neighbours in 2007-08**

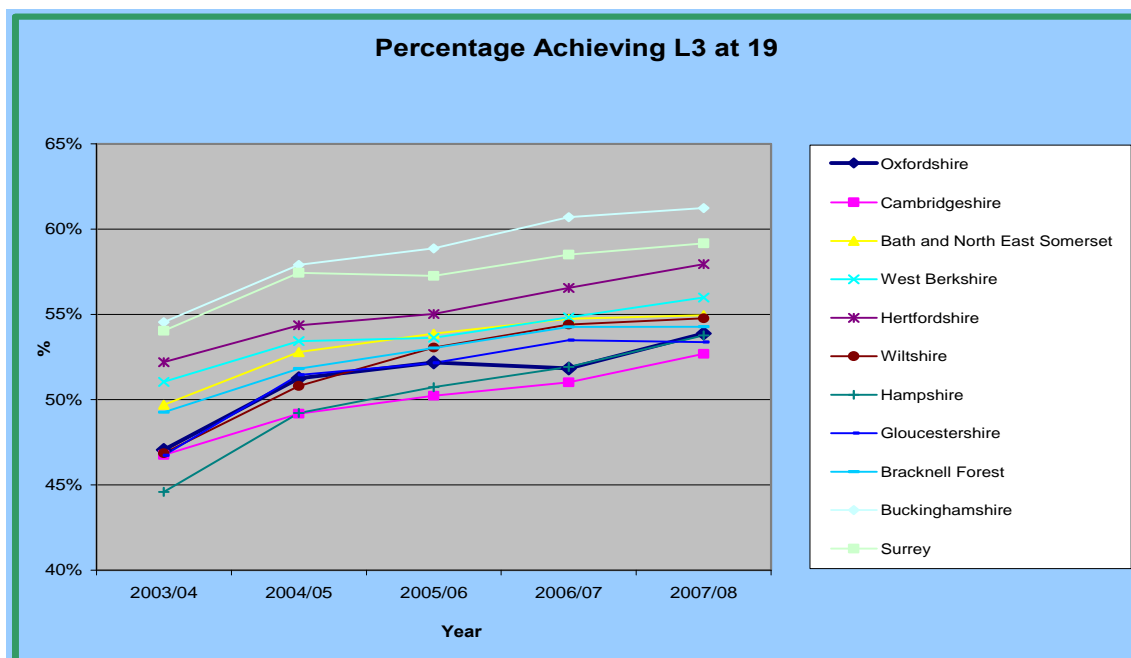
In 2007/08, 75% of young people aged 19 achieved Level 2 in Oxfordshire, which marked the fifth year of continued improvement. However, we know that we need to improve our position amongst our statistical neighbours, as demonstrated below, to really make a difference.



L2	Aged 19 at 2003/04	Aged 19 at 2004/05	Aged 19 at 2005/06	Aged 19 at 2006/07	Aged 19 at 2007/08
Oxfordshire	68%	71%	72%	73%	75%
Cambridgeshire	69%	72%	72%	75%	76%
Bath and North East Somerset	73%	75%	75%	77%	80%
West Berkshire	71%	73%	75%	77%	78%
Hertfordshire	71%	73%	75%	77%	79%
Wiltshire	70%	72%	73%	76%	77%
Hampshire	70%	72%	74%	76%	78%
Gloucestershire	69%	73%	74%	75%	76%
Bracknell Forest	68%	69%	71%	75%	77%
Buckinghamshire	73%	76%	77%	79%	81%
Surrey	73%	75%	75%	77%	78%

## Percentage of young people achieving Level 3 at age 19 – comparison with statistical neighbours in 2007-08

In 2007/8, 54% of young people reached Level 3 by age 19 in Oxfordshire, once again this marked the fifth year of continued improvement but leaves us with room for improvement amongst our statistical neighbours.



Level 3	Aged 19 at 2003/04	Aged 19 at 2004/05	Aged 19 at 2005/06	Aged 19 at 2006/07	Aged 19 at 2007/08
Oxfordshire	47%	51%	52%	52%	54%
Cambridgeshire	47%	49%	50%	51%	53%
Bath and North East Somerset	50%	53%	54%	55%	55%
West Berkshire	51%	53%	54%	55%	56%
Hertfordshire	52%	54%	55%	57%	58%
Wiltshire	47%	51%	53%	54%	55%
Hampshire	45%	49%	51%	52%	54%
Gloucestershire	47%	51%	52%	53%	53%
Bracknell Forest	49%	52%	53%	54%	54%
Buckinghamshire	55%	58%	59%	61%	61%
Surrey	54%	57%	57%	59%	59%

### **Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19**

This information reports the gap in attainment of Level 3 at age 19 in each local authority between those young people who were in receipt of free school meals at academic age 15 and those who were not. The 2007-08 (and latest) figure is at 31.7, which is not as good as statistical neighbours (31) or the national figure.

**The proportion of young people completing Year 11 who continue in learning** is below that found on average in similar council areas and nationally. The proportion of young people continuing in learning (progressing from Level 2 to Level 3) is better than most statistical neighbours. Last year there was a better connection between those staying on in education between Levels 2 and 3, however, there were also less pupils.

### **Further Education providers in Oxfordshire**

In 2006/2007, Further Education success rates for young people aged 16 to 18 in Oxfordshire rose to 75%. This is less than the South East rate of 78% and the national rate of 77%.

Within the county the percentages of young people achieving Level 2 by the age of 19 are lower than county levels in Abingdon, the City, the East and the North. The 14-19 consortia providing this learning also have a lower percentage of young people achieving Level 3 by the age of 19 than the county as a whole.

### **Young people in education employment or training**

The percentage of young people aged 16-18, who are **not** in education employment or training (NEET) gives us an indication of how well this group is doing in developing further skills, work experience and qualifications. This indicator is also affected by the national economic climate and the current recession has seen a significant rise in the percentage of young people, who are not in education employment or training nationally.

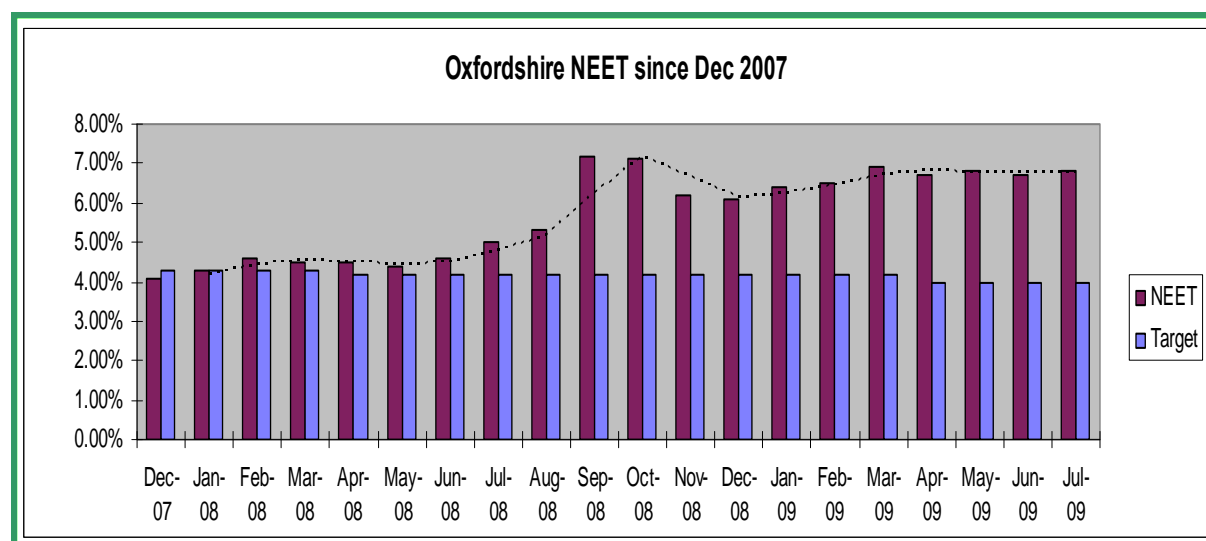
In Oxfordshire this figure has increased to 6.7% of young people (June 2009), which equates to approximately 1000 young people aged 16 to 18. The South East Region figure at 6.2%. The England figure for the same period was 7.6%.

Vulnerable groups most affected are teenage parents, young offenders and care leavers – less than 35% of all these groups are in employment, education or training. However, the percentage of young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in education, employment or training has consistently out performed the targets set.

The following table shows the numbers and percentage of young people aged 16 to 18, who were **not** in education employment or training figures for June 2009 by locality. At this time the county figure was 6.7%. Banbury, Oxford and Oxford South East have significantly higher numbers.

Locality	Cohort of 16-18 year olds	Numbers of those NEET	Proportion of cohort, which are NEET %
Banbury	1498	150	10.01%
Bicester/Kidlington	1736	111	6.39%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	1604	89	5.55%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	1342	71	5.29%
Didcot	949	69	7.27%
Thame/Watlington	837	18	2.15%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	1482	67	4.52%
Henley/Sonning Common / Woodcote/Wallingford	1110	35	3.15%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	1140	58	5.09%
Headington/Wheatley	892	44	4.93%
Cowley/Iffley (ISIS)	856	86	10.05%
North Oxford/Cumnor/Botley	1174	72	6.13%
Oxford South East	811	101	12.45%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>15431</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>6.2%*</b>

\* This overall percentage differs slightly from the overall Oxfordshire figure above as the locality information does not include the young people who were educated in Oxfordshire but live out of county.



## Apprenticeships

The county council's 14-19 Education Plan highlights that 641 young people between the ages of 16 and 18 in Oxfordshire successfully completed apprenticeships in 2008 compared to 724 in 2007. This represents just over 1% of 14 to 19 year olds, which is low compared to other areas in the country.

## Children's Centres

There are a total of 45 Children's Centres offering a range of integrated services to every community in Oxfordshire. Over the period from April 2008 to May 2009, 7578 parents / carers and 7521 children aged under five accessed a Children's Centre within the county. Analysis shows that Oxfordshire's Children's Centres reached 29% of children under five years, living in the areas classified as 30% of the most disadvantaged nationally. 8% of lone parents were reached by Children's Centres. 21% of the children under five seen are from black and minority ethnic groups.

### What are the key issues we take from this evidence?

- The percentage of young people achieving **Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications** is not in line with similar council areas. In 2007-08, 75% of young people aged 19 achieved Level 2 in Oxfordshire, compared to the highest performing Buckinghamshire (81%). In 2007-08, 54% of young people aged 19 achieved Level 2 in Oxfordshire, compared to the highest performing Buckinghamshire (64%).
- **The gap in attainment of Level 3 at age 19** between those young people who were in receipt of free school meals at age 15 and those who were not, is greater than that in similar councils and the national figure. The 2007-08 figure for Oxfordshire is 31.7 percentage points, which is not as good as statistical neighbours (31 percentage points) and does not meet the target of 29 percentage points.
- There is an increasing percentage of young people **not in education, employment or training**. By June 2009, the county figure had increased to 6.7%. Banbury, Oxford and Oxford South East have the highest rates. Vulnerable groups most affected are teenage parents, young offenders and care leavers – less than 35% of all these groups are in employment, education or training.
- Evidence from the Childwise Survey shows that some groups of young people do not feel that they have the right amount of **time and support at school to discuss what they want to achieve** e.g. teenage parents, who have specific vulnerabilities and needs.

## 8. Summary of the Key Issues

### The Oxfordshire Context:

- The county average is good but there are **marked differences across the county**. West Oxfordshire, Vale and South Oxfordshire score in the top ten per cent of all districts nationally while Cherwell occupies a middle-ranking position and Oxford City is in the bottom third of districts.
- There are **ten small areas** roughly within the bottom ten per cent of all areas in England with **high child poverty**. Nine of these are in Oxford City: Barton

and Sandhills OO5A, Cowley Marsh O13B, Northfield Brook O18C, St Mary's O11F, Rose Hill and Iffley O16E, Churchill O10C, St Clement's O11A. Blackbird Leys O18A and Northfield Brook O18B. One is in Banbury: Banbury Grimsbury and Castle OO4B.

- **Rural deprivation** is masked due to the relatively small population numbers. According to the Department for Work and Pensions 2007 statistics, 11.3% of children in Oxfordshire are living in poverty (2007). There are two rural wards with a child poverty rate above the Oxfordshire average.
- **Inequalities** can be identified in terms of location, ethnicity, income and gender, which are then repeated in other aspects of children's lives.
- The **ethnic breakdown of the population** is changing. The number of Other White increased by 36.9% from 2001 to 2007. This is reflected in the school populations, with a substantial increase in the number of Polish pupils. All other ethnic groups have also increased over this period, with several groups doubling or more than doubling in size (Asian or Asian British: Indian and also Other Asian; Black or Black British: African).

#### **Be Healthy:**

- The health of people in Oxfordshire is generally better than England and regional averages. Children's health is better than the England average. However, more than 13,025 children are living in poverty and we know from data on deprivation that there are **significant inequalities within Oxfordshire by location, gender, income and ethnicity which impact on health.**
- **Under-18 conceptions** have increased across the county and Oxfordshire is not on course for the target trajectory to reduce conceptions by 45% by 2010. There are particular concentrations in Banbury and Oxford City.
- Evidence indicates that **teenage parents** are more likely to want to leave school as soon as possible and that approximately 80% of them are likely not to be in employment, education and training.
- **By the time that children reach Year 6, 15.4% of them have been measured as obese.** (Figures for 2008-09). This compares to just 7% of children in reception measured in the same year.
- **Immunisation rates** need to be maintained and the Director of Public Health has highlighted the need to check the immunisation history of people moving into the area and offering them immunisation to fill any gaps.

#### **Stay Safe:**

- Most of the 600 children who have had **common assessments** completed are white British, the majority age group is 5 to 11 and more are boys. A large proportion have a disability.
- The Young Carers Strategy 2008-13, estimates that there are 11,000 young carers in Oxfordshire. 750-800 **young carers** are connected to services within

the county. The majority are between eight and 15 years old. There are no specialist services for under eights and over 15s.

- In Oxfordshire, there were 1411 **admissions to hospital for injury** in 2008-09, equivalent to 106.5 per 10,000 population aged under-18.
- A number of themes have emerged from Serious Case Reviews which highlight the need for improvements in **multi-agency working** in particular in the review and management of cases of neglect.
- Serious case review analysis has introduced evidence that identifies **domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health** as the 'toxic three' associated with death or serious injury to children.
- Our progress measures show that we need to continue to improve our performance when assessing and reviewing the needs of children within our care:
  - The volume and **timeliness of initial assessments** undertaken by social workers fell between 2007-08 and 2008 -09, from 74.7% to 60.8%.
  - The **timeliness of the reviews** of children and young people looked after by the council has improved over the last three years from 81.3% to 89.7% in 2008-09. Whilst on a par with similar authorities (88%) it is below the national average (90%) as recorded in 2007-08.

#### **Enjoy and Achieve:**

- For all key stages, Oxfordshire performs in line or above the national averages but towards the lower end of the statistical neighbours groups.
- In **Key Stage 1** Oxfordshire was below all statistical neighbours in all areas of reading, writing and maths. There is a marked gender split particularly in writing where girls outperform boys by 13%.
- In **Key Stage 2** results are towards the lower half of the statistical neighbours group, particularly in English where Oxfordshire ranks 9th. This is reflected in minority groups such as Asian and Black ethnic groups and also those young people in receipt of free school meals.
- The percentage of students at **Key Stage 4** who achieve five or more A\*-C GCSEs is improving gradually, but Oxfordshire does not perform well enough against similar authorities. In summer 2008, Oxfordshire achieved 50.5% compared to the average of its statistical neighbours (53.7%). It was second to last out of the group of 11 statistical neighbours.
- Between 2004 and 2009, the performance of **looked after children at Key Stage 4** has been below target and below national average with only 8% achieving five GCSEs A\*-C grades including English and maths in 2009.
- Overall children from Black or Asian backgrounds and White Romany / Irish Travellers perform less well than the overall cohort at all key stages and less well than the national averages for those groups.

- Analysis of performance through from Early Years Foundation Stage Profile to Key Stage 4 shows that those **gaps, which exist at Foundation Stage in attainment between more vulnerable groups and the rest still exist at Key Stage 4** and in many cases the gap is wider.
- 91 **schools** were **inspected by Ofsted** during 2008/09. 12% of schools were rated as outstanding 59% of these schools were rated 'Good or better'. 4% schools were rated as inadequate.

#### **Make a Positive Contribution:**

- Evidence from the Childwise Survey would suggest that bullying is an issue which affects all young people. Minority groups in Oxfordshire are particularly affected. Girls are twice as likely to have been the target of cyber bullying than boys. Young people have told us that they have less confidence in the options to deal with it as they get older and progress into secondary school.
- Evidence from the Childwise Survey shows that **disabled children are highly vulnerable to bullying** and are socially isolated; findings from the Childwise survey suggest that they are four times less likely than their peers to go out or go to see friends.
- Over the last 12 months there has been a gradual increase in **custodial sentences** within Oxfordshire rising from an average of 4.3% for the year 2008-09 to 8.1% by June 2009.
- **Hot-spots of youth crime Hot-spots of youth** crime have been identified as Barton in the Central area, Didcot in the Southern area and Ruscote and Bretch Hill in the Northern area.
- **Young people with special educational needs** account for 20% of the secondary roll yet they account for 80% of young people **permanently excluded**. Many of these young people have Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD).

#### **Achieve Economic Well-being:**

- The percentage of young people achieving **Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications** is not in line with similar council areas. In 2007-08, 75% of young people aged 19 achieved Level 2 in Oxfordshire, compared to the highest performing Buckinghamshire (81%). In 2007-08, 54% of young people aged 19 achieved Level 2 in Oxfordshire, compared to the highest performing Buckinghamshire (64%).
- The **gap in attainment of Level 3 at age 19** between those young people who were in receipt of free school meals at age 15 and those who were not, is greater than that in similar councils and the national figure. The 2007-08 figure for Oxfordshire is 31.7 percentage points, which is not as good as statistical neighbours (31 percentage points) and does not meet the target of 29 percentage points.
- There is an increasing percentage of young people **not in education, employment or training**. By June 2009, the county figure had increased to 6.7%. Banbury, Oxford and Oxford South East have the highest rates. Vulnerable groups most affected are teenage parents, young offenders and care leavers – less than 35% of all these groups are in employment, education or training.

- Evidence from the Childwise Survey shows that some groups of young people do not feel that they have the right amount of **time and support at school to discuss what they want to achieve** e.g. teenage parents, who have specific vulnerabilities and needs.