

**Success for All Children Group  
Annual Report  
For the period  
April 2013 – September 2014**

DRAFT

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## 1. Strategy and vision

### 1.1 Introduction

The Success for All Children Group continues to have strategic oversight of the Children's agenda, working together to set challenging and ambitious targets and to improve outcomes for children and young people in Southend. The group has representatives from Southend Borough Council, South East Essex Primary Care Trust, Essex Fire and Rescue, Primary and Secondary Head Teachers, School Governors, South Essex Partnership Trust, Southend CCG, the Police and the voluntary sector. The Health and Wellbeing Board sets the overall [strategy](#) for health and wellbeing in Southend and the Success for All Group reports into the Board on progress on specific children and young people targets and actions.

This Annual Report sets out our achievements over the extended reporting period of April 2013 – September 2014. During 2013 – 2014 our Fostering and Adoption services was inspected and found to be good. We also participated in a themed inspection on Early Help and areas of our best practice were identified. Overall we delivered 89% of the actions in our 2013 – 2014 Children and Young People's Plan for Southend-on-Sea.

Partners of the Success for All Children Group continue to remain committed to partnership and the vision of the Children and Young People's Plan – Success for All. As our individual organisations' resources become more constrained we will strengthen our efforts for integrated working, joint commissioning and early intervention and target our energies where they are most needed. Innovation continues to be a key driver to our continued improvement of outcomes, as we strive to find new ways of delivering services through partnerships with voluntary sector and other organisations.

A comprehensive analysis of local needs helps us to develop our Children and Young People's Plan and realise our ambitious vision to continue improving outcomes in Southend-on-Sea. This is set within a systematic, annual cycle of service planning and commissioning, monitoring and evaluation. The annual report and needs analysis informs priorities and actions to achieve continuous improvement, particularly to narrow the gap for different groups of children and young people. Our Children and Young People's Plan and supporting Needs Assessment can be found at [www.southendchildren.org](http://www.southendchildren.org). The Southend Clinical Commissioning Group operational plan can be found [here](#); this outlines the key health priorities and measures for children and young people and their families in Southend.

### 1.2 Our vision and ambition for children in Southend-on-Sea

Our vision is simple, Success for All. We are committed to achieving success for all children but remind ourselves that this success needs to be defined with the children and young people and their families. As a partnership we recognise that our role is to fan the potential that exists in every child and

work together to remove the injustices and barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

One of our strengths is the way, as organisations, we work together in Southend. Our vision statement clearly sets out the ways we want to continue to work together to give children and young people the best possible start in life. Our vision statement and other key documents can be found at [www.southendchildren.org](http://www.southendchildren.org).

### **1.3 How did we do in 2013-2014?**

Over the past year the Success for All Group has focused on delivering the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2013 – 2014.

1. Closing the divide between more advantaged and less advantaged children and families in Southend
2. Supporting families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating and to help them transition through our services
3. Keeping children and young people safe
4. Supporting young people and families to live healthier lifestyles
5. Continuing to improve the life chances for looked after children and those on the edge of care
6. Supporting young people to prepare for employment
7. Ensuring agencies proactively seek out and respond to the views of children and young people

In this section we take a moment to highlight some of our key successes against our priorities over the extended reporting period of April 2013 – September 2014 year.

The Council, Pre-School Learning Alliance and its partners worked together to secure £40m from the Big Lottery Fund's (BLF) 'Fulfilling Lives: A Better Start' initiative, an amazing achievement. The partnership plan which underpins this; 'Our Children, Our Community, Our Future', has been developed with local parents, the community and professionals, and will allow us to focus in six key wards over the next ten years (Kursaal, Milton, Westborough, Victoria, Shoeburyness and West Shoebury) to shape and redesign services during pregnancy and early childhood and to help parents to give their children a better start in life.

The funding, specifically aimed at social and emotional development, communication and language development, and nutrition of children aged 0 to three-years-old, has only been awarded to four other areas in the country.

In 2013-14 we continued our good track record of inspection outcomes. In June 2012 Ofsted inspected our Safeguarding and Looked after Children's Services and found our services to be good with many outstanding features. In addition, our Youth Offending Service 2012 inspection recognised our partnership working and our leadership and vision. Our Fostering and

Adoption Services were also both inspected and graded as good during 2013. Furthermore, for Early Years providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors there has been continuous improvement over a number of years in the percentage of providers judged as good or better by OFSTED. The current profile for early years settings is:

Outstanding	16%	(85% Good or Outstanding)
Good	69%	
Satisfactory	15%	
Inadequate	0%	

The current profile for Southend's childminders is as follows:

Outstanding	15%	(85% Good or Outstanding)
Good	70%	
Satisfactory	15%	
Inadequate	0%	

Ofsted identified three areas of best practice in the December 2013 Early Help themed inspection, the strength of our partnership and our approach to partnership working was recognised in addition to the strength of our staged model of intervention and its impact on children and families' needs being addressed earlier.

Our innovative Streets Ahead project is having a positive impact. We have already identified more than our target number of families and have achieved good results with 70 out of the 82 we worked with in year one. The community element of the project has also enabled a range of new community based activities to help address Southend's deep-seated challenges of deprivation, social exclusion and disengagement.

The 'Southend Challenge' is our strategy to support school improvement across the Borough. In line with this approach, we have put in place school to school support by setting up a series of six cluster groups which will also be used to drive up performance for early years. The impact of this approach is evident in some clear improvement in attainment and achievement. We have increased the number of children attending at least a good school, increased attainment at key stages KS1 and KS2. At KS2 in 2014, 80% of Southend pupils achieved level 4 or above in all of reading, writing and mathematics (compared to 74% last year). This is above national (79%) and also above the average of our statistical neighbours (76%). 69% of pupils in Southend achieved a 'good' level 4 or above (4B) in reading, writing and maths, compared to 61% last year. This figure is above the national level of 67% and the statistical neighbour average of 64%. 25% of pupils achieved level 5 or above in reading, writing and maths, compared to 22% last year. This is higher than national (24%) and the statistical neighbour average (21%). There has been an improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4, 4B and level 5 and above in all subjects compared to last year (grammar, punctuation and spelling; reading; writing; maths; and the combined measure). Results at Key Stage 4 were more mixed. The Southend Borough

Council Annual School Report is published on [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk) and provides a more detailed analysis of pupil progress and attainment. {Editorial note: To be linked when published}

A key focus of the partnership is addressing the impact of poverty on children and families. This means not only working together to address the health and housing needs but also working together to close the attainment gap between pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding and their peers.

#### 1.4 Commissioning

Our Commissioning Framework and Toolkit, which can be found at [www.southendchildren.org](http://www.southendchildren.org) underpins the services commissioned jointly by the Success for All Children Group. These are targeted at early intervention, prevention and equality of access and opportunity.

Over 2013-2014 we have continued to commission the following services, which were first commissioned in 2010:

**Domestic Abuse Project** – SOS Domestic Abuse Projects, formerly Southend Women's Aid, is a registered charity which aims to alleviate the impact of domestic and sexual abuse on individuals and families through providing support and by working in partnership with Southend Domestic Abuse Forum, Southend and Castle point Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (M-A-R-A-C), the police, health services and other voluntary agencies.

**Youth Offending Prevention** – This service continues to exceed targets set and has a good evidence base of financial cost containment due to the success of its interventions. The service consistently receives positive feedback from users.

**Empowering Families** – This service continues to meet all targets. The success of the service is evident in supporting the stability in numbers of children subject to child protection plans. An independent evaluation of the service has provided evidence in the cost containment achieved through the success of this service.

**Primary Mental Health Service** – There is currently a work-stream across Essex with Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to commission a single child and adolescent mental health pathway. Southend is represented in these discussions to ensure any pathway meets local need and fits with the Southend intervention and locality models.

In addition, the joint commissioning budget has also been used to commission a range of one year projects targeted at our priorities, with the emphasis on pump priming projects that are able to become sustainable in their own right in the future.

## **1.5 Workforce Development Strategy**

We are committed to developing and maintaining the competence, enthusiasm and commitment of our workforce. We have strong integrated strategies that have proved effective in delivering a competent and stable children's workforce and less reliance on agency workers.

In September 2014 we have seen a decrease of nearly 2.5% in social worker vacancies since summer 2013, a significant drop in vacancies from 2.9% to 0.9% for more senior social work posts, and the unfilled rate is under 1%.

Locality working offers multi-agency and multi-skilled, co-located teams. This facilitates a sharing of skills across professional boundaries and a more holistic understanding of the needs of children, young people and families.

Southend Borough Council has taken steps to make Southend an attractive place to work, especially with regard to Social Workers, successfully addressing on-going challenges in recruiting and retaining permanent social work staff through a range of measures. For example, the introduction of an Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) for newly qualified Social Workers.

Professional development of Social Workers has also been aligned with the Professional Capabilities Framework, and a Professional Development Framework has been introduced in 2014 to align performance management with CPD, supervision, direct observation and the requirements of HCPC re-registration.

Over the last eight years, we have supported schools to utilise the Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) induction process to assist with the retention of teachers in their early careers and to support wider school improvement. We have implemented an early intervention approach, which enables schools to support most NQTs to make the necessary improvements to pass induction. Since December 2012, schools have had the opportunity to approach other Appropriate Bodies for statutory induction but the overwhelming majority of schools have remained with us. We believe that this is due to a mix of providing a service at a competitive price that has earned the trust of schools over a number of years.

For 2014-15, we are re-introducing NQT recruitment on behalf of schools across the borough. Working in partnership with South Essex Teaching School Alliance (SETSA), our focus is on primary and the traditional shortage areas in secondary schools. This service reflects the on-going success of our Senior and Head Teacher recruitment service, which has been recruiting high calibre senior staff for schools in the borough since 2011. We provide a range of professional development courses and other training to retain and develop our school staff.

## **1.6 Voice and Influence**

During 2013 – 2014 we continued to provide a range of opportunities for children and young people to contribute their views and influence our decision making and service design. In addition to existing tools such as the Youth Council, Children in Care Council and the Your Say survey we have firmly embedded the role of young people's involvement in interview panels, with over 80% of recruitments in 2013/14 in Children's Services having a young person panel. Service users are also invited to provide feedback into Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and Youth Offending worker staff appraisals.

Once again we asked children in care if they feel we are keeping to our 'Pledge to Looked after Children', we have benchmarked ourselves against the annual national Care Monitor survey and have acted on the feedback. In 2013 67.6% of children felt well looked after, in 2014 this increased to 80%. Our complaints process is well embedded into practice and in 2013-14 the number of complaints continued to reduce from 60 in 2012-13 to 38 in 2013-14. Compliments since 2011-12 have continued to increase from 25 to 44 in 2013 -14.

Information sharing across the partnership is a strength. An online Family Service Directory called the Southend Information Point "SHIP" was launched in November 2013 and has had approximately 118,020 page views so far, identifying the top two most popular searches to September 2014 as 'childminder' and 'parenting'.

As a partnership we recognise the importance of service user feedback and will continue to develop and strengthen this area of work to evidence that our services are commissioned, designed and implemented with service user feedback in mind.

## **2. Safeguarding, early intervention and prevention**

### **2.1 Improving the safeguarding of children and young people in Southend through multi-agency work**

In Southend there is a strong ethos of partnership working to safeguard and meet the needs of children and families as early as possible, which is embedded in a broad range of agencies and services.

With our partners and multi-agency practitioners we value and are committed to integrated working; this is the foundation for our staged model of intervention and allows us to plan and meet the needs of children in a systematic way.

Our last Ofsted inspection was in June 2012 when our partnership working, ambition and prioritisation to meet the needs of children were judged as outstanding.



We give safeguarding children the highest priority and our Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) has ensured that the understanding of thresholds is solid, regularly reviewed, and safely maintained across the partnership.

In line with Government Policy changes the Early Help Assessment has been developed, to build on our successful experience of the Common Assessment Framework, to enable multi-agency practitioners to use a common approach and language to assess the wide variety of needs that an individual baby, infant, child or young person (0-19) might have. An important part in the assessment is the full and active involvement of children, young people and their families in the process. As a result, families will no longer have to tell and re-tell their stories to multiple practitioners with different ways of working.

As a partnership we recognise that a wider range of professionals across the health landscape need to be utilising the Early Help Assessment tool.

We have been consistently supporting children and their families who are vulnerable and have complex needs. Between April 2012 and March 2013 we had 680 cases, increasing to 765 for the same period in 2013/14. More cases started their journey at Stage 4 (Acute) due to increased numbers of cases de-escalating from specialist children's services. Over the course of the year we have been supporting a large majority of vulnerable children at stage 2 with 64.12% in 2012 to 2013 and 61.05% in 2013 to 2014 in line with the Every Child Matters outcomes.

The early assessment reviews are collated under the five point Every Child Matters framework which enables us to target our resources much more effectively. This information is analysed and has resulted in the development of a health toolkit which is being piloted in Southend, to encourage more children, young people and their families to live healthier lifestyles.

For the extended reporting period April 2013 to September 2014 we received a further 277 assessments bringing the total to 1,042.

The Child and Family Strategy has been refreshed and translated into a number of activities and services, for example a well-established Parent drop-in, at Centre Place family centre. Topics covered this year have included domestic violence, parenting, healthy bodies and minds, assertiveness, budgeting and returning to work or college.

Outcomes are measured in three ways, firstly from parents, secondly from weekly evaluations using the intended learning outcomes on our lesson plan and lastly Child Protection, Child In Need or Team Around the Child and Family assessments.

100% of parents attending now feel less isolated in their community and are able to confidently ask for help with areas of parenting they feel unsure about. 90% of parents have now been able to access other services or activities after attending parent drop in. 100% of parents feel they know more about healthy

eating for themselves and their children. 100% of parents reported that they are now able to understand and parent their children and their behaviour better after attending drop in.

### **Parent comments**

*'I have learnt how to put my child's needs before mine'*

*'the group has helped me to move out of child protection to child in need'*

*'Budgeting helped me feel better about knowing I can buy second hand toys for my son'*

*'It helps us understand our children'*

*'I'm now cooking more, to help the child grow'*

*'I'm coping with things differently; my behaviour and children's behaviour'*

*'Drop in helps – support & advice'*

*'We love the leaders of the group they understand me'*

## **2.2 Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people's life chances**

Southend on Sea Borough Council has been working with Essex and Thurrock councils (SET) and other partners to develop a Domestic Abuse Strategy, with the aim of responding faster with interventions; raising awareness and preventing and reducing incidents of domestic abuse across the region.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy Group have been raising awareness, through the annual Domestic Abuse Awareness day, and helping to reduce it through healthy relationships awareness in schools. A Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team (JDATT) has also been established, to promote and make better safety planning decisions.

In 2014 the Community Safety Partnership published its first Domestic Homicide Overview Report. The report outlines the findings and lessons to be learnt that may help to reduce the likelihood of similar incidents in Southend-on-Sea.

To further support the residents of Southend and the needs of the wider Essex County an increase of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) has been put in place.

### **Our safeguarding and early intervention performance in 2013-2014:**

- Funding for 2 year olds in nursery placements: Southend exceeded both the national target of 80% and the national average of 70% and achieved 85% take up
- 85% of Early Years Provision in the Private, Independent or Voluntary (PVI) sector was judged as Good or Outstanding by OFSTED.
- 100% of Children's Centres assessed were judged as Good or Outstanding, 2 are still waiting for first inspection.

- 3 & 4 year old funding take up: 95% in Southend (4,334 children)
  - 3 year olds (2,089): PVI = 72% Maintained = 28%
  - 4 year olds (2,245): PVI = 25% Maintained = 75%

(10% school nursery, 65% reception)
- Referrals resulting in a single social work assessment - During April 2013 – March 2014 1,992 referrals were received by social care, the rate of referrals resulting in a Single Social Work Assessment was 76.8%. Analysis of the full year referrals shows that during the first quarter of 2013/14 there was change in recording practices. The conversion rate for the first 6 months of 2014/15 has been stable at a rate in excess of 92% which demonstrates that the level of referrals has remained appropriate.
- During the reporting period of April 2013 to September 2014, 1,233 staff across the partnership were issued with free safeguarding E-learning training by the LSCB.
- We have continued to make improvements in management oversight and monitoring of our social work practices, this includes undertaking regular case audits.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continue to improve mechanisms by which we evidence examples of changes we make as a result of feedback from service users.
- Improve our understanding of the cause of the increase in Child Protection cases
- Implement the new Emotional Health and Wellbeing strategy
- Identifying with our partners children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation – all children missing from their own homes or from care will continue to receive a home visit

**3. Services and outcomes for vulnerable children**

**3.1 Reducing the need for Children and Young people to be looked after**

Since 2006 the number of Looked after Children has been progressively reduced from 302 to 227 in September 2014.

Improvements in care planning, a focus on permanency for all children and the early involvement of the adoption team in Court care planning processes has contributed to this continued improvement. Other contributory factors are effective use of early prevention work, enabling children to remain living at home where appropriate and being able to return home in a timely manner.

Improving quality of provision and outcomes for Looked after Children has been a consistent feature of our Children and Young People Plan, which articulates our high ambitions for this group. The Success for All children Partnership have very significantly improved outcomes for Looked after Children. Over recent years there has been a year-on-year trend of improvement on most indicators and performance is now better than, or compares well with, comparator authorities.

A very strong track record is evidenced by performance indicators and inspection outcomes of fostering and adoption. Long term stability of placements has been stable (68.5% in 2011/12 and 73.5% in 2012/13) with a result of 71.1% at September 2014.

The timeliness of placements for adoption has improved from 76.5% in 2012/13 to 100% in 2013/14, there were 31 children adopted within the period.

100 % of Looked after Children reviews were held within timescale in 2013/14.

The vast majority of children and young people continue to communicate their views as part of their annual review.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Delivering the Streets Ahead programme to maintain early intervention and family focus
- Implementing the initial year of the Better Start Fulfilling Lives project
- Improving the recruitment and retention of foster carers to increase stability of placements.

### 3.2 Narrowing the achievement gap for vulnerable groups

#### Looked after Children

The Virtual School and Virtual School Headteacher continues to monitor the progress and attendance of Looked after Children as a basis for informing Social Workers, supporting Designated Teachers and raising aspiration and outcomes for this group of children.

The impact of levels of trauma among Looked after Children is reflected in the high proportion of Looked after Children with identified Special Educational Needs (SEN). In 2013-14, 65.7% of Southend's Looked after Children were identified as having SEN, compared to 17.9% for all children nationally. The percentage of Southend Looked after Children with a Statement 27.6% is also very high compared to all children nationally 2.8%.

In 2013/14 there was a cohort of 10 Looked after Children in Year 6, at the end of Key Stage 2. 100% of the cohort reached Level 4 in reading and 70% in writing and maths (65%<sup>1</sup>). 100% (88%<sup>1</sup>) children made at least 2 levels of progress from their starting points at the end of KS1 in reading, 80% (91%<sup>1</sup>) children made at least 2 levels of progress in writing and 70% (88%<sup>1</sup>) children made at least 2 levels of progress in maths.

In 2013/14 there was a cohort of 31 Looked after Children in the Borough at the end of KS4 19.4% achieved 5A\*-C with English and Maths, compared to national figure of 56.9%.

All figures above are for Southend looked after children only; those educated in Southend and in other local authorities.

<sup>1</sup> national floor standards for progress

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Comparing the attainment of Southend LAC with National LAC, Southend LAC achieve above LAC national average for all headline measures. However compared to non LAC pupils and all pupils there is a significant gap, in all measures except Reading.

<b>Headline measure</b>	<b>Southend LAC %</b>	<b>Cohort size</b>	<b>National Average (all pupils)%</b>	<b>floor standard%</b>	<b>National Average (LAC) %</b>	<b>National average (Non LAC) %</b>
KS2 Reading Level 4+	100%	10	88.6%	n/a	68	89
KS2 Writing Level 4+	70%	10	85.1	n/a	59	85
KS2 Maths Level 4+	70%	10	86.0	n/a	61	86
KS2 R,W & M	60%	10	78.4	65	48	79
KS4 5A*-C inc. E&M	19.4	31	56.9	40	14.2	54.3

KS4 progress for Southend LAC is below national average for LAC in all measures, except 3 levels + progress in maths. KS2 writing is a Teacher Assessment not a test as with all the other headline measures.

<b>Headline measure</b>	<b>Southend LAC %</b>	<b>Cohort size</b>	<b>National Average (all Pupils)%</b>	<b>floor standard %</b>	<b>National Average (LAC) %</b>	<b>National average (Non LAC) %</b>
KS2 Reading	70	10	92	91	81	91
KS2 Writing	80	10	94	95	82	93
KS2 Maths	60	10	90	92	75	89
KS4 English	26.1	23	72.1	73	34.5	69.3
KS4 Maths	30.4	23	66.4	73	26.3	64.0

### Children with Special Educational Needs

The SEN attainment gap: the gap between the attainment of SEN pupils in Southend compared to SEN pupils nationally remains in all key stages. There has been an overall improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in Southend, and while the attainment of SEN pupils has also improved, it is at a slower rate than non-SEN pupils so the gap has widened.

The gap between pupils eligible for pupil premium and their peers is also wider in Southend than nationally. The evidence suggests that the pupil premium gap which exists in Southend would be reduced if the performance of SEN pupils was closer to the national average.

### Teenage parents

In Southend, school age pregnant girls and young mothers (KS4) have made the following achievements in terms of gaining GCSE qualifications:

Outcomes for pregnant girls/young mums KS4	Summer 10	Summer 11	Summer 12	Summer 13	Summer 14
% achieving 5 A* -C Including English and Maths	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%
% achieving 5 A*-C	28.6%	25.0%	20.0%	25.0%	0.0%
% achieving 1 A* -G Including English and Maths	57.1%	25.0%	100%	62.5%	50.0%
% achieving 1 A*-G	57.1%	75.0%	100%	100%	50.0%

In July 2014, pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers account for 11.6% of all young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

In 2012 (most recent data), 47.9% of under 18 conceptions led to abortion, this was lower than both the England (49.1%) and the East of England (49.2%) percentage.

### Children eligible for Pupil Premium Grant

Closing the achievement gap between all children and young people and those who are disadvantaged remains a high priority. In spite of additional funding being made available, most schools have not been successful in accelerating the progress of their disadvantaged pupils and the gap remains stubbornly wide.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, 43% of children who were eligible for Free School Meals reached a good level of development compared with 67% of non-Free School meal pupils and 62% of all pupils. The gap at key stage 1 was 2.4 points, equivalent to roughly 2 and a half terms, and at the end of key stage 2 eligible children were on average 3 terms behind their peers. At Key Stage 4 free school meals pupils were on average two GCSE grades behind.

The Pupil Premium Strategy Group representing all Challenge Clusters, headteachers and governors, provides challenge and direction for all schools in their efforts to close the gap. Actions including an audit of Pupil Premium compliance, analysis of data Cluster by Cluster with challenge to individual school leaders and governors, a school wide FSM phone survey, the identification of good practice, the setting of performance targets relating to the gap for individual officers and the raised profile through the weekly newsletter are all aspects of our strategy for securing better and more consistent progress.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to focus on the progress and attainment of looked after children and ensuring that Personal Education Plans have an impact on outcomes
- Addressing the barriers to Pupil Premium attainment and progression.
- Increasing take up of the Free School Meal offer.
- Promoting the positive uses of pupil premium grant funds on improving outcomes for children on free school meals.
- Increasing the level of challenge to school leaders and governors, drawing where necessary on our full powers of intervention
- Increasing the number of apprenticeships

**3.3 Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training**

There are a number of initiatives underway to help young people engage with education, employment or training opportunities post 16.

For example, a comfortable “drop in” space has been created within the 16+ office to engage in a wide range of activities including the option to work with a careers advisor around training and work options.

The Turnaround wilderness project continues to support young people to develop and grow in terms of self-confidence and self-esteem and independence skills.

The Higher Education Project enables young people to explore options for higher education opportunities abroad where there may be better financial support for the young person and where they will gain the opportunity to experience a different culture and way of life.

The Leaving Care Team continue to work with a wide range of agencies in regard to provision of life skills training, education towards employment, good



health, engagement and welfare alongside healthy eating and mentoring support, with particular focus on preparing young people for a life after care.

The number of 16 to 24 year olds that were allocated to the Care Management 16+ team remained stable for 2013/14 ending with 144 young people. There are currently 14 young people in University compared to 13 last year as well as 75 that are in other types of education compared to 69 young people last year. There are currently 3 that are with training providers compared to 12 last year as well as 4 young people on Apprenticeships. There were 12 young people in employment last year which has increased to 16. There remains a number of young parents in the team (there are currently 25 young people who are parents or young women who are pregnant) and a high proportion of these are not in education employment or training.

There are a small number of young people who were in custody they are often accessing employment paid at a minimal rate whilst in prison especially those in custody for a long period. This is encouraged by the prison as they learn skills such as industrial cleaning, cooking and gardening which will go towards their rehabilitation back into the community.

### **3.4 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

In September 2014 reforms within the Children and Families Bill for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) came into effect. Over the course of the period 2013-2014 the Success for All partnership group prepared for the new duties. Local Authorities, social care, schools, colleges, early years settings and health partners have all worked collaboratively to ensure the right support is available for children and young people with SEND. The reforms have introduced Education Health and Care Plans, person centred assessments of need linked to better planning alongside new mediation arrangements for parents and families. The assessment process is set to be completed in 20 weeks rather than 26 weeks.

In addition, clear steps have been taken to meet the new duties to publish an interactive Local Offer that sets out the support available to all children and young people with SEND from mainstream, targeted and specialist services, including arrangements for leisure, health, social care provision and post-16 education training or employment.

From September 2014 parents of children with SEND are able to request a personal budget which is linked to the Local Offer enabling them to secure particular provision specified in the Education Health and Care Plan. Further information about the SEND reforms in Southend can be found in our strategy [Early Help, Choice, Partnership and Ambition](#).

The SEND reform has been a significant change project affecting all staff in settings and services working with children and young people with SEND over the course of 2013-2014. The project has involved consultation, user

engagement, the implementation of new ICT systems and training across organisational boundaries.

#### **4. Outcomes for all children**

##### **4.1 Overall school attainment**

In the Early Years Foundation Stage 62% of children achieved a Good Level of Development which was 17% higher than for 2013. At Key Stage 1 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (Level 2 or above) increased in all five subjects with more children achieving the higher level 3. 80% of Southend pupils achieved Level 4 or above at the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. This Key Stage 2 result places Southend above the national average and also joint first most improved Local Authority nationally. Results at Key Stage 4 for GCSE were more mixed. Whilst overall attainment at 64.5% was similar to that for 2013 (65%), there were very strong performances at individual school level alongside weaker ones. In order to further strengthen our resolve to secure better academic outcomes for all children and young people.

##### **We need to further focus on:**

- The continued development of strong strategic partnerships between strong schools and weaker schools
- Challenge to the leadership and governance of all schools where progress is not secure enough and the gaps between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils continue to prevail
- Improving the quality of teaching to ensure that the gap narrows

##### **4.2 Healthy Schools**

Currently 52 out of 54 (96%) of Southend schools as well as two independent schools and the Virtual School have achieved National Healthy Schools Status (NHSS). This requires them to meet the 41 criteria around PSHE, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health and wellbeing.

Southend schools continue to embrace the local Enhanced Healthy School Model with 44 (82%) continuing to revalidate regularly their Healthy schools status and 31 (57%) schools having completed enhanced action plans. Health priorities addressed so far have been substance misuse, healthy weight and the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Schools working towards the Drug Aware mark 2013-14 are also to achieve Enhanced Healthy School Status on completion due to their work on Substance misuse.

Seven schools celebrated achieving Enhanced Healthy Schools Status in November 2013. A further 10 schools will be recognised in November 2014.

The Healthy Schools Advisor for Public Health works closely with schools to maintain enthusiasm and achievement on the programme.

### **4.3 Sexual Health**

From April 2013, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council became responsible for commissioning sexual health services in Southend-on-Sea from a range of providers, delivering services, in hospital, community, primary care and outreach settings. The services include STI testing and treatment, contraception provision, sexual health information and advice and targeted interventions in a range of settings.

The new Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator took up position within the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) in January 2014. This role focuses upon reducing under 18 conceptions; targeted interventions with at risk and vulnerable young people; supporting young parents; and, implementing a relationship and sex education programme across Southend-on-Sea schools.

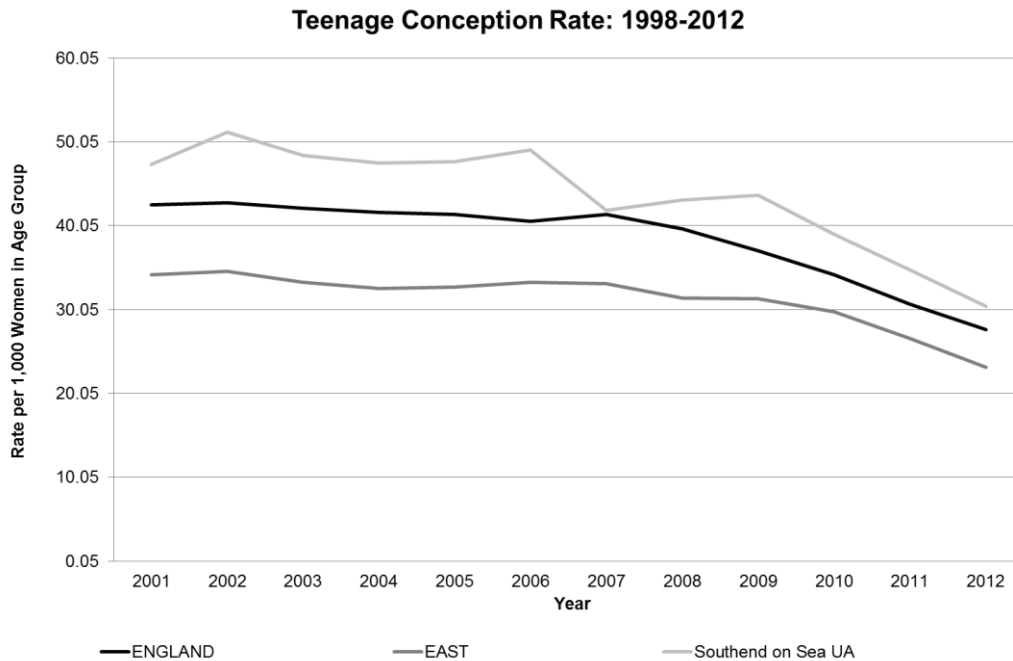
In 2013, Southend worked hard to meet the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) target of 2300 per 100,000 and achieved a diagnostic rate of 2299 per 100,000 people aged 15-24 with 8.2% positivity.

The submission of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Education Equality Index shows Southend continued to improve its ranking in anti-bullying and celebrating difference from 34<sup>th</sup> place last year to 16<sup>th</sup> place this year.

### **4.4 Teenage Conception**

In 2012, Southend saw a continued decrease in the under 18 conception rate to 30.4 per 1,000 women under 18; this is a percentage decrease of 46.1% of change in conception rate based on the 1998 baseline.

The rate of teenage conceptions has declined quicker in Southend, as shown below, than in England and East of England between 1998 and 2012. However, teenage pregnancy in Southend is still higher than the regional and national average.



Data Source: ONS

### Prevention Work and Partnership Approaches

Nationally, the areas that have had the most success have made sure all young people have access to effective sex and relationships education and access to contraception, but have also specifically targeted support to at risk groups. This includes young people in and leaving care, NEET and those in the criminal justice system.

Southend continues to take a multi-agency and partnership approach to reducing under 18 conceptions and supporting local young parents. Amongst some of the many programmes of work are:

- Catch 22 – The “Making choices” skill based learning and education programme,
- CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection) - IYSS team delivering internet and social media interventions through its street engagement team.
- Care To Learn provision.
- Family Nurse Partnership – Intensive support to young first time parents to improve both parent and child outcomes.
- Sanctuary Housing – support for young parents with everyday living through housing placements.

### We need to further focus on:

- Developing a Teenage Pregnancy Strategy for Southend that will sustain the continual reduction of under 18 conceptions
- Targeted interventions for vulnerable young people and young parents

- Awareness of sexual health and risk taking behaviour
- Improving access to the local sexual health services

#### **4.5 Substance Misuse**

The Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team (DACT) have commissioned a package of preventive substance misuse education, DrugAware, which was piloted with a cohort of nine schools during early 2014. This programme is intended to develop consistent standards of preventive education across the Borough and to enable schools to identify and intervene earlier with students who are at risk of substance misuse. The nine schools (five secondary, two primary and two special schools) are progressing well towards achieving the DrugAware standards, with a further three schools planning to commence during the autumn 2014 term. The eventual aim is to ensure that all schools across Southend achieve the DrugAware standards, but in the shorter term, our goal is to ensure that at least 18 schools are engaged with the programme by 31st December 2015.

##### **We need to further focus on:**

- reviewing the effectiveness of current provision and outcomes

The DACT have also invested in the training of seven practitioners from a range of adults and young people's services to deliver the M-PACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) Programme. This programme is aimed at supporting children and young people who are affected by a parent's substance misuse. National evidence suggests that for every one person in specialist substance misuse treatment, there is at least one child affected by substance misuse; this suggests that in Southend there are likely to be at least 800 children affected. The first programme in April 2014 was successful with 100% of the families completing the eight-week course, all of whom have reported improvements in their family relationships. A second programme is set to commence in October 2014. The DACT is committed to the Children and Young People's Plan target to provide the M-PACT programme to at least 15 families by 31st December 2015.

Despite national trends suggesting that substance misuse among young people is falling, Southend's Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAT) have continued to engage with high numbers of young people and young adults during 2013/14 (131 under 18's; 39 18-21 year olds). The high rate of young people engaging with YPDAT is likely to be due in part to their well-established links with a wide range of young people's services and their positioning within the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS).

#### **4.6 Improving outcomes for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

During 2013/14 the CAMHS Tier 2 and 3 have been brought together to form one team, as a result multidisciplinary team meetings were merged between tiers.

The group programme was further developed and now includes an OCD group for young people and a separate support group for parents, a depression group for young people and a separate support group for parents, an Anxiety group for young people and a separate support group for parents. Open adolescent groups for service users including Art Psychotherapy group, Parenting group, and a FLASH programme (Families Learning About Self-Harm) for parents/carers, Open Parent Support drop-in group.

An Attachment/Attunement training programme was rolled out to all Children's Centres with regular supervision/support to staff.

Training sessions are now open to GP's. CAMHS Service attend half-termly surgeries initially for health practitioners to support and reinforce early help and support health practitioners in using the Early Help Assessment to identify and plan support for children with additional needs.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Retendering of the CAMHS service to improve access and outcomes

**4.7 Reducing school absenteeism**

We are currently seeing very positive results in our school attendance across Southend. As at the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014, National absence data for the autumn term published in the statistical first release showed that we were below the National and statistical neighbour average for overall absence in primary and secondary schools for both compulsory school age children and also 4 year olds. Our provisional internal figures for 2013/14 suggest that most of our schools (94%) are on course to reduce levels of persistent absence compared to last year. On average persistent absence levels are 2% lower than last year in our schools. Only two of our maintained schools have over 10% of pupils on roll that are persistent absentees, compared to three last year.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to work with a multi-agency approach to understand and address the individual cases of persistent and poor attendance.
- Educating the wider community on the importance of school attendance.

**4.8 - Reducing the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), improving level 3 achievement for those from lower income families**

In June 2014 the NEET figure was 7.5% (June 2014) for 16-18 year olds, compared to 7.2% for our statistical neighbours.

There are clear targets in the Children and Young People's Plan around reducing the number of NEET young people and improving opportunities for young people from vulnerable groups. The Learning Support Team and Leaving Care team in partnership with providers is continuing to offer courses for young people leaving care as well as programmes for Young Offenders. These programmes have been successful in engaging young people by enabling them to access education and progress onto further education or apprenticeships. By supporting vulnerable learners to gain qualifications and progress into employment the NEET figure is further reduced. From September 2014 Southend Borough Council has been able to access the Flexible Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions, to support young people leaving care aged 18-24. This programme is to be delivered by Southend Adult Community College.

Other local providers contribute to a broad range of formal learning programmes for post 16 learning providers. For example, Southend YMCA has successfully provided a range of formal learning programmes for post-16 learners, including study programmes and Prince's Trust programmes which are particularly targeted at vulnerable learners such as young offenders, teenage parents, SEN and disaffected/disruptive learners. The new Free School which opened in September 2013 offers further opportunities particularly for those learners with BESD pre-16.

The partnership continues to demonstrate a commitment to improving access to Further Education opportunities to vulnerable groups for example a commitment to prioritise interviews for apprentices for young people leaving care.

**We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to focus on the early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET and linking young people to appropriate learning pathways

**4.9 Continuing to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and offending on children, young people and the community**

**Reducing offending and re-offending**

Between April 2013 and March 2014 350 children and young people received a statutory service from Southend Youth Offending Service (YOS). A further 877 children and young people received intervention through our prevention services whilst our street engagement team had 3,176 engagements with young people.

Our success in diverting young people away from criminal activity has left a smaller yet more challenging cohort of young people who have complex needs and often entrenched offending behaviour.

Our understanding of youth crime, along with the strategic integration of youth services in Southend has enabled us to enhance our targeting of resources to prevent youth crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending.

The Problem Profile demonstrated that in Southend for 2013/2014, 16% of offenders were responsible for 40% of all youth crime committed in the borough. To address this we have implemented an Intensive Alternative Programme (IAP). We have succeeded in reducing the number of prolific offenders from 32 in 2012/13 to 22 in 2013/14, who were responsible for 40% of all youth crime this year, rather than 60% during 2012-13.

### **2013/14 Achievements**

Involvement in the Streets Ahead programme requires a clear demonstration of impact in these areas:

- The 2013/14 re-offending performance was 19.8% which exceeded the local re-offending target of under 36%
- First Time Entrants to the youth justice system since the original baseline of 358 young people was set in 2005/6 have reduced to 95 in 2013/14 evidencing a 74% reduction.
- At the end of year 2013/14, 82% of young people were in suitable education employment or training at the close of Order which exceeds the local target of 80%.
- Between April 2013 and September 2014 1753 hours of reparation (payback to the community) were undertaken by young people.
- The IAP programme worked with 112 young offenders which were predominantly our prolific entrenched offenders during 2013/14.
- Triage was implemented in Southend in April 2009, since then 1057 young people have been through the process. Whilst initially arrested for the offences, compliance with Triage resulted in no further action being taken avoiding entering the criminal justice system and therefore not receiving a substantive outcome. In view of the fact that re-offending rates for Triage over a 5 year period are only 16% this clearly demonstrates that the programme is successfully targeting and diverting young people at the earliest point of their criminal career.

### **Minimising the use of remand and custody for children and young people**

Southend YOS is committed to ensuring that the use of remands and custody is a last resort for young people.

Our custody rate for 2013-14 was 7.80%. This figure pertains to 20 young people receiving custody out of a total of 255 court disposals. Whilst we did not meet the target, the end of year percentage is an improvement on the



previous year's figures of 8%, 10.8% and 9.8%.

Whilst during 2012/13 Southend saw a rise in gang behaviour resulting in 9 custodial sentences for gang members and 2 gang injunctions. Southend YOS worked proactively with police colleagues to both prevent gang behaviour in the first instance and target any known behaviour to the effect that no further gang behaviour has been seen during 2013/14.

### **Early intervention and prevention**

Our 'Challenge & Support' programme involves every under 18 year old who is stopped by the police being referred through to the scheme. It worked with 522 children and young people during the period April 2013 to September 2014 through the use of warning letters, home visits, and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's). 10 ABC's have been issued during the period and no ASBO's. Only 4.9% (17 young people) have gone on to offend.

Our Street Engagement Team undertake specific operations in identified hotspots, to signpost young people to more positive activities using a triple track approach of challenge, support and enforcement.

Southend YOS continued with the Every School Day Matters programme. Patrols were undertaken in partnership with the police to both stop young people and return them to school. 853 students were identified with the following outcomes:

- 523 parents/carers were spoken to regarding the importance of sending their children to school or informing the school if their child is unwell.
- 126 were returned to school as found truant at home.
- 48 young people identified as also known to other services such as YOS, Streets Ahead or have CAF currently open.

We have successfully retained the support of 95 highly motivated and well trained volunteers. Some have been recruited from the community and from among the Streets Ahead Families.

### **We need to further focus on:**

- Continuing to deliver our programmes and packages of support that divert young people from crime.
- Ensure that young people are supported away from offending and re-offending.
- Continue to reduce the use of remand and custody for young people.
- Develop holistic alternative interventions to further engage our entrenched and prolific offenders.

#### **4.10 Support for Young Carers**

Support continues to be provided for known young carers to enable them to achieve good outcomes. For example, an online virtual classroom has been established called Maths Angels, to help Young Carers with maths support. South Essex College have also offered their learning resource base as a homework club one evening a week. The support of the Virtual School Head Teacher will also provide additional focus on their needs.

We continued to raise awareness of Young Carers in schools, colleges, among professionals and other agencies and the wider general public. We have exceeded our target of a 25% increase in known young carers to 623 as at September 2014.

We have secured training and development of 4 Young Carers Champions and their role is also to raise awareness and to act as the voice of young carers in Southend at a national level. Two of them have been involved in the development of a national web site hosted by the Children's society "Make Waves" where Young Carer specific issues are discussed and aired.

Thirty young carers enjoyed a weekend at the Young Carers Festival at the YMCA at Fairhurst Manor where they had the opportunity to meet other young carers from around the country and be involved in a variety of outdoor activities.

#### **We need to further focus on:**

- Challenging schools to identify young carers in order to enable them to achieve at least in line with their peers.