

# The Southend-on-Sea Children and Young People's Plan

2015 – 2016

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## **1. FOREWORD**

The Success for All Children Group, is Southend's Children's Trust. Since 2007 the Group has worked in partnership to jointly address key issues for Southend's children, young people and families. The group is aligned with the Southend Health & Wellbeing Board and its work supports the delivery of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

The Children and Young People's Plan continues to be the vehicle that facilitates agencies and organisations in Southend-on-Sea to work in partnership with the aim of improving outcomes for children, young people and their families living in Southend. A key focus of our partnership approach is to work to prevent needs materialising and escalating unnecessarily.

Southend is in an exciting phase of transformation in the way that partners work together to improve the delivery of health and social care services for those already with needs, and, more importantly, to ensure that services, information and help are available to prevent needs from developing.

The plan has been prepared jointly and all partners have worked collaboratively to find ways of preventing the circumstances that lead to poorer outcomes, as well as to identify and remove the barriers within the system that prevent us from accelerating the pace of improvement.

We have demonstrated over the last 8 years that our partnership is effective. Our regulators have recognised the strength of our joined up approach to meeting the needs of our service users. We have worked together to successfully attract external funding to tackle the underlying inequalities that lead to poorer life chances for children within the borough.

Our Children and Young People's Plan sets the key priorities for improvement during 2015 – 2016, and our delivery plan sets out how we will meet these identified needs and deliver the high quality services that our children, young people and families need.

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**Southend Police**

**South Essex Partnership Trust**

**South School Governors**  
Association

**South Essex College**

SOPHA  
SOCHA  
Special School Heads

## **2. ABOUT OUR PARTNERS**

### **NHS Southend CCG**

NHS Southend CCG is a Clinical Commissioning Group in south Essex. A CCG is a group of GPs and clinicians which commissions (buys) health services for their local communities. NHS Southend CCG is made up of 35 GP member practices of which 11 are operated by a single GP. We work with our member practices to support improvements in the quality of primary care. Our key objectives are personalisation, integration, and 'right care first time'.

### **Southend-on-Sea Borough Council**

Southend Council is a unitary authority providing a wide range of services to local residents and businesses. Adult and children's social care are an important part of its remit, and account for around 45 per cent of its revenue spending. The Council is a key partner for the development of integrated care, particularly the integration of health and social care services for older people. Officers from Learning Services, Children's Services, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services, and Public Health attend the Success for All meetings.

### **Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS)**

SAVS is a council for voluntary services, part of a national network of similar organisations. These support, promote and develop local community action. SAVS supports its members by providing them with a range of services and by acting as a voice for the local voluntary and community sector. Their job is to advise and support local, not-for-profit groups. These groups provide all manner of services to the local area and include social clubs, groups advising people who care for a relative at home, advice and activities for people with disabilities or health problems, tenants and residents' associations. SAVS works as a conduit between us and the voluntary and community sector of Southend, and can help to explore how the voluntary and community sector can work together to improve healthcare for Southend.

### **Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (SUHFT)**

SUHFT is the local hospital for residents of Southend and serves a catchment area with a population of 350,000. The hospital provides a comprehensive range of acute services at its Prittlewell Chase site and outlying satellite clinics. These include acute medical and surgical specialties; general medicine; general surgery; orthopaedics; ear, nose and throat; ophthalmology; cancer treatments; renal dialysis; obstetrics and gynaecology, and children's services. SUHFT is the south Essex surgical centre for uro-oncology and gynae-oncology surgery and is considered to be a centre of excellence for the care of stroke. SUHFT has an accident and emergency department that deals with immediate and urgent threats to health.

### **Community Safety Partnership**

The Community Safety Partnership develops and implements strategies in tackling crime and disorder. This includes anti-social behaviour and other behaviours adversely affecting the local environment, the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other

substances and re-offending. The CSP acts as a network to bring people together for the benefit of communities across Southend.

### **South Essex Partnership Trust**

South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SEPT) provide community health, mental health and learning disability services for a population of approx 2.5 million people throughout Bedfordshire, Essex, Luton and Suffolk.

Mental Health Services – we provide treatment and support to young people, adults and older people experiencing mental illness. Including treatment, in secure and specialised settings.

Community Health Services - our diverse range of community health services provide support and treatment to both adults and children. We deliver this care in community hospitals, health centres, GP surgeries and in our patients' homes. We also provide community dentistry and children's centres in SE Essex.

### **Southend School Governors Association**

SSGA is an organisation for governors run by a committee of volunteers. The aim is to provide a means to share and learn good practice as well as a bridge between the LA and governors. Representatives attend regional NGA meetings and conferences. SSGA has arranged mini conferences with a local initiative theme and also in collaboration with neighbouring governor associations.

### **South Essex College**

The College is located within the Unitary Authorities of Thurrock and Southend and the Local Authority (Essex County Council) in Basildon. The College aims to meet the aspirations and ambitions of each of the Unitary and Local Authority Partners by contributing to their regeneration plans, through our building developments alongside our plans for improving the skills base of our communities. Meeting the skills needs of employers, increasing the skills of our students to enable people to start new businesses alongside encouraging progression to higher level skills at University or at College is critical to the College. Some young people in the eastern region experience exclusion and do not engage in education or training post-16. Working with these young people and turning young lives around by engaging those who feel excluded or who have been unsuccessful in the past is a high priority for the College.

### 3. REFLECTIONS ON 2014- 2015

Over the past year the Success for All Group has focussed on delivering the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2014 – 2015. In this section we take a moment to highlight some of our key successes against our priorities over the year.

Other key successes include:

- Attracting £40 million of funding for 'A Better Start', over 10 years, which provides us with the opportunity to transform for the under-twos and their families.
- Our Streets Ahead project has exceeded its engagement targets. They have identified over 500 cases and achieved 100% success in payment by results by end February 2015. Due to our success in delivering Phase 1 Southend, as from January 2015 are now eligible as one of the highest performing areas to join the second wave of early starters for the expanded Troubled Families programme.
- We have increased the number of Young Carers that are receiving our support.
- Operation Redbull - Multiple joint operations between IYSS and Essex Police involving children and young people and the confiscation of 19.5 litres of alcohol during a two-month period. The Street Engagement Team has implemented positive activities for children and young people in areas where youth anti-social behaviour has been identified as an issue.
- A bespoke education programme to support and prevent children and young people becoming victims of domestic abuse, and to highlight healthy teenage relationships, was delivered to 1,750 pupils at twelve secondary schools across the Borough.
- We have successfully implemented the new Education, Health and Care Plans, including IT developments and training for staff and partners across Southend-on-Sea
- Our new Seabrook College and Behaviour, Emotional, and Social Difficulties Services have embedded well, with the current year 11 cohort accessing a wider range of qualifications. Support services offered by the new service have been well received across the borough.
- Across the partnership we have engaged service users in the design, delivery and commissioning of a number of key services including the new Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service, the provision of SEPT community services, and children's social work.
- We have worked with the Department of Work and Pensions in order to access funding to provide education for NEET care leavers; 3 young people have completed degree courses and all of them are now employed as a result of this.
- We have been able to implement the staying put policy in a clear way meaning that young people have a clear plan of support post 18 and this has offered stability and longevity to many of our young people in care

During the year, as a result of the borough's Pioneer status and the Better Care Fund, partnership working has continued to strengthen. The CCG has implemented the findings from an organisational effectiveness review to work more closely with Southend Council in the joint commissioning of children's services, learning disability services and integrated care services.

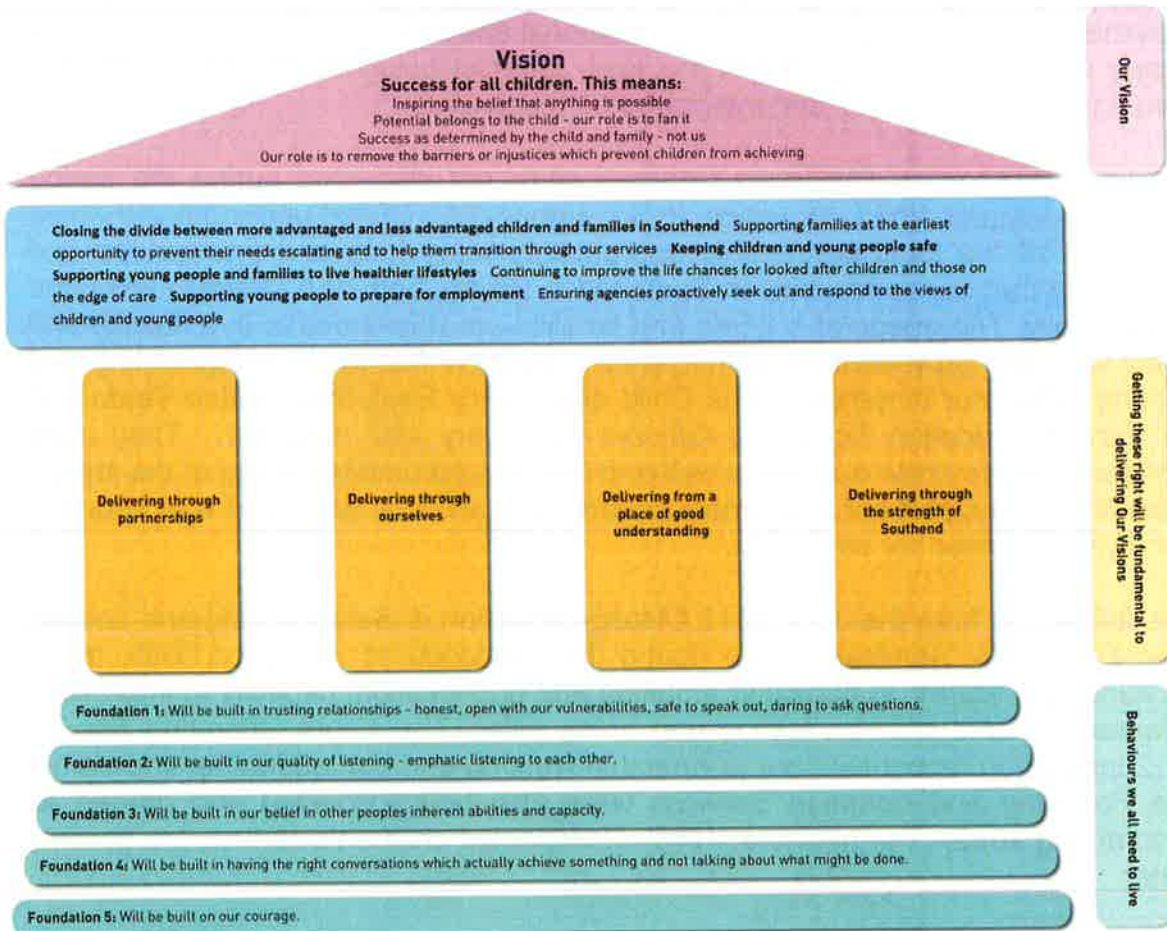
The Local Authority's Children's Services were not inspected during the period April 2014 – March 2015. However, in November 2013 Ofsted undertook a themed inspection of the local partnership approach to early help and intervention and recognised that our partnership in Southend is strong, both at a strategic level and operationally. The needs of children and families are responded to in a flexible and timely way with professionals demonstrating their confidence in safeguarding and working within our thresholds. The Child and Family Early Intervention Team and the Early Intervention Screening Officers were very well regarded. They were confident that we knew our needs well and had a good understanding of the impact of services to support our investment in early help and that Southend was strong in identifying the need for early help.

This follows on from the June 2012 Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked after Children's Services which found the services to be good with many outstanding features, in particular ambition and prioritisation, capacity to improve in safeguarding and children feeling and being safe. The Youth Offending Service 2012 inspection recognised our partnership working and our leadership and vision. The Fostering and Adoption Services were also both inspected and graded as good during 2012. Furthermore, 100% of inspected children's centres are good or better.

We remain committed to continuing our work to address the impact of child poverty and the attainment gap between some of our most vulnerable children and their peers and our action plan reflects this.

This Children and Young People's Plan for 2015-2016 builds upon our previous plans and priorities, self assessments and external assessments in order to secure ongoing continued improvement in outcomes for children, young people and families in Southend.

## 4. OUR SHARED VISION





## **5. OUR PRIORITIES 2015 - 2016**

The priority areas for the partnership to focus on for 2015-2016 are set out below in summary form. Section 6 of this plan sets out the detail and evidence behind each of these priority areas, as drawn from the draft Joint Strategic Needs Analysis.

- 1. Closing the divide between more advantaged and less advantaged children and families in Southend:**
  - Education
  - Maternal Health and health inequalities
  - Teenage Pregnancy
  - Young Carers
  - Child Poverty
  
- 2. Supporting families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating and to help them transition through our services**
  - Re-commissioning community based paediatric services and speech and language therapy services
  - Reviewing our Early Help Offer
  
- 3. Keeping children and young people safe**
  - Maintaining a highly effective safeguarding service
  - Addressing the emerging issues and themes on child sexual exploitation
  
- 4. Supporting young people and families to live healthier lifestyles**
  - Children's emotional health and wellbeing services
  - Continuing to prevent and treat drug and alcohol misuse
  
- 5. Continuing to improve the life chances for looked after children and those on the edge of care**
  - Commissioning out of borough residential placements to improve education and health outcomes
  - Reviewing transition arrangements for leaving care
  
- 6. Ensuring agencies proactively seek out and respond to the views of children and young people**
  - Reviewing transition arrangements for leaving care
  - Reviewing our Early Help Offer
  - Re-commissioning community based paediatric services and speech and language therapy services

Our action plan, set out in Section 7, describes the actions that we will take to address these priorities, the date we aim to do them by, how we will judge our success and the person responsible for making it happen.

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## 6. Summary Needs Analysis

Key Priority Area	Evidence of priority	Strategies	Partners involved
<b>Closing the divide between more advantaged and less advantaged children and families in Southend</b>			
<b>Education:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mitigating the impact of poverty on educational attainment and progress</li> <li>- Develop a School Readiness Strategy: Ensuring a good level of school readiness through strengthened partnership working between settings and schools</li> <li>- Key Stage 2 Southend children make at least as good as or better progress than children nationally.</li> <li>- Key Stage 4 overall attainment and progress</li> <li>- Post Key Stage 4 – improving pathways for young people to secure further education, employment or training</li> </ul>	<p><b>Annual Education Report 2013/14</b></p> <p>Progress and attainment is a key area of inequality for looked after children when compared against their peers.</p> <p>Although there has been a significant increase in the number of children achieving a good level of attainment in 2014, the gap between those eligible for free school meals and those who are not achieving a good level of attainment has remained the same as in 2013, which is 24%. It is important that this gap is closed as soon as is possible as it has a significant impact on a child's chances through the rest of their schooling.</p> <p>At Key Stage 2, there has been an improving trend in attainment for pupils eligible for FSM, however in some measures, which have been consistent since 2011, the rate of improvement has not been as great as that nationally.</p>	<p><b>Strategies in place:</b></p> <p>The Virtual School</p> <p>The Southend Challenge</p> <p>A Better Start</p> <p>Streets Ahead</p> <p><b>Strategies to be developed:</b></p> <p>School Readiness Strategy</p> <p>Behaviour Welfare and Personal Development Strategy</p> <p>Refresh Child Poverty Strategy</p>	<p>Southend Borough Council; Corporate Parenting Group</p> <p>Southend Schools Forum,</p> <p>SOPHA</p> <p>SOCHA</p> <p>Southend Borough Council;</p> <p>Pre-school and early years settings</p>

The results of Southend children at Key Stage 2 in English (including grammar, punctuation, spelling, reading and writing) at Level 4 between 2011 and 2013, when compared with the national average, have been below the national average.

Southend, at Key Stages 2 and 4 the achievement gap between children who are eligible for FSM and those who are not, is wide and children who are eligible for FSM do less well than those nationally in every measure of attainment. In most measures the gap is also wider than that nationally.

Although the overall attainment and progress for students in Southend remains above the national figures the difference has narrowed for 5A\*-C with English and maths and the progress made in English. The progress in maths has been maintained. However the diversity of secondary schools in Southend leads to significant variation in the attainment and progress of students in different schools. There is still a challenge in closing the gap between the highest and lowest attaining schools in the borough as too many students are underachieving.

In Southend the latest three month average for 16-19 year old NEET figure is 6.5% this is measured from August 2014 – October 2014. This is compared with a regional figure of 5.7% and a national comparison of 5.7%. However the majority of young people who are NEET in Southend are those that are the most vulnerable, with the biggest barriers to overcome and therefore require the most support in order to positively participate. In addition to this, the Government has raised the participation age to 18 by September 2015 and the council has the statutory duty to encourage, enable and assist all young people to participate in education or training.

**Health inequalities:**

- Give every child the best start in life

There is increasing evidence that the early part of the life course appears to be the most crucial, and that the foundations of good health, well-being and life chances are laid at the start of life, in pregnancy and early childhood (0-4 years).

The Marmot report; ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’ (2010) recognised the importance of a child getting the best start in life. The report states: “What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health

**Strategies in place:**  
A Better Start  
SUHFT: Improving Maternal Health

Southend Borough Council;  
CCG/ GPs;  
SUHFT;  
Schools, Voluntary Sector



and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status.”

In Southend on Sea in 2012-13 breastfeeding initiation was 73.0%, similar to the England average (73.9%). Breastfeeding prevalence was 36.7% - significantly lower than the national average (47.2%).

#### Teenage conceptions:

- Continuing to reduce the rate and number of teenage conceptions in Southend

During the period 1998 to 2012, the rate of teenage conceptions in the UK declined nationally and locally. Within Southend on Sea, the rate of reduction was slightly greater than that experienced at national level, declining by 46.1% in the period. There were however, still more Under 18 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17 in Southend on Sea in 2012, than the average for England ( 30.4 unintended conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-17 in Southend on Sea compared to 27.7 per 1,000 women aged 15-17 in England). There are 5 wards that have a higher rate of Under 18 conceptions than the Southend on Sea's average. These are Shoeburyness, St. Luke's, Victoria, Kursaal and Milton which are all

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2015-2018  
A Better Start

Southend Borough Council;  
CCG/ GPs;  
SUH;  
Schools (prevention: sex ed, attainment: supporting young mums)

## Child Poverty

associated with higher levels of deprivation, disadvantage and poverty.

The level of child poverty is worse than the **Strategies to be developed:**  
Refresh the Child Poverty Strategy

Southeast Borough Council;  
CCG/ GPs;  
SUHFT;  
Schools, Voluntary Sector

Child poverty is an important issue for public health, as children growing up in a lower income household are more likely to be exposed to risk factors which damage their health, and are less likely to be exposed to, or to have protective factors.

Children growing up in poverty will have many barriers to them achieving their full potential; however, resilient parents or carers with good coping skills can offset some of the impact of financial and material disadvantage.

Outcomes for children growing up in lower income households are significantly worse than for those who are more affluent.

Children raised in poverty:

- are more likely to have a mother with poor health behaviours and to be born with low birth weight
- have poorer general health than their peers
- are more likely to have preschool conduct and behaviour problems
- have more attendances at Accident

&Emergency departments and more hospital admissions

- have a higher incidence of respiratory infections and asthma
- are 13 times more likely to die from unintentional injury
- are 37 times more likely to die as a result of exposure to fire, flames or smoke
- more likely to be in the lowest 20% of educational achievement (2)(3)

Young Carers Strategy 2015-2016 and action plan

Nationally it is suggested that approximately 8% of all children and young people undertake a caring role, some of whom remain hidden and are not receiving the support that they might need.

In Southend, we have been successful with our partners to increase the number of known young carers to 641 in this current year.

Data from our known young carers shows a geographical correlation in terms of disadvantaged when compared with a map of the indices of multiple deprivation, albeit with a wider spread of young carers across the borough. This is no surprise since key indicators of disadvantage include at least one parent with a longstanding, limiting illness, disability or infirmity, a parent with mental health problems, low

#### Young Carers:

- Continue to identify young people with caring responsibilities
- School attendance, attainment and support
- Care Act provisions



income, worklessness, poor education and housing.

Young carers will have new entitlements under the Care Act 2014 from 1<sup>st</sup> April – a whole family assessment and support with their needs.

### **Supporting families at the earliest opportunity to prevent their needs escalating and to help them transition through our services**

-Review and recommitment community based paediatric services with clearly defined outcomes and remodelled speech and language therapy services

This will be evidenced in the SEND JSNA when it is produced.

Delivery of Pioneer SBC commissioning strands CCG

- Review our offer of Early Help

Our Early Help offer was established prior to the 'A Better Start' bid award, the implementation of Troubled Families 2 and the rollout of the Education, Health and Care Plan. We need to review our model to ensure that we are offering a comprehensive early help system to ensure that we are

**Strategies to be developed:**  
Early Help Assessment  
Southend Borough Council;  
CCG

doing everything possible to prevent families from escalating through social care services unnecessarily and becoming children with a child protection plan or children in care. We need to assure ourselves that as a partnership we are supporting families at a much earlier point in time.

**Keeping children and young people safe :**

- addressing the emerging issues and themes on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Operationally children and young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation are being identified and addressed through the appropriate single and multi-agency arrangements. However, this is not currently being systematically collated, although there is a multi-agency forum that reviews whether cases are being appropriately managed.

There are a number of areas to develop in relation to CSE including obtaining accurate data and a need to systematically collate and map intelligence. In addition, there is a need to review the current response to CSE on a single agency and multi-agency basis to ensure that it is effective at all stages of intervention with children and young people where there are concerns about CSE.

**Strategies to be delivered:**

LSCB multi-agency plan  
 Southend Community Safety Plan 2015-2016

RE, PSHE and Fundamental British Values guidance for schools

LSCB  
 Southend Community Safety Partnership

The LSCB are have an agreed multi-agency plan in relation to CSE and there is to be a review of the current approach to CSE to ensure that it is effective at meeting the needs of children and young people

In addition the Southend Community Safety Partnership has identified six priorities for 2015-2016: Anti-Social Behaviour, Acquisitive Crime, Domestic Abuse, Re -offending, Violent Crime (including youth crime and organised criminal organisations involving youths) and Theft From Motor Vehicle.

### Supporting young people and families to live healthier lifestyles

- Ensuring an appropriate and timely response to young people with emerging mental health issues is commissioned

The Essex Child and Adolescent Mental Health Needs Analysis sets out a comprehensive analysis of the need for a more appropriate and easy to access emotional health and wellbeing service.

Currently access to CAMHS services is a key inequality for looked after children.

It demonstrates that research carried out in Essex has shown that pupils with

**Strategies in place:**  
A Better Start  
Council;  
CCG

**Strategies to be delivered:**

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service full commissioned

poor emotional wellbeing have significantly less positive views about their lives than all pupils, including being twice as likely to say: they are afraid to go to school because of bullying their school deals badly with bullying and they have been a victim of crime.

They have the lowest average scores for overall wellbeing of all pupils and are significantly less likely to say that their views are listened to and taken seriously at home or at school. They are significantly more likely to say that they smoke regularly, have been drunk at least once in the last month or have taken drugs. They are also significantly less likely to enjoy school or try their best at school, and more likely to want more help from teachers. They are significantly less likely to agree there is enough to do in their area and less likely to say they have been to a park/playground or a sports club/class.

Drugs and alcohol misuse

**Drug Aware award roll out**

**M-PACT programme**

Southend Borough Council;  
Schools;  
CCG-referrals to  
DACT services

treatment in Southend has remained comparatively high for the last three years despite the nationally reducing trend. As the majority of these referrals are deemed appropriate by the Southend Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAT), this implies that either there is a greater substance misuse problem among young people locally or that services nationally are not as well-placed to identify young people in need.

While the majority of young people do not use drugs, and most of those who do are not dependent, drug and alcohol misuse can have a major impact on young people's education, their health, their families and their long-term chances in life. Children and young people need to have access to appropriate information, education and advice to ensure that they can make fully informed decisions.

Children of substance misusing parents are also deemed to be at risk, both through the potential impacts of parental misuse such as neglect, physical and/or emotional abuse, social isolation, but also due to the increased risk that they might develop their own substance misuse issues.



## Continuing to improve the life chances for looked after children and those on the edge of care

Review placements in residential schools out of Borough, to commission for improved outcomes for children and more affordable placements within Southend, including assurance that all health needs are fully assessed.

Review arrangements for managing transition including appropriate funding and planning for accommodation and lifestyle

The key findings from the needs assessment on Looked after Children services are:

The rate of Looked After children per 10,000 has fallen since 2007 in a planned way and is predicted to fall until March 2017. Securing permanence and stability of placements are areas of significant strength for the Local Authority.

The use of external placements (private, voluntary and independent sector) has reduced in a planned way since 2007.

Performance on annual health assessments and dental checks has improved since 2012 and is an area of strong performance.

Small numbers of Looked After Children are disabled, currently 3% of the cohort, or are unaccompanied asylum seeking children, currently less than 1% of the cohort (31st December 2014) however they have additional needs when compared to other Looked After Children

### Areas that we need to address are:

The contribution towards placement costs

**Strategies to be delivered:** Southend Borough Council;  
CCG/ GPs;  
SUHFT;

Review of placements

Review of transitions

from CAMHS commissioners, Continuing Health Care and NHS England is significantly lower than other Local Authorities who are members of CIPFA benchmarking.

Performance of completion of Initial Health Assessments within 20 working days of a child becoming looked after is well below target and has been since 2010.

**Ensuring agencies proactively seek out and respond to the views of children and young people**  
Consulting and engagement with children, young people and families on service provision and service design.

All partners

The Success for All Children's Group needs to continue to ensure that services commissioned, strategies in development and services to be re-designed are done so in consultation with service users.

