

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO NARROWING THE GAP IN DEPRIVED AREAS OF LINCOLNSHIRE –
ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No	Initial Response	Action	Timescale	Who	Progress
<p>The report and the following recommendations should be sent to the relevant Secretaries of State for their attention and particular regard should be given to these nationally significant points:</p> <p>There are grave concerns about tracking vulnerable children, both nationally and internationally. The national government should introduce legislation to set up a process for tracking vulnerable and transient children internationally, and utilise the information and technical expertise acquired through ContactPoint to track vulnerable and transient children nationally through new processes</p>	Yes	The Government have agreed to consult on the proposals to replace contact point with a system for tracking vulnerable children	Executive Committee to respond, provide comment and feedback to consultation	Await consultation	Executive Committee	<p>We await national guidance on a replacement for Contact Point</p> <p>Coalition Government have confirmed intension to put in place a system for tracking vulnerable children</p>

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The Academies Bill should be amended to ensure that all academies allow community use of their buildings and facilities throughout the whole year	No	The Academies Bill has already received royal assent.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Academies Bill did not make this recommendation
<p>2. There should be more engagement with parents in the early stages of pregnancy.</p> <p>A joint pack between all the agencies should be developed which contains information on the birth and the various steps of education from early years through to University.</p>	Yes	Children Services (CS) to work with Health to map existing information. And identify potential gaps.	CS to produce joint pack to be distributed at Health Visitor birth visits	<p>May – Sept 2011</p> <p>May – Sept implementation</p> <p>Completed</p>	Locality teams	<p>A working Party has been established to review joint working arrangements between health and local authority Children’s Services</p> <p>Health have agreed that they will work towards moving to centre based delivery of all child health services –</p> <p>Children’s Services have continued to commission midwifery services for 2011/12</p>

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<p>The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes for Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) have offered free support and the sharing of best practice to help the Early Year services around Mablethorpe to improve their delivery of services to the vulnerable transient population that are in the</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>C4EO to identify and share best practice in relation to working with transient populations</p>	<p>CS via Commissioning, Partnership and Efficiencies Team will Commission C4EO</p>	<p>May – Sept 2011</p> <p>Subject to C4EO agreement</p>	<p>C4EO</p>	<p>Work on an information pack has been delayed due to the need to review current activities in line with new government's core offer for centres but a working party is established and mapping of information has commenced</p> <p>Contact has been made with C4EO and we await confirmation of what commitment they can give to Lincolnshire for this work</p>

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<p>area, and Children’s Services are recommended to commission this free support from C4EO. This links into the golden threads “Together with Parents” and “Unite to Succeed”</p>						
<p>3. Sure Start Children’s Centres give meaningful engagement with children at an early stage, but they need to be more flexible in their provision in order to meet the identified needs of the area, focussing on the most vulnerable children, and trust needs to be built between parents and staff. This links into the golden thread “Holding onto the Baton”</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Clear links should be made to neediest families</p>	<p>Identify effective methods for engaging the neediest families</p> <p>Using data profiles and other indicators to ensure services are appropriately focused on Local priorities targeting the most vulnerable</p>	<p>Priorities and actions to be agreed as part of Annual conversation and confirmed as part of Performance Management and Needs Analysis Cycle</p>	<p>Children’s Services Locality teams with support from Performance Management and Quality Assurance Team</p>	<p>A working Party has been established to identify effective methods for engaging with the neediest families and on how to measure impact on our most vulnerable families</p> <p>Data profiles have been established so this can be tracked</p> <p>We are also in the process of completing a child poverty needs</p>

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						assessment which will inform this work
<p>4. Best practice guidance materials should be available in Sure Start Children's Centres to stimulate and interest parents and children, and keep parents learning alongside their children. This links into the golden threads "Together with Parents", "It takes a Community to raise a Child" and "Learning to Learn"</p>	Yes	<p>Develop good practice guidance for children centre staff to ensure material available is of consistent high quality.</p>	<p>Task group to be set up to develop guidance for centres to ensure appropriate/relevant/high quality materials available to families through FSD and FIS</p>	<p>Task group to meet May – Sept 11 All guidance to be available Sept 11</p>	<p>Customer Service Centre (CSC) – Family Information Service (FIS)</p>	<p>Centres offer a range of materials on child development matters</p> <p>The Parenting Handbook is available in centres and on line</p> <p>Guidance materials is also available through the family information service</p> <p>Work to ensure consistent information is available through all Centres and early years settings is the next phase of this recommendation</p> <p>In addition, once the</p>

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						national guidance on Children's Centres is published by Government in the summer we will review the core offer to ensure centres offer guidance in line with new requirements
5. Children's Services should rebrand Children's Centres to improve parents' perceptions and remove any stigma attached to Children's Centres, and positively market Children's Centres to all parents to highlight that the facilities available are aimed at all parents in order to improve usage by parents of Children's Centres. This links into the golden thread "Together with Parents"	No	Await update of Children's Centre Funding, national policy direction and possible branding guidance from the DfE for CC's	N/A	N/A	N/A	Centres remain open to all families and Lincolnshire retains a commitment to universal reach – There are no plans yet to re brand children's centres but national guidance is expected to be published in the summer
6. The Council should encourage schools to be	Yes	Awaiting further guidance on Pupil	Identify influencing	Jan 2011	Finance and Commissioning,	Completed – Schools have been allocated

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immediately prepared to utilise the pupil premium in a targeted way to make a clear difference for pupils from less well-off backgrounds. This links into the golden thread "Learning to Learn"		Premium funding calculations	actions once more information on PP is available.		Partnership and Efficiencies (CPE) team	<p>pupil premium – School Improvement service will challenge and support schools on use of pupil premium for maintained schools</p> <p>We have reviewed the role of the School Improvement Advisor to undertake this challenge role working collaboratively with locality teams - However we can only affect this challenge in co-operation with schools and for maintained schools</p>
7. Public buildings, such as schools and children's centres, should be kept open all year and the voluntary sector should be utilised to help run them. Public	Yes	There is recognition that public buildings are core part of the infrastructure of rural communities. However it must be recognised	Task group to be set up to identify options for the sustainable use and funding of children centres.	Sept 2011	Children's Services Commissioning, Partnership and Efficiency team (CPE) and	The Children's Centre task group is exploring use of all locality buildings and will consider community

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<p>esteem and aspirations. Children's Services are recommended to commission this free support from C4EO. This links into the golden threads "It takes a Community to raise a Child" and "Cornflakes to Canoeing"</p>						
<p>8. In line with the national age related expectations for the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, Children's Services should ensure that systems are in place to track individual child achievements and put strategies in place so that children can achieve their potential. The aim of effective tracking and targeted interventions is to narrow the gap so that children eligible for free school meals achieve as well as their peers in that they aim to achieve at least six points in the scales relating to literacy, numeric and PSED by the end of the</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Process is in place</p>	<p>Ensure data is provided to CPE Team to link to needs analysis and child poverty strategy.</p> <p>Target services to support the EYFS and and future DfE development in this area of work</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Children's Services Performance and Quality Assurance Team and Birth to 5's</p>	<p>Data is provided and is being used to form the child poverty needs assessment – Data is tracked and used to drive forward improvements in early years services through the Birth to Five Service</p>

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early years foundation stage (age 5). This should be regarded as a stretch target. This links into the golden thread “Learning to Learn”						
9. Successes by parents and children should be recognised, celebrated and promoted by the Council to raise aspirations and esteem. Rather than simply using the narrow measures of attainment which are used in schools, achievements by pupils should be recognised and the teaching staff’s judgements should be trusted. Children’s Services should identify different ways of recognising, celebrating and promoting success and achievement by parents and children. This links into the golden thread “You can do it”	Yes	A range of ongoing LA events are taking place that support the wider community engagement and raising the aspiration of parents and children.	Identify how events and successes can be promoted wider both corporately and at a local community level.	Ongoing	Children’s Services Locality teams and Corporate Communication s team	Celebration embedded into way of working for centres – Centres use this information to inform their self assessment and it is included as part of the annual conversation However hard performance indicators would require extensive resources to collect this data so this is not recommended

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<p>10. As previously recommended in the Improving School Meals Scrutiny Review from 2006, a swipe card system for school meals should be introduced into all schools so that pupils entitled to free school meals are able to receive school meals in the same manner as other pupils. This will help to improve the uptake of free school meals and will eliminate any stigmatism for children from deprived areas. This links into the golden thread "Learning to Learn"</p>	Yes	<p>Following the 2006 report it was agreed to develop a cashless system within all secondary schools as this is where the stigma is most evident currently approximately 40% have implemented this.</p>	<p>Identify possible funding streams to support the implementation of a cashless system in all secondary schools</p>	March 2011	Children's Services - School Administration team	<p>Newly refurbished kitchens in schools have had the cashless system introduced which means that 40% of secondary schools now have access to a cashless system. No new funding has been identified to continue this work</p> <p>This may not be achievable recommendation given move to academy status for secondary schools</p>
<p>11. The Council needs to work closely with Further Education providers and all other providers, especially Skegness Academy, to establish further education provision across the county in</p>	Yes	<p>The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee has proposed addressing the post-16 learning provision issues arising from its</p>	<p>The scrutiny review process will begin in December 2010 by which time the local authority's powers, influence</p>	<p>The proposed Post-16 Review is expected to report in September</p>	Scrutiny committee	<p>The scrutiny review on "Improving Access to Post 16 Learning Provision in Lincolnshire" commenced in December 2010 and</p>

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particular in the coastal areas. The Council should explore, as a matter of urgency, alternative ways of providing provision especially in coastal areas, and look for best practice elsewhere. This links into the golden thread "It takes a Community to raise a Child"		Narrowing the Gap Report through an in-depth review of the extent to which post-16 provision meets the needs of young people and communities across Lincolnshire and including coastal areas.	and responsibilities will be much clearer. Await outcome of this review prior to any further action.	2011		is ongoing. The task and finish group will present its draft final report to the Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2011.
12. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Communities Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider establishing a joint task and finish group looking into post 16 provision, and engagement with the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce should be included as part of the terms of reference. This links into the golden thread "It takes a Community to raise a Child"	Yes	Link to work of 14 – 19 partnerships	Task group to be set up with clear Terms of reference and objectives. The two scrutiny committees to nominate members to sit on this task group to take forward this recommendation	December 2010	14 – 19 partnership lead by CfBT	A Children and Young People's Scrutiny Task and Finish Group has been established and is conducting extensive enquiries through: analysis of data; interviews with key stakeholders; reports from key officers in LCC and other agencies. A final report is expected in early autumn 2011.

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<p>13. The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes for Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) have offered, at no cost, to help investigate and interrogate coastal deprivation in Lincolnshire and other coastal areas in England for comparison, to find out whether there are any similarities or issues, such as transport, common to coastal areas, and whether Lincolnshire's educational services add value to the education of transient children in coastal areas whilst in the Local Authority's area. Children's Services are recommended to commission C4EO to help conduct this investigation and interrogation into coastal deprivation to find out whether the problems experienced in coastal areas, as highlighted in this report, are unique to Lincolnshire or</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>C4EO to lead a piece of work which will link to the child poverty strategy the needs assessment and provide some statistical comparison from which to review service provision with the county.</p>	<p>Children's Services to Commission C4EO to investigate and interrogate coastal deprivation.</p> <p>Link this to child poverty strategy development.</p>	<p>Awaiting confirmation from C4EO</p>	<p>C4EO</p>	<p>Contact has been made with C4EO and we await confirmation of what commitment C4EO are able to offer Lincolnshire</p>

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are issues affecting all coastal areas. This links into the golden thread "Prove it"						
14. Children's Services should identify a senior officer to be accountable for driving through these recommendations. This links into the golden thread "Prove it"	Yes	Action plan to be completed and to be agreed by Executive Committee. The action plan to be monitored and reviewed in response to both political and economic developments.	Complete Action plan. Identified officer to monitor and update action plan and to send to C& YP Scrutiny Committee as required		AD – D. Barnes HoS J.Hackney	Completed
15. The benchmarking of data against the recommendations in this report are to be reported initially in six months and then annually to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. This links into the golden thread	Yes	PM team to provide data on key indicators: NI 192 Ni 102i NI 102ii As stated on page 9 of	Dates and formats for reporting to be agreed	January 2011 and ongoing	Children's Services Performance and Quality Assurance Team	Due to reduced resources CYP Scrutiny are asked to review all performance indicators to confirm that they remain a priority for

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"Prove it"		the Narrowing the Gap in deprived areas of Lincolnshire July 2010.				Lincolnshire –This is subject to a separate report .