

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO NARROWING THE GAP IN DEPRIVED AREAS OF LINCOLNSHIRE –  
ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM RECOMMENDATIONS  
MARCH 2012**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Recommendation Accepted? Yes/No</b>	<b>Initial Response</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<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>1. 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 Contact Point to track vulnerable and transient children nationally through</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Government have agreed to consult on the proposals to replace contact point with a system for tracking vulnerable children</p>	<p>Executive Committee to respond, provide comment and feedback to consultation</p>	<p>Await consultation</p>	<p>Executive Committee</p>	<p>We still 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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<p>new processes</p> <p>The Academies Bill should be amended to ensure that all academies allow community use of their buildings and facilities throughout the whole year</p>	No	The Academies Bill has already received royal assent.	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p><b>NO FURTHER UPDATE REQUIRED.</b></p> <p>Academies Bill did not make this recommendation</p>
<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>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Children Services (CS) to work with Health to map existing information. And identify potential gaps.</p>	<p>CS to produce joint pack to be distributed at Health Visitor birth visits</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Completed and ongoing</p>	<p>CS/Health</p> <p>CS/Health</p>	<p>Audit completed re information available and there is a wide range of materials which are available and accessible to families.</p> <p>Health currently provide detailed information at the birth visit to all families - This is considered comprehensive to help prepare</p>

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				Ongoing  ongoing		<p>families for parenting and for early years – It is considered too early and overwhelming to provide information about further education ( post 16 education ) at this stage</p> <p>Further information in relation to child care options is currently under development</p> <p>'Integration of services group' has been established, bringing together health and children's services staff.</p>

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				ongoing		<p>This group is overseeing and reviewing joint working arrangements on a continual basis to further improve integrated working arrangements.</p> <p>Children's Services will be continuing to commission Health Visitor services for 2012/13. A key focus will be to identify those families not registered with children's centres, in particular those who have been identified as families to target and those who</p>

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						<p>are the most vulnerable. A Red Amber Green (RAG) rating system is being used Families known to Health as Red and Amber families are those with the highest level of input and health visitors are actively working with these families to increase registration and engagement in activities with Children's Centres. Where Red and Amber families are not registering, health will know the reasons why and can follow this up</p>

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						<p>with families accordingly. Monthly updates are provided by health on the % increase in registrations. To date registrations of red and amber families registered with children's centres have gone from 30% at the start of the project (August 11) to 52% at present. Aspiratio n is to reach 85% by the end of the first year.</p> <p>Children's Services will be continuing to commission</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 area, and Children's Services are recommended to commission this free support from C4EO. This links into the</p>		<p>C4EO to identify and share best practice in relation to working with transient populations</p>	<p>CS via children's services commissioning ,team and C4EO</p>	<p>April 2012</p>	<p>C4EO</p>	<p>Midwifery services for 2012/13. Vulnerable expectant mums (child protection, teenage parents, mental health issues and domestic abuse) will be identified by generic midwives and referred on for targeted support via children's centre midwifery services. This will see more of a focus on 1:1 support but there will also be access to group support A vulnerability &amp; referral pathway to be written &amp; given to midwives</p>

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golden threads “Together with Parents” and “Unite to Succeed”						<p>&amp; support workers. This will be a system that ensures the most vulnerable expectant mum’s needs are identified, assessed and appropriate action is taken, which will include signposting to relevant support services.</p> <p>C4EO are currently undertaking research into vulnerable transient populations from the coastal regions. It will examine the</p>



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						barriers and opportunities for engagement with families, exploring why those in these areas do not access existing provision. An additional benefit from this activity will be improved relationships with Health to ease the sharing of information. <b>(see attached project scope)</b>
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	Yes	Clear links should be made to neediest families	Identify effective methods for engaging the neediest families  Using data profiles and other indicators to	Priorities and actions to be agreed as part of Annual conversation and confirmed as	Children's Services Early Intervention and locality teams with support from Quality Assurance Team	Task group was put together to look at how to identify the most vulnerable children and their families. Work has been

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vulnerable children, and trust needs to be built between parents and staff. This links into the golden thread "Holding onto the Baton"			ensure services are appropriately focused on Local priorities targeting the most vulnerable	<p>part of Performance Management and Needs Analysis Cycle</p> <p>3 year commissioning intentions in place by Autumn 2012.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>		<p>completed on defining what is meant by vulnerable families. There is ongoing work to link this with Payment by Results outcomes and how we ensure effective engagement with families with multiple needs therefore reducing the probability of risk factors. This work will feed into future commissioning intentions.</p> <p>Data profiles provided by quality assurance to localities re children open to</p>

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						<p>social care that are not registered with a children's centre.</p> <p>Child poverty needs assessment now completed which will support work on payment by results and commissioning intentions.</p>
<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>	<p>Yes</p>	<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>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Customer Service Centre (CSC) – Family Information Service (FIS)</p>	<p><b>COMPLETED</b></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>



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						commissioning intentions for children's centres to ensure parity in delivering quality services and support.
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	<b>NO FURTHER UPDATE REQUIRED</b> Centres remain open to all families and Lincolnshire thus retains a commitment to universal reach – There are no plans yet to re brand children's centres but national guidance expected last summer has still not transpired. Therefore there is currently no

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						requirement to re-brand.
6. The Council should encourage schools to be 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”	Yes	Awaiting further guidance on Pupil Premium funding calculations	Identify influencing actions once more information on PP is available.	Completed	Children’s Services Commissioning Team.	<b>NO FURTHER UPDATE REQUIRED</b> Completed – Schools have been allocated pupil premium and the amount paid through the pupil premium has increased next financial year as well as the cohort increasing to “ever free school meals – School Improvement service will challenge and support schools on use of pupil premium for maintained schools

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						<p>We have reviewed the role of the School Improvement Advisor ( now called the Professional Advisor for Schools ) 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> <p>The Authority encourage schools to contribute for additional tuition</p>

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						for looked after children
<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 buildings are a major local resource in any area and being kept open would help to keep a link between parents and the centres outside normal opening hours, and provide additional support to single parents.</p>	Yes	<p>There is recognition that public buildings are core part of the infrastructure of rural communities. However it must be recognised that it is a school decision regarding use of premises.</p>	<p><u>Children centres</u></p> <p>Following the release of the core purpose for children centres by the DFE, 2011. Lincolnshire has revised the Core offer for Lincolnshire children centres in relation to community use.</p> <p>Youth centres and the provision of Positive activities</p>	<p>April 2012</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Project Task group led by Stuart Carlton project lead Michelle Andrews in conjunction with early intervention</p>	<p>Community use of children centres is now a key deliverable with Lincolnshire core offer for all centres with a focus on parental and community engagement</p> <p>A task group is currently undertaking a county wide piece of work on engaging with communities in the use and management of</p>



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<p>The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes for Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) have offered free support on sharing best practice to see how the public buildings and their facilities can be used to promote achievement, including attainment, and support the development of children's emotional resilience, self esteem and aspirations. Children's Services are</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Commission C4EO to investigate opportunities and share good practice models for the use of public buildings to support local communities</p>	<p>Children's services commissioning team and C4EO to provide advice and guidance.</p>	<p>To be determined if work required.</p>	<p>locality teams.  C4EO</p>	<p>Youth centres and the delivery of positive activities.</p> <p>As part of the Core Offer work, we have extended out reach family support to evenings and weekends</p> <p>C4EO have not taken forward this work as yet. Their funded work covers early years only, and due to priorities they have been asked to support</p>

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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”						LCC with the work re east cost and transient populations, This work if still required, could be commissioned, however, If broader than early years this would not be funded and there would be a cost. With more schools becoming academies, the Local Authority will have reduced influence over this
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	Yes	Process is in place	Ensure data is provided to CPE Team to link to needs analysis and child poverty strategy.	Ongoing	Children’s Quality Assurance Team and Birth to 5	The child poverty needs assessment has been completed and the consultation period re the

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<p>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 early years foundation stage (age 5). This should be regarded as a stretch target. This links into the golden thread “Learning to Learn”</p>			<p>Target services to support the EYFS and and future DfE development in this area of work</p>			<p>Child poverty Strategy has just finished Tracking mechanisms are in place to monitor the progress of pupils upon entry to and exit from Reception year group. This information is shared for benchmarking with schools and the Birth to Five service. At the end of the Foundation Stage, school level reports</p> <p>Children’s centre teacher role within Birth to five now agreed with localities and will</p>

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						<p>take forward narrowing the gap work and driving forward quality and outcomes. This is completed as systems are in place</p> <p>Since September 2009, Lincolnshire has been delivering a DfE pilot project to offer 171 early years' places for the most disadvantaged 2 year olds to access 10 hours per week. Children are offered a place based on specific government defined criteria relating directly to an individual</p>

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						<p>family's economic circumstances. To date, over 900 2 year olds have benefitted from this entitlement and the funding will be increased from April 2012 to target 20% of the most disadvantaged 2 years olds in Lincolnshire during 2012-13. This will enable 360 children to access up to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year.</p> <p>The 2 year old funding has enabled the most disadvantaged children to access early year's provision which</p>

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						has supported early identification of children with additional needs.
<p>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"</p>	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 early intervention and Locality teams and Corporate Communications team	<p><b>NO FURTHER UPDATE REQUIRED.</b> 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</p> <p>However hard performance indicators would require extensive resources to collect this data</p>

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						so this is not recommended
<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>	Completed	Children’s Services - School Administration team	<p>Newly refurbished kitchens in schools have had the cashless system introduced which means that 45% of secondary schools now have access to a cashless system. What’s more after becoming an academy a further 3 schools have introduced cashless systems themselves as part of their dining improvements No new funding has been identified to continue this work This was being</p>

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						funded from the School Lunch Grant. However as secondary schools have become academies this funding now goes directly to the schools.
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 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	Yes	The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee has proposed addressing the post-16 learning provision issues arising from its 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	The scrutiny review process will begin in December 2010 by which time the local authority's powers, influence and responsibilities will be much clearer.  Await outcome of this review prior to any further action.	Completed	Scrutiny committee	<b>COMPLETED</b> The "Improving Access to Post 16 Learning Provision in Lincolnshire" final report was considered by CYPSC on 9th September 2011 and by the Executive 4th October 2011. The action plan went to CYPSC on the 3rd Feb



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Child”		areas.				and will be reported back in 6 months to the September meeting. Series of 15 recommendations put forward in this report to address barriers to post 16 learning. Of the 15 recommendations , 13 were accepted and will be implemented through an action plan. An update on the action plan will be considered by CYPSC in September 2012.
12. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Communities Scrutiny Committee are asked to	Yes	Link to work of 14 – 19 partnerships	Task group to be set up with clear Terms of reference and	Completed	14 – 19 partnership lead by CfBT	<b>COMPLETED</b> A Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Task and

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<p>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”</p>			<p>objectives.</p> <p>The two scrutiny committees to nominate members to sit on this task group to take forward this recommendation</p>			<p>Finish Group was established and final completed review into post 16 provision in Lincolnshire (see above). The report has now been received by Scrutiny and Executive. Series of 15 recommendations put forward in this report to address barriers to post 16 learning. Of the 15 recommendations , 13 were accepted and will be implemented through an action plan. An update on the action plan will be considered by CYPSC in September 2012.</p>

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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>To be confirmed with C4EO</p>	<p>C4EO</p>	<p>C4EO, has supported Lincolnshire County Council with further research into the needs of transient populations in coastal regions. This was reported in August 2011 The report of the research undertaken, which included gathering examples of best practice where possible, concluded that it would be necessary to work with relevant children's centres</p>

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are issues affecting all coastal areas. This links into the golden thread "Prove it"						to develop local solutions within the specific a local context. It was agreed that this would be the focus of a second phase assignment
<b>Performance indicators for</b>						
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	Completed	AD – D. Barnes HoS J.Hackney	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Performance indicators for</b>						
15. The benchmarking of data against the recommendations in this report are to be reported initially in six months and then annually to the	Yes	PM team to provide data on key indicators:  NI 192 Ni 102i	Dates and formats for reporting to be agreed	Ongoing	Children's Services Quality Assurance Team	The following annual measures are reported to CYP Scrutiny Committee as

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. This links into the golden thread "Prove it"		<p>NI 102ii</p> <p>As stated on page 9 of the Narrowing the Gap in deprived areas of Lincolnshire July 2010.</p>				<p>part of routine quarterly performance reporting.</p> <p>NI092 Narrowing the gap - lowest achieving 20% the Early Yrs Foundation Stage Profile vs. the rest</p> <p>NI102i Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (KS2)</p> <p>NI102ii Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (KS4)</p> <p>Performance indicators for 2011/12 agreed with exec DMT</p>