

Kent Agreement – March 2007

Outcome 1 	To promote the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of young children so they flourish at home and at school
Lead Partner: KCC CFE	Accountable Manager: Ian Craig and Carol Parsons

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Early Years/Foundation Stage	Baseline (2004)	Year 1 (2005)	Year 2 (2006)	Status	Target (2008)
Proportion of 3 year olds attending 3 or more sessions at Early Year settings in either voluntary, private or maintained sectors.(LPSA 1.1)	75%	86% (Autumn Term)	88%		88%
%age children with 6+ points for PSED in Foundation Stage Profile (excluding Swale, Dover & Gravesham Sure Start). (LPSA 1.3)	86.7%	81.2%	78.1%		89.7%
%age children with 6+ points for CLL in Foundation Stage Profile (excluding Swale, Dover & Gravesham Sure Start). (LPSA 1.3)	71.5%	64.9%	62.5%		74.5%

PSED/CLL in Foundation Stage Profile

It is important to note that work for the PSA on training pre-school practitioners began in Autumn 2005. The majority of children in the 2005-2006 pre-school year group will enter reception classes in schools. This cohort of learners will be assessed on the Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) results.

The moderation of the FSP scores for all reception children takes place on a yearly basis and this year training for moderators will be quality assured and validated by the National Assessment Agency (NAA) to ensure that assessments and judgements are accurate. The Local Authority has also engaged in inter-LA moderation meetings in order to validate and ratify assessments against FS scale points. Head teachers and School Improvement partners have also used FSP data during standards meetings identifying how this data source links and feeds into other data and school improvement planning. This focus is impacting positively on the reliability of school and cluster data often raising questions that have increased leaders' understanding of the scale points within FSP.


At present the Local Authority data appears to show that attainment is declining and the actions above focus on addressing and identifying the need for accurate school based assessments. However this reflects the National Assessment Agency Report (NAA/FSP 2005) conclusion

“Although Local Authorities reported that most practitioners, especially the more experienced, were becoming more confident about making judgements for the FSP, a significant minority felt that this had been undermined by their (mis) understanding of the message that “good attainment is a total of six points within a scale.”

In addition national moderation across LAs is also still developing. DfES publication SFR 03/2006 states:

“Whilst nationally schools and providers have broadly been more rigorous and accurate in their assessments, the National Assessment Agency confirms that the data for a number of schools and local authorities may be patchy and impacted to varying degrees by the extent to which moderation and improvements to the teacher assessment process have been rolled out. Care should be taken when comparing results between Local Authorities.”

Data shows Kent mirrors the national pattern of scores for the six areas of development exactly, with the highest percentage of children achieving 6+ in Physical Development, and subsequently in Creative Development, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Personal Social and Emotional Development, Mathematical Development and Communication Language and Literacy.

Lone Parents Data Available August 07	Baseline (Aug 04)	Year 1 (Aug 05)	Year 2 (Sept 06)	Status	Target (Aug 08)
Income support lone parents claimant count (LPSA 1.2)	15805	N/A	14875		14043
Income support lone parents claimant count including retrospection	16145	15535	15450		N/A

Resources within both KCC Early Years Unit and JCP have now been set aside to support the development of a project plan to deliver this target. A workshop event took place in October bringing together both childcare and employment experts.

An action plan is now being drawn up and will focus on a number of areas including the following:



- Ensure good childcare is in place and available.
- How to address the question of lone parents who don't want to work because they want to look after their children?
- Use the Jobcentre Plus advisor discretionary fund to provide an enrolment bonus.
- More "One Stop Shops" focused on, for example, Children's Centres.

Three target Wards were identified with high levels of lone parents and a pilot programme was implemented in April. A wider localised steering group consisting of agencies already operating in these wards has been set up.

At the end of February the number of Lone Parents participating in the Evolve 'Getting On' project was 126. There have been 63 individuals who have completed the programme and of those, 20 have entered voluntary work, 36 have progressed to Further Education or training and 7 have entered part time employment. The offers of employment have been a direct result of the work experience period within the programme. Individuals have gone onto Basic Skills and Parenting Courses delivered at Skills Plus or Adult Education Centres and Access courses at local FE colleges. The courses have been delivered across Kent and Medway in partnership with Children's Centres and Jobcentre Plus. A further development for the Spring will see the delivery of two new courses in Thanet, which will focus on lone parents wishing to enter employment within the Retail Industry. 16 retail outlets in the Westwood Cross area have agreed to provide work experience for individuals and the programme will cover aspects of customer service, interview skills and personal presentation skills. The course is due to start in May at the Westwood Vocational centre

Activities

- Lone Parent Fun and Information Day held at Parkwood Children's Centre in Maidstone.
- Lone parent advisers complete a monthly drop in surgery in the Healthy Living Centre in Maidstone.
- Funding has been agreed for a further two lone parent events. One of these is likely to take place in partnership with Asda in Canterbury.
- KCC 'Newstart' Fund is now up and running with five people claiming the £150 incentive in the last two weeks – publicity has not yet gone out so this venture looks likely to succeed.
- 3 Region Child Poverty Conference held to engage different job roles in helping parents into work.

Children's Centres and Sure Start Local Programmes	Baseline (Mar 05)	Year 1 (Mar 06)	Year 2 (Mar 07)	Status	Target (Mar 08)
Children's Centres with full core offer	2	12	18		72
Sure Start LP Migrated to Children's Centres	2	7	8		9

*The September 2006 target agreed with DfES of 17 was achieved.

Children's Centres and SSLPs.

The Children's Centre Strategic Plan for period 2004-6 has now come to a close. The Sure Start Unit extended time scales until September 2006 for 3 Children's Centres, to enable complex issues in the capital build programme to be resolved. Three Centres have been deferred to Round 2 (2006-8), one of which is a Sure Start Local Programme migrating to a Children's Centre.

KCC has a target to deliver 52 children's centres in Phase Two of the programme. 2 Phase Two centres are already operational offering the full range of services, including full day care for 0-5 year olds, health services and family support.



A 'brief' for full core offer centres and partial core offer centres has been developed and widely circulated amongst partners.

The location and model for the remaining 52 children's centres has now been agreed and shared with the DfES architect consultants. A significant number of the centres will be developed on school sites, using surplus capacity identified as a result of the Kent Primary Strategy.

Initial design plans are in place for 45 centres, with the first phase of building due to begin at the end of June, when 9 of the refurbishment projects are scheduled to start. A further 7 'new builds' will start in July. Once these sites are underway, a rolling schedule is in place to begin the remaining build programme. Only three projects have currently been identified as being at high risk of not completing before March 2008. KCC is in the process of submitting a request to 'roll' these projects over into the following year. Resources and equipment for the centres has been identified and delivery systems are in place.

Accountability for the centres will continue to sit with KCC until local trust arrangements are in place, at which time governance and management arrangements will be handed over. The delivery of full day care as part of the services delivered in full core offer centres will be through the PVI sector.

In addition to the 52 Phase 2 Two centres, KCC has yet to complete 2 build projects that were deferred from the PHASE 1. Both these projects are making significant progress and scheduled to complete by March 2008.

Swale, Dover & Gravesham	Baseline (2004)	Year 1 (Mar 06)	Year 2 (2006)	Status	Target (2008)
Gap to county for PSED in Foundation Stage Profile for Sure Start postcode area (LPSA 1.4)	9.7%	6.5%	9.1%		6.7%
Gap to county for CLL in Foundation Stage Profile for Sure Start postcode area (LPSA 1.4)	16.6%	14.1%	17.1%		13.6%
Results on British Ability Scores in the 3 Districts (LPSA 1.5)	*	**	**		(2008)

* Data as shown below in text

** No interim measurement

This year there is a wider gap in both PSED and CLL between children in Sure Start areas and those in the remainder of the county. As already stated the impact of PSA work will not be reflected in Foundation Stage Profile scores until 2007.

Qualitative evidence of the impact of PSA work is available from notes of a visit which show that positive changes are taking place and the provision for learning is being improved. A sample of 80 Notes of Visit detail the following positive evidence of impact: -

- 23% children's levels of involvement
- 21.25% activities to improve language skills
- 22.5% independent learning and use of initiative by children
- 18.75% well-being and happiness
- 16.22% decision making skills of children
- 5% children behaving calmly
- 62% increase in children under 5 joining libraries
- 49% increase in visits to Baby Bounce and Rhyme
- 16% increase in loans including books to pre-school children

A team of researchers at the Leuven University is undertaking further evaluation of 800 Notes of Visit. This will ensure that further developments in the project are identified as well as gathering further qualitative evidence.

The LA has also extended the project to the schools in the targeted areas and their involvement has been prioritised by:

- Providing a conference in each of the three areas for head teachers and Foundation Stage leaders – these were an opportunity to celebrate and identify the improvement that individual settings can evidence and the impact that the PSA work on “well-being and involvement” is having on improving children's outcomes.
- Providing training for teachers in using the Leuven scales of involvement and well being as well as the training for using “*Box Full of Feelings*”.
- Providing targeted adviser time for the next year to develop the work within the school and reception classes

- Linking the outcomes of the Rose Report and the key messages by refining and further developing the tracking and progression document produced by the Local Authority to support practitioners in tracking reading and writing across the Foundation Stage.

The baseline data was collected using standardised measures focused on aspects of young children's cognitive, literacy and numeracy development. The data was collected over a six-month period between February and July 2005 in Dover, Gravesham and Swale districts using four sub-scales of the British Ability Scale (BAS II – NFER Nelson, Elliot, 1996): Verbal comprehension = 34; Naming vocabulary = 57; Picture similarities = 55.4; Early numbers skills = 48.4.

The full data set consists of 2,081 children with a mean age of 5 years and 4 months (range: 5 years to 5 years 10 months). Gender was balanced in the data set (female: 49.4%, male: 50.6%). Geographical membership favoured Swale (n=862) over Dover (n=656) and Gravesham (n=563).

Statistical analysis was conducted using the statistics programme SPSS (11.0.4). Results of the analysis are detailed in *Paper One – LPSA2 Project – Summary of Baseline Data* (Dr J Monsen – KCC – and Dr R A Murphy – UCL, January 2006). This includes the average (mean scores) for each of the seven variables available along with scores broken down by gender, district and home language (i.e. English, Asian, European and Other). The intention is for progress to be measured against each individual subtest score.




Multi-agency actions to date:

- Training for all settings on a "*Box Full of Feelings*" was delivered– which focuses on PSED and supporting practitioners in helping children to understand and express their feelings.
- Training for all advisers on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERs) to enable a detailed profile of pre-schools to be built up in order to target specific support more effectively was delivered.
- An audit offered to every setting in the LA was undertaken in the Autumn 06 and Spring 07 terms.
- Bookstart Packs for babies continue to be handed out by registrars to maximise families' take up.
- Book Crawl to promote early reading and library use for pre-school children ran in Kent Libraries October 2006-March 2007.
- National and local Bookstart media campaign promoted in Autumn 2006.
- Twilight sessions for reception teachers on the use of Language Link delivered Autumn 2006.
- Settings received twenty-eight appropriate high quality children's storybooks that focused on emotions and feelings chosen in partnership with the library services. This resource will enable practitioners to engage in dialogue with very young children about their feelings and relate these to characters in stories.
- Conferences for practitioners with input provided by Professor Ferre Laevers.

Through activities practitioners were clearly able to assess and evaluate the levels of well-being and involvement and were skilled in suggesting interventions to improve quality of provision.

- Further links with Adult Education have resulted in their agreement to run parenting courses on "*Communicating Matters*"
- In January the training for Local Authority staff trainers on "*Communicating Matters*" was undertaken and this training is currently being offered to settings in the targeted areas. The team who are now delivering the training are a multi-agency team including Health, education psychologists, Early Years SENCOs and EY advisory staff.
- Cluster based team members are also currently utilising "*Communicating Matters*" training materials into planning to improve Communication, Language and Literacy skills for practitioners.
- Conferences for head teachers and leaders in the targeted areas have been delivered with input from adult Education, libraries, EP service and EY team.
- Libraries are continuing to use the link to these projects to reflect and improve their facilities for children and families. Numbers attending Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions have increased (see data below) and improvements, e.g. changing facilities for young babies, have been created as well as developing their facilities to be child focused, e.g. floor space for young children to crawl and move as well as soft play materials.
- Seven locally based training courses, four sessions each on the use of the Leuven Scales, have taken place in Gravesham, Swale and Dover.
- Additional courses have been provided in these localities for practitioners who were unable to attend the initial training sessions.
- The setting link advisers have visited each pre-school involved in the project and provided 6 half days of support to each setting.
- Training for the "*Box Full of Feelings*", which addresses Personal, Social and Emotional Development has been written by educational psychologists and Early Years advisers and all 75 link advisers have attended training the trainer sessions.

- A pilot course for the DFES Communicating Matters materials has been prepared in collaboration with educational psychologists, primary strategy consultants, adult education colleagues and speech therapists
- All head teachers have been invited to attend Breakfast Briefings on the use of Language Link, which was developed by speech therapists to support reception staff in identifying and addressing language processing needs.
- Two new Bookstart packs for all Kent toddlers and 3 year olds was successfully launched in January 2006. Now delivered through Early Years settings, Health Visitors and libraries.
- Library services were evaluated and developed, to maximise their effectiveness for children and their families and carers. Libraries are becoming more family friendly.
- Number of Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions across Kent increased to 83 sessions held regularly by library staff- 56 in libraries and 27 in local community locations.
- Total number of visits by children (2005-6) = 14,937.
- Total number of visits by adults (2005-6) = 10,067.
- Adult education reports that baseline data from Notes of Visit shows 22% of settings display KAES course materials for parents.
- 45% of settings report that they know of parents who have attended an Adult Education course in the past two years.
- 16% report that one or more parents has attended Adult Education for Literacy/Numeracy help.
- 12% report that one or more parents has attended a Parenting or Family Learning course.

Healthy Schools	Jan 06	Sept 06	Mar 07	Status	Target
%age of schools with 20% +FSM engaged in Healthy Schools process	43%	81.3%	90%		100% (Mar 06)
%age of all schools engaged in becoming Healthy Schools	30%	50.6%	71%		50% (Dec 06)
%age of schools working towards Healthy Schools accreditation by 2009	67%	82.7%	95%		100% (Dec 09)

- A Countywide Health Schools Conference took place on the 30 March, attended by more than 200 statutory organisation representatives. This is being supplemented by a series of District conferences.

The local programme failed to meet the national target of 50% of schools 'achieving' Healthy School Status by December 2006 and the figure at the end of at the end of March was 45% with the programme on track to achieve the 50% by April. When evaluated against its baseline position one year ago Kent has made impressive and substantial progress in recruiting schools to the programme and supporting them to work towards the new Healthy Schools status. In the last eight months the programme, in partnership with Clusters, has validated 139 schools to the new status.

Responsibility for delivering the Kent programme sits within Health with two local teams based in West and East Kent PCTs. The reconfiguration and change process within PCTs has impacted heavily on these teams resulting in frozen budgets and vacant/lost posts. This has resulted in a considerable reduction in capacity of the teams, specifically in West Kent which has slowed progress. However, progress has been extremely promising in East Kent with 35% (111 schools) of its schools holding the new Healthy Schools status compared with the current national average of 25%. To give further impetus in West Kent, agreement has been reached with the West Kent PCT to recruit a further three posts to support this work during the next two years. This will be funded in year 1 by KCC and year 2 by the PCT and should ensure that Kent hits the national target of 75% of schools accredited by 2009.

All Clusters and schools are engaging and taking ownership of the programme and all now have multi disciplinary Quality Assurance Groups in place who play a key role in the self validation process.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Take up of early education by three year olds - action plan available from Alex Gamby

Children's Centres and SSLPs – Strategic and Implementation Plans available from Alex Gamby

PSED/CLL in FSP - action plan and Gant chart available from Colleen Marin

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

The dedicated training teams working together on this target have had very positive outcomes as, although there were some understandable concerns at first, the surgery sessions show that all advisers working in this capacity have felt enthused and have realised how much in common they have with one another. It has also helped to embed the philosophy of early years education as described in Birth to Three Matters and the Foundation Stage

Guidance. This in turn is helpful in developing further consistency of messages about quality to all early years' providers. Libraries and Adult Education are adding value through a range of activities including the Bookstart scheme and parenting skills.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

- It is vital to ensure the effective support from the linked adviser/SENCO for the pre-school settings continues. Without this they may not have the capacity to continue with the development of their practice.
- Budgetary pressure on the moderation of the Foundation Stage Profile could mean that the team of moderators would not be school-based staff. This would have a detrimental effect on the consistency of judgements of the moderation.
- Bookstart's workload is large and ongoing – there is a real need to fund a Bookstart Officer to work alongside the Senior Community Librarian (Early Years), who acts as Kent Bookstart Co-ordinator.
- The storage and delivery of Bookstart packs are also causes for concern. Many strategies are already in place, but to enable this to happen more effectively over the next 2 years, some funding would be required.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F17 - Sustainable early Education and Childcare provision – Progressing with Government.

F18 - Children's Centres – Kent strengthening case

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Parents as Partners in Early Learning (PPEL) is area of development led by the DfES and the LA has been invited to make a bid to further develop and identify effective working with parents in Kent. This new project will be targeted at further developing some identified settings in the project area. This work will focus on involving parents in their understanding of the importance of early literacy and well-being for young learners.
- The Transformation Fund has been promoted across the Local Authority and the take-up in the LA compared with the three Sure Start areas will be tracked in future reports. Further promotion of this funding will be through marketing the opportunities to practitioners and providers through six area briefing sessions
 - Manning and developing a dedicated email address that will provide an information source for the amount and type of enquires which will inform further dissemination activities
 - Developing a new leaflet and FAQ's to be disseminated in the Autumn term
- Feedback given to every setting on the outcomes of the ECERS audit and support in action planning will be offered.
- Analysis of ECERS data will be undertaken at Local Authority/Cluster and individual setting level to inform risk assessments and targeting support.
- Additional family learning opportunities to be promoted through the settings and schools in the Sure Start areas for the summer holiday period.
- Utilisation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document and training to further embed the critical role of learning environments and practitioners understanding of the role in improving children's outcomes and skills for learning.

FUTURE UPDATES

Regular reports will be made to CFE SMT

Kent Agreement – March 2007

Outcome 2 	To significantly improve performance in literacy and numeracy in primary schools
Lead Partner: KCC CFE	Accountable Manager: Carol Parsons

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Key Stage 2 Results in 48 Target Schools	Baseline Revised 2004	Year 1 Final (2005)	Year 2 Final (2006)	Status	Target*
Number of pupils achieving level 4+ in English (LPSA 2.1)	1904	2028	1861		2034
%age of pupils achieving level 4+ English	62.6%	68.0%	66.7%		67.3%
Number of pupils achieving level 4+ in Maths (LPSA 2.2)	1735	1836	1710		1913
%age of pupils achieving level 4+ Maths	57.1%	61.5%	61.2%		63.3%
Number of pupils in cohort	3040	2984	2792**		N/A

* Average of 2007 and 2008 results

** It should be noted that there were 3040 pupils in the 2004 baseline cohort, but outward mobility of pupils from the target schools has resulted in a net reduction in the 2005/06 cohort. This is a fall of 8% in pupil numbers and makes the target as originally expressed in pupil numbers more difficult to achieve. Negotiations with Government are continuing to gain acceptance that the substance of the target (i.e. improving the percentage of pupils gaining level 4) has been achieved.

The average performance of project schools in 2006 has already exceeded the projected target for 2007 in both English and Mathematics at Level 4. There is a 4% improvement from the 2004 baseline in English and Mathematics has improved by 4.1%. There is an improving trend in the number of schools achieving floor targets although fewer schools have met or exceeded floor targets in Mathematics (23) compared to English (32).

Improvements have been recorded in Contextual Value Added (CVA) with 21 schools (44%) showing improvement in their overall CVA ranking in 2006 when compared with 2005 performance.

ACTIONS TO DATE

- Evaluation of termly action plans informs the development and implementation of new plans and direct coaching support continues to develop teacher skills in planning, delivery and assessment of learning. 93% of evaluations indicate very high levels of effective support and the impact on learning is good in project schools.
- Detailed analysis of 2006 pupil outcomes has been used to inform school teaching plans and Local Authority commissioning plans.
- School Improvement Partners (SIPs) have commissioned interventions from the Primary National Strategy Team and the Intensive Support Programme. Schools have received training to implement the new National Frameworks for Literacy and Numeracy. 14 schools are engaged in the Intensifying Support Programme, 8 schools in Ensuring Success, 7 schools in the Primary Leadership Programme and 2 schools in the Communication, Language and Literacy Development pilot (CLLD). A further 5 schools are participating in the Every Child's a Reader Project (ECAR) which provides training for a school-based Reading Recovery teacher.
- The majority of schools in the project have attended bespoke training in the use of the Reporting and Analysis for Improvement through School Self Evaluation (RAISE) online system which has been made available for all target schools in three regional locations. Further in-school consultations are planned for schools unable to attend regional training. (The Advanced Skills Teachers team has also received training and they are coaching schools in the introduction and use of RAISE online).
- Project schools have now installed Pupil Assessment Tracker (PAT), a robust and accurate electronic method of tracking individual pupil achievement, or are using alternative electronic pupil tracking systems. There has been a significant increase in the number of schools using in-year pupil tracking which enables class teachers to closely monitor individual pupil progress. 100% of schools are making use of pupil

progress grids to plot individual pupil progress by term and highlight age appropriate progress. This tracking tool is helping to raise teacher expectations of pupil outcomes.

- 65% of schools in the project engaged in *Building Learning Power (BLP)* developments in 2006 and have made improvements ranging from 2% to 18% in 2006 SATS, with an average increase of 6.1% in English and 9.8% in mathematics at Level 4. Further training has been provided for leadership teams to support the strategic development of *BLP*. A further foundation course to support teachers unable to participate in the original training is currently being delivered. This will result in 81% of target schools involved in *BLP* development.
- Professional development for teachers is enabling them to use tools and frameworks to support the development of pupils' thinking skills. This is already having an impact on pupils' learning.
- A pilot project to provide additional support for Mathematics in 10 schools impacted positively on their attainment in 2006 with an overall improvement of 8% at Level 4. This has been extended to a further 7 schools and Pupil Mathematics pilot conferences either have taken place or are planned in two areas.
- *Eat Your Maths* pilot project is underway in Year 6 in 18 target schools. This project supports the teaching of Mathematics within a practical context through budgeting, shopping, preparing and cooking meals.
- The summer term creative writing project was embraced by 92% schools in years 4 and 5. Schools found the stimulus of using visits, artists and authors inspirational and evaluations report significant positive impact on quality of children's writing and their motivation to learn. The impact on children's attainment should be realised in future testing, with schools reporting that the children had now produced their best ever writing. An exhibition of writing was held in October to share learning and model raised teacher and pupil expectations.
- 28% of schools in the project have attended training in the use of drama and film to stimulate writing. The Advanced Skills Teachers are coaching teachers who have attended this training to implement these strategies in the classroom.
- *Let's Start with Art* pilot in 6 targeted schools is using Art to inspire literacy learning and raise attainment in writing. The learning from this pilot will be cascaded to other schools.
- Principal Advisers have visited 10 schools to provide challenge to accelerate the rate of pupil progress.
- Head teachers invited to the Primary Challenge Board acknowledged the coaching support from the project's Advanced Skills Teachers as excellent and having significant impact in improving the quality of teaching in their schools, which in turn is improving pupil progress.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Action Plan

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Strengthened reporting mechanisms for School Improvement Partners (SIPs) provided more focused challenge and support.

- Use of the *Intensifying Support Programme* progress grids has improved in-year pupil tracking and focus on 'target getting'.
- Additional targeted Mathematics support impacted positively on pupil attitudes.
- School Improvement Partners have co-ordinated teams working in the project schools.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

- Projections for 2007 Year 6 cohort taken from the Pupil Level Annual Schools' Census (PLASC) January 2006 indicate a further slight decline in pupil numbers to 243 below the 2004 baseline, but the 2008 SATS cohort is projected to be 126 pupils fewer than the 2004 baseline at 2,897. These figures do not yet take account of the outward mobility of pupils in these schools during the course of the coming school year.
- Recruitment of permanent head teachers has been problematic. 60% of schools have had a change of leadership during the course of the project and from September 2006, 21% of schools were led by acting head teachers until substantive appointments are made.
- A significant turnover of teaching staff in 48% of schools affects the continuity of the project and therefore we have had to re-visit schools to provide additional training for new staff.
- Pupil and staff mobility and falling rolls continue to change the profile of schools. Some schools have had to make adjustments to teach in mixed-age classes for the first time and schools are reporting increased number of pupils admitted with no English language skills from countries in Eastern Europe.
- Implementation of the Kent Primary Strategy will affect 15% of project schools that will be amalgamated. Although the overall number of schools in the project will reduce, pupil numbers will be unaffected.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F21 - Cluster league tables – Resolved

F22 - Admission threshold to special school – Progressing with Government

FUTURE ACTIONS

In the new academic year 2007/08:

- Effective strategies for learning will be shared and disseminated through a dedicated ASK website via Clusterweb.
- School Improvement Partners will track progress of project schools towards 2007 targets on a termly basis and provide focused challenge and support.
- *A Building Learning Power (BLP)* County Conference will take place in July 2007 for QUEST schools.
- Detailed analysis of 2007 pupil outcomes will be completed at the end of July 2007.
- School Improvement Partners will commission interventions through Primary National Strategy and intensive support and training to implement the new *National Frameworks for Literacy and Numeracy*.
- Schools will receive further training and coaching in use of the new electronic Performance Assessment reports (PANDA) and data tracking system, RAISE online, to support effective use of assessment for learning.

FUTURE UPDATES

As requested.

Kent Agreement – March 2007

Outcome 3 	To improve the education of children in care
Lead Partner: KCC CFE	Accountable Manager: Joanna Wainwright

Proportion of looked after children achieving relevant standard	Baseline (2004)	Year 1 (2005)	Year 2 (2006)	Status	Target*
Key Stage 2 level 4+ English/Maths average (LPSA 3.1)	24%	26%	23%		38%
Key Stage 3 level 5+ English/Maths average (LPSA 3.2)	23%	26%	30%		31%
5 A* to G or equivalent by age 18 (LPSA 3.3)**	32%	46%	48%		42%
1 A* to G or equivalent on leaving care age 16+ (LPSA 3.4)	55%	56%	59%		65%

* Targets relate to the 3-year average (2006 to 2008). Reward will be reduced if final year (2008) figures are below 42%, 33%, 45% and 70% respectively.

** Data currently only covers up to age 16.

PROGRESS AND RISKS

- Kent's performance as measured by Key Stage 3 and 4 indicators has improved; that against the Key Stage 2 indicator has deteriorated.
- Kent's success in reducing the number of children who need to be looked after means that those children remaining in care are more likely to have complex needs (e.g. 25% have statements of SEN compared to 3% in the general child population). This makes the task of securing their stability and educational success more challenging.
- These children have been over-represented in poorer performing schools and under-represented in better performing schools. As a result of new provisions in the Education & Inspection Act 2006, good schools are now required to admit children in care, even if they are full.
- There is significant turnover in the cohort of children in care (up to a quarter entering or leaving the cohort each year); this mobility and a range of other factors affect children's educational success.
- Relevant cohorts are small. The 2006 key stage 2, 3 and 4 cohorts whose achievement was measured for this target were 57, 89 and 93 respectively. The LAA target levels take average attainment for 2006, 2007 and 2008 cohorts, in order to reduce the inevitable fluctuation in percentages arising from these small cohort sizes. At the same time, where 2006 levels were below target (indicators 3.1 and 3.4) performance in 2007 and 2008 needs to be correspondingly above target levels for the overall target to be achieved.
- Absence from school of some children in care is a concern, with the number of children missing more than 25 days of school in the year increasing from 2005 to 2006 and indications that this remains an issue in the current school year. This constitutes a risk to children's achievement.
- Taking these issues into account, the overall assessment at this stage is that the outcome 3 Kent Agreement targets present a considerable challenge for the authority, with the greatest improvement needed in respect of key stage 2.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES:

- A multi-agency action plan is being implemented to promote placement stability, reduce time out of school, help children catch up and fulfil their potential, ensure carers and other professionals are equipped to support children's learning and promote children's health and wellbeing.
- Clusters are implementing local action plans to promote better outcomes for children in care; these are supported through allocations of funding from Kent's Children's Services Grant.
- 200 computers provided to children in care.
- Model school policy and Governor training on supporting children in care.
- Guidance to help School Improvement Partners challenge and support schools to improve outcomes for children in care.
- Enhancing the role of foster carers in promoting children's learning through a new competency framework, supervision and annual review processes, new forms of fostering provision, basic computer awareness

training, training on creating a learning environment and on Personal Education Plans and a new stock of books for caring.

- Kent Foster Carers Association awareness raising campaign and best practice guidance for carers.
- Help for children's literacy and encouraging them and their carers to join their local library.
- Multi-agency training, including a major conference on the education of children in care on 23 March.
- Promoting take-up of early education places for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Specialist assessment and education provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.
- CAMHS Strategy focus on improving access to and effectiveness of mental health services for children in care and other vulnerable young people.
- Out of school hours learning for children and adult learning opportunities for foster carers.
- New Impulse database module, to improve monitoring by linking data for children in care directly with SEN, attendance and other pupil data.
- Regular audits, guidance and training for social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers to improve education planning for children.

FURTHER ACTIONS

- Identification of and intervention for children at risk of absence from school.
- A self-evaluation tool to help schools improve their support for children in care.
- Introduction of a mentoring service to enhance the aspirations and achievement of children in care at key stages 2, 3 and 4.
- Review of services and support for children in care in Kent, being undertaken in the context of the Children's Trust.
- Consideration of a 'Kent pledge' for children in care, setting out what help and support children can expect.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F20 - Collaborative working between school clusters – Kent strengthening case

F21 - Cluster league tables – resolved

F22 - Admission threshold to special school – Progressing with Government

F23 - Business rates on schools' work-based learning initiative - Resolved

FUTURE UPDATES

Regular reports are provided to CFE SMT (and to Children's Champion Board and Policy Overview Committee as required).

Kent Agreement – March 07

Outcome 4 	To identify children and young people (aged 0-15) with emotional and/or psychological difficulties at the earliest possible stage and respond with the most effective support in order to improve the emotional well-being of the child
Lead Partner: PCTs	Accountable Manager: Andrew Heather

	Baseline (May-Oct 05)	Trial run Jan 07 – Aug 07	Status	Target (Sept 07 - Feb 08)
The standardised average change in the added value parental measure of the SDQ score for children aged 5-15 accessing Tier 2&3 CAMHS services at 4-8 month follow up (LPSA 4)	0	14 May 842 SDQs (P1) received.		0.15

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

This proposed LPSA2 target was agreed in December 2005. KCC and Kent Health partner organisations developed the target, which is based upon advice commissioned from a recognised and respected Research Organisation.

It was agreed by all involved that it is a groundbreaking target. A baseline was agreed which avoided the need for some initial activity in terms of formally constituting systems for Strengths & Differences Questionnaire (SDQ) completion, collection and interrogation at an early stage. The target period is agreed as Sept 07-June 08.

Up until the end of 2005 progress was directed by a Multi-Agency Project Group which included representatives from KCC Social Services and Educational Psychology Service, Kent Primary Care Trusts, the Kent NHS Mental Health Trust and the Regional Mental Health Organisation.

This has now developed into a delivery group and reports to the County CAMHS Strategy Group. An extremely successful launch event took place in June 06 with a very well received keynote address from Robert Goodman, the creator of the SDQ, as well as helpful contributions from the CAMHS Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC). This was attended by commissioners, clinicians and practitioners and helped to further identify the necessary steps that need to be taken in meeting the target. Local District workshops were delivered throughout Sept/Oct 2006 with the purpose of clarifying the services to be included in the target as well as identifying key players at a local level who will have responsibility for ensuring consistency and compliance. Systems are now in place to allow for SDQs to be completed and analysed across a range of services and are operational.

A Project Manager has been identified and a research assistant has been in post since October 2006. This person is key to the development of robust countywide data collection and monitoring systems.

Update 14th May 2007:

Significant progress has been made. 33 services across the county have been identified and are now participating in the project. The research assistant has helped facilitate the district workshops held in the Autumn 2006 and a project handbook has been developed for all participating services. Bespoke training and advice continues to be offered to all participating services on a needs basis. The multiagency project delivery group continues to meet on a monthly basis to oversee and steer the project.

Since January 2007 services have started to complete the initial SDQ forms and as of the 14th May 842 had been received. Follow up SDQs have started to be received as from April 2007. As these accumulate initial analysis can commence with regard to the response rate and the effect size improvement.

A follow up county conference is planned for June 2007 at which there will be an opportunity to share findings to date, ensure continued engagement by all relevant services and plan for the successful delivery of the target period commencing September 2007.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

The results of the SDQ trial will be invaluable in helping us assess the impact of our services. At the same time we are focusing on improving services themselves. Increasing and enhancing early intervention and improving access to services for young offenders assessed as manifesting acute MH difficulties have been priorities and are key actions in the Kent Children and Young People's Plan. The following is a summary of progress to date:

A multi agency Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) commissioning group has been established. A cross-County Child and Adolescent Mental Health strategy ("A Commissioning Strategy for working together to improve the emotional well being and mental health of children and young people in Kent") was published for consultation in January 2007. The overall aim of the strategy is to shape the joint commissioning and delivery of a range of services and to provide comprehensive services for children and adolescents with mental health problems

The development of the strategy involved a provisional needs assessment, that identified Kent's most vulnerable children and scoped service provision at tiers 1 to 4 (with a particular focus on tiers 2 and 3). Recommendations have been made for the future commissioning of support and services to ensure that the overall aim of the strategy is achieved.

A detailed implementation plan will be produced taking account of stakeholder feedback.

CAMHS Local Implementation Groups (LIGS) are in place to promote integrated working, identification of local needs, service provision and gaps. The LIGS have also overseen local service development and the co-ordination of provision to ensure improved access at the appropriate tier.

CAMHS LIGS have commissioned Solihull training (a training programme for front line workers enabling them to recognised emotional and mental health needs, promote the emotional well being of children and provide early intervention). This has now been extended and rolled out in partnership with Educational Psychology and CAMHS services. Approximately 47 Solihull approach training sessions have been held across Kent with 564 people trained. There is an expansion of Tier 1 provision which includes Childrens' Centres and Sure Start and health visiting. These offer an opportunity to improve children's emotional well being.

Tier 2 provision is developed in most localities and includes primary mental health workers, counsellors, Educational Psychology, BIP, Educational Welfare Officers, Specialist Teaching Services and Behaviour and Attendance teams.

Voluntary sector provision at Tier 2 includes Time to Talk, FWA, and NCH.

Tier 3 specialist CAMHS services are now implementing demand and capacity planning programmes which is resulting in a reduction in waiting time in all areas.

Healthy Minds conferences have been held in Dover, Thanet and Canterbury promoting mental health needs and provision. The audiences from front line services have been in excess of 300 professionals.

Developing protocols with local CAMHS services for current services to YOS.

The recent appointment of a Mental Health Manager For Youth Justice is designed to improve joint strategic planning and service delivery for Y.O.S service users.

Critical joint training has taken place that has improved relationships and lines of communication between YOS and CAMHS managers. A further course is planned in June 2007.

These activities are already having an impact: In 2007/8 83.3% of young people manifesting acute mental health issues received a consultation within 5 days. Oct-Dec 06 figures show that in East Kent all young people with acute difficulties received a consultation within 24 hours. This is a real improvement over previous figures.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Copy of agreed target available.

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

The major learning point so far is that there is no national example of a LPSA target that meets Kent requirements. The overall outcome sought is to provide better outcomes for young people experiencing mental health issues.

The method for achieving this is to ensure that appropriate services are in place to provide effective early intervention. This is not, in itself, appropriate as a LPSA target. Hence the finally agreed target.

The conference was also extremely helpful in assisting practitioners to further develop their thinking with regards to the need for reliable and robust outcome measures in respect of the various interventions that are used within CAMHS.

Kent's progress with this project has been recognised by the national CAMHS Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC) as extremely significant and it is anticipated that a presentation will be made at their April 2007 conference.

At this stage it would appear that in comparison to other services across the country who have been attempting for some time to implement outcomes measure of this nature, Kent's progress to date is encouraging. Contributory

elements to this are felt to include the dedicated multi agency delivery group, which has strategic and managerial influence and the appointment of a skilled research assistant.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

The delay over reaching the final indicator details ate into the length of time available to develop new activities that will help the target to be reached. The Launch conference stimulated considerable interest and the key challenge will be to harness and maintain the enthusiasm generated so as to ensure successful implementation at a local level. Despite the high degree of organisational change within the Health economy, health providers are now fully engaged and are using the SDQ.

The current collation and evaluation of SDQs is manageable at this stage of the project. However as the through put and the consequent work increases more resources will need to be identified. This may require parallel funding for an additional research assistant in the summer of 2007.

Now that the programme has been fully launched we have entered a trial period, which allows an opportunity for learning, and accordingly a risk register has now been established. This will include the identification of risk and risk management controls.

It has also been recognised that for some of the voluntary service providers who are part of the project that there is no guaranteed funding/SLA arrangements post March 2008. This potentially may constrain the successful completion and return of the follow up SDQs. Next steps will be to identify the services potentially effected, the volume of activity and likely impact on the overall target.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F21 - Cluster league tables – Resolved

F22 - Admission threshold to special school - Progressing with Government

FUTURE ACTIONS

This will be agreed by the County Wide CAMHS Strategy Group.

FUTURE UPDATES

Regular reports are made to the CAMHS Strategy Group by the Delivery Group.

Kent Agreement – March 07

Outcome 5 	To increase attendance in primary schools
Lead Partner: KCC CFE	Accountable Manager: Joanna Wainwright

	Baseline 2003	Year 1 2005	Year 2 2006	Year 3 2007 Terms 1 & 2	Status	Target 2008
%age of primary schools half days for which children were absent (LPSA 5)	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%	4.67%		4.69%

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Progress was not made in 2005-06 despite the full implementation of the action plan. A revised action plan has been implemented (see below) and has led to an improvement in attendance. Absence figures for terms 1 and 2 in 2006-07 were **4.67%**

1. Request internal audit to investigate the premise that termly returns are inaccurate by inspection of the data returns in a sample of schools and to identify the nature of any inaccuracies found.

The audit was not necessary as termly and annual data is now returned at pupil level, meaning that previous inaccuracies in data analysis have been eliminated.

2. Encourage/ require all primary schools to record attendance electronically. This would enable the central collation of accurate, pupil level, monthly attendance data. This would also enable analysis of the reasons for absence.

Over 400 primary schools are now recording absence electronically and all schools will be doing so by the end of the year. The LA has bought BtoB, a programme that enables the authority to download weekly pupil level attendance data from school systems. The programme has been installed in 14 schools as a pilot and is proving very successful. It will be rolled out to all schools during the academic year and will enable much closer monitoring of progress and swifter response to difficulties.

3. Make analysis of attendance part of the School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit in the Autumn term.

All schools have revised their targets as a result of the SIP visits.

4. Encourage/direct Clusters to develop protocols for unauthorised absence (including for term time holidays) so that individual head teachers feel less vulnerable when challenging parents.

New guidance has been issued to schools and Clusters, and all Clusters are expected to have developed protocols by the end of the academic year. This will be monitored.

5. Encourage/direct Clusters to shift resources from secondary to primary schools
6. Shift centrally retained resources to supporting primary schools. 6 Alternative Curriculum Education Welfare Officers (EWOs), who also cover special schools, 3 Traveller EWOs and 3 retained EWOs could be brought together to form a primary support team to support schools and Cluster EWOs. This proposal builds on the improvement of attendance achieved when the Primary EWO team was centrally managed.

This additional devolution has taken place and has enabled Clusters to increase their capacity to support primary schools without having an adverse effect on secondary schools.

7. Launch a campaign to:
 - Raise the awareness of schools and Clusters of the importance of this target in improving outcomes for children

- Shift the use of EWOs from mainly supporting and challenging individual children and families to supporting and challenging schools in managing attendance. Supporting schools in developing robust systems for managing attendance has far more impact on overall attendance than visiting individual families.
- Increase the use of Penalty Notices as a preventative measure.

Kent has been heavily involved in the DfES 'Every lesson Counts' campaign and we have continued to feed stories about attendance to the local newspapers, radio and television stations. The use of Attendance Ted has led to many positive stories about the importance of attendance in local schools.

It is recognised that improved attendance will lead to improved performance for looked after children.

Nearly half of all schools are now using Penalty Notices and we expect to issue over 1000 Penalty Notice warning letters in 2006-07.

The Regional Attendance Adviser visited Kent recently and rated the authority as Green overall (using the RAG rating – Red Amber Green).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Termly report to Members.

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Examples of good practice are publicised through normal mechanisms, including Cluster Meetings.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

New attendance regulations remove the negative impact on attendance where schools remain open during inclement weather. They also enable schools to partially close because of emergencies without having an impact on attendance.

New attendance codes, introduced in September 2006 have led to an increase in recorded absence in pilot areas because of clearer guidance on when children can be marked present. The impact has been greater in secondary schools than primary schools.

This target relates to all absence for whatever reason and thus is susceptible to external factors such as influenza epidemics.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F20 - Collaborative working between school clusters – Kent strengthening case.

F21 - Cluster league tables – Resolved.

F22 - Admission threshold to special school – Progressing with Government.

Kent sought, unsuccessfully, the freedom to eliminate from calculation schools that remained open during inclement weather. Attendance regulations to lessen the effect of this factor have been implemented.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Further devolution of EWOs to Clusters will take place in September 2007.
- Clusters are spreading best practice through Cluster attendance training days
- From September 2007 progress against the target will be monitored monthly and Education Welfare support rapidly switched to vulnerable schools.

FUTURE UPDATES

Detailed analysis of attendance rates will be available on a termly basis through reports to Cabinet members.

Kent Agreement – March 2007

Outcome 6 	To increase the number of young people who have the skills and vocational qualifications for work
Lead Partner: KCC CFE	Accountable Manager: Marilyn Hodges

Vocational qualifications achieved in year by pupils aged 14-18	Baseline (2003)	Year 1 (2005)	Year 2 (2006)	Status	Target (2008)
Part or full level 1 (LPSA 6.1) *	3067	5001	5395		6519
Part of full level 2 (LPSA 6.2)	4569	10330	12.746		8364
Level 3 qualifications (up to age 19) (LPSA 6.3)	7547	7802	8520		9646
	Nov 2004				
%age of young people aged 16-18 not in educational, employment or training (LPSA 6.4)	5.94%	5.6%	5.51%		4.94%
%age of young people aged 16-18 status unknown (reduces reward if not met)	5.95%	5.99%	5.2%		3.5%

* Excess achievement over target for level 2 can be counted towards level 1 target

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

An Action Group has been in place since 2004 consisting of key partners at KCC, Connexions and the LSC. This group meets quarterly to monitor progress and to ensure the targets are on course to be achieved. Sub-groups are established when it becomes clear that particular issues need further attention. A detailed "Strategy & Action Plan" has been drawn up and members of the group have drawn up a risk management strategy to predict and address any potential difficulties.

Indicators 1 and 2: Number of 14-18 year olds achieving vocationally related qualifications at levels 1 and 2

Overall:

- The numbers achieving vocational qualifications at levels 1 and 2 rose in 2005, with a significant increase at level 2. A number of actions are in place to ensure continued improvement including those that are detailed in the Strategy & Action Plan. Initial indications are that these targets are on course for achievement.
- The 2004/05 Level 1 results achieved 5001, which significantly exceeded the milestone target of 4144. The 2005/06 result of 5242 has comfortably exceeded the milestone target of 5164.
- Overall, 2004/05 Level 2 results achieved 10,330, which exceeded the milestone target by over **4000** learners. The 2005/06 results of 11,320 have far exceeded the milestone target of 7320.

14-16 Mainstream School Provision:

- The minor dip in Level 1 attainment is attributed to the excellent Level 2 results, which have significantly exceeded the 05/06 target. This has benefited from a combined focused support project provided by the Learning & Skills Development Agency (now the Learning & Skills Network) and Advisory Service Kent (ASK) directed at a small group of schools that had been identified by the government as having produced poor vocational exam results in 2005.
- Colleges are providing vocational courses for students outside the programme. These totals will be included in the mainstream totals, but will add capacity to the available vocational courses at level 1 and 2.
- Vocational subject networks have been jointly established using LSN funding by ASK and the Vocational Development team across the county in several vocational areas to share best practice and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- Three more schools have been designated with Vocational Specialist Schools Status, which brings Kent's total up to six. The vocational specialist schools are providing CPD programmes in conjunction with ASK.

Vocational Centre Provision:

There are now have four large centres established: Thamesview; Community College Whitstable; North Farm (at West Kent College) and the recently completed Thanet Skills Studio, which celebrated its official launch in February 07. All school vocational centre capital projects are completed. 44 secondary schools are now participating in developing vocational programmes and verification of learner numbers has been completed: 2200 learners

embarked upon the vocational programme in September 06. In support of the vocational programme, KCC and Connexions have agreed outline proposals to develop a range of Information, Advice & Guidance materials to aid learners in making option choices at age 14.

The ASK 14-19 conference distributed "Search Me", a new resource developed by GOSE 14-19 advisers. Connexions disseminated a new award-winning model for Personal Adviser support in vocational centres. Progress with aligning timetables varies widely between collaborations. It is well established in most Increased Flexibility partnerships, but not as consistent in all other vocational collaborations. Some schools have agreed on almost total alignment, others are discussing common option blocks.

The Vocational Development team has started work with MIS to identify and extract vocational centre pupils' performance from the 05/06 cohort, which will also include attendance and comparing vocational performance to attainment in other subjects. Tracking methods are also being developed in readiness to identify performance and progression for the upcoming 06/07 cohort.

'Increased Flexibility' Provision:

	Level 1		Level 2	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
04/05	211	384	53	188
05/06 (prov)	229	363	77	181

- Funding for Increased Flexibility (IF) cohort 5 for completion in summer 2008 has been confirmed. Constraints on the balance required between level 2 and other qualifications have been relaxed by the LSC. Partnerships are also now allowed to include qualifications other than applied GCSEs at level 2.
- In the South East region a new process for IFP data collection has been implemented. All staff have been trained. The system should allow more robust reporting and offer a benchmark across the South East.
- All partnerships have agreed to the IFP protocol and are in the process of embedding it with contextual adjustments relevant to each partnership.
- Steering groups have agreed to link the work experience with the qualification being studied by the IFP learners. Schemes of work are now being actively shared between partners and greater joint responsibility is being taken for quality.
- Cohort 5 pupils starting in September 2006 will be covered throughout the two years of their programme from the allocated IF budget, after which the IFP funding will not be available. The cohort starting in Sept 2007 will not be covered by specific IFP funding, but those funds (and more) have been forwarded by Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to local authorities for their schools to deliver vocational programmes to their KS4 pupils. This funding will not be ring-fenced and a key issue will be encouraging and supporting schools to continue supporting IF-type activities.

LSC funded provision in Further Education (FE) and Work Based Learning (WBL):

- **Level 1** FE and WBL provision has exceeded the milestone targets set for 2004/05 and 05/06. This is partly due to the increased take-up of FE by 16-18 year olds and also due to improved retention and achievement rates.
- **Level 2** achievements from FE and Work Based Learning for 2004/05 exceeded the milestone target. Final results for 2005/06 are expected beginning of April 07.
- The Apprenticeship Framework completion rate has increased significantly during 2005/06 to 54% from 34% the previous year. This completion rate is higher than the SE Regional and the national average. The Framework is the whole apprenticeship scheme, whereby a young person completes all three components of the NVQ qualification, key skills and technical certificate.
- Within Work Based Learning, the Apprenticeship completion rate rose to 56% in 2005/06 from 34% in the previous year. A total of 922 16-18 year olds achieved Apprenticeship frameworks at Level 2, with 111 16-18 year olds achieving Advanced Apprenticeship frameworks.
- A total of 1,333 16-18 year olds started on the Entry to Employment programme in 2005/06 and 766 (57%) entered a positive destination, which was the highest level in the SE and one of the highest in the country. This is an increase from 44% in 2004/05.
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in Kent take-up continues to be high, just exceeding the DfES target. In December 2006 there were 7,400 16 year olds and 5,500 17 year olds in receipt of EMA.

Indicator 3: Number of 16-19 year olds achieving Level 3 qualifications

- Overall, 2004/05 Level 3 results achieved 7802, which exceeded the milestone target of 7685 learners achieving full Level 3 qualifications. Final 2005/06 results are expected beginning of April 07.

- **School Sixth Form:** 2005/06 Level 3 results achieved results of 6115, which comfortably exceeded its milestone target of 5829. Information on the Learning & Skills Development Agency's 'Success for All' college-targeted support programme was made available to schools and resulted in the training of several lead professionals and the brokering of school based Advanced Skills Teacher support.
- **FE & Work Based Learning:** Level 3 attainment exceeded its 2004/05 milestone targets.
- **Within Work Based Learning:** 111 16-18 year olds achieved Advanced Apprenticeship frameworks at Level 3 during 2005/06.
- The LSC are seeking to increase the capacity of Level 3 provision in FE and WBL in conjunction with KCC, to ensure there are adequate progression routes for leavers with Level 2 from the vocational provision in the county.
- The Learning and Skills Council has agreed provider plans for 2006/07 which incorporate an increase in Level 3 provision in order to achieve target success rates. With the sharp increase in learners achieving level 2, as noted above, we have an excellent platform from which to achieve the ambitious stretch target for level 3 learners.

Indicator 4: Reduce Number of 16-18 year old NEETs

- The NEETs result for 30th November 2005 was 5.60%, which exceeded the target of 5.80%
- The NEETs result for 30th November 2006 is 5.69%, which has exceeded the target of 5.75%.
- Activity Agreement pilots have been implemented in Kent, and have already resulted in successful progressions for young people into EET. Activity Agreements have been set up by Connexions for 16 and 17 year olds who have been unemployed for at least 20 weeks and are not receiving any benefits. The scheme involves signing up the young person for an activity programme of up to 20 weeks designed to prepare for employment or training. Activities can include key skills training, job tasters, and job seeking techniques, and the young person receives £20 a week for participating.
- The joint data group (comprising KCC, LSC and Connexions data managers) has compiled a data pack which contains specific local performance data by each Local Planning Forum area on post-16 participation, GCSE A*-C performance, participation in vocational qualifications and NEETs figures. This pack will be distributed to each LPF to inform provision planning and delivery.
- The Outcome 6 action group has also commissioned Connexions to provide in-depth NEET data analysis by Local Planning Forum areas, to be made available and put onto the agenda of all upcoming LPF meetings for discussion and further action.
- Two pieces of research into NEETs issues have been undertaken:
- KCC, Medway Council and the Learning and Skills Council have jointly funded a piece of research by NFER into the NEET Plus group in Medway and Swale with the aim of reaching greater understanding of why there is a higher than average NEET population in those districts. The final report identifies insufficient advice and guidance, low student and parent aspiration and lack of suitable local provision as the key causes of lower than average post 16 participation in education in Swale.
- KCC has produced an in-depth research report 'Aspirations, Achievements and Opportunities' which investigated reasons behind high NEET figures in the wards of Cliftonville in Margate and Parkwood in Maidstone. The report contains 26 key recommendations, implementation of which will be coordinated by the CFE Policy Unit. In addition to issues highlighted such as lack of careers advice or vocational learning opportunities, the report identified bullying as the main reason for disengagement, cited by the young people interviewed. KCC has recently developed an Anti-Bullying Strategy in partnership with Connexions and Kent Police, which is due to be signed off Summer 2007. An Anti-Bullying Coordinator has been appointed to lead the Strategy's implementation and support schools, and will commence post in July 2007. This strategy was informed by the November 06 bullying survey for pupils, which received over 6000 responses. These survey results have been fed back to schools and clusters to inform practice, and will provide baseline data to assess the Strategy's impact.

Monitoring & reviewing performance:

Intense-tracking activity has been undertaken to enable the NEET target to be achieved. Key performance indicators are tracked and monitored monthly by Local Area Managers. Destination survey work for young people's entry to employment for 16+, 17+ and 18+ was undertaken from September 2005 to January 2006.

Collaborative working:

- Data sharing between working group and services partners is available on NEETs, unknowns and destination survey data.
- Connexions and the LSC are working jointly on the following initiatives:
 - Website collaboration to provide information on job opportunities for young people: Connexions fed local employment opportunities into the LSC's Kent & Medway jobs database for young people, 'Jobs4U'. Since the LSC re-structure has regionalised all local marketing activity, Connexions are now developing an online

jobs database for the Connexions Kent & Medway website with hyperlink connections to any local database that the LSC may continue to offer.

- E2E and WBL programmes: Connexions informs the LSC of any potential gaps identified in provision when trying to find education or training opportunities for young people. The LSC uses this feedback to inform commissioning of new provision, for example, developing pre-E2E courses after Connexions identified that many young people were struggling to meet the E2E entry criteria.
- **September Guarantee Initiative** (an on-line Post 16 information and application system) is being piloted in Thanet, Gravesend and Medway Valley, with a view to rolling it out county-wide from September 2007. KCC, Connexions and the LSC, who have all made funding available for the scheme, are jointly developing this. The pilot, which has secured funding from the KCC pump-priming fund, has made substantial progress and will be evaluated in Spring 2007.
- **Fast Tomato:** The Outcome 6 action group has secured pump priming funding from KCC for Connexions and Kent Library and Archive Service to install and support the *Fast Tomato* web based career advice and guidance service in all Kent libraries. This will provide an additional aid to young people seeking post 16 education and training. The *Fast Tomato* software has now been implemented in all 106 Libraries, and staff training was launched in July 2006. Libraries are promoting the service via IT taster sessions and talks to teachers, schools and youth workers. A further promotion campaign will take place in Spring 07. This will include radio advertising, taster sessions in both public and school libraries and a prize draw to encourage uptake in user registrations.
- **Local Planning Forums:** These have now been established in all areas and regular meetings are held to plan provision for the following year. The main objectives are to identify gaps in the curriculum, establish joint planning and promote collaboration between providers. It has been agreed that LPF performance will be measured against the amalgamated provider targets for each of the LPSA2 target areas. The recent round of LPF meetings was focused preparing for the introduction of the first five vocational Specialised Diplomas, which included submitting collaborative bids to pilot the Diplomas via the 'Gateway' process.

Preventative work: School delivery plans being implemented.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

In addition to the Strategy & Action Plan, all targets are incorporated into the Kent 14-19 Action Plan and all relevant targets are incorporated into College and Work Based Learning provider plans.

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- Canterbury Christchurch University College have agreed to offer wider CPD and qualification routes for vocational teachers, including conversion of teachers of other subjects and routes for post compulsory qualified and unqualified trainers working in schools. QA mechanisms for vocational centres are being developed to ensure high standards of T&L and effective collaborative arrangements. The pilot for this initiative began in September 06 at Whitstable Community College, in which 9 members of staff are working towards achieving QTS status.
- Carillion is piloting a post-16 pre-apprenticeship programme for Construction at the Westlands School in Sittingbourne. 12 Learners are participating in this pilot for 2006/07.
- The Outcome 6 action group has secured pump priming funding to contribute towards the creation of a pilot 'Vocational Research and Innovation Pathways Programme' at Thanet Skills Studio. This aims to provide a coordinated resource bank of information and contacts tailored to the following vocational areas: Engineering, Construction, Retail and Hospitality & Catering to allow students to find out about potential progression pathways within these subjects. This resource will also be available to enhance vocational staff workforce development. The pilot project began in April 2007, and will hopefully be rolled out to other vocational centres, schools and colleges.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

- The group is closely monitoring possible changes to the way qualifications are classified at a national level.
- It is feared that the change in financial support for E2E students from Training Allowance to EMA may have a detrimental effect on the ability to achieve the NEET target as well as possible the level 1 and 2 targets. This has been raised with GOSE and a risk management strategy is being finalised.
- Guidance published in December 2005 proposed changes affecting the definitions of NEET and EET young people. Although it is acknowledged that LPSA indicators will not change, this could still have an effect upon achievement of the target. A further risk is that young people who are NEET may be prevented from taking up

volunteering opportunities because recent changes in the rules may mean that by doing so they retain their NEET status. This situation is being investigated and may be challenged.

- There are cases of young people living in one authority attending courses in another and this is an issue to be monitored.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F20 - Collaborative working between school clusters – Kent strengthening case

F22 - Admission threshold to special school – Progressing with Government

F23 - Business rates on schools' work-based learning initiative – Resolved

F50 - Funds for construction training – Progressing with Government

The group is requesting a freedom that will enable the pooling of the various funding streams by which LSC funds construction training to create new; more site related ways of creating skilled construction workers.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A detailed "Strategy & Action Plan" document showing actions, responsibilities, dates and progress has been published and is available on request. This was drawn up by partners delivering the target and has been circulated to members of the action group and widely elsewhere.

FUTURE UPDATES

The Steering Group will continue to meet quarterly and minutes will be published shortly after each meeting.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 7 	To improve participation and engagement by all the children and young people in youth, cultural and community activities
Lead Partner: District Councils (Kent Community Development Managers)	Co-ordinating Manager: Ian Park (Maidstone Borough Council on behalf of CDMG)

	Baseline (Apr 05)	Year 1 (May 06)	Year 2 (March 07)	Status	Target (2008)
Agreements between Districts and KCC fulfilling responsibilities under "Every Child Matters"	0	12	12		12

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Districts are working to produce individual District Youth Plans (Youth Participation Agreements) in conjunction with KCC, which address the agreed targets of Outcome 7 using the Every Child Matters framework. Plans have been approved in 8 Districts. 4 Districts have draft plans awaiting approval. The Youth Plans join up for the first time the plans of KCC and the local Districts in a shared youth framework. Many DCs are now using the Youth Strategies to direct funding and develop youth activities (see Outcome 7 Case Studies attached).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Case studies with examples from each DC on activities arising from Youth Strategies

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- Arrangements for The Youth Opportunities Fund in Kent were decided through the collaboration and participation of Districts through the Kent Community Development Managers' Group (KCDMG) and joint local youth forums. One criterion for allocation of local funding has been relevance to the local joint youth strategies coming out of the Kent Agreement Outcome 7. A number of Districts have received YOF which has assisted in the implementation of actions identified in their Youth Strategies (see Case Studies attached)
- Services to Young People have been identified by the Kent District Council Chief Executives and KCC Chief Executive as an area for joint work to assess whether there are more effective ways of delivering them. A project brief was agreed and a company has been appointed to carry out the initial research; the work is to be organised through the KCDMG and linked to that of Outcome 7 of the Kent Agreement. The outcome will be to show that a young person in Kent is able to access services in a way that they would expect in a single tier authority or show why this is impossible.
- Following a competitive tendering process in July 2006 CSC Regeneration and Research Consultants were appointed to support the KCDMG Group. Funding was made available from the Kent Agreement Pump Priming Grant. CSC is collating the major actions to be found in the Youth Strategies in order for Districts to be able to share good practice. Further funding has been identified from CSC to continue to support the KCDMG Group
- Through the KCDMG, IDeA and the District Councils jointly organised a seminar on "Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People: The Role of District Councils under The Children Act". The Head of KCC's Children, Families and Education Directorate and Chair of Kent Children's Trust was the keynote speaker. The seminar was held in January and over 80 officers and members from DCs and officers from KCC attended.
- The KCDMG continues to be involved in consultations regarding the Children and Young People's Plan for Kent. Input from Districts has been sought and given over the key high level measures framework of the plan.
- Play strategies are being developed with the support of the KCDMG and many have been submitted for Lottery funding in November 2006 or March 2007. To date one has been successful and the successful bid document has been circulated amongst districts to assist in the preparation of their own bids
- The KCDMG Group has been discussing the development of a Safeguarding Children Policy document. It was agreed that a common draft document be prepared, approved by KCC and then customised by each DC.

- Many matters of relevance to youth matters are brought to the meeting for information and/or discussion. The KCDM Group is an ideal forum for matters to be shared and addressed.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

- There is a risk that activity currently being planned to link with Every Child Matters and the Youth Green Paper may be put in place and a lack of focus could result. The new project (see above) should mitigate this risk.
- The linkage to Every Child Matters should not adversely affect the focus on stronger communities.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F22 - Admission threshold to special school – Progressing with Government

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Monthly meetings take place at venues around Kent. Meeting dates are set until March 2008. It has been agreed that the Group will continue to function as a co-ordinating group for the Kent Agreement for 2007-2008, and develop its role as the County co-ordinating group for the new Kent District youth plans.
- Monitoring, reviewing and evaluation issues arising from the plans are being looked at through the co-ordinating work of the Consultant (CSC).

FUTURE UPDATES

Minutes of the Community Development Managers meeting are made available within 7 days of the meeting. They are circulated via e-mail to Districts and the County and posted on Kent Partnership's website.

EXAMPLES OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTCOME 7

DISTRICT	ACTIVITY
Ashford	<p>In response to young people's concerns in the Ashford's What Matters Youth Strategy, the Council has piloted youth forums in three parishes. The Forum's have already achieved a great deal and exceeded expectations including:</p> <p>Little Burton Farm developed a community football pitch, securing funding and delivering football coaching for local young people (still on going). It also secured funds for fishing equipment and to set up a club. High Halden developed a community football pitch. Hothfield overcame cultural barriers and Brabourne & Smeeth worked with the Playing Fields Association to fund recreational facilities.</p>
Canterbury	<p>A number of innovative ways to reach and engage young people have been established such as:</p> <p>Say What- our young consultants' scheme. This provides an opportunity for young people to have a say and express their views on decisions the council makes. Young people who show an interest in this are put on our database and invited to take part in consultation sessions</p> <p>Children's Voice- our participation project for children aged 5-11 years, working with local schools. It gives them a chance to have their say on issues that affect them and their communities.</p> <p>www.notbored.net -a web site designed by and for young people, promoting activities and providing information. The web site also allows for interactive consultation.</p> <p>Hot Topix Youth Conference- this is an annual youth conference organised by a group of young volunteers supported by the Children and Youth team. These volunteers decide on food, music, and workshops that young people would like to attend</p> <p>Action Groups- over the last year we have worked with young people on a 'Positive Image' project to improve perceptions of young people held by adults in the community. We have also improved our web site by creating pages for young people. Previously, the action groups have been instrumental in improving local facilities such as Spring Lane and Querns play areas.</p>
Dartford	<p>The Dartford and Gravesham Youth Strategy represents the successful collaboration of both Dartford and Gravesham Borough Councils with a range of statutory and voluntary sector organizations to identify priority issues for young people in the area. As well as innovative partnership working, which enabled partners to have direct input into the content of the strategy, young people were invited to comment on the draft priorities and a number of discussion sessions were held. The Strategy contains priorities for improving young people's engagement and participation in a variety of activities.</p>
Dover	<p>Dover District Youth Forum has 30+ young people supported by a multi agency staff support team. The main areas that they are looking at are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Sport - on the planning group of Passport to Sport. They are also looking at the information that is being delivered to young people regarding smoking and alcohol. - Extreme Sports - working with the steering group that is applying for funding to improve Deal Skate Park, and also the bid for development for Pencester Gardens - Facilities and Services - in the process of mapping what facilities are available for young people - Information - work has begun on designing a website. After consultation with the forum on what information should be included within the site, it was agreed that the site contain information not only for young people but also for any professional that works for and with young people.
Gravesham	<p>The Grand (healthy living centre) set up the "Don't Sit – Get Fit" project to tackle obesity amongst children and young people. This includes a whole-family approach which involves healthy eating, health promotion leisure and sports provision. This is soon to be the launch pad for the new borough-wide health and fitness strategy, "Active Gravesham".</p>
Maidstone	<p>The Youth Forum in Maidstone is going from strength to strength at the moment having raised £15k in the last three months towards a youth café in the town centre with a pilot due to start in the summer. They are also successfully recruiting from a much wider range of schools including secondary moderns within Maidstone and will shortly be releasing a DVD of their work to recruit new members and gain support.</p>
Sevenoaks	<p>The Swanley 8-12s Project works with children in two of the most deprived wards in the County. The Project was independently evaluated in October 2006. The evaluation stated that the project has gained considerable respect and the model developed is now being extended to other areas in recognition of the importance of preventative work with this age group. The project has successfully delivered against all 5 of the Every Child Matters outcomes.</p>

Shepway	<p>October 2006 saw the establishment of the Shepway Play Partnership which sought to engage children and young people in the development of the Shepway Play Strategy and therefore allow them to influence the future pattern of play provision within the District. Over 1000 responses were received from children and young people setting out their concerns and hopes for the development of play and leisure initiatives within Shepway. The consultation draft of the Strategy was published in April 2007 and is now out to consultation, thus giving the young people of Shepway a further chance to have their say.</p> <p>This period also saw a massive step forward in the development of the Folkestone Youth Project with the donation by the Folkestone Harbour Company Ltd. of a former warehouse building. The Folkestone Youth Project Steering Group are now working with a range of young people, including members of the Shepway Youth Forum, to finalise the details of the project that will include an indoor leisure area and an outdoor skate park. The project, that was granted planning permission in March 2007, is expected to open in the summer, with the process of engaging youth in the development and running of the project seen as being just as important as the facility itself.</p> <p>Winter 2006 also saw the appointment of a youth development worker and two part time out-reach workers by the Hawkinge Partnership. These appointments will help to deliver one of the key objectives of the Hawkinge Partnership - better services for young people and children - by engaging young people in the design and delivery of those services.</p>
Swale	<p>Examples of empowering young people:</p> <p>Local Youth Strategy groups of young people developed in Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Faversham</p> <p>Sheppey group has secured Youth opportunity funding to develop a cookery project with a local group called LAMP (Local Activities for Mature People) to address more inter-generational project work identified in the action plan of the youth strategy</p> <p>Sittingbourne group have secured Youth Opportunity funding to film and produce a sexual health video</p> <p>The youth testing service has been launched and young people are registering to be the recipients of text promoting local activities</p>
Thanet	<p>Easter Blast: Three days of free activities (including, sport, dance and art) for young people held during the Easter holidays in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate; attendance overall approximately 1500. TDC also used the events to carry out consultation to support the development of the Youth Strategy.</p>
Tonbridge & Malling	<p>A special meeting of the Borough's Public Transport Panel was held to review youth transport issues. Members of the Youth Forum gave presentations and opened a dialogue with public transport providers on a number of issues relating to timetabling, information and behaviour. Further work is now ongoing between providers and young people in order to make improvements to the experience of using public transport in the borough. This initiative is one of the actions set out in the Youth Agreement for Tonbridge and Malling Borough.</p>
Tunbridge Wells	<p>The Power Project, a multi-agency initiative engaging with young people at risk of offending, contributes to a reduction in the likelihood of young people entering the Criminal Justice System. The project started in summer 2005, since which time 58 young people from Tunbridge Wells have been involved. Of those who have received support from the service, only two have gone on to offend (96.5 % have not). Referrals have come from 15 different agencies, including schools, police, council and voluntary organisations.</p>

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 9 	To make Kent a safer place to work, live and travel and to reassure the public by reducing fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
Lead Partner: Kent Police	Accountable Manager: ACC Leppard Operational Managers: Ian Procter and Ch Supt John Molloy

Road Safety	Baseline (2003)	2005	2006	Status	Target (2007)
Road crashes: people killed or suffering serious injury (LPSA 12)	855	759	746		716
	Baseline (2004/05)	2005/06	2006/07	Status	Target (2007/08)
Crimes committed during night-time economy (LPSA 14.1)	8744	9799	9942		8399
People who feel safe at night in Kent (LPSA 14.2a)	70%	73%	74%		75%
%age of people worried about specific crimes (LPSA 14.2b)	46%	51%	44%		41%
%age of people who think anti-social behaviour is a problem (LPSA 14.2c)	24%	23%	20%		19%

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE - Road Safety

Overview

The 'Help Save 478 Lives' initiative is now well established with several campaigns completed. Data indicates that the overall downward trend in casualties achieved during 2005 has continued into 2006. Monitoring casualty trends enables us to refine activities in order to facilitate improvements at local levels. Partnerships and networks are used to best integrate with other disciplines, particularly enforcement and engineering.

Actions to date

KCC's team of Road Safety Officers (RSOs) operate as countywide specialists with responsibility for a specific area of concern. They focus on key concerns in areas that warrant particular attention. As a result it is possible to run campaigns across the whole county and focus on local problems as they emerge.

The Speed Awareness Courses launched in October 2006 allows motorists detected at 39mph, in areas restricted to 30mph, to opt for a training course as an alternative to prosecution. The training course uses coaching techniques to support structured discussion and on-road driving sessions to help improve attitudes, priorities and road reading skills. Training is available at Aylesford, Rainham and Canterbury and to date over 1900 drivers have completed the course.

The 'Ride with Attitude' campaign aimed at motorcyclists was launched in summer 2006 and has grown in its appeal. The campaign is web based communicating with 'Bikers' on their terms. All the content on the Website has been contributed to by Bikers from around the county with the aim of helping others to get more out of their riding experience, but to do so more safely.

Partnership working with both Kent Police and the Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) has provided additional expertise and resources; their assistance within our projects and campaigns is highly valued. The KFRS have been particularly active in several key areas of work.

The 'Key Stage 3' education programme was developed to confront anti-social behaviour around arson. However, it also links to the national curriculum citizenship and personal, social and health education modules, utilising active learning principles to address the root causes of anti-social behaviour. The Road Safety module is an active learning experience in the form of a board game. It puts participants 'in charge' of emergency resources allowing them to decide on the necessary response to incidents. This is intended to allow participants to reflect on the work of the emergency services and understand the true cost of road crashes.

Three new Fire Service display vehicles were introduced in November 2006. The vehicles are equipped with the latest presentation technology to complement the work of KFRS's community fire safety teams around the county. All three vehicles carry a road safety message on the rear panel.

'Licence to Kill' is an innovative stage and film production aimed at year 12 and 13 students and is led by KFRS. This highly successful project is the product of a KFRS led partnership. The project draws its power from a series of hard hitting film clips and personal testimonies of emergency services personnel, and those that have lost loved ones in road crashes. The combined effect creates a realistic scenario enabling all the consequences to be powerfully explored. Each event is held in a theatre or cinema with the audience being transported by coach to the venue from their particular school. The feedback from the participating schools has been extremely positive with many unsolicited personal responses from individual students.

Previously reported projects run by KCC Road Safety are either completed or underway, these include:

- Substantial countywide publicity campaigns aimed at addressing speed, drinking and driving and mobile phone use
- 'Mummy – I'm no crash test dummy' is a campaign aimed at improving in car safety for children.
- 'Small steps' on the road pedestrian skills training for young children – pilots are underway in areas with high levels of child casualties and social deprivation.
- 'Junior Road Safety Officers –enables young people to act as RSOs within their school, pilots are underway in selected schools.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A comprehensive programme of countywide publicity campaigns and local projects supported by proactive press and PR interventions are planned throughout 2007. More information is available on request.

Road Safety Core Business Activities

The activities listed need to be viewed as integral to the core business of the Road Safety team. KCC's Road Safety team is also involved in a range of safety engineering e.g. Traffic Calming, Safety Auditing, and installation of interactive signs.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE - Crime within Night Time Economy

Business Crime Reduction Partnerships are made up of members from all sectors of the business community working in partnership with the police, local authorities and other agencies to reduce crime against businesses. They have a real impact on the environment, working conditions, crime and disorder, job creation and investment. Kent now has fifteen Business Crime Partnerships covering thirty towns, cities and shopping centres, the highest concentration anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Kent Police and Action Against Business Crime have developed the Safer Socialising Award as a best practice programme for Business Crime Reduction Partnerships seeking to reduce the impact of alcohol on local communities. It covers all businesses within the night-time economy. The purpose of the award is to encourage licensed premises to achieve higher standards of management and operation as a demonstration of their commitment to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder. It rewards premises and businesses that achieve the accreditation standards. The Safer Socialising Award is managed by Business Crime Reduction Partnership which award certificates to successful premises to a gold, silver and bronze level of accreditation. The bronze award indicates that a business has done all that it is currently required to do. Silver and gold awards encourage an enhanced contribution to local community safety and reassure the public that local licensed premises are safe and pleasant places to visit. This is an impressive product which growing from Kent has been launched nationally and is seen as a benchmark in self-sustaining solutions to NTE issues. All of the towns which have been identified as hotspots are within the scheme. They are Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Folkestone, Maidstone, Margate, Rochester, and Sheerness. Having a partnership in a town does not guarantee that the most problematic premises are part of that scheme. To address that we will identify, through intelligence, premises that we can link to crime and disorder that are currently not accredited and encourage them to become active members of the scheme or face concerted partnership activity to police their business. Where these schemes have been running there is no evidence to example displacement.

We currently have 15 Safer Business Partnerships covering 29 towns and are looking to extend this by a further 3 partnerships this year.

KDAAT has sought flexibility to move monies between drugs and alcohol as per local need but have been advised that it could not do this. Health are members of the KDAAT board, and we are currently negotiating with them the provision of specific and additional alcohol counselling services in east Kent linking it to PND disposal. In addition

as part of the police KDAAT approach we are bidding for an additional £100k of funding for the provision of further alcohol harm reduction services. (East Kent is an appropriate site due to its profile in the NTE economy.)

The National Business Information System (NBIS) is designed to link town, city and shopping centre Business Crime Reduction Partnerships to help reduce crime. It provides partnerships with full facilities for the management analysis and sharing of their own crime data and allows partnerships to share information on offenders who are excluded from business premises.

- The Strategic Health Authority has become the first authority in the country to achieve total county coverage for the data collection initiative. All A&E Hospitals, Minor Injuries Units and Ambulance Service are providing data that enables partners to have a greater insight into the true picture of violence enabling the effective deployment of resources. The Health Data is being shared directly with CDRPs. In terms of the data itself, a meeting has been held with health to look at increasing some of the specific data relating to location, premises etc as well as presenting it in a format that will speak and uses common building blocks, ward, street, CDRP etc with systems such as Crime View, a new data warehouse system developed by Kent County Council. This system will allow Kent Police and Partner Agencies to analyse a range of crime and ASB datasets. Currently the information provided does not identify specific premises and as yet we have been unable to utilise the data to facilitate licensing activity against identified premises.
- National Intelligence Model (NIM) – development of partnership Tasking & Co-ordinating Group (T&CG) and production of standard analytical products.
- Roll out of Neighbourhood Policing teams.
- Thanet CDRP tabletop review commenced and ongoing.
- With the support of GOSE, Kent Police have been able to purchase 8 portable walk-through metal detectors. These are deployed across each of the six BCUs, Tactical Operations and Bluewater Shopping Centre. The archways are supported by signage to inform the public that the police are checking for knives and weapons. The detectors have been used uniquely with the Ion Trak drug detection devices at licensed premises and transport hubs across the County in order to provide a visible deterrent and as a condition of entry.

Neighbourhood Management

The roll out of neighbourhood management has a major role to play in providing reassurance to communities, the green shoots of which are evidenced by the PACT newsletters. The KPA and Kent Police are currently in the process of revising its engagement strategy and will look for key leads and measures which will be indicative of progress.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Neighbourhood security and urban change – Risk, resilience and recovery. Martin Innes and Vanessa Jones University of Surrey– Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2006
- The Greater Manchester Against Crime Partnership Business Model: An independent evaluation 2006 Tim John, Colin Morgan and Dr Colin Rogers, University of Glamorgan 2006.
- Kent Crime and Victimization survey – force report 2005/06 – Gareth Linington, Kent Police 2007.
- PACT Newsletter

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

- Crime View was launched in February and is now being reviewed by practitioners.
- Charlton Athletic positive futures programme is running across the County. 49 Schools have seen an average weekly attendance of 737 and 60 Estate leagues have seen an average weekly attendance of 2365. Swale CDRP are currently conducted an evaluation of the scheme.

A county evaluation of all programmes has been commissioned and will be delivered by Canterbury Christ Church University, focusing on the impact of ASB and crime reduction in geographical areas, offending and re-offending rates of high risk groups and school attendance rates.

Co-located sites

Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Thanet, Dartford, Gravesham and Shepway have established partnership sites where key public services are located in one building allowing for an information and partnership approach to problem solving.

NIM / Partnership business model

The principles of NIM are being adopted under the leadership of District Chief Inspectors. The exchange of information and data are enabling a greater intelligence capacity on which to task partners and use the additional resources of the CDRPs to tackle problems.

The media is identified as an essential component in delivering the reassurance agenda. CDRPs are looking to incorporate a rigorous process to ensure good news stories and initiatives are communicated to the public.

Central Support Team (CST)

We have identified an analytical capacity gap, which we have incorporated into some larger work relating to CDRP capacity and capability, the CDA review and business and performance management within the Safer Kent Delivery Group. In brief we have made presentations to a number of groups including CDRP Chairs and Chief Execs in which we have outlined the need to develop these capabilities and capacity. In an effort to stimulate partners KCC and Kent Police have agreed to fund a small team (CST) who will utilise the Crime View to deliver strategic and business management information to CDRPs.

Domestic Violence Court

According to work completed by our analysts of data since 2005, 20% of violence is domestic abuse related and occurring on routes from licensed premises as well as within private dwellings.

CONSTRAINTS/RISKS

- Analytical support for partnerships.
- Recruitment numbers of PCSOs.
- National events effecting local perceptions.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Roll out of Neighbourhood Management teams.
- Formation of Partners and Community Together (PACT) forums.
- Increase Safer Socialising Schemes.
- Accident & Emergency data - 'true' violent crime picture.
- Greater use of Alcohol Support Programmes & long term education.
- Domestic Violence Court – Maidstone.
- Sharing of good practice - Encams – criminal damage, What Works? GOSE violent crime seminar Maidstone, Dartford & Gravesham violent crime recovery plan.
- Evaluation of Charlton Athletic social inclusion programme effects on crime and ASB.
- Greater visible presence in neighbourhoods

FUTURE UPDATES

- Safer Kent Delivery Group meetings quarterly.
- Safer Stronger Communities Group meetings quarterly.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 10 	To reduce 'true' crime affecting local communities by 4% (as measured by the Kent Crime & Victimisation Survey)
Lead Partner: Kent Police	Accountable Manager: ACC Leppard Operational Managers: Hilary James (Kent Probation) and Ch Supt Nelson

	2005/06	2006/07 (Apr- Feb)	Status	Target (2006/07)
Offenders supported into sustainable employment	156	517		302

	Baseline 2005/06	2006/07	Status	Target (2007/08)
Kent Crime & Victimisation Survey (KCVS)	70312	69445		67500

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE – Probation – Offenders into employment

The April 2006 to February 2007 figure represents 171% of the target for that period, which partly represents an improvement in data integrity referred to in the last report.

The previous report indicated a number of actions to address some key issues. The following gives an update:

- The restructure of the Employment, Training and Education (ETE) Team is complete, and the team is now fully staffed.
- Detailed instructions to all staff regarding performance monitoring and data capture have been issued.
- The joint accord with the Prison Service and Jobcentreplus has been signed by the two correctional services, but is still awaiting signature from Jobcentreplus.
- Monthly monitoring reviews and reporting to KCC and Kent Police is taking place.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE – KCVS

KCVS is confirmed as compliant with the quality standards set by the Home Office. Two issues had been raised, the first related to response rates, which are up and increased, and the second related to prevalence and demographics. This data has been submitted to the Home Office for scrutiny.

CDRPs have had presentations regarding KCVS and indeed some individual briefings have also occurred regarding KCVS. This has been further supported with additional support from the Kent Partnership team. Representations have been made to present CDRP data in a more digestible format. I have met with our BIU who will be reviewing the format in June. However, there needs to be an inherent level of sophistication within CDRPs in order for them to effectively manage business and performance, the data presented needs to meet those requirements. An oversimplification of the data may make this task harder not easier. We realise that a balance needs to be struck in terms of content and presentation.

The violent crime group under the leadership of ACC Leppard focuses on reducing crime particularly in the night-time economy. Safer street plans are produced incorporating tactics and clear evaluations. Key themes are alcohol, drugs, transport, weapons, youth and safer socialising. An intelligence led approach to problem solving focuses on Location – public places / licensed premises, Victims and Offenders. The next quarter will see the group providing a focus on youth-related violence.

- The Kent Crime View system is under development, aimed at collating multi-agency data sets.

CDRP partners have been engaged in numerous activities. Full details are available.

Theft from motor vehicle

Design out crime – Gravesend car park demolition.

Talking ticket machines are being piloted in Tunbridge Wells.

Parkmark is established in Dover, Thanet, Canterbury and Maidstone.

Initiatives – Vulnerable vehicle scheme & vehicle watch, advertising on car park tickets, identification of vulnerable property.

Criminal damage

Grimebuster machine deployed to cleanup - staffed by prisons & probation. Vulnerable and repeat locations target hardened.

Initiatives – Focused partnership plans developed to deliver performance – Maidstone and Dartford.

Hawkeye deployment. CCTV (overt & covert) and multi agency deployment on red routes. Targeted offenders.

Adoption of ENCAMS review of activity (Dartford & Thanet). Use of dispersal areas.

Grabacab initiative – Dartford.

CAFC positives futures.

Theft from person

Design out crime – Consultation with planning departments, CCTV blind spots identified.

Initiatives – distribution of purse chains. Visible presence and mobile police stations in hot spot locations, intel briefing for CCTV staff

Woundings

Metal-detecting archways.

Design out crime –, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships. Domestic Violence Strategy - Canterbury. Violence implementation plan – Gravesham. Freedom Project – Maidstone. Domestic Abuse Task Group - Sevenoaks

Initiatives – ‘Three strikes’ scheme – Dover. Safer Socialising Awards.

Education – Promotion of national campaign – Alcohol – know your limits - Dartford

INNOVATION AND LEARNING –

- Volume crime strategic framework and tactical delivery programme.
- Extension of fixed site / mobile ANPR.
- Drugs spotter training for Special Constabulary.
- Launch of Kent Police ‘Safer’ campaigns – Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.
- Plant marking scheme.
- ATM – target hardening / mapping of heavy plant.
- Police support volunteers programme 300 by 2009.
- CDRP volunteers programme.
- Drugs litter programme.
- Detecting Archways.

CONSTRAINTS/RISKS

Lack of analytical capability to service partnership needs.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

FUTURE ACTIONS

The main activity development programme for 2007 is focussed on a series of Strategic Crime Reduction Campaigns.

The force has identified the need for a consistent approach to the delivery of seasonal crime reduction activities and initiatives set within a corporate branded framework. It takes account of the priorities identified within the force strategic assessment and local priorities set out within Area control strategies and community safety plans.

Five strategic themes have been identified for four planned seasonal events in such a manner as to allow Area Commanders the flexibility to incorporate a local dimension to their planned operations.

There are some clear opportunities for the force in adopting a corporate approach in formulating and delivering these seasonal campaigns:

- Force wide response to projected peaks in reported crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Making the people of Kent feel safer through positive marketing and media coverage, embedding a consistent message by the use of corporate branding of tactics and products.
- Increasing public reassurance across the force through the delivery of highly visible policing activity.

The force has in the past responded to seasonal trends in respect of crime and disorder with some degree of corporacy e.g. Operation Castle and Operational Excalibur. Whilst these operations have generated some positive outcomes across the force, they have not been embedded within the National Intelligence Model principles and have not always complemented local priorities. Through adopting a consistent approach in the branding of these

operations local people are beginning to relate police activity in the county with certain events and in tackling certain types of crime. More extensive media coverage in respect of such events would help to embed the message and increase the feeling of safety within communities across the force.

The objectives are:

- To deliver 4 corporate events across the force to coincide with identified peaks in crime and/or anti-social behaviour - embedded within NIM principles. The Principal Analyst has identified periods of demand.
- To allow some degrees of flexibility in events to take account of local crime and disorder priorities.
- To implement seasonal campaigns which are integral to Neighbourhood Policing as part of a local problem solving approach.
- To 'brand' each event with a title e.g. Safer Spring.
- Each event will cover identified peaks in demand with five distinct phases –
 - Phase 1 - Planning/consultation.
 - Phase 2 - 2 week media/marketing campaign - pre event;
 - Phase 3 - Police/partnership activity to include media coverage;
 - Phase 4 - 2 week post event consolidation to include further media coverage followed by
 - Phase 5 - Evaluation.

The seasonal campaigns should deliver improvements in:

- Crime and disorder
- Public confidence in the police
- Feeling of safety
- Reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour

Performance Management

Performance will be measured at three levels:

- **Tactical Delivery** at a Neighbourhood Team level
- **Force Performance** at District/BCU level, and
- **Corporate Compliance** to measure the consistency of approach in complying with the corporate principles set out within this paper.

Tactical Delivery

To achieve the desired outcomes it will be essential to embrace Neighbourhood Policing principles and engage with local people at Neighbourhood level to identify the issues, which are most important to them. Appropriately targeted problem-solving activity from police and partners followed by honest feedback should result in increased public confidence and crime reduction. Developing a formal system that records engagement, identifies the priorities and outlines the plans for policing activity will provide structure to the campaign, and provide managers with suitable means of measuring performance at a tactical level.

Local plans will include:

- Neighbourhood/Partner engagement
- Local priority identification
- Target setting
- Local Control Strategies
- Intelligence
- Tactical delivery
- Enforcement/Investigation
- Media interface throughout each phase of the campaign
- Evaluation

Force Performance – Districts/BCUs

This is at District/BCU level and will include relevant statutory performance indicators and those that measure performance against baseline assessment criteria.

These need to be formulated around:

- Crime and Disorder reduction
- Public Confidence in the Police
- Feelings of Safety
- Reductions in incidents of anti-social behaviour

Corporate Compliance

Although each District/BCU should be allowed flexibility to work with Neighbourhoods/partners in identifying local priorities, there is a requirement to set their plans in accordance with corporate principles that gives the best return in respect of performance, and maximises opportunities for a consistent marketing and media approach.

Corporate Principles

Each BCU will participate in 4 seasonal events throughout 2007/8 that are commensurate with peaks in volume crime and or anti-social behaviour as identified through the Force Strategic Assessment:

- **Safer Spring** to coincide with the lighter evenings and Easter holiday period the main emphasis will be criminal damage.
- **Safer Summer** to coincide with the peak holiday period the main emphasis will be burglary.
- **Safer Autumn** to combat the seasonal increase in crime and anti-social behaviour generated by Halloween and fireworks.
- **Safer Christmas and New Year** with a particular focus on violence and the night-time economy.

Each District/BCU will focus on one or more crime types/anti-social behaviour as identified within the Force Strategic Assessment and supported by their local assessment.

In order to allow for localised freedoms and flexibilities tactical delivery will be formulated in line with district problem profiles and control strategies.

Media/marketing at Force level will be directed by Media Services Department and supported by Area Media Officers. Branding of all products/media releases will be consistent with the 'Safer' theme.

Each BCU will submit their plans to ACC (AO) via the Area Operations Chief of Staff at least 2 weeks prior to each event.

Tactical Products and Support

A range of tactical products and examples of good practice in tackling volume crime is available via the Partnership and Crime Reduction website; this includes guidance on the implementation of effective consolidation activity to prevent the re-establishment of criminal markets or groups involved in anti-social behaviour and/or violence.

As tactical options are evaluated the menu is reviewed and updated accordingly.

FUTURE UPDATES

Safer Stronger Communities Group meetings – quarterly.

Violent Crime Gold Group meetings owned by Partnership and Crime Reduction - monthly.

Police Performance Committee meetings – bi-monthly.

Safer Kent Delivery Group – bi-monthly.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 11 	To reduce the harm caused by substance misuse (especially alcohol and drugs), including substantially increasing the number of drug misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System
Lead Partner: Kent DAAT	Accountable Manager: Lola Triumph

	Baseline (2004/05)	2005/06	Jan - Dec 06	Status	Target (2006/07)
Drug mis-users discharged during the year who were in treatment for 12 weeks+	65% (1070)	65% (1076)	65% (893)		75% (1485)
			2006/07		
People treated in year - adults	3042	2758	2870		3077
Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing (supports LPSA 14.2c)	27%	26%	21%		22% (07/08)
Drug offenders placed on DTTO or rehabilitation orders	138	292	258		338
Offenders that complete treatment or rehabilitation	41	90	143		102

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Drug mis-users discharged during the year

Since the decommissioning of substance misuse services in West Kent the number of new presentations to services has fluctuated. However, the numbers of people in treatment for the year has remain stable and it is anticipated that the full year figure will be slightly under the target set for 2006/07.

People treated in year – Adults

For 2006/07 the partnership target for the number of adult clients accessing treatment was increased to 3,077 (a 17% increase on previous year), with Young People numbers forecast to increase 24% from 413 to 514. The table within the Block 2 Appendix shows the numbers of those accessing Tier 3/4 (structured treatment) services since 2004/05 for Adults and 2005/06 for Young People.

Drug offenders placed on DTTO or rehabilitation (Community Sentences with Drug Rehabilitation Requirement)

Despite the DRR commencements not quite being on target, Kent Probation (KP) are actually exceeding the completion target, which is much more significant. The commencement target is particularly difficult to achieve, as it is a balance of finding suitable offenders without compromising the needs of existing offenders already on DRR's. It also needs the agreement of the offender for the recommendation to be made.

KP is committed to trying to improve all of our targets and is something we regularly work on. In relation to the commencements, each area Senior Probation Officer is asked to trawl through all relevant cases to make sure we are not missing any potential offenders for Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs). There is also some suggestion of difficulty when 'fishing in the same pond' for those offenders who have gone through the system several times and are not currently suitable. However, KP will continue to work on this commencement target in trying to improve and achieve it.

KDAAT has embarked on a number of initiatives that would assist in increasing the capacity of drug mis-users entering treatment.

- Operational policing – 'Sting', Undercover Ops, Test Purchase, Street Testing (Ion Track) and premises closure operations.
- Drug offenders placed on DTTO or rehabilitation orders.
- Kent Police to introduce a robust and intelligence led enhanced arrest referral service, which would increase the number of individuals accessing treatment through the criminal justice system.
- Further develop strong working relationships between Drug Liaison Officers and Treatment Providers.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

KDAAT Treatment plan for 2006/07.

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Rapid Access Prescribing pilot in Medway and Swale started seeing clients on 28 August 2006. An estimated 60 clients have already accessed the service. The target is to provide 100 treatment places.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

Risk to increasing the numbers of drug mis-users entering treatment in 06/07 is the decommissioning of Kent and Medway Partnership Trust in West Kent and Medway. Services have been successfully re-tendered and the new providers took over provision of substance misuse services in West Kent and Medway on 16 April 2007.

New local initiatives such as Conditional Cautioning scheme, pilot Alcohol Rehabilitation Requirement in Thanet and Requirement Assessment (part of Drug Intervention Programme) are increasing demand on services and financial resources.

The lack of flexibility around the use of government funding in particular for clients presenting with alcohol problems means that it is difficult to develop and respond to local needs.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

FUTURE ACTIONS

Treatment system and demand

We continue to understand the demand for service provisions and respond to the challenges of matching resources to increasing targets and demand for treatment services in Kent. As mentioned earlier Kent has consistently engaged with more clients' year on year and will continue to do so in the future.

Despite a significant reduction in funding from the NTA for 2007/08 we are committed to ensure continued access for vulnerable clients to services, and this is reflected in the 07/08 targets for total numbers in treatment.

Improvement required on drug treatment service delivery. Re-provision of substance misuse services in West Kent should correct the situation. Service delivery is currently being monitored to ensure that service users continue to gain access to services in West Kent.

Impact of the re provision of West Kent substance misuse services on targets and service delivery

As mentioned above services have been successfully tendered and contract awarded. A slow down in service delivery during the transition period was expected, and we have worked with service providers to ensure access to all services in West Kent and Medway was maintained. NTA Regional Team has been updated on an ongoing basis with any issues of concern.

Retention in treatment for more than 12 weeks

Engagement and retention in treatment services is a priority for 07/08. In the absence of additional funding, the retention target for 07/08 will be maintained at the same level for 06/07. 07/08 treatment activities will focus on the client journey. We are optimistic that the introduction of a countywide aftercare service in April 2007 will improve client retention, increase the number of clients and re-integration into mainstream service.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 12 <div style="background-color: red; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	To build confidence in the Criminal Justice System without compromising fairness
Lead Partner: Kent Criminal Justice Board	Accountable Manager: Chair KCJB

	2002/03	2005/06	2006/07 (Sep 06)	Status	2007/08
Public confidence in bringing offenders to justice	39.1%	40.5%	38.5%	<div style="background-color: red; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></div>	44%

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Actions taken during 06/07

The office for Criminal Justice Reform Performance Action Team followed up on the gap analysis it undertook in March 2006 with a visit in November 2006. The Performance Action Team identified steps already taken by the Kent Criminal Justice Board to improve public confidence, noted the improved delivery of services for victims and witnesses and the positive steps which had been taken towards engaging Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities.

Areas identified for improvement were:

- improve local Witness Care Units
- increase focus on the coordination of community engagement particularly for BME communities in order to understand and respond to the needs of the diverse community served by the area
- make improvements to cross CJS communications, which have been particularly problematic in the last year as the Board has been without a dedicated communications officer since the beginning of November 2006.

There was also a need to improve the understanding of staff in the CJS of the system as a whole and the role staff play in end to end processes.

A number of actions have been taken during the course of the year in the following areas:

Community Engagement

The Board supported events such as the County Show and Melas in Dartford and Maidstone. In November 2006 as part of 'Inside Justice Week' the Board sponsored an event to recruit volunteers across the Criminal Justice System. This was particularly effective with representation from 9 voluntary organisations providing services to the CJS in Kent along with the 6 Criminal Justice Agencies themselves.

Staff Engagement

The performance action team undertook a series of interviews with staff across all the Criminal Justice Agencies in February 2007 and identified areas where further work may be targeted. A number of staff highlighted the lack of public awareness of the Criminal Justice System and how it works. There were concerns expressed that sentencing is not tough enough, confidence in dealing with youth crime is low (this in spite of the fact that the Kent Youth Offending Service is one of the highest performing YOTs nationally), and concerns about ineffective trials and poor court facilities effecting the confidence of those who attend court. Following on from this survey the Kent Criminal Justice Board has commissioned research undertaken by Malcolm Hibberd, the methodology being focus groups with one specifically for people under the age of 25. The focus group approach was supplemented by information from the Kent Police Citizens Panel. Although the full report is not available at this time a number of interesting local messages emerged, for example, in Gravesend in particular, there appear to be local perceptions about the effects of court closures although these were some years ago. Perceptions of immigrant populations affecting public reassurance, travelling community and the close proximity of communities such as Gravesend to South East London which appears to undermine the community's identity as part of Kent. In addition to the staff survey the Board has continued its practice of staff recognition awards and is rolling out staff work shadowing programme which began with police and the prison service. Work with engaging BME communities has included establishing the equality and diversity subgroup, mapping local communities and supporting local BME network. There has in addition been improved delivery of services for victims and witnesses for example the successful implementation of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and continuing good relationships with Victim Support.

The lack of a Communications Officer has caused difficulties and as a result the Board has not been able to continue with its newssheet. Individual Criminal Justice Agencies have on occasions been able to publicise the work of the Board on the back of news items about their own developments, but there is considerable scope for developing this aspect of external communications further.

Next steps

The delivery plan for confidence is currently being produced and is being informed by the results of an action planning workshop held on the 14th March. Board members are currently considering a range of proxy measures which they may wish to use to measure progress against the plan. Issues to be developed through 07/08 will include promoting the work of the local Criminal Justice Board through Criminal Justice Agency induction training programmes, setting up regular networking meetings between criminal justice agency communications officers, a concerted effort to put out more joint press releases and key messages. With regard to community engagement and BME Communities there is an agreement to share demographic data between agencies, develop a comprehensive map of communities across Kent and actively seek feedback from the BME network. It is also planned to reinforce links between the KCJB and CDRPs across Kent and Medway. Finally, the Board has recently appointed a coordinator for the Prolific and Priority Offender initiative and that person will be invited to be a member of the confidence sub-group. The Board is reviewing its delivery structures and its support framework. This will be an opportunity to ensure the confidence target is regularly reviewed against the action plan. Kent Crime and Victimization Survey statistics, which have a much larger sample size than the British Crime Survey, shows public confidence in Kent at 46% and it is intended to use some of this information to publicise the work of the Board more effectively.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Kent Criminal Justice Board Newsletter

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

CONSTRAINTS/RISKS

It has been recognised by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform that there are factors outside LCJB's control that have an impact on the confidence of the people in our area. There is also a margin of error with the data as it is based on a small sample of the local population. However, the KCJB is committed to making every effort to achieve real improvements in public confidence (as this is genuinely one of a range of indicators of how well we as Criminal Justice Agencies are serving the public). The difficulty here is making the connection between cause and effect. National events, be they positive or negative, can have a significant impact on local confidence.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

Still under development with the Home Office. Timing of negotiations together with procurement of software and personnel has delayed commencement of survey data. Public perception data will be available for quarter 3.

FUTURE ACTIONS

FUTURE UPDATES

Quarterly Safer Stronger Communities Group meetings.
Bi-monthly Safer Kent Delivery Group meetings.
Kent Police LPSA2 Internal Steering Group.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 14 	Cleaner and greener public spaces
Lead Partner: Districts (Kent Waste Forum/Clean Kent Delivery Group)	Accountable Manager: Linda Davies

	Baseline	2005/06	2006/07	Status	Target
%age residents who think Kent is a clean county (LPSA 13.1)	58%	65%	Available May 07		78%
Number of loose rubbish fires (incl. Medway) (LPSA 13.2)	2871	2047	1413 (Apr-Dec 06)		2297*
The number of fly-tipping incidents, as recorded by national Flycapture data (LPSA 13.3)	33636	30691	25685 (Apr 06-Feb 07)		30272

* 3 year average 2005/06 to 2007/08

Indicator monitoring

Results from the public perception tracker survey conducted in February 2007 are currently being analysed.

Activity to reduce the number of rubbish fires has led to the current position where cumulative figures for quarters 1-7 (Apr 05 – Dec 06) and projections for quarters 8 – 12 (Jan 07 – Mar 08) show that the number of fires is 18.2% better than the three year average target of 2,297 fires. If achieved, the three-year average projection of 1,878 fires would be 34.6% better than the baseline figure of 2,871 fires.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

1. Partnership/Cross Cutting Activities: The multi-agency Clean Kent Delivery Group is functioning well and has updated the delivery plan to ensure it is directed appropriately to achieve both the Kent Agreement Outcome 14 and the KCC 2010 target balanced with sustainable solutions.

2. Neighbourhood Response Teams – Street Scene: The three teams deployed geographically into East, Mid and West Kent, are enhancing local services by providing additional capacity to improve cleanliness. Satisfaction amongst district and borough with this service is high, and reflected by positive feedback from residents. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) between KCC, districts and Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) is now operating between these funding partners. To provide a tactical overview and compliance to strategic objectives, a Street Scene working group is being formed, led by Community Fire Safety at KFRS. This initiative supersedes Operation Cubit Plus (rubbish removal, damage repair, graffiti and fly-tipping) but will continue to work in tandem with Operation Cubit (removal of abandoned vehicles). Abandoned vehicles collected by KCC has decreased dramatically from a peak of 12,628 in 2001/02 to 2,466 in 2005/06, a trend which is set to further reduce. During the past 2 years, around 25 Cubit operations were jointly funded by KCC, KFRS and the police, and match funded by districts. This combined activity has contributed to a 28% reduction in the total number of refuse fires between 2003/4 and 2005/06. Deliberate refuse fires have reduced at a much quicker rate during the same period from 3,318 during 2003/04 to 2,394 2005/06 (reduction of 28%).

Community Payback: The Community Payback Scheme (formerly community service) operated by the Kent Probation Area, is embedded within the campaign through the hosting and management of their online nomination scheme, giving the public the opportunity to identify areas for clean up by offenders carrying out compulsory unpaid work as part of their sentences. A total of 150 nominations have been received since July 2006. This successful partnership adds further value to the cleansing and maintenance work carried out by local authorities. To formalise this approach, a Community Payback Delivery Group has been set up to bring together the Kent Probation Area, HM Prison Service, KCC and the Clean Kent Campaign amongst others, to co-ordinate opportunities for offenders to contribute in a positive way to Kent communities.

3. Highways cleansing: The close working relationship between KCC, districts and the Highways Agency continues to provide noticeable cleanliness improvements on the motorway network. In addition, the HA are actively seeking to enhance relationships with district / borough councils, to support local problem areas e.g. Dover lay-bys affected by freight traffic.

4. Targeting rail cleanliness: A new partnership is currently being developed to seek improvements in cleanliness throughout the rail network, involving South Eastern Railways, Network Rail and British Transport Police.

5. Enforcement

Environmental Crime reduction: An SLA exists to co-ordinate fly-tipping enforcement across the organisations, identifying key roles and responsibilities with regard to investigations, clean-ups and prosecutions in line with the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. This clearly sets out the facilitation role that the KCC Clean Kent enforcement team play within the Kent scene. The KCC team alone currently has approximately 25 active investigations.

The Environment Agency has reduced the number of waste sites operating illegally across Kent by 40% in the past 12 months. In order to combat the more serious and complex illegal sites the Environment Agency has set up a dedicated team. The Environmental Crime Team is working closely with partners in Clean Kent to continue to combat this anti-social nuisance. In the past month, this has led to three people involved in waste crime being arrested in a joint raid with Kent Police. The Environmental Crime Team is now adopting new and novel techniques such as forensics in order to ensure that illegal sites and their impact on the environment are dealt with.

Environment Agency (EA) – Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) campaign: The Environment Agency's BREW campaign linked to Clean Kent, focuses on the waste carriers licence requirement and the new Duty of Care for Householders (Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act). Multi-agency teams have been employing novel techniques to engage with waste carriers to provide advice, guidance and educate tradesman about their responsibilities, to increase compliance to legislation. By attracting people through free breakfasts on business parks, in Maidstone alone in one morning, the EA spoke with 70 businesses. Such events are currently being replicated across Kent targeting key areas where there are elevated levels of fly-tipping and non-compliance.

Target hardening: Fly-tipping on private land can be a continuous and serious problem creating significant issues for private landowners. Recognising this, Clean Kent and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty teams are collectively funding and providing practical help for landowners, generating valuable intelligence, coupled with preventative security measures such as gates, bunds, and covert cameras, to discourage and disrupt illegal activity. A current example of this is Bredhurst Woods, which is subject to prolific fly-tipping, vandalism and misuse of trail bikes. CKC is working with Bredhurst Action Group, the Parish Council, and AONB to support site improvements including gates to prevent unauthorised access to the woods along with the deployment of covert cameras to facilitate enforcement action.

6. Education

Over 3,800 primary school children have taken part in the 'Lost in Litter' workshops this term, which aimed to challenge attitudes and behaviours towards litter, graffiti, dog fouling and fly-tipping amongst year 5 / 6 pupils. The workshops follow a successful tour of a theatre show last year to 240 schools and enhance and consolidate the pupil's learning. Through a session which is part interactive and part performance, the children debate and develop their understanding towards some challenging social and environmental dilemmas.

7. Communications and Marketing

Following an EU tender process in the summer 2006, advertising agency Zerofiftyone was awarded the Clean Kent marcoms contract. Working closely with the Clean Kent Co-ordinator and partner organisations, they provide strong and effective PR, creative approaches and advertising, to raise awareness of the campaign and the key messages. During 2006/07 additional value achieved through PR for Clean Kent amounted to £425,874 of Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE).

The 2007 activity launched in late February with a high profile marketing strategy entitled Changing Views included television, radio, press and outdoor advertising. The creative concept was based on a premise of turning around and reversing accepted roles and behaviours. Shot to the 'Oh What a Lovely War' classic 'Goodbye', this soundtrack with its repetitions of 'goodbye' reinforces the message that Clean Kent is indeed in the process of saying goodbye to the graffiti, fly-tipping and littering. This clearly aims to support the Kent Agreement indicator to increase public perception that Kent is clean.

The marcoms plan for the remainder of the year will be focusing on specific issues highlighting key messages to influence attitudes and behaviours of target audiences. This will address waste carriers licence compliance, Duty of

Care for Householders, dog fouling, fast food and roadside litter, smoking litter, gum, fly-tipping, community action and reinforcing the campaign success stories in the lead up to March 2008.

8. Community

Significant achievements have been made in partnership with local communities, voluntary organisations and parish councils to improve and enhance their local environment. Clean Kent has supported over 150 clean-up events including school grounds, beaches even an underwater dive to remove litter and fly-tipping from a recreational lake, involving approximately 3750 people.

The campaign is now actively seeking to establish partnerships with Kent businesses to develop corporate volunteering opportunities and to integrate Clean Kent into companies where volunteering programmes already exist.

Clean Kent is currently developing partnerships with countryside management projects and nature walk groups to implement a litter warden scheme. The aim is to involve and recognise members of the community who regularly litter pick a locality through the provision of practical support and a co-ordinated approach to local cleansing needs. These individuals provide additional assistance for the reporting of littering and fly-tipping offences.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

A full copy of the 2007/08 Clean Kent Delivery Plan outlining detailed progress on the 9 priorities is available.

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

CONSTRAINTS/RISKS

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

FUTURE ACTIONS

FUTURE UPDATES

Clean Kent Delivery Group - Quarterly Meetings

Safer Stronger Communities Group - Quarterly Meetings

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 15 	To promote independence through employment for those who are able to work
Lead Partner: Jobcentre Plus	Accountable Manager: Lynda Russell (Jobcentre Plus)

	Baseline (04/02 - 03/05)	Year 1 (05/06)	Year 2 (06/07)	Status	Target (04/05 - 07/08)
IB Claimants 2yr+ who are social services clients gaining Permitted Work (LPSA 8.1) Cumulative Count	75	113	151		175
IB Claimants 2yr+ assisted into work by KCC (LPSA 8.2) Cumulative Count	0	15	19		250
	2004/05				2007/08
Job seekers allowance claimants moving into paid employment	4626	3822	3961*		6015

* Includes full achievement to September 2006 and partial figures to January 2007.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

A joint chaired JCP/KCC Employability Group accountable to the Public Service Board has been commissioned to lead on all employment related issues. We operate across the whole of the Kent Agreement and at present are particularly interested in the lone parent employment target in theme one, the offenders employment target in block two, and the and the incapacity/JSA employment targets in Outcome 15. High level action plans are being developed to facilitate achievement of these areas.

Due to the changes in which JCP records achievement of results against profile, (Job Entry Target replaced by the Job Outcome Target from April 2006 – data capture through DWP longitudinal survey involving cross matching between JCP/HMRC computer systems building monthly performance over six monthly scans to district rather than jobcentre level) we are having to review how we can monitor the JSA indicator three. Although the methodology has changed the primary outcome of moving people into work remains unchanged.

The original JSA indicator was baselined using complete customer range achievement, including Medway, to which a 10% stretch was added. The reworked numbers are JSA customer specific, do not include Medway, and retain the original 10% stretch. These changes were agreed with GOSE at a meeting on the 10 January 2007.

8.1 Incapacity Benefit – Permitted Work Target

This project builds on and strengthens existing business to encourage service users, for whom it is appropriate, to undertake “Permitted Work” within the incapacity for work rules. This includes the 3 types of Permitted Work – Permitted Work Lower Limit, Permitted Work Higher Limit and Supported Permitted Work. This is seen as a good end in itself but also, in many cases, as a stepping stone to more full-time work which would take the claimant off their incapacity benefit.

A monitoring system has been set up from April 2005 collecting information about clients entering work. Verification procedures are in place to determine whether employment is sustained for at least 13 weeks, which is the condition of the target. Workshops on the target have been held for staff in conjunction with Jobcentre Plus and Kent Supported Employment and more are planned.

A site on KNET (internal staff site) has been developed on the target. This contains information relevant to claimants of incapacity-based benefits that want to enter employment including links to other organisations – e.g. Jobcentre Plus, Shaw Trust, MCCH, Skillnet, KSE and many others.

Although work on the target started off well and the count for year 1 was 113 clients, the verification work needed to be carried out on these clients has not yet been completed and figures and verification for year 2 are behind schedule. The main reason for this situation has been lack of time/personnel to carry out the necessary follow-up work, this has been compounded by local teams perhaps not giving this the priority it requires when it is placed on top of all the other work they are required to do.

Since the beginning of March a member of Adult Services HQ staff has been tasked with the verification of the statistics. To facilitate this work a reminder has been issued by Oliver Mills on the importance of the work and the urgent need to supply the statistical information required. Once the verification work has been completed the target will be given a boost through the issuing of an update to staff and further workshops.

8.2 Incapacity Benefit - full time work target

The programme is delivering a back-to-work training programme (called **Kent NOW** – New Opportunities for Work) for incapacity benefit claimants of more than two years in areas where there are high rates of long-term benefit claimants – Folkestone and surrounding areas, Maidstone, Dartford, Gravesend, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and Thanet. It is taking a variety of approaches which are all being evaluated as they operate as action research to see which approach is most effective in helping support benefit-dependent people back to work.

At present there are **94** people enrolled onto the programme, and enrolments are taking place regularly now – most days see at least one new referral. These referrals are coming from a variety of sources, including from improved partnership co-operation with Jobcentre Plus in the local areas and other providers such as RBLI and Kennedy Scott, who are referring after their six-week period of engagement comes to an end without successful outcomes. There is an expectation that the majority of those enrolled will move into full-time work in the future adding to the programme outcomes. At present there are **19** clients who have moved into full-time work, and we are waiting for them to reach 13 weeks of employment in order to count them as outcomes. The progress in achieving outcomes has been hampered by delays in beginning delivery of the programme. The first delivery team did not begin operations until a full 15 months into the targets 3-year period. However, the programme is now operating in three areas, and we are in the final planning stages of the fourth programme in Thanet. The programme has also found barriers in the recruitment of clients. This has been due to a number of factors, primarily that they are a 'hard-to-engage' group and also fear losing their benefits. A number of new initiatives are being implemented to overcome the recruitment issue. Most significantly, the programme is now set up as a JCP intermediary, and the programme has been involved in the planning and execution of two joint events with JCP in Maidstone (February) and Dartford (March) where a significant number of clients were involved, following direct mail outs to all eligible clients in those areas. Turnout at these events were, however, low with 30 people coming to the Dartford event from a mail out to 3,000 IB claimants. Other events are being planned along with JCP for later in the year. Other innovative approaches that are being planned to boost recruitment numbers include:

- the use of East Kent Coastal PCT's Health Promotion Bus to carry out doorstep delivery in the more deprived areas of Folkestone, Thanet and Swale
- Doorstep delivery with Mobile Libraries in Dartford, Gravesend and Maidstone
- Working in partnership with Swale Forward at Queenborough's Community Centre
- Project work with SEEDA in Folkestone
- Collaborative work with a number of related projects being run by Maidstone Borough Council
- A client-led and managed peer support group for IB claimants in Faversham
- A KCC Jobs Fair with JCP at County Hall specifically for IB claimants in May
- Follow-up from a Supporting Independence Programme/Shepway LSP Conference last year with an Employment Focus meeting with key local stakeholders, to push forward the promises made at the conference workshops
- Working with KCC's Corporate Diversity Team to co-fund the recruitment of an Employment Project Officer whose responsibility will be to develop and implement a strategy around the recruitment of disabled people and those on Incapacity Benefit to jobs within KCC, and promoting KCC as an Employer of Choice
- A comparative evaluation programme by the University of Kent at Canterbury, looking at the effectiveness of each particular approach and making recommendations for future development of interventions
- The co-funding of a training programme for SMEs in Kent around the Mindful Employer initiative, looking at the recruitment of people with mental health backgrounds

The work has been operative in **Folkestone** since June 2006. The team in Folkestone, which is run by Prospects Services Ltd, is delivering from a unit in the town centre. They are working in partnership with a range of different local agencies to recruit claimants onto the programme – Adult Ed, the mental health trust, CASE Kent and local CVS groups, Shepway District Council, Jobcentre Plus, local libraries and local community partnerships (the Hawkinge Partnership, Guildhall North, etc). Surgeries are taking place in a variety of settings to provide doorstep delivery to local people to help support them back to work. Referrals are starting to roll in more regularly now that word is getting around in the locality and better links are being made with local employers, providers and other initiatives, such as the new retail centre in Folkestone.

Kent NOW has been operational in **North Kent** since October 2006 and is run by two mobile staff. They are functioning in similar ways to the Folkestone team but are operating doorstep delivery from libraries, CVS offices

and Adult Ed centres in each area. They are working alongside local partners and are co-ordinating with local employers and JCP officers, who are co-operating very effectively now. They are also co-ordinating a peer-led support group for IB claimants in Faversham.

Operations have recently started in **Maidstone**. Working out of the Mote Park Leisure Centre in Shepway, which is one of the communities with the highest claim rates in the county, this strand is being delivered by Human Focus, and is concentrating mainly on rehabilitation (health and well-being) and then supporting them back into employment through a range of varying approaches. Human Focus is working closely with Maidstone Borough Council, the local JCP and other relevant agencies, and is making links with local GP surgeries. Barriers were discovered with GP surgeries re: demands for payments but these are being broken down through positive collaboration with the PCT.

In April 2007, a pilot programme in **Thanet** became operational. This will be entitled the FAR Programme (Flourishing and Well-being) and will be looking mainly at developing the resilience, health and happiness of IB claimants who have been referred to the programme from local health service providers, both mental health and the PCT. This will be a ten-week programme, which will then lead on to direct referrals to Kent NOW staff in Folkestone or North Kent. Links have been made with interested parties in the PCT and the mental health teams in Thanet and the surrounding areas, and work plans are progressing well. This arm of the programme is being funded independently of pump-priming (through funding from the Regeneration pot in KCC E&R).

Other initiatives:

- JCP to engage in Partnership Accords with Kent Districts, the first of which was signed at an Employer event on 30 March 2007
- Using training providers to deliver a roll-on roll-off course to IB claimants on work-readiness training, self-confidence and life skills, job search etc across Kent. Further training (IT, basic skills etc) will be provided by Libraries & Archives, Adult Ed, Key Training, CVS agencies
- Other training opportunities to be linked in - security officer training, transport training (PSV driver training etc) with guaranteed jobs at end of training
- Job search help will encourage, support and help clients look for work and move them into work readiness, helping with interviews and so on
- Working with key employers in area (especially those in public sector) to look at their recruitment strategies, and challenge them to take on IB claimants who have been trained
- Working with public sector employers to offer guaranteed interviews to clients
- Connections to Public Service Board, Construction Charters
- Also linking in with KCC Opportunities, Chambers of Commerce, CVS
- Press and marketing to encourage employers to look at what they could do, encourage local press to sell the idea and report positively

Target success assurance

A number of different and new initiatives are being put into place in order to achieve greater numbers of clients coming onto the programme. Whilst different approaches are being implemented in the different locations across the county, the barriers are similar, in that encouraging large numbers of clients onto the programme is difficult, but once they are engaged they remain in close contact with the teams. Subsequently their attendance is being turned into full-time work. There is then a 13-week hiatus while they are in work for their work engagement to be counted as an outcome for the target.

Whilst it is anticipated that the majority of outcomes will be derived from the Kent NOW programmes, there are other sources of job outcomes that can count towards the target. These include:

- People employed by Kent County Council who were previously claiming an incapacity-based benefit – this is an issue that the Supporting Independence (SIP) team are looking into with KCC colleagues at present, but numbers are expected to be significant.
- Adult Social Services clients who have moved on from Supported Permitted Work into full-time work. Thus being supported by KCC/Evolve Programme and the Mental Health Trust, off benefits and into employment. The numbers are being verified at present, but recent estimates suggest that there are around 15 people who have already achieved the 13 weeks in employment.

In Maidstone, the delivery team is working with cohorts of clients, and currently has numbers to fill the present and the next cohort – this amounts to 19 people and one job outcome so far. It is anticipated that around 40% of their client engagements will be transformed into job outcomes. We can give assurances that, from greater co-operation with other partner agencies in the area and new initiatives with local GP practices and other KCC programmes, the numbers necessary for future cohorts will continue.

In Folkestone, there is greater momentum from the length of time that the delivery team has been working on the programme, and there is a clearer picture as to what needs to be done in order to reach the target. At end March 2007 the Folkestone team had engaged 49 clients in their programme, and four clients had already moved into work – three in March alone, which suggests that momentum is increasing. The provider performance improvement plan, from Prospects Services Ltd, suggests that there is a need for 340 clients to be recruited onto the programme in order for 136 clients to be placed into work, which is the original figure, set for the Folkestone team. The provider and the operational team are confident that this is achievable given the degree to which new clients are coming onto the programme through referrals from partner organisations and through other initiatives that the Kent NOW team are enacting.

As an example of greater numbers of referrals coming from partner organisations, the Folkestone team have initiated partnership working with East Kent Cyrenians, a voluntary organisation that works with homeless people. They are keen to work together with Kent NOW as a provider for services to help support people back to work, and have, in the past month, referred ten clients. East Kent Cyrenians work with around 1500 people, 60% of whom it is estimated fulfil the entry criteria for Kent NOW, and a large proportion of whom are also close to being job-ready with a little support.

Folkestone Kent NOW team are also exploiting the pool of IB clients in Ashford in collaboration with East Kent Cyrenians through the Ashford Gateway, which has a footfall of around 5000 people each month. Five clients have already been registered for future work through the Cyrenians.

East Kent Cyrenians are keen to further develop work with Kent NOW and have suggested that working together in Canterbury, which is where most of their work is carried out, would be beneficial to both organisations. To that end we have decided that the North Kent team should relocate their efforts from Sittingbourne, which is yielding very low numbers of clients, to Canterbury, with immediate effect. This shift will be kick-started by a co-hosted event in early May with East Kent NHS Health Promotion team, using their health promotion bus to provide doorstep delivery and awareness raising in targeted areas of need.

The different approach in North Kent has meant that word-of-mouth has not been as successful a medium of marketing as it has been in Folkestone, given that they are not permanently settled in one place. To this end we are looking to consolidate their work in Dartford and Gravesend by locating for two days a week in one venue, working one day a week on the Isle of Sheppey, and then developing the work in Canterbury for the rest of the week. This should lead to improved numbers. However, the return-to-work rate for the North Kent team has been relatively good, considering they have only been working on the programme for seven months.

Any Kent NOW client who wishes to is offered free training and examination for the CSCS health and safety certificate for the construction industry – in Folkestone three clients have already gone through the process and one client is about to reach 13 weeks in employment. This initiative is to be extended across the county.

All Kent NOW teams are developing partnership working arrangements with the community mental health teams – through these contacts, staff will have direct access to many IB claimants and the mental health teams are committed to working closely with the Kent NOW programme.

The FAR Programme (Flourishing and Resilience) developed by Strategic Health Ltd, which is funded separately under the Regeneration Fund from KCC's Environment and Regeneration Directorate, is now going to operate as an ancillary programme to Kent NOW. It was originally planned that this would operate independently to bring in additional numbers of clients from elsewhere. However, given the small number of planned clients, the difficulty in engaging people onto the programme and the lack of return-to-work emphasis, it is thought that it would add more value and be more cost effective if it were to be run in conjunction with the existing Kent NOW initiatives. It will run as an additional module for existing and future clients of the Folkestone and North Kent teams – possibly being concentrated in Canterbury to support the development of the new intervention there.

Jobseekers Allowance

A HR subgroup to the Public Service Board (PSB) has been established with representation from each of the PSB's individual member organisation, to increase recruitment from those in disadvantaged backgrounds through Job Centre Plus (JCP). There has been a high profile launch aimed at local employers, encouraging them to recruit from disadvantaged groups. The current round of public sector economy right-sizing is impacting here. To overcome this the following activities are in the planning stage:

- JCP/LSC joint delivery planning includes a joint employer offer from JCP Labour Market Recruitment Advisers and Skill South East Brokers (hold regional Train to Gain contract) cross promoting our joint pre and post employment services

- Linking into JCP county marketing activities
- Negotiating a centre page editorial with the Kent Messenger to promote our services and our customers talent to the county business community
- Presentation to December's Public Service Board to ensure full public sector support
- Presentation to the wider Kent Partnership audience to ensure full private and CVS sector support.
- Working group formed to visit top twenty county employers to gain support – links with existing agencies activities
- Exploring a 'Kent Vision' conference to discuss the current big decisions being made in the public sector and the impacts on county private/ CVS sectors – also gaining their support
- Allocated the original stretch targets to the jobcentre network – will reduce to revised target after agreement
- As previously mentioned focused 10% stretch outcome onto our priority group two target, this links with current organisational operational steer and will ensure a direct feed into both the child poverty and social inclusion policies
- Kent Partnership organisations working with Jobcentre Plus to achieve this target: Saga – 500/600 call centre vacancies; Kent Police –247 police support officer vacancies; and Pfizer – biotech vacancies sourced from Europe
- Delivering a series of four events commencing June 2007 in partnership with Business Link to jointly promote our services to SME businesses in the county
- Prestigious medium/large employer event at the Houses of Parliament in October, sponsored by local MPs and attended by DWP welfare reform minister

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

LPSA2 agreement

JCP delivery plan for Outcome 15

KCC delivery plan for Outcome 15

Health & Employment Programme Invitation to Tender

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Learning points will be regularly noted, logged and acted upon.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

All are making active progress with DWP:

F1 – Strategic Partnership with DWP at Minister – Leader level

F33 – Explorer Partnership with DWP focussing on two year plus Incapacity Benefit

F34 – Extension of the DWP Pathways to work pilot for incapacity benefit clients

F35 – Increased Work Focused Interview for long term incapacity benefit

F36 – Pro-rata payment of PRG on LPSA IB target

F37 – Exemption from personal capacity assessment

F38 – Permitted Work Rules

F39 – Back to work payments

F40 – Early entry to training programmes

FUTURE ACTIONS

See action plans

FUTURE UPDATES

HC&OP leads meetings

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 16 	To promote the health of Kent's residents and reduce health inequalities by addressing variations in health across the county
Lead Partner: PCTs	Accountable Manager: Caroline Davis

Smoking	Baseline (04/05)	Year 1 (05/06)	06/07 Forecast	Status	Target (07/08)
4 week smoking quitters who attended NHS smoking cessation clinics	4961	7980	4980		9413
Mothers smoking during pregnancy	19.73%	18.05%	18.4%		17.52%
Obesity					
CHD patients with blood pressure 150/90 or lower measured in the last 15 months	79.54%	86.16%	83.10%		81.95%
CHD patients with cholesterol 5mmol/l or less measured within the last 15 months	66.92%	61.31%	68.98%		71.22%
People aged 15-75 with BMI 30+ as proportion of those with BMI recorded in last 15 months	19.09%	22.43%	23.63%		17.75%
People aged 15-75 with BMI recorded as proportion of people registered with a GP	18.65%	21.33%	17.2%	Context Data	49.94%
Sexual Health/Teenage Pregnancy					
%age of people contacting sexual health (GUM) services seen within 48 hrs of contact	64.95%	37.34%	49.47%		96.82%
	2003	2004	2005		2008
Teenage pregnancy per 1000 females	35.5	38.1	38.0		26.7
Mental Health	Baseline (04/05)	Year 1 (05/06)	06/07 Forecast	Status	Target (07/08)
Follow up within 7 days of discharge from hospital for adult mental illness patients on enhanced CPA	58.15%	65.05%	61.06%		98.82%
Age standardised death rate from suicide and undetermined injury per 100000 population	7.7	7.7	N/A		5.9

Children & Sports	Baseline (2004)	Year 1 (2005)	Year 2 (2006)	Status	Target (2008)
5-16 year olds taking 2 hours of high quality sport and PE weekly (LPSA 10.1)	45%	64%	76%		87%
5-16 year olds taking 3 hours of high quality sport and PE weekly (LPSA 10.2)	9%	20%	25%		19%
Adults & Sports	Baseline (Sept 05)				Target (Sept 08)
Adults taking 30 minutes sport and physical activity on at least 5 days per week (age standardised rate) (LPSA 10.3)	24.2%		Next survey 2008		28.8%

The **Children and Sport** target is the subject of co-ordination and monitoring by staff in the Children, Families and Education Directorate and direct intervention by the schools themselves. In the second year of the LAA the repeat surveys were carried out to establish the levels of participation so that a direct comparison could be made year on year. For the target of percentage of 5 – 16 year olds taking part in two hours of high quality PE and School Sport the national PESSCL (PE School Sport and Club Links) Survey data was used. This is collected from all 13 School Sports Partnerships in Kent, which in the academic year 2005 – 2006 included 6 established partnerships and 7 new partnerships representing 127,413 (68%) of young people aged 5 – 16.

- Analysis of all year groups at least maintained or showed significant improvement on a like for like basis for pupils in years 1 - 11.

- The most marked improvement in terms of key stages were in KS1 where there was an increase in the 2 hours PE and School Sport from 50% to 70% and KS4 increasing from 51% to 63%. This is significant, as these 2 key stages were the weakest in 2004-2005 and although they remain the weakest in 2005 – 2006 data shows they are improving at a faster rate and reducing the gap between these age groups and key stages 2 and 3.
- All of the 6 established School Sports Partnerships (SSP) recorded a continued trend of improvement. The 7 new partnerships were launched in September 2005 and traditionally impact accelerates in the second and subsequent years. Two of the longest established School Sports Partnerships show 96% and 89% of the young people in their partnership actively participating in excess of two hours a week of high quality PE and School Sport.
- The overall national average was 80% of young people taking part in two hours of PE and school sport on a weekly basis but this will include many areas where partnerships are well established and in their third plus year of working together.
- 96,834 or 52% of Kent's young people between the ages of 5 and 16 now take part in 2 hours PE during curriculum time on a weekly basis. These pupils will then be taking part in out of school hour's opportunities, which will count towards the second part of the target.
- 8,654 or 7% of the young people in the partnerships have three hours of PE in Curriculum time and therefore anything more that these young people do beyond the school day contributes to the aspirational target for 2010 of 4 hours of PE and Community Sport.

HEALTH DATA ANALYSIS

The Kent Agreement reporting timetable is not in line with the NHS Local Delivery Plan (LDP) reporting system. As such a projection was provided for the first year report in April 2006.

This entailed an extrapolation using figures up to and including the third quarter. Figures supplied to GOSE in April were shown as 'forecast outturn' information. The data provided now is based on actual performance, for Quarter 3 of 2006/2007. Please note that the data for Teen Pregnancy was last updated by Government in 2005 and there have been no further updates.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

NHS activities have continued to be compromised by the disruption caused by the reconfiguration of the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and the Primary Care Trusts (PCT). Arguably, Public Health in the new PCTs will be in a stronger position to work with their Local Strategic Partnerships on Kent Agreement delivery. Following PCT reconfiguration Kent County Council and the two new PCTs in Kent have appointed a joint post of Kent Director of Public Health who will lead on the delivery of Kent Agreement targets. The Healthy and Well Being Group (previously known as the Healthy Communities Group) has met and discussed activity for Block 3.

The **Stop Smoking** target is following a national and regional trend which has shown a peak in quit numbers and then a steady decline, which in part maybe explained in the South East by lower prevalence rates of smokers. Across Kent there are low quit rates in Swale (28% of annual target achieved) and South West Kent (26% of annual target achieved to date). Performance is better in East Kent overall, with Dover and Thanet achieving 57% of annual target achieved to date (quarter 3 2006/07). This compares to an average of 44% across the SouthEast Coast SHA. There is an expected national upturn for smoking quitters as the ban on smoking in work and enclosed places comes into force on 1st July.

Kent will continue to collect outstanding data from all surgeries, making low performing surgeries and those in areas of deprivation a priority. This activity has the greatest potential to boost performance figures for 06/07. We aim to increase engagement from primary care and pharmacy, either by encouraging more practices to sign up to service level agreement to offer direct support for smokers, or by increasing their referrals to the specialist service, so that more stop smoking groups can be run.

There is also now excellent engagement with local authorities who are contacting all businesses about smokefree and running publicity events which Stop Smoking Services (SSS) are signed up to continue the process of making contact with unsuccessful quitters.

Maternity services continue to liaise with and support staff involved with AN care in the delivery of SSS. A Midwifery 'champion' has now been identified in the DGS area who will have some dedicated time for pregnant smokers.

Smoking cessation services are targeted in deprived areas, e.g. based in Sure Starts, Health Living Centres. Community based services are used as an access point (e.g. Health Visitors) to maximise entry routes.

Schools/young people work - the service is working to develop a PGD for schools. Stop smoking services will offer quitting groups starting Jan 07 to students in mid-Kent and North West Kent colleges.

DGS have an 18-month project in place with a specialist worker from the local authority to target the disadvantaged community. The target is to produce 252 referrals to service between Oct - March. StopSmoking services are working to set up groups within mental health services. SWK team continue to work with staff at 3 prisons to offer a service. 21 practices are identified as having high rates with poor smoking cessation rates. These will be targeted along with GP work as discussed above.

Swale - Measures to report performance including a weekly bullet pointed written summary of initiatives being undertaken and a monthly figure of quitters.

Three of the local district councils may follow the example of Canterbury City Council in providing in-house sessions.

Tobacco Control

Approval has now been given for an officer to be appointed to lead the Kent Action for Smoking and Health – the importance of this body being held in some regard by district councils. In addition central government has made available an allocation to each district council as the enforcement body in preparation for their additional role when the legislation takes effect.

The East Kent Communications Unit has raised the profile of local services by:

- Radio Kent programme following a client (Radio Kent employee) over twelve weeks to a successful quit;
- Featuring the Stop Smoking message as the key feature of the annual wraparound issued by the local NHS for the KM group of newspapers at Christmas.

Mailshots and targeted leaflet drop distributed through the Kent Messenger Group to include Sheerness Times and Guardian and the Sittingbourne Extra.

Prisons

- Canterbury Prison continues to have a well established programme with both prisoners and staff. However the re-roleing of Canterbury may make this a less useful source of quitters.
- Swale Prisons – all three prisons are being contacted regarding data collection, training needs and any other issues. This is an on-going programme.

Obesity - The PCTs provide a range of services designed to assist people to improve their diet and to encourage physical activity, including walking schemes, and healthy cookery classes. Similarly Kent County Council promotes healthy eating via school meals, and sport in schools amongst many other initiatives. District Councils also encourage cycling, and offer local provision for physical recreation and many other programmes.

In the autumn of 2006 the KCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, working in partnership with three District Councils, published a report on Obesity which is now being looked at for inclusion in local obesity strategies. In addition, Choosing Health funding has been made available to fund additional projects to reduce obesity in East Kent, including Healthy Eating, Integrated Obesity Management, Physical Activity and lifestyle referral and public health walks in addition to services currently being provided. West Kent PCT has also made Choosing Health funding available to tackle health inequalities including obesity.

Overall, given the strong adverse trend, particularly amongst children, and men, its impact on several aspects of health, and the large numbers involved, tackling obesity should be considered a severe risk for this Kent Agreement and for public health in the future.

CHD is dependent on the consumption of a healthy diet but also on therapeutic interventions by GPs with individual patients. The emphasis in primary care is on the people with an increased risk of CHD, which includes hypertension, cholesterol and obesity. These conditions are all more prevalent in more deprived communities, by focussing the initial increase in identifying BMI levels in these risk areas, GP's are also targeting people from deprived communities.

The **GUM** target is being supported by significant new funding from Choosing Health in both East and West Kent (£337,000 and £750,000 respectively) as well as additional Gum funding that is not focussed on specifically achieving the 48 hour target (Chlamydia screening, sexual health promotion training programme and HIV).

In East Kent significant progress has been made on the reconfiguration of sexual health services. This has included changes to the way the service is accessed with funding moving from EKHT providing services to the PCT providing sexual health services based on a hub and spoke model and changes to the contract for the provision of services in Swale. As a result of this and continued investment, East Kent is scheduled to meet the 24 hour access target by the end of the financial year 2006/07.

The aim for ECKPCT is to have a hub and spoke GUM service with three Consultants and several nurse practitioners working in modern ways. Lack of suitable accommodation is hampering service development in Ashford, Margate, and Canterbury. Commissioning is negotiating with East Kent Hospitals Trust for conversion of premises for a suitable hub on the acute hospital site in Canterbury. SECSHA has allocated capital for this project, which should be spent by March 2007. In the Ashford locality a sexual health facility has been included in the development project for the Kings Avenue site however the project is not likely to come to fruition until 2009 and there is no guarantee that sufficient funding will be available. In Margate the accommodation in Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital is good but is only available for four sessions each week, negotiation with EKHT for additional sessions is continuing.

Preventive Actions

The promotion of health in young people through the sex and relationship education (SRE) part of the national curriculum in schools. New local guidelines on good practice have been published and will be used to monitor progress.

Targeting information on sexual health to particular groups in the community (especially young people), working through existing partnerships and programmes; for example, the Kent and Medway Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan.

Ensuring people who engage in high risk behaviours resulting in contracting sexually transmitted infections (STI's) such as homosexual and bisexual men, people who sell sex and people with high numbers of sexual partners receive appropriate targeted information and resources to enable them to maintain their sexual health.

Increased capacity within GUM service

Single Clinical Network. The establishment of a single clinical network across the two provider hospital Trusts which currently cover the population for West Kent PCT (Maidstone/Tunbridge Wells & Darent Valley) this will allow developments in the following areas.

- A central hub and distal spoke "service" which will allow the opportunities to develop single standard patient pathways.
- Nurse-led services.
- Outreach services where appropriate.

The **teenage pregnancy** target is very challenging as it is influenced by a variety of economic, educational, and cultural factors. Teenage Pregnancy (TP) is prevalent in most deprived areas in Kent, in particular Maidstone; Central Folkestone, Thanet and Thames Gateway. The TP service explicitly targets young women living in these areas via schools and outreach activities. Work is also undertaken to increase educational opportunities and provide social and health support to young mothers and their babies. Further additional funding to support the delivery of the Teen Pregnancy strategies has been made available from Choosing Health budgets. As a consequence of a recent KCC Scrutiny report into PSHE in schools, emphasis has shifted to address this issue in schools.

Adult mental health target - the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust are implementing two pieces of work. One is to improve the data recording/quality of follow-ups which take place within 7 days and the second is a system whereby identified key workers on inpatient wards will contact community mental health teams within 7 days of discharge to ensure follow-up. This process will be monitored by the inpatient Modern Matrons.

CPA follow-up: The CPA Policy states follow-up after discharge within 7 days, or within 48 hours for those identified as high risk on admission. This standard will be audited in the next CPA audit and is an issue that has been identified as problematic in the Trust. Up until recently, there were Kent & Medway wide CPA groups (chaired by KCC) and an East Kent group chaired by the CPA co-ordinator. Both of these groups have been recently dissolved within the new structures on the basis that CPA is an integral part of operational management.

Suicide numbers have remained consistent, but although the numbers are small, it does not reflect a recent national downward trend. There is some evidence of a local increase in suicide by young women, which is being

investigated. In East Kent, 30% of suicides were known to Mental Health Services, the largest single group but is by no means the largest part of the problem as a whole, most suicides had no previous history of mental illness serious enough to warrant specialist treatment. Achieving the LAA target will require a re-emphasis of the broad approach to improving the wellbeing of young people by providing better opportunities for them (through education, employment, leisure etc) with better coordinated and sustained public services as well as specific focus on prevention by the Mental Health Trust and other services provided to young people.

Each Kent prison has a suicide prevention officer to minimise self-harm as well as a Prison Service Instruction on reducing self-harm. Mental health input is to reduce self harm and suicide particularly in the first few nights in prison.

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Legislation reducing smoking in the NHS and then in workplaces and public places will continue to reduce the numbers of smokers. Kent Action on Smoking and Health (KASH) co-ordinates tobacco control activities, and works with trading Standards, District Councils, HM Revenue and Customs and schools.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

The volatility of data and the recent upward trend in teenage pregnancy and obesity should be considered a risk for the Kent Agreement.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F13 – Freedom to spend NHS training and education budget flexibility – Kent pursuing outside the Kent Agreement

FUTURE ACTIONS

To ensure successful delivery of the Choosing health funds focussed on reducing health inequalities.

FUTURE UPDATES

Progress will be reviewed at the following:
Health and Well Being Group: Meets quarterly
LDP Co-ordinating Group: Meets regularly

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 18 	To promote independent living for all
Lead Partner: KCC Adult Services	Accountable Manager: Oliver Mills

	Baseline (2004/05)	Year 1 (2005/06)	Year 2 (2006/07)	Status	Target (2007/08)
Independent Living					
People aged 65 and over helped to live at home per 10000 population (includes KCC funded Voluntary & Community Sector)	92.0	93	tbc		95
Admissions to residential/nursing care per 10000 population aged 65 or over (PAC C26)	81.3	73.4	72		74.2
Unscheduled use of hospital beds					
Emergency acute bed days people aged 75 or over (LPSA 11) *	(2003/04) 465677	Not Available	Not Available		462908
Vulnerable Adults					
Adults in permanent residential/nursing placements (LPSA 9.1)	(Jan 05) 1920	1891	tbc		1704
Supporting People					
Supporting people clients completing move into independence (LPSA 9.2)	(2004) 1635	(2005) 2053	(2006) 2426		(2005/07) 5337

* Un-validated data for 2005/06 shows this target is on track.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Good progress is being made with both of the Independent Living targets already achieved. Monitoring will continue to ensure the position remains positive.

The performance information on unscheduled use of hospital beds has not been updated since the publication of the 2003/04 data due to disparities between the national HES data and the local data. The problem is being experienced by a number of other authorities, and has been reported directly to the DoH as a matter of concern. Work continues with the Strategic Health Authority/ PCTs to explain the variance. The SHA are confident that the local data is robust and are currently unable to explain the difference as both come from the same source.

Publication of 2005/06 data was expected in February 2007 following an extensive cleaning process by the DH. This process has taken longer than expected. We are assured that the 2005/06 data will be with us before May 2007.

The performance on the vulnerable adults target for adults in permanent residential/ nursing placements was given amber status in the mid year report. This is due to the performance figures demonstrating a decline in numbers but not by enough of a decline to be on track to achieve the target. There is a concern that we will struggle to achieve this target. Many of those within this cohort who remain in residential care have complex needs, and need a wide range of services including supported housing. Although major strides have been made to develop services to meet the needs of this group, ensuring that these services are fully in place to enable that this target to be met within the timescale will prove challenging.

The Supporting People target remains on track to achieving the 2005-2007 target. The latest performance figures were provided based on January to June of 2006 coupled with the 2005 performance.

Telecare

KCC's aim with its Telecare Project is to develop Telecare services which are available to people as part of their care package, if they are users of Kent Adult Social Services. There are plans to ensure that Telecare is available privately to people who may not be eligible for Adult Social Services, at an affordable cost.

- Current number of service users: 610

- New developments to enable service user and carer feedback to be better used to inform future service development.
- Development of plans for an in-depth evaluation exercise of the dementia project in Gravesham, to be implemented shortly following approval by the Research Governance Board.
- Shared exercise with PFI Extra Care Housing team to establish technical specification for 340 units of Extra Care Housing in Kent.
- Progress made on the development of a joint Strategy with Supporting People, including work on a joint specification for community alarms and Telecare services. This includes constructive work with District Councils and Housing providers to establish links and shared objectives.
- A final Telecare Strategy will be developed Summer 2007. This will lead to a procurement exercise for installation and monitoring services.
- Participation in a bid by Kent Adult Social Services and key partners (including PCTs) for the Long Term Condition Whole System Demonstrator. The work undertaken for this Bid has been extremely productive irrespective of whether or not the Bid is successful. It is directly contributing to the development of the ongoing Telecare Strategy, including clarifying links with Telehealth, across the health and social care system.

Consultation with Care Managers and Occupational Therapists has established that significant savings can be made by using Telecare to help support people in their own homes, including delaying admissions to residential care. Satisfaction levels are very high. However, it is clear from experience on the ground that these benefits can only be achieved in the context of targeted, person-centred interventions, delivered following a proper assessment of need. Many cases choose to take a Telecare-only package offered as part of a wider package of care and support. These lessons will strongly inform the new Strategy.

Telehealth

The roll out of TeleHealth is continuing with up to 186 clients currently using TeleHealth monitoring with 31 more clients in the system. Early indications are that as a patient centred and targeted intervention, TeleHealth is not only improving health outcomes for patients but is also realising efficiencies and savings for the health economy.

Brighter Futures for Older People Programme

This 'Invest to Save' budget funded programme supports older people living in their own homes in the districts of Ashford, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells. The programme is delivered via a range of volunteer services designed to reduce avoidable admissions into hospital or long-term care, as well as keeping older people healthy, promoting social inclusion and independence and producing other benefits to the volunteers and their communities.

Six out of the seven funded projects are fully operational, with the seventh project partly operational. Over 150 volunteers are working within the seven projects and well over 500 older people have been supported to date. The Brighter Futures Group (BFG) services include postural stability classes, befriending, transport, assisted shopping and information/sign-posting. These are proving very popular and work is underway in some areas in Kent where BFG services are not currently operating to seek funding to start such services. A formal evaluation is being carried out by the London School of Economics is underway.

On 1 November 2006, a celebration event was held to raise awareness of the BFG. The aim was to share good practice and ideas about preventative services for older people, consider future sustainability of the BFG services and how they could be extended across Kent and to thank volunteers and celebrate the success of the BFG to date.

Direct Payments

Staff are now more actively involved in promoting direct payments and we have continued to see a significant increase in take-up during the year. The Kent Direct Payment Scheme continues to provide a quality service to individuals who choose to employ personal assistants. The scheme has developed some excellent DVDs as a training resource; these give real examples of how direct payments have been used to improve the quality of individuals life. These examples are also available on the Kent Direct Payment Web-site. Currently 60% of direct payment recipients choose to employ staff and many people who initially used agencies are transferring to the employment option.

The Kent Card was officially launched in March and Adult Services is working with providers to encourage them to accept Visa payments. Currently 20 people are testing the card and there are plans to expand. The Kent Card will reduce bureaucracy around direct payments and will also be the tool used to deliver individual budgets. Many other local authorities have shown an interest in this product and KCC is supporting a London event in early June.

Supporting People:

The SP Team has completed the service reviews for all SP funded services. This process has ensured that we will now work with a designated number of services over the next three years. The process has given a degree of stability and reassurance to providers, enabling them to commit to tackling the issues with move-on accommodation.

Towards 2010 includes a target to "Encourage the development of more housing for older people, disabled people and those with special needs." Effective management of the centralised SP Floating Support referral mechanism will enable the team to ensure that targets are being met and that the Floating Support resources are being used as effectively as possible. Following the strategic review of Floating Support services in Kent, its recommendations have now been implemented. This has led to a re-distribution of services across Kent resulting in more equitable provision.

The Supporting People Strategic Review of Short Term Accommodation Based services was completed in January 2006. The recommendations within the review were accepted by the Commissioning Body and will be implemented over the coming year. They include a local connection/reconnection policy and a move-on strategy. Additional housing stock is required to ensure throughput from supported housing.

Progress towards achievement of the target has remained good throughout 06/07 and it is predicted that the target will be exceeded for the year.

RISKS AND CONSTRAINTS

Due to a change in the way that preserved rights clients are counted, from 1st April they became part of the Older People performance line. There is a need to be aware that this has occurred so they can be excluded from the calculations conducted to monitor the People aged 65 and over helped to live at home.

Another risk is that the new computer system that is being implemented to record all client information (SWIFT) needs to be fully functional with a sufficient standard of data quality. Without the new system working fully performance information cannot be produced to complete the statutory returns or to provide monitoring information for LAA and Towards 2010

FUTURE ACTIONS

Adult Services view these activities as core business with policy and initiatives already in place to support implementation. We also aim to:

- Continue to implement the action plan to increase the uptake of direct payments.
- Continue to focus on the reduction of residential/nursing placements and develop community based preventative services to enable people to be supported within their own communities.
- Integrate the work of IF into mainstream joint working with the NHS
- Work with the new PCTs and SHA to develop activities to help deliver the Outcomes of the Kent Agreement.
- Work with the Health Service to improve access to information, particularly in regard to Emergency Admissions
- Bedding down of SWIFT

FUTURE UPDATES

- Operational Management Team (OMT) – Monthly updates
- Senior Management Team (SMT) – As part of the Financial and Risk Management Process reported quarterly
- OPUS and the Locality Groups – a regular standing item on these agendas to review performance on reduction of the use of hospital beds
- Healthy Communities and Older People's Block – quarterly meetings for the lead officers.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 8 	To develop the economic prosperity of Kent
Lead Partner: KCC E&R	Accountable Manager: Steve Arnett/Robert Hardy

	Baseline (2003)	Year 1 (2005)	Year 2 (2006)	Status	Target (2005 - 2008)
%age difference between the average gross full time weekly earnings in Kent and the national average	4.7% below	6.0% below	4.8% below		Less than 5% for one year
Number of jobs in Kent (excludes self employed)	533800	574200	Not available		572200

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Strategic Context

A range of strategy reviews which aim to set the strategic context and provide an additional level of detail on direction of travel, priorities and actions have recently concluded. These include:

- The Kent Partnership's countywide economic development and regeneration framework - Kent Prospects 2006 to 2012 (endorsed by KCC in March 2007).
- SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy 2006 to 2016 (endorsed by SEERA in September 2006).
- KCC's Towards 2010 goals, which includes activities to support business, job creation and skills development.
- The Department of Communities and Local Government's Thames Gateway Interim Plan.

The Kent Economic Board (KEB) has been established and is progressing activities through four task groups focussed on skills, enterprise, infrastructure and spending priorities. KEB will have a lead role in taking forward action plans linked to RES, Kent Prospects, and Outcome 8 priorities.

The three national and regional reviews listed below are currently underway with their findings due by the early part of Summer 2007. All will have an influence on how economic development and regeneration initiatives are delivered and resourced in Kent:

- HM Treasury's sub-national review of economic development and regeneration (due to report ahead of CSR 2007).
- SEEDA's review of economic partnership and Area Investment Framework (AIF) structures in the South East. Review results are expected during the early part of Summer 2007 and will feed into the RES Implementation Plan.
- SEEDA's South East Coastal Strategy and Framework for Action. The strategy will be completed by June / July 2007 and will feed into the RES Implementation Plan.

Programmes & Projects

As detailed by earlier monitoring reports, a range of ongoing programmes and projects are contributing directly and indirectly to Outcome 8 aspirations. The following provide a sample of activities:

Jobs

- Locate in Kent in their December 2006 monitoring report highlight that **inward investment** activity has increased over the first three quarters of 2006-7 with their project success rate 50% more than in the previous year (2005-6). Jobs created were also up by 10%.

Skills

- KCC in partnership with FE Colleges, work based learning providers and the LSC is rolling out its programme of 14 plus **Vocational Centres**. 23 Centres are planned with each to provide practical training opportunities for 14 to 16 year olds, 16 to 19 year olds, and adults in a variety of subjects. The **Outcome 6** monitoring report provides further information on related activities.
- The November 2006 **Kent Construction Skills Strategy** has been developed by KCC, LSC, training providers and industry. Key aims include the development of training opportunities; provision of work

experience placements on construction projects; and the engagement of construction companies with schools and training providers.

Enterprise

- Business Link Kent, with support from SEEDA and ESF, launched a new package of **green qualifications** at NVQ levels 3 and 4 during March 2007, which aim to help companies train specialist staff in areas such as – biomass heating; design and installation of solar photovoltaics and micro wind systems; recycling and sustainable procurement.
- During December 2006, the **East Kent Enterprise Gateway** was launched as a new resource to support entrepreneurs in the Dover, Thanet and Canterbury area. The Gateway is funded by SEEDA and also supported by BLK and KCC.
- During November 2006 the **eKent Partnership** was established to promote business access to and uptake of, wireless broadband across the county. The aim is for everywhere in Kent to be within 5 miles of a public wi-fi hotspot. Supported by SEEDA, KCC and others, the eKent Partnership is one of nine sub regional partnerships in the South East.
- The **Kent Film Office**, supported by KCC, aims to promote location and production opportunities across the county. This provides additional market opportunities for Kent's growing creative and cultural industries sectors.
- The **Kent Olympic business programme** is emerging to maximise the opportunity of the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

Infrastructure

- **Dartford Town Centre / Northern Gateway** – SEEDA has invested over £10 million of CLG funding to acquire strategic regeneration sites. A mixed use development of over 9 hectares includes 13,000sq m of new employment space with the potential to support over 400 new jobs.
- Acquisition by SEEDA of an 18-acre site for mixed development in **Queenborough and Rushenden**, which includes 180,000sq m of employment space at Neats Court. Two major employers have been identified for the site, with the potential to create 300 to 500 new jobs. A planning application for the site is to be submitted, followed by submission of an application for the CLG funded Rushenden link road.
- Infrastructure developments in **Ebbsfleet** and the opening of the CTRL International Station during 2007, to create further impetus for the development of a new strategic commercial centre providing 20,000 jobs over the next 20 years.
- Opening of the second **Swale Crossing**, and the increased accessibility this brings to the Isle of Sheppey for development opportunities.
- **Ashford** – SEEDA, Ashford's Future and other partners working on site assembly to take forward developments. This includes the Elwick Road site in Ashford Town Centre.
- Acquisition of **Manston Business Park** in East Kent by KCC. Locate in Kent and the East Kent Partnership report a lack of market ready property as a key constraint in East Kent. Limited utilities infrastructure is also a problem. This issue is being addressed by the **East Kent Spatial Development Company**. SEEDA will be carrying out direct development of a 35,000sq ft office development at **Eurokent in Thanet**, providing space for up to 170 jobs.
- The **London Array offshore wind farm** gained its DTI consent during December 2006. Over 200 turbines will potentially provide enough electricity for 750,000 homes. The development will also provide a catalyst for the growth of business and jobs opportunities, particularly in East Kent.

Regeneration

- **Coalfield Regeneration Programme** – planning applications have been submitted for 250,000sq ft of employment space on **Snowden** colliery site, with funding to be provided by SEEDA and English Partnerships (potential to support up to 400 jobs). **Lakeview Business Park** – site works completed June 2006 - when built out up to 400,000sq ft of new commercial floor space will have the potential to support up to 830 jobs. **Betteshanger** – completion of a new 240,000sq ft business park on the former colliery site and a country park, with potential to support up to 500 jobs. **Aylesham Village** expansion – SEEDA, English Partnerships and DDC are working together to identify a suitable developer for a 1,000 home development with linked employment, educational, leisure and commercial uses.
- Launch of the **Dover Pride** Initiative, which includes Dover District Council (DDC), SEEDA, KCC, East Kent Partnership, GOSE and Dover Harbour Board. Key projects include the redevelopment of the **St James area of Dover Town Centre** which has secured a SEEDA £7.5 million grant, a £1.25 million land and financial package from DDC, and a £500,000 contribution from KCC.
- Launch of the £10million **Margate Renewal Partnership**, which includes SEEDA (chair the partnership), KCC, Thanet DC and GOSE. A key aim is to drive forward regeneration of the town centre.
- Development of Area Partnership **2005/6 to 2008 AIFs / Delivery Plans** in East Kent, West Kent and the Channel Corridor.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- LAA Outcome 8 Delivery Plan
- Kent Partnership's Vision for Kent
- Kent Partnership's Kent Prospects 2006 to 2012 (March 2007)
- SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy 2006 to 2016
- KCC's Towards 2010

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

CONSTRAINTS/RISKS

Enabling Infrastructure:

- Public funding and developer contributions are available in Thames Gateway and Ashford growth areas and additional Government and CIF Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) allocations have been secured during 2006. KCC and Local Regeneration Partnerships have however outlined the need for greater levels of infrastructure investment, and they are engaged in ongoing discussions with Government Departments, the Highways Agency and utilities companies in this respect.
- Other parts of the county have also raised the need for infrastructure investment to secure economic regeneration opportunities, for example, Maidstone through its successful ODPM/CLG growth point bid, and Canterbury with regard to investment in A2/M2 slip roads.

Assisted Areas EU Structural Funds 2007 to 2013

- The DTI's Assisted Areas map published in October 2006 led to a considerable reduction of coverage in Dover and Shepway, with all of Thanet and 3 Dover wards retaining their tier 2 assisted areas status.
- The East Kent Objective 2 Programme concluded at the end of December 2006 (final grant claims on approved projects to be submitted during the second half of 2008). A successor 2007 to 2013 Competitiveness and Employment programme for the SouthEast is currently being developed, but will offer reduced funding and less of a spatial focus. 2007 to 2013 Interreg programmes will continue to offer support for projects that develop cross border and transnational opportunities.

Skills

Closing the skills gap between Kent and the rest of the South East is a major economic development objective for the county, and there is much work underway in Kent to address short-term and long-term skills issues. Stakeholders have however highlighted a number of issues that may constrain opportunities, including:

- Securing JSA recipient participation in employability programmes targeted at hard to reach groups. Benefit eligibility criteria can act as a block on participation. Actions detailed by **Outcome 15** are seeking to address this and related issues.
- Capacity building support associated with moving claimants from Incapacity Benefits to work readiness. Actions detailed by **Outcome 15** are seeking to address this and related issues.
- Ensuring LSC resources offer sufficient flexibility to tailor skills development programmes so as to meet local needs and opportunities.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F3 – Share the asset gain from development and regeneration – progressing with Government.

F50 – Funds for construction training – Kent pursuing outside the KA.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Update of Outcome 8 Delivery Plan - key document links include Kent Prospects 2006 to 2008, Kent Economic Board and Towards 2010 Action Plans, and the RES Implementation Plan. This will focus on key public sector interventions with scope to unlock economic development potential for a range of priority opportunities, and provide a key tracking mechanism to judge their effectiveness.

FUTURE UPDATES

As per Kent Agreement monitoring requirements.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 13 	To increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision making and delivery of services
Lead Partner: District Councils (Kent Community Development Managers)	Accountable Manager: Ian Park - Maidstone Borough Council (on behalf of CDMG)

	Baseline (Sept 06)	March 07	Target (2008)
Number of members registered with volunteer centres	6301	6,433 +2%	6709 (+ 6.5%)
%age of those from deprived areas/groups	23%	27% +2%	26.5%
Number of groups registered with CVS	4018	4,109 +2.3%	4305 (+ 7%)
Number of neighbourhood bodies or community projects	1214	1,222 +0.7%	1317 (+ 8%)
%age of residents who feel their areas is a place where people from different backgrounds get along well together	62%	No new data	Not due until June
%age of residents who think that race relations have got better or stayed the same over the past 3 years	77.9%	No new data	Based on previous data
%of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local areas	34.4%	No new data	35.5%
%age of residents in targeted areas satisfied with their neighbourhood as a good place to live	74.3%	No new data	Not due until June
Number of neighbourhood and parish plans	65	67 +3%	88 (+ 35%)

NB: As baseline data was only finalised in September 2006, it is too early to realistically expect actions contained in Action Plans to have had an effect on overall numbers. Where movement has been recorded these have been included. It should also be noted that some of the indicators involve data from BVPI surveys, most of which have not yet reported.

Copies of the Hawkinge Partnership and Thanet Safer Stronger Communities Fund Action Plans are attached as appendices.

CONTEXT

The first monitoring report highlighted the difficulty in identifying reliably collected data to inform the indicators associated with this Outcome. Since then the sub-indicators have been slightly amended (as above) to reflect information that is available without the need for additional surveys to set baselines. Where it was known that the BVPI survey would include questions of direct relevance to indicators these were included as future indicators, even where the data was not yet available. In this case an alternative source was included so each main indicator had at least one existing source of baseline data. Most of the BVPI surveys have now been undertaken with the key questions included. However insufficient data was available from these at the time of writing this monitoring report to be included.

In order to provide an insight into how the Action Plans are being delivered within DCs, a short case study has been included for each DC.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

The Kent Community Development Managers (KCDM) Group began meeting in September 2005. No such group had previously existed. Meetings of the Group take place monthly. It agreed the common indicators outlined above, as recommended by its data subgroup and these were subsequently amended in the light of difficulties experienced in collecting data.

It was decided that support was needed for the Group and CSC Regeneration & Research Consultants were appointed after a competitive tendering process in July 2006. Funding for the support has been made available by KCC. Since CSC's appointment the following actions have been undertaken with regard to the preparation and delivery of the District Action Plans:

- Baseline indicators amended to reflect data available.
- Production of baseline indicator table identifying data source circulated to all Districts for completion.
- All Districts completed the baseline table from which a Kent-wide baseline has been established.
- A Delivery Plan template was produced and circulated to all Districts, plus guidance notes.
- Assistance has been given to Districts on completing the Delivery Plans, where required.
- All Delivery Plans were completed by mid-October 06.
- A consolidated Delivery Plan covering all Districts was completed, circulated and uploaded to Kent Partnership's website.
- Brainstorming around actions contained in Delivery Plans was undertaken at meetings of the KCDM Group.
- All District Delivery Plans and the consolidated county-level plan have been posted on Kent Partnership website for information and sharing of good practice.

An area on Kent Partnership's website has been established for sharing information and best practice about activities and outcomes.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Outcome 13 delivery case studies

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

The KCDM Group has provided a forum whereby District CDMs and officers of KCC can come together to discuss ideas and share good practice. It also provides a forum whereby other agencies with particular expertise can come and inform the Group about their work, how they can assist in implementing actions and sharing best practice.

Examples of this include:

- Foundation Degree in Community Development and Regeneration being developed by Mid Kent College.
- Research into Benchmarking Community Development functions across DCs.
- Development of "Kent View".
- Inputting of ideas to Kent Agreement 2 and what should be included.
- Partners and Communities Together (PACT) and how to engage different interest groups.
- Kent's 2012 Strategy.
- Money available for capacity building LSPs.
- Kent Partners' Compact and District Roadshows.

Kent CAN (the county-level leadership body for the Voluntary and Community Sector - VCS) is a member of the KCDM Group and assists in informing VCSs and Volunteer Centres about Outcome 13 and the benefits of working together. Discussions are taking place with the Kent Sports Development Unit, regarding organising a volunteering strategy related to the 2012 Olympics.

The establishment of the Practitioners Forum on Kent Partnership's website has been used to share information, post documents and provide a chat room to discuss important issues between Group meetings. It is regularly updated with relevant documents.

The consolidation of Delivery Plans has enabled the sharing of good practice and the brainstorming sessions have helped Districts to further refine actions that will achieve targets. The Delivery Plans are very much seen as "live" documents that are amended and updated to ensure actions remain relevant.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

Perceived lack of capacity within the Voluntary and Community sector (VCS): how to prioritise activity to "grow" and sustain the VCS? This risk should be mitigated by the Kent VCS infrastructure development plan (the Kent-wide response to Change Up).

Lack of capacity within Districts and KCC: the Community Development Managers Group to lead. Support funding from KCC has helped to mitigate this risk through the appointment of CSC Regeneration & Research Consultants. Lack of existing data for agreed indicators – this has been overcome through slight amendment of sub-indicators and lobbying for appropriate questions to be put on the BVPI survey.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

FUTURE ACTIONS

The District Delivery Plans specify the future actions required within Districts.

Further meetings of KCDMG to be held monthly. These will co-ordinate the delivery plans; share best practice and oversee the monitoring, evaluation and review process.

Public involvement in LSPs and in devolved decision-making needs to be addressed as part of the future agenda of the group

Joint approaches between Districts and with other public sector bodies to the commissioning/funding of services from VCS organisations is also being explored and developed.

FUTURE UPDATES

Minutes of the Community Development Officers Group are published shortly after the monthly meetings. From November 2006 these have been posted on the Kent Partnership website in the Practitioners' Forum area.

EXAMPLES OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTCOME 13

DISTRICT	ACTIVITY
Ashford	Ashford Borough Council has just been awarded beacon status for promoting sustainable communities through the planning process . We are one of only four local authorities nationally to be given this award and were rewarded for our long track record of design workshops on important sites; our community based approach to masterplanning Ashford's growth and delivery of projects that will help to create new, quality places that local people have helped to design. Similarly we received a national commendation in Municipal Journal 2006 Achievement Awards for our 'work with the VCS' , in particular the establishment of Ashford Community Network, a vehicle which has allowed voluntary and community groups to become fully involved in the policy and planning of Ashford's Future growth.
Canterbury	The D'Arts Project has been running for five years now, and is based within the Neighbourhood Development Team at Canterbury City Council. It has been involved in a number of activities and events that contribute to Outcome 13: to raise awareness and promote greater understanding and acceptance between those who are different. Some of these include a summer playscheme for children at Querns Community Centre, Sri- Lankan and Caribbean celebrations at Spring Lane and Lucerne Neighbourhood Centres and a Global Festival, involving children from Querns and Springs Lane estates and also Prince of Wales Junior Youth Club.
Dartford	An example of the innovative way in which Dartford Council is engaging the local community is the development of the skate park in Central Park. Two design proposals were selected by the users with hundreds of people voting online for their preferred design. Local partners were engaged for additional funding and sponsorship to maximise the facility's potential. Dartford Council recognised that only through ongoing consultation with end users could a first class facility be achieved.
Dover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Buckland multi-agency group to address issues within the Buckland Ward in Dover. • Formed the Betteshanger Regeneration Team to empower the community in local decision making, delivering a £18.5 million regeneration project. • Set up the North Deal Community Partnership to address the social and economic needs of North Deal. • Set up Aylesham Community Development partnership to empower the community on regeneration and the village expansion programme. • Employed a Community Liaison Officer who has established links with our minority groups, enabling us to address potential community issues at an early stage. • Formed the Snowdown Regeneration Forum to address the regeneration of Snowdown Colliery. The group consists of local residents who are involved in local decision-making. • Assisted with the development of Triangles Community Centre facilitating and organising various groups who use the Centre. • Assisted with the development of Old Park Community Centre. • Set up a number of consultation groups in the District with residents around equality and diversity issues to ensure community views are taken into consideration in service delivery. • Revitalised the tenant participation process with Area Tenant Groups, District Tenant Groups, an effective Tenant Participation Officer and frequent surveys. • Suspended the KCC Local Board and introduced 5 Neighbourhood Forums across the District - this is partnership working across KCC, DDC and the Town and Parish Councils, with all meetings open to the public and access to funding. This is a 12 month pilot programme and the VCO sector is also looking to come on board once the pilot is formalised and rolled out. • Assisted CASEKent in reaching the final stage of the application process for the BASIS bid for lottery funding to provide two posts to support the VCS.
Gravesham	Community Cooking and "Eco Warriors" programme. We have used community cooking as a "tool" for about six years. As well as picking up new skills it

	<p>creates significant social capital amongst the participants. It pulls in people from all sections of different communities.</p> <p>We use people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds to bring some variety. We ran an extremely popular session with women from ethnic backgrounds on cooking a Sunday roast; this followed on from a session where Indian women showed residents on Northcourt how to cook a proper curry from scratch.</p> <p>The kids are involved and have taken the ideas into their schools. The "Eco Warriors" is now a burgeoning programme being put in place in schools</p>
Maidstone	<p>MVB Volunteer Centre and the Infrastructure Support Project are working closely with MBC and KCC on Outcome 13 of the Kent Agreement, particularly Indicators 1 and 2 relating to voluntary activity and to the number of neighbourhood bodies and community led projects. The following has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The baseline for voluntary activity and voluntary and community groups we work with has been agreed. - It has been agreed to target volunteering from specific postcodes and monitor activity. - The Development Officer – Infrastructure Support (DO-IS) is focusing on outreach particularly to BME and hard to reach groups. - The DO-IS will continue to work with Community Development Workers and help and identify ways to assist in the development of neighbourhood bodies and community led projects. - The DO-IS will attend as many local Multi Agency Partnership Groups (MAPs) as possible. - Progress on the Indicators will be reported to the VCS Focus Group as a regular agenda item and is included as a news item in MVB's Newsletters.
Sevenoaks	<p>The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership designated West Kingsdown as a Temporary Priority Neighbourhood (TPN) in response to concerns from local people about anti-social behaviour, nuisance and low level crime. When a TPN is designated, the Partnership organises a meeting with residents, local key workers, businesses, voluntary & church groups and the local parish council and formulates an action plan responding to local crime and anti-social behaviour issues. The aim is to bring local people together to find community solutions to local problems. Actions in West Kingsdown included the use of mobile CCTV, accommodation of the Community Warden in the local shop and increased provision for young people. Local community input to the group was exceedingly high and crime in West Kingsdown fell by 6.4% over this period compared with the same period in the previous year.</p>
Shepway	<p>In February 2007 the Hawkinge Partnership agreed its Strategic Plan covering 2007-2012 which is based on delivering the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better services for children and young people. • Bringing the community together. • Increasing awareness of services and facilities. • Improving the quality of 'your street'. • Making Hawkinge a safer place. <p>The whole ethos of the Strategic Plan fully accords with the aim of outcome 13 as the Hawkinge Partnership is seeking, through the Plan, to ensure that local people are fully engaged in the design and delivery of the local services that affect their area. The Plan was recently presented to and endorsed by the Shepway Community Partnership and it is intended that the lessons learned in Hawkinge can be applied across the rest of Shepway and beyond. Resident involvement in the development of the Plan was significant ensuring that philosophy of the plan was respected from the outset.</p> <p>March 2007 also saw the launch of the Shepway Community Plan by the Shepway Community Partnership. The overall vision as set out in the plan was 'Fair Shares in Success' and ensuring that, in the future, all residents are able to benefit from a prosperous Shepway. The Partnership recognises that this can only be achieved through empowering and involving local people and the Plan's action plan sets out a number of actions that will allow this to be achieved.</p>
Swale	<p>Examples of empowering local communities:</p> <p>Residents' Association formed for Bracken Court in Murston through locally identified need to improve local green space.</p> <p>Residents worked with partners through Swale BC's Pride Zone through the Community Safety Partnership and produced a contained planted garden.</p> <p>Residents' association raised external funds for a community artist to work with local young people to plant "Milton Pipes" to secure the area from cars.</p>

Thanet	Under the Cliftonville West and Margate Central SSCF Programme four Community Champions are now in place and carrying out work to raise their profile in the area. 113 residents attended plays put on to promote involvement in local democracy, this was well over the expected 60.
Tonbridge & Malling	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has developed an action plan which sets out jointly agreed activities and targets for the Borough Council, Tonbridge Volunteer Centre and Malling Volunteer Bureau. This action plan has two key objectives. Firstly, to increase the inclusiveness of volunteering in Tonbridge and Malling and secondly to increase the numbers of volunteers from the more deprived parts of the borough. Both Volunteer Bureaux have been successful in gaining funding for project work related to the action plan providing a real opportunity to achieve our targets under Indicator 1 of Outcome 13 of the Kent Agreement. While the Borough Council has supported the Volunteer Bureaux for many years, this is the first time we have jointly agreed a work programme in furtherance of an adopted target.
Tunbridge Wells	Residents in Sherwood, a priority neighbourhood in Tunbridge Wells, have joined together to form a residents' trust to improve their community. The TN2 Community Trust has recently applied for Charitable Status and will take over the management of a brand new Community Centre, which has been jointly funded by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town and Country Housing Group and Kent County Council. The Centre is currently under construction and is due to open in summer 2007.

Kent Agreement - March 2007

Outcome 17 	To improve Kent resident's access to homes of excellent quality in the right place, at the right time and right cost
Lead Partner: District Councils	Accountable Managers: John Littlemore and Rebecca Smith (on behalf of all partners)

	Baseline (2004/05)	2005/06	April 06 - Sept 07	Status	Target (2006/07)
Number of private sector houses not meeting the 'decent homes' standard (estimate based on CLG website tool)		5150			
Number of private sector houses brought up to the decent homes standard			182		466
Affordable housing delivered cumulative	844	1118	2115		4517
Dover, Shepway, Swale, Thanet			2006/07		2007/08
Vacant properties returned to occupation cumulative (LPSA 7.1)	62	149	321		372
Public satisfaction with the environment (LPSA 7.2)	48%	*	*		63%
Business confidence of growth (LPSA 7.3)	65%	*	*		80%

* No interim measurement

CONTEXT

This outcome has wide-ranging long-term significance. The targets and their associated indicators are divided between those that apply to the whole of Kent and those that apply in just four of the twelve Districts. Similarly delivery/accountability is divided between the Kent Housing Group (KHG) for the former and Kent County Council for the latter.

KHG continues to act as the lead body for the countywide targets. Data collection across all twelve Districts, indeed data availability, remains a significant challenge to the group but one where improvements have been made.

Further discussion with GOSE on these issues would be welcome. The need to re-visit the basis of the countywide targets and their links to wider Housing Strategy and planning delivery targets now looks likely.

KHG has been actively pursuing ways to improve delivery, co-ordination and effectiveness in relation to the overall outcome. The group includes not only the heads of Housing Services for District Councils, but Chief Executives or senior managers from all the Housing Associations and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) with a major presence in Kent. It has also strengthened its links to KCC and to the Kent Planning Officers' Group.

The District Councils within Kent vary in terms of who retains their social housing stock. Of the twelve Districts five have carried out a large scale voluntary transfer. In setting a decent homes target for housing it was felt that a more constructive approach was to concentrate on the target for the private sector, which all local authorities had responsibility for, rather than the public sector as nearly half the Districts would have no input. The option to include the social housing decent homes target was dropped following KHG's involvement, as we were seeking an inclusive target.

Work has continued with the Kent Choice Based Lettings consortium, which now includes all of the local authority areas and a significant proportion of RSL's operating in the Kent region.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE

Having established that KHG would concentrate its decent homes efforts on vulnerable households within the private sector the District Councils' representatives met to determine the baseline data, how this would be calculated and to set a target to measure improvement. Using the tool located on the CLG website we have been able to calculate each District's baseline and provide a total Kent number.

Each District Council has been asked to provide a target for 2006/07, which was again amalgamated to produce a Kent target. Discussion has continued as to how the joint approach might be able to produce better results for vulnerable clients living in the private sector. One suggestion being investigated is the use of an information centre. This would help raise awareness and provide information about grants or loans that could assist prospective clients to make their homes decent.

Progress against the delivery of new affordable homes remains below target. A total of only 2115 new units of affordable housing were delivered during the first half of 2006/07 although the data across Districts is still of variable quality and this figure may be an underestimate. Significant additional investment has been made available by the Government for 2006/7 onwards and it is hoped that this will speed up delivery. Reliance on market housing developments to deliver affordable housing means that speed and reliability of delivery is variable District by District.

Generally there has been an improved level of response to providing information for this Outcome with only 1 local authority not being in a position to provide data on both sets of figures.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

The issue with decent homes is a funding problem with the levels of investment in private sector housing varying from area to area. It is also the case that historically this has not been seen as a key issue for government funding. The Regional Housing Board highlighted private sector housing refurbishment within its last Regional Housing Strategy. However, the funding that ensued was not distributed universally and there has been some debate through the Regional Housing Forum as to how this money could be better targeted in future and how the funds should have agreed outcomes. As a consequence there are currently insufficient funds across Kent as a whole to tackle the decent homes target in the private sector.

PROGRESS/ACTIONS TO DATE - Empty Properties

Numbers returned to use

During 2006/7 a further 158 long term empty properties have been returned to use.

The break down by District is:

Thanet – 81

Dover – 41

Shepway 34

Swale – 2 (figures not finalised)

Loan fund

This was launched in October 2006 as previously reported. However further legal advice was subsequently received that stated that although KCC could offer loans for empty property renovation, it is legally obliged to charge interest at a rate set by the Secretary of State. In response to this a twin track strategy was taken to re-develop a viable loan scheme. The first strand was to submit to GOSE a request for a freedom and flexibility that would permit loans offered through the Empty Property Initiative to be offered interest free. This request has been refused. The second strand was to negotiate with the Districts to a grant package that would offset the interest repayments on the empty property loans. This approach has now been agreed with one District, and loan enquiries are now being worked up ready for approval. Further discussions are still taking place with the remaining districts and I am confident that a similar approach will be finalised with them shortly.

Partnership Fund

Following a number of successful training days a significant number of empty properties, whose owners are unwilling to take positive action to bring them back into use, are now being tackled through the partnership fund. Formal action has been commenced to compulsory purchase two properties, but in both instances the owners have sold their properties rather than go through the compulsory purchase procedure. The District Empty Properties Officers are now also fully utilising their powers under the Planning and Building acts, and in the majority of cases owners are responding by either renovating or selling their properties. In those cases where owners are still un-co-operative the partnership fund will be used to refurbish and bring these empty properties back into use. In addition the Districts and the No Use Empty campaign are fully promoting this area of work to re-enforce the positive benefits from bringing empty properties back into use.

Direct Purchase Scheme

Formal approval has now been received for this scheme and the initiative is looking at a number of possible properties for purchase by KCC for renovation and resale.

Links with wider regeneration activities

The Initiative is continuing to work with the wider regeneration activities being undertaken in the four Districts and is now an integral part of the Coastal Action Zone strategy. In particular the partnership fund is being used to target a number of key empty properties in the Dover Pride and Margate Old Town areas. It is expected that the loan scheme and direct purchase will also be utilised to secure the improvement and re-use of vacant and dilapidated properties across the four Districts.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Strategic map

Organisation and governance structure chart

PR Tender

Delivery Vehicle tender

East Kent market analysis

EHA paper on options for bringing properties back into use

Fordham Research reports on empty property surveys

Project plan

Risk evaluation and management framework

INNOVATION AND LEARNING

Links developed with Sandwell MBC, West Midlands consortium, East Midlands consortium and North London partnership to share ideas and learning.

Learning being shared via:

- Kent Empty Homes Officer Group
- Presentation at EHA Conference
- Presentations and I&DeA Conferences

Contact has been made by the Affordable Rural Housing Commission (AHRC), which is scoping examples of best practice for a report currently being written by this organisation. The ARHC 's opinion is that 'No Use Empty' is one of the best examples of an empty homes strategy that it has come across.

CONSTRAINTS/ RISKS

Some initial views have been set out about the need for greater investment at a local level and achieving this through relaxation of rules around retaining council tax realised through reducing the discount on second homes for local spending. This relaxation would help towards achievement of the target.

Data has not yet been collated for Decent Homes as the agreed format of the Kent Agreement was to jointly procure Private Sector Stock Condition Surveys for the whole of Kent in the first year, undertake the survey in the second year and set targets on this basis. Only then, in the third and final year, will data be collected on the progress towards these targets. KHG is therefore still in the process of procuring the surveys, in line with the first year target. There are concerns with regards to the usefulness of this data once it is collected. Evidence is currently being collated to explain these difficulties.

FREEDOMS AND FLEXIBILITIES

F44 – Local retention of increased Council Tax receipts from reduced empty home discount – in discussion with CLG

F45 – Unfit landlords – Kent pursuing outside the Kent Agreement

F46 – Tax incentive to assist older people to move to more appropriate accommodation – Progressing with Government

F49 – Management of district council housing stock – Progressing with Government through CLG – Current status unlikely to be achieved within the Kent Agreement period but worth continuing study. GOSE is aware.

FUTURE ACTIONS

FUTURE UPDATES

Steering group meetings take place quarterly. These determine the strategic approach to the initiative. Monthly project updates are provided to each council portfolio holder.