

Public Service Agreement: Progress Report to Executive

Introduction

The Public Service Agreement (PSA) is an agreement between Southwark and central government which sets challenging targets across areas of delivery of services to young people. It was agreed, following extensive negotiations with Government, in January 2002, and started in April 2002. The end points for measurement of the increase in services vary between targets between 2004 and 2005. Councils across the country have agreed PSAs with government that focus on both national and local priorities. Delivery of the increases in service delivery set out in the PSA therefore help deliver improvements in key local priorities, and through the PSAs around the country helps central government deliver its targets

The PSA has twelve targets that together cover the work of the many Departments and agencies around the borough that meet the needs and aspirations of young people. The target areas include: an increase in educational attainment; a reduction in youth crime; a reduction in the number of children in Council care; and an improvement in the quality of life for young people in Southwark.

The Council is receiving around £1 million in pump-priming grant from Central Government to assist us in delivering the extra work needed to deliver the extra success. For a number of the targets, delivery is with partner agencies such as the police and the work of schools.

Achievement of the PSA targets is crucially important for two reasons: first to make a real difference to the people of Southwark over a relatively short period of time; and secondly because delivering the additional performance is rewarded by additional Government grant. The proportion of potential grant that is payable is the same as the proportion of the enhancement in performance that the Council achieves for each target or sub-target, subject to a maximum proportion of 100 per cent and a minimum of 60 per cent. If the proportion would be less than 60 per cent, nothing is included in the grant in relation to that target. If all of the targets are met, the additional funding that will come to the Council will be over £8 million.

Recommendation

Executive is invited to note the position detailed in this progress report, and to note that Officers will submit a Strategic Report on the development of the programmes to address the PSA targets in September 2003

Progress Assessment

Progress towards achieving the targets is satisfactory, with planning and programme delivery underway.

In three areas, performance equals or exceeds the level needed to meet the targets set for the end of the PSA process. These are:

- In Social Services reducing the number of children looked after;
- For those children who are looked after, increasing the number who are adopted; and
- For the Police, the clear-up rate for offences against young people by young people.

It is critical to note however that where targets have already been successful before the required deadline, there are robust management processes in place to sustain this improvement and to ensure that there is no subsequent 'dip' in performance towards the 2004/5 target dates.

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data necessary to develop targeted programmes of work to meet the targets and for data to be collected regularly enough to inform progress reviews and to be monitored by a Strategic PSA officer's board.

The PSA Targets Summary Table

Target No.	Target Description	Target Comment	Progress
Target 1	To reduce public concern about young people and the facilities for them, and to improve the satisfaction of young people themselves with Southwark as a place to live	Awaiting survey data results to be reported in September progress report.	Further
Target 2	To improve sustained job entry rates for young people	Awaiting Employment Service data results to be reported in September progress report.	
Target 3	To reduce crime against and the repeat victimisation of young people by young people	Clear up rate target of 20% already met Repeat victimisation target - Awaiting Police data results to be reported in September progress report.	
Target 4	To reduce reoffending by young offenders	Number of young people re-offending is reducing. Awaiting more detailed data results to be reported in September progress report.	
Target 5	To improve educational attainment at GCSE	GCSE results increased from 34% to 36% in 2002.	
Target 6	To reduce school truancies and raise levels of attendance	Levels of attendance at primary and secondary have stayed the same to date.	
Target 7	To increase post-16 participation in education and training	Staying on rates have significantly increased up from 66.9% in 2001 to 70.5% in 2002	
Target 8	To reduce the number of children looked after	In December 2002, the figure stood at 6.25 per 1,000, successfully exceeding the level of the 2004/5 PSA target of improvement.	
Target 9	To increase the number of looked after children who are adopted	The interim target of 22 children looked after to be adopted in the 2003-04 financial year has already been exceeded and stands at 30.	

Target 10	To improve road safety and personal safety on school journeys	Awaiting next Survey data results to be reported in September progress report
Target 11	To increase Council Effectiveness	Discussions continue between Central Government and Councils with PSAs on how this can be reasonably measured
Target 12	To increase young people's participation and achievement in play, sport, youth activities and out-of-school learning	Awaiting further detailed data results to be reported in September progress report

Detailed explanation and progress reports

A more detailed explanation of the target areas, the baseline data and target levels set and the current position follows.

Target 1: To reduce public concern about young people and the facilities for them, and to improve the satisfaction of young people themselves with Southwark as a place to live

Improvement will be measured by the proportion of residents expressing concern about young people through the bi-annual survey of residents and a separate survey of young people aged 10-16 commissioned specifically for the PSA on young peoples' views of Southwark as a place to live.

The separate survey of young people has been conducted. The results are now available and issues raised will be discussed with individual Departments as part of the strategic review process in order to address the issues raised. Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners to develop a programme of work which addresses the perceptions and concerns which are expressed by local residents and young people with reference to this target. Detailed data on progress towards meeting this target will be made available in the September progress report.

Baseline position and target

16% of residents expressed concern about young people, and 33% of residents felt facilities for young people need improvement as part of the 2002 MORI survey. 70% of young people polled said that they were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with this area as a place to live.

The target is that no more than 13% of residents express concern about young people, and no more than 29% feel that facilities need to be improved in the bi-annual survey in 2004. A 2% point improvement on the level of satisfaction measured in the first survey is the target for the views of young people in 2005, i.e. 72% of young people reporting that they are either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with this area as a place to live.

This target requires a longer period of time to assess the changed perception of Southwark residents and young people. It is recommended that Members wait until the September Progress report, which will provide greater detailed progress data on this target and information on how the perception of residents' concerns have been addressed and managed.

Target 2: To improve sustained job entry rates for young people

Improvement will be measured by an increase in the percentage of sustained job entry rates on the New Deal for Young People, closing the gap between the current performance and the rate for the inner London cluster (Hackney and City, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets).

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

At September 2001, the annual cumulative sustained job entry rate for Southwark was 27.5%. This compared to the median for the Inner London cluster of 30.3%. The PSA target is to equal the inner London median by the end of the 2004-05 financial year.

This target links to the borough's employment strategy by improving access to employer-led customised pre-employment training for young people including access to more neighbourhood-based provision available through the local regeneration partnerships and possibly neighbourhood renewal funding. They will also allow greater flexibility in dealing with clients with high basic skills needs (particularly ESOL) and greater access to supported workplace employment through extending the age range for Modern Apprenticeship funding to ensure young people sustain their employment.

The Council is also appointing a workplace co-ordinator to maximise possibilities within the Council and other public sector services within the borough and champion the development of appropriate employment routes for local people through the New Deal for Young People

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data necessary to develop further targeted programmes of work to meet this target. Detailed data on progress towards meeting this target will be made available in the September progress report.

It is recommended that the Chief Executive of Southwark negotiates with the Employment Service to provide greater levels of data feedback to the PSA Strategic Review Board of officers.

Target 3: To reduce crime against and the repeat victimisation of young people by young people

Improvement will be measured by a reduction in the rate of repeat victimisation of young people (aged 10-17) and an increase in the clear up rate for offences against young people by young people.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

Over the 12 months to November 2001, the rate of repeat victimisation was 12.8% (based on 4,228 offences) with a clear up rate of 15%.

The target is a rate of repeat victimisation of no more than 10%, with a clear up rate of 20% in spring 2005.

A number of strands of work are being developed or extended to address this area:

- the Coram Family Project, a voluntary organisation, is developing a service for young people to tackle the effects of victimisation and reduce re-victimisation. They are working in partnership with the Youth Offending Team, police and local schools. It will be developed with the police officers in schools to deliver 3rd party reporting schemes and support victims willing and able to either report offences to the police and/or engage in restorative justice resolutions. Where appropriate, the work will take place in the school or in a community setting rather than in police stations;
- Youth Offending Team personal advisers are working out of custody suites in local police stations. They will advise on alternatives to charge or caution, and increase the capacity of the Youth Offending Team to deliver restorative justice options to more cases than where there has been a final warning delivered, or there is Court-ordered interventions. This work is in addition to the restorative justice services being developed in schools with the School Beat Officers;
- The work of the School Beat Officers includes building better relationships between the young people and the Police, help to ensure that schools provide a safe environment for learning thereby reducing the incidence of bullying and crime levels in and around the school; and facilitate crime reporting where previously the crimes might have gone unreported; and
- The Karrot project is being supported which provides activities to engage young people in positive pursuits. This multi-agency project fronted by the police rewards for attending school, provides experiential activities and a mobile Internet venue.

The target for the clear-up rate (20%) by 2004/5 has shown high levels of performance and success. It can be reported that that the target for the clear up rate of crimes was actually met for the period April 2002 to January 2003. The planned activity for this target will continue to ensure the sustainability of this success and indeed exceed the 2004/5 target.

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data to meet the target for repeat victimisation.

It is recommended that Members wait for detailed data on progress towards meeting this target, which will be made available in the September progress report.

Target 4: To reduce reoffending by young offenders

Improvement will be measured by a reduction in the rate of reoffending of 10-17 year olds from one year to the next based on cases allocated during October to November.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

For those young people entering the programmes in October 2000, the rate of reoffending 1 year later was 31.89%.

The target is a reduction to no more than 23.89% in the last 3 months of 2004 for the cohort entering the programmes at the end of 2003.

Activities within the Safer Southwark Partnership's wider youth crime strategy are expected to contribute to performance in this target. The local partnership is taking a number of measures to reduce recidivism and to disrupt the pathway of young offenders towards more serious offences. These include:

- A multi-agency Risk Management Panel which shares intelligence concerning young people with a view to disrupting offending behaviour, planning appropriate individual interventions and identify available resources;
- An Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Project, outsourced to NACRO, was established in January 2002. It provides 30 places across Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark for use as part of a sentence by a court, or as part of conditions of bail. The young people on the project receive 25 hours supervision each week and it includes validated surveillance such as tagging. The service tackles the underlying needs of the young people with a particular emphasis on education and training to reintegrate them within society. The project is to be evaluated by the Youth Justice Board;
- The Youth Offending Team has established an Early Intervention Team. It targets young people aged 8 to 13 years identified as being 'at risk' of offending, with particular regard to the transitional phase between primary and secondary schools. It also works with the 8 to 9 year age group around issues involving gang membership and gang-related crimes;
- A cognitive behaviour technique programme (STAR) to challenge offending behaviour has been developed with YJB funding. It involves a series of 20 sessions for high-risk offenders/PYO's to address issues including victim empathy, social problem solving, social skills, anger management, substance misuse, family difficulties; and
- A Black Self-Development group has been established working with limited number of African, Asian and Caribbean young men. Over 8 weeks, covering a total of 12 hours, the group provides them with the opportunity to explore their cultural identity, history and perceptual attitudes towards different sectors of the community. It also provides guidance around education, training and employment and encourages positive methods of challenging discrimination.

The target for the number of young people re-offending has shown that re-offending after sentencing is reducing. The way the initial data was calculated is being reviewed and additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data to meet the target for repeat victimisation.

It is recommended that Members wait for detailed data on progress towards meeting this target, which will be made available in the September progress report.

Target 5: To improve educational attainment at GCSE

Improvement will be measure by an increase in the percentage of children achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

The achievement rate in 2001 was 34% of children achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. The target is 42% in 2005.

Extensive analysis has taken place over the last four years, both within Southwark and in comparison with the national position. The results of the analysis have been used to determine the strategy for supporting schools to continue to improve.

A number of steps have already been taken or are planned. These include:

- Expanding the link adviser team, including appointing a former secondary head to the link adviser team to enhance its knowledge base and range of expertise with support provided proportionate to need;
- To increase expectations of pupil performance, schools have been provided with data and training which provides a framework for target-setting based on individual pupil predictions;
- The introduction of a Key Stage 3 Strategy to raise the attainment of pupils on entry to KS4;
- Training and support in the 'alternative curriculum' at Key Stage 4 will be provided; and
- Introduce a range of guidance and tools to audit pupil behaviour and school behaviour management policies.

The target for the LEA average for 5+ A*-C GCSE passes has shown good signs of improvement with an increase from 34% in 2001 to 36% in 2002. There needs to be sustained levels of LEA Key Stage 4 support to schools to maintain and increase the rate of improvement to achieve the 2004/5 targets..

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data to meet the target

It is recommended that Members wait for further detailed data on progress towards meeting this target, which will be made available in the September progress report, and after the Summer GSCE results have been announced.

Target 6: To reduce school truancies and raise levels of attendance

Improvement will be measured by an increase in attendance at both primary and secondary schools.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

The levels of attendance in the 2000/2001 academic year were 93.5% in primary schools and 90.4% in secondary schools. The targets for the 2004/05 academic year are 95.5% for primary schools and 93.5% for secondary schools.

Work in this area fits within the Behaviour Management Strategy. Activities include:

- Targeting schools with higher than average absence rates for intensive LEA and multi-agency support, concentrating on targeted community secondary schools and the worst performing 20% of primary schools (2002 – 5);
- Assisting schools with data analysis and targeting of vulnerable pupils/groups through links and joint visits with School Improvement Advisers;
- A publicity campaign linked with police and targeted punctuality campaigns and prosecutions (2003);
- Raising the profile of Pastoral Support Programmes to target vulnerable pupils (linked to exclusions target) – (2002/3); and
- The establishment of multi-agency Teams through the Behaviour Improvement Programme to address issues, which could result in non-attendance and social exclusion.

The target for the levels of truancy has shown some signs of improvement for secondary schools with an increase from 90.4% in 2000/01 to 90.8% in 2001/02. There has been a slight decrease in the attendance for Primary schools at 93.3% for the 2001/02 academic year

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data necessary to develop further targeted programmes of work to meet this target.

It is recommended that Members wait for further detailed data on progress towards meeting this target, which will be made available in the September progress report, and after the Summer GSCE results have been announced.

Target 7: To increase post-16 participation in education and training

Improvement will be measured by an increase in the number of year 11 pupils remaining in education and training beyond the statutory leaving age.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

The staying on rate in 2000 was 66.9%. The target is 77% in 2004.

Southwark has a low number of school based sixth-form provision, which makes the transition from school to FE College more of a hurdle. As part of the work to develop and implement the 14-19 Strategy, the following areas are being developed:

- Facilitating college lecturers teaching in year 11 in schools to encourage progression and ease the transition between GCSEs and onward study;
- Establishing supplementary classes and pilots of independent study opportunities for year 10/11 students in communication and related skills;
- Arranging classes for times when students are available (eg days at College when they do not have classes timetabled, after school, twilight and free periods);
- Developing projects around creative music and fashion to stimulate interest in learning within groups of disaffected pupils and re-engage them in learning; and
- a sub-group of the Connexions service will be established to address the specific issue of tackling the staying on rates.
- To implement a Southwark Guarantee for all students and parents which shows an entitlement to post 16 education with clear Southwark based pathways to School 6th forms, FE Colleges, Work based learning and a cross sector post 16 curriculum.

The target for increase participation in post 16 education or training has shown good signs of improvement climbing almost 4% points in one year to stand at 70.5% in 2002 up from 66.9% in 2001.

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data necessary to develop further targeted programmes of work to meet this target.

It is recommended that Members wait for further detailed data on progress towards meeting this target which will be made available in the September progress report and after the Summer GCSE results have been announced and staying on rates calculated.

Target 8: To reduce the number of children looked after

Improvement will be measured through the number of children less than 10 years looked after per 1,000 children under 10 in the borough.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

In March 2001, 7.45 children were looked after by the borough compared to an inner London average of 6.45. The target is a rate of 6.95 per 1,000 by March 2005 without reducing necessary safeguards.

Southwark Council is introducing a Family Support Strategy, which works across the many separate initiatives and partner agencies working with families and their children. It will include better early intervention and prevention measures, together with better risk management and fast tracking systems for identifying vulnerable children and their families and linking them to the appropriate family support service. It will offer assistance when it is first needed, so that fewer children end up in crisis.

Activities are being taken forward to develop:

- a fast track programme to link vulnerable children to relevant statutory services;
- co-ordination and joint working with a view to create a holistic system of services to children under one body. This will include special emphasis on integrated pathways into statutory services where more intensive help is needed;

- better links and formal networks of skill-sharing between social workers and project workers in areas such as risk management, and of local resources and issues; and
- systems for special attention to key transitional stages i.e. from pre-school to school support networks.

It can be reported the target for reducing Children looked after has already been successfully achieved and in December 2002, the figure stood at 6.25 per 1,000, exceeding the level of the PSA target of improvement. The planned activity for this target will continue to be implemented to ensure the sustainability of this success and indeed further exceed the 2004/5 target.

It is recommended that Members wait for further detailed data on progress towards further exceeding this target, which will be made available in the September progress

Target 9: To increase the number of looked after children who are adopted

Improvement will be measured through an increase in the number of children looked after adopted in the year.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

In the 2000-01 financial year, 11 children looked after were adopted. The target for the 2004-05 financial year is 33 children, with an interim target of 22 children looked after to be adopted in the 2003-04 financial year.

Improving performance in this area links with other action to improve educational outcomes for looked after children and to reduce the numbers of such children who offend. Activities to boost the numbers of adoptions include:

- Enhancing the fast tracking programme for under 3s to all Children Looked After where adoption is the permanency plan;
- Developing a support service to adopters including respite care, practical support and access to therapeutic interventions;
- Appointing two workers to work on better recruitment of adopters giving a faster match and reducing waiting time to placement, including a focus on children and adopters from black and ethnic minorities and developing a recruitment campaign; and
- The use of purchasing adoption placements from a voluntary adoption agency or the adoption unit of another local authority.

It can be reported the target for increasing Children who are adopted has shown high levels of improvement. Between April and December 2002, 30 adoptions were arranged. The interim target of 22 children looked after to be adopted in the 2003-04 financial year has already been exceeded. The planned activity for this target will continue to be implemented to ensure the sustainability of this success and indeed further exceed the 2004/5 target.

It is recommended that Members wait for further detailed data on progress towards further exceeding this target, which will be made available in the September progress

Target 10: To improve road safety and personal safety on school journeys

Improvement will be measured through a reduction in the number of children and people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, a reduction in the number of young people aged 10-16 who report dangerous incidents on the school journey, and a reduction in the number of journeys reported as unsafe by young people or their parents.

Baseline position, work in progress and PSA target

In 2000, 247 people were killed or seriously injured and 31 children were killed or seriously injured in road accidents in the borough. The targets for 2004 are no more than 189 people and 26 children

The baseline position for the percentage of young people reporting dangerous incidents in the preceding 3 months on the school journey was 26%, and the percentage of children and parents who reported that their/their child's journey to or from school in the preceding 3 months was journeys reported as unsafe was 16%. The target for summer 2005 is a percentage point decrease of 5 points on the position established through the survey.

The Council will develop an action plan based on the results of the MORI survey. A School Travel Advisor who will be responsible for raising awareness of safety issues in schools throughout the borough and provide advice and relevant resources to all schools, and also work intensively with targeted schools. They will deliver lessons on road and personal safety and advise on incorporating these into the PHSE curriculum to ensure sustainability. The information coming back from schools will be used to inform future work.

In addition, the Council is developing a Road Safety Plan which will set out the Council's strategy related to issues and actions across the whole borough incorporating action to help all ages and covering all relevant roads. 8 new 20 mph safety zones and two local safety scheme programmes will be designed and built by December 2004, and potential accidents hotspots will be identified to inform necessary work. All traffic engineering schemes will be assessed for potential impact on vulnerable road users

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data necessary to develop further targeted programmes of work to meet this target. Detailed data on progress towards meeting this target will be made available in the September progress report.

Target 11: To increase Council Effectiveness

This is a requirement enforced by HM Treasury. Discussions continue between Central and Councils with PSAs on how this can be reasonably measured.

Target 12: To increase young people's participation and achievement in play, sport, youth activities and out-of-school learning

Improvement will be measured by an increase in attendances by young people aged 5-19.

Baseline position and target

There were 218,548 attendances during the 2000-01 financial year. The target is 332,096 attendances in the 2004-05 financial year.

The Youth Service, After School and Play Services will develop and implement interactive and open learning opportunities together with a play curriculum complementary to the national curriculum. The Council will also look to improve the affordability of the pricing policies of the leisure centres; and provide access to activities run by the sports development unit and local sports clubs at low cost.

Detailed work includes 4 new Adventure Centres planned between now and 2004, a mobile play service vehicle which was introduced in 2002 to access areas of the borough where there are lower levels of provision, and developing coaching sessions in schools, promoting specific sports to children and continuing and developing links with sports clubs in the borough.

Additional work is being undertaken by officers and our partners around collecting the required level of data necessary to develop further targeted programmes of work to meet this target. Detailed data on progress towards meeting this target will be made available in the September progress report .

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