

Better & Better 2

Thurrock's Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2010



Section One - Introduction

Foreword

"Welcome to version two of Thurrock's Children and Young People's Plan. This plan sets out the ambitions which Thurrock Council and the Thurrock Children's Trust have for the children, young people and families in our borough.

The Council and all partners on the Trust see improving the lives and opportunities of our young people as our major responsibility. So, this plan is an important document because it sets out what we have done so far on the journey to achieving our ambitions, and it sets out the things we will do next to continue on our journey to realising those ambitions.

At the heart of our work is our determination to ensure our children are safe, healthy and have every opportunity to achieve their potential. Working together, the Children's Trust partners have achieved much in the last two years. However we also know from data, from what our staff in both the statutory and voluntary sectors tell us and from what children, young people and parents have said over the last two years, that there is still much to do in the priority areas for improvement we have identified. This plan describes how we are going to tackle those priorities in the next three years.

Our second year plan, 'Better and Better 2', not only sets out what the priorities are and how we will deal with them – it also ensures that every partner agency within the Children's Trust is signed up to meeting these priorities and signals our commitment to work together and to be collectively accountable for achieving these priorities. The tasks ahead of us present challenges but they also present a wonderful opportunity. I am confident we will meet the challenge and, importantly, take the opportunities that working together gives us so that all the children and young people of Thurrock, whatever their background, will see their lives get 'better and better' as a result."

Councillor Sue MacPherson – Portfolio for Children's Services – Thurrock Council

Our Vision and Ambitions for Children and Young People

The Children's Trust's shared vision for Thurrock is

“Thurrock – a wonderful place to grow up”

Where:

- 1) Each baby has the healthiest possible start to life
- 2) Each child and every young person lives and learns in an environment and culture where good physical and sexual health choices are the norm
- 3) Each child and every young person has access to the services they need when they need them to support their emotional physical and mental health and well being
- 4) Each child and every young person is able to feel and be safe at school, in their early years setting, and in their community and community settings
- 5) Each child and every young person is protected from harm or neglect and supported to remain with their own family whenever safe to do so
- 6) Each child and every young person in need of additional support benefits from timely and accurate assessments and interventions
- 7) Each child and every young person is helped to achieve their learning potential through raising standards and accelerating progress at all key stages
- 8) Each child and every young person can access high quality learning experiences which help narrow the gaps between the least and most disadvantaged pupils
- 9) Each child and every young person benefits from learning provision which secures attendance, inclusion and access to a wide range of curriculum and extended school provision
- 10) Each child and every young person has a voice in decision making, which improves self esteem and contributes to shaping services
- 11) Each child and every young person lives free from crime, bullying and harassment
- 12) Each child and every young person, particularly those who are disadvantaged, can engage in activities that positively contribute to communities and to community cohesion in Thurrock
- 13) Each child and every young person is supported to become informed and educated adults attaining at level 2 or level 3 by age 19
- 14) Each child and every young person has the confidence, skills and tools to enjoy the benefits of regeneration in Thurrock now and in the future
- 15) Every young person has prompt access to good quality housing provision especially at times of transition and vulnerability such as young people leaving care or young people seeking asylum in the UK

Our Service Principles

To ensure that we all work towards achieving our vision and ambitions for children and young people, our services will be:-

- ❖ Focused on flexibly meeting diverse individual, family and group needs
- ❖ Centred on raising the aspirations of every child, young person and family
- ❖ Based on the belief that while safeguarding is the responsibility of every person and every agency in the community, specific safeguarding services will work to protect those most at risk
- ❖ Designed and delivered to ensure that children and young people are safe.
- ❖ Responsive to the need for equality in an increasingly diverse community
- ❖ Regularly reviewed and assessed through on-going quality assurance
- ❖ Brought together in multi-disciplinary teams, making use of a “Lead Professional” model
- ❖ Based around an assessment of local community needs which includes the views of children, young people and their parents/carers
- ❖ Focussed on prevention and early intervention
- ❖ Delivered by a highly motivated and appropriately skilled workforce

Making a Difference

The Children’s Trust partners are aware that we will need to deliver all of the actions within this plan through services which meet the principles that we have set out above. We will know we will have made a difference to children and young people in Thurrock when:-

- ❖ Outcomes improve across all 5 of the Every Child Matters outcome areas of Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Positive Contribution and Economic Well Being for all children and young people, particularly our most vulnerable groups
- ❖ Children’s needs are identified earlier and addressed more effectively through co-ordinated services based on the work of our locality based multi-agency groups
- ❖ There is consistent good quality provision of education and all other services regardless of where a child lives within the borough
- ❖ More children and young people report that they feel safe, respected and valued within their home, school and local communities
- ❖ More families are supported through prevention and support services, delivered on behalf of the Children’s Trust by the voluntary sector
- ❖ More of our services are commissioned from a range of providers, including voluntary groups and statutory partners such as schools
- ❖ The gaps in outcomes are narrowed between children and young people in Thurrock and their peers nationwide
- ❖ The gaps in outcomes are narrowed between the least and most disadvantaged young people in the borough
- ❖ There is evidence that we are effectively preventing escalation of risk and harm of children, so that the numbers requiring statutory safeguarding intervention falls
- ❖ More of our young people enter and achieve successfully within further and higher education provision

Section Two – Delivering Every Child Matters Profile of Children and Young People in Thurrock

Figures in brackets show National averages

Place

- Area of borough: 165sq km
- Population density-people per hectare: 8.7 (3.5)
- Green belt land: 70%
- Riverfront: 18 miles
- Wards: 20

Deprivation and Inequality

- Indicators of inequality and deprivation are improving but inequalities exist in parts of Tilbury, Grays, Belhus, Chadwell, Ockendon and West Thurrock
- In 2007 124th out of 354 areas in England in terms of multiple deprivation
- Inequalities gap is biggest in health, crime, education and employment

People

- Thurrock's population continues to increase
- Population at 2001 Census: 143,212
- Population 2008: 150,000
- Population growth 1991-2007: 16% (5%)
- Projected population 2031: 183,200

Age Profile

- Younger age profile than the national picture
- Aged under 15: 20% (17%)
- Aged 15-24: 12% (13%)
- Aged over 50: 30% (34%)
- Aged over 75: 6% (8%)

Ethnic Profile (All Residents)

- Thurrock is becoming more diverse
- Non-white population 2001: 4.7%
- Non-white population 2007: 9%
- Largest BME group 2007: Asian/Asian British 3.7%
- Number of new National Insurance registrations by overseas nationals in 2007: 1,510

Ethnic Profile (C and YP)

- School Census data shows a larger increase than the above figures
- Non White British 2003 – 10%
- Non White British 2009 – 22%
- Largest BME group in 2009 – Black/Black British 10%

Health

- CAMHS self assessment ranks 4th quartile
- Obesity in Reception and Year 6 is high with both areas being 4th quartile.
- Children's participation in sport increased and is above the national average
- Hospital admissions caused by un intentional and deliberate injury is low when compared to national (1st quartile)

Safe

- Increase in the child protection referrals
- Increase in the numbers of core assessments carried out
- Increase in the % initial assessments completed on time
- Decrease in the core assessments completed on time
- Drop in numbers of children with a child protection plan. 148 (Mar 08); 128 (Mar 09)
- Fewer children perceive bullying to be issue 44.2 (48)

Enjoy and Achieve

- In 2008 Targets were exceeded in foundation stage attainment but still below national averages 78 pts and at least 6 pts in 48% (49%)
- 2009 KS1 results showed an improvement and reached the LAA targets
- In 2008 performance at KS2 was very low with Thurrock being in the 4th quartile for most indicators. L4+ inc Eng and Maths 65% (72%)
- In 2008 GCSE improved in some areas to above National averages 5+A*-C 67.5% (65.3%) but in others 5+A*-C inc Eng & maths performance was below National averages 42.8% (48.3%)

Positive Contribution

- The reduction in Teenage pregnancy in Thurrock is amongst the best in the country but still needs to improve to reach targets - 34.7% (-10.7%)
- Permanent exclusions from Thurrock schools are below national averages

Economic Well Being

- Attainment of Children and Young people by age of 19 is extremely low Level 2 at 19 65.1% (76.7%) Level 3 at 19 37.6% (49.8%)
- The numbers of young people progressing to higher education is very low.
- Adult qualifications are very low. Adults qualified to level 4 15.2% (30.2%) this is in the bottom 10% nationally.

Children's Trust Governance

In November 2008, what was the Thurrock Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership changed to become a Children's Trust, with a range of duties and responsibilities set out by the Children's Act. In Thurrock, the key partners who are represented on the Trust and participate in the work of the Trust are Thurrock Council, the South West Essex NHS, Essex Police, Essex Probation Service, Thurrock Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, the Learning and Skills Council and representatives of the voluntary and community sector in Thurrock. Each of these partners is represented on the Children's Trust Board which has overall responsibility for the strategic planning and delivery of services for all children and young people in the borough.

The Children's Trust Board is supported by a Management Executive and Joint Commissioning Group. This group is responsible for ensuring that the right services are provided at the right time and in the right places. The group are also responsible for decisions to commission new services and to decommission services that are no longer needed so that resources are always closely following need and used in a way which secures the greatest impact and delivers good value for money.

The Trust is responsible for overseeing the delivery of all services to keep children and young people in Thurrock safe. The Trust and all its partners are individually and collectively accountable to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board for the effectiveness of that work to safeguard children and protect them from harm.

Children's Trust Structure

There are a range of groups which support and drive the delivery of the Children's Trust. These are set out in Appendix 1.

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), called 'Better and Better', is the strategic, overarching plan for all local services which are delivered for all children and young people and for those services which are delivered to specific areas or for specific groups such as services for disabled children and young people. It is a statutory plan, based on central government's children's plan and it acts as the foundation for all other plans and strategies that are being delivered or being developed in Thurrock.

The plan is considered a 'living' document that is reviewed twice each year by the Children's Trust Board. In addition, the Children's Trust produces an 'Annual Report' on the progress in delivering the plan setting out areas where services have made a difference and areas where there is still further improvement needed.

Above all, many of the priorities and objectives in this plan are based on the views of children, young people, parents, carers and our workforce through a range of mechanisms including general and specific surveys, face to face consultation between the Children's Trust Board and young people and face to face dialogue with families as people who access facilities and services in Thurrock.

Section Three – CYPP Ambitions for 2009-2012

What We Have Achieved So Far

Since the publication of Thurrock's Children and Young People's Plan "Better and Better" we have worked together to implement a range of actions which have not only improved the services we deliver, but have also helped us develop new ways of working together, sharing information and sharing resources.

We have learned much from implementing the first stage of our children's plan and this learning is reflected in this updated plan. However we have also made some significant improvements and we are determined to ensure that we build on these foundations in delivering "Better and Better 2"

Among the successes of the last two years is an increase in the number of children and young people who enter education, employment or training at age 16, more children reaching good standards in their learning by age 5, more of our young people attaining GCSE's than ever before, fewer of our young people entering the criminal justice system and a reduction in the rate of teenage pregnancies which is one of the best in the country.

We have also made significant investment in the future, including over £1 million of new services to prevent family breakdown and prevent some of our children and young people being at risk of harm or neglect, opened the temporary Thurrock Learning Campus facility in Grays which will soon be followed by a new state of the art building and demonstrated our vision for the future of our schools through the opening of the new Gateway Academy.

As a Trust, we have put listening to children and young people regularly at the heart of our work. Every Trust Board meeting begins with a discussion between the Board members and a group of children and young people – in the past twelve months we've talked to pupils in Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Youth Centres, Special Schools and in the Pupil Referral Unit as well as to parents at different Children's Centres across the borough. Alongside this we have developed 4 area based "Multi-Agency Groups" which are already seeing schools working alongside a range of agencies to identify children's needs much earlier than ever before and make sure that there are resources in place which meet those needs quickly and effectively.

However we are not complacent and there is more to do. We have to improve the health of our young people and reduce inequalities, we need to improve the numbers of young people reaching the required standards in English and Maths, especially at age 7 and age 11, we need to help more of our young people continue to learn and progress after 16, including increasing the numbers who go into further and higher education and we will continue to work with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to sustain the improvements in our safeguarding services.

Development of Our Ambitions

The Children's Plan originally set out a range of ambitions which are the key areas where the Trust is seeking to improve outcomes for children and young people across each of the 5 Every Child Matters outcome areas. These ambitions were reviewed against the progress we had made in early 2009 and were also considered against the emerging picture which the Trust is building up on the needs of children, young people and their families.

For this revised plan, 'Better and Better 2' the Trust has established a revised set of ambitions across all of the outcome areas. Our revised ambitions were developed through:-

- ❖ The key findings in the Trusts Annual Report for 2009
- ❖ Feedback from external inspections of schools, other children's services and Ofsted's Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services
- ❖ Discussions with other partners and Government Office for the Eastern Region about the priorities for tackling barriers to young people achieving and succeeding which were included in Thurrock's Local Area Agreement
- ❖ The stretch target areas for children's services in Thurrock's existing Local Area Agreement
- ❖ Reviewing recent changes in legislation and guidance
- ❖ Emerging health needs identified within the Essex-wide Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- ❖ Feedback from children and young people through surveys and the 'face to face' sessions
- ❖ Feedback from the first Annual Stakeholder Forum attended by a range of providers and stakeholders involved in supporting children and families
- ❖ Discussions involving all partners represented on the Thurrock Children's Trust Board
- ❖ Reviewing the Local Safeguarding Board's Business Plan and the recommendations of the recent Laming Report on Safeguarding

Children's Trust Ambitions and Objectives for 2009-2012

BE HEALTHY

What Children and Young People Have Told Us

- Large decrease from 2007 to 2008 in the percentage considering themselves “Very Healthy”, increase in “not very healthy” – this decrease is significant. Whilst improved knowledge of “what is healthy” could cause this change the difference in the size of change locally compared to nationally should be noted.
- Thurrock has seen a decline in the numbers of young people eating ‘3 to 4’ or ‘5 portions’ of fruit and veg a day. This is lower than the National average
- Nationally and locally there has been a reduction in the percentage of young people reporting taking 30+ minutes of exercise 6-7 days per week.
- Fewer young people in Thurrock have never had a drink than nationally, but on the positive side significantly fewer young people have reported being drunk 3-4 times in past 4 weeks. In year 6 more girls report never having drunk this reverses by year 10, with more boys reporting never having drunk
- More than $\frac{3}{4}$ Thurrock young people now report never having smoked, this has improved by 5% since 2007. In
- year 6 and 8 girls are less likely to smoke but by year 10 this has changed with girls being more likely to have tried cigarettes and more likely to smoke regularly
- In both 2007 and 2008 admitted drug use is lower than the national average. Analysis by year group and gender shows unlike alcohol and smoking females remain less likely to have taken drugs in both year 8 and year 10
- In all areas young people wanted more or better information this was statistically significant in the case of information on healthy eating, girls in year 10 felt the greatest need for more or better information. In line with national the area where most young people wanted more or better information was on ‘sex and relationships’ this was particularly true for girls.
- More year 8 young people want information on drugs than year 10 young people
- In Thurrock young people were significantly more worried about exams than national averages. For all year groups and all genders ‘exams’ were the area with the highest percentage stating they were worried.
- Fear of bullying appears to decline with age
- Worry about school work increases with age group
- Girls worry about boys and sex in year 8 more than makes do but by year 10 this subject worries both genders equally
- Money becomes more worrying with increasing age group, particularly with year 10 boys
- Friendships worries remain fairly constant with age group BUT girls worry more in this area than boys do
- The future causes more worry with age group
- Concern with parents/family increase with age with girls always more worried (particularly in year 10)
- Girls worry more about their bodies than boys do

Be Healthy Ambitions and Objectives

We want children and young people to enjoy good physical, mental and emotional health by providing support and encouragement for adopting healthy lifestyles and making healthy choices. Our top three ambitions for children and young people's health, and the objectives we have set ourselves to work towards achieving our Be Healthy ambitions are that

AMBITION 1 - Each baby has the healthiest possible start to life

OBJECTIVES

1A - Extending the availability of community mothers by commissioning this provision borough-wide

1B - Increasing rates of immunisation at all ages

1C - All families with new born babies in SureStart local programme and Children's Centre areas to be visited in first two months of their babies' life and given information about the services and support available to them

AMBITION 2 - Each child and every young person lives and learns in an environment and culture where good physical and sexual health choices are the norm

OBJECTIVES

2A - Extending number of full status healthy schools to be ahead of target by the end of July 2010

2B - Ensuring all schools are participating in the healthy schools programmes

2C - Increasing number of young people reached by our Chlamydia screening programme, especially those who are most at risk

2D - Making further reductions in the number of teenage pregnancies in the borough so that we continue to narrow the gap between Thurrock and national levels

AMBITION 3 - Each child and every young person has access to the services they need when they need them to support their emotional physical and mental health and well being

OBJECTIVES

3A - Implement a new CAMHS strategy borough wide to extending and building on the current successful work in supporting young people's mental health

3B - Reducing the rate of increase in childhood obesity levels at both age five and age eleven through the use of the MEND scheme and through the development of family programmes in conjunction with Impulse Leisure

3C - Developing additional play facilities in all of Thurrock's Primary Schools

STAY SAFE

What Children and Young People Have Told Us

- Young people in Thurrock feeling safe in school was in line with national figures, there was a large rise in the percentage feeling 'very safe' between 2007 and 2008
- Young people in Thurrock felt significantly LESS safe on public transport than nationally, year 6 and 8 feel least safe
- Young people in Thurrock felt significantly LESS safe in their local area than nationally, year 6 feel least safe
- Bullying figures in Thurrock were in line with national in 2008. Chinese, white and mixed race most likely to suffer regular bullying
- Whilst bullying was in line the perception of how schools dealt with bullying was significantly worse in Thurrock than nationally. Primary children felt that bullying was better dealt with by their schools than secondary school children did.

Stay Safe Ambitions and Objectives

We want to ensure all our children and young people are free from harm and neglect and that safeguarding is seen as the responsibility of every agency and of every member of the community. Our top three ambitions for keeping children and young people safe, and the objectives we have set ourselves to work towards achieving our Stay Safe ambitions are that

AMBITION 4 - Each child and every young person is able to feel and be safe at school, in their early years setting, and in their community and community settings

OBJECTIVES

4A - Implementing our anti-bullying strategy

4B - Reducing the fear of crime among young people while supporting those who are victims of crime, including race and hate crime

4C - Training more practitioners and managers in Safer Recruitment procedures

4D - Developing and implementing an e-safety strategy in conjunction with neighbouring authorities to keep young people safe while using ICT, including the internet

4E - Promoting school travel plans and a series of road safety campaigns

AMBITION 5 - Each child and every young person is protected from harm or neglect and supported to remain with their own family whenever safe to do so

OBJECTIVES

5A - Delivering a series of actions to meet all the recommendations from Thurrock Serious Case Reviews and the national Laming Report

AMBITION 6 - Each child and every young person in need of additional support benefits from timely and accurate assessments and interventions

OBJECTIVES

6A - Identifying and supporting young people who have no access to public funds

6B - Implementing programmes which support children and young people who are exposed to domestic violence

6C - Providing additional support to those who are victims of sexual violence, especially sexual exploitation and trafficking

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

What Children and Young People Have Told Us

- Compared to the national picture a similar proportion of young people in Thurrock 'Enjoy school' and 'try their best'
- More young people in year 10 feel they 'do not learn a lot' at school than in other years
- When asked what would help them learn, in line with national the highest percentage of pupils felt that 'more fun / enjoyable lessons' would have the biggest influence. A significantly higher percentage in Thurrock felt 'more help from teachers' would help them learn this was particularly true of boys and increased with year group.
- When asked how easy it was to get help significantly fewer in Thurrock found it easy this was particularly true of the secondary age groups.
- Significantly fewer young people in Thurrock rated activities for young people positively. When asked what activities young people would like Thurrock differs significantly in more young people wishing to access 'gym' and 'music lesson' than seen nationally
- When asked what they had done in the last 4 weeks significantly more young people had been to a 'local park or play ground' and 'cinema or theatre' than nationally
- Significantly fewer young people had participated in 'concert or gig', youth club' 'faith/ community group' or 'music lesson' than nationally

Enjoy and Achieve Ambitions and Objectives

We want children and young people to benefit from high quality learning experiences from their first days in early education, through primary and secondary school and on into further and higher education and training so that they achieve their potential and can overcome barriers of disadvantage and poverty. Our top three ambitions for children and young people's enjoyment of learning and achievement in education and the objectives we have set ourselves to work towards achieving our Enjoy and Achieve ambitions are that

AMBITION 7 - Each child and every young person is helped to achieve their learning potential through raising standards and accelerating progress at all key stages

OBJECTIVES

7A - Implementing the "Every Child A Reader" programme to help raise standards in literacy

7B - Implementing the "Every Child Counts" programme to help raise standards in numeracy

7C - Extending the use of the Improving Schools Programme to more primary schools across the borough

7D - Providing additional capacity and support to remove schools from Ofsted categories

7E - Developing and implement new structures for leading and governing some schools, including setting up federations and Trusts

7F - Developing the Academies programme within Thurrock's secondary sector

7G - Implementing the National Challenge support programme in some secondary schools to increase the number of young people attaining 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C including English and Maths

AMBITION 8 - Each child and every young person can access high quality learning experiences which help narrow the gaps between the least and most disadvantaged pupils

OBJECTIVES

8A - Targeting support for young children during the early years to specific areas of the borough in order to reduce the gaps in attainment between the most and least disadvantaged pupils

8B - Developing and implementing a revised SEN strategy

8C - Recruiting a new Looked After Children Education Support team, led by a Virtual Headteacher, to oversee educational provision and wider opportunities for our Looked After Children

AMBITION 9 - Each child and every young person benefits from learning provision which secures attendance, inclusion and access to a wide range of curriculum and extended school provision

OBJECTIVES

9A - Reviewing and updating pupil place planning for every part of the borough to ensure there are enough places to meet demand

9B - Reviewing and enhancing provision for children who are excluded or who need assistance through our Pupil Support Service

9C - Working with primary schools in particular to improve overall levels of attendance and reduce levels of persistent absenteeism

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

What Children and Young People Have Told Us

- Young people in Thurrock held similar views to nationally when asked if their views were listened to about decisions in the local area, with the majority feeling their views were not listened to
- Many more felt their views were listened to in school, with 60% responding positively, this percentage was highest in primary school
- Significantly fewer young people in Thurrock than nationally feel that their area is a 'very good' place to live (24% in Thurrock, 32% Nationally)
- Satisfaction with the area declines steeply as young people get older. Boys tend to rate their area higher than girls. Black / Black British and Mixed race most satisfied

Positive Contribution Ambitions and Objectives

We want children and young people to have access to a range of opportunities and services which enhance their lives and which allow them to make a contribution to their own lives, to the lives of their peers and to their communities, through having a voice and through the chance to participate. Our top three ambitions for children and young people to make a positive contribution, and the objectives we have set ourselves to work towards achieving our Positive Contribution ambitions are that

AMBITION 10 - Each child and every young person has a voice in decision making, which improves self esteem and contributes to shaping services

OBJECTIVES

10A - Extend the engagement of children and young people in consultation by commissioning young people to talk to and listen to other young people on our behalf

AMBITION 11 - Each child and every young person lives free from crime, bullying and harassment

OBJECTIVES

11A - Strengthen local partnership working to tackle anti-social behaviour and the perceptions of this in local communities

11B - Implement our Youth Justice Plan and Youth Crime Reduction Strategy

AMBITION 12 - Each child and every young person, particularly those who are disadvantaged, can engage in activities that positively contribute to communities and to community cohesion in Thurrock

OBJECTIVES

12A - Creating exciting and adventurous play sites across the borough through improving some existing sites and developing some new sites – check no on play strategy

12B - Publishing new and improved ways to communicate on what there is to do within the borough, especially for taking part in Positive Activities and in holiday activity programmes

12C - Improving support available for young carers to access a range of opportunities

12D - Delivering our Parenting Strategy to help parents have the confidence and skills they need as their children grow and learn

12E - Ensuring that children and young people with disabilities have the same access to good facilities and opportunities as every other child and young person

12F - Deliver a range of targeted and borough youth services which will engage more young people with youth provision than ever before

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELL BEING

What Children and Young People Have Told Us

- ❖ Whilst there is a significant difference in the percentage of young people aspiring to go to university in Thurrock compared to nationally (45% Thurrock, 54% nationally) there has been a significant improvement between 2007 and 2008 (38% 2007 to 45% in 2008)
- ❖ The percentage of young people intending to get a job at 16 has fallen from 23% in 2007 to 16% in 2008 (in line with national)
- ❖ There has been a large rise in the number of young people intending to study till 18 in Thurrock.
- ❖ When asked what would make the area better a higher percentage of Thurrock young people would like more information to help them plan for their future.
- ❖ When asked what would make their life better the top 4 answers in Thurrock were 'more help plan for future', 'places to go to spend time with friends', 'better lessons', and 'more help at school'

Economic Well Being Ambitions and Objectives

We want children and young people to have the skills and confidence to move into further and higher education and training programmes which will help them in enjoying a standard of living which makes the most of their choices and life chances. Our top three ambitions for children and young people to achieve economic well being, and the objectives we have set ourselves towards achieving our Economic Well Being ambitions are that

AMBITION 13 - Each child and every young person is supported to become informed and educated adults attaining at level 2 or level 3 by age 19

OBJECTIVES

13A - Work with providers of post-16 education to provide a broader range of courses

13B - Increasing the number of young people attaining a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 through strengthening the partnership between the Local Authority, schools, colleges and other partners and by implementing the next range of diplomas and Foundation Learning from September 2009 which are tailored to the individual needs of each student

13C - Increasing the range of sixth form provision on offer within the borough through additional sixth form delivery from a partnership of schools in the North East of the borough and from schools which become Trusts or Academies in other parts of Thurrock

13D - Increasing the number of young people in Thurrock who progress to higher education by increasing the range of courses available locally and by developing local progression pathways to higher education

13E - Increasing the provision and take up rates for Family Learning programmes and for Adult Education

AMBITION 14 - Each child and every young person has the confidence, skills and tools to enjoy the benefits of regeneration in Thurrock now and in the future

OBJECTIVES

14A - Further reduce numbers not in education employment or training by providing appropriate information, advice and guidance on progression to all learners at age 16 and at age 17

14B - Work alongside the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation to deliver new facilities for work based learning within the Royal Opera House development

AMBITION 15 – Every young person has prompt access to good quality housing provision especially at times of transition and vulnerability such as young people leaving care or young people seeking asylum in the UK

OBJECTIVES

15A - Improving the advice, guidance and support to young people who need assistance with housing from age 16 onwards

15B - Reviewing and improving the suitability of housing which is provided for young people

Section Five – What Next?

Developing More Detailed Plans

All partners have a shared responsibility to develop additional and more detailed plans and strategies which will achieve each of our priority objectives which we have set out in Section 4 and help us achieve the Ambitions we set out in Section 3. Each organisation is accountable for delivering against the outcomes and for working in line with the vision, ambitions and principles that we set out in this plan.

Sometimes agencies come together to develop joint plans for taking their work forward. Whether it is the work of a joint group or a single agency, you can see the more detailed plans by either following the hyperlink on the on-line version of this plan or by requesting a copy of the plan from the list in the Appendix which follows.

Providing Resources

Resources are aligned and allocated to each priority by the different organisations and agencies. However for some of the priority objectives different agencies will “align” their budgets so that in this way we can deliver better quality or quantity of support than any one agency could have done working alone.

Making Sure It Happens

Underneath the Children’s Trust Board, each of the agencies and each of the joint work stream groups is responsible for delivering on specific Ambitions and for achieving the priority objectives. The Chair of each of these groups is responsible for working with their colleagues to oversee the implementation of detailed plans and for reporting back to the Board every three months on the progress being made, on any problems or barriers which may have been encountered and how those barriers will be overcome to ensure that children, young people and families get the right service, to the right standard, at the right time and in the right place.