

Skills Be healthy Services Schools Education
Achievement **Play** Every child matters Prevention Local Participate Learn
Tackling inequality, creating opportunity Enjoy and achieve Stay safe
Caring Happy Protect Children's centres
Trust **Children and Young People's Plan**
Quindrat Youth **2009-2013**
Positive contribution Opportunity Improving Engage
Health Parents Economic wellbeing Families



Selecting priorities

The **Commitments Grid** provides a comprehensive set of commitments, benefits and performance measures for the Children and Young People's Trust for the four year period of this plan.

In addition, to ensure the Trust has a sharp focus on those areas most needing concerted action, the Trust Board will identify a small set of 'benefits lines' from the **Commitments Grid** as priorities each year. Priorities will be selected based on three sorts of information:

- Like the plan as a whole, our starting point for selecting priorities will be the **needs assessment** of the borough – identifying needs of children, young people and families to which services must respond.
- Alongside this, we will look more widely at our *current performance* – through performance data; through the annual self-assessment of our CYPP performance; and through feedback from inspectorates such as Ofsted.
- The **views and expectations of children, families and residents in the borough** – we have undertaken very wide-ranging consultation at all stages in developing the CYPP, particularly with young people, and we will continue to gather these views to shape priorities for each year.

The thematic Delivery Boards supporting the Children and Young People's Trust Board will develop clear action plans in support of the priorities selected – which will be available on the CYPP website. The Trust Board will have a particular focus on progress in these areas, ensuring that resources are focused on them so that outcomes improve, whilst also ensuring continued excellent performance in other areas of the plan.

For each of the benefits lines selected as a priority, there are a set of performance measures (which can be found in the **Commitments Grid**) and performance targets and data (which can be found in the **Performance** section of the CYPP website). We will use these performance measures – alongside feedback from children, young people and families – to assess our progress on priorities.

The Trust Board will review its priorities annually – considering latest performance data and information on changing needs, as well as the views of service users and local residents. Some priorities are likely to roll forward and remain for the full period of the plan, as they involve medium-term change programmes. Others may be replaced as specific issues are addressed and new challenges emerge in other areas of the plan.

The intention will be to keep the priority list short, so that the selection of priorities provides a genuine opportunity for the Trust Board to focus on the small number of areas requiring most concerted attention and service improvement.

Priorities for 2009-2010

The Children and Young People's Trust Board has selected an initial set of eight benefits lines as its priorities for 2009-2010. These have been selected based on the three sorts of information set out above, and have been the subject of consultation.

The table below sets out the list of priorities, with a brief explanation of why they have been chosen.

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
1	1.1.3 Children and young people requiring protection are safeguarded effectively	<p>The first responsibility of the Children and Young People’s Trust – and the first responsibility of everyone – is to ensure that the most vulnerable children in the borough are safe from harm. Richmond upon Thames has an outstanding record in providing safeguarding services, with a strong independently-led Local Safeguarding Children Board and excellent specialist services.</p> <p>But there is no room for complacency, and recent events in Haringey, followed by the Laming Review <i>The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report</i>, have once again raised the profile of safeguarding issues and set new challenges for all local areas.</p> <p>As Richmond upon Thames faces new unannounced inspections of its safeguarding procedures, the Children and Young People’s Trust will need to ensure that the borough continues to build on its success in this area, demonstrating continued best practice in its services and, crucially, continuing to safeguard our most vulnerable children.</p> <p>Whilst <i>all</i> aspects of Commitment 1.1 (keeping children safe from harm) are a high priority for the Trust, with a need to ensure strong safeguarding arrangements for <i>all</i> children, a particular focus during 2009-2010 will be on our arrangements for some of the most vulnerable children in the borough – those requiring child protection plans – to ensure that the most effective arrangements are in place, in line with best practice nationally.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
2	1.2.3 Teenage conceptions and sexually transmitted infections are reduced	<p>Richmond upon Thames currently shows outstanding outcomes on teenage pregnancy, registering some of the lowest rates in the country.</p> <p>However, concerns were raised by Ofsted in 2008 about the existing service strategy on teenage pregnancies. It noted that 'actions to reduce teenage pregnancies are not securely embedded across all relevant strategies', and went on to state that 'a sharper focus is needed to ensure actions to reduce teenage conceptions are incorporated into all relevant local strategies'.</p> <p>In light of this, the Trust Board recognises the need to develop a clearer and more integrated strategy for sexual health services – with the possible re-commissioning of services providing an early focus for its work in 2009-2010.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
3	<p>1.2.5 All children and young people with additional needs, disabilities and learning difficulties get the support they need including increased and equitable access to short breaks</p>	<p>Richmond upon Thames has a strong track record in providing services for children and young people with disabilities. As the Comprehensive Area Assessment borough profile notes, a continuing theme from inspection and assessment, including the 2008 Annual Performance Assessment, is 'the significant difference that the borough makes to the lives of the most vulnerable, particularly those ... with a learning difficulty and/or disability. The outcomes of these particular groups of children and young people were judged to be outstanding in the joint area review report'.</p> <p>Despite this strong record, there is no room for complacency and there is a growing and changing need in this area. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has identified children and young people with disabilities as a growing group within the borough. As well as an overall increase in numbers, there has also been recognition that disabled children needing support now include those most severely disabled. In addition, there is a national focus, through the Aiming High programme, on increasing the support for children with disabilities and learning difficulties.</p> <p>In light of this growing and changing need, the Trust Board has identified a priority in ensuring services respond accordingly.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
4	<p>1.3.1 Children and young people enjoy good emotional and mental health and get the support they need to address mental health issues quickly and effectively when they arise</p>	<p>The 2007 Joint Area Review identified Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as an area where improvements were needed. The Review noted that, while CAMHS were securing some good outcomes, particularly in relation to specialist, intensive and inpatient services, the services' full effectiveness had been impeded by the absence of an agreed and funded strategy.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made. A CAMHS strategy for the borough was finalised in May 2008, after extensive consultation with all stakeholders including children and their families. This recognised that there were some areas where services were under-developed and where further work was needed. The Annual Performance Assessment in 2008 acknowledged that 'good progress' had been made in improving services provided by CAMHS. It noted that the Council and the Primary Care Trust, working in partnership, had taken 'prompt and robust' action which was leading to improvements in the availability and timeliness of services.</p> <p>But there is more to do. In the period ahead the Trust Board will need to ensure the CAMHS strategy is fully implemented with stronger joint-commissioning arrangements. This will include ensuring that more local CAMHS services are available for early intervention, to avoid problems escalating and requiring more specialist services.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
5	2.2.1 All primary schools improve pupil attainment and achievement, with children in all areas of the borough able to access high quality places through the primary stage	<p>Richmond upon Thames offers some of the best primary schooling in England, with a number of its primary schools consistently performing far above the national average.</p> <p>However, there is also considerable variation in performance between schools in different parts of the borough. For example, primary school results for pupils achieving Key Stage 2 Level 4 in English and maths range from 100% to 64%, and a small number of schools perform below the national average of 73%. With the CYPP's focus on tackling inequalities, the Trust Board sees it as a priority to ensure outstanding primary schools are available to all children, wherever they live in the borough.</p> <p>In addition, the borough faces particular and growing challenges to meet the rising demand for primary school places. Recent levels of applications suggest demand rising well beyond the levels provided for through the existing primary school expansion programme, necessitating further temporary and permanent expansions beyond those already planned.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
6	2.2.2 All secondary schools improve pupil attainment and achievement, so that all are in line with, or above, the national average	<p>Secondary school performance in Richmond upon Thames has been improving steadily over recent years. The percentage of pupils attaining 5 or more A*-C grades at Key Stage 4 improved significantly from 58% in 2006-2007 to 64% in 2007-2008, while pupils attaining 5 or more A*-C grades including English and maths improved from 48% to 54%, 6 points above the national average.</p> <p>However, this overall improvement in attainment masks significant variation in performance between secondary schools in the borough, with three out of the eight schools performing below the national average of 48% of pupils attaining 5 or more A*-C grades including English and maths, and results ranging from 35% to 76%.</p> <p>In addition, there are particular challenges in continuing to improve the contextual value added (CVA) of maintained secondary schools. The borough-level CVA measure for Key Stage 2 to 4 is significantly below the national average, with two schools in the bottom 5% nationally for this measure.</p> <p>It is a priority for the Trust to ensure consistently excellent secondary schools for children across the whole borough. Significant steps are already being taken, through supported work with particular groups of young people, for example those who are borderline C grade at GCSE. In addition, an ambitious academy programme for the borough involving three secondary schools is underway.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
7	<p>2.3.1 Pupils with special and additional educational needs (including those with School Action and School Action Plus support) will make good progress at school to fulfil their potential</p>	<p>The Comprehensive Area Assessment profile for the borough notes that there is a 'large attainment gap' between children with special educational needs (SEN) and their peers. Although the number of children involved is small and their attainment is often good, the Government Office for London profile tool shows that Richmond upon Thames ranks 28th out of the 32 London boroughs in terms of the gap between children with SEN and their peers at Key Stage 2, and 21st out of 32 at GCSE level. (It should be noted that this gap is partly due to the very high attainment of pupils without SEN at Key Stage 2.)</p> <p>The borough already provides a range of high quality services and support for pupils with SEN. There has been a particular focus on teacher training to support and assist pupils with SEN, especially those with autism. One special school has been judged by Ofsted to be outstanding, with reference to the outstanding progress made by pupils on the autistic spectrum.</p> <p>But in the period ahead, the Trust recognises the need to continue to improve the quality of provision and reduce attainment gaps, and a review of SEN provision is underway. There are some areas of attainment which require further investigation to understand where improvement can be made, including the percentage of pupils achieving Level 3 or above at Key Stage 2 in English and mathematics, and the percentage of pupils making at least two levels of progress at Key Stage 2, and at Key Stage 4 achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs, including English and maths.</p>

Priority	Benefits line prioritised for 2009-2010	Why has this been selected as a priority?
8	2.4.1 All children and young people can access a range of enjoyable things to do and places to go	<p>Richmond upon Thames already offers a very wide range of activities for children and young people – including some outstanding sporting and cultural opportunities, excellent play facilities, and an increasing youth offer which has seen a significant increase in young people’s participation over recent years. Compared with other boroughs there is less concern about teenagers ‘hanging around’ on streets with too little to do.</p> <p>However, there remains room for improvement. The Place Survey showed that ‘activities for teenagers’ was seen as the third highest priority for residents (after traffic congestion and road repairs), ahead of crime, affordable housing, pollution and health services.</p> <p>In addition, consultation with children and young people as part of the development of this Children and Young People’s Plan consistently revealed this area to be their top priority for action over coming years. Feedback from young people on the three things that they would like to be different in the borough focused very heavily on activities and youth provision. It was almost overwhelmingly recorded by children and young people under the things they wanted changed, that there should be more activities, facilities and sports on offer. They also had many ideas about what these activities should be, how they are accessed and promoted and paid for.</p> <p>In direct response to this feedback from children and young people, the Trust Board has therefore selected this area as a priority for 2009-2010.</p>