

REPORT TO CYP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Dated:	23 rd November 2011		
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Title of Report: SHORT BREAKS PROVISION DISABLED CHILDREN

1. Purpose

As a follow up to the previous agenda item regarding short breaks provision:

- to provide Scrutiny members with information on the profile of children attending short breaks provision;
- to advise Scrutiny on plans to achieve savings targets and implications on service users.

2. Children and Young People attending short breaks provision

The table below identifies the number of children who have attended short breaks provision during the first half year of 2011/12 (April 2011 – October 2011). The majority of these children will have attended multiple sessions and activities and will also have attended the family fun day in the summer (culture fest) which we have not counted for our data collection purposes.

Our data indicates that of the total of 774 children and young people attending the services; 595 have ASD, challenging behaviour or Learning Disability and 179 have a Physical disability, complex health need, or require palliative care. Please note that the ages of children may not have been recorded in all cases.

Services	Numbers attending 0-18+	Age range				
		0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-15 yrs	16-18 yrs	19-24 yrs
Sports and Leisure						
- Computer Club	38	0	7	26	3	2
- Junior Skiing	23	0	5	15	3	0
Martial Arts / Family Swim (Oakengates)	34	0	12	21	1	0
- Adapted Skiing	13	0	2	9	1	0
- Saturday (Oakengates)	90	0	26	50	5	1
- Swimming (Newport)	41	0	15	19	3	0
Southall School Multi Sports at Jigsaw School	8	0	0	7	1	0

H.L.C & Bridge School multi sports testers	12	0	3	3	1	1
Kreative Kidz	57	0	10	30	9	1
Access 2 Activities	11	0	0	0	9	2
Blue Eyed Soul	26	0	5	13	3	3
Club 17	49	0	0	17	17	14
Action for Children						
- Overnights	36	0	6	20	10	0
- Outreach	7	0	1	3	3	0
Acorns Hospice	3	1	1	1	0	0
Hope House Hospice	18	5	4	9	0	1
Independent Agencies overnight breaks	2	0	0	2	0	0
Family Based Shared Carers						
Overnight and Daycare	21	2	6	10	3	0
Daycare	5	0	2	2	4	0
Community Children's Nursing Team	6	3	0	3	0	0
DCT Resource Panel – individual support packages	82	0	26	46	10	0
Clusters - individual support packages	7	0	0	5	2	0
POLO (whole family breaks)	63	5	24	30	3	0
Early Years (data not provided)						
The Bridge Summer Play Scheme	75	6	27	34	0	0
Direct Payments.	47	2	12	26	4	0
TOAL	774	24	194	397	95	25

3. Cost Savings 2012/13

We have been set a cost savings target of £50,000 for 2012/13. The current budget is £685,100 per annum as identified in Appendix 1 (short breaks budget 2011/12).

The saving targets will be met by:

- a) reviewing costs and contracts with independent care agencies.
- b) through the service restructure and review of the role of the support workers employed in the Disabled children's team. The support packages for the children receiving this support will be reviewed and alternative arrangements made either by direct payments or independent care agencies which should bring efficiencies;
- c) reviewing the commissioning arrangements with our sports and leisure services giving consideration to moving some of their service to a local social enterprise/voluntary sector organisation.

We are also considering the implementation of a charging policy for short breaks provision.

Currently the vast majority of short breaks provision is free, however through consultation parents have agreed that a nominal charge should be made to encourage attendance and sustain the maintenance and replacement of equipment.

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Appendix 1: Short Breaks Budget 2011/12

Service Provider	Service Area	Service Name	Budget 2011/12
Telford & Wrekin Council	Social Care	Shared Care (support costs)	34,459
T & W C	Social Care	Carer Costs	40,000
T & W C	Sports & Leisure	Sports & Leisure Service	83,746
T & W C	Disabled children team (DCT)	Holiday Playschemes (CYP @ Bridge School)	37,373
T & W C	Culture	Kreative Kidz	43,448
T & W C	DCT	Support Workers	9,500
T & W C	DCT	Short Breaks Co-ordinator	35,000
T & W C	Adult Social Care	Direct Payments Advice Worker	5,000
T & W C	Integrated Youth Support	Club 17	17,848
AFC (VCS)		Outreach Service	40,000
T & W C	A2A	Cinema trips and playscheme	4,150
Blue Eyed Soul (VCS)		Dance	7,812
T & W C	Sensory Inclusion Service	residential break - arthog	1,558
Pods (VCS)		Whole Family Breaks	8,000
CVS		Small Grants Fund	22,000
Independent Sector		Residential Overnight Breaks	35,000
Independent Sector		Care Agencies	40,000
Independent Sector		Individual support packages	135,000
Other	Adaptations	Aids & Adaptations	1,310
Other	Transport	Taxi Companies	3,500
Other	Direct Payments	Direct Payments	70,000
Other	Workforce Development	Training & Development	3,000
Other		Culture Fest	4,062
Other		Info & newsletter	3,000
		Total	684,766
Total Funding			685,100

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
held on Thursday, 20th October 2011 at 6.00 p.m. in the Scrutiny Meeting
Room, Civic Offices, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors G. Green (Chairman), M. Ion, J. Loveridge, A. Mackenzie, Co-optees A. Atkinson, S. Ali, E. Ofori, M. Ward.

Also Present: Cllr. A. McClements; Jim Collins, Head of School Improvement; Karen Perry, Interim Head of Safeguarding; Christine Marsh, Early Intervention Manager; Stephanie Jones, Interim Scrutiny Group Specialist; Tracy Clarke, Scrutiny Officer.

CYPSC-13 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee held on the 19th September 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CYPSC-14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors P. Watling Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, J Greenaway, C. Turley.

CYPSC-15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CYPSC-16 WORKSHOP ON CHILD POVERTY

At the Children & Young People Committee meeting in August, members had selected Child Poverty as a topic for the work programme. Members had been informed that a meeting of officers and Cabinet members was due to be held to start to develop a shared understanding of poverty and its causes and to develop strategies for tackling child and family poverty. A workshop had been held with Cabinet members, and the purpose of the work shop at this evening's meeting was to enable scrutiny members to input into the process by generating ideas which could be taken away for consideration and development.

The Early Years Advisor facilitated the workshop. The context of poverty was set. The causes of poverty were complex and could not just be attributed to financial hardship. The effects of poverty on aspirations, self-esteem, personal relationships, educational attainment, employability, health and well-being could be life-long. Research had highlighted the fact that a child from a more affluent family whose early stage attainment is lower than a child deemed to be in poverty will achieve a higher level of attainment at the end of their schooling. The cycle of poverty can be

perpetuated over generations and the cycle needed to be broken. Poverty had substantial implications for public spending on benefits, criminal justice, education and social care.

Nationally 21% of children were living in poverty. There was a growing understanding nationally that the causes of poverty need to be addressed and not just the symptoms. Historically, national and local poverty indicators and performance targets had focussed on the symptoms (such as teen pregnancy, child care, NEETS) rather than on the causes. New indicators were being developed through the Child Poverty Act to measure severe and persistent poverty which would have a focus on the causes.

Nationally the Child Poverty Strategy key drivers were:

- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling poverty
- Strengthening families
- Tackling educational failure
- Tackling poor health

The number of children living in poverty in Telford & Wrekin was 24.1% which equates to between 8,000 and 8,500 children. Furthermore, there were seven wards in the borough with above national average figures for children in poverty.

Brookside had been selected as a pilot area to identify the causes of poverty and how to tackle it. A multi-agency team was in place to take this forward.

There were a number of misconceptions about poverty including:

- That unemployment was just about financial hardship. Unemployment can impact on the aspirations of the whole family and can contribute to a culture of worklessness in families.
- That financial difficulty equated to poverty. This was not necessarily a true indication; good parenting was not always about affluence and there was evidence that good parenting and routines for children could overcome the potentially negative impacts of financial hardship. However, parents locked into an every day battle may require additional support.

Members asked a number of questions:

How do we define a “child”?

A child is defined from 0 – 18 years.

The members agreed that assumptions were being made as to why there are such high figures of poverty in Telford and Wrekin. Can the figures relating to the number of children in poverty in each ward be broken down into street level?

This data is in the process of being broken down to street level in the pilot area of Brookside. However, this data cannot be published because it may identify specific families and would contravene data protection legislation.

Why is it important to increase good quality child care provision?

To put this into context each child aged between 3 – 4 years old is entitled to 15 hours of free childcare over 38 weeks, and research has shown that the outcomes for children improve if they have access to good quality childcare.

The Members agreed that good quality care allows a parent to work but recognised that childcare can be very expensive. The Early Years Advisor highlighted that grants and voucher schemes are available but even with these, the cost of childcare can still make it difficult to manage financially. A Member added that with a higher than average number of low skill levelled jobs in Telford and Wrekin the type of work available often involves weekend and shift work and the availability of child care may not accommodate shift patterns. The Early Years Advisor agreed that good quality care can be even more difficult to find for those working shifts or weekends, or for lone parents, as there is limited good quality overnight provision for children.

Has the National Curriculum become a contributing factor to the number of children in poverty because prior to this there was a more balanced curriculum including social skills such as budgeting, cooking and planning?

The National Curriculum focuses on raw standards of attainment, and although some additionality may have been squeezed out, issues of child poverty existed before the introduction of the National Curriculum and no causal link had been established. Additionally, many schools still provided these additional activities.

How do you think the cycle of poverty can be broken, and why do some manage to break out of it and not others?

There was a general discussion about this question and various observations were made. Some children appeared to have a greater resilience than others to see a different way of living which inspired them to break the cycle of poverty. The trigger could be a significant person in the child's life such as a relative, teacher, youth service worker etc.

In terms of strategy it was important to consider how to target children most in need of support, including those with unequal access to extra-curricular activities such as music, sport or drama, and there needed to be positive intervention to reach those who do not come forward to access services. The Early Years Advisor highlighted that Children's Centres were set up to provide opportunities for children who would normally not have access to activities. Cllr. Mackenzie commented on the success of the family centre in Sutton Hill. The service was well used and had assisted parents who were not working to become more motivated and get back into education and training by providing a supportive environment.

Why do you think that the Family Centre in Sutton Hill is a success?

The family group project in the Community Centre is well established, trusted and appreciated by the community. The centre is well used by toddlers and "young mums" and there is a "buzz" about it. Trust has been built up over a number of years and there is a strong support network so that people help each other. The project is a good example of how community and voluntary groups could provide support and offer stable and reassuring role models of people who have broken the cycle of poverty and are managing their lives. Community Ambassadors are being looked at as a way of building similar "home-grown" projects from within the community. The Council has a role to play in supporting voluntary groups and helping them to attract

funding, and this is being done as part of the Brookside pilot through a multi-agency approach. Sutton Hill can be used as an example of good practice, but Ambassadors will need to be recruited locally in Brookside who know and understand the area and are trusted by the community. The pilot is about genuine consultation with local people to listen to what they want to and to involve them in the design and delivery of local services.

It was agreed that a sub-group of the Committee would visit the Sutton Hill centre to find out more about how the group works and the reasons for its success and report back to the Committee and the service area.

Cllr. Ion made the point that in addition to long-term prevention strategies, immediate financial pressures, such as debt to loan sharks, also needed to be dealt especially in the light of cuts to the Citizen's Advice Bureau and suggested that more should be done to promote credit unions.

Members considered three areas as part of the workshop, and the following points and recommendations were agreed. These would be taken forward for further consideration.

1. Causes

- Low income is too simple a definition – there is more to it than that
- Parenting/caring skills
- Broken homes
- Educational skills for work
- Organisational skills
- Low aspirations
- Life skills

2. What would help?

- Breaking the cycle
- Re- igniting the aspirations – modelling peer coaches
- Relationship – someone to take a real interest in you / mentor
- Targeting help/support where it is most needed
- Improving access to services or activities
- Positive messages – celebrating success

3. Recommendations

- Successful family group
- Community Ambassadors
- Voluntary groups from the community
- Role models of local people who have turned their lives around
- Support mechanism of assistance for local voluntary groups such as the parish council
- Simple model like the Sutton Hill Family Group
- Partnership with Local Authority Services
- Tackle the difficult issues such as:
 - Rogue debt
 - Genuine engagement

- Communities on design and delivery of local services

RESOLVED

- **That a sub group of the Committee would visit the Sutton Hill family group project to find out more about how it works and the reasons for its success and report back to the Committee and the service area.**

CYPSC-17 THE PHASE 2 CHILDREN'S SERVICE REVIEW

The Head of School Improvement and the Interim Head of Safeguarding delivered a presentation on the Phase 2 Family & Community Services and Safeguarding structure proposals. This followed on from the meeting in August when the Committee received a presentation on the Phase 1 proposals.

The Head of School Improvement emphasised that despite budget cuts, the priority for the service remained as always to keep the vulnerable children, young people and adults safe from harm and neglect. However, the budget cuts would have an impact on service delivery and changes would need to be made.

In addition to the information given in the presentation, the following key points were highlighted:

School Improvement

- Relatively few areas of the School Improvement service were affected by the Phase 2 proposals. A key change was the realignment of the Participation Worker for Children in Care post from Safeguarding to School Improvement in recognition of the need to raise levels of attainment for children in care.
- Learning & Behaviour Services had been streamlined to focus on support for Additional Educational Needs (AEN) and away from Special Educational Needs (SEN) in line with the reduced budget and the Green Paper on SEN.
- A review of the management of Pupil Referral Units was on hold pending potential changes in the White Paper which would become the Education Bill.
- Services for the top end of schools at KS4 and beyond would be reviewed in the light of the raising of the school leaving age to 18 by 2013.

Early Intervention

The key aim was to develop three Children and Family Centre hubs based on the Co-operative Learning Communities and Sure Start children's centres working with children aged 0- 19 years to provide a seamless service.

Cohesion Services

This would bring together a range of Council and multi-agency teams to work with families with more complex needs, providing targeted support from universal and family intervention services. This would build on the good work already done on

tacking crime, anti-social behaviour and sexual exploitation and would link into work on homelessness and NEETS.

Youth Offending Services

A strong team was in place but a regional review of the service was taking place and the structure of the service would be deferred until later in 2012 when the West Mercia-wide approach was clearer.

Integrated Planning, Placements and Commissioning

The key principle would be to provide a central team for planning and commissioning of children's services with an enhanced role for the commissioning/contracts officer to support an integrated approach to procuring placements. There would be improved tracking of young people through schools to pick up and support to young people with risky behaviour who may have previously slipped through the net, including young people moving into the borough.

Children's Specialist Services

This would bring all the high-end specialist services for children and young people together in one location to bring economies of scale, drive down costs and improve services. The underlying principles were integrated working and early intervention through multi-disciplinary teams.

Family Connect

Family Connect is fundamental to the reconfiguration of services and restructure. It will provide a single point of contact for all children and family services. There would be a one contact telephone number with a multi-agency team operating a triage system to provide support or sign-post to specialists. The team will be joined-up in one location. This would have a major impact on intractable problems by providing the right support at the right time. The focus will be on early identification, intervention and resolution for presenting issues.

Safeguarding

The key aim was to improve outcomes for children with child protection plans and children in care, to reduce the number of children with protection plans and in care where it is safe to do so, and to improve social work practice in-line with the Munro report.

– Child Protection and Assessment

The proposal would mainstream the approach to children abused through sexual exploitation. The Safeguarding Duty Desk would be linked to Family Connect and issues would be picked up through the triage process and supported by the Cohesion team and the Safeguarding Advisory Team for complex cases. Child protection issues would be triaged straight to the child protection team.

Assessment and Case Management would be re-aligned into three teams, and there would be a clearer role for non-qualified staff. The link worker to PRH continues but is linked in future to the Community Social work team.

– Children in Care and Fostering

A senior social worker post would be created to support effective links between the safeguarding service and the placements team. There had been a big,

successful recruitment campaign for foster carers, and the proposals would also strengthen support for foster carers. There would be two fostering teams – one for recruitment and support of mainstream foster carers and a second to support special guardianships, kinship carers and private fostering (i.e. by friends).

- Child In Care and Fostering and Emergency Duty Team (EDT)
A new specialist Reviewing Officer post would be located into the Safeguarding Advisory Service Conference and Review Team. Foster carers are reviewed on an annual basis or when needed. Training for foster carers was on-going and would be reviewed. Feedback on the EDT would be monitored to ensure it remained effective for the whole community.

There were no great changes to the children in care team and changes were more about the redesign of social workers into groupings around groups of children in care following the Munro recommendations.

- Safeguarding Advisory Services and Corporate Parenting & Professional Social Work lead.
These services were covered in the presentation slides, but there were no specific points made at the meeting.

Consultation on the School Improvement proposals would end on 4th January and consultation on the Family & Community Services and Safeguarding would close on 18th January.

Members asked a number of questions:

How are kinship carers monitored?

All kinship carers are assessed in the same way as other foster carers and will be subject to an annual review. The fostering social worker will support the carer but the child's safety and wellbeing will always be the priority.

What rights do grandparents have with respect to care and contact?

Grandparents can become kinship carers. When children cannot be looked after by their parents, then other relatives will be assessed to see if they are suitable and this will include grandparents. The local authority can offer support and financial assistance consistent with the foster carers' allowance. Telford & Wrekin has a robust decision making process as to when it is appropriate to make the grandparent a carer. If it is not appropriate and the child is placed elsewhere, the team would assess whether it is in the best interests of the child to have contact with the grandparent and extended family. If it is not appropriate, then the grandparent would need to pursue access to the child through the courts.

How would Members report an issue in their ward?

Members can phone in and report any issues that are of concern. The single point of contact through Family Connect will take away the confusion of knowing who to report the problem to.

Why is the number of children coming in to care rising, and is this an indication that some children are being taken unnecessarily into care?

If support can be put in then children's needs might be managed through a child protection plan and they will stay at home rather than going into care. The child will be taken off the protection plan if they go into care or if the child is no longer deemed to be at risk.

There were now 301 children in care and there had been an increase over the previous months. This was a national trend and the recession had had an impact. Benchmarking was done with other authorities, and the number of children in care per 10,000 children in Telford & Wrekin was lower than for statistical neighbours. Compared to the West Midlands benchmarking group, only the shire counties had a lower pro rata number. Hard work was being done to keep children out of care through earlier intervention, but the priority remained keeping children safe from harm.

The Family Connect single point of contact is very welcome but a human voice on the end of the phone is very important. Will calls be answered by a person or an automated voice?

The calls will all be answered by a member of the team.

At the end of the discussion, the following points were agreed:

RESOLVED

- **That the Committee would submit a response to the Phase 2 structure proposals. Members would e-mail questions to the Scrutiny Team to request a response. A further meeting would be held in December for the Committee to agree its response.**
- **That there would be a standing item on each Committee meeting agenda to monitor the number of children in care and placement stability.**

RECOMMENDED

- **That a Members' Information Seminar should be held to inform members about the Family Connect service and the telephone number.**

The Head of Safeguarding agreed this would be offered to Members.

CYPSC-18 FORWARD PLAN

The Chairman advised members that site visits of the Dawley Sports Co-operative Learning Community would take place on 26th October and members were welcome to attend. Details would be circulated by the Scrutiny Officer.

It was noted that following the discussion about raising the aspirations and attainment of children in care at the previous meeting, Shaukat Ali had contacted the Scrutiny team and had offered to help broker a scheme with Wolverhampton University and New College to offer contact events for children in care. This was

being taken forward by the Extended Services Manager and further reports would be brought to the Committee.

There was a discussion about future meetings and the following changes to the Forward Plan were agreed:

- A meeting to take part in the consultation on the planning of school places and secondary school provision would be held in December. A report was due to go to Cabinet on 10th November.
- A sub-group of the Committee would visit the Sutton Hill family centre.
- The suggestion to consider the Council's relationship with schools in light of the introduction of academies and free schools would be added to the work programme.
- An update on the Mott MacDonald investigation at Abraham Darby would be brought back to the Committee. Members were seeking assurance about the impartiality of the report given that the work would be funded by Kier.

The meeting ended at 8.14p.m.

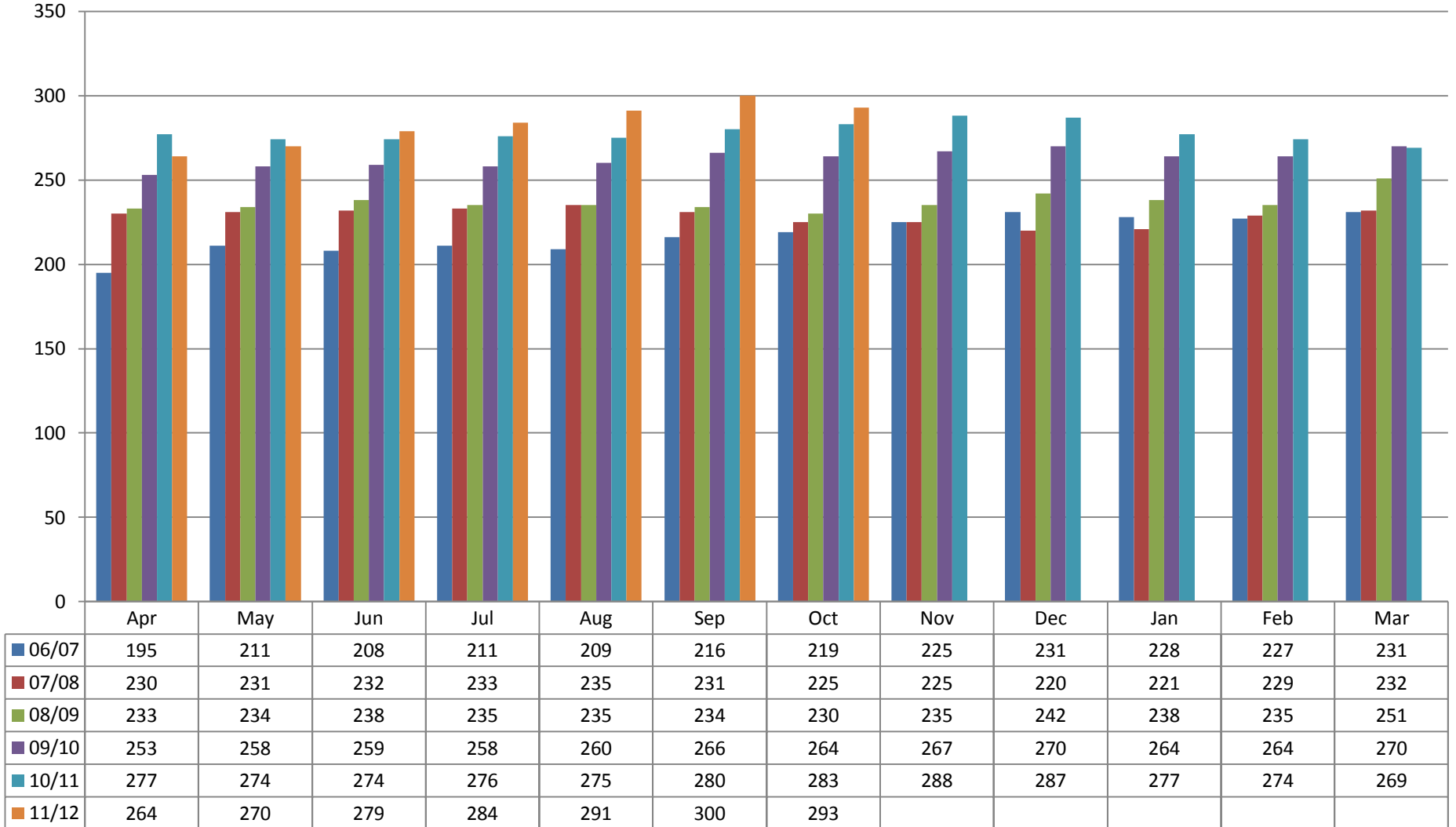
Chairman:

Date:

Children In Care Trend Data 2007-31/10/2011

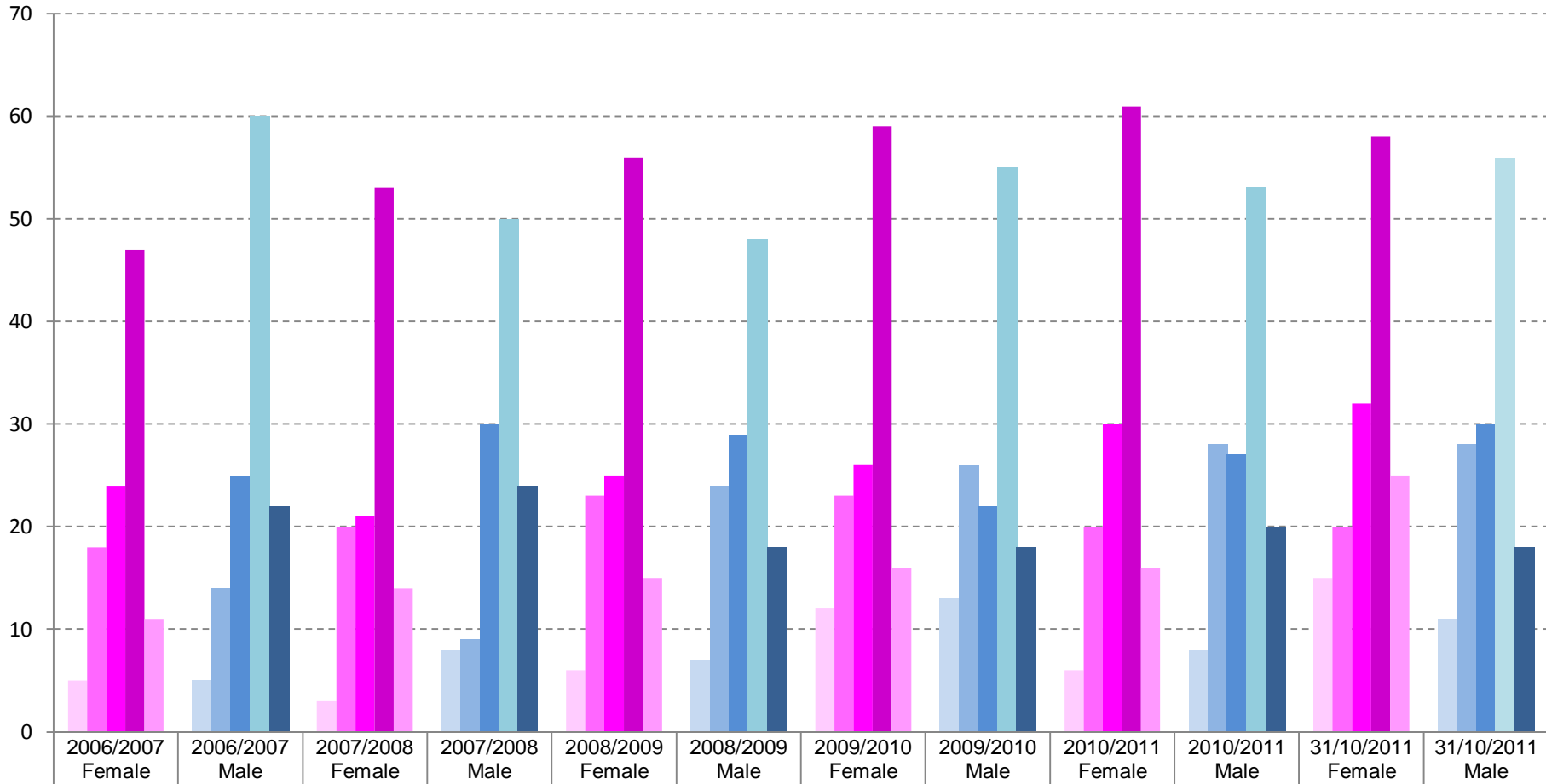
Information provided by Data Support Team
Figures provided are as at 31/10/2011

Number of Children In Care at Month End



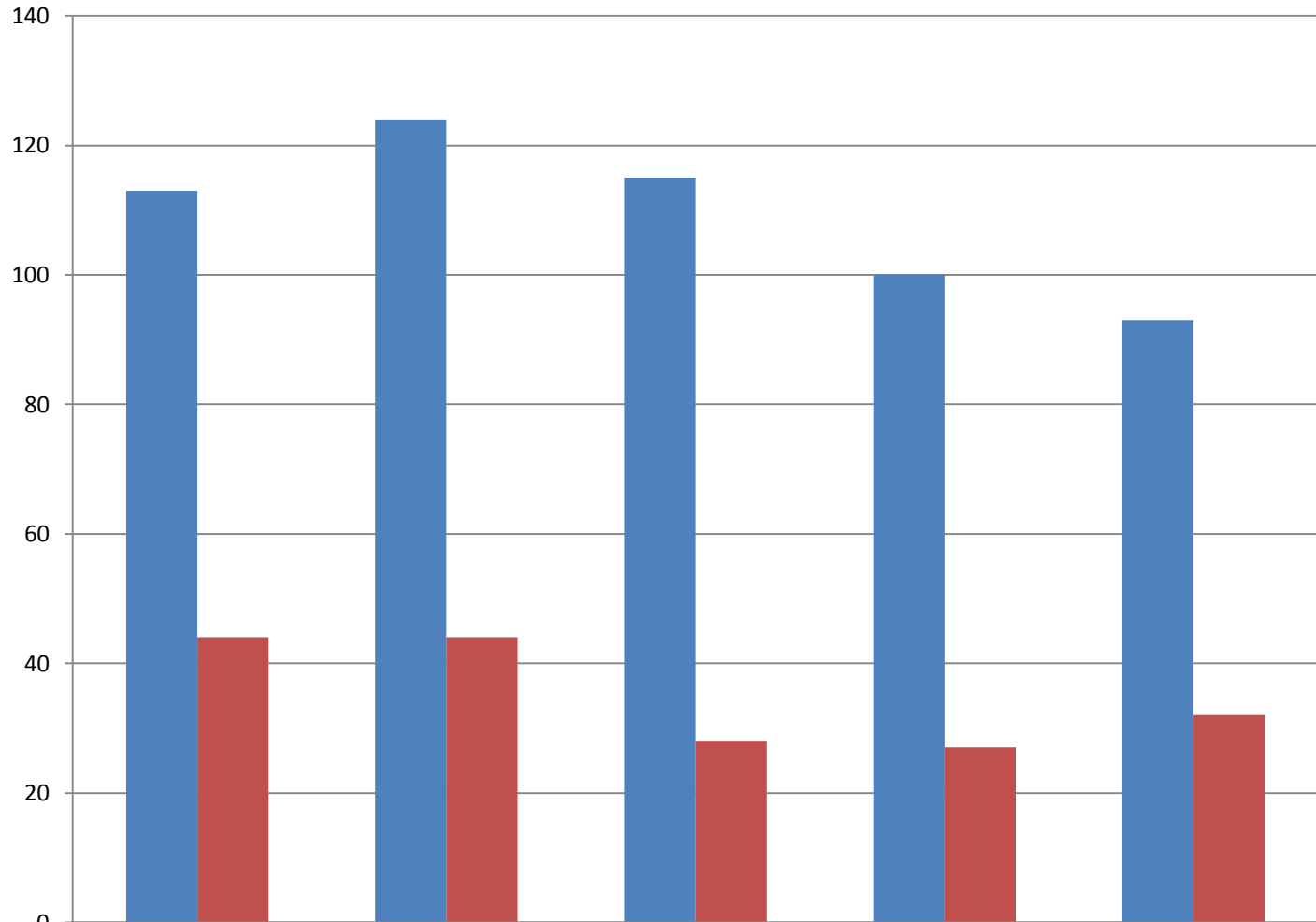
There has been a 33.8% increase in the number of Children In Care since October 2006 when there were 219 Children In Care compared to October 2011 when there were 293 children in care.

Children In Care at Year End by Gender and Age Group Trend Data (Numbers)



	2006/2007 Female	2006/2007 Male	2007/2008 Female	2007/2008 Male	2008/2009 Female	2008/2009 Male	2009/2010 Female	2009/2010 Male	2010/2011 Female	2010/2011 Male	31/10/2011 Female	31/10/2011 Male
2. Under 1	5	5	3	8	6	7	12	13	6	8	15	11
3. 1-4	18	14	20	9	23	24	23	26	20	28	20	28
4. 5-9	24	25	21	30	25	29	26	22	30	27	32	30
5. 10-15	47	60	53	50	56	48	59	55	61	53	58	56
6. 16+	11	22	14	24	15	18	16	18	16	20	25	18
Total	105	126	111	121	125	126	136	134	133	136	150	143

The Number of Children who became Looked after and of those the number who ceased to be looked after during the year



■ New LAC in Year	113	124	115	100	93
■ New LAC who ceased to be LAC within the year	44	44	28	27	32

Percentage of new LAC who ceased to be LAC within the year

39%

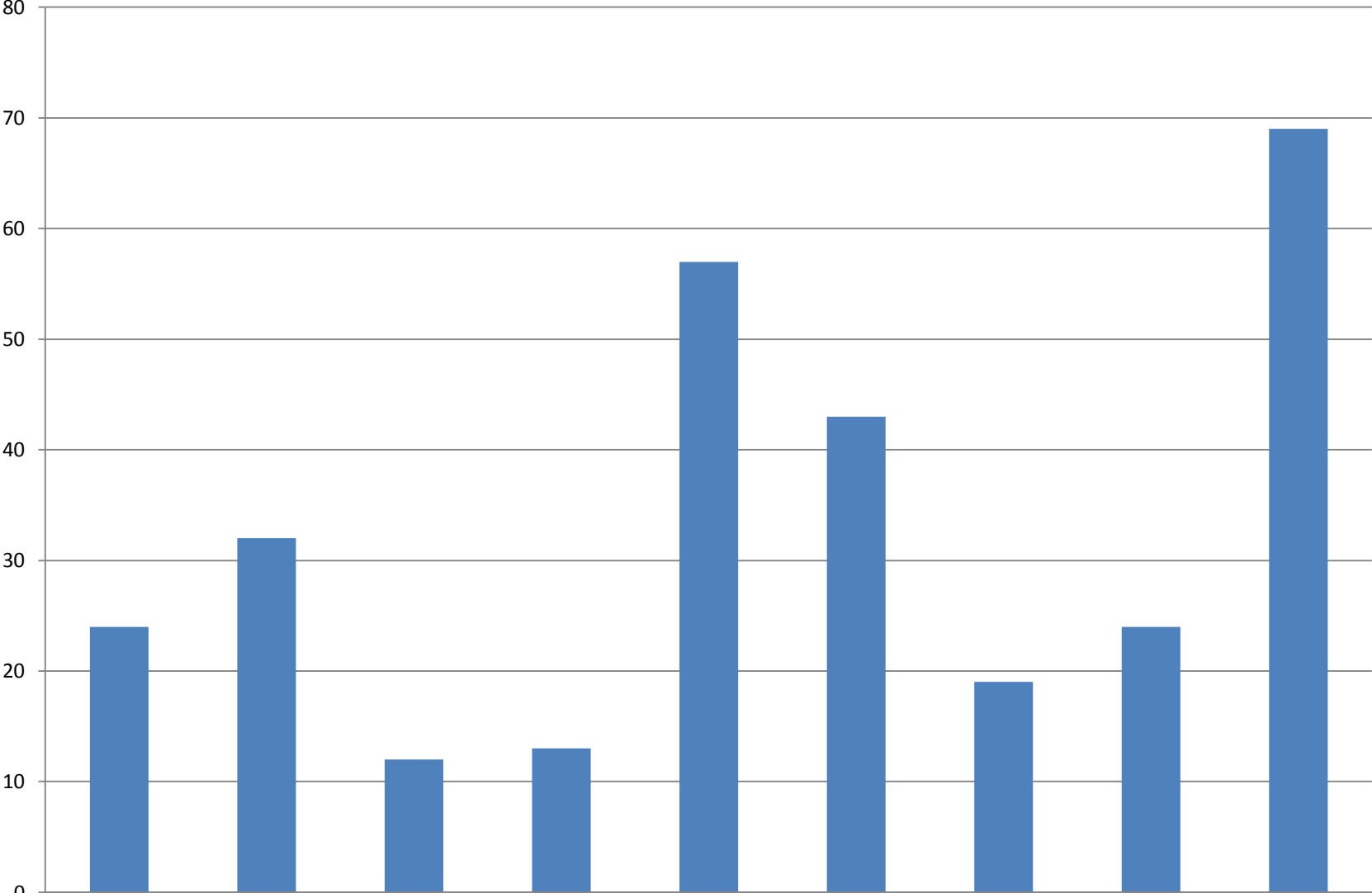
35.5%

24.3%

27%

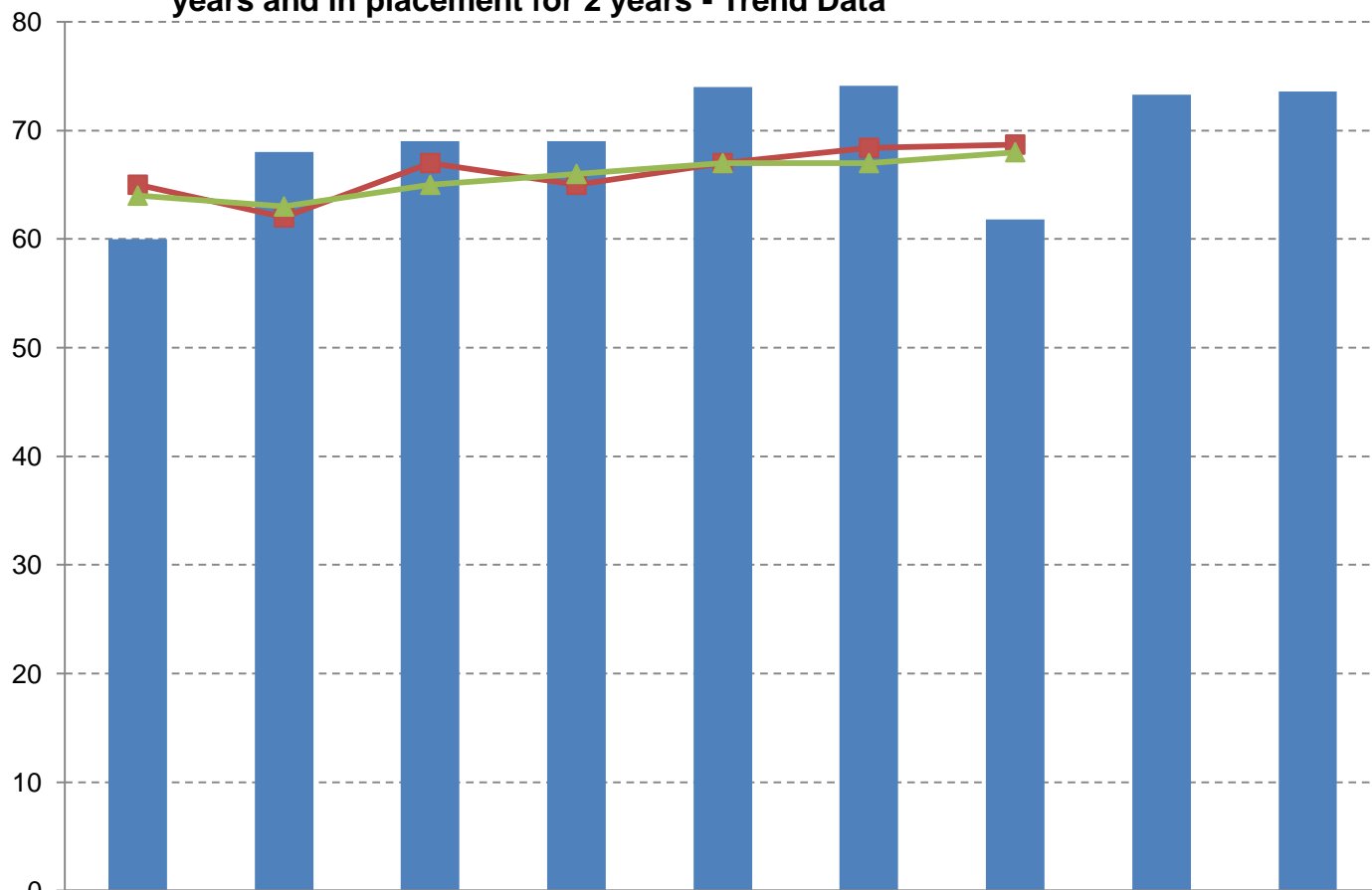
34.4%

Children In Care as at 31/10/2011 by the length of time they have been in Care



	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	5 Years +
Number of Children	24	32	12	13	57	43	19	24	69

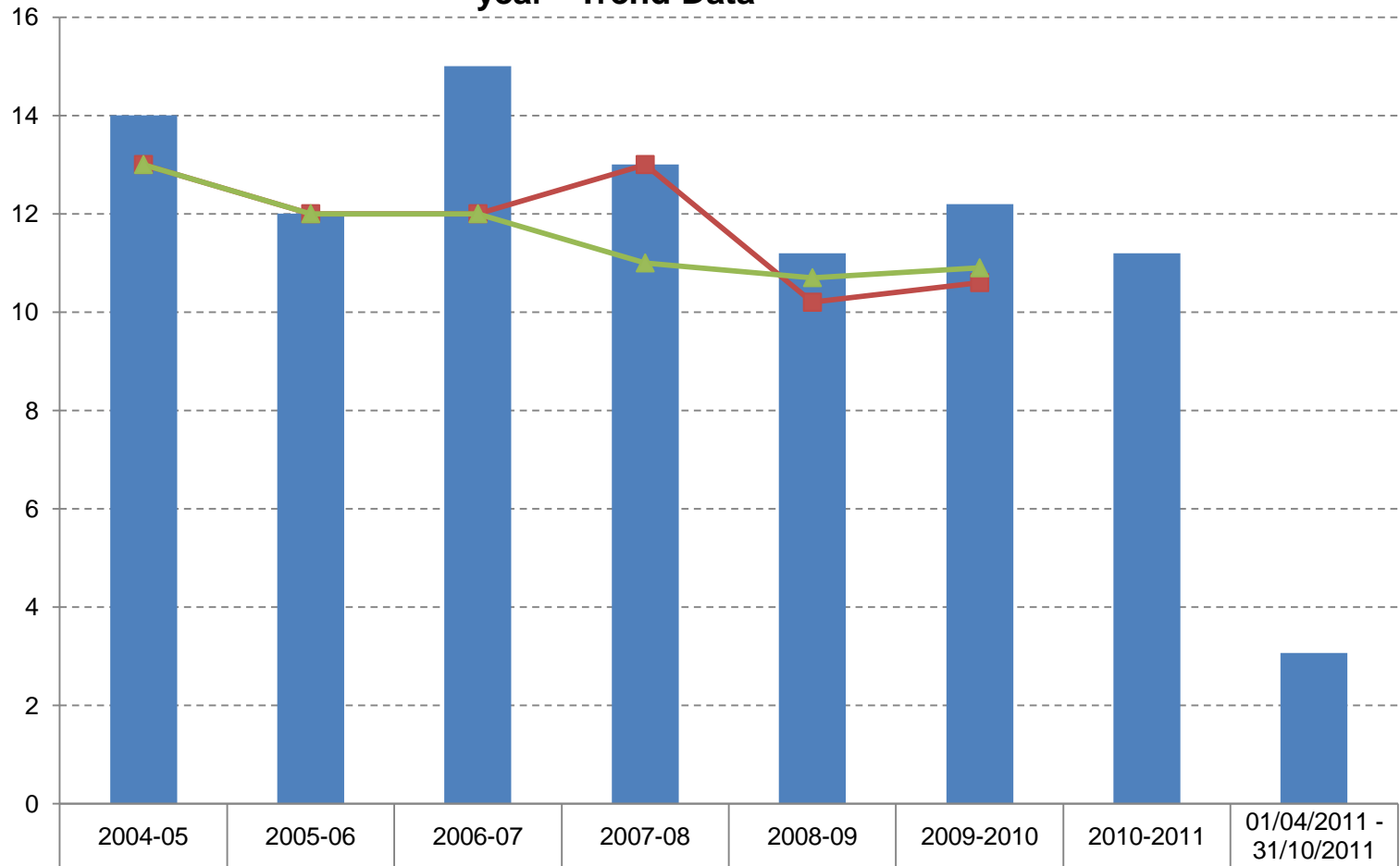
Placement Stability: The % of Children in Care aged under 16, who have been looked after for 2½ years and in placement for 2 years - Trend Data



	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	01/04/2011 - 31/10/2011
■ Telford and Wrekin	60	68	69	69	74	74.1	61.8	73.3	73.6
■ Statistical Neighbour Average	65	62	67	65	67	68.4	68.7		
▲ England Average	64	63	65	66	67	67	68		

The higher the percentage the better

Placement Stability: % of Children In Care who have had 3 placements plus within the year - Trend Data



Telford and Wrekin	14	12	15	13	11.2	12.2	11.2	3.06
Statistical Neighbour Average	13	12	12	13	10.2	10.6		
England Average	13	12	12	11	10.7	10.9		

The lower the percentage the better

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 10 NOV 2011

PLANNING OF SCHOOL PLACES: SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

To consider revised options for secondary school provision based on future projections of pupil numbers within the Borough, and the funding available through the Building Schools for the Future programme, whilst responding to central government policy to expand the academy programme and build upon the success of leading providers across the Borough. To seek approval to consult stakeholders on the school organisation proposals contained in this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet decide upon the future provision of secondary education in the Borough, taking account of the revised programme detailed in this report and authorise the Head of School Improvement to engage in formal consultation with key partners and stakeholders in respect of the following proposals:

- **To build a new ecumenical 1050 place Christian Academy for ages 11-18 on the proposed site in Priorslee which will incorporate the Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College and will provide places for the communities of Priorslee, Redhill and St Georges;**
- **To build a new 1050 place 11-16 Co-operative Academy for the communities of Donnington, Oakengates, Trench and Wrockwardine Wood which incorporate the combined success and expertise of the Sutherland Business and Enterprise College and Wrockwardine Wood Arts College;**
- **To build a community facility that will develop The Lakeside co-operative educational campus on the Stirchley site encompassing primary, secondary and post 16 education.**
- **To build a new 1200 place school on the vacated Blessed Robert Johnson site to replace the Charlton School**

A further report will be brought to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation process.

SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>Children & Young People - supports cross cutting strategic priority for developing sports and learning communities across the borough.</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	<i>Children, young people, parents and the wider community served by each sports and learning community.</i>
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	<i>To make a decision on the future provision of secondary education between the academic years 2011/12 and 2015/16.</i>	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p><i>A financial assessment of the full proposals has been carried out to demonstrate affordability and demonstrate a revenue impact saving totalling £0.76m cumulatively over the first 4 years of the programme. In respect of the proposals for Charlton School the financial modelling demonstrates an additional funding requirement of £9.2m for a new build Charlton proposal on top of the £7.0m of BSF funding allocated to the school to deliver DfE Policy following the national review of the BSF Programme. A number of other funding options totalling £7.5m have been identified to reduce this shortfall to £1.7m to be met from prudential borrowing. There are a number of financial risks which need to be taken into account when considering these funding options as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The affordability shortfall for a new build Charlton and the proposals for the new Grange Park Primary School rely on the successful negotiation regarding a cost neutral land swap with the diocese for the BRJ site with the Catholic diocese.</i> <i>• The risk of the non approval of the DfE to reallocation of £2.2m of funding already approved for specific schemes</i> <i>• use of £3.2m of programme contingency therefore reducing the level of contingency held to below that anticipated for the size of the programme</i> <i>• Use of £2.1m of future allocations of Modernisation Grant with the risk of current levels (or any level) of this grant not being maintained into the</i>

		<i>future. /</i>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The Council is required to comply with its statutory duty in relation to future secondary school provision within the Borough to include compliance with legislation governing school organisation and any changes thereto. Legal Services will continue to advice in respect of these matters as and when required.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<i>Changes to attendance areas could impact on home to school transport costs. Changes to Legislation on school organisation (i.e. Academies and Free Schools, expansion of popular schools) could impact on the Authority's ability to regulate the number of available places within the Borough.</i>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<i>There is potentially Borough wide impact due to parental preference in choosing which schools children attend.</i>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also promote diversity and increase parental choice.

In addition the Council will also seek to:

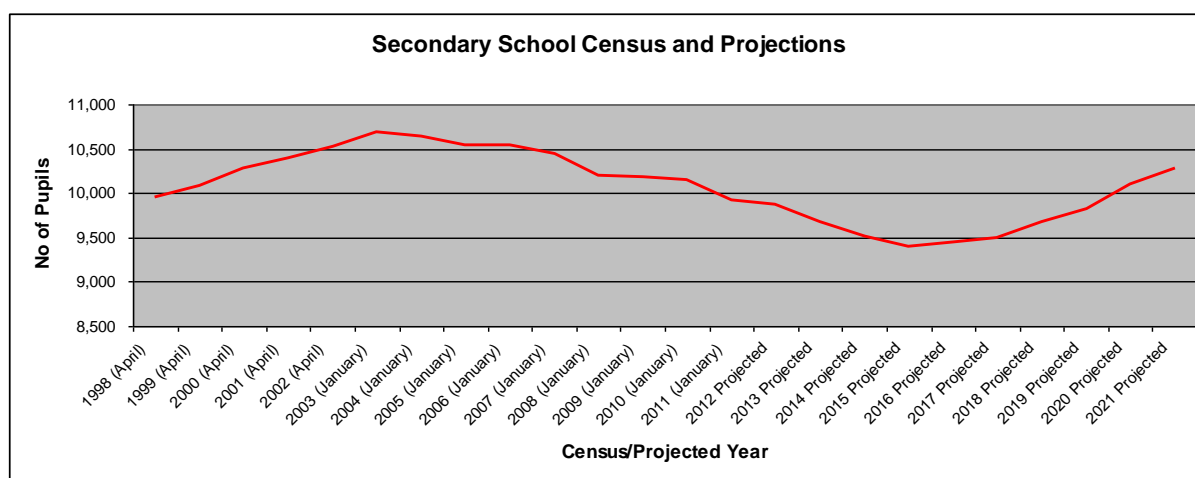
- Ensure that the BSF programme strategy to build upon the council's aspiration to develop new build schools in preference to remodelled wherever financially viable is adhered to. The educational benefits of this strategy are that less disruption occurs to pupil learning during any building programme and the new school buildings will be more efficient and lead to reduced revenue costs for the schools in the future.
- Improve educational outcomes by ensuring access to high quality provision;
- Ensure cost effective provision through removal of surplus places, by developing links to other initiatives such as extended services and early years provision, developing formal collaborations with partner organisations and actively seek developer contributions where available;
- Provide or assist in procuring local schools for local children by promoting community cohesion, and ensure the provision of new schools which are in the right place to serve their communities;
- Facilitate the diversity of school provision by offering a range of provision to promote choice to parents;
- Maintain the sustainability of schools in terms of financial, social and environmental impacts;
- Consult with stakeholders over school organisation proposals and as part of the commissioning process.
- An outline of these plans has already been submitted to The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education, Lord Jonathan Hill of Oareford who has registered no objections.

In order to achieve these outcomes, first and foremost it is necessary to ascertain the future pupil places needed within the Borough. Individual school level projections are undertaken annually to ensure that there is sufficient data available to support proposals for school organisation, whether that be a new school, expansion, merger or removal of surplus places. The Government's expectation is that through BSF investment, Local Authorities would achieve a surplus place target of less than 5% based on pupil projections for the future

INFORMATION

In recent years the Borough has experienced a decline in the primary school population, which has been in part due to larger year groups leaving school and smaller year groups starting in Reception year. This has been exacerbated by a much lower number of completions of new homes within the Borough over the last decade.

Although the numbers within primary schools are beginning to rise again there are still significant surplus places at secondary school level which look set to continue over the next few years. These new proposals seek to reduce the overall number of secondary places in line with projections whilst maintaining the government target for surplus places outlined above.



The chart above shows the change in secondary pupil numbers historically, and those projected over the next 10 years. The projection takes account of figures of known children from the primary care trust, the trend in Yr 6 to Yr 7 transfers over the previous 5 years and a moderate level of new housing annually.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The impact of this allows for different options to be considered for the provision of secondary places through the Building Schools for the Future programme. The decision to re-visit the scope of the original plans has been initiated by a change of central government policy and reflects a desire by elected members to build new schools in existing communities as part of a desire to create a Co-operative Council. The new plan will provide a platform for enhanced school to school support, linked to an overarching partnership model, which will incorporate existing academies and trust schools, including the designated Teaching School for Telford and Wrekin. We intend to develop three new academies, as part of the move to the establishment of a Co-operative Council, to drive up standards and ensure that high quality provision is in place across the Borough, especially in our most disadvantaged communities.

Priorslee

Plans include a new school in Priorslee to meet the needs of proposed expansion of housing in the area. In order to make this school more viable for the future we intend to incorporate the current Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College (BRJ) in Wellington within the school in Priorslee as a new ecumenical Christian faith academy. The new school would provide places for those pupils living in the Priorslee, Redhill and St Georges area but would be open to catholic and other Christian faith groups from across the Borough.

This is in line with our original proposals to ensure that there is an accessible Co-operative Learning Community at the heart of each local area which will raise aspiration and equip more young people with high level employability skills. The relocation of BRJ, which currently has a very small Post 16 cohort, will enable us to develop a more viable Post 16 offer, in partnership with other providers, for the local community, which will be essential under the new funding model for Post 16 which favours larger sixth forms.

The development of a new school as a sponsored ecumenical academy would bring additional diversity in our provision and would complement the current planned provision at the edge of the Borough.

Oakengates Leisure Centre Site

We will work with trustees of both schools to explore the co-location of Sutherland Business and Enterprise College with Wrockwardine Wood Arts College to form a new Co-operative academy on the site of the Oakengates Leisure Centre. Both schools will work together in order to further develop school to school support and develop best practice. The proposal to create one larger school site means that more students will be able to access secondary provision closer to their home than the previous plan which required students living in the Wrockwardine Wood catchment area to travel to Priorslee. The new academy will also provide better value for money and will be a more sustainable long term solution for the area as it will capitalise upon existing leisure and recreation facilities on the site.

Stirchley

We will explore the creation of a new Co-operative academy in south Telford, supported by the Schools Co-operative Society academy chain, to incorporate the existing Lord Silkin Science and Maths College and Grange Park Primary School. Although the previous plans were to refurbish the current buildings there is a strong desire within the community to create a new school on the current site, to address the identified condition/suitability issues. The proposal is to build a Learning Campus which will incorporate primary, secondary and Post 16 provision.

This will be strongly supported by its partners to build upon recent successes in performance but make the step change to ensure that we are creating a learning climate which will enable the students living in this disadvantaged community to raise their aspirations. We would expect the new academy to have a strong STEM based curriculum which would provide progression into further and higher education.

Wellington

We are also keen to improve successful schools, where possible, in order to meet parental preference, such as the high performing Charlton School in Wellington, which is consistently over-subscribed. The current school buildings are cramped and offer little scope for expansion. The current site is only suitable for a 1050 place school but at the moment has to cater for 1175 pupils.

The plan to move BRJ out of Wellington would enable us to effect a land transfer with the diocese which would free up the current BRJ site and give us the potential to relocate Charlton School in order to create a new Co-operative school of 1200 places which would provide enhanced curriculum opportunities. Linked to the planned new build of a 900 place school at Ercall Wood Technology College instead of a 750 places this would create first class facilities for all secondary aged pupils living in Wellington.

Both new schools would work closely with our other proposed academies as part of the Telford and Wrekin Learning Partnership. This would be the key driver for improving standards working closely with : Sutherland Business and Enterprise College, Wrockwardine Wood Arts College and Lord Silkin Science and Mathematics College, which are already Co-operative Trust schools. We would expect that all these schools will become more autonomous and able to respond to local need by sharing good practice and expertise across the Borough, with the external challenge and support of the highly successful Schools Co-operative Society.

Further details on proposed capacities and pupil projections are detailed in **Annex B**.

Conclusion

The amended plans will need to go to consultation but our initial discussions with all relevant partners, including our local Members of Parliament, suggest that there is likely to be widespread support for the proposals, as more communities will benefit from having high quality provision geographically closer than at present.

Telford's secondary school performance is improving year on year and is now at national averages. However, there is still variable performance across the Borough and it is believed that the establishment of Co-operative academies will raise aspirations and ensure that all schools are fit for purpose and delivering the highest quality provision for all our young people.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

24 Nov 2008 – Planning of School Places – Campus Telford & Wrekin – Approval of the Outline Business Case – Cabinet Minutes - CAB11MIN

15 Sept 2009 – Planning of School Places – Borough Towns Initiative Sports and Learning Communities – Phoenix new-build approval – Cabinet Minute CB60

23 March 2010 - Final Business Case and Award of Contracts for BSF and Abraham Darby - Cabinet Minute CB180

11 January 2011 – BTISLC Update - Cabinet Minute CB109

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Building Schools for the Future – Strategy for Change Parts 1 and 2.

Cabinet 24 November 2008 Planning of Places: Campus Telford & Wrekin.

Building Schools for the Future – Outline Business Case.

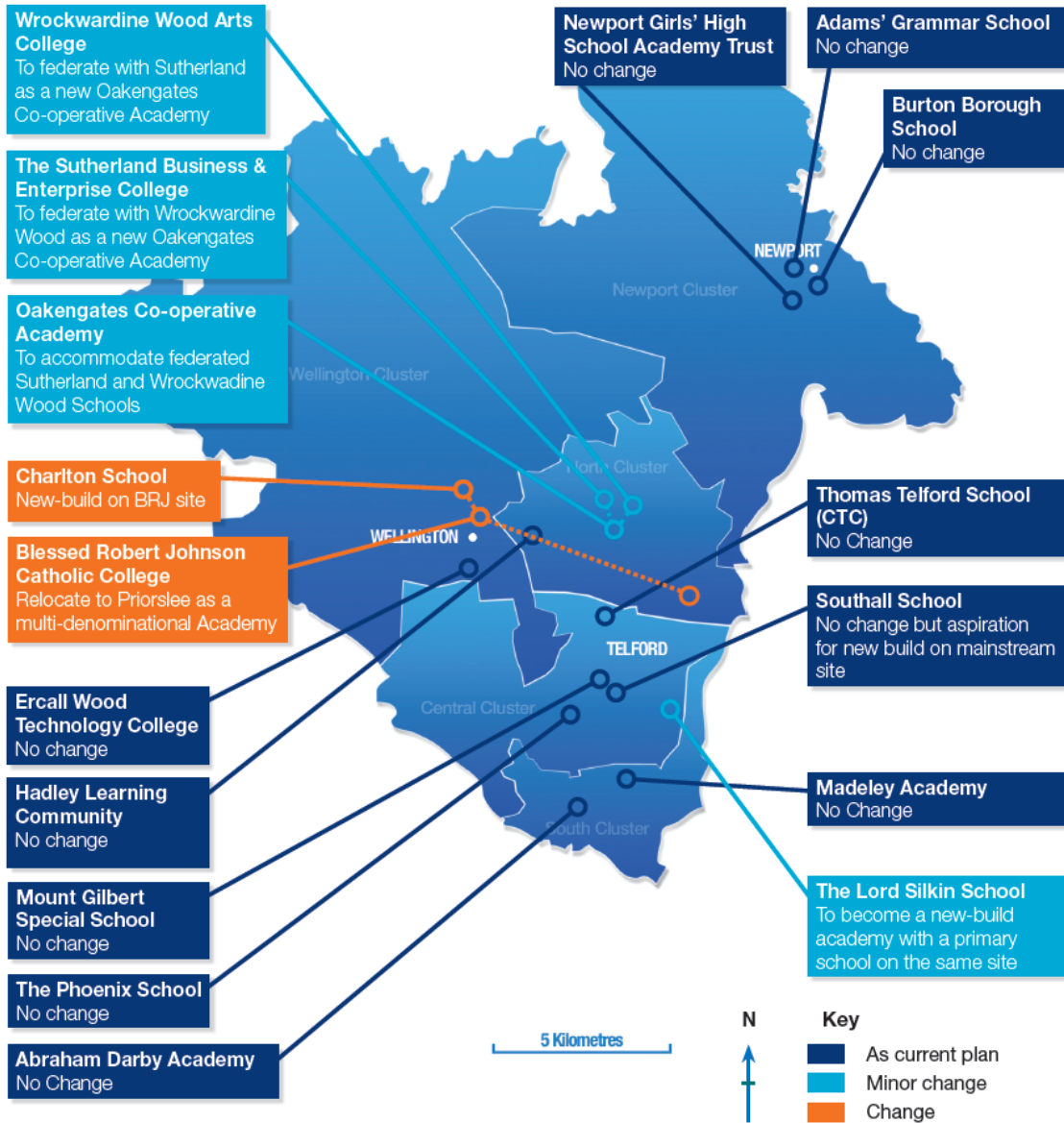
Cabinet Paper 23rd March 2010 – BTISLC Final Business Case and Award of Contracts relating to BSF and Abraham Darby.

Cabinet Paper 11th January 2011 - BTISLC Strategic Review, Approval of Final Business Case for Madeley Academy and Update re School attaining Academy Status.

Report prepared by Kathy Swallow, Service Delivery Manager – Integrated Planning, Placements & Commissioning, Telephone: 01952 380905

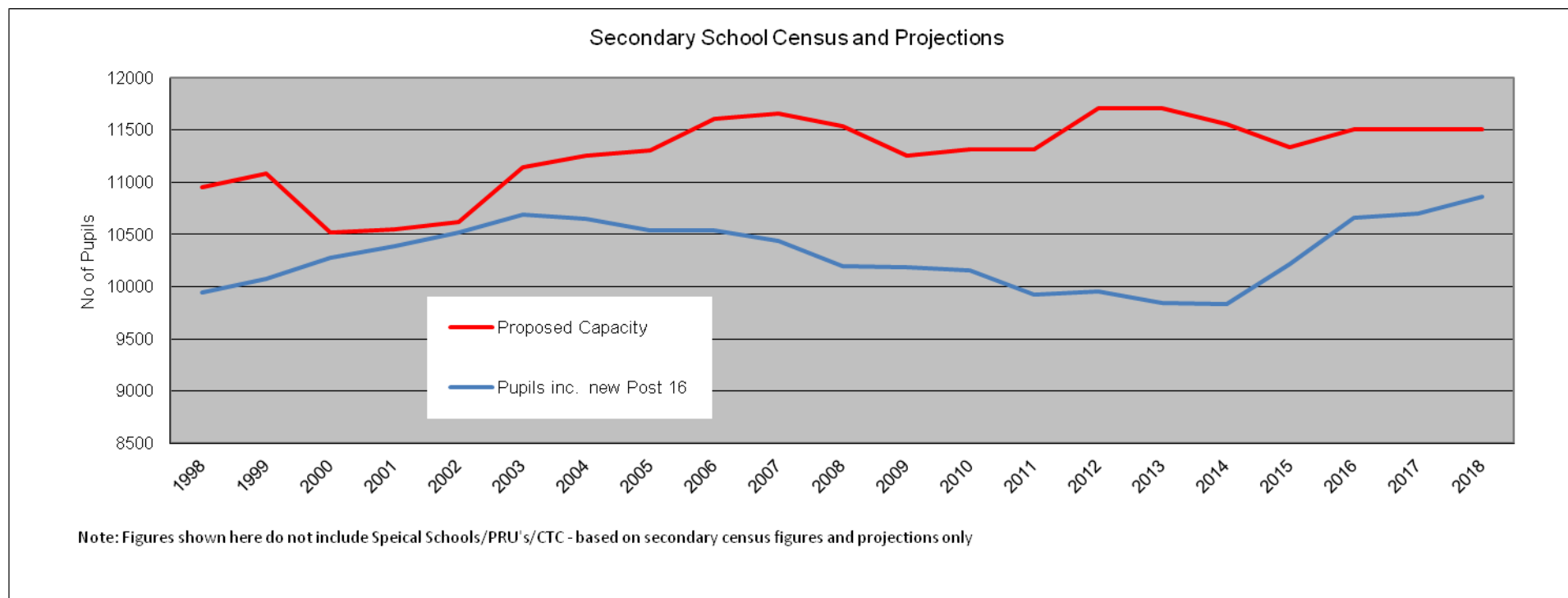
Building Schools for the Future Proposals for Discussion

September 2011



Pupil Projections

The issue of falling roles within primary schools has been experienced within the Borough over the last few years. Smaller year groups have reached secondary transition age as larger year 11 groups have left, creating a trend of declining secondary rolls over time. Projecting forwards, this is due to continue over the next few years as shown in the chart below:



However, the impact of new housing, combined with the expected growth in Post 16 and retention of pupils previously leaving the Borough in Year 7 shows the secondary total begin to increase towards the end of the decade. By revising the capacity at a number of schools we are able to bring the projected surplus to a manageable level, whilst offering greater opportunity to meet parental preference by providing sufficient quality school places in each local community:



School	Proposed completion date	Projections by 2016	Proposed Capacity
Abraham Darby	Sep-12	1100	1100
Adams Grammar	Dec-13	760	760
Blessed Robert Johnson	-	0	0
BRJ New Priorslee site	Sep-14	846	1050
Burton Borough	Apr-14	1230	1230
Charlton	Sep-16	1140	1200
Ercall Wood	Jan-14	745	900
HLC	-	905	900
Lord Silkin	Sep-15	755	800
Madeley Academy	-	1100	1100
Newport Girls' High	Dec-12	420	420
Phoenix	Sep-13	701	900
Sutherland	-	0	0
Thomas Telford	-	1283	1283
Wrockwardine Wood	-	0	0
New Oakengates	Sep-14	961	1050
Mount Gilbert	Dec-12	38	38
Southall	-	158	158
KS3/4PRUs	-	62	62
The Bridge	-	74	74
Totals		12277	13025

**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
Forward Plan 2011/12**

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER	ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES
Tuesday, 9 th August 2011 6.00pm VIP Suite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Children's service review and re-structure • Work Programme 	Cllr. Paul Watling Laura Johnston Clive Jones	
Monday, 19 th September 2011 6.00pm Scrutiny Meeting Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Parenting Strategy • BSF Programme • Short Breaks for Disabled Children 	Cllr. Paul Watling Damien Madine Chloe de Poix Guy Kershaw Stacey Norwood	Jim Collins Clive Jones Jonathan Eatough
Thursday, 20 th October 2011 6.00pm Scrutiny Meeting Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Poverty workshop • Phase 2 Family & Community Service and Safeguarding structure proposals 	Chris Marsh Jim Collins Karen Perry	
Wednesday 7 th December 2011 6.00pm Scrutiny Meeting Room	Planning of School Places – Secondary School Provision Update on BSF programme Updated position on the costs of the Mott MacDonald investigation into the Abraham Darby canopy collapse	Cllr. Paul Watling Jim Collins Guy Kershaw	
Tuesday 13 th December 2011 6.00pm Scrutiny Meeting Room	Phase 2 Family & Community Services and Safeguarding Structure proposals – to agree the Committee's response.		
January 2012	Member training and briefing for meetings with children in care. Meeting with children in care - suggested topic being	Chloe de Poix	

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD MEMBER/ OFFICER	ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES
	independent (transition to 16+)		
February 2012			
March 2012			
April 2012			
Forward items			
Youth Services			
Corporate Parenting – feedback from meeting on 20 th October on suggestions for PI's, college and HE events for children in care			
Meetings with children in care or care leavers			
School Improvement Team – directory of services			
Child Poverty – visit to Sutton Hill family centre, feedback on how the results of the workshop on 20 th October are being taken forward			
Report back on Short Breaks for Disabled Children - profile of users, proposals for services next year			
School governance, changes in relationship with local authority with shift to academies and free schools, Schools Trust Partnership			
BSF - Report back on Mott MacDonald report			