

## Notice of a Meeting

### Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 18 May 2011 at 10.00 am County Hall

#### Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner  
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Dave Sexon

<i>Councillors:</i>	Janet Godden	M. Altaf-Khan	Don Seale
	Neil Owen	Marilyn Badcock	Val Smith
	Alyas Ahmed	Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Nicholas P. Turner

<i>Co-optees:</i>	Mr Chris Bevan	Mrs Sue Matthew
	2 Vacancies	

#### Notes:

**Date of next meeting: 12 July 2011**

#### What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service

#### How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

#### For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	-	Councillor Ann Bonner E.Mail: <a href="mailto:ann.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk">ann.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Committee Officer	-	<i>Roger Edwards</i> , Tel: (01865) 810824 <a href="mailto:roger.edwards@oxfordshire.gov.uk">roger.edwards@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

May 2011

## About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

## About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

## What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session

**If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting**

**A hearing loop is available at County Hall.**

# AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2011 and to note for information any matters arising from them.

4. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

5. **Director's Update**

10.15

A regular update by the Director of Children, Education and Families. This time the update will cover:

- Outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children Services
- Update on organisational redesign

The Committee is invited to receive the presentation which will be followed by a question & answer session.

6. **Teenage Pregnancy strategy - an update** (Pages 7 - 14)

10.45

The Committee last received a report on this topic in September 2010. Following that discussion a further update was requested for this meeting. Members asked that the update should include general information on teenage pregnancies as well as specific information on numbers of pregnancies resulting in birth, those resulting in termination and how many are second pregnancies. Also what work is done with young males, education in schools and pregnancies for young women who have learning difficulties.

Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning and Clare Dodwell, Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator will present the attached report (**CH6**). This will be followed by a question and answer session.

7. **Child Poverty Needs Assessment** (Pages 15 - 20)

11.15

There is a Government requirement for all local authorities and named partners to work together to understand what needs to be done to tackle child poverty and to develop a coordinated and comprehensive Child Poverty Strategy. As part of the work to address child poverty the County Council is preparing an assessment of the needs of children

living in poverty in its area.

Nationally, leadership is being provided by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit, and the Oxfordshire Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator, a joint appointment with Public Health, is leading the work locally on producing a Child Poverty Needs Assessment (CPNA).

At this meeting members will receive a short briefing paper on the CPNA and a presentation on the emerging findings. The Committees views will be sought at this early stage in the process on what they would wish to see as the priorities for action.

Clare Dodwell, Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator and Sarah Breton, Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning will present the attached paper (**CH7**).

## **8. Outdoor Learning Centres Business Plan** (Pages 21 - 26)

**11.45**

As part of the Children, Education and Families Business Strategy to achieve the significant savings required by the 2011/12 spending review it is planned that Outdoor Education Learning Centres would move to become self financing. At the December 2010 Budget meeting members of the Committee asked to be given an opportunity to scrutinise the business plan for Outdoor Learning Centres at some time in spring 2011.

The service began implementation of its 5 year plan in 2010-11. The key element of working towards becoming self-financing is to increase income by both maximising the use of the Centres and trading services which are not provided elsewhere locally.

At the time of the discussions on budgets towards the end of last year, members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee expressed an interest in knowing more about the proposals for the Outdoor Centres. Members were particularly interested in knowing what the service is likely to look like in the future and whether extending the service to a wider group would affect the use that local children could make of the centres.

Charlotte Christie, the manager of the Outdoor Learning Service, will explain the plans for the future to the Committee. A report is attached (**CH8**).

## **9. The Oxfordshire Music Service** (Pages 27 - 30)

**12.15**

The Oxfordshire Music Service provides music teaching support to schools, as well as instrumental and vocal tuition to children and adults, and opportunities for making music together.

As part of this service there is instrumental tuition in schools, weekly instrumental, vocal, performing arts and music theory groups, youth orchestras, activities and courses during the school holidays, ensembles for adult musicians, Saturday afternoon workshops and an instrument purchase scheme.

At the time of the December 2010 Budget meeting it was believed that Government grant funding for the music service might cease. However this did not happen and the funding has continued prior to recommendations of a national review of the provision of music services in schools. The review could lead to a new national funding formula for music education.

Tony Mealings, Head of Oxfordshire County Music Service, will speak to the Committee about the future of the service and how the Music Service focuses on and engages with less advantaged young people. A paper is attached describing the activities of the Music Service (**CH9**).

## **10. Forward Plan**

**12.35**

The Chairman will propose that the following should be added to the future work programme:

- Looked After Children; attainment in English and Maths

## **11. Information Share**

**12.45**

The Chairman will update the Committee on a number of issues including:

- i. From Care 2 Work Quality Mark
- ii. The position on issues for concern identified by Committee at the December Budget meeting
- iii. KS1 Select Committee on July 5
- iv. Junior Citizens' programme – visit to Rewley Road Fire Station

## **13.00 Close of Meeting**

## Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

### **The duty to declare ...**

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

### **Whose interests are included ...**

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

### **When and what to declare ...**

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

### **Taking part if you have an interest ...**

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

### **"Prejudicial" interests ...**

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

### **What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...**

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

### **Exceptions ...**

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

### **Seeking Advice ...**

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 February 2011 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.50 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair

Councillor Dave Sexon (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Janet Godden  
Councillor Neil Owen  
Councillor Alyas Ahmed  
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan  
Councillor Marilyn Badcock  
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor  
Councillor Don Seale  
Councillor Val Smith  
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner

**Other Members in Attendance:**

**Co-opted Members:** Mr Chris Bevan  
Mrs Sue Matthew

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **105/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Mrs Brenda Williams (Council of Oxfordshire Teacher Organisations) for this meeting and retrospectively for the meeting held on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **106/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE**

(Agenda No. 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

### **107/11 MINUTES**

(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meetings held on 9 November 2010 and 20 December 2010 were approved and signed.

## **108/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda No. 4)

## **109/11 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING**

(Agenda No. 5)

Members agreed that items 5 and 6 should be taken together. The Director of Children, Young People and Families provided an update on the latest issues affecting the Directorate. Members welcomed these regular presentations as a means of keeping up to date with the rapidly changing world of schools and services for children. It was agreed that they should continue to be a standing item on the agenda.

A discussion took place around a range of current issues. The following were the main points made:

- The Munro Report on Child Protection – Professor Munro is undertaking on behalf of the Government an independent review of the child protection system, problems within the system, how they have arisen and how the service could refocus on the child's journey from needing to receiving the right help and ensuring that the needs of the child is at the core of all safeguarding.

So far Professor Munro has published two interim reports and she intends presenting her final report and recommendations to the Government in April. This could lead to changes in areas such as inspection, performance monitoring, and referral and assessment and the Committee will need to be aware of proposals for change in the future.

- Health and Wellbeing Board – must ensure that the voice of children is included. The Director of Children's Services will be one of the posts that will have statutory membership of the Board.
- Consultations on two Directorate reviews are being undertaken at present – one on Service Redesign and the other on the new structure of the Directorate. Members were provided with intranet links to both reviews. The consultations will run from February through to April 4<sup>th</sup> from when the Directorate's name will change to Children Education and Families.
- Service redesign – the "support tap" for schools and governors will not be turned off but the reduction in funding will plainly have an effect on the type of response available.
- Youth services – "hubs" will not be just youth centres by another name. They will provide a completely different service with "the right professional in the right place". "Outreach" services will be provided with professionals going out to where people are using local resources e.g. Children's Centres.



- Members asked for a further update on hubs at their next meeting in May. The Director undertook to ensure this happened and that members would be updated on a regular basis on the progress of the hubs and other service developments.

## **110/11 BUDGET MEETING 20 DECEMBER 2010**

(Agenda No. 6)

See above.

## **111/11 ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGY - UPDATE**

(Agenda No. 7)

Members received a presentation that provided information about the Anti-Bullying Strategy's response to recommendations made by the Committee last February. The report provided information about how committee recommendations had been addressed and other key areas of work that had been undertaken over the last year.

The Anti-Bullying Strategy is a collaboration of multi-agency partners with the overall aim of reducing levels of bullying across Oxfordshire.

Members were pleased to see the degree to which their recommendations had been incorporated into the anti-bullying strategy. They were further pleased to see that progress was being made in reducing levels of bullying.

During the discussion members emphasized the importance of school governors being made aware of what was happening in their schools. Anti-bullying reports should therefore go to governing bodies as well as the head teacher.

The issue of cyber bullying was discussed. Attention was drawn to the importance of ensuring that parents are aware of the dangers of this form of bullying and educated in how to recognize and combat it.

Members were very interested to hear about the Junior Citizen Trust. Junior Citizen has been running since 1991 and is offered free to every year 6 state school pupil in Oxfordshire. Every year about 4,500 children visit Junior Citizen.

During their two hour visit the children experience 7 different safety scenarios and each child gets the chance to practice making a 999 telephone call. Each of the scenarios is run by staff from the various agencies involved with the Junior Citizen Trust.

Around 25% of schools do not take part in the scheme and action is being taken to encourage them to participate. It was agreed that a visit for members to see the work of the Trust would be beneficial.

Members were informed that the strategy would be updated in August. They asked to be informed about the contents of the new strategy and it was agreed that this would be done as soon as the new strategy becomes available. Members also requested that the Anti-bullying Coordinator and her colleagues should return to the Committee in February 2012 to update them on progress.

## **112/11 FREE SCHOOLS**

(Agenda No. 8)

Roy Leach, Strategic Lead for School Organisation & Planning, presented a paper on the development of Free Schools and Academies in Oxfordshire. In addition to the information contained within the paper, the following points were made.

Mr Leach explained that a meeting had taken place with about ten promoters of free schools in Oxfordshire. The County Council's aim is to see such schools develop via a collaborative approach. The situation is changing almost weekly as more advice and guidance comes from the Government. It is unlikely that there would be more than two free schools launched in Oxfordshire by September 2011.

The criteria for developing academies have now changed. Previously they would have come out of "failing" schools however now outstanding or very good schools can also become academies.

In answer to members' questions the following emerged in addition to the information in the paper provided with the agenda:

All free schools will be new schools but both they and the academies will have to abide by the same admissions code of practice as existing schools. They will however be able to form their own admissions policy within that code.

A free school could be set up even if it would be in an area where there are surplus places provided that the business case was sufficiently robust.

If an existing secondary school were to become an academy it could, in theory, delete feeder primary schools. None to date have done that.

The Local Authority would continue to make available advice on matters such as teacher contracts and Health and Safety. However new schools would have the option of whether or not to purchase the services from the LA or elsewhere.

There is a lack of clarity around the position of pupils with SEN statements but it is expected that they would have any right to go to a free school or academy that was named in their statement; refusals to admit would need to be referred to the Secretary of State.

Concern was expressed as to what might happen if all City secondary schools were to become academies and not take SEN statemented pupils. It was explained that the LA is only a consultee in this process and that the business case has to address need and, crucially, demand. So, if all other aspects such as finance were in place a school would get the go-ahead if a demand could be demonstrated. It was explained that most of the current crop of promoters had expressed a willingness to work with all children. Despite that members remained very concerned over this aspect.

The LA would have no right to be represented on governing bodies but could be invited in.

Finally, members were assured that they would be notified of any plans for free schools or academies in their divisions.

Mr Leach was thanked for his input and invited back for a further report later in the year.

### **113/11 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT KEY STAGE 1- PROPOSAL FOR A SELECT COMMITTEE REVIEW**

(Agenda No. 9)

The Committee AGREED to undertake a Select Committee style review of Educational Attainment at KS1 across the whole of Oxfordshire. The meeting would take place in July. A number of initial questions were identified. These were:

- How does Oxfordshire, and in particular the City, compare with similar places elsewhere?
- If some are better; what are they doing that Oxfordshire could adopt?
- What is being done already to try to deal with this problem?
- English as an additional language (EAL) is often put forward as a major factor in low attainment - but is it?
- Did the change from 3 tier education to 2 tiers have any effect on attainment?
- How do the figures appear when added value/improvement is taken into consideration?

Members were asked to forward any further questions or comments to Roger Edwards.

### **114/11 YOUTH CENTRES ADMITTANCE POLICY**

(Agenda No. 10)

Members AGREED to accept the report and asked that there should be a report back in twelve months time to evaluate the success of the procedures.

### **115/11 FORWARD PLAN**

(Agenda No. 11)

A short discussion took place around the question of funding for school sports activities and the level of sport undertaken in Oxfordshire schools. Members AGREED to add school sports activity to the future work programme.

**116/11 CLOSE OF MEETING**

(Agenda No. 12)

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011

### Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Update

#### Introduction

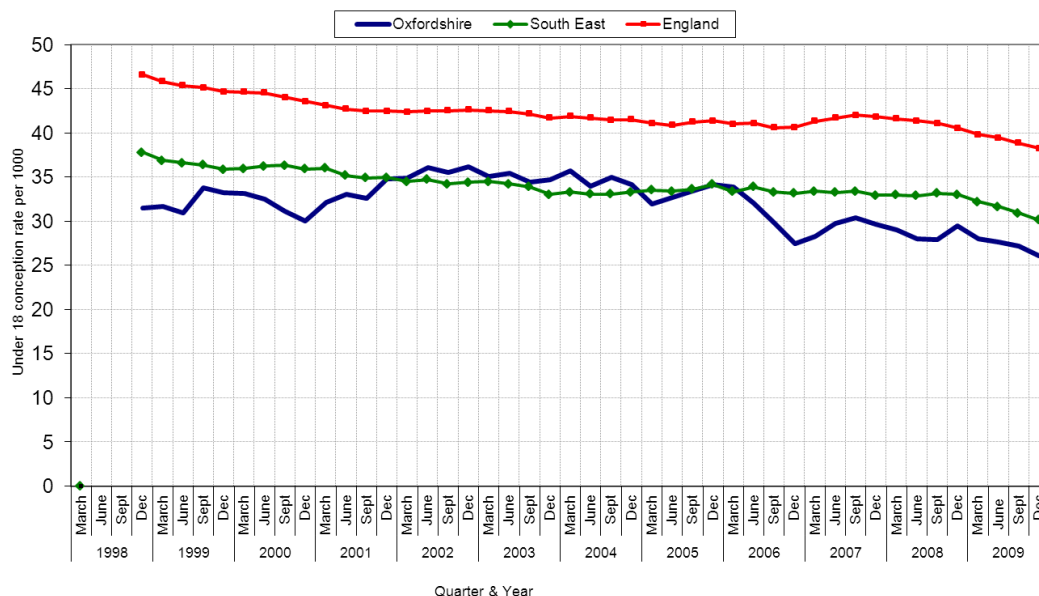
1. The aim of this report is to inform members about progress in four key areas of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy:

- Reducing trends in teenage conceptions including terminations;
- Reducing repeat conceptions;
- Sex and relationships education in schools;
- Working with young men and young fathers;

#### Reducing trends in teenage conceptions

2. The ONS released the provisional data for teenage conception rates in 2009 on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011. Teenage conceptions in Oxfordshire have fallen to 26.1 per 1000 aged 15-17 years. This is the lowest level since the start of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and is a 17.1% decrease against the 1998 baseline. This rate results in 302 conceptions in 2009 compared to 347 in 2008 and 350 in 2007. This is excellent progress.

**Rate per 1000 conceptions to under 18 year olds 1998 - 2009**



## **Districts**

3. Oxford City's under 18 conception rate has been consistently higher than the Oxfordshire average. However, over the last ten years, the rate in Oxford City has decreased the most out of the five Oxfordshire Districts, bringing it more in line with the County average. Only South Oxfordshire has experienced a small rise in conceptions but this is not statistically significant due to the small numbers involved and is still below the county average. There is, therefore evidence that we are not just reducing the overall numbers but that we are reducing the gap between wards with highest and lowest conception rates.

## **Market Towns**

4. There has been a decline in the number of market towns with under 18 conception rates above the county average from seven in 2002-2004 (with Abingdon being significantly above the county average) to four in 2006-2008.

## **Wards**

5. There has also been a decrease in the number of Oxfordshire wards in the top 20% nationally, down from 20 in 2002 - 2004 to 8 in 2006-2008. When comparing the top 20 Oxfordshire wards to the County average over time, it appears that the difference between wards is decreasing with the top wards becoming more in line with the Oxfordshire average.

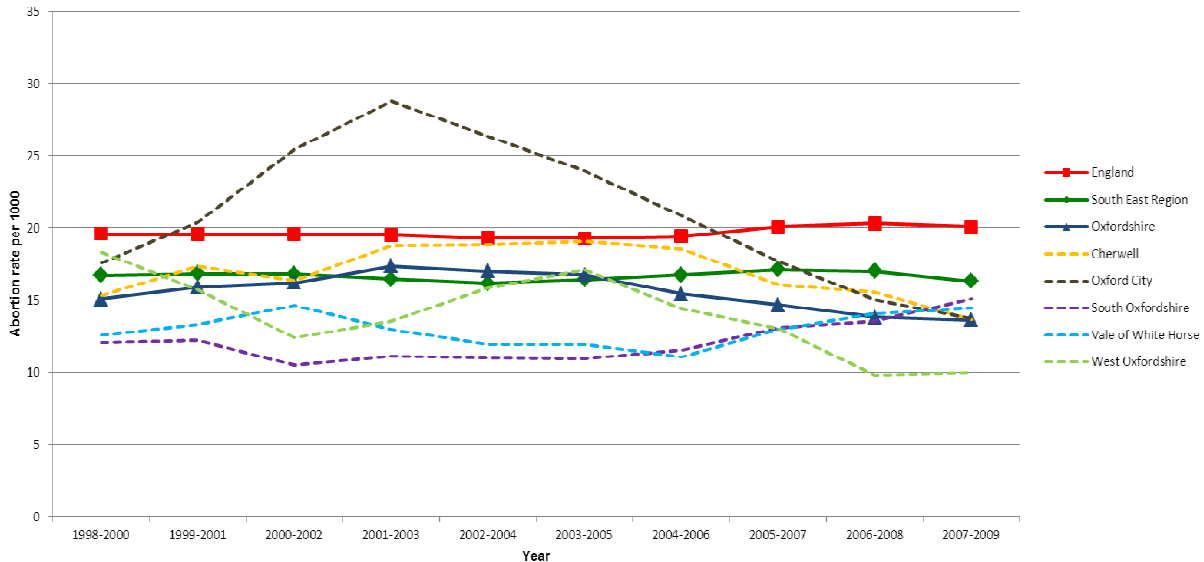
## **Conceptions Resulting in Terminations**

6. The proportion of conceptions amongst under 18 year olds which result in abortion is used to derive the under 18 year old conception rate - when added to the under 18 year old birth rate. (*Births will include live and still births*). The proportions of conceptions amongst under 18 in Oxfordshire which result in termination have remained fairly constant between 1998 and 2009. They have ranged from 46% to 49%. Proportions have also remained relatively static within Oxfordshire Districts.

7. The chart below shows the trend in abortion rate per 1000 under 18 year olds between 1998 and 2009. Oxfordshire's abortion rates have shown a decline from 16.1 per 100 in 1998/00 to 13.6 per 1000 in 2007/09. Nationally and regionally, rates are remaining static. Oxfordshire's abortion rates are consistently significantly lower than the national average and have fallen significantly below the regional average in recent years. Abortion rates in Oxford

## CH6

8. City are no longer significantly higher than the County average and have now fallen significantly below the national average. Abortion rates have also fallen in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire from 16.4 per 1000 to 13.8 per 1000 and from 18.8 per 1000 to 10 per 1000 respectively. Abortion rates in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse have risen slightly in recent years but still remain significantly below the national average.



Source: ONS and Teenage Conception Unit

9. Data on repeat abortions is subject to small numbers and is not routinely released by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit. Recent analysis by the Association of Public Health Observatories shows that the proportions of abortions amongst under 18 year olds which are repeat abortions in Oxfordshire are not significantly different to the national or regional averages and are currently about 8.5%.

## Reducing Second Conceptions

10. Of those conceptions that go on to live birth (rather than termination) the table below shows that 25.29% are second conceptions (some of which will have been terminated first time round).

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Proportion of all births which are second conceptions 2007 to 2009

Year	All births	Second Pregnancies	Proportion of births which are repeat pregnancies
2007	200	28	14.00%
2008	183	30	16.39%
2009	170	43	25.29%

*Source: Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals*

11. Since 2009 we have been using a new approach to address this trend. All under 18 year olds who are pregnant are referred by the midwifery or termination service to the Contraception and Sexual Health (C&SH) Outreach nurse. Increasing numbers of these young women are choosing Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC). In addition, since 2010, we have adopted a Teenage Pregnancy Common Assessment Framework (CAF) to ensure that they receive a comprehensive package of support.

12. There are now 108 pregnant young women (aged under 20 at conception) actively enrolled in the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) Programme. In 2011/12 the PCT agreed significant additional funding to double the capacity of the team so that at any one time 200 young women will be on the programme.

13. FNP is an evidence based nurse home-visiting designed to improve health, wellbeing, safety and self-sufficiency of young first time mothers and their babies. As well as strengthening parenting, the programme is shown to help clients plan future pregnancies and therefore prevent unplanned future conceptions<sup>1</sup>.

### **Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) in Schools**

14. SRE is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, human sexuality; and sexual health. National and international research shows that young people who have had good quality SRE are more likely to delay their first experience of sex and when they do have sex that they are more likely to use contraception and to have fewer sexual partners<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Olds et al (2004): Effects of Nurse home visiting on maternal life-course and child development

<sup>2</sup> Sex Education Forum (2010) Evidence Briefing



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15. Evidence is clear that effective SRE needs to be taught by trained and confident staff<sup>3</sup>. In Oxfordshire, we have invested in the Healthy Oxfordshire Schools Team (HOST) to provide support to schools so that teachers are equipped to deliver high quality SRE within Personal, Social & Health Education programmes (PSHE). HOST have targeted their work to schools in areas with the highest teenage pregnancy rates. Their input has included:

- Working with PSHE co-ordinators in schools to ensure that curriculum, lesson plans and resources accord with best practice and are evidence based;
- Direct delivery of SRE lessons to model best practice: 264 sessions delivered in secondary schools between March 2010 and January 2011;
- Target schools have received 12 SRE sessions each;
- Co-ordination of 'Last Orders' play in 27 schools, including 5 out of 6 target schools;
- Model SRE lessons include links to risky behaviours such as substance misuse and mental health and include work on building self esteem, resisting pressure and delay.

16. However, SRE is delivered in all Oxfordshire secondary schools and a typical SRE curriculum would include:

- Teaching about human sexuality
- Teaching about healthy relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood. The focus is on supporting young people to develop a moral framework to guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour. Young people are taught about abusive or exploitative relationships.
- A focus on the needs of boys as well as girls;
- A focus on the development of self-esteem, communication and assertiveness techniques;

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<sup>3</sup> Department for Education & Skills (2006) Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts on effective delivery of local strategies.

- Teaching about the possible responsibilities and consequences of sexual activity;
- Teaching about safe sex, contraception and sources of further support;
- Teaching about the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure;
- Teaching about the links between sexual health and other types of risky behaviour, such as substance misuse and alcohol;
- Teaching about the law.

### **Working with Young Men and Young Fathers**

17. We know that a different approach can be helpful when working with young men to prevent teenage pregnancy and support young fathers<sup>3</sup>. Boys and young men benefit from single sex group work with skilled workers who have a clear understanding of gender differences and how to give information and support in a way that will be acceptable to boys and young men.

18. In order to skill up the children's workforce, there are now training courses that aim to develop expertise in working with young men. Over 50 people in Oxfordshire from different professional backgrounds have attended specialist courses organised by the County Council and report that the training has impacted positively on their working practices.

19. In Banbury, the Youth Service worked with a targeted group of 'hard to reach' young men. The 'One Man and a Baby' project successfully engaged with 39 young men. At least 32 were from areas of deprivation and were from considered vulnerable, including boys from the Foyer, the Pupil Referral Unit, and Banbury Young Homeless Project. 35 young men took Chlamydia tests. 11 young men signed up to the safety card scheme. 15 young men completed work for formal accreditation of their learning. Overall, young people involved reported an increase in knowledge of sexual health, and had greater awareness of the roles and responsibilities of parenthood.

## CH6

20. Supporting young fathers is also a priority – both in supporting their parenting of their baby but also in preventing future unplanned conceptions. The Family Nurse Partnership programme is currently working with 61 young new fathers aged 15-19 years. Again, this will potentially double when the FNP expands this year.

21. The Oxfordshire Parenting Forum has been funded to research and develop a new model for engaging with young fathers. They will draw on the experience of the Banbury project as well as 'Hit the Ground Crawling' (birth & parenting workshops for dads) that has been piloted at the Leys Children's Centre. The new model will be launched at a training event in the Autumn 2011 and will be driven forward by the Parenting Forum in the future.

### **Conclusion**

22. There has been excellent progress in reducing teenage conceptions over the last two years. As well as ensuring there are services and support for all young people as they grow into adulthood, there is now clear evidence of effective targeting of resources towards young people who are most at risk of pregnancy. There is, however, no room for complacency and work continues to ensure that we build services that are informed by what we know works for local young people.

Sarah Breton  
Strategic Lead and Head of Joint Commissioning

Clare Dodwell  
Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator

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## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011

### **Introduction**

1. In April the government published the national Child Poverty Strategy (A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the causes of disadvantage and transforming families' lives: April 2011). The Child Poverty Needs Assessment that is currently under development is the first step towards a local Child Poverty Strategy for Oxfordshire.

2. The aim of this paper is to give members of the committee the opportunity to discuss and influence the development of a local Child Poverty Strategy. This will be supported by a more detailed presentation of the information at the meeting.

### **Background**

3. Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. Research shows that children who grow up in poverty have a greater risk of having poor health, low educational attainment and failing to reach their full potential. Currently 22% of children in the UK are living in poverty. This equates to 2.8 million children (NI116, 2008). The Government has renewed its commitment to ending child poverty by 2020 and the Child Poverty Act 2010 requires action to be taken both at a national and local level.

4. It is clear that the coalition government's approach to child poverty is much broader than the traditional approach of moving families above an arbitrary income level. The ambition is to create the environment, incentives and skills for people to be able to create a better life for their families. This is supported through the new Localism Bill (December 2010) and the drive towards "Community Budgets" that will be rolled out nationally by 2014/14. Additionally the direction of travel outlined in the Public Health White Paper (Our Strategy for Public Health in England, November 2010) and the new NHS White Paper (Liberating the NHS, December 2010) reinforce the message that abolishing child poverty is a cross-departmental priority for government.

5. Last year the government published Frank Field's report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances (The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children

becoming poor adults. December 2010). The recommendations from this report, together with the report from Graham Allen on the cost effectiveness of and evidence base for early intervention programmes, now form the basis of a government consultation on tackling Child Poverty (Tackling Child Poverty and Improving Life Chances: Consulting on a new approach).

### **The Child Poverty Needs Assessment**

6. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment is an opportunity to highlight what child poverty looks like in Oxfordshire, to identify who is in poverty, where they live, why they are in poverty, examples of local good practice in relation to child poverty and evidence about what more can be done to lift people out of poverty.

7. Tackling child poverty will help to improve children's lives today and it will also enhance their life chances in the longer term, enabling them to make the most of their talents, achieve their full potential in life and pass on the benefits to their children. It is an issue that is already at the heart of the local Children's and Young People's Plan (CYPP), THE Oxfordshire 20:30 Strategy and Oxfordshire County Council's Corporate Plan. Narrowing the gap for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and breaking the cycle of deprivation remain key priorities for the Council and NHS alike.

8. The Child Poverty Act 2010 requires local authorities to co-ordinate a needs assessment and to develop a joint strategy with partners to tackle child poverty in their area. Partnership involvement is essential as the causes and consequences of child poverty cut across many different sectors.

## Process

9. The Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust is responsible for overseeing the needs assessment and developing the strategy by the end of 2011. A small group of data experts has gathered together key data and information, using the suggested framework of the four building blocks from the IDeA's national toolkit as outlined below:

<b>Employment and Life Skills</b>	<b>Family and Life Chances</b>
<b>Financial Support</b>	<b>Place and Delivery</b>
<b>At risk groups</b>	

10. The child poverty needs assessment is not just about gathering facts and figures but is an opportunity to draw on the knowledge and experience of local practitioners and children, young people and their families. To achieve this there were four consultation workshops in March and April 2011 which attracted a wide range of people and organisations. This included three workshops held in the North, City and South of the County bringing together more than 100 frontline professionals. Their input is integrated throughout this report.

11. In April, 40 children and their parents and carers came together at an inter-generational workshop to discuss child poverty. Additionally Oxfordshire Young Enablers (OYE!) ran a satellite workshop session with young disabled people. A summary of their discussions about what keeps people living in poverty and what can be done to lift people out of poverty will be available in the final report. This very early engagement with partners, frontline workers and people who live in Oxfordshire has enabled a more complete and in depth picture of child poverty as well as getting 'buy in' and engagement for the future implementation of the strategy.

## Emerging Key Findings

- In Oxfordshire there are 15,660 children in poverty, or 11.7% of all children in the area. This is about half the national average and puts us in the lowest 25% of local authorities in England.
- However, within the county there are wide variations. 23.2% of children in Oxford City are living in poverty compared to 7.4% in West Oxfordshire. Ten wards in Oxford City, one in Banbury and one in Abingdon are within the top 25% most disadvantaged nationally.
- Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East. Child poverty does not tend to show up in rural data as numbers are small. However, when all the small numbers are added together, the rural share (of children in poverty) is 23% or 3,345 children.
- The experience of growing up in poverty in a rural area may be worse than in an urban area due to poor access to services that can help
- Some children are more at risk of being in poverty than others. Of the 15,660 children in poverty in Oxfordshire, 73% are in lone parent families.
- Employment is a key route out of poverty. In Oxfordshire the economy has remained relatively strong in spite of the recession and there are jobs with prospects for those with the right skills and qualifications (although the impact of public sector job losses has yet to be felt)
- However, in a competitive job market with high numbers of people with degrees, parents and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds or areas face major barriers including low self confidence and low aspirations, lack of basic skills, qualifications and experience, difficulty finding and affording childcare and problems with transport
- Benefit dependency may then become the norm and children growing up in these families are in danger of repeating the vicious circle which keeps them in poverty



- Education is the key to gaining a job with prospects. Oxford is a world renowned centre of learning and place of academic excellence. However, the picture is very different for those groups of young people growing up in poverty. In 2010 only 22% of those growing up in poverty (defined as eligible for Free School Meals) achieve 5 or more GCSEs A\*-C including English and Maths.
- Where you live in the county and what your family background is also determines how healthy you are. For example, smoking in pregnancy, which is linked to low birth weight (an indicator of future health problems) is over three times more likely amongst teenage mothers than mothers aged over 20. Poor health is a barrier to employment and may also affect parenting capacity
- Having a stable, good quality home to live in is a basic necessity and prerequisite to enable children to learn, thrive and achieve. In Oxfordshire there is a shortage of affordable housing. At worst this can result in homelessness – there are currently over 200 children living in temporary accommodation in Oxford City.

### **Next steps**

12. In summary, what has been found in the child poverty needs assessment is that children growing up in Oxfordshire face very different outcomes according to who they are (family background) and where they live. The full needs assessment will be presented to the Children and Young People's Trust Board on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

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## CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011

### **Report on Oxfordshire Outdoor Learning Service (OOLS)**

#### **Background**

- 1 OOLS is a direct provider of:
  - Residential programmes for a variety of groups
  - Adventurous outdoor activities
  - Training for teachers and those who work with young people
  - Fulfilling the Authority's duty to monitor and authorise educational visits.
  - Advice for adults and teachers who plan and lead groups on off-site visits
  - Facilities (supported or unsupported) for internal (OCC) and external groups to use.

#### **Centres**

- 2 Historically the 3 out-county Centres (Kilvrough, Woodlands and Yenworthy) provided a 5 day model of residential visit with a programme of adventurous outdoor activities or specialist field study work for exam courses.
- 3 The core clients for these Centres remain schools and pupils in Oxfordshire during and around term time for 41 weeks of the year (school term-time is 38 weeks). Over the last 5 years the Centres have responded to demand and provided courses for more specialist groups such as young carers, young people at risk of offending and young people with autism.
- 4 The in-county Centre, Hill End, provides residential opportunities on a self-facilitated basis for school and community groups. The Centre is fully occupied during the summer months but use drops from October through to the spring. In addition it runs day visits, currently mainly for Early Years and Primary phases which focus on environmental and field studies. Over the last 3 years new courses based on team building and social skills activities have been successfully introduced.

#### **Training and Authorisation**

- 5 Specialist Advisory staff from OOLS provide support for all OCC staff planning visits with children & young people and fulfil the Authority's duty to authorise and monitor such visits.
- 6 The service provides an electronic system through which schools can plan all off-site visits and seek authorisation when necessary.

- 7 OOLS provides high quality training courses for teachers and leaders who are engaged in off-site learning programmes. Staff based at the Centres have been trained to deliver these courses so they can be provided at a cost effective rate for organisations which need access to them. There are no other providers of these training opportunities within the county.

### **Progress towards self-financing**

- 8 The Service began implementation of its 5 year plan in 2010-11. The key element of working towards becoming self-financing is to increase income by both maximising the use of the Centres and trading services which are not provided elsewhere locally.

### **Maximising use of Centres**

- 9 Access to the Centres will be offered in the following order of priority:
- i. Children & young people from Oxfordshire
  - ii. Non- Oxfordshire schools or groups where there are vacancies not taken by Oxfordshire groups
- 10 However in future, consideration may be given to giving first choice of places at times of high demand for non-Oxfordshire groups. The higher rates charged to them would enable charges to be kept lower for Oxfordshire users at other times.
- 11 The core business of the Centres will be to continue to provide for Oxfordshire users, who will make up a minimum of 85 % of total users. Hill End will be the centre for information and training in relation to outdoor learning and occupancy will be increased to year round provision.
- 12 OOLS will continue to explore opportunities to use the skills and expertise within the service to provide courses for new users. This would include those with specific or complex needs where we can provide high quality at a cost effective price.
- 13 In future it is anticipated that core income will still come from schools but the service expects to be in a position to meet a wider range of demand from other parts of the county council.
- 14 A number of pilot projects have been undertaken over the last year to meet the needs of non-school groups. For example there were family groups from Bicester and Didcot in August 2010. Kilvrough and Hill End are part of the National Citizens project for summer 2011.

### **Other services provided by OOLS**

- 15 Priorities:

- Fulfilling the Local Authority's duty to monitor and authorise safe undertaking of visits by children and young people.

- Provision of high quality training for adults organising and leading groups of children and young people.
- Co-ordination of information and services related to Outdoor Learning and provision of specialist information as a traded service.

### **Actions already taken**

16 The following actions have already been done:

- i. Charges have been increased at all 4 Centres at above inflation rates
- ii. OOLS staff have been trained to deliver training for group leaders and Educational Visit co-ordinators (EVCs) so that the Service can generate income from these courses. In this academic year this has generated £10,000. It is expected that this will double in the next year.
- iii. A consultation was undertaken and 3 posts of Deputy Head of Centre were removed from the out-county Centres. This created a saving of approximately £100,000 although the full value will not take effect until this financial year.
- iv. Working patterns at the out-county Centres were adjusted to give greater flexibility. For example if the group in residence is not maximum size staff are programmed to take leave or work at one of the other Centres during that week.
- v. Facilities at Hill End have been improved to provide better accommodation for training and activities.

### **Current position**

17 At the end of the 2010-11 financial year the Outdoor Learning Service budget was predicted to have an under-spend of approximately £60,000. This represents savings of £160,000 within the year. The target saving for this year was £108,000. The target at the end of the 5 year period is £500,000.

18 These savings were mainly generated from efficiencies, one-off savings and reductions in staff. During this financial year the focus will be on increasing occupancy through a greater variety of courses and looking at alternative methods of generating income.

19 Two possibilities are:

- Using the separate lodge buildings on each of the out-county sites as self-contained holiday accommodation, perhaps for OCC staff
- Entering into agreements with other authorities to provide places for their students

20 In the longer term it is proposed that the service will explore other organisational models such as Trust status to reduce the financial risk to OCC while retaining provision that can meet Oxfordshire's needs.

## Occupancy of Centres academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11 (projected)

21 The following charts show the comparison of usage for each of the 4 Centres for last academic year and projected figures to the end of this academic year all of which show an increase.

Name of Centre: Kilvrough Manor OEC Capacity: 60

Course duration	Number of groups		Total participants	
	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011
6 day	1	1	44	45
5 day	49	44	1438	1545
4 day	2	4	29	108
3 day	1	4	22	160
2 day	8	12	157	238
Other	0	2	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1690</b>	<b>2206</b>

Group Split	2009/10	Projected 2010/11
Primary	0	38
Secondary	0	13
Special	0	0
Other	0	4

Name of Centre: Yenworthy Lodge OEC Capacity: 36

Course duration	Number of groups		Total participants	
	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011
5 day	45	45	1488	1124
4 day	0	8	0	206
3 day	2	0	12	0
2 day	5	9	184	214
Other	0	7	0	264
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1684</b>	<b>1808</b>

Group Split	2009/10	Projected 2010/11
Primary	39	39
Secondary	7	5
Special	7	6
Other	0	10

CH8

Name of Centre: Woodlands OEC Capacity: 48

Course duration	Number of groups		Total participants	
	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011
7 day	2	5	41	85
6 day	2	3	68	98
5 day	51	54	1462	1486
4 day	10	5	200	130
3 day	1	5	3	84
2 day	1	0	2	0
Weekends	13	9	206	141
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>2024</b>

Group Split	2009/10	Projected 2010/11
Primary	35	40
Secondary	19	23
Special	8	5
Other	5	4

Name of Centre: Hill End Capacity: residential: 140 Day: variable

Course duration	Number of groups		Total participants	
	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011	2009/10	Projected 2010/2011
5 day	10	11	1876	683
4 day	5	5	230	601
3 day	29	25	1269	991
2 day	30	38	1458	1402
Day non res.	65	145	3072	4316
Workshops	11	38	90	672
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>7995</b>	<b>8665</b>

Group Split	2009/10	Projected 2010/11
Primary	47	38
Secondary	10	6
Special	3	4
Other (incl children's centres)	37	44

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## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2011**

Oxfordshire County Music Service, work with less advantaged children and young people.

### **Briefing notes for Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

1. The Music Service is committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn an instrument and to sing; also to experience high quality performance, both as a participant and as audience.
2. In order to achieve this, the Music Service is focussing on the following:
  - The development of quality whole-class and large-group teaching
  - The development of free beginner ensembles
  - Development of clear and affordable progression pathways
  - Developing partnerships with an increasing number of organisations that are able to work with the Service to deliver high quality music education opportunities for the children and young people of Oxfordshire.

### **Wider Opportunities Programmes**

3. The Wider opportunities programmes (known in Oxfordshire as the 'Vocal and Instrumental Programme') offer all pupils in KS2 the opportunity of a year's free whole class instrumental teaching at no cost to the children or parents.
4. Performances in and out of school that arise from this teaching often represent both the children and their parents' first experience of musical performance.
5. Subsequent to the initial year, pupils are offered a continuation year of learning in groups, at a significantly subsidised rate. In areas of greatest social need the Music Service has worked with the charity 'Future Talent' to ensure that pupils have had access to this follow-on year (known as 'Play On') at no cost. The Music Service has also worked with schools in such areas to maximise the number of pupils who continue learning with full remission of fees.
6. Work with Future Talent has also ensured that, in areas of greatest deprivation, free access to instrumental learning has been able to continue for a third year.

7. Particularly musically able children are able to access a special programme that includes longer lessons and more intensive tuition at reduced cost; additionally, some charitable scholarships have been available to a number of students to support accelerated learning and the provision of more advanced instruments.

### **Remission of fees and other support**

8. All pupils entitled to free school meals are given free lessons and free use of instruments. The Music Service helps those pupils from families who have incomes just above the F.S.M. threshold to find financial support from charities such as the Chief Officers Fund for Music. As a last resort, and in obviously very needy and deserving cases, the Service will support such families directly with partial remission of charges.
9. The Music Service sees it as a significant part of its role to provide support and mentoring for pupils who come from backgrounds that may have no experience in supporting children through musical pathways.

### **Ensembles**

10. All pupils in their first school year of learning an instrument with the Music Service are given free access to Saturday morning and other music ensemble provision. New beginner ensembles have been established at every Saturday Music Centre to accommodate these pupils. Subsequent remission of charges is available to families for access to these activities on the same basis as remission of charges for lessons.
11. A restructuring of the most senior activities means that all students are able to access the highest levels of performing groups on merit (with remission of charges available in the same way as for other groups). Students can then opt into the more expensive 'touring' programmes. In some cases it has also been possible to find charitable funding partners to support particularly able students to access the touring groups. However, the annual programme of high level performance is now undertaken by the regularly rehearsing ensembles that are accessible on merit.

### **Partnership programme with Christ Church Cathedral School**

12. The Music Service works in partnership with the Cathedral School on a programme of outreach into less advantaged primary schools in Oxford and the surrounding area. This programme results in the Primary School children having the opportunity to experience singing to an audience in the Cathedral with the Choristers.

## **Creating performance Opportunities in Oxfordshire**

13. The Music Service has been focussing on creating high quality performance opportunities for children, particularly those who may not otherwise experience performing in front of large audiences in major events.
14. In addition to working with school partnerships around the county, the Service has established a 'Youth Arts Festival' in Banbury, where schools are able to showcase whole-class and large group work that includes the full range of children. A large-scale event is being planned in Bicester for July, in partnership with the Town Mayor and the schools.
15. In November, around 400 Oxfordshire children will have the opportunity to sing in a massed choir in the Albert Hall as part of the Schools' Prom, and a similar number will be given this type of opportunity in March 2012 in a Grand Gala Concert in Symphony Hall (Birmingham). The Service ensures that schools from less advantaged areas are well represented in these and similar events.

## **Concerts**

16. The Music Service senior orchestras regularly give performances in Oxford Town Hall and the Sheldonian (and sometimes other venues) for primary school children. These are offered at very low cost to schools, and it has sometimes been possible to find funding partners to enable schools to bring children at no cost. Last year several hundred children in Banbury were able to attend a concert given specially for them by the Philomusica (with soloists from the County Youth Orchestra).

## **Youth Music Programmes**

17. The Music Service works with the organisation Youth Music to deliver programmes in Early Years which, in addition to developing musical understanding in young children, are designed to build capacity with the adults in the settings in which they take place.
18. Over the last twelve months the Music Service has been delivering a Music Technology and Performance programme in Littlemore, funded by Youth Music, designed to engage and help young people in their mid-teens avoid becoming disaffected and socially excluded. This programme continues until December, and we are currently seeking alternative sources of funding in order to continue it into 2012.

### **Free ensembles**

19. The Music Service has, with support from Future Talent, been able to offer free tuition and ensembles to two groups of young people in Bicester and Cowley. This has enabled young people with musical potential to access an opportunity, free of charge that has, in several cases, been life-changing.

### **Training and Development**

20. There has been a significant programme of training and development for all Music Service staff, focussing on inclusion, and the development of skills related to large-group tuition and 'teaching-by-ensemble'. These skills are enabling the Music Service to confidently offer low cost musical learning options to young people, schools and families.

Tony Mealings

4-5-2011