

Department for Education and Skills

Autumn Performance Report 2004

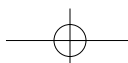
Achievement against Public Service Agreement Targets, 2000–2004

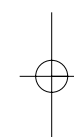
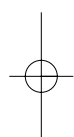
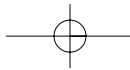
Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills
by Command of Her Majesty

December 2004

Cm 6399
£6.75

department for
education and skills
creating opportunity, releasing potential, achieving excellence



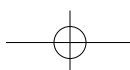


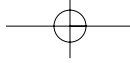
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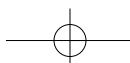
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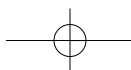
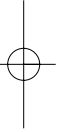
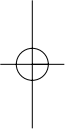
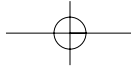


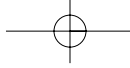


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Foreword

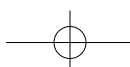
I am pleased to present my third Autumn Performance Report which sets out interim and final assessments towards achievement of Spending Review 2002 and Spending Review 2000 targets for the Department for Education and Skills.

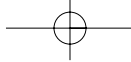
This report also includes details of the new headline Spending Review 2004 targets for the Department and the children's services, education and skills sectors some of which subsume several of the targets set out in the 2002 Spending Review.

While there is still much to do in some areas, overall this is an impressive picture of achievement by very many dedicated colleagues in children's services, in lifelong learning and in education.

We have seen steady progress on a number of fronts:

- Every three- and four-year-old is now able to access free part time early education, and since 1997 more than 1.2 million new registered childcare places have been created benefiting over 2 million children.
- Towards building a universal, one stop service for children and families and have established the first 180 Children's Centres offering early education alongside childcare and health and family support, and from 2005–06 all local authorities will be receiving funding to help develop extended services in all schools, including childcare.
- Record levels of school attendance.
- Improving the results at Key Stages 2 and 3.
- Securing the highest levels in GCSEs ever this year.
- Securing further improvements in the numbers of schools and local education authorities below minimum standards which is crucial for our objectives of achieving both excellence and equity in the education system.
- Exceeding the interim target of 750,000 learners with Skills for Life qualifications by 2004, with an estimated total of 827,000 learners achieving a literacy, numeracy or language qualification.
- Making good progress towards reaching our 2010 target of reducing by 40 per cent, those without a level 2 qualification.





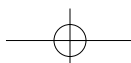
There is still much to be done, but the progress made towards delivery of the stretching targets set out in this report will continue as we take forward our *Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners*, published in July 2004. This set out a far-reaching reform agenda based on principles of personalisation and choice for the user, more diversity of provision and autonomy for front line services. A key part of this is for the Department to take on a more strategic role, to devolve more initiative and responsibility to its partners and to the front line. In this context, a clear and transparent performance monitoring regime – focused on key targets which measure progress towards our objectives – will be more important than ever.

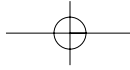
These targets form the focus not just for the work of my Department but for our collective aspirations for children and learners. Their achievement will depend not on our own efforts but on how successful we are in working collectively with local government, with educational institutions, with the voluntary and community sector, and with employers – mobilising that overall effort to achieve common goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Clarke'.

CHARLES CLARKE

Secretary of State for Education and Skills





Introduction

The Department for Education and Skills is responsible for children's services and education, including lifelong learning in England. It also has wider responsibilities for a range of policies, some of which it shares with other government departments, such as the Sure Start programme (shared with the Department for Work and Pensions).

Our aim is to:

Help build a competitive economy and inclusive society by:

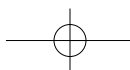
- creating opportunities for everyone to develop their learning;
- releasing potential in people to make the most of themselves; and
- achieving excellence in standards of education and levels of skills.

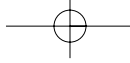
This report is supplementary to the *Departmental Report 2004* (Cm 6202) and sets out the Spending Review 2004 objectives and Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets for the Department for Education and Skills, including Sure Start targets shared with the Department for Work and Pensions and those previously owned or shared with the Department of Health.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer published two White Papers in July 2004 setting out the outcome of the Spending Review 2004 and Public Service Agreements across Government. The 2004 White Paper *Spending Review 2004: Public Service Agreements 2005-2008* includes the new headline targets for the Department and the children's services, education and skills sectors some of which subsume several of the targets set out in the 2002 Spending Review.

The 2002 White Paper, *Spending Review 2002: Public Service Agreements 2003-2006* provided the framework for our targets until 2006, subsuming many of the targets from the 2000 Spending Review. Final assessments against many of these targets are reported in chapter 2.

During the period October 2003 to January 2004, the National Audit Office (NAO) carried out a review of the data systems for ten of the Department's Spending Review 2002 PSA targets, including one that is shared with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and the four Sure Start targets. The review did not cover the Department's Target 8, which relates to performance and value for money in further education, as it does not depend on a data system or come into effect until 2004-05, nor did it cover those targets transferred to the Department from the Department of Health as part of the machinery of government





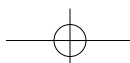
changes in June 2003. NAO intend publishing an omnibus report early in 2005 which will describe their main findings in the departments reviewed.

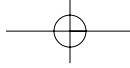
The foreword to the *Resource Accounts* contains the Operating and Financial Review (OFR). In addition to summarising the principal activities during the year, the OFR reports on the financial performance in the year including explanations for variance between planned and actual expenditure, and a summary of the Department's plans for investment in the future. The 2003-04 Resource Accounts will be published in late December 2004.

Standard terminology across departments has been adopted when reporting progress against targets, see Annex A.

Technical Notes for Spending Review 2004 targets are available at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_and_services/publicservice_performance/pss_perf_table.cfm

The Government is keen to enable the public to view progress towards Public Service Agreement targets in public services and all the Government's key performance data is now available on a single Public Service Performance website; www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/performance/.





CHAPTER 1

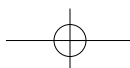
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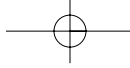
Department for Education and Skills – Spending Review 2004 Public Service Agreement Targets

This chapter sets out Spending Review 2004 objectives and Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets for the Department for Education and Skills, including targets shared with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and those previously owned or shared with the Department of Health. In general, it is too early to begin reporting against these targets. The baseline information for the majority of SR 2004 targets carried forward from SR 2002 will be the 2004 data shown in chapter 2.

Objective I: Safeguard children and young people, improve their life outcomes and general well-being, and break cycles of deprivation

1. Improve children's communication, social and emotional development so that by 2008, 50% of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 20% most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England. (Sure Start Unit target, joint with the Department for Work and Pensions)
2. As a contribution to reducing the proportion of children living in households where no one is working, by 2008:
 - increase the stock of Ofsted-registered childcare by 10%;
 - increase the take-up of formal childcare by low income working families by 50%; and
 - introduce by April 2005, a successful light-touch childcare approval scheme. (Sure Start Unit target, joint with the Department for Work and Pensions).
3. Reduce the under-18 conception rate by 50%, by 2010, as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. (Joint target with the Department of Health).
4. Halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. (Joint target with the Department of Health and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport).
5. Narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked after children and that of their peers, and improve their educational support and the stability of their lives so that by 2008, 80% of children under 16 who have been looked after for 2.5 or more years will have been living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption.





Objective II: Raise standards and tackle the attainment gap in schools

6. Raise standards in English and maths so that:
 - by 2006, 85% of 11-year-olds achieve level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and
 - by 2008, the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above is reduced by 40%.
7. Raise standards in English, maths, ICT and science in secondary education so that:
 - by 2007, 85% of 14-year-olds achieve level 5 or above in English, maths and ICT (80% in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and
 - by 2008, in all schools at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in each of English, maths and science.
8. Improve levels of school attendance so that by 2008, school absence is reduced by 8% compared to 2003.
9. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16-year-olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25% in 2002 to 75% by 2006 and to 85% by 2008, and to at least 75% in each School Sport Partnership by 2008. (Joint target with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport).

Objective III: All young people to reach 19 ready for skilled employment or higher education

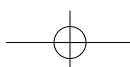
10. By 2008, 60% of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C; and in all schools, at least 20% of pupils to achieve this standard by 2004, rising to 25% by 2006 and 30% by 2008. (This target may be reviewed in the light of recommendations in the Tomlinson report).
11. Increase the proportion of 19-year-olds who achieve at least level 2 by 3 percentage points between 2004 and 2006, and a further 2 percentage points between 2006 and 2008, and increase the proportion of young people who achieve level 3.
12. Reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 2 percentage points by 2010.

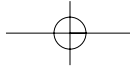
Objective IV: Tackle the adult skills gap

13. Increase the number of adults with the skills required for employability and progression to higher levels of training through:
 - improving the basic skill levels of 2.25 million adults between the launch of *Skills for Life* in 2001 and 2010, with a milestone of 1.5 million in 2007; and
 - reducing by at least 40% the number of adults in the workforce who lack NVQ2 or equivalent qualifications by 2010. Working towards this, one million adults in the workforce to achieve level 2 between 2003 and 2006.

Objective V: Raise and widen participation in higher education

14. By 2010, increase participation in higher education towards 50% of those aged 18 to 30 and also make significant progress year on year towards fair access and bear down on rates of non-completion.





CHAPTER 2

2

Department for Education and Skills – Progress against Spending Review 2002 Public Service Agreement Targets

Spending Review 2002 Public Service Agreement Targets

This chapter sets out the Spending Review 2002 Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets for the Department for Education and Skills, including targets shared with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and those previously owned or shared with the Department of Health. Final or interim assessments are shown where appropriate.

1. Raise standards in English and maths so that:

- by 2004, 85% of 11-year-olds achieve level 4 or above and 35% achieve level 5 or above with this level of performance sustained until 2006; and
- by 2006, the number of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above is significantly reduced.

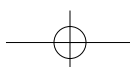
85% target – level 4 or above

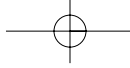
Not met – The 2004 results show an increase at level 4 or above in both English and maths. In English there was an increase of three percentage points to 78 per cent and in maths a one percentage point increase to 74 per cent. These results represent a dramatic improvement in standards compared with the 1998 position of 65 per cent for English and 59 per cent for maths, and mean that compared with 1998, about 90,000 more eleven-year-olds are achieving the expected level for their age in maths and around 78,000 more are doing so in English.

35% target – level 5 or above

Not met – At level 5 or above the results in 2004 were unchanged for English at 27 per cent and increased by two percentage points in maths.

Percentages	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
English – level 4 or above	65	71	75	75	75	75	78
change from previous year		+6	+4	0	0	0	+3
English – level 5 or above	17	22	29	29	29	27	27
change from previous year		+5	+7	0	0	-2	0
Maths – level 4 or above	59	69	72	71	73	73	74
change from previous year		+10	+3	-1	+2	0	+1
Maths – level 5 or above	17	24	25	25	28	29	31
change from previous year		+7	+1	0	+3	+1	+2





65% target – level 4 or above

On course - There has already been a significant reduction in the number of schools in which fewer than 65 per cent of pupils achieve level 4 or above. In English there are now 17 per cent of schools where fewer than 65 per cent of pupils are achieving level 4 and in maths there are 23 per cent. Compared with 2003 this means a percentage reduction of 22 per cent in English and 13 per cent in maths towards our floor target of 40 per cent in 2008.

Contact: Lorna Serieux Tel: 020 7925 6703 Email: Lorna.SERIEUX@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 6 in future reports.

2. Raise standards in English, maths, ICT and science in secondary education so that:

- by 2004, 75% of 14-year-olds achieve level 5 or above in English, maths and ICT (70% in science) nationally and by 2007, 85% (80% in science);
- by 2007, the number of schools where fewer than 60% of 14-year-olds achieve level 5 or above is significantly reduced; and
- by 2007, 90% of pupils reach level 4 in English and maths by age 12.

75% target – level 5 or above

Not met – The 2004 provisional results show a two percentage point improvement for maths and English and a two percentage point fall in science. ICT results are at the same level as 2003. Since 1998, results in maths have improved by 14 percentage points from 59 per cent. The unexpected fall in national science results in 2004 followed earlier steady improvements in this subject (from 56 per cent) in 1998.

Percentages	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
English – level 5 or above	65	64	64	65	67	69	71
change from previous year		-1	0	+1	+2	+2	+2
Maths – level 5 or above	59	62	65	66	67	71	73
change from previous year		+3	+3	+1	+1	+4	+2
ICT (teacher assessment) – level 5 or above	56	58	62	65	66	67	67
change from previous year		+2	+4	+3	+1	+1	0
Science – level 5 or above	56	55	59	66	67	68	66
change from previous year		-1	+4	+7	+1	+1	-2

60% target – level 5 or above

English, maths and ICT – On course

science – Slippage

Figures for 2004 are yet to be published but early indications suggest continuing improvements in the numbers below the floor target with the exception of science.

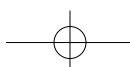
90% target – level 4

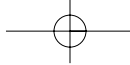
Not yet assessed – In 2003, 80 per cent of pupils aged 12 achieved level 4 and above in English, and 79 per cent of pupils aged 12 achieved level 4 and above in maths. (2004 data has not yet been assessed, pending analysis of the 2004 Progress Test outcomes). This is an estimate of performance, partly based on results drawn from a sample of pupils attaining level 4 and above at Key Stage 2 and the subsequent progression of any remaining level 3 pupils to level 4 in the first year of secondary education.

Contacts: Julia Ashford or Jo Ware Tel: 020 7925 7399 (Julia) or 020 7925 6977 (Jo)

Email: Julia.ASHFORD@dfes.gsi.gov.uk or Jo.WARE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 7 in future reports.





3. By 2004, reduce school truancies by 10% compared to 2002, sustain the new lower level, and improve overall attendance thereafter.

Not met – Provisional data on school absences in 2003/04 indicate that the level of school attendance is at a record high of 93.43 per cent with around 40,000 more pupils attending school each day in comparison to 1996/97. The level of unauthorised absence has remained static for a decade and stands at 0.73 per cent against the target to reduce it to 0.65 per cent.

Contact: Antony Thompson Tel: 020 7925 5556 Email: Antony.THOMPSON@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

4. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16-year-olds by increasing the percentage of school children who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum from 25% in 2002 to 75% by 2006. (Joint target with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport).

On course – Progress towards this target is measured by the annual PE, School Sport and Club Links survey. The 2003-04 survey results showed that, overall, 62 per cent of pupils in school within a school sport partnership spend at least two hours in a typical week on high quality PE and school sport, within and beyond the curriculum.

Contact: Mike Diaper Tel: 020 7925 5837 Email: Mike.DIAPER@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 9 in future reports.

5. Raise standards in schools and colleges so that:

- between 2002 and 2006 the proportion of those aged 16 who get qualifications equivalent to five GCSEs at grades A*-C rises by 2 percentage points each year on average;
- and in all schools at least 20% of pupils achieve this standard by 2004 rising to 25% by 2006: and
- the proportion of 19-year-olds who achieve this standard rises by 3 percentage points between 2002 and 2004, with a further increase of 3 percentage points by 2006.

16-year-olds

Slippage – The 2004 provisional results show a rise of half a percentage point to 53.4 per cent of pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs or equivalent. This is a substantial improvement over the equivalent results in 1998, when 46.3 per cent achieved this level. Final figures will not be available until January 2005 and, as in previous years, results may be slightly higher. Some of the most deprived areas have shown the fastest improvements. In London, the percentage of students achieving five or more A*-C grades has risen from 45.5 per cent in 2000 to 51.7 per cent in 2004.

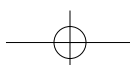
Percentages	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 or more GCSEs A*-C	46.3	47.9	49.2	50.0	51.6	52.9	53.4
change from previous year		+1.6	+1.3	+0.8	+1.6	+1.3	+0.5

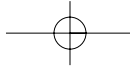
Slippage – In 2003, there were 112 schools below the 20 per cent floor target compared to 157 in 2002. Improvement among these highly challenging schools has been encouraging and for the fourth year in a row targeted support to schools facing challenging circumstances has resulted in a narrowing of the attainment gap between these and other schools. The final figure for 2004 is not yet available but is likely to show further significant progress against a very demanding target.

19-year-olds

2004 target

Slippage – Final outturn for the 2004 target will be assessed in February 2005, when the results of the autumn 2004 Labour Force Survey (LFS) are available.





Improvement is being made from a very high baseline which makes each increment more challenging.

Percentages	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Level 2	73.9	74.9	75.3	74.8	74.8	76.0	Not yet available
Change from previous year		+1.0	+0.4	-0.5	0	+1.2	

2006 target

On course – Investment in key 14-19 including Apprenticeships and the Connexions service combined with the Success for All strategy for raising standards and success rates in further education and training are expected to improve the achievement of 19-year-olds sufficiently to meet the 2006 target.

16-year-olds Contact: Jo Ware Tel: 020 7925 6977 Email: Jo.WARE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

19-year-olds Contact: Lesley McAvoy Tel: 0207 925 6023 Email: Lesley.MCAVOY@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Further progress towards the 16-year-old target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 10 in future reports.

Further progress towards the 19-year-old target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 11 in future reports.

6. By 2004, at least 28% of young people to start a Modern Apprenticeship by age 22.

On course – The 2004 target equates to 175,000 starts in 2004/05. The 2003/04 milestone of 152,000 starts was achieved, and as a result of sustained promotional activity and increasing engagement of employers we are on course to meet the 2004 target.

Contact: John Allbutt Tel: 0114 259 3132 Email: John.ALLBUTT@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

7. By 2010, 90% of young people by age 22 will have participated in a full-time programme fitting them for entry into higher education or skilled employment.

Not met – The Department will no longer report on this target, in the context of a more streamlined and outcome-based package of SR04 targets and supporting performance indicators. In addition to SR04 PSA targets 11 and 12, the Department will continue to track improved outcomes for young people through performance indicators on overall participation rates among 16- and 17-year-olds, the number of young people who have attained level 3; and completion of apprenticeships.

Contact: Lesley McAvoy Tel: 0207 925 6023 Email: Lesley.MCAVOY@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Further progress towards this target will no longer be reported.

8. Challenging targets will be set for minimum performance and value for money in FE colleges and other providers by the Government and the LSCs (this is also the department's value for money target).

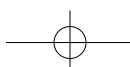
Met – ongoing

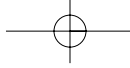
Minimum Performance

Floor targets setting minimum performance levels for post-16 education and training providers have been in place since September 2003. All colleges and 90 per cent of work based learning providers are expected to meet or exceed floor targets by 2005/06.

Value for Money

The department has been working with HM Treasury and the LSC to develop a value for money measure. In 2005/06 we will use the proposed efficiency savings that relate to colleges to demonstrate improved value for money at the national level. We are also working to establish new performance measures covering critical





success factors for the sector. Considering costs against these measures will give a productivity/value for money measure at provider level. Provisional indicators will be tested during 2005/06 and phased in from 2006/07.

Contact: Mark Jarvis Tel: 0114 259 3286 Email: Mark.JARVIS@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

9. By 2010, increase participation in higher education towards 50% of those aged 18 to 30. Also make significant process year on year towards fair access, and bear down on rates of non-completion.

Increase participation

On course – Steady progress has been made. The provisional Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) for 2002/03 is 44 per cent representing a rise of one percentage point on the 2001/02 figure.

Latest figures (14th October 2004) from the Universities Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) show that 375,530 applicants have been accepted to full-time degree, foundation degrees and higher national diploma (HND) courses starting in autumn 2004. This is an increase of one per cent compared to the same point last year. It is too early to say what impact this will have on the HEIPR.

UK domiciled students accepted to foundation degrees are up 53.6 per cent compared to final figures for 2003. The healthy rise in foundation degree acceptances is particularly good news as these vocational qualifications are where we will focus a lot of our expansion plans.

Increase fair access and bear down on rates of non-completion

On course – 87.2 per cent of young entrants to first degree courses in 2002/03 had attended state schools, a slight improvement from 86 per cent in the previous year. 28.4 per cent came from the lowest four socio-economic groups. This is not directly comparable to data previously published, but if we had used the new definition on last year's data, the result would have been 27.8 per cent, so there has been a marginal real improvement. The changes since last year to the way data has been collected for the students from state schools and colleges indicator, and to the definitions used for the social class indicator, were made to improve the relevance and quality of the indicators.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) publishes performance indicators for institutions covering the social class, neighbourhood and schooling (state/private) of their students. They are in the process of developing further, more sensitive indicators in consultation with the sector, to take into account parental income and education and the average results of their school.

The national rate of non-completion (drop out) for the cohort of full-time first degree entrants starting in 2001/02 is 14.1 per cent. This figure does not include students transferring out and then returning later to higher education. These had been included prior to last year.

Contact: Andrew Battarbee Tel: 0114 259 3952 Email: Andrew.BATTARBEE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

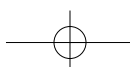
Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 14 in future reports.

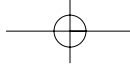
10. Improve the basic skill levels of 1.5 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 2007, with a milestone of 750,000 by 2004.

Met – The interim target of 750,000 learners with Skills for Life qualifications by 2004 has been exceeded, with an estimated total of 827,000 learners achieving a literacy, numeracy or language qualification. Over the target period 2.4 million Skills for Life learners accessed 4.8 million learning opportunities.

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Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 13 in future reports.





11. Reduce by at least 40% the number of adults in the UK workforce who lack NVQ 2 or equivalent qualifications by 2010. Working towards this, one million adults in the workforce to achieve level 2 between 2003 and 2006.

On course – The spring 2004 Labour Force Survey figures show that the proportion of economically active adults in England qualified to at least NVQ level 2 or equivalent was 71.7 per cent. This represents around 16.6 million adults from an economically active population of 23.2 million. This corresponds to an increase of 696,000 since autumn 2001 and an increase of 335,000 since autumn 2002.

The reduction of adults in the UK workforce who lack NVQ 2 or equivalent qualifications achieved by spring 2004 was 7.3 per cent against the 40 per cent target, which means that we are on trajectory to achieve the milestone for 2006 and, through a combination of public and private investment, to progress towards the 2010 target.

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Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 13 in future reports.

Spending Review 2002 Public Service Agreement Targets transferred from Department of Health

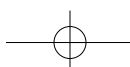
DoH Target 9: Improve life chances for looked after children including by:

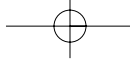
- Improving the level of education, training and employment outcomes for care leavers aged 19, so that levels for this group are at least 75% of those achieved by all young people in the same area by 2004.
- Substantially narrowing the gap between the educational attainment and participation of children in care and that of their peers by 2006. Target achieved if:
 - (a) outcomes for 11-year-olds in English and maths are at least 60% as good as those of their peers;
 - (b) the proportion who become disengaged from education is reduced, so that no more than 10% reach school leaving age without having sat a GCSE equivalent exam; and
 - (c) the proportion of those aged 16 who get qualifications equivalent to five GCSEs graded A*- C has risen on average by 4 percentage points each year since 2002; and in all authorities at least 15% of young people in care achieve this level of qualification.
- Narrowing the gap between the proportions of children in care and their peers who are cautioned or convicted in the year to 30 September is reduced by a third i.e. from 10.8% to 7.2% by 2004.

Level of education by care leavers aged 19

Slippage – There has been progress in each year since the target was set.

In 2003/04, on average 55 per cent of former care leavers on their 19th birthday were engaged in education, training and employment in English local authorities. By 2003/04, 29 per cent of councils reported that the rate





of employment, training and education amongst former care leavers aged 19 was at least 75 per cent of the general level for their authority. This has improved from 13 per cent in 2001/02.

Educational attainment

Slippage – However, if the recent rates of progress seen for the outcomes of 11-year-olds are sustained, it is likely that the 60 per cent target for 2006 will be met.

Whilst progress towards the other education targets has been made it has been slow and rapid rises in performance would need to be seen in the next three years in order to meet these targets.

2004 figures on the educational achievement of looked after children will not be available until April/May 2005.

Narrowing the gap – cautions and convictions

Slippage – Progress has been made towards this target. The percentage of looked after children aged ten or over convicted or subject to a final warning or reprimand during the years ending 30 September 2002 and 2003 was 9.7 per cent and 9.5 per cent respectively. The target level for 2004 is 7.2 per cent.

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DoH Target 9: Reducing the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 (joint target with Department of Health)

On course – The under-18 conception rate for England in 2002 was 42.6 per 1,000 females aged 15-17. This represents an improvement of 8.6 per cent from the 1998 baseline rate of 46.6 per 1,000.

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Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 3 in future reports.

Spending Review 2002 Sure Start Public Service Agreement Targets

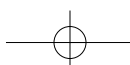
The targets are to achieve by 2005-06:

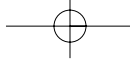
1. An increase in the proportion of children aged five with normal levels of personal, social and emotional development for their age.

Not yet assessed– Sure Start has two PSA targets from SR02 to measure outcomes for children in Sure Start Local Programme areas using results from the Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) (see also PSA 3 below). PSA1 measures personal, social and emotional development, while the first part of PSA 3 measures communication, language and literacy. The second part of PSA 3 measures speech and language development at age two.

It will not be possible to set a realistic baseline within the SR02 period and it has been agreed with HM Treasury that SR02 PSA 1 and the first part of PSA 3, should therefore be superseded by SR04 PSA1, for which the baseline will be set when 2005 results are available. The new PSA is a stronger measure and will monitor these outcomes more effectively.

Further progress towards this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 1 in future reports.





2. A 6 percentage point reduction in the proportion of mothers who smoke during pregnancy.

Not yet assessed – Data will be drawn from the Sure Start Local Programmes' annual returns, due for submission in autumn 2004. Analysis of this data is not yet complete. Baseline data for 2002-03 showed that the mothers of 29 per cent of babies in Sure Start Local Programme areas smoked during pregnancy.

It has been noted against SR2000 PSA 2 that Programmes reported a six percentage point reduction in women smoking in pregnancy between 2000-01 and 2002-03.

3. An increase in the proportion of children aged five with normal levels of communication, language and literacy for their age and an increase in the proportion of young children with satisfactory speech and language development at age 2 years.

Not yet assessed – As noted above against PSA 1, it has been agreed with HM Treasury that the first part of this target on communication, language and literacy should be superseded by SR04 PSA 1, for which the baseline will be set when 2005 results are available.

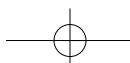
For the second part on speech and language development, the baseline period is February/March 2003. Data from the Sure Start Language Measure (SSLM) showed that the percentage of two-year-old children in Round 1-3 Sure Start Local Programmes whose word count exceeded the threshold of 21 words or more, and whose parents had no concerns about their language development, was 71 per cent. Data for February/March 2004 will be available in January 2005.

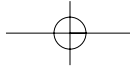
Further progress towards the first part of this target will be reported under SR04 PSA target 1 in future reports.

4. A 12% reduction in the proportion of young children living in households where no-one is working.

Not yet assessed – Data for the year to April 2004 will become available in December 2004. In April 2003, 43 per cent of children aged 0-4 in Sure Start Local Programme areas lived in households dependent on income support or workless benefits.

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CHAPTER 3

Department for Education and Skills – Progress against Spending Review 2000 Public Service Agreement Targets

Spending Review 2000 Public Service Agreement Targets

The majority of Spending Review 2000 Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets were subsumed within SR2002 Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets. A final or interim assessment for all subsumed targets is reported on fully within SR 2002 progress reporting in chapter 2.

Increase the percentage of 11-year-olds at or above the expected standard of literacy and numeracy for their age. By 2004:

- reduce to zero the number of local education authorities where fewer than 78% of pupils at level 4 or above achieve these standards.

Not met – The results for 2004 show there are now 72 local education authorities (LEAs) whose results are above the 78 per cent floor target for English and 29 LEAs above the floor target for maths. The number of LEAs above the floor target for maths has doubled since 2003 and the number above the floor target for English has increased by 80 per cent.

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Increase the percentage of 14-year-olds at or above the standard of literacy, numeracy, science and ICT for their age.

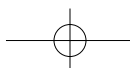
- by 2004, as a minimum performance target at least 65% to achieve level 5 and above in English and maths, and 60% in science in each LEA; and
- by 2004, no more than 15% of pupils will fail to attain at least one level 5.

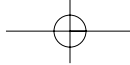
Not met - Considerable gains have been made in the number of LEAs with 65 per cent or more of their pupils achieving level 5 and above in maths (129 out of 149 LEAs this year, compared with 114 last year). This reflects the positive impact that the Key Stage 3 National Strategy is having on maths standards. The number of LEAs with 65 per cent or more of their pupils achieving level 5 and above in English has also increased (111 out of 149 LEAs this year, compared with 106 last year). However, the Key Stage 3 science results have fallen and this is also reflected in the number of LEAs achieving the floor target (107 out of 149 LEAs this year compared with 121 last year).

Not yet assessed – In 2003, 20 per cent of pupils failed to attain at least one level 5, compared with 21 per cent in 2002. The 2004 figure will be available when final 2004 pupil-level data has been assessed.

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Email: Julia.ASHFORD@dfes.gsi.gov.uk or Jo.WARE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk





Increase the percentage of pupils obtaining five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent):

- at least 38% to achieve this standard in every LEA by 2004.

Not met – Provisional 2004 data shows that 95 per cent (143) of LEAs achieved the target of at least 38 per cent of pupils to achieve at least five good GCSEs or equivalent. Final figures will not be available until January 2005 and, as in previous years, the results may be slightly higher.

Contact: Jo Ware Tel: 020 7925 6977 Email: Jo.WARE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Increase the percentage of pupils obtaining five or more GCSEs at grades A*-G (or equivalent), including English and maths: by 2004, 92% of 16 year olds should reach this standard.

Not met – The 2004 provisional results show a slight fall of 0.2 percentage points to 86.4 per cent of pupils achieving five or more grades A*-G, including English and mathematics at GCSE or equivalent. This represents an improvement over the equivalent results in 1998, when 83.8 per cent achieved this level. Final figures will not be available until January 2005 and, as in previous years, results may be slightly higher.

Percentages	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 or more GCSEs A*-G (incl English and maths)	83.8	85.8	86.8	86.9	87.1	86.6	86.4
change from previous year		+2.0	+1.0	+0.1	+0.2	-0.5	-0.2

Contact: Jo Ware Tel: 020 7925 6977 Email: Jo.WARE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

On pupil inclusion:

- ensure that all pupils who are permanently excluded obtain an appropriate full time education.

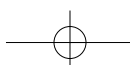
Met – Every local education authority (LEA) gave an assurance that full-time education was available for all permanently excluded pupils from September 2002 and all continue to be committed to this.

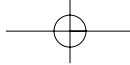
Contact: Mark Stockdale Tel: 020 7925 6678 Email: Mark.STOCKDALE@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Complete benchmarking work for schools by December 2002 so that schools will then be able meaningfully to compare costs with one another and thus improve value for money year on year.

Met – A framework of Consistent Financial reporting (CFR) has been established requiring all maintained schools to report their accounts in a standardised way. The Schools Financial Benchmarking website containing the CFR data from all maintained schools was launched in November 2003 to replace the existing Audit Commission website. This website allows schools to compare financial performance nationally against similar schools year on year.

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Spending Review 2000 Public Service Agreement Targets transferred from Department of Health

As amended in SR 2002

Maintain current levels of adoption placement stability (as measured by the proportion of placements for adoption ending with the making of an adoption order) so that quality is not compromised whilst increasing the use of adoption as follows:

- by 2004-05 increase by 40% the number of looked after children who are adopted, and aim to exceed this by achieving, if possible, a 50% increase by 2006, up from 2,700 in 1999-00. All councils will bring their practice up to the current level of the best performers (band 4 and 5 on PSS indicator C23).
- by 2004-05 increase to 95% the proportion of looked after children placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that adoption is in the child's best interests, up from 81% in 2000-01 and maintain this level (95%) up to 2006, by locally applying the timescales in the National Adoption Standards, taking account of the individual child's needs.

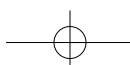
40% increase

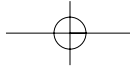
On course – 3,700 looked after children were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2004, an increase of 37 per cent over 1999-00.

95% increase

Slippage – 79 per cent of looked after children adopted during the year 2003-04 were placed for adoption within 12 months of the best interest decision. From 2001-02 this figure has remained stable at around 80 per cent.

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Spending Review 2000 Sure Start Public Service Agreement Targets

Objective 1: Improving children's social and emotional development

Reduce the proportion of children aged zero to three in the 500 Sure Start areas who are re-registered within the space of 12 months on the child protection register by 20% by 2004.

Ahead – Final data will be drawn from Sure Start Local Programmes' annual returns, which were due for submission in autumn 2004. Analysis of this data is not yet complete.

The incidence of children re-registered is very small, with typically one or no child per programme area. Those programmes reporting saw a reduction of 23 per cent in re-registrations on the child protection register between 2000-01 and 2002-03, but on very small numbers of children.

Objective 2: Improving children's health

Achieve by 2004 in the 500 Sure Start areas, a 10% reduction in mothers who smoke in pregnancy.

On course – Final data will be drawn from Sure Start Local Programmes' annual returns, which were due for submission in autumn 2004. Analysis of this data is not yet complete.

Programmes reported a six percentage point reduction in women smoking in pregnancy between 2000-01 and 2002-03.

Objective 3: Improving children's ability to learn

Achieve by 2004 for children aged zero to three in the 500 Sure Start areas a reduction of 5 percentage points in the number of children with speech and language problems requiring specialist intervention by the age of four.

This target cannot be assessed – The absence of comparable national data from schools' baseline assessments of pupils means that we cannot make an assessment against this target.

Our nearest available proxy is the Sure Start Language Measure which measures the change in the language skills of two-year-old children in Sure Start communities. Between the baseline in November 2001 and the repeat survey in February/March 2003, the percentage of children with higher word count scores and parents free of concerns about their language has risen one percentage point from 70 to 71 per cent. Data for February/March 2004 will be available in January 2005.

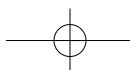
Objective 4: Strengthening families and communities

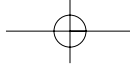
Reduce the number of zero to three year old children in Sure Start areas living in households where no one is working by 12% by 2004.

Slippage – Between 2001 and 2003, the proportion of children in Sure Start Local Programme areas in households dependent on income support, or out of work benefits, fell by 1.3 per cent.

Data for the year to 31st March 2004 will be available in December 2004.

Sure Start contact: Paul Long Tel: 0207 273 1125 Email: Paul.LONG@dfes.gsi.gov.uk





Annex A

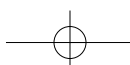
Standard terminology used for reporting progress against targets

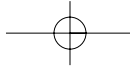
For final assessments, the terms used are:

Term	Definition
Met	Target achieved by the target date.
Met-ongoing	For older targets where no end date was set, but the target level has been met and a decision has been taken to make a final assessment.
Partly met	Where a target has two or more distinct elements, and some – but not all – have been achieved by the target date.
Not met	Where a target was not met or met late.
Not known	This will only be used where it is not possible to assess progress against the target during its lifetime or subsequently. In these cases an explanation will be given as to why, and reference made to any subsequent targets covering the same area.

For interim assessments of those targets yet to reach their completion date, the terms used are:

Term	Definition
Met early	This target has been met ahead of schedule.
Ahead	Progress is exceeding plans and expectations.
On course	Progress is in line with plans and expectations.
Slippage	Progress is slower than expected.
Not yet assessed	A new target for which data not yet available.





Annex B

Target data information

The table below provides brief information, where key clarifications are required, on how data gathered corresponds to target assessments and on how any data issues may affect the robustness of the results.

Full information on target measurement and data sources are set out in the PSA targets' Technical Notes (TNs) and can be accessed via the 'TN' links on the following HM Treasury webpage: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_spending_and_services/publicservice_performance/pss_perf_table.cfm

Target	Data information
<p>SR 2004 PSA Target 11</p> <p>Increase the proportion of 19 year olds who achieve a least level 2 by 3 percentage points between 2004 and 2006, and a further 2 percentage points between 2006 and 2008, and increase the proportion of young people who achieve level 3.</p>	<p>To date, baseline and progress against these targets has been measured by the Labour Force Survey.</p> <p>The recent National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) into the Measurement of Attainment by Young People confirmed the deficiencies of this approach due to its limited sample size and large error margins. The Review recommended moving to an administrative measure with effect from the 2006 target (based on matched DfES data on academic and vocational attainment together with Learning and Skills Council management information systems).</p> <p>The National Statistician has approved the Review recommendations. The new administrative measure will provide a more comprehensive and accurate system of measurement against our targets, and will improve our capacity to track progress and tackle areas of underperformance.</p> <p>It should be noted that the 2004 baseline for the 2006 target based on administrative data is likely to show a significantly lower figure (around five percentage points) than the Labour Force Survey outturn for the 2004 target. To avoid any confusion, both figures will be published together in February 2005.</p>
<p>SR 2004 PSA Target 12</p> <p>Reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) by 2 percentage points by 2010.</p>	<p>NEET estimates are produced using, amongst other sources, population estimates/projections from Office of National Statistics (ONS)/Government Actuaries Department (GAD) and Labour Force Survey (LFS) data from ONS. As a result of the use of these data sources, the estimates do have error margins around them of ± 0.5 percentage points.</p>

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