

## **RESEARCH ON NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND FENLAND**

### **Evidence Base**

*Report compiled by Dee Revens, August 2011*

This report is set out in the form of fact sheets on key issues, including the main facts, possible issues for East Cambridgeshire and Fenland (ECF) and, where possible, recommendations for possible action.

The factsheets cover the following areas:

1. Population and Life Expectancy;
2. Child Poverty;
3. Deprivation;
4. Finances and debt;
5. Health;
6. Safety;
7. Housing, Overcrowding and Fuel Poverty;
8. Domestic Violence;
9. Employment;
10. NEET;
11. Sex and relationships;
12. Teenage Conception and Pregnancy;
13. Smoking in Young People and smoking in pregnancy;
14. Alcohol and Drug Misuse;
15. Emotional health and wellbeing;
16. Bullying;
17. Youth offending and Crime;
18. Attendance and Behaviour;
19. Attainment;
20. Transport; and
21. Inequalities.

*NB: Some of the same data has been used in various data sources. This evidence base does not repeat data if highlighted in another data source.*

## **1. Population sparsity and life expectancy:**

### **The facts:**

- The population levels for 0-19 year olds, based on GP registrations are East Cambridgeshire District, 18,800 and Fenland, 21,900. *(Data profile July 2011 – page 13)*
- An average of 8,400 in each Locality and Ely, Littleport and Witchford Locality has over 10,000 and Whittlesey Locality under 4,000. *(Data profile July 2011 – page 13)*
- Life expectancy in Fenland is slightly below the national average. *(Data profile July 2011 – page 47)*

### **Population Forecast:**

- The child population of this Area is expected to increase slightly between now and 2031, with a projected increase in the birth rate in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. *(Data profile July 2011 – page 14)*

### **Recommendations for possible action:**

- Support infrastructure developments

### **Population hotspots:**

- Fenland (Whittlesey), East Cambridgeshire (Ely and Littleport).

## **2. Child Poverty**

Child poverty is measured by the proportion of children (those aged 0-16 or 16-19 who are dependent on their families) who are either receiving means-tested benefits, or tax credits where the family has an income of less than 60% of median income. Based on the latest figures, families must have an income of £244 per week or more, before housing costs such as rent/mortgage payments, to avoid being classed as being in poverty.

### **The facts:**

- Over 15,000 children live in poverty in Cambridgeshire, 12.5% of all children;
- 2,400 children living in poverty in Fenland, and 1540 in East Cambridgeshire in more affluent areas.
- Fenland continues to have the highest level of child poverty in Cambridgeshire, and the more deprived wards in Wisbech and Whittlesey have seen greater increases in levels of child poverty.
- Those highlighted as 'significantly higher levels of child poverty' live in Fenland in two LSOA, one in Wisbech and one in March.
- Levels of poverty are higher amongst families with younger children
- The concentration of poverty at local levels varies significantly across Cambridgeshire. Even within one ward, there may be some LSOAs with relatively high levels of poverty. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 25*)

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Increasing numbers of poverty appear to be:  
Fenland: Slade Lodes, Wisbech Waterlees, Elm and Christchurch, March North, Wisbech Medworth and March East.  
East Cambridgeshire: Soham North,  
(*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 23*)
- Separation is a trigger point for families moving into Poverty. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 23*)
- The majority of Children living in Poverty across East Cambridgeshire live in the more affluent areas. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment, July 2011, page 31*)

### **Recommendations for possible action:**

- Early intervention with families in early years.
- Intervention should continue to focus on these areas - (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 23*).
- Focus on targeted outreach using MOSAIC mapping, access to services - (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 23*).
- A focus on worklessness and skills is the most appropriate way to tackle the long-term impact on child poverty. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 22*)
- Support for separating parents – money/benefit advice as well as relationship and practical support. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 23*)

**Child poverty hotspots:**

Fenland: Wisbech Waterleess, Elm and Christchurch, Parson Drove, Wisbech St Marys, Roman Bank, March North, March East

East Cambridgeshire: *Soham North has seen an increase in the number of child in Poverty*

### 3. Deprivation (has a link to Overcrowding, which can be found on factsheet 7)

#### The facts:

- **North Fenland**, and particularly **Wisbech**, has the greatest levels of multiple deprivation and suffers the greatest inequalities. Elsewhere in the Area there are some pockets of deprivation, such as **Sutton** and **Littleport East** where rates of free school free eligibility are high and parts of **Ely** and **Soham** where a relatively high proportion of children live in overcrowded accommodation. (*Data Profile July 2011, page 8*)
- There are two ways to measure deprivation:
  - Derived from the IMD is the Index of Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI), out of the 25 Cambridgeshire wards in the top (most deprived), 19 are in East Cambridgeshire & Fenland (*Date Profile July 2011 – pages 38-40*).
  - Child Well-being Index (CWI) 2009 is another way to measure deprivation through domains such as Material well-being, health, education crime, housing, environment, children in need etc. The CWI suggests of the 25 wards in the top 20% with the highest deprivation score, 18 are within East Cambridgeshire & Fenland, with the Wisbech wards being within the highest. (*Data profile July 2011 – pages 41-42*)
- Using the Free School Meals (FSM) entitlement, where children whose parents receive benefits are entitled to free school meals, of the 25 wards in the top 20% most deprived in Cambridgeshire, 16 are in East Cambridgeshire & Fenland. (*Data Profile July 2011 – pages 42-45*).
- There are a large number of parents NOT registering for free school meals when their children are entitled. Out of the top 25 wards not registering within Cambridgeshire, 19 of these were in East Cambridgeshire & Fenland.
- Fenland schools have significantly more free school meals pupils than the Cambridgeshire's average. Perhaps because of this, they rate FSM much more highly for taste, health and value. (*HRBS – Fenland 2011*)
- East Cambs have lower FSM figures than Cambs and rate school meals poorly for taste, health and value. (*HRBS – East Cambs 2011*)

#### Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:

- *Pupil Premium*: The allocation of the Pupil Premium is determined by how many pupils are in receipt of free school meals. The Pupil Premium for 2011-12 is £430 per pupil. The individual schools will decide how best to spend this money. In money terms this means that Cambridgeshire is missing out on over £860k this year. (*Child Poverty, Free School Meals & Pupil Premium – May 2011*)

**Recommendation for possible action:**

- *Raise awareness of Free School Meals* – so in turn can increase the pupil premium allocation. Pupil Premium is re-calculated on the uptake of free school meals on 20 January 2012.

**Deprivation hotspots:**

- Fenland: North Fenland, Wisbech
- East Cambridgeshire: Sutton, Ely, Littleport East and West, Soham

#### **4. Finances and Debt**

##### **The facts:**

- **Disability** - High level of disability and incapacity benefit claimants in Fenland. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 38*)
- **Out of work benefits** - Fenland accounts for over 50% of the county's out of work benefit claimants. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 39*)
- **Jobseekers Allowance** - Fenland remains the highest area claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as % of working age population. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 40*)
- **Incapacity Benefits** - The number of Employment Support Allowance / Incapacity Benefit (ESA / IB) claimants in Fenland increased at a faster rate than any other district and Fenland is the only district to see a steady increase in claimants as a proportion of the resident working age population. This contrasts with a steady decrease nationally and are of particular concern. Nearly 8% of Fenland's working age population claim IB/SDA/ESA, over 4000 individuals. Over half of these claimants have been claiming for over five years. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 43*)
- **Levels of Debt** - The level of insolvencies during 2009 are significantly higher in Fenland than elsewhere in the County and above the national average. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 44*)

##### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Due to the changes to the Benefit and Tax credit system from April 2011 these could have an impact on low income families. (*Benefit and Tax Credits Changes Affecting Families in Cambridgeshire – June 2011*)
- Some families have been financially excluded when they do not have access to basic financial services or products such as appropriate bank accounts, debt advice, responsible credit, leading to an increase of families having to enter into illegal money lending schemes. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 48*)

##### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Ensure service providers are aware of the potential changes to the benefit and tax systems when planning and decommissioning services.
- Link with the 'Wisbech Financial Inclusion action plan', involving the illegal money lending team, via the Child Poverty Co-ordinator for Cambridgeshire Lisa Faulkner.
- Look into whether there is any data about internet access, particularly in Fenland.
- Test out with partners in field testing.

## 5. Health

### The facts:

- **Weight** - Higher rates of girls that want to lose weight in East Cambridgeshire than the rest of the County. (HRBS – 2010). A higher proportion of obese reception and year 6 pupils occur in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire compared to the rest of Cambridgeshire. (Data profile July 2011 – page 52).
- **Healthy Eating** - Higher number of girls in Fenland having no breakfast at all on most days. 13 year old boys in East Cambridgeshire had low scores for 'five a day' consumption.
- **Physical Exercise** - Fenland girls rate higher than Cambridgeshire's average as never engaging in physical activity outside school. (HRBS – July 2010)

### Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:

- **Weight** - The issues around wanting to lose weight have shown can encourage poor eating habits and the adoption of smoking. (HRBS – 2010)
- **Healthy Eating** - If young people are only eating snack foods during the day their powers of concentration and capacity to engage in learning challenges may be significantly impaired. (HRBS – 2010)
- **Physical Exercise** - Fenland girls rated they were shy in front of other people when asked what stops them from doing as much sport or exercise as they would like. (HRBS – 2010)

### Recommendation for possible action:

- Parental engagement into nutritional advice through Children's Centres.



## **6. Safety**

### **The facts:**

- **Hospital admissions** - The rate of child emergency admissions to hospital is significantly high in Fenland. (Data Profile July 2011 – page 52).
- **Road traffic casualties** - Fenland young people have the highest mortality rates from traffic accidents, with rates significantly higher than national rates. (Data Profile July 2011 – page 59).
- **Neighbourhood safety** - Both Fenland and East Cambridgeshire had more negative views about the safety of their neighbourhoods than the rest of Cambridgeshire. (HRBS 2010)
- **Internet safety** - Fewer Fenland, but more East Cambridgeshire pupils reported that they had been taught about internet safety. A higher percentage of young people within East Cambridgeshire and Fenland reported that they had met in real life someone they first met online through internet chatrooms compared to the rest of Cambridgeshire.

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Relatively high levels of childhood accidents in Fenland – links with physical conditions in the home.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Raising awareness of internet safety across East Cambridgeshire & Fenland.
- Support to improve home safety for families on low income.

## **7. Housing, Overcrowding & Fuel Poverty**

### **The facts:**

- Parts of Wisbech have a high proportion of dependent children living in overcrowded accommodation and in families where adults are unemployed or in low skilled jobs. (*Date Profile July 2011 – page 37/38*).
- Of the 25 wards in the top quintile of overcrowded households with dependent children, Sutton was identified as the highest rate in East Cambridgeshire and Wisbech in Fenland. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 72*)
- Fuel poverty is recorded when a household spends over 10% of their net household income on heating and hot water. Cambridgeshire's rate for fuel poverty is 2.1% pts, below the national rate. However, East Cambridgeshire exceeds this rate to 3.4% pts and Fenland exceeds this rate and the national rate to 5% pts.

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Poor quality housing stock in Littleport and Wisbech – contributes to fuel poverty. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011*)
- Impact of welfare benefit changes, especially changes in Housing benefit. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011*)
- Families in private rented accommodation require a higher income to remain above the poverty line. The percentage of families in private rented accommodation is in its highest in Cambridge City and Fenland.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Partnerships with housing providers. (*Child Poverty Needs Asses. – July 2011*)
- Overcrowding: Space for homework etc, possibly outside school. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 72*)

### **Fuel poverty hotspots:**

- County rate is lower than the national rate. East Cambridgeshire exceeds the County rate. Fenland exceeds both the National and County rate.
- Fenland: Wisbech
- East Cambridgeshire: Littleport

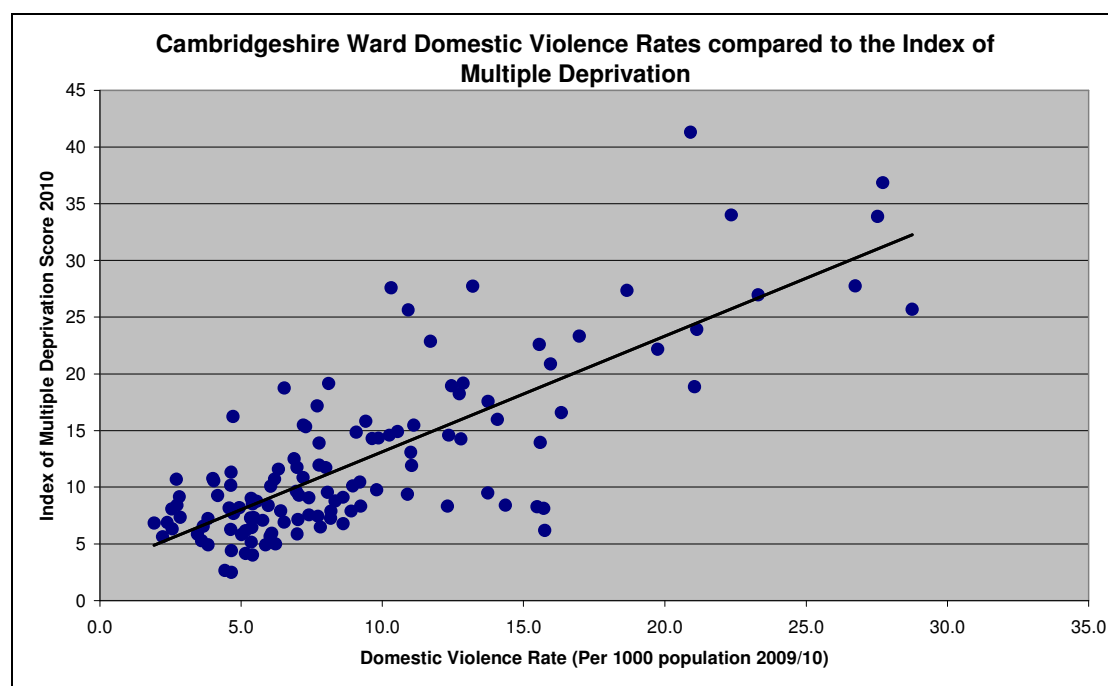
### **Overcrowding hotspots:**

- Rates are worse than the national average, most of these in Cambridge City & Fenland.
- Fenland: Wisbech
- East Cambridgeshire: Sutton

## 8. Domestic Violence

### The facts:

- A higher percentage of boys in East Cambridgeshire and a higher percentage of year 8 girls reported that there had been physical aggression at home in the last month. (HRBS 2010)
- By and large there is a strong relationship between areas of relatively high deprivation and high rates of domestic violence. The graph below demonstrates the strength of this relationship.



- Wards with relatively high deprivation have relatively high rates of domestic violence. There are two exceptions to this: 1) Waterlees Ward in Wisbech does have a high rate of domestic violence but not as high as expected given the level of relative deprivation; and 2) Wards which have had significant amounts of housing built recently e.g. Bourn (Cambourne) have higher than expected rates of domestic violence. Experience suggests that this is due to households experiencing on-going domestic violence issues being housed in newly built social housing.

### Recommendation for possible action:

- Work with partners to reduce rate of domestic violence within ECF.
- Focus resources to support families within areas of new growth in ECF.

## **9. Employment**

### **The facts:**

- Fenland has one of the highest percentage in children living with out of work families.
- East Cambridgeshire has the highest percentage of in-work poverty.
- Fenland has the greatest number of child poverty in couples both in-work and out of work.
- Particularly high numbers of unemployed young people aged 18-24 in Fenland.  
*(Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 – page 33)*
- The proportion of working age populations with no qualifications is highest in Wisbech (41.5%) and Whittlesey (40.9%) Localities. *(Data Profile July 2011 – page 33)*

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Low skills levels in Fenland. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- The availability of employment may not always be the driver behind unemployment. A lack of relevant qualifications and low aspirations are a particular issue in Cambridgeshire. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- High numbers on Incapacity Benefit claimants in Fenland – and changes to incapacity assessments will see many of these beginning to seek work. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- Work is the best route out of poverty. Lone parents will need to seek work by the time their child reaches 5 years old. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*

### **Recommendations for possible action:**

- Work with Parents to raise skills levels, matched to an understanding of the job market. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- Targeted support for parents on Incapacity benefit – childcare, confidence building, training. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- Focus on supporting parents into work. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- Work with training/skills providers and with employers to enable progression pathways in work. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- Improved employment and career support with young people. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*
- Work with parents to raise skills levels, matched to an understanding of the job market. *(Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011)*

## **10. NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)**

### **The facts:**

- The latest figures show that Fenland has a fairly high number, 228, NEET young people and 139 NEET young people in East Cambridgeshire. (*Connexions performance data – July 2011*)
- However, it should be noted that although NEET figures are high, they have reduced significantly in Fenland through recent work to tackle NEET.
- The availability of employment may not always be the driver behind unemployment. A lack of relevant qualifications and low aspirations are a particular issue in Cambridgeshire.
- High NEET rates and high level of low skilled jobs across Fenland.
- As individuals with low skill levels are limited in their employment opportunities it will be important to raise skills in these districts in order to reduce future economic and social exclusion. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 54*)

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Targeted work with NEET population (and those at risk of NEET) - (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011*)
- Target young people aged 18-19 in ..... areas in order to support a return to education.

### **NEET Hotspots (by localities):**

- Fenland: March & Chatteris and Wisbech
- East Cambridgeshire: Ely, Littleport, Witchford

## **11. Sex and relationships for young people**

### **The facts:**

- Fenland pupils' awareness and understanding of sexual health information – as in preventing STIs was broadly similar to Cambridgeshire but still patchy with boys showing less secure knowledge. East Cambridgeshire data shows less secure knowledge than the Cambridgeshire average particularly in boys. Only 38% of 15/18 year old boys had correct knowledge of transmission, symptoms and treatment of Chlamydia. *((HRBS – East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 2010)*
- The majority of young people in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland prefer to get information about sex from school lessons. Although in Fenland they highlighted they would prefer to get the main source of sex information from their parents. *(HRBS – East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 2010)*
- Fenland rated 'Friends' much lower than their peers in Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire where 'friends' have the highest placing as sources of information and the lowest placing for reliability. *(HRBS – East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 2010)*
- Fenland young people are significantly more sexually active than Cambridgeshire's averages. *(HRBS – East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 2010)*
- Fenland pupils report higher consistent use of contraception if they were sexually active, but 34% of those sexually active said they 'never' used any form of contraception. 37% of East Cambridgeshire young people said they 'never' used contraception. *(HRBS – East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 2010)*

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- The high percentage of young people in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland not using contraception. A possible link to the high levels of conception rates in Fenland.
- Fenland pupils would like to gain sex advice and guidance from their Parents.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Engage and provide parental guidance on delivering sex and relationships advice to their children within Fenland.
- Links with the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy to ensure targeted conception advice and availability.

## **12. Teenage Conception & Pregnancy**

### **The facts:**

- The teenage conception rate in Fenland is the highest in the county but is slightly less than the national average, based on rate per 1000 females aged 15-17 years. Within the top 25 wards in Cambridgeshire, Wisbech Waterlees, rated the highest in Fenland and Ely South in East Cambridgeshire. It's worth adding that the rate has dropped more in Fenland than elsewhere (*Data Profile – July 2011 – page 53*).
- Data from 2006-2008 tells us that within the top 25 wards of under 18 conceptions per 1000 females aged 15-17 year olds, 12 wards are in Fenland and 3 in East Cambridgeshire. (*Data Profile – July 2011 – page 55*)
- The Connexions Aspire data identifies the number of their clients who are pregnant or teenage mothers by 14-19 year olds over a three year (2008-2010) period. It highlighted that while the conception rates are relatively low amongst young people aged 17 and under, they are far higher amongst 18 and 19 year olds. However, in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland this conception rate has been decreasing each year. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – July 2011, page 65*)

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Connections with the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
- Support through Children's Centres for Young Parents aged 18 & 19

### **Conception rates:**

- The County conception rate is significantly lower compared to the national rates. Fenland and Cambridge City have the highest rate across the County.
- Fenland: Wisbech Water lees, Wisbech Kirkgate, Elem & Christchurch, Wisbech Hill, Wisbech Staithe, Wisbeck Clackson, Wisbech Peckover, Roman Bank, Wimblington, Slade Lode, March East, Kingsmoor
- East Cambridgeshire: Ely South, Littleport East, Teversham

### **13. Smoking in Young People and Smoking in pregnancy**

#### **The facts:**

- **Smoking** - Significantly more Fenland young people smoke particularly 15 year old girls (23% compared to 16% in Cambs.) and this is an increase over 2008. (HRBS – Fenland 2010, page 10).
- Large numbers of young people in East Cambs who smoke state that they would like to quit (100% of 13 year old girls). (HRBS – East Cambs 2010, page13)
- Fenland young people have significantly greater exposure to adults who smoke (parents / carers / siblings) than compared to East Cambridgeshire & Cambridgeshire. (HRBS – Fenland 2010, page 10).
- **Smoking in pregnancy** - Overall there has been a decrease in the proportion of mothers who were smokers at the time of delivery in NHS Cambridgeshire. In 2009/10 the proportion in NHS Cambridgeshire was lower than the national average and also one of the lowest in comparison to its PCT statistical neighbours.

#### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- There is a correlation between smoking, low locus of health scores, low aspirations and low self esteem. (HRBS – Fenland 2010, page 10).
- A possible link with Adults smoking around young people may encourage them to take up smoking.

#### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Support existing health campaigns in 'kicking the habit' and in particular the effects of passive smoking.

#### **Existing activities:**

- Kick Ash is a programme funded by Cambridgeshire Together's Local Public Service Agreement Reward Grant. It is a programme led by young people to reduce smoking in the under 16s across Cambridge shire.



## **14. Alcohol & Drug misuse**

### **The facts:**

- **Drug Misuse** - Generally illegal drug use is slightly lower in East Cambridgeshire but more Year 8 pupils are experimenting with illegal drugs in East Cambridgeshire than in Cambridgeshire as a whole. (HRBS – July 2010)
- **Alcohol** - More 15/16 year olds in Fenland are consuming more than the weekly 'safe limit' for adult females, compared to the Cambridgeshire's average. (HRBS – July 2010)
- More Fenland young people obtain alcohol from parents or other adults than the rest of Cambridgeshire. (HRBS – July 2010)

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- **Drug Misuse** - Year 10 pupils have used more drugs than year 8 pupils. (HRBS – East Cambs (page 15) / Fenland 2010 (page12)
- **Alcohol** - Fenland young people have greater exposure to alcohol and higher consumption than the Cambridgeshire's average. In particular, 10% more Year 8 girls experiencing alcohol than their counterparts in East Cambridgeshire. (HRBS – Fenland 2011 – page 11)

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Engage parents to support their children to feel more in control of their drug and alcohol use.

## **15. Emotional health & wellbeing**

### **The facts:**

- Percentages for the number of young people who 'worry a lot' about issues in their lives continues to rise for all Cambs young people although figures are slightly lower for young people in East Cambridgeshire and particularly in 15/16 year old boys in Fenland. (*HRBS East Cambridgeshire & Fenland – 2010*)
- Both year 8 and year 10 Fenland and East Cambridgeshire pupils delivered lower than average Cambridgeshire 'locus of health control' scores. This means that they have a lower confidence that they can control and manage their own health and wellbeing. There is a strong correlation with risk behaviours.
- Based on national rates, the estimated number of children in 2008 with a mental disorder in East Cambridgeshire was:
  - 5-10 year olds – 447
  - 11-16 year olds – 631
  - *Fenland:*
  - 5-10 year olds – 497
  - 11-16 year olds – 877 (*Date Profile July 2011 – page 57*)
- There is also evidence that the mental health of parents impacts on their children and that parental mental health is a particular concern in families of children with disabilities. Partners also expressed concern about a lack of support available for young people with low level mental health issues.

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Mental Health services are mostly offered within Cambridgeshire's urban locations proving it difficult to access and get to appointments can often to be a challenge for those living within rural areas.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Young Person Mental Health worker to co-ordinate provision and further identify the needs required across East Cambridgeshire and Fenland

### **Partners View**

- A change and increase in the severity and complexity of young people accessing mental health services across Fenland over the last ten years. Many having multiple-layered issues with multi-agency involvement.
- Those with Learning Disabilities accessing mental health services for social difficulties.
- A link between young people who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence and those whom have been abused or neglected accessing mental health services.
- Partners broadly agree that there is a gap of universal provision for young people to access mental health services.

## **16. Bullying**

### **The Facts:**

- More Fenland pupils said that they had at least “sometimes” been afraid to go to school because of bullying. 37% Year 8 girls reported this compared with 32% in Cambs as a whole and 30% in East Cambs. (*HRBS – Fenland 2011*)
- With the exception of Year 8 boys Fenland, pupils reported a higher percentage of occurrences of actual bullying in or near schools. (*HRBS – Fenland 2011*)
- Fenland pupils reported higher incidences of being bullied “away from school” than the rest of Cambs. (*HRBS – Fenland 2011*)
- Over half of pupils in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland said they had experience at least one of the bullying behaviours listed ‘once a month or so’. (*HRBS – East Cambs & Fenland 2011*).

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- May lead to low self-confidence and self-esteem and minor mental health issues.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- To include within the anti-bullying strategy, an anti-bullying package designed by young people to include training / awareness raising of teachers, parents and communities. (*ECF Agenda Day feedback – June 2011*)

## **17. Youth Offending & Crime**

### **The facts:**

- Rate of first time offenders per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17 were the highest in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire compared to the rest of Cambridgeshire. (*YOS Data 2010*)
- Reprimands are usually given for first offences. Children given reprimands are not seen by the YOS, but details recorded. Record show that there were more boys than girls reprimanded during 2009/2010, with comparatively high rate per 1000 population at ages 14-15 years, in East Cambridgeshire in particular Ely, Littleport & Witchford localities.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Further research on why young people offend and identify the drivers.
- Use 'positive deviance' model to work with at risk young people.

### **First time offending hot spots:**

- The rate of first time offenders per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17 were the highest in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire compared to the rest of Cambridgeshire:
- Fenland: Kingsmoor, Clarkson, Slade Lode
- East Cambridgeshire: Littleport East & West, Soham North & South

## **18. Attendance & Behaviour**

### **The facts:**

- School attendance in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland is broadly in line with the County rates at both primary and secondary level. There are high rates of unauthorised absence from secondary schools in Wisbech and of both authorised and unauthorised absence in Ely, Littleport and Witchford. (*Data Profile July 2011 – page 72*).
- Fixed term exclusions were highest in Wisbech, Ely, Littleport and Witchford.

### **Low Attendance and high exclusion hotspots:**

- Based on data from 2007/08:
- Fenland: Ely, Littleport and Witchford
- East Cambridgeshire: Wisbech

### **Existing activities:**

- Wisbech Schools Partnership brings together all Wisbech primary schools who have collectively identified and developed a plan which focuses on Behaviour, Attendance, Raising Aspirations and transitions.
- Introduced a planned exclusion scheme, whereby the pupil attends schools on a part-time basis (usually a morning or afternoon) for a length of time, instead of full-time exclusion. This has seen the reduction of exclusions.

## **19. Attainment**

### **The facts:**

- Across Cambridgeshire in the 2010 Foundation Stage Profile (FSP) the ward with the largest proportion of low achievers is Chatteris Slade Lode in Fenland and Ely South and Soham North in East Cambridgeshire. (*Data Profile July 2011*)
- In general, and across the Key Stages, levels of attainment are lowest in Fenland. Doddington has the highest proportion of pupils with average points scores below 9 in end of KS1 assessments in 2010. Burwell and Soham North has the highest proportion of pupils with average points scores below 9 in end of KS1 assessments in 2010 in *East Cambridgeshire*. (*Data Profile July 2011*)
- The proportion of young people leaving secondary schools in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland with 5 or more GCSE A\*-C including English and Mathematics has increased in recent years, but in Fenland is still below the County average. (*Data Profile July 2011*)
- Generally Fenland Pupils rate the support their schools offer them in terms of their learning and wellbeing lower than their peers with boys noticeably more negative than girls. (*HRBS – 2010*)
- Of the 25 highest wards with summer-born boys, Wisbech Clarkson in Fenland rated the highest and Soham South in East Cambridgeshire. (*Date Profile July 2011 – page 17*).

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- It is likely that the aspirations of young people growing up in poverty are affecting their future life chances. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – page 61*)

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Analysis of the intended destination of school leaver in receipt of free school meals would help to better target IAG services. (*Child Poverty Needs Assessment – page 61*)

## **20. Transport**

### **The Facts:**

- Rural areas across East Cambridgeshire do not have the same transport opportunities to access activities elsewhere in the County. This is a fundamental issue when NEET find work and do not have the relevant transport links in place.

### **Possible issues for East Cambridgeshire & Fenland:**

- Transport to/from specific events long and costly. (*ECF Agenda Day feedback – June 2011*)

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- *School buses and volunteer transport* – To review the contract with school bus companies and strengthen standards of cleanliness and behaviour of bus drivers towards young people. To make sure the young people and parents are aware of how to make complaint. (*ECF Agenda Day feedback – June 2011*)
- *Public Transport* – To make sure that bus time tables are easier for young people to use and understand. To raise the issue of the differences between transport providers about when a young person deemed to be an adult and pay any adult fare with national bodies. (*ECF Agenda Day feedback – June 2011*)
- *Community Transport* – To support communities to develop transport options required by young people within their communities. (*ECF Agenda Day feedback – June 2011*)
- Set up established groups in each locality as promoting the events and establishing groups each time is resource intensive. (*ECF Agenda Day feedback – June 2011*)
- When planning events or classes, share resources (i.e. school minibus, facilities) to transport young people and their families.

## **21. Inequalities**

### **The facts:**

- Increasing numbers of Eastern European children are settling in the Area, particularly Lithuanian speakers in Wisbech where they comprise 9.6% of all pupils in the Medworth Ward, but most new arrivals in the Area are adult migrant workers.

### **Recommendation for possible action:**

- Lots going on here and need to ensure the links are made across partners.
- This is becoming an Increasing issue within Wisbech, and a link exists with domestic violence and abuse by the extended family. There is a need to talk further to the locality team and with practitioners in Wisbech to understand what is going on.