

AIM

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; achieving excellence in standards of education and levels of skills.

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

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 lower 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 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 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 with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Objective III: All young people to reach age 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* to 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 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 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 NVQ 2 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.*

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERY?

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills is responsible for delivery of this PSA. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is jointly responsible for targets 1 and 2. The Secretary of State for Health is jointly responsible for target 3 and, with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, for target 4. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is jointly responsible for delivering target 9.

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills is also responsible for delivering the agreed efficiency target set out in the Department for Education and Skills chapter of the 2004 Spending Review White Paper.