

## Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 July 2016

## Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

21 March 2016



County Durham Children  
and Families Partnership

### Review of Youth Services in County Durham

A review of Youth Services in County Durham is taking place, with the following three key proposals forming the consultation:

- A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham
- Deploy Council Resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service
- Ceasing the existing Youth Work Support Grant (YWSG) and redirecting the remaining YWSG funding to each Area Action Partnership to address local priorities linked to Youth Services

The 12 week consultation will run from 1st February – 27th April 2016, which involves all key stakeholders and pays particular attention to the views of young people. The final decision of Cabinet will be made in Autumn 2016, the Partnership will receive an update on the outcome of consultation and the decision of Cabinet in due course.

The Children and Families Partnership are encouraging partner agencies to engage in the consultation. The consultation and details of how to respond can be accessed through the Durham County Council website at the following address:  
[www.durham.gov.uk/youthsupportconsult](http://www.durham.gov.uk/youthsupportconsult)

### County Durham Child Health Profile 2015

The Children and Families Partnership received the County Durham Child Health Profile, which provides a 'snapshot' enabling local, regional and national comparisons to be made.

Of the 32 County Durham indicators included in the 2015 summary:

- 5 are significantly better than the England average.
- 15 are significantly worse than the England average.
- 9 show no significant difference to the England average.

The profile is available as a report available at: [www.chimat.org.uk/childhealthprofile](http://www.chimat.org.uk/childhealthprofile)

The Partnership agreed to map the indicators where County Durham are behind the national average to relevant strategies to ensure actions were being undertaken to improve the lives of children, young people and families. This information will also help inform the future priorities of the Children and Families Partnership.

## **Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injury (0-24 years)**

The Public Health outcomes framework shows that County Durham's hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children and young people are higher than England and the North East region for all age categories.

Falls are the leading cause of hospital admissions in both the 0-4 and 5-14 age groups; however this changes to intentional self-poisoning in both the 15-18 and 19-24 age range.

The conclusions from the data include that:

- The types of preventable injury in children and young people are age related.
- Gender is a factor in the types of injury particularly as a child ages.
- Deprivation is a key factor.

The Children and Families Partnership were asked to consider how childhood injury prevention is explicit in all key strategies to ensure steps are taken to raise the profile of child injury prevention across all partner agencies and to note opportunities across partnerships to influence and prevent injuries through a targeted approach across County Durham, taking into account deprivation e.g. commissioning of children's services and the community parenting programme.

## **Refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2016-19**

The Children, Young People and Families Plan was presented to the Partnership for agreement.

The following three objectives will remain a priority for 2016-17:

1. Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
2. Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life
3. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families.

Engagement and consultation has taken place with key partners and organisations to inform the refresh of the CYPFP for 2016-19, including children and young people (including young carers), families, voluntary and community sector organisations, NHS partners, local authority colleagues, Education partners, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Durham Constabulary, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Area Action Partnerships.

The Student Voice survey results have also informed the Plan, as well as feedback from The Health and Wellbeing Board's annual engagement event, which was attended by over 260 people, and included a workshop on the Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan for County Durham 2015-2020.

The supporting CYPFP 2016-19 Delivery Plan will be presented to the Partnership for agreement in June 2016.

## **Educational Attainment/Standards Report 2015**

The Children and Families Partnership received a report on the educational/attainment standards which included an overview of the work by

County Durham's Education Department to provide support and intervention, including intensive support for schools in most need, as well as the results from tests and examinations for 2015.

Durham continues to compare very favourably with the national picture in terms of test and examination outcomes at Early Years, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5, while still comparing favourably with regional outcomes.

An unpredicted dip in results at Key Stage 4 is due to some schools in County Durham choosing to enter pupils for the International GCSE (IGCSE) option. In 2015, the IGCSE was marked in a slightly different way from previously, which resulted in a much larger number of pupils failing to achieve a grade C and receiving instead grade D. This was not an issue only for Durham schools, and challenges were made by schools nationally.

Lower outcomes in IGCSE English affected the overall number of pupils who gained at least 5 GCSEs with grades A\* to C, including English and Maths. Schools have responded immediately, implementing direct and robust interventions to ensure that a similar situation does not arise in 2016.

The local authority continues to have a confident and firmly established knowledge of attainment and progress measures, with understanding of key areas for improvement. It is as a direct result of the thorough and detailed involvement of school improvement officers in the process of support and challenge to schools that standards remain high and continue to improve across the majority of Durham schools.

The Partnership will disseminate the information contained in the report more widely, as appropriate.

### **Children and Young People's Engagement:**

- **Student Voice**

In September 2015, the Children and Families Partnership received the key findings from the Student Voice survey, and agreed to develop an action plan to look at how this valuable information could be shared wider with relevant partners.

The Partnership agree the Student Voice Action Plan, and are satisfied that the survey results have been shared with partners to use as an evidence base for young people's views, and will continue to be fed into strategies and service reviews where appropriate, ensuring young people's voices are included.

Organisations who are members of the Children and Families Partnership, who have not already done so, are being encouraged to sign up to the Young Carers Charter. Support is available from Family Action, The Bridge Young Carers Service throughout the charter process.

Of the 32 Secondary Schools in County Durham, 25 participated in the 2015 survey with responses received from 8148 students. It is anticipated this survey will be repeated with secondary schools in 2017. Work is

currently taking place to encourage primary schools to take part in the 2017 survey.

- **Engagement with Children and Young People**

The Partnership received an update in relation to the range of consultation and engagement work that is taking place with children and young people across Children and Adults Services, Thematic Partnerships, Area Action Partnerships, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Voluntary and Community Sector and other organisations within County Durham.

There are opportunities for partners to work together and better utilise key messages from children and young people, and discussions are taking place to find an appropriate IT platform to host this information and key messages as a central resource for the council and partners.

Young people will be asked to consider the engagement to see if there are any gaps or areas they would like us to do more engagement around.

### **Children's Services Update**

The Partnership received an update on the national, regional and local developments in relation to Children's Services, including an overview of the children's inspection regime

### **Young People's Issues**

Young People, supported by an AAP Coordinator provided feedback on the Mid Durham AAP Intergenerational Project, which they have been involved in.

The project supports both young and older people to work together on projects and share trips/coffee mornings etc. to gain a better understanding of each other, which in turn helps to alleviate any feeling of vulnerability when older people see the young people 'hanging about' the streets. The project also helps to alleviate social isolation within the population.

The young people were congratulated on the excellent work they have done. The value of volunteering experience was highlighted, especially in relation to young people completing job applications and progression in education and training.