

Cabinet

14 September 2016

Review of Youth Support

Key Decision CAS/05/15



Report of Corporate Management Team

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Purpose of the Report

- 1 To report to members the outcome of the consultation carried out between 1 February and 27 April 2016 on the future of youth support services in County Durham.
- 2 To make final recommendations on the future youth service delivery model.

Background and Context

- 3 The Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) requires efficiency savings of approximately £257m from 2011/12 until 2019/20. Savings targets for Children and Adults Services (CAS) are currently £17.3m for 2016/17 and £20m for 2017/18, with further budget reductions expected for the service in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 4 If approved, and in accordance with the Council's commitment to review all services, a MTFP target of approximately £1 million savings are expected to be achieved by this review.
- 5 The review and subsequent proposals have been developed in relation to young people aged 13 – 19 years. County Durham has a 13 – 19 years population 41,551, of these 17,536 live in the top 30% most deprived Super Output Area¹. This represents over 42% of the total teenage population.

¹ Super Output Areas are a geography for the collection and publication of small area statistics. SOAs give an improved basis for comparison across the country because the units are more similar in size of population than, for example, electoral wards.

6 On 13 January 2016 Cabinet agreed to consult on 3 proposals on the future of youth services, these are as follows:

Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham

Proposal 2: Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service

Proposal 3: Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and allocate funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

7 This report summarises the background contained in the January 2016 Cabinet report which led to the decision to consult and presents the consultation findings and factors that have been considered to inform final recommendations detailed within this report.

Finance

8 Since the introduction of the One Point Service in 2011, the provision of support for young people has formed an integral part of the broader early help offer delivered in and through the One Point Service.

9 Of the One Point Service budget, £2,165,618 is currently allocated to the delivery of youth support. This is comprised as follows:-

- £1,854,682 This amount funds frontline staffing costs. There are 233 (53.45 whole time equivalent) staff. Of these 201 (26.51 whole time equivalent) are part time sessional staff working between 2.5 and 10 hours per week and 32 (26.94 whole time equivalent) are substantive staff who work between 18.5 and 37 hours per week.
- £116,252 This amount funds the maintenance of the 6 Council Youth and Community Centres
- £194,684 Allocated to organisations through the Youth Work Support Grant to support the delivery of open access, universal youth sessions only. The projects which receive this grant are those that are also supported by Council-funded part time sessional youth work staff. The provision of the grant supports the additional delivery of universal open access sessions in and through community venues and/or projects.

Policy Drivers

- 10 In the development of proposals consideration was given to a number of policy drivers that impact directly on youth support services for young people, these include:
- Positive for Youth: a new approach to cross government policy for young people aged 13 – 19
 - Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing
 - A Framework of Outcomes for Young People
 - County Durham's Regeneration Statement
 - County Durham's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016 – 2019
- 11 These documents set out a statutory requirement for Councils to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer that is sufficient to meet local needs. They emphasise the use of local authority resources to support a more targeted approach in order to meet the needs of young people in greatest need.

Current Delivery Model

- 12 Historically, the main focus of council-funded youth services has been the provision of universal youth sessions which any young person aged 13-19 can access through attendance at youth clubs and projects across the County. This is commonly referred to as open access youth provision. This provision is in addition to a wide range of diverse opportunities for young people delivered in and through voluntary and community sector organisations, some of which receive additional support from the Youth Work Support Grant and Area Action Partnerships.
- 13 The Council currently provides on average 200 weekly sessions of open access youth provision through 63 youth centres and projects across the County. Much of the provision is delivered in partnership with a range of voluntary and community sector partners in and through community centres. The provision is overseen by voluntary management committees who are supported by One Point Youth Workers.
- 14 This provision has evolved over time and has not been based on a strategic assessment of need to inform where it is most needed. **Appendix 2** provides a breakdown of each project and their location in relation to the 10 One Point teams.
- 15 Since the establishment of the One Point Service in 2011, in addition to universal work, some targeted youth support has been developed to support young people

who have identified additional needs. This includes support to young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), young people at risk of exclusion or poor school attendance, teenage parents and targeted detached and outreach youth work developed in response to anti-social behaviour.

- 16 These targeted approaches have ensured a clear focus on supporting those young people who risk adverse outcomes without the provision of additional early help and support.

Council Maintained Youth and Community Centres

- 17 In addition to the current provision set out above, the Council is responsible for the maintenance of 6 Youth and Community Centres as follows:-

- Fishburn Youth & Community Centre;
- Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre;
- Peterlee Youth Centre;
- Seaham Youth Centre;
- Spennymoor Youth Centre;
- Stanley Youth Centre.

- 18 Options regarding the potential transfer to local community ownership under the Durham ASK programme have been pursued which will enable the Council to realise up to £116,517 savings at the same time as the facilities being retained in the community.

- 19 Progress on the transfer of the available youth and community centres has been made to date and four of the six centres are expected to asset transfer no later than December 2016. These are:

- Fishburn Youth & Community Centre
- Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre
- Seaham Youth Centre
- Spennymoor Youth Centre

- 20 In relation to Stanley Youth Centre, the current management group has served the Council notice on their lease and have now vacated the building. Further buildings inspections have identified a number of health and safety and building issues which have prevented the building continuing to be a base from which services can be delivered. The long term future of the building is being explored.

- 21 In relation to Peterlee Youth Centre, the current management group has served the Council notice on their lease and will have vacated the premises by

December 2016. Discussions will now take place with the landlord in relation to the future of the Head Lease currently in place.

Outcomes for Young People in County Durham

- 22 **Deprivation:** 42% of young people aged 13 – 19 years live in the top 30% most deprived Super Output Areas.
- 23 **Child Poverty:** in County Durham 21.5% of children and young people aged between 0 – 19 years live in relative poverty, this is greater than the national average of 18.1%
- 24 **Educational Attainment:** In 2015, 44% of pupils living in the most deprived 20% of SOA's achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSE grades including English and Maths compared to 61% of children living in other SOAs, which results in a gap of 17 percentage points.
- 25 **Progression:** NEETS are defined as 16 – 18 years who are not participating in education, employment or training. Non participation in these areas is a major predictor of later unemployment, low income, involvement in crime and poor health outcomes. As of 31st March 2016 the percentage of young people who are NEET in County Durham was 6.3%; this is higher than the regional average of 5.9% and higher than the national average of 4.3%.
- 26 **Teenage Pregnancy:** Teenage pregnancy is a public health issue, impacting on inequalities and social exclusion, as well as the life chances and health and wellbeing of teenage parents and their children. As of March 2015, rates in County Durham are 27.5, higher than the national average of 22.3 per 1,000 population.
- 27 **Health:** The Marmot Review: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010 states that health inequalities result from social inequalities and that action is needed across all social determinants of health, such as housing, employment and education, to tackle these inequalities. Central to the Marmot Review was the recognition that disadvantage starts before birth and accumulates throughout life. It is clear from the evidence produced in this review that there are links between poor health outcomes and areas of high deprivation.
- 28 **Alcohol Hospital Admissions:** County Durham's under 18 alcohol specific hospital admission rates for 2012/13 -2014/15 was 65.5 per 100,000, higher than the regional rate of 60.4 and higher than the national average of 36.6. County Durham is ranked 23rd worst out of 324 local authorities.
- 29 **Emotional Wellbeing:** Self-harm among young people is a growing problem. Between 2011/12 – 2013/14, rates of young people (age 10 – 24 years) admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm in County Durham are 489.4 per 100,000; this

is higher than England at 367.3 per 100,000. This equates to 1,432 young people who were admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm across County Durham between 2011/12 – 2013/14; an average of 477 per year.

- 30 Evidence also suggests that young people who suffer social isolation are more likely to have cognitive and social impairments as adults, with risks accumulating throughout their life course. These young people are five times more likely to report self-harm or attempt suicide and are four times more likely to have long absences from school.
- 31 **Safeguarding:** As at 31st March 2016, the total number of young people aged 11 years and over subject to a child protection plan was 70, of these 51 (73%) live in an the top 30% most deprived SOA, of these 40 (57%) had a plan due to neglect. Neglect is a long term, chronic form of harm to children that can have lifelong impacts. Teenagers' neglect can be the most difficult to identify.
- 32 **Child Sexual Exploitation:** Child Sexual Exploitation has been identified as a key priority for County Durham's Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). CSE is a form of child abuse, which can involve young people being the victims of some of the most serious crimes. The psychological impact of the trauma suffered by victims can cause lifelong harm.
- 33 There is a strong link between deprivation and outcomes. Young people in County Durham are more likely to experience poor outcomes across a range of indicators including health indicators.

Update on Performance

- 34 Youth work performance is measured against a range of key indicators, these include:-
- **Reach:** this is the measure of a single, meaningful contact a young person has had with a youth worker.
 - **Sustained Contact:** Sustained Contact requires youth workers to have a minimum of 6 contacts with a young person in a given year. It is an important indicator because the nature of youth work requires the establishment of effective relationships with young people which can take time to build.
 - **Social, Emotional Capabilities (SEC) Outcome:** this is a method of measuring and evidencing young people's progress against a range of SEC competencies in areas such as communication and resilience and determination, prior to and following a youth worker intervention
 - **Full Awards:** this is the completion of a nationally recognised accredited programme, such as The Duke of Edinburgh Award and Youth Achievement Awards. Full Awards are those which take a minimum of 60 hours to complete.
- 35 Performance is measured in relation to percentage contact with the whole youth population as well as percentage contact with young people who live in the top 30% most deprived Super Output Areas.

36 Tables 1 and 2 below highlight youth work performance for years 2014/15 and 2015/16, the more recent data has been made available since the initial report to Cabinet on 13 January 2016.

Table 1 Youth Work Performance 14/15

Youth Work Performance	All Young People		Young People who live in top 30% most deprived SOA	
	42,618 ² yp aged 13-19		17,978 yp aged 13-19	
Key Performance Indicator	No	%	No	%
Reach: Young people who had at least one contact with a youth worker	9,669	23%	4,508	25%
Sustained Contact: Young people who had 6 or more contacts with a youth worker	2,971	7%	1,679	9%
SEC: Young people who were helped by a youth worker to develop social skills or build emotional resilience	2,679	6%	1,468	8%
Full Award: Young people who were supported by a youth worker to achieve a full award, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Achievement Award	404	1%	171	1%

² Office of National Statistics 2013

Table 2 Youth Work Performance 15/16

Youth Work Performance	All Young People		Young People who live in top 30% most deprived SOA	
	41,551 ³ yp aged 13-19		17,536 yp aged 13-19	
Key Performance Indicator	No	%	No	%
Reach: Young people who had at least one contact with a youth worker	7,301	17.6%	3950	22.5%
Sustained Contact: Young people who had 6 or more contacts with a youth worker	2,124	5.1%	1075	6.1%
SEC: Young people who were helped by a youth worker to develop social skills or build emotional resilience	2,499	6.0%	1459	8.3%
Full Award: Young people who were supported by a youth worker to achieve a full award, eg Duke of Edinburgh	211	0.5%	76	0.4%

- 37 In the last year 34,250 (82.4%) young people have had no contact with a youth worker. Of those young people that have had contact in 2015/16, sustained contact was at 5.1%. This means that in 2015/16, 94.9% of the youth population have not had sustained contact with a youth worker.
- 38 Of the young people who live in the top 30% most deprived SOA, 77.5% have had no contact with a youth worker. Sustained contact has decreased between 2014/15 and 2015/16 from 9% to 6.1%. 8.3% were helped to develop social skills or build emotional resilience and numbers of young people who achieved a full award such as Duke of Edinburgh or Youth Achievement Award has decreased from 1% to 0.4%.

Additional Research Findings

- 39 In winter 2015, the County Durham Children and Young People (Student Voice) Survey for Secondary Schools was undertaken in 25 of the 32 secondary schools at the request of the Children and Families Partnership and supported by the Durham Association of Secondary School Head teachers. The survey was undertaken by young people in years 7, 9, 11 and where a school had a 6th form, year 13. It was completed by 8,148 young people, 20% of the total 13 – 19 years population.
- 40 The survey specifically asked young people about their lifestyle, this included specific questions relating to engagement in non-physical activities or clubs.

³ Office of National Statistics 2014

Only 24% said they attend clubs at school and 29% of young people attend clubs out of school. Of those who responded, 60% stated they have no desire to attend an organised activity or club.

- 41 These findings highlight that the provision of fixed youth clubs is unlikely to succeed in meeting the needs of the majority of young people and future delivery models should be delivered in a way that ensures the most vulnerable young people are targeted for additional help and support.

Review of Youth Services in County Durham

- 42 Prior to consultation, a range of information and research was used to inform and shape the proposed strategy and new model of service delivery. These are as follows:

- The extent to which youth service resources are currently allocated according to need in County Durham;
- The requirement of a £1million MTFP reduction;
- Changes in Policy since 2010
- Analysis of need relating to deprivation, using the Index of Deprivation 2015
- Analysis of need relating to Pupil Enrolments Numbers Academic Year 2014/15;
- Current Performance of the Youth Service;
- The 2015 County Durham Children and Young People's Student Voice Survey for Secondary Schools;
- Outcomes for young people, particularly vulnerable young people;
- The availability of a range of provision for young people delivered by the VCS.

Consultation Proposals

- 43 The consultation outlined 3 key proposals which were based on the delivery of a targeted youth support model. These are set out below:

Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham

- 44 The consultation sought endorsement of the above Strategy (**Appendix 3**) which set out the Council's vision as:

- Ensure those young people who require additional help are identified and supported to achieve good outcomes; and
- Work in partnership with other providers, including the Voluntary and Community Sector, to ensure young people can access universal provision and activities

- 45 The Strategy sets out the Council's aim to ensure all young people negotiate their teenage years successfully and achieve their full potential.

- 46 To do this the Council must ensure that those young people who require additional help are identified early and supported through a targeted approach that will secure improved outcomes such as:-
- Improved school attendance
 - Reduced risk of fixed term exclusions
 - Improved economic prosperity through successful progression to further employment, education or training
 - Improved health outcomes, including emotional health and wellbeing
 - Reduce social isolation
 - Young people kept safe from harm.
- 47 The Strategy acknowledges the need to ensure its youth support service raises young people's aspirations builds their resilience and informs their decisions in order to reduce their involvement in problematic risky behaviours which may lead to adverse outcomes.
- 48 The service delivery model will replace the provision of open access universal youth projects with a targeted approach to providing support to young people through 5 key elements which are described as follows:-

Single Assessment and Team Around the Family (TAF)

- 49 It is recognised that many young people need help and support from time to time to address needs which arise from issues such as those set out in paragraph 46 above. Such support can range from some advice and guidance to more intensive support.
- 50 Often the needs of children and young people are caused by the unmet needs of their parents, such as mental ill health, domestic abuse, poverty, alcohol and substance misuse and worklessness. This can have an impact on young people. It is vital to ensure our young people and their parents get early help and support to prevent those issues having a negative impact on their outcomes.
- 51 The Single Assessment and Team Around the Family approach is becoming embedded with all practitioners across the children's partnership. These multi-agency approaches aim to ensure that young people get early help and support to prevent those issues having a negative impact on their own life chances.

Team Around the School (TAS):

- 52 The TAS brings the One Point Service into a close working arrangement with secondary schools in County Durham to quickly identify and provide early help to pupils and their families who are a cause for concern to schools. The referral criteria for this initiative includes:-
- Behaviour issues
 - Attendance concerns
 - At risk of becoming NEET

- Vulnerable young people (e.g. at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation)

53 Interventions are delivered in a range of ways. Youth workers use their skills to engage often challenging young people in one to one and groupwork activities. They support young people to identify issues of concern to them and help them to build a range of skills that will ensure they become more resilient and able to deal with adversity. Workers also support families, providing an effective home-school link which ensures that difficulties that are being experienced both at home and at school are identified and addressed.

54 Schools report that, for those young people who engage in the TAS interventions, a reduction in fixed term exclusions, an improvement in school attendance and improved behaviour can be evidenced.

NEET Re-engagement Programmes:

55 These programmes are designed to support the continued development of re-engagement opportunities for young people who are NEET. Youth Workers work alongside Durhamworks Youth Engagement Workers and Transition Advisors support young people to develop skills which support them to progress into further education, training or employment. These programmes have contributed to the much improved NEET performance in County Durham, which as of March 2016 stands at 6.3% compared to 8.5% in March 2012.

Teen Parent Programmes:

56 County Durham has some of the highest teenage conception rates in the region and considerably higher rates than the national average. The One Point Service has developed a Teenage Parent Pathway. Youth Workers and other practitioners support teen parents to develop a range of skills including confidence and self-esteem and parenting. They support the young people to progress into opportunities for further education, employment or training.

Team Around the Community:

57 Some young people choose to meet together and socialise on the streets, in parks and other outdoor areas in communities across County Durham. In some cases the activities of young people causes concern to local residents and communities.

58 The development of a “Team Around the Community” model will enable the deployment of youth workers, and other relevant professionals, to areas of concern.

59 The service will focus on addressing the following areas:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour and/or criminal activity
- Negative risk-taking behaviour (i.e. alcohol and/or substance misuse)
- Vulnerable young people (e.g. at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation).

60 A range of partners including Police, the Youth Offending Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens will support the identification of areas for concern. Where appropriate, youth workers, working in partnership with a range of professionals, will be deployed to the identified communities to build effective relationships with young people, with the objective of addressing behaviour that is causing concern and improve relationships between young people and their communities.

Proposal 2: Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service

61 This review demonstrated that only a small proportion of young people attend open access youth clubs, despite clubs being universal access. At the same time, outcomes for vulnerable young people need to improve.

62 It was proposed therefore, that Council resources should be redirected, according to need, so that a targeted youth support service can be provided.

63 This will mean that universal, open access youth work will no longer be funded through the One Point Service budget. Instead following the £1million MTFP efficiency saving, the remaining resource will be reconfigured to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service.

64 In order to move to a rational basis for resource allocation, a methodology was developed to measure need across the County. The detail of this was reported in the previous Cabinet report dated 13 January 2016.

65 The methodology considered data relating to young people's outcomes across County Durham in two parts; social need and educational/school based need.

66 The methodology concluded that in order to deliver the proposed model, the available resource should be distributed as follows:-

- a. 60% of the available resource will be used to support delivery of the social element of the model, and
- b. 40% of the available resource will be used to deliver the school based element of the model.

Proposal 3: Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and the allocation of funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

67 The Youth Work Support Grant (see paragraph 9) funds a range of organisations and supplements the staffing allocation provided by the Council for the delivery of universal open access youth work sessions.

68 Current allocations of this grant are historical and not based on any assessment of need. Levels range from £430 to £27,768.

69 It was proposed that the 2015/16 grant budget of £194,684 will be reduced by a minimum of £56,000 in order to deliver the MTFP requirement. However, this amount is dependent upon the successful asset transfer of Youth and Community Centre buildings, as set out in paragraphs 17 to 21 above. If all centres are not transferred the Youth Support Grant will be reduced further prior to distribution to AAPs.

Consultation Process

70 Cabinet agreed to a 12 week public consultation on the 13 January 2016.

71 The full consultation plan, which set out how we would consult, can be found in **Appendix 4**. The stakeholders engaged and/or consulted with during the period 1 February 2016 – 27 April 2016 were:

- **Young people aged 13 – 19 years**
 - Service Users
 - Non Service Users
- **Partners**
 - Management Committees of Council Supported Open Access Provision
 - Area Action Partnerships
 - Children and Families Partnership
 - Local Safeguarding Children Board
 - Health Partners
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Schools (Head Teachers/Governing Bodies)
 - Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
- **Staff**
 - One Point Staff – (DCC) and health staff
 - Wider Staff within CAS
 - Other DCC staff
- **Public**
 - Parents/carers
 - Any interested party
- **Other**
 - Elected members
 - Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - Members of Parliament

72 A variety of methods were used during the consultation to enable all stakeholders to actively participate which included:

- Focus Groups with management committees of DCC funded youth clubs and projects
- Activity Sessions with young people

- Questionnaires for all key stakeholders and any interested party to complete, including parents and carers
- Questionnaires for young people
- Presentations to Area Action Partnerships
- Presentations to a range of partner organisations and key stakeholders

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board

73 The consultation process was scrutinised by the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board on the 1st April 2016. The board was satisfied that that the process addressed equality and diversity issues and ensured all stakeholders were able to fully participate in the consultation.

Summary of Submissions Received

74 The full consultation report is available on request and a copy has been placed in the member's library. Table 3 below provides a summary of the consultation responses.

Table 3

Consultation Method	Meetings to Promote Consultation	No. of Participants	Submissions
Young Person's Questionnaire (various formats)	31	575	798
Management Committee Questionnaire	6	25	15
General Stakeholder Questionnaire	2	16	210
One Point Staff	3	189	53
Area Action Partnerships	14	310	5
Health & Wellbeing Board	1	16	
Children & Families Partnership	1	12	
VCS Working Group	1	12	
Presentation to Duke of Edinburgh Management Committee	1	15	
Presentation to Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny	1	25	
Total	61	1195	1081

Additional Correspondence

75 During the course of consultation additional correspondence was received as follows:

- Letter written relating to issues raised by Consett YMCA from MP
- Letter from Cassop – cum – Quarrington Parish Council

- Letter from Great Aycliffe Town Council
- Letter from Pelton Parish Council
- Report from Pelton Community Association
- Letter from Pelton Fell Community Partnership
- Letter from Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services young people
- Letter from Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services Chair Person

76 All Members of Parliament received a communication offering the opportunity to meet with Officers in relation to the proposals. Two Members of Parliament attended a meeting and all were given the opportunity to raise any queries.

77 In addition to the letters received, the consultation email group received 10 emails. These included emails from County Councillors and members of the public raising a range of issues which were responded to during consultation and themes have been incorporated into paragraph 119 of this report.

Analysis of Responses

78 Given the range of stakeholders which whom the consultation aimed to engage, four separate questionnaires, available to view as part of the full consultation report held within the members library, in a variety of formats, were developed to capture views and facilitate the participation of as many respondents as possible. These included:-

- General Questionnaire
- Young Person's Questionnaire
- DCC supported Management Committee Questionnaire
- Easy Read Questionnaire

79 The responses were analysed by the following groups:-

- Feedback received from stakeholders through the General Questionnaire;
- Feedback received from current Council supported management committees;
- Feedback received from young people who use the One Point Youth Service;
- Feedback received from young people who have never used the One Point Youth Service.

General Questionnaire Responses:

80 268 responses were received through the general questionnaire. Responses are shown in **Appendix 5**.

81 Broad support and endorsement of Proposal 1, A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham has been gained with 62% of respondents in agreement.

- 82 Some respondents who were unsure, and some who disagreed, still provided a level of agreement with the proposal through the additional comments made by them in the free text boxes.
- 83 Statements included broad acknowledgement of support for the vision whilst still raising questions on how young people would be identified for support through the targeted model and what provision would be available to those young people who do not meet the criteria of the targeted model.
- 84 Responses within the general questionnaire to Proposal 2, Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service reflects a reluctance to move away from traditional community based open access youth provision and introduce a shift towards a targeted delivery model.
- 85 However, again, where some respondents were unsure or disagreed and left additional comments, some level of agreement with the proposal could be identified within the additional comments made. A number acknowledged that the proposed delivery model had value. Concerns included a fear that the removal of Council funded youth clubs within communities would result in an increase in anti-social and negative risk taking behaviour by young people.
- 86 Possible social isolation was highlighted and the impact this may have on young people following the removal of evening provision, particularly in very rural and sparsely populated areas, with no or limited access to public transport during the evenings to get to larger towns and villages. Views were expressed that rural isolation should be given consideration within the targeted model proposed.
- 87 Whilst responses from the general questionnaire to Proposal 3, Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and allocate funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services are weighted towards disagree, of those who were unsure or disagreed, and chose to leave a comment in the free text boxes, some common themes have emerged and these are reflected in Table 4 below.
- 88 There was recognition that the current allocation of the Youth Work Support Grant is unfairly distributed, and that if the proposal to transfer the funds to the AAP is to go forward, it must be specified that the money is to prioritise projects for young people only.
- 89 Some respondents expressed a view that in order to secure some level of sustainability within the voluntary and community sector (VCS), continued support was needed in terms of training and development, transitional support, funding applications and safeguarding in relation to work with young people.

Management Committee Questionnaire Responses:

- 90 Management Committees who are currently supported by the Council financially through the Youth Work Support Grant or by the provision of part time sessional youth work staff were specifically consulted via a separate questionnaire.
- 91 Of the 63 youth projects currently supported, 15 management committees submitted a response through the management committee questionnaire provided to them. **Appendix 6** sets out the responses in relation to the management committee questionnaire.
- 92 In relation to Proposal 1, A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham, results reflect that those completing this questionnaire will be directly impacted by the implementation of the proposed strategy. Of the organisations that were unsure or disagreed, some level of agreement was still expressed.
- 93 Comments included questions seeking information about how young people would be identified and targeted for support and requesting reassurance that vulnerable young people would still have a good level of support should the delivery model change.
- 94 Some management committees expressed a view that anti-social behavior involving young people may increase if Council funding for youth clubs is removed.
- 95 Issues in relation to social isolation experienced by young people, particularly those living in rural areas have been raised, and how this will be addressed in the context of the strategy and a subsequent Targeted Youth Support Service.
- 96 50% of responses to Proposal 2, Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service, reflect management committees who wish to retain provision currently supported by them, however, despite the direct impact, there were nonetheless 36% who agreed with this proposal and 14% who were unsure.
- 97 Of those who were unsure or disagreed the issues raised within the free text box if addressed, would provide a level of reassurance to a number of the concerns raised.
- 98 Comments included a recognition that in challenging financial times, resources should be reconfigured to support those young people in greatest need however issues focused on the sustainability of provision without some ongoing support from the Council in areas such as fund raising, safeguarding and training and development.
- 99 Other comments focused on how young people would be identified as in need, and what would the referral criteria be for young people to be involved with a youth worker through a targeted service.
- 100 In relation to Proposal 3, Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and allocate funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities

linked to youth services, the organisations who responded to this proposal are those who are currently in direct receipt of the Youth Work Support Grant. Of these responses 57% disagreed with this proposal. This was the majority, a significant percentage of those directly affected were unsure, 36% and 7% agreed.

- 101 Some management committees expressed a view that funding should only be used to support projects that work with young people and not become part of the wider AAP funding streams currently available.
- 102 Some management committees also stated that whilst they recognise the current Youth Work Support Grant arrangements need to be reviewed, they would like to see the grant distributed based on a fair methodology that did not disadvantage any community.

Young People's Questionnaire Responses:

- 103 798 young people have submitted a response through the questionnaires that have been made available.
- 104 Of the 798 responses 714 are from young people who use the service, this equates to 9.7% of current youth service users; the remaining 84 responses were received from young people who have never used the One Point Youth Service.
- 105 The total response rate equates to 2% of the total 13 – 19 years population.
- 106 In order to appropriately analyse the responses, the data has been broken down into two groups, as follows:-
- **Service Users:** young people who use the current open access, universal youth service provision delivered by the Council
 - **Non Service Users:** young people who do not use the service.
- 107 The young people's questionnaires posed the same questions as both the general questionnaire and the management committee questionnaire, **Appendix 7** sets out the responses in relation to the young person's questionnaires.
- 108 Results in respect of Proposal 1, A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham, clearly demonstrate that a difference in opinion exists between current service users and those young people who do not access the One Point Youth Service.
- 109 Of those young people who use the service, the majority (60%) do not wish to see any changes to the provision they currently access however a relatively high proportion of this group (27%) agreed with the strategy and 13% were unsure.
- 110 Young people who have never accessed One Point Service Youth Service provision have given a much stronger overall agreement to the proposed Strategy (63%) with a minority (18%) in disagreement.

- 111 As with Proposal 1, A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham, results differ between service users and those young people who do not use the One Point Youth Service.
- 112 80% of service users did not agree with the proposals and this compares with 38% of non-service users.
- 113 Similarly, in respect of Proposal 3, Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and allocate funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services, young people who do not access the One Point Youth Service give a stronger endorsement to this proposal (41%) compared with service users (14%).
- 114 Service users are more in favour of the retention of current funding arrangements which go directly to the clubs and projects they attend, whilst non service users give more broad agreement to the proposed transfer of funds to each AAP.

Summary of common themes throughout the consultation

- 115 Common themes have emerged throughout the consultation, through the questionnaire responses and through focus group meetings and other channels of communication such as emails and letters.
- 116 Responses clearly referred to the positive effect youth workers have in supporting young people, particularly challenging and vulnerable young people.
- 117 Responses expressed a view that the vision as set out in the proposed strategy was positive and there was broad acknowledgement that with less funding the Council should effectively target those young people in greatest need.
- 118 Respondents also gave a recognition that the proposal to transfer funds to the AAP to address local priorities linked to youth services would address the current inequality of distribution in favour of a more equitable model.
- 119 In addition to this, a number of issues were raised throughout the consultation. A number of actions that could be taken to mitigate against the issues raised are set out in table 4 below:

Table 4

Theme	Issues Raised	Proposed Mitigating Action
VCS support	Continued support to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations which deliver youth activities in areas including training, development, fund	The vision clearly sets out the desire to continue to work in partnership with the VCS, this will be reflected in the implementation of the strategy. Youth workers will provide support to VCS

Theme	Issues Raised	Proposed Mitigating Action
	raising and transitional support would be required.	organisations delivering youth services through training and support for fundraising.
Creating future problems	Removing DCC funded open access youth clubs may create future problems particularly around anti-social behaviour, emotional wellbeing and sexual health.	The proposed delivery model will ensure that all young people who require additional support and help will receive it. This includes a youth work response through the proposed Team Around the Community to tackle any emerging issues within communities particularly instances of anti-social behavior. The One Point Service will continue to work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that young people are appropriately signposted to sexual health services, particularly after hours.
Support for young people who would not meet the criteria for targeted provision	The removal of open access youth provision reduces opportunities for this group of young people to access support and development opportunities in their leisure time.	The mapping exercise carried out as part of the review demonstrated that there are over 1000 active VCS projects and organisations offering opportunities for young people in their leisure time. Feedback received through partnership meetings and presentations, particularly AAP board meetings highlighted that there are more projects available than mapped. It is the Council's intention to ensure that these additional organisations are contacted and information collated through the Families Information website. This information will be widely publicised so that young people and families can locate provision when required.
Rural isolation	The impact of rural/social isolation on young people's emotional wellbeing was raised by young people and organisations in our rural communities.	It is recommended that the Strategy is strengthened to include social isolation to be considered in the provision of a targeted service to young people.
Funding should be protected for projects providing opportunities for young people	Some respondents expressed a view that the transfer of funds to the AAP's must be prioritised for projects offering opportunities to young people.	Funds transferred to the AAP must be prioritised to meeting the needs of young people.
Allocation of funding to AAPs	There were mixed views regarding the allocation of the Youth Work Support Grant to AAPs. There was a difference of opinion regarding whether the funds should be allocated according to need or distributed equitably across the Area Action Partnerships.	It is recommended that the allocation of funding to the AAPs should be shared equally and must be used to support the provision of services for young people.

Rurality

- 120 The impact of social isolation, particularly for those young people living in rural areas, in particular Weardale AAP and Teesdale AAP, present their own challenges. Concerns were raised during consultation regarding the impact changes to the current open access, delivery model would have on young people in these areas.
- 121 Teesdale Area Action Partnership particularly felt that rurality should have been given more consideration in the development of the proposals.
- 122 Analysis of existing provision has highlighted that whilst in some rural areas voluntary and community sector youth provision exists, it is more limited in some of the more remote communities.
- 123 These views have been fully considered and accepted when making final recommendations.

A Sufficient Local Offer of Youth Activities

- 124 The Council has a statutory requirement to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a local offer of youth activities that is sufficient to meet local needs, as set out in paragraph 11.
- 125 This review has shown that within County Durham there are a very large number of organisations that offer activities for young people, in addition to those provided by the Council.

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Youth Activities:

- 126 County Durham has a strong VCS that has worked in partnership with the local authority through many initiatives over many years.
- 127 In order to fully appreciate all opportunities for young people, consideration must be given to the contribution of the VCS, in particular the role they play in providing a universal offer of youth provision for young people across County Durham.
- 128 As part of the review, a mapping exercise has been carried out to collate as much information as possible about that provision. This has enabled an “interactive map” of activities to be developed showing what is available locally.
- 129 County Durham covers a large geographical area and has over 1000 VCS projects currently reporting as active and offering opportunities to young people. In order to begin to analyse this provision, the data has been broken down into different classifications which allows for more simple location of types of activity available. The categories included are:-

- Voluntary Sector
- Junior Clubs
- Community Arts
- Community Buildings
- Sports
- Faith Groups
- Uniformed Groups

130 Information about the range of activities and projects provided by the VCS can be accessed on the Families Information Service (www.countydurhamfamilies.info).

Area Action Partnerships (AAPs):

131 There are 14 AAPs in County Durham. AAPs have been set up to give people in County Durham a greater choice and voice in local affairs. The partnerships allow people to have a say on services, and give organisations the chance to speak directly with local communities.

132 Each AAP has a budget to support local projects and investments. By working in partnership, AAPs help ensure that the services of a range of organisations - including the County and Town and Parish councils, Police, Fire, Health, and voluntary organisations - are directed to meet the needs of local communities and focus their actions and spending on issues important to these local communities.

133 AAP funding has enabled local support to be provided to a number of VCS organisations to deliver a variety of locally based programmes and initiatives for young people. The AAPs provide opportunities for community based organisations to apply for funding to deliver services and activities within each locality.

134 Between 2014/15 and 2015/16, the AAPs have supported 323 projects aligned to the 'Altogether Better for Children & Young People' priority through a combination of AAP Area Budget grants and grants from Councillors totalling £2,434,127 in value.

135 This funding has secured an additional amount of £2,661,493 match funding and has demonstrated the ability of the AAPs to enhance existing provision in localities.

136 This VCS and AAP supported provision, combined with the council's targeted model will ensure the Council delivers its statutory duty.

Youth Employment Initiative:

137 The Durham County Council Partnership bid to the European Commission for £17 million Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) funding was successful and the DurhamWorks initiative began delivery in County Durham in April 2016.

138 DurhamWorks will support 5,830 16 to 24 year old, unemployed County Durham residents into employment, education or training through intensive and long-term support, innovative and engaging activities to develop motivation, work-related skills and work experience and increased employment opportunities. The partnership is made up of 4 Council services as follows:-

- One Point Service
- Regeneration and Economic Development
- Youth Offending Service
- Progression and Learning

139 In addition to these Council services Durhamworks have developed partnerships with 16 delivery partners from across the Voluntary and Community Sector. These organisations have extensive experience and a wide range of skills in supporting young unemployed people. Their expertise will be vital in the success of DurhamWorks.

140 County Durham's proposed Targeted Youth Support Service will play an extensive role in supporting the YEI initiative. This will be through a range of methods including 1 -1 support and delivery of targeted activities designed to engage and support young people's progression towards and into the labour market.

Equality Impact Assessment

141 The Equality Act 2010 includes a Public Sector Equality Duty which requires public authorities to pay due regard to the need to:

- i. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimization and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- ii. Advance equality of opportunity and
- iii. Foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

142 The Youth Service Review supports our commitment to equality. By further targeting services to young people and their families in greatest need this will enable more significant contact with groups identified within the act.

143 An initial equality impact screening was completed at the beginning of the consultation process and whilst the consultation planning ensured needs of all groups were met, two protected groups were identified as being directly affected by the proposals, they are as follows:-

- **Teenage Parents**

Overall 18 questionnaire responses were from young people who stated they were a young parent. In addition, service held information supports the development of the Teen Parent Pathway and has demonstrated improved progression outcomes for a number of vulnerable young people.

- **Disabled Young People**

Consultation responses and service held data has highlighted that some disabled young people attend some open access youth sessions. Appropriate alternatives must be explored in relation to these young people. The impact of the proposed changes and the proposed delivery models must take these young people and their needs into consideration.

144 On completion of the consultation a full Equality Impact Assessment has now been undertaken; **Appendix 8.**

145 Careful consideration will be taken of any transition arrangements for all protected groups to mitigate against any detrimental impact. Specific actions, shown below are highlighted within Section 3 of the Equality Impact Assessment. They are as follows:-

- Ensuring that County Durham's Families Information Service is made available and promoted to children, young people and their families as a tool to access local information relating to activities for young people to participate in their leisure time including faith based organisations.
- Communicate the new model of youth support to young people, parents/carers and partners as part of implementation.
- Mechanisms are put in place to allow for regular monitoring and review processes to assess the ongoing impact of the new service delivery model, identify gaps and make improvements where necessary.
- Strengthen the strategy and subsequent targeted youth support by acknowledging that young people who are at risk of social isolation will also receive targeted youth work support through the proposed targeted model.
- Ensure the continued inclusion of the Local Offer and Children and Young People's Network as key strands within the Council's wider communications plan so that opportunities for young people with disabilities are widely communicated.
- Ensure that all services are working in partnership to identify young people to participate in the Teen Parent Pathway and support them to engage.
- Signposting/referrals into specialised support services where appropriate. E.g. Information, advice, guidance and early help made available for all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people.

Conclusions

146 In making final recommendations on the endorsement of A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham, the subsequent delivery model and the future of the Youth Work Support Grant, consideration has been given to the following:

- a. The outcome of a 12 week public consultation involving all stakeholders;
- b. The views of young people expressed through The 2015 County Durham Children and Young People's Student Voice Survey for Secondary Schools;
- c. The extent to which youth service resources are currently allocated according to need in County Durham;
- d. Changes in Policy since 2010
- e. Analysis of need relating to deprivation, using the Index of Deprivation 2015 and Pupil Enrolments numbers for Academic Year 2014/15;
- f. Current Performance of the Youth Service;
- g. Outcomes for young people, particularly vulnerable young people;
- h. The availability of a range of provision for young people delivered by the VCS;
- i. Council maintained Youth and Community Centres;
- j. The need to make required £1million MTFP efficiency savings.

147 Taking account of all of the above, the following conclusions have been reached and have informed the recommendations to Cabinet:-

- a. There is broad support for the endorsement of Proposal 1, A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham. However, the Strategy would benefit from the recognition of the impact of social isolation on young people's development and social and emotional wellbeing.
- b. Concerns regarding the removal of open access youth provision were raised throughout the consultation, however, these were expressed by those directly involved in the delivery or receipt of this provision and differences were particularly apparent between those young people who access the provision and those who did not;
- c. There were mixed views in relation to Proposal 3, to allocate funding to the AAPs. However, concerns revolved in the main around the way the funding would be allocated with majority views requesting the funding is distributed equally between the 14 AAPs and that funding must be prioritised to support services for young people.
- d. There is a need to ensure the full range of provision delivered by the VCS is widely publicised to young people and their families so that it can be accessed when needed.
- e. Of the 8,148 of young people surveyed via the County Durham Children and Young People's Student Voice Survey a majority said they had not, nor would they, access youth clubs.

Recommendations

148 Based on the outcomes of the consultation process, it is recommended that Cabinet agree to the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

Endorse the revised Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham which includes a recognition that young people who experience the impact of social isolation should be considered for access to targeted support;

Recommendation 2:

Agree to cease the provision of Council funded open access youth provision, which will deliver the required £1million MTFP efficiency saving, and approve the provision of a Targeted Youth Support Service, which will be resourced in accordance with need, based on the following formula:-

- 60% of the available resource distributed based on the numbers of young people who live in the top 30% most deprived communities
- 40% of the available resource distributed based on numbers of pupils enrolled in secondary schools in each of the 10 One Point areas to support the delivery of the Team Around the School

Recommendation 3:

Agree to allocate the remaining Youth Work Support Grant funding equally across the 14 Area Action Partnerships with a requirement that the AAPs must allocate this fund to support services for young people.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - The proposals would enable efficiency savings in line with the County Council's Medium term Financial Plan (MTFP). The specific proposals in this report would deliver approximately £1 million from a rationalisation of buildings and a restructure of the staff resource designed to maximise savings whilst minimising reduction in the number of posts.

Staffing - A re-configuration of the staffing resource through a full HR exercise will be undertaken in 2016 in line with the County Council's Policies and Procedures.

Risk – The Council risks being unable to deliver its duty to support vulnerable young people if it continues to offer a predominantly universal service.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and can be found in Appendix 8

Accommodation - The proposals to reduce the number of Youth Centre buildings could result in changes to accommodation arrangements for some staff. These staff could be accommodated in the One Point Hubs.

Crime and Disorder – Support to young people at risk of crime and disorder would be available through the model proposed.

Human Rights - N/A

Consultation – A full 12 week consultation has taken place between 1 February and 27 April 2016 involving all internal and external stakeholders. The consultation plan, delivery and analysis were all approved by the Consultation Officers Group (COG). The consultation process was also approved by Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Group on 1 April 2016.

Procurement - N/A

Disability Issues - A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed following the consultation and consideration of the recommendations on all stakeholders, regardless of their ethnicity, disability, etc.

Legal Implications - A full consultation programme is proposed that aims to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations.

Appendix 2 – DCC Supported Youth Projects

One Point Team	DCC Supported Youth Project	Supported by YWSG
Consett	Consett Churches Detached Youth Project	✓
	Consett YMCA	✓
	Delves Lane	✓
	Leadgate Youth Club	✓
	Medomsley Youth Club	✓
	Moorside Youth Project	✓
Stanley	Derwentside Detached Youth Project	✓
	Burnhope	
	Oxhill Youth Club	✓
	Steps Youth Project	✓
	Stanley Young People's Club	✓
	Stanley Youth Centre	✓
	Tanfield Youth Project	✓
	Hamsteels	
Durham and Surrounding Villages	Bowburn Youth Project	✓
	Brandon Carrside Youth Project	✓
	Coxhoe Youth Room	✓
	DERIC (Mobile Bus)	✓
	Durham City Centre Youth Project	✓
	Deerness Valley Youth Project	✓
	Mid Durham Projects	✓
	New Brancepeth Youth Club	
	Sacrison Youth Project	✓
	West Rainton	
Chester le Street	Lumley Youth Club	✓
	Chester-Le-Street Youth Project	✓
	Pelton Fell Youth Club	✓
	Pelton Youth Project Room 14	✓
Peterlee	Blackhall Youth Club	
	Eden Hill Youth Club	✓
	Hordon Youth and Community Centre	✓
	Peterlee Youth Centre	✓
	West A19	✓
Seaham	Seaham Parkside	✓
	Easington Corridor	✓
	Murton	
	South Hetton	✓
	Seaham Youth Centre	✓

One Point Team	DCC Supported Youth Project	Supported by YWSG
Newton Aycliffe	Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre	✓
	Shildon Youth Project	✓
Bishop Auckland	Auckland Youth and Community Centre	✓
	Dene Valley Youth Project	✓
	Henknowle Youth Club	✓
	King James 1st Community Association	✓
	Millbank Youth Club	✓
Barnard Castle	Mid Teesdale Youth Project	✓
	Stanhope Community Association	✓
	Teesdale Community Resource	✓
	Evenwood Youth Project	✓
	Jack Drum Arts	
	Tow Law Youth Club	✓
	UTASS	✓
	West Durham Youth and Community Resources	✓
	Willington	
	Whitton-le-Wear Youth Club	✓
	Wolsingham Youth Club	✓
Ferryhill	Chilton Youth Project	✓
	Ferryhill Youth Project	✓
	Fishburn Youth and Community Association	✓
	Middlestone Moor Youth Project	
	Sedgefield Youth Project	✓
	Spennymoor Youth Centre	✓
	Trimdon Community College	

A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham

September 2016



1. Foreword

The Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham has been developed following a review of the Council's youth service. The strategy is based on a comprehensive identification of needs and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The County Durham Regeneration Statement, 2012-22 sets out the Council's long term priorities and objectives. This includes creating competitive and successful people that can make a positive contribution to our local economy and help to build strong and resilient communities. The Statement recognises that to do so, the needs of our most vulnerable residents must be identified and addressed so that the impact of poverty and welfare reform can be mitigated, enabling all residents to achieve their potential so that they can contribute positively to a thriving County

The Council's Children and Young Peoples plan sets out a clear ambition for all young people in County Durham to "believe, achieve and succeed".

There are 41,551⁴ young people aged between 13 to 19 years living in County Durham, 17,536 (42%) of these young people live in ID15 top 30% most deprived Super Output Areas (top 30% SOA)⁵.

The Strategy recognises that although many young people make a successful transition through their adolescence into early adulthood, there are those for whom, without additional help and support, poor outcomes will follow them into their adult life.

Many of these young people, particularly those that live in the most deprived communities in County Durham, will benefit from additional support as they pass through their teenage years and make the transition into adulthood.

The strategy recognises that, in order to secure improved outcomes for young people, a focus on their needs and the needs of their families, is key to ensuring we build resilient young people and families, strengthening our communities and helping to build a strong local economy into the future.

The plan aims to ensure those young people most in need of additional support are supported to engage in their education, build their resilience and develop their social skills so that they can achieve and succeed into their adult lives.

2. Vision for Youth Support

We want young people and their families in County Durham to be supported to achieve their full potential, and to do so we must:-

- Ensure those young people who require additional help are identified and supported to achieve good outcomes; and

⁴ Office for National Statistics 2014

⁵ The Index of Deprivation has seven distinct domains: Income Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Health Deprivation and Disability; Education Skills and Training Deprivation; Barriers to Housing and Services; Living Environment Deprivation; Crime. Super Output Areas are geography for the collection and publication of small area statistics. SOAs give an improved basis for comparison across the country because the units are more similar in size of population than, for example, electoral wards

- Work in partnership with other providers, including the Voluntary and Community Sector, to ensure young people can access universal provision and activities

3. Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-2019

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-2019 sets out the ambition for young people in County Durham. The plan states that the outcomes and priorities have been evidenced and developed to ensure maximum impact in a climate of budget reduction.

The plan identifies that in order to ensure young people achieve their full potential, they must be supported to achieve the following outcomes:-

- Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during school years to prepare them for adulthood;
- Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential;
- Children and young people with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain;
- Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced;
- Children and young people are more resilient;
- A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families;
- Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families;
- Children are safeguarded and protected from harm;
- Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.

In developing a youth support service fit for purpose, and able to support young people to achieve good outcomes, this strategy must take account of the need to develop a more targeted approach so that young people in the greatest need receive help to secure improved outcomes.

4. Youth Support

The teenage years can be a complex period of continuous change as young people mature, grow and develop. Adolescence brings physical and emotional changes and it is normal for this to be an awkward time.

Teenagers naturally grow in independence and need to try new things, take on responsibility, and be allowed to learn from their successes, failures and mistakes. Through this process young people often question and test the assumptions, rules and boundaries that shape their lives at home, in education, and in their communities. In each of these environments, young people benefit from a firm and positive approach that encourages independent thinking but makes it clear that there are boundaries, and that these will be enforced.

These things can lead to changes in the nature of the relationship between young people and their parents or carers, often making it more difficult. These difficulties are for the most part the normal pressures of growing up and do not lead to detrimental outcomes for the young people involved.

Most young people lead positive and fulfilled lives and make a successful transition to adulthood. Key to this is the support and guidance that young people get from their families and other adults that they trust, and their experience at school.

Despite this, a small minority of young people will require early and additional help, and it is these young people who the Council must identify early and support through a targeted approach that will secure improved outcomes such as:

- Improved school attendance
- Reduced risk of fixed term or permanent school exclusion
- Improved economic prosperity through successful progression to further employment, education or training;
- Improved health outcomes, including emotional health and wellbeing;
- Reduce the risk of the impact of social isolation
- Improved safety through effective safeguarding.

5. National Policy

Following the 2010 election the coalition government established an Education Select Committee to review services for young people. As a result the commitment to providing support to young people was confirmed and is outlined in three documents:-

- Positive for Youth a new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13-19;
- Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being;
- A Framework of Outcomes for Young People that were published in 2011/12.

There are common themes contained within all of the above documents; this strategy takes particular account of these:-

- Being positive about young people and recognising that most young people are doing well;
- A recognition that some young people and their families need specific additional and early help to address their challenges and realise their potential;
- That public sector resources should be directed towards support for those most in need;
- The need to work in partnership across departments and with the voluntary and community sector to maximise impact;
- That young people should be involved in decision making and shaping service delivery;
- That the focus of interventions should be on supporting young people to succeed rather than preventing failure. For example, raising young people's aspirations, building their resilience and informing their decisions will reduce their involvement in risky behaviours including substance misuse and anti-social behaviour and will contribute to reducing teenage pregnancy;

- Developing the social and emotional capabilities young people need for learning, work and the transition to adulthood will improve young people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- Help for those young people at risk of dropping out of learning or not achieving their full potential, will support improved educational attainment and progression into education, employment and training.

6. Current Outcomes for Young People in County Durham

It is important to understand the local picture relating to the overall health and wellbeing of young people in County Durham and the context in which they live their lives, as well as the extent of the inequalities that exist. This understanding will ensure the Council effectively target and prioritise the youth support service resource to areas and young people who have the greatest need in order to maximise the potential for improving outcomes for vulnerable groups of young people within the population.

Analysis of the available information in relation to life in County Durham indicates the following key factors which has informed the development of this strategy:-

Deprivation:

The link between poor health outcomes and deprivation is well documented. County Durham has over half of its population living in relatively deprived areas, for example Sedgefield (51.3%) and East Durham (73.6%) have more than half of their population living in a deprived area.

The total 13 – 19 years population of County Durham is 41,551, of these 17,536 young people live in the top 30% most deprived Super Output Area; this is over 42% of the 13 – 19 population.

Child Poverty:

Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. Young people who are unable to enjoy leisure activities with their peers may find their education suffers, making it difficult for them to achieve their full potential and get the qualifications needed to sustain a well-paid job. This will impact on a child's development, as children and young people from low income families are often excluded from extra curricula activities, e.g. school trips, etc. This in turn limits their potential to earn the money needed to support their own families in later life and so a cycle of poverty is created.

The proportion of children and young people aged living in relative child poverty in County Durham is 21.5% this is greater than the national average of 18.1%

Educational Attainment & Progression:

Whilst educational attainment in Durham has improved generally, the gap between those children in the bottom 20% and their peers remains wider than in other Local Authority areas.

In 2015, 44% of pupils living in the most deprived 20% of SOA's achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSE grades including English and Maths compared to 61% of children living in other SOAs, which results in a gap of 17 percentage points.

Other children at risk of not achieving to their full potential academically include children who are looked after by the local authority; pupils with special educational needs; young people who offend and pupils from traveller families.

Studies suggest that socially excluded groups of young people, such as school truants and excluded pupils, offenders, children in the care of local authorities and those with parents who use drugs, tend to report higher rates of drug use than other young people. (Source: An Analysis of UK Drug Policy, UK Drug Policy Commission)

NEETs are defined as 16-18 year olds who are not participating in education, employment or training. Non-participation in education, employment or training between these ages is a major predictor of later unemployment, low income, depression, involvement in crime and poor mental health.

The percentage of young people who are NEET in County Durham (based on March 2016 figures) was 6.3%. This compares with a regional figure of 5.9% and national 4.3%. Of the 6.3% of young people aged 16 – 18 years who were NEET at that point, 66% lived in an identified area of deprivation.

Health:

The Marmot Review: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010 states that health inequalities result from social inequalities and that action is needed across all social determinants of health, such as housing, employment and education, to tackle these inequalities. Central to the Marmot Review was the recognition that disadvantage starts before birth and accumulates throughout life. It is clear from the evidence produced in this review that there are significant links between poor health outcomes and areas of high deprivation.

Teenage pregnancy is a significant public health issue, impacting on inequalities, social exclusion, as well as the life chances and health and wellbeing of teenage parents and their children. Teenage conception rates are similar in County Durham to the North East region but higher than the national average. As of March 2015, rates in County Durham are 27.5, higher than the national average of 22.3 per 1,000 population.

Young people who drink alcohol are more likely to fall behind at school, play truant, become a victim or perpetrator of violence / anti-social behaviour and increase their sexual risk-taking behaviour. Alcohol specific admission rates for under 18s in County Durham are higher than the regional average and hospital stays for alcohol related harm remain higher than the England average.

Data from the most recent children and young people's survey 2015 shows that:-

- 13.7% of young people who participated in the survey regularly drank alcohol;
- 4.8% of young people responded that they regularly/sometimes took drugs.

County Durham's under 18 alcohol specific hospital admission rates for 2012/13 - 2014/15 was 65.5 per 100,000, higher than the regional rate of 60.4 and higher than the national average of 36.6. County Durham is ranked 23rd worst out of 324 local authorities.

Emotional Wellbeing & Resilience:

Emotional Wellbeing of children & young people. Stable families, consistent positive parenting, having friends, access to play, doing well in school, developing self-control, emotional intelligence, self-esteem and confidence etc. are all key to ensuring children and young people experience good emotional wellbeing which creates the basis for securing improved outcomes throughout their lives.

Self-harm amongst young people is a growing problem. NSPCC research, published in 2009, suggests that as many as 1 in 15 young people (aged 11-25) may have harmed themselves. Other studies suggest this may be as high as 1 in 10. Definitive data is difficult to obtain because many incidences of self-harm are undisclosed, carried out in private and do not result in medical attention.

Self-harm does not usually mean attempting to commit suicide (NSPCC) and self-harm is common particularly within younger people; it is thought that 10 – 13% 5 – 16 years olds have self-harmed (No health without mental health' HM Government, February 2011).

Between 2011/12 – 2013/14 rates of young people (age 10 – 24 years) admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm in County Durham are 489.4 per 100,000; this is higher than England at 367.3 per 100,000.

1,432 young people were admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm across County Durham between 2011/12 – 2013/14; an average of 477 per year. The admission rate for this period is higher in County Durham than the national average. Nationally, levels of self-harm are higher among young women than young men.

Evidence also states that young people who suffer social isolation are more likely to have cognitive and social impairments as adults, with risks accumulating throughout their life course. These young people are five times more likely to report self-harm or attempt suicide and are four times more likely to have long absences from school.

Research suggests that for every one young person who has taken their own life, there are between 40-100 times as many young people who have self-harmed.

During 2013-14 a very small single-figure number of young people have died from a suspected suicide in County Durham. This information is classed as a "suspected suicide" until a coroner verdict has been reached

Safeguarding:

As at 31st March 2016, the total number of young people aged 11 years and over subject to a child protection plan was 70, of these 51 (73%) live in the top 30% most deprived SOA, of these 40 (57%) had a plan due to neglect. Neglect is a long term, chronic form of harm to children and services offering early help should be able to impact positively on outcomes for this group of children and young people – either in reducing levels of neglect or in reducing delay that many children experience before decisions are made about 'good enough' parenting.

Child Sexual Exploitation:

Child Sexual Exploitation has been identified as a key priority for County Durham’s Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). CSE is a form of child abuse, which can involve young people being the victims of some of the most serious crimes. The psychological impact of the trauma suffered by victims can cause lifelong harm.

7. Key Principles

Encompassing national and local policy drivers and current outcomes for young people in County Durham, the Strategy has adopted the following four principles moving forward, these are to:

- Focus resources and efforts towards those young people aged 13-19 in our communities who are least likely to experience good outcomes;
- Ensure there are sufficient opportunities for young people to engage in universal leisure time activities across County Durham, through Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) provision;
- Make a proportion of the required efficiency savings by reducing the number of buildings through which youth services are delivered;
- Ensure sufficient front-line staff resource is retained to deliver a youth support service targeted to those young people who have the greatest need.

8. Current Youth Work Provision in County Durham

Youth Services in County Durham are part of the integrated provision of early help services delivered in and through the One Point service. The One Point Service gives geographical coverage through 3 localities and 10 teams, they are as listed below in table 1:-

Table 1: One Point Locality and Hub Location

North Locality	East Locality	South Locality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teams covering:• Consett• Durham and Surrounding Villages• Stanley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teams covering:• Chester le Street• Peterlee• Seaham	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teams covering:• Barnard Castle and Crook• Bishop Auckland• Ferryhill• Newton Aycliffe

Youth Service provision currently includes open access youth sessions available to all young people as well as a smaller amount of targeted youth support developed by the One Point Service, offering early help to young people aged 13 – 19 years who are identified as having additional needs.

Council funded universal youth provision has grown over time and has not been based on a strategic approach and analysis to inform where it is most needed.

The Council currently provides on average 200 weekly sessions of universal youth provision through 63 youth centres and projects across the County. Much of the provision is delivered in partnership with a range of voluntary and community sector

partners in and through community centres. The provision is overseen by voluntary management committees who are supported by youth workers.

Current youth work performance is measured against a range of key indicators, these include:-

- **Reach:** This is the measure of a single, meaningful contact a young person has had with a youth worker.
- **Sustained Contact:** This is a measure of a minimum of 6 contacts a young person has with a youth worker in order to build a meaningful relationship.
- **Social, Emotional Capabilities (SEC) Outcome:** This is a method of measuring and evidencing young people's progress against a range of SEC competencies prior to and following a youth worker intervention.
- **Full Awards:** This is the completion of a nationally recognised accredited programme which will take a minimum of 60 hours to complete.

Sustained contact is an important indicator because the nature of youth work requires the establishment of effective relationships with young people which can take time to build. Sustained contact provides opportunity for youth workers, having developed positive relationships with young people, to provide effective support which can enable the development of new skills and which can contribute to a range of improved outcomes such as improved school attendance and attainment, and resilience building so that young people are better equipped to deal with adversity thus enhancing their emotional wellbeing and life skills.

The aim of service delivery to date has been to offer a wide geographical spread of provision based on an open access offer to all teenagers rather than a targeted approach to those young people who are identified as vulnerable.

Table 2 below shows the latest full year performance data (2015/16) for the Youth Service as it relates to the total population of young people aged 13-19 years and young people aged 13-19 years who live in the top 30% SOA most deprived areas.

Table 2 : Youth Work Performance

Youth Work Performance	All Young People		Young People who live in top 30% most deprived SOA	
	41,551 yp aged 13-19		17,536 yp aged 13-19	
Key Performance Indicator	No	%	No	%
Reach: Young people who had at least one contact with a youth worker	7,301	17.6%	3950	22.5%
Sustained Contact: Young people who had 6 or more contacts with a youth worker	2,575	6.1%	1075	6.1%
SEC: Young people who were helped by a youth worker to develop social skills or build emotional resilience	2,499	6%	1459	8.3%
Full Award: Young people who were supported by a youth worker to achieve a full award, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Achievement Award	211	0.5%	76	0.4%

This table shows that 34,250 young people in County Durham have had no contact with a youth worker, this equates to 82.4% of the total population. Of those young people that have had contact, only 7% have had sustained contact.

Of those young people who live in a top 30% most deprived SOA most deprived community, 77.5% have had no contact with a youth worker. Only 6.1% of these young people have had sustained contact, 8.3% were helped to develop social skills or build emotional resilience and only 0.4% achieved a full award such as Duke of Edinburgh or Youth Achievement Award.

What the performance indicators clearly demonstrate is that the current Youth Service is meeting the needs of a small minority of young people despite its universal approach.

The current delivery model is not adequately addressing the inequality gap across a range of indicators in the County. As a consequence of this lack of contact, numbers of young people achieving a positive outcome through a youth work led intervention are low; particularly in those areas of identified high deprivation where outcomes for young people are poor in a range of other social issues.

9. Universal Access Activities and Projects for Young People

9.1 Activities and Projects delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS):

In order to fully appreciate all opportunities for young people consideration must be given to the contribution of the VCS, in particular the role they play in providing a universal offer of youth provision for young people across County Durham.

A comprehensive mapping exercise of the Voluntary and Community Sector has identified over 1000 organisations offering a wide range of activities for young people. These activities include universal youth clubs, community sports clubs, community arts based projects, faith groups, uniformed services and junior clubs.

9.2 Area Action Partnerships:

In addition to this, the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) have supported a range of projects, groups and initiatives which have provided young people with opportunities to engage in a range of activities and projects and also to have their say on priorities that are important to them.

During 2014-15 the AAPs have identified three key emerging issues for young people:-

- Mental health of children and young people
- Issues relating to employability – careers advice and work experience
- Sustainability of organisations and groups providing activities for children and young people

Between 2014/15 and 2015/16, the AAPs have supported 323 projects aligned to the 'Altogether Better for Children & Young People' priority through a combination of AAP Area Budget grants and grants from Councillors totalling £2,434,127 in value.

This funding has secured an additional amount of £2,661,493 match funding and has demonstrated the ability of the AAPs to enhance existing provision in localities.

10. The Future of Youth Support in County Durham

It is clear from an analysis of outcomes for young people in County Durham, from the requirement to deliver the agreed level of efficiencies and from an understanding of the context in which many of our young people grow up, that it is no longer sustainable or desirable to continue to provide a service that does not effectively target its support to those young people who need it most.

A range of targeted approaches to supporting young people and their families has been implemented by the One Point Service over the past 12 months.

These have focused support in these areas, namely:-

- Support for Young People's with Identified Social Needs, this includes within the home and community
- School Based Support, Support for Young People with Identified Social Needs

10.1 Single Assessment and Team Around the Family:

It is recognised that many young people need help and support from time to time. The kind of support they may need can range from some advice and guidance to more intensive one to one support to address a particular issue or need.

It is also recognised that some of our young people live in families who also have a number of issues they have to contend with – such as mental ill health, domestic abuse, poverty, alcohol and substance misuse, worklessness. In addition, for some young people the experience of social isolation can lead to poor emotional and mental health. These issues can, and do, have an impact on some young people, so making sure we understand which of our young people are experiencing these issues, and how it is impacting on them, is vital if we are to ensure our young people get early help and support to prevent those issues having a negative impact on their own life chances and to stem the potential for these issues to become inter-generational as young people go on to become parents.

The Team around the Family (TAF) approach is becoming embedded with all practitioners across the children's partnership. Since the introduction of the Single Assessment in April 2014 young people and their families have been supported through a multi-agency approach which aims to ensure our young people get early help and support to prevent those issues having a negative impact on their own life chances and to stem the potential for these issues to become inter-generational as young people go on to become parents themselves.

We know from our experience of implementing the Stronger Families Programme in County Durham that investing in early help for our young people will not only help to improve outcomes for them, but also provides value for money.

Where young people are living in households that are part of the Stronger Families Programme we want to make sure that the excellent skills of our youth workers are used to support young people and improve conditions for them.

10.2 Team Around the Community:

Many young people choose to meet together and socialise on the streets, in parks and other outdoor areas in communities across County Durham. In some cases the activities of young people do cause concern to local residents and communities.

The development of a "Team Around the Community" model will enable the deployment of outreach youth workers, and other relevant professionals, to areas of concern.

The service will focus on addressing the following areas:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Negative risk-taking behaviour (i.e. alcohol and/or substance misuse)
- Vulnerable young people (e.g. at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation)

A range of partners including Police, Youth Offending Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, Neighbourhood Wardens will support the identification of areas for concern and groups of young people who meet the above criteria. Where appropriate, youth workers, working in partnership with a range of professionals, will be deployed to the identified communities to build effective relationships with young people with the objective to address behaviour that is causing concern and improve relationships between young people and their communities.

This approach will provide a proactive response to young people who may not engage in more traditional or universal youth provision, but who may be at risk of potentially negative outcomes.

10.3 Supporting the progression of young people who are NEET:

There has been a significant focus on supporting young people who are NEET over the past 18 months; given the numbers of NEET young people in County Durham have been higher than the regional or national averages.

The skills of youth workers have been deployed to work alongside a range of other professionals to engage some of the most difficult to reach young people through joint provision in youth clubs and other areas that provide young people with familiar space. Youth Workers have focused on developing the social skills of young people to prepare them for interviews and for the world of work, whilst Personal Advisors have provided help with CVs, careers guidance, identifying training opportunities.

This approach has been successful and has contributed to a reduction in the numbers of young people who are NEET in County Durham during 2014/15.

10.4 Support for Teen Parents:

The Teen Parent Pathway is a 20 week programme which helps teenagers with children develop skills and knowledge such as self-esteem, confidence, sexual health and money management.

Youth workers skills are again utilised to facilitate a group work sessions working closely with Personal Advisors to offer quality information, advice and guidance. The course participants have the opportunity to gain a range of nationally recognised accreditations including Paediatric First Aid, Food Hygiene and Youth Achievement Awards.

Long term benefits of this approach include supporting young parents to tackle any additional barriers to education and employment and supporting them to progress into education, employment or training. These programmes have also

contributed to the much improved NEET figures for County Durham in the last 12 months.

10.5 School Based Support for Young People:

10.6 Team Around the School (TAS):

The TAS approach brings the skill and resource of the One Point Service, including youth workers, directly into a close partnership arrangement with secondary schools. The school identify young people for inclusion in the TAS programme, with the emphasis being upon those young people who may be at risk of exclusion, who are suffering educationally from poor school attendance, who may be presenting behavioural issues at school and at home and/or who may be vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. The TAS work together to agree a joint plan of action to support both individuals and groups of young people.

Early evaluation of this approach has achieved some excellent feedback from schools and staff within the One Point Service. Schools have reported an impact on behaviour, attendance and the maintained inclusion of young people in learning and in school. Staff in the One Point Service report an improvement in information sharing and a better understanding of those young people who require additional support. Youth Workers in particular have reported positively in relation to the effective use of their skills in engaging challenging young people and the positive impact of their interventions, such as improvement in behaviour and attendance.

One teacher said:-

“The young people look forward to the youth workers coming into school. They know that if they misbehave during the week they may be prevented from attending the group work session and this is having a positive impact. One young person has been at risk of permanent exclusion and it is his engagement with the youth worker that is the key factor in maintaining him in school”

The approaches outlined above will form the basis of the future delivery of our Targeted Youth Support Service.

11. Measuring Success

Success will be directly measured against the outcomes experienced by young people.

We will expect more young people will have received help at an earlier point and that outcomes for young people in County Durham will have improved in these areas:-

- Improved school attendance
- Reduced school exclusions
- Reduction in numbers of NEETS
- Reduction in the gap between education attainment of young people in top 30% most deprived SOA and their peers;
- Reduction in the number of children in need and children subject to a child protection plan;

- Reduction in the number of children Looked After by the Local Authority;
- Reduction in re referral rates to Children's Care
- Increase the number of Single Assessments completed by youth workers;
- Reduction in teenage pregnancy
- Reduction in the number of young people presenting to CAMHS;
- All young people who are in receipt of youth support achieve a social and emotional capability outcome.

12. Summary

The Strategy for Youth Support sets out how we will deploy our collective resources to help young people achieve good outcomes. It recognises that some young people need support in a range of areas to succeed and that Council resources need to be targeted to those most in need. Through partnership with the VCS, a local offer of places to go and things to do will be available to all.

This strategy will ensure that those most vulnerable young people are properly identified and supported to achieve good outcomes, in line with their peers in order to narrow the gap in outcomes.

Appendix 4 – Consultation Form

1. What is the consultation about (include what the council is specifically seeking views on)

This document describes how the Council will consult on a proposed new approach to the delivery of youth support. The consultation and proposals take into consideration the required MTFP efficiency savings in relation to youth support.

It is proposed that we will consult on:-

1. A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham
2. Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service
3. Ceasing the existing youth work support grant and the allocation of funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

The council is consulting with young people, parents and carers and other key stakeholders on these proposals.

Durham County Council is proposing a Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham, which is in line with government policy. This will help shape the way youth support is targeted and delivered for those young people in greatest need. The strategy will then form the basis of the proposed new delivery model for a Targeted Youth Support Service.

The changes proposed are designed to ensure those young people in most need of early help and support receive it and that outcomes for young people and their families improve, whilst at the same time reducing the cost base of the service.

It is proposed therefore, that Council resources should be redirected, equitably according to need, so that a targeted youth support service can be provided. This will mean that universal, open access youth work will no longer be funded through the main budget of the Council.

The voluntary and community sector in County Durham provide a wide range of activities for young people to take part in and are in the best position to deliver a universal offer of youth activities.

Durham County Council is proposing to cease the existing youth work support grant and allocate funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

Background

In September 2011, Durham County Council signaled a clear and funded commitment to early help services with the introduction of the integrated One Point Service. The Service brings together practitioners delivering a wide range of interventions and additional support to children and young people aged from 0-19 years and their families.

Youth provision in County Durham is predominantly delivered through open access universal youth sessions available to all young people.

The Council currently provides on average 200 weekly sessions of universal youth provision through 63 youth centres and projects across the County. Much of the provision is delivered in partnership with a range of voluntary and community sector partners in and through community centres. The provision is overseen by voluntary management committees who are supported by One Point Youth Workers.

The aim of service delivery to date has been to offer a wide geographical spread of provision based on an open access offer to all teenagers rather than a targeted approach to those young people who are identified as vulnerable, although a smaller element of targeted youth support has recently been developed by the One Point Service which offers early help to young people aged 13 – 19 years who are identified as having additional needs.

Current performance highlights the need to change this approach; the last full year performance data states the Youth Service had maintained contact (6 or more sessions) with only 2,971 young people of a population of 42,618. This equates to 7% of the total 13 – 19 years population. Of the 2,971 young people only 1,679 young people were identified as living in an area of deprivation. This equates to 9% of young people aged 13 – 19 living in the top 30% most deprived Super Output Area. Outcomes for young people across County Durham are also below regional and national benchmarks in a range of different areas.

The Council's current MTFP requires efficiency savings of approximately £225m from 2011/12 until 2017/18. The Council anticipate further savings of £103m will be required by April 2019. Savings targets for Children and Adults Services (CAS) are currently £16.9m for 2016/17 and £25.2m for 2017/18, with further budget reductions expected for the service in 2018/19.

It is in this context that a saving of approximately £1million is proposed from the Youth Support budget by 2017/18.

The approval of the proposed Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham and subsequent new delivery model will ensure continued support and improved outcomes for vulnerable young people and their families. The proposed model also focuses Council resources on people not buildings and the retention of staffing expertise and experience rather than maintenance of buildings. Transfer of ownership of 6 Youth and Community Centres is being explored with centre management committees through the Durham ASK process of supported asset transfer.

The purpose of the Youth Service Review is to robustly and objectively review the current provision of Youth Services in line with local and national policy drivers, including the Statutory Guidance and the requirements of the County Council's MTFP so that Durham County Council's Children and Adults Services delivers its statutory obligations and allocates resources equitably in order to improve outcomes for young people.

Timescales

The proposed consultation exercise will run for 12 weeks and will start on Monday 1st February until 27th April 2016. A full analysis of the consultation results will then be undertaken and a report presented to Cabinet in Autumn 2016.

Contact Officer

The Project Manager for the Youth Review is Helen Riddell who has established various workstreams to manage and deliver aspects of the project.

Contact Details:

Helen Riddell
Youth Review Project Manager
Tel: 03000268603
Email: helen.riddell@durham.gov.uk

Stakeholders (please list)

The consultation process will involve a range of stakeholders who have an interest in this review and a range of consultation methods will be used to maximise involvement and participation levels from all interested parties. Stakeholder groups include:-

Young People

Parents/Carers

Management Committees of Council Supported Open Access Provision

Area Action Partnerships

Children and Families Partnership

LSCB

Health Partners

Health and Wellbeing Board

Public Health England

Clinical Commissioning Groups

County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust

City Hospitals Sunderland Foundation Trust

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust

North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals Foundation Trust

Members

All Members

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Members of Parliament

Schools

Staff

One Point Staff

Wider Staff within CAS

Other DCC staff

Town and Parish Councillors

Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

Consultation Process and Methods (please list and detail in section 13)

A variety of methods will be used during the consultation to enable all stakeholders to actively participate. This will include:-

Focus Groups with management committees of DCC funded youth clubs and projects
Activity Sessions with young people
Questionnaires for all key stakeholders and any interested party to complete, including parents and carers
Questionnaires for young people
Presentations to Area Action Partnerships
Presentations to a range of partner organisations and key stakeholders

Geographical Area

The review affects the whole County as there are Durham County Council supported youth projects located in all electoral wards/divisions. The consultation aims to gather feedback from all interested parties and will be open to all stakeholders who are directly affected by the proposal.

Key Messages to stakeholders

Key Principles

The review of youth support has incorporated the following:-

Changes in policy direction since 2010;
The extent to which youth service resources are currently allocated according to need in County Durham;
Analysis of need relating to deprivation, using the index of deprivation 2015 (ID 2015);
The current performance of the youth service in relation to contact with young people;
The 2015 County Durham Youth survey;
Outcomes for young people, particularly those that are vulnerable;
The availability of a range of provision for young people delivered by the VCS;
Council maintained Youth & Community Centres;
The need to make required MTFP efficiency saving.

The Council's current MTFP requires efficiency savings of approximately £225m from 2011/12 until 2017/18. The Council anticipates that further savings of £103m will be required by April 2019. Savings targets for Children and Adults Services (CAS) are currently £16.9m for 2016/17 and £25.2m for 2017/18, with further budget reductions expected for the service in 2018/19.

It is in this context that a saving of approx. £1 million is proposed from the Youth Support budget by 2017/18.

Durham County Council is proposing a Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham. This is in line with policy drivers and will help shape the way youth support is targeted and delivered. The changes proposed are designed to ensure those in most need of early help and support receive it and that outcomes for young people and families improve.

It is proposed that Council resources should be redirected equitably according to need, so that a targeted youth support service can be provided. This will mean that universal, open access youth work will no longer be funded through the One Point Service budget.

The voluntary and community sector are in the best position to deliver a universal offer of youth activities in County Durham that young people can access, so we are proposing to redirect the Youth Work Support Grant across each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities.

DCC Website and consultation page content

DCC website: –

link to consultation
Key messages
Link to Strategy
Questionnaires
Summary Sheet

Equality Impact Assessment (who will be impacted and has the EIA form been completed and agreed)

Initial Screening Complete, please see Appendix

Links to other Significant Consultations

N/A

Is this subject to a statutory consultation process (explain)

N/A

2. Communications and consultation process and methods

Activity/Method(s)	Stakeholder(s)	Key message	Lead	Timescale	Status
Activity Session	Young People	As listed in section 8			
Focus Group	Management Committee of DCC funded youth clubs and projects	As listed in section 8			
Questionnaires	Young Person's Questionnaire	As listed in section 8			
	Stakeholder Questionnaire				
	Management Committee of DCC funded youth clubs and projects				
Presentation	Members AAP Forums Children and Families Partnership Health and Wellbeing Board VCS Working Group	As listed in section 8			

3. **Resources and materials required** (e.g. questionnaire development)

Type	How it will be used	Support Needed
Questionnaire	Paper based/online	Development of questions Distribution
Leaflets	Promotion of consultation/Key messages	Methods of communication/engagement of stakeholders
Presentation	Promotion of consultation Content of Proposal/Key Messages	

4. Marketing and Communications tick list			
Internal	✓ / x	External	✓ / x
Employee Update		DCC website & consultation webpage (mandatory)	✓
Intranet	✓	Durham County News	
Members' Update	✓	Press release/news item	
Schools' extranet	✓	Social media including Twitter/Facebook	✓
Team meetings	✓	Consultation/engagement events	✓
Staff email	✓	Surveys – online/paper/phone/email	✓
Team Brief	✓	Direct contact with service users via email/letter	✓
Buzz	✓	Service user meetings	✓
Notice boards	✓	Statutory Notices	
Staff road shows		Literature (leaflets, posters etc)	✓
		Access point screen	
		Other (please state)	
5. Consultation and Communications Risks			
Not enough consultations completed to make the responses viable Key messages delivered inappropriately			
6. Training Needs of Staff (consultation process, engagement, questionnaire development, equalities and EIAs etc.)			
Code of Conduct Consultation process Equalities/EIA Questionnaire development			
7. How public and stakeholder views and comments can be submitted			
Through completion of the questionnaire			
8. Key press spokespersons			
Press and media queries and requests for information will be addressed through established DCC process and the Corporate Press Office. Whilst a general statement will be created describing the review in broad terms, there may be a need, as the review progresses, for CAS spokespersons to be provided, they will be: a. Corporate Director of CAS			

- b. Head of Children's Services
- c. Strategic Manager Children's Services Reform

9. Post consultation feedback to stakeholders and consultation participants

Feedback will be delivered to stakeholders through a range of methods including

- Website notifications
- General feedback summary letter to affected management groups
- Young people through youth projects and schools
- Cabinet reports

10. How you will evaluate the consultation

Consultation will be subject to constant monitoring during the consultation period, this will allow for any issues to be easily identified and addressed. Reflective practice and processes will be in place and encouraged within the consultation working group and progress reports produced.

11. Decision Making and Reporting Dates

11 th November 2015-	Report to CMT
4 th December 2015 -	Cabinet pre-agenda meeting
7 th December 2015 -	Labour Group
4 th January 2016 -	Cabinet pre-agenda meeting
11 th January 2016 -	Cabinet briefing meeting
13 th January 2016 -	Cabinet decision – permission to consult

Appendix 5 – General Questionnaire Responses

General Questionnaire Responses		
Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham		
Do you agree or disagree with our vision for youth support?	Number of Responses	Responses as a %
Agree	166	62%
Unsure	34	13%
Disagree	68	25%
Total	268	100%

General Questionnaire Responses		
Proposal 2: Deploy Council Resources in accordance of need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service		
Do you agree or disagree with our proposal for youth support?	Number of Responses	Responses as a %
Agree	79	30%
Unsure	31	12%
Disagree	155	58%
Total	265	100%

General Questionnaire Responses		
Proposal 3: Ceasing the Youth Work Support Grant and allocating the remaining funding across each AAP to address local priorities linked to youth activities		
Do you agree or disagree with our proposal?	Number of Responses	Responses as a %
Agree	77	29%
Unsure	50	19%
Disagree	140	52%
Total	267	100%

Appendix 6 –Management Committee Questionnaire Responses

Management Committee Questionnaire Responses		
Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham		
Do you Agree with our Vision for Youth Support?	Number of Responses	Response Rate as a %
Agree	5	33%
Unsure	2	13%
Disagree	8	53%
Total	15	100%

Management Committee Questionnaire Responses		
Proposal 2: Deploy Council Resources in accordance of need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service		
Do you Agree or disagree with our Proposal?	Number of Responses	Response Rate as a %
Agree	5	36%
Unsure	2	14%
Disagree	7	50%
Total	14	100%

Management Committee Questionnaire Responses		
Proposal 3: Ceasing the Youth Work Support Grant and allocating the remaining funding across each AAP to address local priorities linked to youth activities		
Do you Agree or disagree with our Proposal?	Number of Responses	Response Rate as a %
Agree	1	7%
Unsure	5	36%
Disagree	8	57%
Total	14	100%

Appendix 7 – Young Person’s Questionnaire Responses

Young Person’s Questionnaire				
Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham				
Do you agree or disagree with our vision?	Service User Responses		Non Service User Responses	
	Number of Responses	Responses as a %	Number of Responses	Responses as a %
Agree	194	27%	53	63%
Unsure	92	13%	16	19%
Disagree	428	60%	15	18%
Total	714	100%	84	100%

Young Person’s Questionnaire				
Proposal 2: Deploy Council resources according to need to deliver a Targeted Youth Support Service				
Do you agree or disagree with our Proposal?	Service User Responses		Non Service User Responses	
	Number of Responses	Responses as a %	Number of Responses	Responses as a %
Agree	76	11%	41	50%
Unsure	67	9%	10	12%
Disagree	568	80%	31	38%
Total	711	100%	84	100%

Young Person’s Questionnaire				
Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham				
Do you agree or disagree with our Proposal?	Service User Responses		Non Service User Responses	
	Number of Responses	Responses as a %	Number of Responses	Responses as a %
Agree	99	14%	33	41%
Unsure	130	18%	19	23%
Disagree	475	68%	29	36%
Total	704	100%	84	100%

Appendix 8 – Equality Impact Assessment

Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have ‘due regard’ to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	CAS, Children’s Services
Lead Officer	Carole Payne
Title	Head of Children’s Services
MTPF Reference (if relevant)	CAS 5.15
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	14.09.16
Start Date	01.04.15, Updated 22.01.16
Review Date	September 2017

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

Durham County Council is proposing a new approach to **Youth Support in County Durham**, which is in line with government policy, will help shape the way youth support is targeted and delivered for those young people in greatest need. This strategy will then form the basis of the proposed new model for a Targeted Youth Support service.

A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham and report outlining the proposals of a Targeted Youth Support Service was presented to Cabinet on 13.01.16 for consideration and agreement of a public consultation to seek the public view on the proposals.

Consultation Plan

Cabinet gave permission to carry out a 12 week consultation with stakeholders between 02.02.16 to 27.04.16 on the following proposals:

Proposal 1: A Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham

Proposal 2: Deploy council resources according to need to deliver a targeted Youth Support Service

Proposal 3: The cessation of the existing youth work support grant and the allocation of funding to each Area Action Partnership (AAP) to address local priorities linked to youth services.

A consultation plan and timeline was developed in preparation for public consultation. The communications plan aimed to ensure that all stakeholders including service users, employees, partners and elected members were given full opportunities to provide views on the proposed future of delivery. Feedback will be used to inform the development of our approach and to update this impact assessment.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Youth Service users, young people aged 13 - 19 years, parents, Elected Members, Council supported management groups delivering open access youth provision, partners and employees.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	Y	Y
Disability	Y	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N	Y
Race (ethnicity)	N	N
Religion or Belief	N	N
Sex (gender)	N	N
Sexual orientation	N	N
Transgender	N	N

Please provide brief details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

The proposals contained in the consultation on future youth service provision is likely to have some impact on service users and their carers, families and friends. No changes to the current service delivery will be made until the consultation has concluded and Cabinet has made a final decision. Going forward any changes to the delivery model agreed by Cabinet that have a potential negative impact will be examined in section 2 of this assessment in conjunction with the consultation results.

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

Consultation was designed to be inclusive and capture the views on a future service delivery model from a wide range of stakeholders including service users, partners and elected members.

The proposed new delivery model aims to deploy council resources according to need to deliver a targeted Youth Support Service which will have a positive impact for the most vulnerable service users.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

Supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people (Stonewall):
http://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/an_introduction_to_supporting_lgbt_young_people_-_a_guide_for_schools_2015.pdf

Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIREs):
<http://www.gires.org.uk/education/information-for-educators>

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Y
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	N

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off:	Date: 21.10.15
Service equality representative sign off:	Date: 21.10.15

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at equalities@durham.gov.uk

Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details on impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups, advancing equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers for and/or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions. Devise and record mitigating actions where necessary.

Protected Characteristic: Age		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Record of evidence to support or explain your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Durham County Council recognises that the need to shift the emphasis of council delivered youth support, in line with local and national youth policy, from a universal service for all young people towards a needs-led targeted model that reaches those young people in greatest need will mean that not all young people will have access to council youth support.</p>	<p>6% of all young people in County Durham access the service regularly. Outcomes across a range of indicators for young people who live in an identified area of deprivation in County Durham continue to be poor in comparison with their peers. The shift towards a targeted model will see an increase in sustained contact between youth workers and vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Total response rate for the consultation was 2% of the 13 – 19 years county-wide population this has been considered alongside additional evidence, in order to give a comprehensive cross section of young people. 19% of young people in the same age group responded to the Student Voice Survey 2015, this data confirmed that 60% of young people do not wish to attend organised clubs or activities.</p> <p>Feedback received through consultation showed that 62% of adults agreed with the vision set out within the Strategy for Youth Support in County Durham, stating that council resources should be focused towards those young people in greatest need.</p> <p>Responses from young people where looked at in relation to service users and young people who do not use the One Point Service Youth Service. Of young people who do not use the</p>	<p>Ensure that transition arrangements are in place for current service users and communicate the new model of youth support to young people, parents/carers and partners as part of an implementation plan.</p>

	<p>service 63% agreed with the vision, 19% were unsure and 18% disagreed. In comparison 27% of services users agreed with the vision, 13% were unsure and 60% disagreed.</p> <p>In relation to the proposed delivery model, 50% of non-service users endorsed the proposals, 12% were unsure and 38% disagreed. Of the current service users, 11% agreed, 9% were unsure and 80% disagreed.</p>	
<p>Young people will be targeted through a range of delivery models including Team Around the Family, Team Around the Community, NEET re engagement opportunities, Teen Parent Pathway and Team Around the School (TAS). These targeted approaches will be a mix of 1-1 work and group activities and will compliment, not duplicate, other service providers and will work alongside the VCS.</p>	<p>Service held performance data shows some improvement in areas where targeted work is becoming embedded, this includes reduced numbers of young people who are NEET, improved contact and progression with young parents and positive feedback from schools in relation to TAS.</p>	<p>Mechanisms are put in place to allow for rigorous monitoring and review processes to assess the ongoing impact of the new service delivery model on outcomes for young people, identify gaps.</p>
<p>As demonstrated through the countywide mapping exercise of youth activities, a wide range of universal activities exists across County Durham so that those young people who wish to take part in organised clubs and activities can do so.</p>	<p>Over 1000 active community based projects and clubs offering activities for young people to take part in their leisure time.</p>	<p>Ensuring that County Durham's Families Information Service is promoted to children, young people and their families as a tool to access local information relating to activities for young people to participate in their leisure time.</p>

<p>Young people aged 13 – 19 years who live in Durham’s more remote communities may be more likely to face rural/social isolation</p>	<p>Evidence also states that young people who suffer social isolation are more likely to have cognitive and social impairments as adults, with risks accumulating throughout their life course. These young people are five times more likely to report self-harm or attempt suicide and are four times more likely to have long absences from school.</p> <p>VCS mapping exercise showed limited youth activities provision in some rural communities.</p>	<p>Strengthen the strategy and subsequent targeted youth support by giving consideration to young people at risk of social isolation</p>
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Protected Characteristic: Disability		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The proposed delivery model acknowledges that some young people with a disability may also require support through the targeted model. It also recognises the impact that may occur if a young person lives in a household with a disabled parent. The delivery model will ensure that any young person with an identified additional need will have access, where appropriate to youth support.</p>	<p>Some disabled young people may require additional support to progress into post 16 learning/training or employment opportunities. The targeted model will contribute to addressing these issues.</p> <p>Responses from disabled people completing the general questionnaire account for approx. 8% of all responses.</p> <p>Of the 20 respondents from the general questionnaire who stated they had a disability, 60% agreed with the vision and endorsed the strategy, 10% were unsure and 30% disagreed. In relation to the delivery model 25% agreed, 15% were unsure and 60% disagreed. When asked about the proposed transfer of grants 20% agreed, 40% were unsure and 40% disagreed.</p>	<p>Ensure that links exist between specialist services and that appropriate signposting arrangements are in place.</p> <p>The continued inclusion of the Local Offer and Children and Young People’s Network as key strands within the Council’s wider communications plan.</p> <p>Ensure that disabled young people who require support have access to a range of opportunities available to them including the local offer where appropriate.</p>

Protected Characteristic: Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A		

Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and maternity		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The proposed new strategy recognises that teen parents require additional support, therefore the delivery model has been developed to ensure that these young people receive an appropriate service and are supported to ensure that they achieve good outcomes for themselves and for their children.	<p>Data shows that County Durham's rate of teenage pregnancies stands at 28.5% per 1000 population, this is higher than the national average of 22.8%. The Teen Parent Pathway has recognised this and aims to improve outcomes and progression routes for these young people.</p> <p>Although numbers of teen parents that have responded to the consultation are low, data from the evaluation of the Teen Parent Pathway to date shows significant improvements in progression for the majority of attendees and positive feedback has been received.</p>	Ensure that all services are working in partnership to identify young people to participate in the Teen Parent Pathway and support them to engage

Protected Characteristic: Race (ethnicity)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The change of delivery model will not have an additional impact in terms of ethnicity. Other providers of youth activities and opportunities will be able to meet the needs of these young people in the same way that current council open access provision does.	Consultation responses show that 98% of responses which specified ethnicity were white British. One person identified themselves as mixed race and 1 as other.	That appropriate signposting to specialist services is in place if necessary

Protected Characteristic: Religion or belief		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
Whilst the proposals do not directly impact on any young person due to faith or belief, the review acknowledges that faith groups deliver activities for young people.	The mapping exercise has highlighted the large number of faith organisations offering opportunities for young people in their leisure time. What has been evidenced is that many of these organisations offer activities for all young people not just those of their own denomination or congregation.	Make available information on faith based organisations to all through the inclusion of the mapping data onto County Durham' Families Information service.

Protected Characteristic: Sex (gender)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
The proposed new delivery model does not discriminate on gender, any young person who is identified as requiring additional help and support will receive it regardless of sex.	Consultation responses were received by 47% male respondents 53% female respondents.	

Protected Characteristic: Sexual orientation		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Whilst open access sessions are available to Lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) young people, the proposed delivery model recognises that many young people who identify as LGB do not usually access universal services. Current arrangements see young people often signposted to more specialised services within the VCS.</p> <p>The proposed targeted model will complement existing specialist provision and allow for a more personalised approach with these young people encouraging improved contact rates with LGB young people</p>	<p>LGB young people are more likely to self-harm or to attempt suicide than other young people. (Source: Stonewall)</p> <p>Bullying has a severe impact on the well-being, attainment and aspirations of LGB students. Seven out of ten students who have experienced homophobic bullying say it has had an impact on their schoolwork; half say they have skipped school to avoid bullies. In some cases, the exclusion of LGB people from the curriculum, and the reinforcement of negative messages around sexual orientation and gender identity, can severely affect self-esteem. (Source: Stonewall)</p>	<p>Information, advice, guidance and early help made available for all LGB young people through the targeted model.</p> <p>Signposting/referrals into specialised support services where appropriate</p>

Protected Characteristic: Transgender		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Whilst open access sessions are available for transgender young people, the targeted delivery model recognises that transgender young people do not usually access universal services. Current arrangements see young people often signposted to more specialised services within the VCS.</p> <p>The proposed targeted model will complement existing specialist provision and allow for a more personalised approach with these young people encouraging improved contact rates with trans young people</p>	<p>Around 1% of people are gender variant. Although the number who reveal their gender variance in childhood or adolescence is rising, it is still the case that the majority are likely to remain hidden during their school years, because the environment is perceived to be hostile, so they fear rejection and discrimination. However, this is improving as understanding grows, and society and the law become more supportive. (Source: GIRES)</p> <p>Transgender young people are more likely to self-harm or to attempt suicide than other young people. (Source: Stonewall)</p> <p>Of the young people accessing specialised support in County Durham 90% have experienced self-harm, eating disorders and substance misuse (Source: DISC County Durham)</p>	<p>Information, advice, guidance and early help will be offered to all identified transgender young people through the targeted model.</p> <p>Signposting/referrals into specialised support services where appropriate</p>

Section Three: Conclusion and Review

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings stating the main impacts, both positive and negative, across the protected characteristics.

The equality analysis has identified potential impacts in terms of age, disability, pregnancy and maternity.

The proposed strategy for youth support in County Durham and subsequent proposal to target service delivery towards young people in the greatest need will have a positive impact on those young people. The proposed model will ensure that services effectively target vulnerable young people, initial evidence in support of this has been demonstrated through the introduction of the Teen Parent Pathway, Team Around the School and work with NEET young people. The proposed new model will further develop this work.

The proposed delivery model acknowledges that disabled young people are a targeted group. It also recognises the impact that may occur if a young person lives in a household with a disabled parent. The delivery model will ensure that any young

person with an identified additional need will have access, where appropriate, to youth support.

The assessment recognises that the proposal to cease the open access youth clubs will mean that not all young people will have access to Council youth provision. The mapping exercise carried out as part of the review highlighted a significant amount VCS projects and organisations which deliver alternative open access youth activities across the majority of the county. Ensuring that the mapped information gathered on alternative youth provision is made available to the general public through the Families Information Service and that people are aware of how to access this will serve to mitigate the negative impact of universal service withdrawal. Ensuring that targeted youth support is sufficiently promoted with young people and their families as well as with all partner agencies will ensure we reach those most in need.

Feedback received via the consultation highlighted that there is a lack of alternative youth provision in County Durham's most rural communities. This assessment has identified that the strategy and subsequent targeted youth support approach would be enhanced by considering young people at risk of social isolation in the context of targeted support.

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

A shift in emphasis in line with local and national youth policy, from universal Council youth provision for all young people towards a needs-led targeted model that reaches those young people in greatest need will provide support to the most vulnerable young people and their families and promote community cohesion. Ensuring the mapped information gathered on alternative youth support provision is made available to the general public through the Families Information Service, and that people are aware of how to access it, will serve to mitigate the negative impact of universal service withdrawal and continue to support community cohesion. The recommendation to consider young people at risk of social isolation as an additional indicator of vulnerability, due to the lack of alternative provision in rural areas, will further support county-wide community cohesion.

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation	In which plan will the action appear?
Ensuring that County Durham's Families Information Service is made available and promoted to children, young people and their families as a tool to access local information relating to activities for young people to	CAS Communications and Marketing	Ongoing	CAS Families Information Plan

participate in their leisure time including faith based organisations.			
Communicate the new model of youth support to young people, parents/carers and partners as part of implementation.	One Point Service	February 2017	Youth Support Implementation Plan
Mechanisms are put in place to allow for regular monitoring and review processes to assess the ongoing impact of the new service delivery model, identify gaps and make improvements where necessary.	One Point Service	Annual Performance Review	Youth Support Implementation Plan
Strengthen the strategy and subsequent targeted youth support by considering young people at risk of social isolation for Cabinet approval.	Project Team	Autumn 2016	Youth Support Project Plan
Ensure the continued inclusion of the Local Offer and Children and Young People's Network as key strands within the Council's wider communications plan so that opportunities for young people with disabilities are widely communicated.	CAS Communications and Marketing Team	Ongoing	
Ensure that all services are working in partnership to identify young people to participate in the Teen Parent Pathway and supported to engage.	One Point Service	Autumn 2016	Youth Support Implementation Plan
Signposting/referrals into specialised support services where appropriate. E.g:	First Contact Service	Autumn 2016	Youth Support Implementation Plan

Information, advice, guidance and early help made available for all LGB&T young people.			
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Review

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken? (Y/N)	No
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	September 2017

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Head of Children's Services	Date:26.06.16
Service equality representative sign off: Strategic Manager, Service Quality and Development	Date: 19.08.16

Please return the completed form to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk