



Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 7 January 2022**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

Items which are open to the Press and Public
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chair's agreement,
and if registered to speak

1. Apologies for absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2021 (Pages 3 - 14)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Child Poverty in County Durham
 - a) Report of Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 15 - 40)
 - b) Presentation by Strategic Manager One Point Service and Think Family and Research and Consultation Officer (Pages 41 - 52)
7. Free School Meals - Report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 53 - 60)
8. Quarter 2 21/22 Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 61 - 80)
9. Quarter 2 21/22 Revenue and Capital Outturn Report - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 81 - 96)
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
23 December 2021

To: **The Members of the Children and Young People's Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor C Hood (Chair)
Councillor J Cosslett (Vice-Chair)

Councillors C Bell, R Charlton-Lainé, M Currah, J Griffiths, O Gunn,
C Hunt, L Kennedy, C Lines, C Martin, L Mavin, D Mulholland, A Reed,
K Rooney, S Townsend, C Varty, E Waldock and M Walton

Faith Communities Representatives:
Mrs C Johnston

Parent Governor Representatives:

Co-opted Members:
Ms R Evans and Mrs P Parkins

Contact: Paula Nicholson Tel: 03000 269710

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Monday 15 November 2021 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Hood (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Cosslett, O Gunn, C Hunt, C Martin, A Reed, K Rooney, C Varty, P Jopling, J Miller and S Deinali

Co-opted Member:

Ms R Evans

Also Present:

Councillors R Crute, J Howey and M Simmons

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Bell, M Currah, L Mavin, D Mulholland, S Townsend, E Waldock and M Walton.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor P Jopling substituted for Councillor M Walton, Councillor J Miller substituted for Councillor D Mulholland and Councillor S Denali substituted for Councillor E Waldock.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Any Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Update

The Committee considered a presentation by the Head of Service, Durham & Darlington CAMHS, and the Director of Operations, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust (TEWVFT) that provided members with an update on inpatient beds for young people across the North East & North Cumbria; overview of the Mental Health, Learning Disability & Autism Partnership; waiting times for community CAMHS in Durham; challenges, opportunities and future plans (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The Head of Service advised that the hospital previously known as West Lane was now called Acklam Road Hospital following a consultation with children, parents and carers to rename it and beds were now open on Lotus Ward. This was now managed by Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust (CNTWFT) following intervention by NHS England and there was now a clear pathway with CAMHS TEWVFT and CNTWFT and in the last six months since CNTWFT took over this facility admissions were much smoother. There were challenges relating to inpatient beds, but this was also reflected nationally.

Members were informed that referrals into CAMHS were now back to pre March 2020 levels and that waiting times were reducing in some areas of the county.

The Head of Service advised Members that the systemwide neurodevelopment pathway went live in County Durham in early October 2021. They had been working on this for the last 18 months and would provide members with an update on this service at a later date.

She then advised that the Community Eating Disorder Team had received some new investment in 2021, that had resulted in a reduction in the waiting times for referrals so that they were now in line with national waiting times.

The waiting times for Autism and ADHD diagnostic assessment were currently between 18 months and 2 years and these waiting times were reflected nationally too. Those families could access interventions and support to meet their needs while waiting for the diagnostic assessment.

Members were also advised that 11 of the 13 Primary Care Networks had signed up to the joint partnership where specialist mental health staff would be working within GP practices across the County.

They also now had a new process in place to keep in touch with families in the system in line with their needs that would be monitored and gave assurance that there was no young person in their service they did not have line of sight of.

Councillor Gunn thanked the Officer for her presentation and commented that she was aware of how challenging the issues were affecting children and young people in terms of mental health, learning disability and Autism, and commented that the waiting times were not what they would like to see, and they would like them to be much less.

She then referred to the Parent and Carers Forum and advised that she was able to signpost those who had caring responsibilities for children and young people with mental health issues and asked how widely this service was shared within communities as it was important to make people aware of the service.

The Head of Service responded that in terms of the specialist provision that they provided a website, but this could be difficult to navigate. However, it was not always about a referral into a specialist mental health and disability service as there was so much, that could be done to support young people in other ways. There was a wealth of work taking place across County Durham that could meet children and young people's needs much earlier by a different part of the system. They were all working together to make sure that they could get that system advertised in a way that young people, families and carers could get to the right place quickly.

Councillor Hunt asked what happened to monitor those young people who were on the 28-day waiting list as things could change very quickly. She also asked about recruitment and if the service employed apprentices who had experience of life in addition to university qualifications graduates.

The Head of Service responded that the 4-hour and 24-hour response was in relation to the Crisis Team, who operate on a 24/7 basis. The 24-hour response was also through the crisis team but was when a young person who does not need immediate support or was in a safe place, but it would be helpful for them to be seen within 24 hours and have a conversation with them. The 28 days was a core routine referral into their service, but there was an ability to self-refer into the service and those people were made aware if things deteriorated, they could call straight back for help. Often a referral would come from a GP or a school and that service would continue to support the young person and the family until the initial assessment had taken place. The more information received in referrals the greater the ability to assess clinical priorities. She then advised that the CAMHS service did not currently have apprenticeships, but there were apprenticeships within the TEWVFT. CAMHS had used a number of volunteers in the last year such as drivers to get families and young people to appointments and agreed they needed to widen that skills mix.

Councillor Reed thanked the Officer for the information contained in the presentation. She was concerned if there was support for parents who did not have the skills to deal with some of the serious issues that their children were bringing to them, in particular teenagers.

The Head of Service advised there was support available, but it was across services such as Durham County Council's early Help Service, but the issue was to navigate through the system whilst under pressure and work was ongoing to improve the system.

It was also changing people's beliefs of who and what services were the best to meet their needs, and the right service to help the parents and carers may not be the same service for the young person and how did they make sure that there was access available to these services.

They had two parent/carer support groups across Durham and had achieved some real successes with a small pilot where they used a support group to navigate those parents who were struggling to a drop-in session where the service attended the session to meet those family's needs, who had indicated that they would not have been able to go to their GP for a referral, ultimately it was about finding creative ways to address the health and social care needs of families.

Councillor Miller indicated that everyone's mental health following the pandemic was really important. He was concerned at the 2-year waiting time for an Autism and ADHD diagnosis and while he appreciated that there was 24/7 telephone support for those parents, a phone call during such long period was not much support and asked what was being done to reduce waiting times, what other support parents could access during the waiting time and what support was given on that phone call.

The Head of Service advised that the 24/7 help line was to the crisis team and was available for anyone. For parents/carers whose children were waiting for a diagnosis the help line was not the only available option for young people, parents and carers waiting for an assessment, there were other services that could help them. Although the diagnostic assessment was with CAMHS it was a multi-agency pathway, and as such involved partners from other agencies such as Harrogate and District Foundation Trust, Durham County Council Education Services and third sector organisations and these other partners provide support with services locally to children, young people, parents and carers awaiting a diagnosis to meet their needs. When a young person or the people around them feel they may need an assessment there was a multi-disciplinary pathway and a multi-agency pathway for example a SENCO within a school would be able to complete that referral form that would go to a panel where CAMHS staff were represented along with other agencies who would assess the referral and consider what services would best meet the young person's needs with or without the need to go onto the waiting list for a diagnostic assessment.

The Head of Service added that due to government restrictions assessments could not take place as this type of assessment could not be carried out remotely and this had led to a backlog. However, with changes in the system they were now realising that some people on the waiting list were getting their needs met through other services and don't need to wait for a diagnostic assessment. Now assessments were once again taking place it was hoped to reduce the 18 months to two year waiting period for assessments.

Councillor Varty stated that she had received comments this week from two families who had children with severe problems, one was due to go to secondary school and was still waiting for an autism diagnosis which his parent was concerned about. She was interested to hear that there was help available as the parent had informed her that she was not getting any help. Some parents had taken their children out of school due to bullying and as a result had to leave their jobs to enable them to look after the children. She asked that families and carers were made aware of how to access help and support available to them.

The Head of Service agreed with Councillor Varty that the service was difficult for parents/carers to navigate. She assured the councillor that this was an area currently being worked on with partners to make it easier for parents and carers to find the information they needed.

Councillor Jopling asked if the increase in referrals could be set out as percentages for those that were directly linked to COVID-19 such as a 10% increase and how does this relate to the service's recruitment?

The Head of Service advised that it was difficult to put a figure on this and expressed that the service was expecting a surge in referrals in September 2020, when children returned to school, however that did not happen.

The Director of Operations added that from a trust perspective in October 2021 they received 3000 referrals into CAMHS across the trust area, the largest number of referrals since 2015. The trust intended to monitor the situation to see if this was a blip in October or whether this increase is sustained during November and December.

The Head of Service advised she had worked in Mental Health for a number of years and found that the last 18 months had helped to destigmatise mental health issues, as some people had not realised, they had mental health issues such as anxiety. There has been a lot of helpful promotion about mental health over the last 18 months that had helped people to seek help when needed.

The Director of Operations advised that within the numbers there were areas of Children's mental health that had risen. Children and young people with eating

disorders had almost doubled and additional information could be provided to show this at a future meeting.

In response to Councillor Jopling's question as to whether this had caused staff problems the Director of Operations advised that this was a specialist area where specific staffing were required. The service had managed to recruit dieticians, but it had been a challenge and the service was still working with staff investment from 2014 when the service received approximately 60-70 referrals, but this year there was approximately 170 referrals into the service. The Head of service advised that working with the new system the needs of some of these young people could be met elsewhere.

In response to a question from Councillor Gunn regarding Kooth, the Head of Service confirmed that the Kooth service had been commissioned and had been well received

Councillor Rooney indicated that as a youth worker she had experience of some young people waiting in excess of 30 weeks for a CAMHS referral. Often self-harm was a major factor in these referrals and her main concern was when a young person threatens serious harm to themselves and they were directed to the crisis team, and there were occasions where young people could not get through having tried for in excess of 90 minutes and indicated that this needed to be addressed.

The Head of Service responded that the service was aware the systems changed last year due to COVID from a local number to one national number and from a children's crisis perspective they had received a lot of feedback to say that the system that now was not as good as when they had a local number. The Head of Service would take the members views back and indicated that she would like to know of any children waiting more than 30 weeks unless it was an autism or ADHD assessment.

Councillor Hunt thanked the Officers for their honesty and transparency.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their presentation and indicated that the advice and support for the new development pathway was wonderful and asked what benefits merging with CNTWFT brought for the people of County Durham.

The Head of Service advised that in terms of beds there was a decision taken that TEWV could no longer provide them, and NHS England made the decision that CNTWFT would provide the beds, but this was not a merger, CNTWFT manages the beds. TEWV has no inpatient beds and were a community based service. The benefits were that they now had beds that they could access locally.

Resolved: That the contents of the presentation be noted.

7 Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health to update Members on the children and young people's mental health, emotional wellbeing and resilience local transformation plan and key areas of work (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Consultant in Public Health was in attendance to present the report and talked about the national and local level in relation to children and young people's mental health; impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, workforce development particularly in areas of training and awareness; partnership work, specific areas of focus; opportunities for improvement; the wellbeing approach and next steps.

The report highlighted the challenges specially the greater impact of COVID 19 on children and young people for example a child of eight has had a quarter of its life living through a pandemic which is very significant for children.

Members were advised that half of the mental health problems seen in adults had started in childhood and it was important that these problems were addressed.

The report provided Members with links to the Rainbow Guides.

In response to a question on the impact of long COVID on children's mental health and emotional wellbeing the Consultant in Public Health responded that this was still being quantified and the NHS Trust were doing some work around long term COVID. The disease was mild in most children however where children did suffer long term affects, they would be supported by their GP who would refer them to a paediatrician if necessary.

Ms Evans asked when this information was available, could this be shared with Members of the committee.

The Consultant in Public Health indicated that she would ask for a response on this and share with Members through committee services.

Councillor Hunt referred to schools having to use pupil premium to pay for pastoral and health workers and asked if there was any funding available, as the pastoral work was making a huge difference.

The Consultant in Public Health indicated that the financial aspects of school budgets were not within her remit, but they used the money from the Community Outbreak Management Fund to secure funding for training which was a benefit for all schools in the county who had access to a training place on youth aware mental health first aid. Other provision were available through education psychology services working in schools across the council.

Councillor Gunn referred again to the Kooth app and asked how it would be developed and monitored. She then referred to the health and wellbeing framework for schools and educational settings that had been successfully trialled by 25 schools and suggested that this could be promoted via governing bodies and members of the Council. Her third question referred to paragraph 7 of the report and suggested that young carers be added to the list of vulnerable children and young people as they should be included in those receiving additional support.

The Consultant in Public Health responded that Kooth was commissioned nationally through the NHS, it was a validated programme and could be assured in terms on quality. The Health and Wellbeing Framework in terms of schools, working with elected members was important and would take that suggestion back. She advised members that youth mental health first aid was available to schools and school governors and the next course would be held on the 26 November and she would highly recommend that session. Any children who had additional vulnerability was likely to have additional risks in terms of their risk in developing mental health issues. The Rainbow guides were helpful in sharing some of that key information including colleagues across services and the voluntary sector who support vulnerable groups including young carers.

The Chair thanked the Consultant in Public Health for her report.

Resolved: (i) That the contents of the report be noted.

(ii) That the work of the County Durham Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Partnership Group be acknowledged and endorsed.

8 Key Findings and Actions to Ofsted Focussed Visit - July 2021

The committee considered the report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service that provided Members with information in relation to the key findings and actions in response to Ofsted focussed visit in July 2021, a copy of which was circulated with the report (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Head of Children's Social Care was in attendance to deliver a presentation that set out the key themes of the focussed Ofsted inspection which took place in July 2021. It also highlighted the services intention to build on strengths identified and any areas where actions were required (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The Head of Service explained that focussed visits were part of the broader inspection framework for children's services. A full inspection of Children's Services took place in September 2019 and these full inspections were usually on a three year cycle and within this cycle every local authority can expect to get at least one

focussed visit, which concentrate on specific areas of the service and in addition to this there is always an annual conversation between senior officers and Ofsted to discuss their current assessment of their services through a self evaluation.

The Head of Service advised that focussed visits were not graded judgements, but Ofsted provided a detailed letter which incorporates all their findings and any areas for improvement.

The presentation highlighted the key themes and the Head of Service informed members that the feedback from Ofsted was very positive. There were also areas identified where further work was needed such as young people who were in supported living arrangements that required a more thorough assessment of their needs prior to them moving. The service advised inspectors that there was a small number of children living with carers who didn't meet fostering regulations but who had oversight from the court, and this was an area of work which the service and Ofsted agreed needed some improvement work.

The Service had informed Ofsted prior to the focussed visit that they had some placement sufficiency challenges, which was an issue both regionally and nationally. In order to meet the needs of some of our children and young people they needed to ensure they have sufficient and appropriate placements to meet their needs.

Councillor Reed thanked the officer for her presentation and indicated that she had worked for 10 years as a foster carer for children which was hard work but very rewarding. She indicated that she was successful in those 10 years due to the fantastic team of social workers behind her and was pleased that this had been highlighted by Ofsted.

Councillor Reed added that in her opinion it was better for children and young people who were looked after to be placed in foster care rather than in a children's home and asked why the authority were considering opening children's homes and from a financial point of view was it best to open more care homes or to look for more foster carers, as she believed children needed attachment. Councillor Reed said that she was aware that the county council had closed some of their children's homes in the past and asked what was the thinking behind the U-turn.

The Head of Children's Social Care thanked Councillor Reed for her comments that she would pass on to staff in the fostering team. She indicated that Councillor Reed was right for the vast majority of children living in a stable foster care placement either with their extended family or through a mainstream foster carer was absolutely what they would want for their children and was the best place in terms of their needs being met. The focus on recruiting new and additional foster carers to meet the needs of children was central to the sufficiency strategy. However, there were some young people usually older children whose experience of family life and sometimes living in foster care had been very traumatic for them and living in a

children's home was a better option for them in terms of meeting their needs. The number of children in care homes was a small percentage of children that the authority cared for and tended to be children with multiple and complex needs as a result of the trauma they had experienced.

County Durham still had two children's care homes that were relatively large, these larger homes could potentially care for five children but often there was only four children in the home as a result of the needs of children. Going forward, the strategy was about looking for even smaller homes that would only have one or two children within them that reflected the needs of the children, and were carefully matched as they had recognised, they struggled to live alongside lots of other young people. The proposed homes would look and feel very different to historic care homes. Overall, the sufficiency Strategy looked to acknowledge there was a wide range of children in the service with a wide range of needs and therefore required a wide range of options to best meet the needs of each child in their care.

Councillor Gunn also thanked the Officer for her presentation and commented that children's social care was one of the most challenging services with lots of layers and funding pressures on the service. She fully supported the opening of new Durham County Council children's residential care homes where it was necessary, and that the officer had pointed out the rationale behind this. This could be done whilst they work with independent residential care providers which was excellent and felt it was a much better option for Durham County Council. She then referred to the action to respond to the quality of assessment for young people living in supported accommodation and the transition for young people in care was one of the key issues that they must address. She asked about working with commissioning colleagues to increase the number of choices for young people and how this was going to be done.

The Head of Children's Social Care indicated that they had a wide range of providers who they worked with who provided high quality supported living options for some of the older young people where this meets their needs. They wanted to continue to develop this framework so that there was as much choice for young people who might want that option, with a particular focus on younger people who may have more complex needs, particularly care leavers over the age of 18. The work undertaken with commissioning colleagues was understanding the needs of the cohort people and have as much choice and options as possible for young people to be able to access.

Councillor Hunt referred to a recent Children In Care Council (CICC) awards ceremony ran by some of the young people who highlighted that they were not aware of the employability scheme in Durham County Council for children in care and asked if this could be looked at.

The Head of Children's Social Care responded that this would continue to be part of the work that they do and there was a lot of information, but there was a lot going

on for children and young people so was a conversation they needed to continue to have with them to make sure they were aware of some of the opportunities that the council offered to them. All young people had personal assistants if over 18 years, and if under the age of 18 than they would have a social worker who would work with them through their plans in terms of their future. A lot of young people get support from the likes of Durham Works who would help them think about opportunities, work placements, apprenticeships etc. The issues about communication and making sure everyone was aware of what was available to them were continued conversations that they were committed to having with children and young people. A lot of work had been done on the website in terms of care leaver offer over the last year that was easily accessible, they could direct young people to the website but there was nothing better than sitting alongside a young person and really helping them to think through what that might look like for them. She suggested that Members may want to look at opportunities for care leavers at a future meeting.

The Chair thanked the Head of Children's Social Care for her report and presentation.

Resolved: That the report and presentation be noted.

Ms Evans left the meeting at 11.18 am

9 Corporate Parenting Annual Report - Report of the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel

The Committee considered the report of the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel that presented the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2020-21, a copy of which had been circulated (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Annual Report 2020-21 was agreed by the Corporate Parenting Panel at its meeting on 2 July 2021 and endorsed by Council at its meeting on 20 October 2021.

Councillor Simmons, Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel was in attendance to present the report and thanked Councillor I Jewel the previous Corporate Parenting Panel Chair and all the young people who made the annual report possible. She then alluded to some of the achievements that they were particularly proud of such as the work to allow pets in children's homes as well as the work that had taken place to improve the Wi-Fi connection which had been invaluable during the pandemic.

Work was continuing to address the priorities in the annual report, and she would provide a progress update in the next annual report.

They would continue to meet with young children from the Children in Care Council who hold the council to account on the progress against these priorities.

Resolved: That the content of the Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report which provided oversight of the work undertaken during 2020-21 and outlined the priorities for the year ahead be noted.

Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The report accompanies a presentation to Durham County Council's Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny members on the progress of the Child Poverty Working Group (CPWG) in addressing child poverty in County Durham since the last update in October 2020.

Executive summary

- 2 Poverty can affect every area of a child's development: social, educational, health and personal. Living in a poor household can reduce children's expectations of their lives and lead to a cycle where poverty is repeated from generation to generation. As adults, they are more likely to suffer ill health, be unemployed or homeless, and become involved in offending, drug and alcohol abuse and abusive relationships.
- 3 Child poverty in County Durham continues to be on the rise with an estimated 25.8% of children under the age of 16 living in relative poverty and 21.7% of children under the age of 16 living in absolute poverty. Between 2015/16 and 2020/21 the number of pupils known to be eligible for, and claiming, free school meals increased by 50%, rising to over 20,300 eligible pupils.
- 4 The County Durham Child Poverty Working Group under the guidance of the Poverty Action Steering Group has continued to be proactive and responsive to the impact of poverty and the additional burden COVID-19 has had through the development and implementation of a range of support to address child poverty including the County Durham Fun and Food programme (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food), the promotion of Healthy Start as well as providing additional help and support as a result of the impact of COVID such as the distribution of the Household Support Fund.

Recommendation(s)

- 5 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
- (a) Note the contents of the report; and
 - (b) Note the additional support offered during COVID-19 restrictions.

Background

- 6 It is estimated that approximately 4.5 million children live in poverty in the UK and poverty rates are highest amongst families with children. (Social Metrics Commission 2020). The poverty rate for people living in couple families without children is 11% (1.4 million people). This compares to 26% (5.9 million people) for people in couple families with children and 48% (2.4 million people) for those in lone-parent families. Nearly two thirds (63%) of people in poverty live in a family where someone works at least part time.
- 7 Poverty can affect every area of a child's development: social, educational, health and personal. Living in a poor household can reduce children's expectations of their lives and lead to a cycle where poverty is repeated from generation to generation. As adults, they are more likely to suffer ill health, be unemployed or homeless, and become involved in offending, drug and alcohol abuse and abusive relationships.
- 8 Additionally, the national Child Poverty Action Group reports that since the outbreak of COVID 19 families already struggling risk sinking deeper into poverty, due to redundancy or furlough, thus increasing the numbers and severity of poverty for children, young people and families.

Child Poverty Working Group

- 9 The Child Poverty Working Group recognises the need to coordinate a multi-agency strategic approach to address the causes of and impact of poverty on children, young people and families living in County Durham. The working group have agreed the Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition of poverty: ***'When a person's resources are well below their minimum needs, including the need to take part in society'***. The group agreed this definition describes not only monetary and resource poverty but also poverty of opportunity.
- 10 The CPWG has developed a plan on a page (see Appendix 2) to prioritise actions to mitigate the impact of poverty on children and families across County Durham. The plan focusses on four key priorities which are:
- (a) to understand the level and impact of poverty on children, young people and families in County Durham;

- (b) practitioners across the County Durham Partnership have the skills and knowledge to help support children and families at the earliest opportunity who are affected by poverty;
- (c) narrow the gap in access to culture, leisure, sport and wellbeing for children and young people; and
- (d) raise aspirations and resilience of children and young people making the move into further education, training or employment.

Child Poverty in County Durham

- 11 Child poverty in County Durham continues to be on the rise with an estimated 25.8% of children under the age of 16 living in relative poverty and 21.7% of children under the age of 16 living in absolute poverty. Between 2015 and 2021 the number of pupils known to be eligible for, and claiming, free school meals increased by 50.3%, rising to 20,300 (27.7%) eligible pupils
- 12 The Public Health Intelligence Team have developed detailed child poverty data and intelligence which is now readily available on [Durham Insights](#).
- (a) **Relative Poverty:** In the financial year 2019/20 an estimated **25.8%** of children under the age of 16 were living in relative poverty in County Durham. Across the North East the figure was slightly higher at 26.9% while nationally (England) the figure was 19.2%. For County Durham this is an increase from 17.4% in 2015/16, with the number of children in living in relative poverty rising from an estimated 15,800 (children under 16) to 23,500.
 - (i) An estimated 24.9% of children aged 0 to 4 were living in relative poverty – an increase of 12.3% in the number of children aged 0 to 4 since 2015/16.
 - (ii) The 5 to 10 age group increased during this period, rising by 70.6% to 25.5% of children aged 5 to 10.
 - (iii) The 11 to 15 age group increased the most, increasing by 71.1%, rising to 27% of children aged 11 to 15.
 - (iv) The 16 to 19 age group increased by 29.5%, rising to 21% of children aged 16 to 19 living in relative poverty.
 - (b) **Absolute Poverty:** In the financial year 2019/20 an estimated 21.7% of children under the age of 16 were living in absolute poverty in County Durham. Across the North East the figure was slightly higher at 22.9% while nationally (England) the figure was 15.7%. For County Durham this is an increase from 16.5% in 2015/16, with the number of children living in absolute poverty rising from an estimated 14,600 (aged children under 16) to 19,700.

- (i) an estimated 21.2% of children aged 0 to 4 were living in absolute poverty – an increase of 2% in the number of children aged 0 to 4 since 2015/16.
 - (ii) The 5 to 10 age group increased during this period, rising by 53.6% to 21.1% of children aged 5 to 10.
 - (iii) The 11 to 15 age group increased the most, increasing by 57%, rising to 22.9% of children aged 11 to 15.
 - (iv) The 16 to 19 age group increased by 21.6%; this meant a rise from 14.3% to 18.5% of 16 to 19's living in absolute poverty.
- (c) **Free School Meals Proxy Measure:** Between 2015/16 and 2020/21 the number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals increased by 50% rising to over 20,300 eligible pupils, while the number of pupils on roll increased by 2.3%. Across England the of number pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals increased by 52%, rising to 20.8% with the number of pupils on roll increasing by only 0.6%. Public Health Intelligence Team has disaggregated FSM eligibility by local areas (Ward, Area Action Partnership (AAP) and Family First Areas (FFA) with the following results:
- (i) Peterlee East ward and Aycliffe West ward were joint highest at 46.5%, Woodhouse Close ward was third with 42.6%;
 - (ii) Of the 63 wards, 30 had higher proportions than the county average;
 - (iii) Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP had the highest proportion of pupils eligible for FSM at 36.1%, followed by the Stanley AAP with 34.6%;
 - (iv) Of the 14 AAPs, six had higher proportions than the county average;
 - (v) Easington Families First Area (FFA) had the highest proportion of pupils eligible for FSM at 38.3%, followed by Shildon, South Church & Chilton FFA at 36.6%. Of the 14 FFAs, eight had higher proportions than the county average;
 - (vi) Children with a SEN Support Plan or Education Health and Care Plan show disproportional disadvantage, for example, 54.5% of these pupils were eligible for FSM in the Tudhoe Lower Super Output Area (LOSA), with on average over one in four (27.2%) eligible for FSM across the county.
 - (vii) Eligibility for free school meals increased accordingly, across the county increased between 2015/16 and 2020/21 and

pushed the total to 20,300 eligible pupils, however, nearly one in four, are round 24%, were not claimed in 2020/21.

- (d) **Deprivation Measure:** County Durham is ranked 48 out of 151 upper tier local authorities in England with rank 1 being the most deprived (2019) (up from the ID2015 ranking of 59th).
- (e) **Universal Credit Claims:** The number of households in County Durham claiming Universal Credit (UC) has increased by 48.5% since February 2020, rising to nearly 44,000 households in August 2021. This large rise in is likely due to the effects of the COVID19 lockdown. Within this group the proportion of households claiming UC with children is around 42%, with the largest concentration in single parent households where 30% of households claiming UC were single parent households (13,000 households in February 2020). 'Couple' households with children represented around 12% of UC households, a rise of 67% since February 2020, rising to nearly 5,200 households.

- 13 It is clear from the data and intelligence collated on child poverty in County Durham that more children are living in poverty that in previous years. Families with school age children have seen the steepest rise and localities such as Peterlee, Easington, Woodhouse Close, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe West consistently have high levels of child poverty. It is also evident children with Special Needs and /or Disability (SEND) are overrepresented in child poverty measures.

Impact of and response of COVID 19

- 14 As a result of COVID-19 many families who were already struggling have had additional financial pressure placed upon them. Some have had a swift fall in income due to unemployment, being furloughed or waiting for first Universal Credit payments. Nationally and locally there has been a number of key initiatives to address this impact on children and families.

Free School Meal Vouchers

- 15 During the initial lockdown periods of the pandemic, government-funded vouchers (worth £15 a week) were offered to children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). However, the national scheme was withdrawn prior to the October 2020 half term. In response, the council set up a local scheme to enable those Free School Meals eligible households, to access a payment prior to further government support being provided through the Covid Winter Support Grant.

COVID Winter Support Grant/Covid Local Support Grant

- 16 In December 2020, the COVID Winter Support Grant Scheme was set up. This was then extended and morphed into the Covid Local Support Grant;

funding provided to the Council through these schemes has amounted to £4,726,442. These grants enabled local authorities to support people struggling with the cost of food, energy and water bills, and other associated costs arising from the pandemic. The funding for these schemes ended on 30 September 2021.

- 17 Between December 2020 and September 2021, using this funding, the council distributed 295 hampers to our most vulnerable families, 273 food vouchers worth £80 to care leavers, 600 food vouchers worth £80 to kinship carers, and more than 101,100 vouchers, worth £20 per child per week and covering the school holiday periods, providing support to over 21,000 0- to 19-year-olds across the county.
- 18 We also awarded £270,000 through 330 grants to support vulnerable households with children enabling them to be safe, secure and have access to cooking facilities over the winter and allocated £100,000 to the East Durham Trust and the Durham Foodbanks to administer fuel vouchers.

Household Support Fund (HSF)

- 19 The Household Support Fund (HSF) is the latest iteration of the government support to vulnerable households. The council has been allocated £4,676,100 to administer the HSF, covering support from 6 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. Although local authorities have some discretion as to how HSF funding is used, at least 50% must be spent on families with children.
- 20 It is primarily to support people with food, energy, and water bills, but can be used to support households with other essential costs. In cases of genuine emergency, it can also be used to support housing costs if existing housing support schemes do not meet this need.
- 21 Our HSF scheme replicates some of the targeted support initiatives delivered as part of the COVID Winter and Local Support Grants, as well as introducing some new initiatives which will widen our eligibility criteria. Working with our partners to target 'hard to reach' households, our scheme includes a wide range of initiatives.
- 22 Bulk food/fuel vouchers will be available for vulnerable households. In addition, vouchers, worth £60 per child, will be issued to households with children eligible for free school meals in the lead up to Christmas and Easter, and will also be provided for kinship carers and care leavers. We will once again be issuing food hampers to vulnerable households, including care leavers.
- 23 The Winter Support Fund (WSF) has been developed for professionals to make applications on behalf of vulnerable families who are facing financial difficulties to have access to essential household items and clothing to keep them warm, safe and secure during winter.

- 24 Grants will also be made available to schools to help vulnerable households purchase essential items and buy winter clothing (including shoes and school uniforms) for children identified as most in need. For those experiencing fuel poverty, help is being offered through the Warm Homes GP referral scheme, to provide help with the cost of fuel, boiler servicing and repairs.
- 25 Other vulnerable households who need additional support and have not accessed this through the main scheme strands as described above, will be provided with food/fuel vouchers through a discretionary grant scheme administered through the council's Welfare Assistance Scheme.

Additional financial support for families

Advice in County Durham Portal

- 26 All One Point Service practitioners have been trained and registered to use the Advice in County Durham (AiCD) portal. In September 2021, the AiCDP launched a new referral portal and website to improve the referral process. Plans are currently underway to also train and register health visitors, school nurses and children services social workers to use the new AiCD portal. The portal provides a quick and simple referral pathway to a broad range of support services for families including benefit and debt advice.

'Helping families manage their money' webpage

- 27 A DCC web page has also been developed specifically to help families manage their money. The page has information on a range of things including applying for healthy start vouchers, applying for free school meals, debt advice/financial help and help with heating and fuel bills. This website also provides practitioners with a comprehensive source of information to share with families. [Helping families manage their money](#)

School Benevolent Fund

- 28 The council resumed temporary administrative responsibilities for the Benevolent Fund (a charitable trust) in October 2020 and approved more than 955 applications for a £35 grant towards winter coats and/or school shoes. To date there are an additional 229 applications currently "in process" and 267 applications waiting to be processed. Trustees of the fund are currently being consulted on the review of the fund and future administrative arrangements.

Stronger Families Grant

- 29 The Stronger Families Grant continues to be utilised by frontline practitioners in Children Services and the wider County Durham

Partnership. Since January we have processed 162 Stronger Families essential items grants, of which 85 we were able to fund through the Greggs Foundation Fund. In addition, we have processed 94 skip hire/bulky waste requests and 22 home safety equipment requests.

Healthy Start

- 30 In April 2021, weekly payments increased from £3.10 to £4.25 for the government's Healthy Start scheme, which helps with the cost of buying milk, baby milk and some foods. The scheme also gives access to free vitamins.
- 31 The scheme changed in the autumn of 2021 to make it easier to use and more flexible. A new digital scheme will replace paper vouchers with a prepaid account that will be automatically topped up every four weeks with the payment.
- 32 The uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers has traditionally been low. To help increase take-up in Durham, we continue to promote and raise awareness of the programme with both families and partners. Specific actions to increase uptake have included setting up a working group with partners; Public Health have developed bitesize training sessions for practitioners in order to help raise awareness of the programme with over 500 staff now trained. The partnership approach has focussed on increasing engagement and marketing of Healthy Start underpinned by an action and a communications plan.
- 33 A localised healthy start voucher leaflet has also been developed recently and circulated to partners. See Appendices 3. Work by the NHS Business Services Authority is also being progressed to launch a digitised Healthy Start Scheme and an updated leaflet for parents.
- 34 The focus on take-up in Durham has led to an increase over the last year – increasing from 54 % in September 2020 to 68 % in September 2021 (there are currently 3,820 individuals benefitting from this scheme in County Durham against 5,633 who are eligible). The current 68 percent take-up is higher than both the regional average (67.9 %) and the national average (60.6%).

Free School Meals

- 35 Eligibility for free school meals increased across the county between 2015/16 and 2020/21 and pushed the total to 20,300 eligible pupils, however, nearly one in four, are round 24%, were not claimed in 2020/21. A number of specific actions have been taken to increase the uptake of FSM for eligible families including:
 - (a) Introduction of biometric systems in schools (mostly secondary) so that FSM pupils/students are not identifiable;

- (b) Pupil led School Nutrition Action Groups (SNAGS) are encouraged to consider how their school approaches FSM take up. Schools then develop their own action plans to address the issue;
- (c) Encouraging schools to use the FSM eligibility checking system (run the catering support team) so that families do not have to produce benefits related paperwork – and take it to admin within a school;
- (d) Monitoring of take up within each primary school in the School Meals contract. Schools with low take up are discussed and relevant action plans are developed to encourage take up for all pupils (not just FSM);
- (e) A pilot in 2 schools last term (1 primary 1 secondary) where the Welfare Assistance team offered bespoke ‘financial advice’ and benefit checks to ensure families are receiving their entitlement. This was a pilot and it resulted in a few families then receiving FSM as well as other relevant benefits. Welfare Assistance are currently looking into the feasibility of rolling this out in more schools. The east of the county will be targeted in a larger pilot of this approach next.
- (f) Schools sharing clear and simple information on their websites about the benefits of FSM / Healthy Start vouchers and how to apply.
- (g) Schools encouraging parents to apply as it supports the school with Pupil Premium funding.
- (h) Schools introducing a ‘free’ breakfast for any FSM pupil – (encourages pupils/ families to apply for FSM).
- (i) Extending the lunchtime period in secondary schools so that students can use their FSM entitlement for mid-morning break (especially for pupils may not have had breakfast).

Cutting the Cost of the School Day Programme: raising awareness of child poverty

36 The need to address poverty within education settings is a priority. As previously highlighted the steepest increase in child poverty is seen in families with school age children. Evidence suggests the cost of the school day to be significant on low-income families and has the potential to negatively impact on educational opportunities and outcomes. The Child Poverty Working Group has developed a learning and development programme ‘Cutting the cost of the school day: raising awareness of child poverty’, which supports educational settings to gain a deeper insight into the scale and impact of child poverty, to challenge the stigma associated with living in poverty and support schools to develop practical steps in which to cut the cost of the school day. Currently, 106 schools/nurseries have undertaken the training programme. 97% of participants reported that the

training offered them the opportunity to learn something new with qualitative feedback highlighting the importance of spending time reflecting on poverty from an educational perspective.

- 37 During 2020/21 there has been very little opportunity to deliver further programmes within educational settings due to the impact of COVID restrictions. This has however provided an opportunity to review the programme and a revised offer is currently being developed using the 'Thrive' model providing guidance to all schools and bespoke training to targeted schools in areas of high deprivation. This will be a key action for 2022.

The Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniform) Act 2021

- 38 Statutory guidance for the new law passed by Parliament in April 2021, which will make school uniforms cheaper in England has recently been announced. This policy will make schools place affordability at the centre of their uniform policy and is expected to limit the number of logos on uniforms, allowing parents to buy more items from supermarkets and shops other than a school's main supplier.
- 39 There is also a 'strong emphasis on second-hand uniform, advocating the benefits of this and requiring all schools to make this available to parents in some way. For example, they could either provide this service themselves or participate in other appropriate established local schemes.
- 40 A mobile app has been developed and accessed via Families Information Service. [Recycled Uniform Distribution Points and Funding Opportunities](#)

Period Poverty

- 41 The [Period Poverty scheme](#) has been re-promoted to County Durham Schools ensuring that they all provide accessible free personal hygiene products for young people.

Reducing Food Waste

- 42 'That Bread and Butter Thing' (TBBT) is a food surplus charity which works with local organisations to redistribute surplus food stuffs on a weekly basis. £250,000 has been allocated by the PAG to set up 10 'That Bread and Butter Thing' food hubs. Approximately 50 families engage with each of the five currently operational hubs each week – which provides access to low-cost food and access to advice and provides a steppingstone from the crisis support through food banks and through the Welfare Assistance Scheme. Work is underway with community groups to open a further five hubs in the coming months.
- 43 Feedback from volunteers, and residents is very positive at all hubs and the scheme has received positive media coverage. Feedback received by

TBBT from families is that they feel they save around £26 every time they shop with TBBT.

Enriching Holiday Activities with Healthy Food – ‘Fun and Food’

- 44 County Durham has for the past three years coordinated holiday activities with food programme over school holidays with funding secured from the Poverty Action Group. (see appendices 5). In 2021 Department for Education (DfE) confirmed national funding to provide free enriching holiday activities and healthy food for children on free school meals. The council was allocated £2,383,860 by the DfE to co-ordinate and deliver free holiday activities and healthy food for children eligible for free school meals during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods in 2021. 10% Of the funding supports coordination. The aim of the programme is for children who attend:
- (a) to eat more healthily over the school holidays
 - (b) to be more active during the school holidays
 - (c) to take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well-being
 - (d) to be safe and not to be socially isolated
 - (e) to have greater knowledge of health nutrition
 - (f) to be more engaged with school and other local services, and
 - (g) children and families develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting and are effectively signposted towards other information and support for example health, employment and education.
- 45 A delivery model for the provision and distribution of funding has been development and included:
- (a) A central project coordination team to coordinate the programme ensuring the effective targeting of high-quality provision for vulnerable children especially those on Free School Meals (FSMs).
 - (b) Locality based provision funded through Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). Funding is distributed via AAPs to local providers based on the % of children on FSM. An uplift is provided to support rural localities.
 - (c) The procurement of contracted provision to fill gaps in local provision/ or gaps for specific age groups such as adolescents (area based and countywide provision) with larger providers.

(d) Internal service providers (Schools, alternative education providers, Leisure Services and 0-19 Family Centres).

- 46 With partners, we delivered a wide range of sessions including performing arts, sports camps; cookery sessions; arts and craft sessions; and themed outdoor family activities etc.
- 47 During the Easter holiday period 2021, **6,860** children, of which 757 were children with special educational needs and disability, engaged in activities and received a free healthy meal.
- 48 During the six weeks summer holiday period 2021, more than **19,000** children, of which more than 900 were children with special educational needs and disability, engaged in activities and received a free healthy meal. In addition, more than 4,100 activity packs and resources were delivered to community groups and families and nearly 2,000 free Vegetarian Society food parcels were distributed. Please see link to short video of the summer provision. <https://youtu.be/B-bMGonp49I>
- 49 As DfE funding could not be used for provision during the May and October half term holidays in 2021, additional council funding was allocated to meet this need. The council invested £143,000 in extending these schemes to those holiday periods, with over **5,500** benefitting in May with final uptake for October currently being calculated.
- 50 In October 2021 (autumn budget), the government announced further funding to continue the holiday activities and food programme going forward. £200 million of national funding was announced, but we await the funding allocations to the council.
- 51 Durham's Youth Council recently conducted a consultation with children and young people to help inform and shape the development of the Fun and Food Programme. Over 700 children and young people took part in the consultation and a report was produced by the Youth Council and presented to the central coordination team. The report has been shared with delivery partners to help them when planning future provision of holiday activities with food.

'Poverty Proofing' Leisure Centres

- 52 This project involves consultation and research into the barriers around access to our leisure facilities for children, young people and their families, particularly in relation to cost and pricing. The consultation to date has identified a number of improvement areas that we can action over the next few months. Equipment is an identified barrier, and we will introduce a clothing and equipment recycling scheme for swim related products such as costumes and goggles which will be open to everyone and will support those that cannot afford to purchase these often-costly items. This will start in January 2022.

- 53 Culture, Sport, Tourism Service plan to work closely with the 'Fun and Food' (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food programme), team and Education Durham in 2022 to introduce free top up swimming lessons to those in lower socio-economic areas that missed out on school swimming during COVID as they are the least likely to be accessing our learn to swim programme.
- 54 A poverty proofing task group has been exceptionally proactive in reaching the children most at need to access our free holiday swimming programme, 40% of the children that attended over the summer were on free school meals. The next priority is to review our concessionary rates and to develop a proposal for March 2022 on how we can make our wider activities more affordable to children, young people and families. This will include the concept of adding a concession to the current concession for under 19's to support those that are in lower health and socio-economic groups. This work will be led by Public Health and supported by the task group.
- 55 Culture, Sport and Tourism is also reviewing their children and young people's programme to improve the offer and pricing will be included in this piece of work. Staff training is planned to take place addressing inclusion to ensure that facility staff are fully informed about issues relating to poverty and to ensure that children young people and families are treated appropriately.

Family Centres in County Durham

- 56 The government recently launched its vision for a network of Family Hubs across England. Family Hubs will be designed to provide family help early, when it is needed – from pregnancy, through the child's youngest years and later childhood, and into adolescence until they reach the age of 24 and will aim to ensure that all families have access to the same high-quality services and supportive relationships within their local area. Hub buildings are supported by virtual offers, with services for families with children of all ages. This vision aligns to County Durham's 0-19 Family Centres in ensuring all families with children requiring additional help and support have a 'one stop shop' in their local community. As part of the menu of support and advice available through Family Centres all 15 County Durham Family Centres provide access to:-
- (a) a community pantry with non-perishable foods;
 - (b) signpost to Community Fridges and Food Banks;
 - (c) pre-loved clothes including winter coats and local school uniforms;
 - (d) personal hygiene packs, including period poverty packs;
 - (e) access to Citizen Advice Bureau, Credit Unions and budgeting training programmes/cooking on a budget courses;
 - (f) Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Programmes;

- (g) Young Parents Programme access to credit union and incentive to save scheme.

Specific Support for Care Leavers

- 57 A new Enhanced Welfare Assistance Claim can now be made for Care Leavers who have turned 18 and are claiming Universal Credit (UC). As of 1st September 2020 this enhanced offer provides Care Leavers with food packages for the 4 weeks they are waiting for their UC payment. Care Leavers will also receive a winter fuel allowance. Care Leavers receive Discretionary Housing payments if they are in receipt of UC or Housing Benefit to cover any shortfall in rent caused by the Local Housing Allowance or the under-occupancy charge (known as the bedroom tax). Care Leavers are also eligible for Council Tax Exemption from 1 April 2017 the council implemented a policy of exempting care leavers from council tax up to the age of 25. This policy offers additional support to those leaving care to facilitate their transition to independent living. This support totalled around £0.17 million of council tax reductions in 2020/21.

DurhamWorks

- 58 A range of support is provided to children and young people in order to raise their aspirations and resilience as they prepare to progress into further education, training or employment. For example, schools are offered a range of work-related learning and enterprise programmes. These engaging activities help to promote a range of career sectors, develop skills and aptitudes that employer's value, as well as provide opportunities for pupils to meet with Business Ambassadors from local businesses.
- 59 Through the DurhamWorks Programme for Schools, pupils who are identified as being at risk of not making a successful progression into post-16 learning are provided with a range of support, including: one-to-one mentoring, motivational activities, as well as opportunities to learn more about the world of work. During the 2020-21 academic year, 800 Year 11 pupils were supported through this programme, of which 707 (88.4%) have progressed into a positive education, employment or training destination. During the 2021-22 academic year, support is also being offered to school sixth form students whose education has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 60 Young people who do not make successful transition into post-16 learning continue to receive support through the DurhamWorks Programme. This is a £29 million programme which supports unemployed young people aged 16-24 to progress into work, training, education or volunteering. Since DurhamWorks commenced in March 2016, 8,750 unemployed young people have been supported by the Programme, of which 5,949 have progressed into a positive education, employment or training destination. DurhamWorks is funded by the European Social Fund / Youth Employment Initiative (£21.8 million) with match funding of £7.2 million provided by

Durham County Council and its delivery partners. The programme is working to progress as many young people as possible prior to the end of December 2021 when the current programme will end. After this date, DurhamWorks will continue, as £16 million of additional funding has been secured to support young people until December 2023

- 61 There continues to be close collaboration between DurhamWorks and DWP to establish a number of 'Youth Hubs' across County Durham. These are currently operating in Peterlee and Stanley, with plans to establish a Youth Hub in Bishop Auckland from early 2022. Youth Hubs are spaces that provide support to unemployed young people from a range of partners around employment and skills.
- 62 The Kickstart scheme provides funding for job placements for young people (aged 16 to 24) claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. Funding covers the National Minimum Wage (or the National Living Wage depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of six months, associated employer National Insurance contributions, employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions, and a grant of £1,500 per job to cover setup costs and employability support.
- 63 Eighty-one job placements are available across Durham County Council, all of which are benefiting from additional council funding which ensures all participants receive the Durham Living Wage. Ten people have now been recruited and with a process to recruit to the remaining 71 posts now being implemented.

Future Developments

- 64 The CPWG will continue to be proactive and responsive to the needs of our communities, especially during the ongoing impact of COVID-19. The child poverty data and intelligence will provide a better understanding of our communities impacted most by poverty and therefore help us to ensure all efforts are targeted at these communities. The CPWG plan on a page and associated action plan will be reviewed in early 2022 in line with the broader Poverty Action Group priorities and will include:-
- (a) DCC CYPS will conclude the review the School Benevolent Fund along with Board of Trustees;
 - (b) We will continue to develop and deliver a comprehensive 'Holiday activities with healthy food programme' across County Durham in line with DfE guidance and feedback from children, young people and families;
 - (c) We will refresh the 'Cutting cost of school/ pre-school day' programme using the Thrive Model to develop a robust and targeted offer;

- (d) Develop and implement an inclusive offer to children, young people and parents/carers promoting accessible leisure services across County Durham.

Conclusion

- 65 Poverty continues to be a key issue for children and families living in County Durham. We understand the negative impact living in poverty has on a child's life chances. Current data and intelligence tell us in all measures of poverty are increasing for children and young people living in our county. Areas of high deprivation have been further impacted by COVID-19.
- 66 The CPWG is committed to developing and implementing a range of programmes and initiatives to help mitigate the negative impacts of poverty on the everyday experiences of children and young people in our county. Ongoing support and oversight from elected members is welcomed.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Author(s)

Karen Davison

Tel: 03000 268904

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 placed a duty on government to report on child poverty. The Act, however, repealed parts of the Child Poverty Act 2010, including the duty placed on local authorities to prepare and publish an assessment of the needs of children living in poverty in their area.

Finance

Probity of DfE Holiday Activities with Food Funding. Probity of Household Support Fund.

Consultation

Consultation with children and families will take place in developing Holiday Activities with Healthy Food programme.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality of opportunity for children and families most at risk of negative impact of poverty

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

Equal opportunities

Crime and Disorder

Research shows families living in poverty are more likely to be involved or victims of crime and anti-social behaviours.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

None

Procurement:

None

Child Poverty: Plan on a Page (2020-2021)

Vision: Children, young people and families have the resources to meet their basic needs, including accessing opportunities to take part in society

1. To understand the level and impact of poverty on children, young people and families in County Durham.

2. Practitioners across the County Durham Partnership have the skills and knowledge to help support children and families at the earliest opportunity who are affected by poverty

3. Narrow the gap in access to culture, leisure, sport and wellbeing for children and young people

4. Raise aspirations and resilience of children and young people making the move into further education, training or employment

Outcome Measures: How we will know if we have been successful?

- a. Using local intelligence and feedback from children, young people and families we will have an up to date and accurate understanding of child poverty which informs our targeted response across County Durham;
- b. We will have a set of key measures of poverty across County Durham;
- c. Communications will be streamlined and coordinated through the CPWG.

- a. 100 schools/organisations across the County Durham Partnership will sign up to Poverty Pledge;
- b. We will deliver 'Cutting the Cost of the School Day' programme to an additional 75 schools and colleges;
- c. We will deliver Cutting the Cost of the Pre-School Day to 50 early years settings;
- d. We will increase the take up of Healthy Start Vouchers

- a. Programmes across Culture, Sport and Tourism meet community need, address inequalities and are accessible for vulnerable children and families;
- b. We will coordinate countywide 'Together 4 Fun and Food' programme during the school holidays

- a. Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at GCSE;
- b. We will reduce the proportion of young people who are NEET to 4.2% and the proportion of young people whose destination is not known to 1.2% by 2021;
- c. We will deliver Work Related Learning and Enterprise activities to 6,000 primary and secondary students during each academic year;
- d. We will provide transition support to 900 Year 10 and Year 11 identified secondary school students during each academic year as part of DurhamWorks NEET Preventative Programme.

Actions: What are we going to do?

- 1.1 We will develop a County Durham Child Poverty fact sheet to help inform service development to ensure we target the most vulnerable children and families;
- 1.2 We will explore the use of Business Intelligence solutions to target children, families, schools and communities in greatest need to improve communication and engagement of targeted groups;
- 1.3 We will work with a group of school aged young people to better understand what poverty means to them and what help and support they need to mitigate negative impact on them and their family;
- 1.4 We will develop and report against a set of agreed child poverty measures;
- 1.5 We will ensure all communications across the partnership will be agreed and coordinated through the Child Poverty Working Group.
- 1.6 We will apply the Approach to Wellbeing to specific areas of Child Poverty developments.

- 2.1 We will develop an implementation plan to launch to Poverty pledge across County Durham;
- 2.2 We will deliver 'Cutting the Cost of the School Day'(CCSD) programme to an additional 75 schools/colleges across County Durham; focus on communities top 30%;
- 2.3 Develop and implement Cutting Cost of the Preschool Day to 50 nurseries and preschool settings;
- 2.4 We will explore a model to further extend CCSD to include audit of impact;
- 2.5 Deliver 3 financial training programmes for front line practitioners working with CYP&F on financial literacy/budgeting;
- 2.6 Develop and implement a 'core poverty offer' in and through all Family Centres;
- 2.7 Develop and disseminate a Poverty Guide for practitioners;
- 2.8 Train all OPS and CSC staff to use the Advice In County Durham portal;
- 2.9 Promote financial assistance by raising awareness and use of Welfare Campaign Team to maximise income for families including assistance to support childcare costs;
- 2.10 Explore feasibility of developing and implementing a 'poverty proofing' support package for care leavers including an incentive to save scheme;
- 2.11 Explore how best to promote Healthy Start Vouchers to most vulnerable parents

- 3.1 Explore the feasibility of developing an approach to Poverty Proofing leisure and cultural programmes within Culture, Sport and Tourism Service;
- 3.2 Undertake a feasibility study of establishing a budget to support improving access to leisure facilities (e.g. discounts, promotion and transport) for children and families referred by social care and health agencies;
- 3.3 Develop and implement a coordinated countywide 'Together 4 Fun and Food' (holiday activities with healthy food) programme;

- 4.1 DurhamWorks will provide support to young people who are NEET to progress into sustained education, employment and training pathways, including Apprenticeships;
- 4.2 DurhamWorks will provide specialist careers advice and pathways for Looked after Children, Care Leavers and SEND to enable young people to realise their aspirations;
- 4.3 We will deliver Work Related Learning and Enterprise activities (DurhamWorks), as well as Future Business Magnets competition (Business Durham) in primary and secondary schools.
- 4.4 DurhamWorks will deliver a NEET Preventative programme to Year 10 / 11 students identified at risk of becoming NEET in targeted secondary schools (including special schools and alternative education providers).
- 4.5 We will develop and deliver a DurhamEnable programme to support individuals who have learning, physical and mental health barriers to access employment.

Enabling Factors: What will make our outcomes possible ?

We will apply the County Durham Wellbeing Approach principles to all work of the Child Poverty Working Group

Workforce development based around making every contact count

Strong leadership and leading by example across all areas e.g. councillors, leaders, education

County Durham Area Action Partnerships

Whole system approach to ensure effective interventions



51492 AHS

Appendix 3 Healthy Start Leaflet for Parents

Healthy_start_leaflet_



43227 CYPS

Appendix 4: Cutting the Cost of the School Day

Child_poverty_bookle

Appendix 5: Together 4 Fun and Food



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A Healthy Start in County Durham



Free fruit, veg, milk, pulses and vitamins



From April 2021, if you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you could get **£4.25** per week to help buy healthy foods.

www.healthystart.nhs.uk



Get help to buy food and milk

With Healthy Start, you get free vouchers every week to spend on:

- milk, fresh, frozen or tinned fruit and vegetables
- fresh, dried or tinned pulses
- infant formula milk.

You can also claim free vitamins.



Find out if you qualify

You qualify for Healthy Start vouchers if you're at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old, and you or your family get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with a family income of **£16,190** or less per year
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit with no earned income, or total earned income of **£408** or less per month for the family.

What you can get?

- Pregnant women can get a weekly **£4.25** voucher
 - Each child over 1 and under 4 can get a weekly **£4.25** voucher per child
 - Each child under 1 can get two **£4.25** vouchers (**£8.50**) per week
 - Vitamin coupons (if you receive Healthy Start food vouchers)
- Find out more at [Healthy Start: what do I get?](#)

How do you apply for Healthy Start vouchers?

To apply for the Healthy Start scheme, you need to fill in a paper application form. This can be downloaded from the Healthy Start website www.healthystart.nhs.uk, you can get one from your GP or Midwife, or you can call the Healthy Start helpline on **0345 607 6823**.

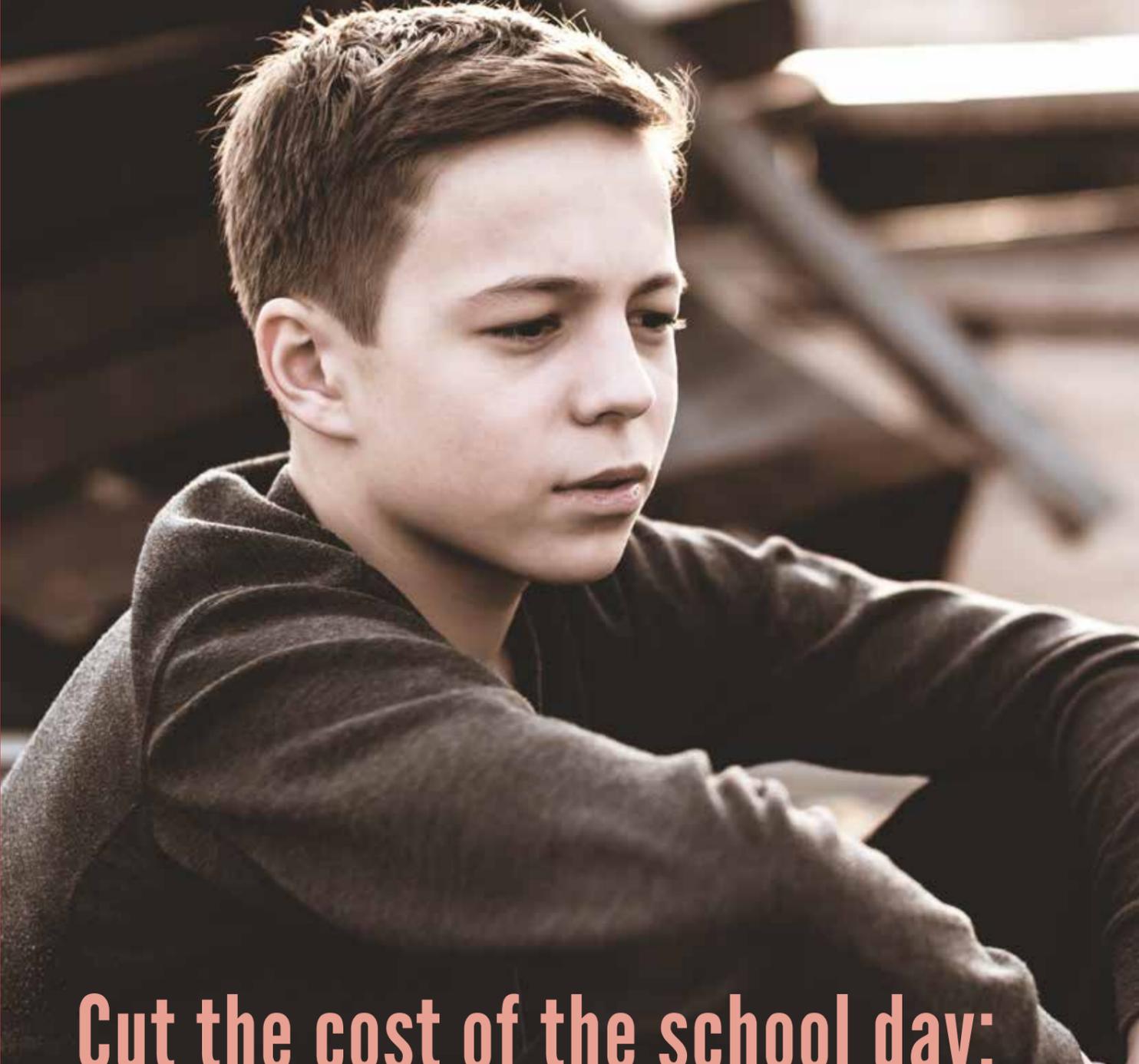
If you're under 18 and more than 10 weeks pregnant, you qualify for Healthy Start until your baby is born. You do not need to receive any of the qualifying benefits or be getting tax credits. However, you must complete an application and send it to the Healthy Start Issuing Unit.

After your baby is born, you will only continue to qualify for Healthy Start if you get the qualifying benefits or tax credits. To make sure you continue to receive Healthy Start vouchers once your baby is born, you should:

- Call the Healthy Start helpline on **0345 607 6823**
- Apply for Child Tax Credits as soon as you can – your vouchers may stop without this
- Inform Universal Credit by updating your online account
- Please be aware that your Healthy Start Vouchers could be affected by fluctuations in Universal Credit, based on monthly income levels and pay dates.

For more information visit Healthy Start

www.durham.gov.uk/article/24281/Apply-for-Healthy-Start-vouchers



Cut the cost of the school day: Raising awareness of child poverty



A service provided by



In partnership with



County Durham Children and Families Partnership

Acknowledgements

Staff and pupils of St Andrew's Primary and North Park Primary, Bishop Barrington School, St John's School and Sixth Form College and Belmont Community School.

Staff of Edinburgh City Council for allowing resources and training materials to be adapted.

CPAG Scotland for their advice and training materials.

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

 Braille
  Audio
  Large print

العربية Arabic	(中文(繁體字)) Chinese	اردو Urdu
polski Polish	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi	Español Spanish
বাংলা Bengali	हिन्दी Hindi	Deutsch German
Français French	Türkçe Turkish	Melayu Malay

cpd@durham.gov.uk
 03000 265 850





Introduction

Poverty can have a massive impact on people's lives! It can affect a child's social, educational, health and personal development. Living in a poor household can reduce children's expectations of their lives and lead to a cycle where poverty is repeated from generation to generation. The Children and Families Partnership welcomes work to address the cause and impact of poverty on families across the county.

We understand the importance of addressing poverty and offering help as early as possible, and acknowledge the valuable work undertaken by the Child Poverty Working Group in identifying ways to cut the cost of the school day, helping to give young people the best start in life and enabling them to reach their full potential.

"To tolerate children and their families living in poverty is morally wrong. No civilised society should permit it. To invest in children is to invest in the future. I'm sure we would all commit to that. Let's do it"

Cllr Olwyn Gunn

Cabinet member for Children and Young People's Services

Cut the cost of the school day: Raising awareness of child poverty

Top tips to minimise costs

These top tips have been developed by staff and pupils who took part in the 'Cut the cost of the school day: Raising awareness of child poverty' workshops. The areas for consideration were most commonly identified as placing financial pressure upon families. The top tips aim to provide schools with a list of suggestions to attempt to minimise the cost of the school day on all families. Some ideas may already be in place but these recommendations allow schools to further develop good practice.

School uniform and PE kits

- Allow uniform to be purchased from a range of suppliers as opposed to one single supplier with a set cost.
- Explore 'bulk buy/sibling deals' with suppliers to minimise costs.
- Explore the option of having sew on school logo badges to allow parents to buy generic uniform.
- Regularly hold upcycle school uniform/swap shop events and encourage pupils to take part in organising these events (avoid negative language such as second hand uniform sale).
- Have upcycled uniform readily available in reception everyday as well as during parents evenings, opening evenings etc.
- Link in with local charity shops to encourage them to have a school uniform section.
- Open these events to everyone: avoid targeting only Free School Meal/Pupil Premium (FSM/PP) pupils and families as personal circumstances may not have been disclosed.
- Allow for generic PE kit to be worn.
- Revise behaviour policies linked to incorrect uniform.
- Sign-post families to school clothing grants and vouchers (School Benevolent Fund) www.durham.gov.uk/schoolbenevolentfund



Training requests

If you would like your school to take part in a 'Cut the cost of the school day: Raising awareness of child poverty' training session please contact cpd@durham.gov.uk

Food in school

Is the cost of your breakfast club a barrier for some pupils attending?

- Consider having volunteers run the club to reduce staffing costs.
- Contact local supermarkets/businesses for donations.
- Offer daily/weekly sibling deals for families to attend breakfast club.
- Consider providing all pupils with a basic packed lunch for trips not just those on FSM.
- In addition to the KS1 free fruit for schools scheme, explore the option of having fruit in the classroom each morning, available to everyone.
- Save uneaten fruit, yoghurts, cereal bars from packed lunches and have these available for pupils to take home if they would like them.



After school clubs and trips

- Ensure that dates and costs of trips are given out at the start of the academic year (or earlier) to give plenty of advance warning. Consider spacing trips out across the year more evenly.
- Set up payment schemes for parents/carers to pay towards school trips in instalments (link in with Durham Savers www.durham.gov.uk/durhamsavers) - ask parents to return financial contributions not pupils.
- Pupils to take part in fundraising events for school trips to minimise the amount of financial contribution needed.
- Consider each year group trips against one another to account for families with more than one pupil in school to avoid extra financial pressure.
- Revise any first-come first-served policies (with payments) as this may be excluding pupils from low income families from taking part.
- Review the range of clubs on offer to minimise the amount of charged activities.
- Have a weekly token scheme to enable free access once per week to any charged school clubs.
- Consider the equipment required for after school clubs (football boots, rugby kit, dance uniform) and whether these could be borrowed/rented from school to ensure all can take part.
- Avoid sending letters home with pupils that request financial contributions. Send these direct to parents/carers.

Training requests

If you would like your school to take part in a 'Cut the cost of the school day: Raising awareness of child poverty' training session please contact cpd@durham.gov.uk

CYPS Overview and Scrutiny Child Poverty January 2021

Karen Davison
Strategic Manager One Point and Think Family Service
Chair Child poverty Working Group
CYPS

John Mitchell
Research and Consultation Officer,
Research Public Health Intelligence Team, Resources

Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children



Child Poverty Working Group

Vision: *Children, young people and families have the resources to meet their basic needs, including accessing opportunities to take part in society*

- 1.** to understand the level and impact of poverty on children, young people and families in County Durham;
- 2.** practitioners across the County Durham Partnership have the skills and knowledge to help support children and families at the earliest opportunity who are affected by poverty;
- 3.** narrow the gap in access to culture, leisure, children and young people and
- 4.** raise aspirations and resilience of children and young people making the move into further education, training or employment.

Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children





Durham Insight

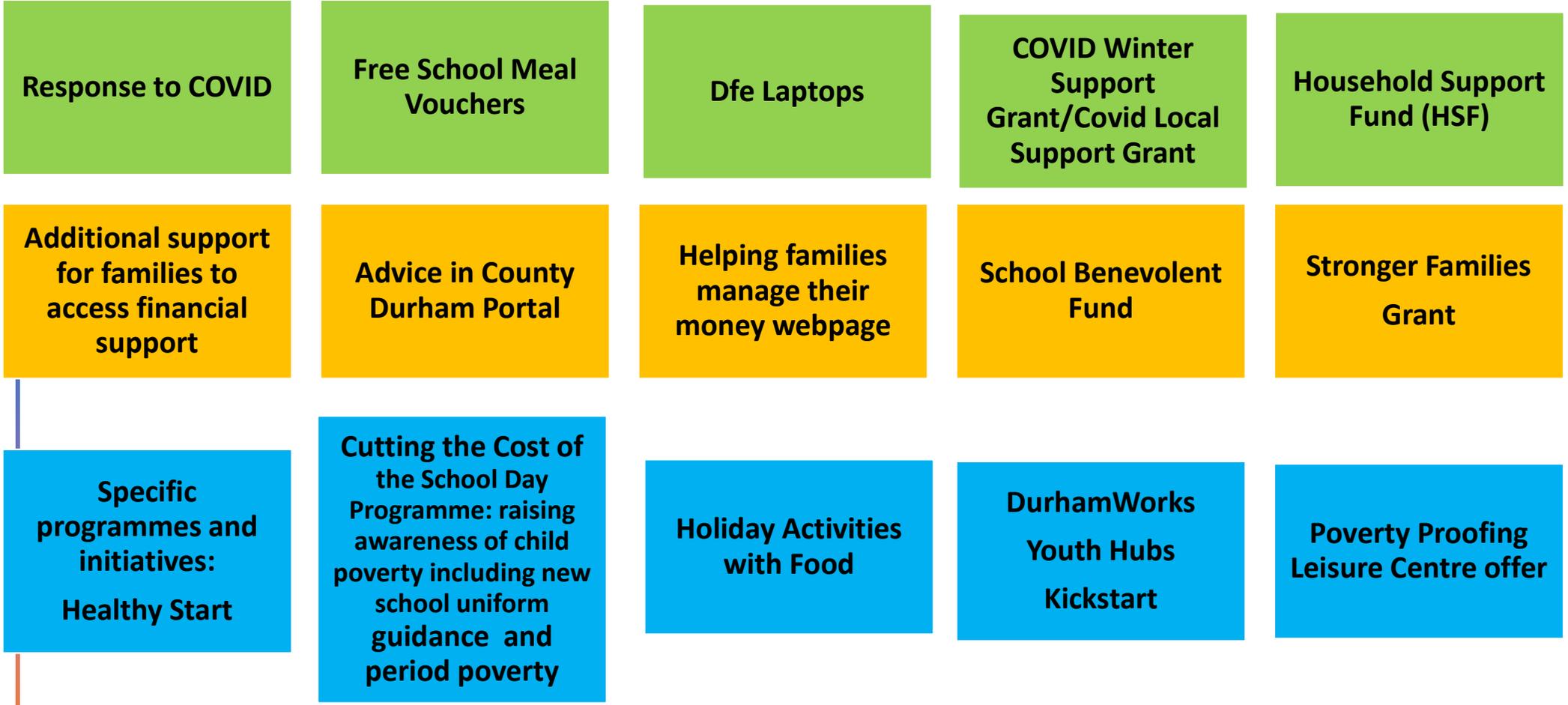
Insight & intelligence to inform

<https://www.durhaminsight.info/children-in-poverty/>

Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children



Progress



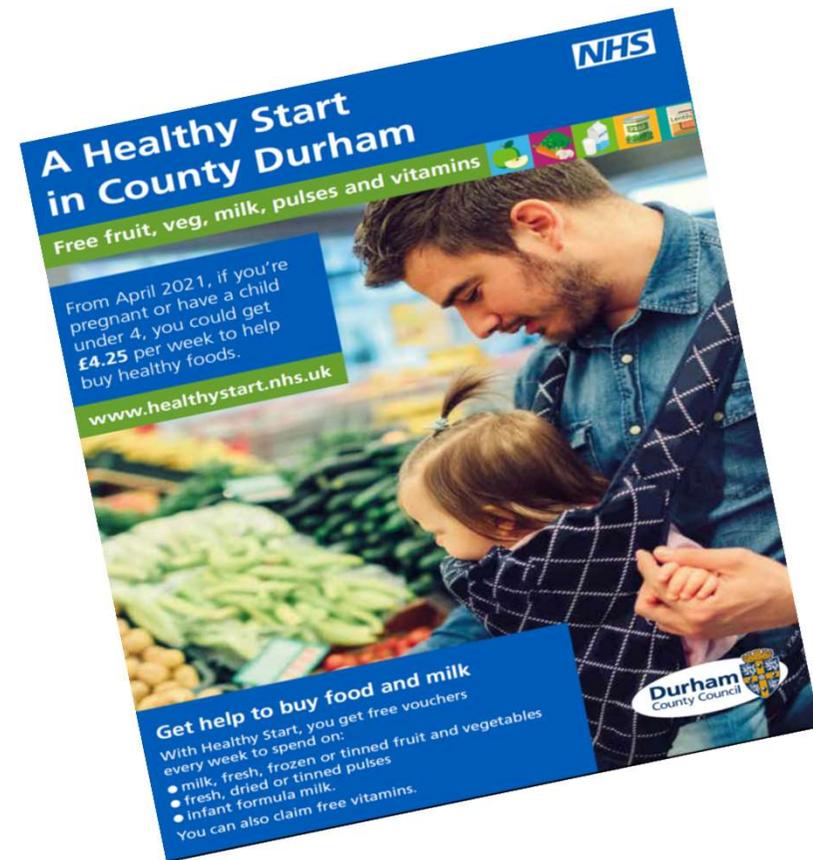
Healthy Start Programme

Uptake has increased by from 54 % in Sept 2020 to 68 % in Sept 2021

There are currently 3,820 individuals benefitting from this scheme in County Durham against 5,633 who are eligible)

The current 68% take-up is higher than both the regional average (67.9 percent) and the national average (60.6 percent)

New digital application being launched



Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children



Cutting the cost of the school day: Raising awareness of child poverty

106 schools undertaken the programme

School uniform and PE kits

Food in school

After school clubs and trips

Resources and equipment

Charity and special events

Whole school considerations



DfE Holiday Activities with Healthy Food – Fun and Food

to eat more healthily over the school holidays.

to be more active during the school holidays.

to take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well-being.

to be safe and not to be socially isolated.

to have greater knowledge of health nutrition.

to be more engaged with school and other local services

children and families develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting and are effectively signposted towards other information and support for example health, employment and education.

FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food

Funded by the Department for Education



County Durham Delivery Model

AAP Locality Based Provision

Contracted provision (area based and countywide provision)

DCC service providers (including schools, culture, sport and leisure services and 0-19 Family Centres)

The holiday provision should meet the following DfE National programme standards.

Support is available to help you to work towards achieving the standards.

Developed a Provider Forum

Training and support offer

FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food

Funded by the Department for Education



Summer Programme

- **128** Projects
- **19,127** (including 'other' children i.e. pre school and 16 plus) engaged with projects
- **48%** of FSM eligible children in Durham engaged with projects
- **984** children had additional needs
- **Swimming Offer**
- **88%** face to face provision and **12%** remote provision
- <https://youtu.be/B-bMGonp49I>
- **DfE committed £200 million per annum x 3 years**



FUN & FOOD

Holiday activities with healthy food

Funded by the Department for Education

Next Steps

- ✓ **DCC CYPS will conclude the review the School Benevolent Fund along with Board of Trustees.**
- ✓ **We will continue to develop and deliver a comprehensive 'Holiday activities with healthy food programme' across County Durham in line with DfE guidance and feedback from children, young people and families;**
- ✓ **We will refresh the 'Cutting cost of school/ pre-school day' programme using the Thrive Model to develop a robust and targeted offer consider digital poverty within educational environment**
- ✓ **Develop and implement an inclusive offer to children, young people and parents/carers promoting accessible leisure services across County Durham**

Early Help, Inclusion & Vulnerable Children



Any Questions ?



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Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

7 January 2022

Take Up of Free School Meals (FSM)

Report of John Pearce Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose

- 1 The purpose of this briefing report is to provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC) with information relating to eligibility and take up of free school meals in County Durham. The report also provides information on the steps taken to encourage families to apply for FSM, what the impact on schools where families don't apply for FSM in relation to pupil premium (PP); and what support is given to families who are claiming FSM when their children are not in school such as during school holidays or periods of absence.

Executive Summary

- 2 Information taken from the National School Census (2021), indicates that 20.8% of pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals. However, Department for education (DfE) for Spring/Summer 2021 indicates that 27.4% of pupils aged 4-18 in state funded schools in County Durham were eligible for free school meals. DfE reports show in 2021, in County Durham 15,445 (76%) of those eligible took a FSM meal. This is compared to 82% both nationally and regionally.
- 3 Families in County Durham who are eligible to claim FSM are actively encouraged to so by a variety of means such as anonymity of students claiming FSM; encouraging schools to use DCC's checking system; unambiguous information through text message and newsletters. Also

extending lunchtime period so those who may not have had breakfast can have a mid morning snack; multi agency approach to encourage FSM application with focus on families facing financial difficulties.

- 4 Currently families eligible to claim FSM are protected until 2023 regardless of a change to their financial circumstances. Some families have a fear of claiming FSM due to the perceived stigma. Some pupils choose not to take their FSM due peer pressure, menu choice and time constraints.
- 5 Pupil Premium is a grant received by schools for disadvantaged children or children from families serving in HM Forces. It is calculated on a based on the number of children claiming FSM in the school.
- 6 Following a pilot exercise during the Summer break 2021 for one primary and one secondary a Welfare Assistance Team offering financial advice and benefit checks that ensured families are receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. This pilot has resulted in a number of families claiming FSM and additionally other relevant benefits.

Recommendation

- 7 That Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and comment accordingly.

Background

- 8 During the global pandemic in 2020 Members have raised concerns about the eligibility and take up of Free School Meals in County Durham. At its meeting on 23 July Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for 2021/22 and included within it was an item of Free School Meals.
- 9 As a result of the pandemic and the national interest through campaigns such as Marcus Rashford's food poverty and feeding children during school holidays, there has been an increased awareness of FSM and more parents have come forward to say they believe they are eligible to receive free school meals.

School Census Information

- 10 National School Census data (2021) indicates 20.8% of pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals, which is an increase from 17.3% in 2020 and from 15.4% in 2019.

- 11 Department for Education data (spring/summer 2021) shows 20,316 (27.4%) pupils (aged 4 – 18) in in state-funded schools in County Durham were eligible for FSM.
- 12 The most recent data (October 2021) showed 20,962 children (aged 4 to 18) were entitled to FSM in Durham in, which was 29.6% of the total number on roll.
- 13 DfE reports show in 2021, in County Durham 15,445 (76%) of those eligible took a FSM meal. This is compared to 82% both nationally and regionally.

Schools Census data, October 2021

School Type	No on roll	FSM	% FSM
Primary	38,159	12,253	32.1
Secondary	26,571	7,366	27.7
Special	1,694	925	54.6
6 th Form	4,227	418	9.8
Total	70,651	20,962	29.6
Nursery (maintained)	732	247 (Early Years Pupil Premium)	33.7

Encouraging Families to apply for free school meals

- 14 Families are actively encouraged to register for FSM. This is promoted through a variety of methods including:
 - The use of biometric systems in schools (mainly secondary) so that FSM eligible pupils / students are not identifiable and therefore reduce any stigma
 - Durham County Council (DCC) encouraging schools to use the FSM eligibility checking system (through the Catering Support Team) so that families do not have to produce benefits related paperwork and take this to admin within a school
 - Schools sharing clear and simple information on their websites, through text messaging and newsletters about the benefits of FSM / Healthy Start vouchers and how to apply. Parents are also

encouraged to apply for FSM as this supports school access Pupil Premium (PP) funding.

- Extending the lunchtime period in secondary schools so that students can use their FSM entitlement for mid-morning break, this especially benefits pupils that may not have had breakfast.
- Linking with other services / partners (e.g., One -Point) to encourage FSM applications / uptake from families facing financial difficulties
- Promoting FSM criteria and how to apply on DCC website
- Schools introducing a 'free' breakfast for any FSM pupil, to encourage pupils/ families to apply for FSM.
- Encouraging families to apply for FSM so they can access support for winter clothing and shoes from the Benevolent Fund and other educational activities such as school trips, music tuition etc.

Barriers to families applying for and pupils taking free school meals

- 15 The financial circumstances for some families eligible for free school meals can change over time. Under the current criteria families eligible for FSM remain 'protected' until 2023 even if their financial circumstances change. Several families report that despite remaining eligible they no longer wish their child to take a FSM.
- 16 Perceived or enacted stigma is considered by head teachers to be one of the biggest barriers to increasing take up of free school meals as some families have negative preconceptions of the FSM system, believing that school staff would have access to their financial information. Schools are encouraged to use the FSM eligibility checking system to reduce the need for school staff to check benefits related paperwork.
- 17 Pupils and families choosing not to take a FSM do so for several reasons including food preferences, pupils choosing to do what friends and peers do, the broader lunchtime experience e.g., having to queue, menu choices etc. Schools are encouraged to regularly review their FSM take up and where relevant put an action plan in place.

Pupil Premium (PP)

- 18 This grant provides additional funding that publicly funded schools in England use to support disadvantaged pupils. The pupil premium grant

provides funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities to reach their potential and to support children and young people with parents in the regular armed forces.

- 19 Pupil Premium is paid to schools based on the numbers of FSM pupils within the setting. For pupils reception to year 6 recorded as Ever 6 FSM, the current rate is £1,345 per year, per child. For pupils in years 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 FSM, the rate is £955 per child.
- 20 Pupils in year groups reception to Year 11 recorded as Ever 6 service children or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence the service pupil premium rate is £310 per pupil.
- 21 It is in a school's best interest to register as many FSM pupils as possible, as for some schools this can make a significant difference to their overall budget. Most schools actively encourage families to register for FSM when pupils are starting school and have robust systems in place to monitor ongoing FSM eligibility.

Support given to FSM eligible families when their children are not in school such as during school holidays or periods of absence

- 22 Prior to the October 2020 half term, on the back of the Government withdrawing the national school holiday voucher scheme, the council provided free school meal eligible families with a cash out voucher to the value of £15 per free school meal eligible child on an application-based scheme that was targeted. In total 10,418 children were supported.
- 23 On 8 November 2020, following significant pressure over the withdrawal of the previous voucher scheme the Government announced there would be funding in the form of a Winter Grant Scheme that will apply from 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021 and be administered by local authorities.
- 24 To receive the Winter Grant Vouchers in December 2020 and February 2021 families had to be registered as eligible for free school meals through school systems, as vouchers were distributed via education settings. Using this system encouraged families who had not previously applied for Free School Meals to do so. These vouchers were valued at £20 per child per week to support food and fuel costs.
- 25 Vouchers to support families with food and fuel have continued to be made available to FSM eligible families from the DWP Household Support Grant in the lead up to Christmas 2021. Vouchers valued at

£60.00 will be made available to all eligible pupils. The vouchers can be redeemed at a supermarket of the parent/carer's choice.

- 26 Below is an indication of the activity that took place to support FSM eligible children in the lead up to school holiday periods. Please note the overall numbers include additional vulnerable families and covers the 0-19 age group.

Period	Activity Details	Total expenditure
December 2020 - March 2021	Support over the Christmas holiday period - £40 per child (£20 per child per week). 21,118 vouchers redeemed.	£844,720
March 2021 – April 2021	Support in the run up to the Easter break - £40 per child. 21,319 vouchers redeemed	£852,760
April to June 2021	Support in the run up to the May Half Term - £20 per child. 18,220 vouchers redeemed	£364,400
June – September 2021	Support in the run up to the summer break - £80 per child. 20,670 vouchers redeemed	£1,653,600
Total		£3,715,480

Pupils eligible for FSM who must stay at home due to Covid

- 27 Under normal circumstances, schools do not provide free school meals to eligible pupils who are not in school. During the Covid outbreak, DfE requirements state schools are expected to continue to support pupils eligible for FSM who are isolating at home with quality lunch parcels during term time.

Holiday Activities with Food Programme (HWF)

- 28 In addition to the food/fuel vouchers children and young people have been able to access the holiday activities with food programme during each holiday period. Any child taking part is provided with nutritious and healthy food as part of the activity.

- 29 During the summer 2021 school holiday period 128 HWF projects took place and 19,127 children and young people engaged in the holiday activities programme, of which 48% were eligible for FSM and 984 children had additional needs.

Future Actions

- 30 A pilot exercise carried out in two schools in the summer term 2021 (1 primary 1 secondary) where the Welfare Assistance team offered bespoke 'financial advice' and benefit checks to ensure families are receiving their entitlement. This pilot resulted in a number of families receiving FSM as well as other relevant benefits. Welfare Assistance are currently looking into the feasibility of rolling this out into more schools.
- 31 Awareness raising with school staff on the support available to families facing financial difficulties, including applying for and accessing FSM took place during the spring to summer terms 2021.
- 32 Holiday activities with food will remain during the school holidays and will continue to target and support FSM eligible pupils. A further round of vouchers will be made available in spring 2022 to families eligible for FSM.

Conclusion

- 33 The local authority will continue to monitor and support schools and educational settings regarding free school meal eligibility, applications and take-up.

Data Sources:

Durham Insight <https://www.durhaminsight.info/free-school-meals>

DfE data on FSM eligibility and take-up <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/517a5780-5d10-4eed-9571-471f6bb23fde>

Author(s):

Alison Young

Tel: 03000 265834

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

Not applicable.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.

Climate Change

Not applicable.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable.

Staffing

Not applicable.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Not applicable.

Procurement

Not applicable.

**Children and Young People
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

7 January 2022

**Quarter Two, 2021/22
Performance Management Report**

Ordinary Decision



Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present an overview of progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework and highlight key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes.
- 2 The report covers performance in and to the end of quarter two, July to September 2021.

Performance Reporting

- 3 The performance report is structured around the three components.
 - (a) High level state of the County indicators to highlight areas of strategic significance. These are structured around the [County Durham Vision 2035](#).
 - (b) Council initiatives of note against the ambitions contained within the vision alongside a fourth 'excellent council' theme contained within our [Council Plan](#)¹.
 - (c) A long list of key performance indicators against the themes of the Council Plan.
- 4 The Council Plan sets out how the Council will use the resources at its disposal to achieve the ambitions set out in the County Durham Partnership's vision for the County. It sets out the Council's ambitions and key work areas to achieve these with high level performance indicators

¹ approved by full council October 2020

to measure progress. Appendix two of this report reflects this in the way it is set out.

- 5 It also includes an overview of the continuing impact of COVID-19 on council services, our staff, and residents.

Long and Independent Lives

- 6 Poverty pressures continue to be a major issue and we expect the situation to deteriorate as basic living costs continue to rise, hitting those with little disposable income hard. We are aware 24% of children eligible for free school meals are not claiming them.
- 7 During quarter two, we helped to support 180 households with food, and over the summer holidays, we delivered more than 100 projects as part of our Holiday Activity with Food programme.
- 8 We are continuing to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and their families and remain on track to achieve 'significant and sustained outcomes' for around 6,000 families as part of our stronger families programme.

Connected Communities

- 9 The pandemic and the complexity of referrals to children's social care continues to impact on the number of children and young people who are open to statutory social care teams, currently 3,818, and has increased the caseloads of our social worker teams.

The impact of COVID-19

- 10 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented health emergency across the globe. [Restrictions](#) to contain the virus, minimise deaths and prevent health and social care systems being overwhelmed remain in place, and are continuing to impact our everyday lives, our health, and the economy.
- 11 However, roll-out of the UK's vaccination programme, which has reduced both hospital admissions and deaths, allowed the government to implement plans for a [gradual and phased route out of lockdown](#).
- 12 Working with government organisations and within the context of national developments, we continue to protect our communities, support those affected by the pandemic, and develop plans for future recovery.
- 13 The COVID-19 surveillance dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Risk Management

- 14 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects. The latest report can be found [here](#).

Recommendation

- 15 That Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter two performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic.

Author

Andy Palmer

Tel: 03000 268551

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality measures are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Climate Change

We have declared a climate change emergency and consider the implications of climate change in our reports and decision-making.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Staffing

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health indicators has been included to monitor staffing issues.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly performance management report.

Procurement

Not applicable.



Durham County Council Performance Management Report

Quarter Two, 2021



More and Better Jobs

- 1 The ambition of More and Better Jobs is linked to the following objectives:
 - (a) Young people will have access to good quality education, training and employment;

Council Services

Young people will have access to good education, training and employment

- 2 There has been one Ofsted inspection during the quarter two period. This school (Framwellgate School Durham) was graded 'requires improvement' prior to the visit and following the publication of the inspection report, is now graded 'good.'
- 3 The role of local authorities in dealing with safeguarding complaints regarding schools has changed in recent years with complainants being required to use the school's published complaints policy. Once a complainant has exhausted the school's procedure then the matter may be escalated to Ofsted, who request the local authority to investigate. There have been ten qualifying safeguarding complaints made to Ofsted relating to Durham schools during quarter two. This compares to two in the same period last year, but there were ten during quarter two in 2019. The increase from last year is quite significant and could be a result of the impact of the pandemic, given most children and young people were accessing virtual learning rather than attending schools during quarter two 2020 and therefore their social interaction with staff and peers was somewhat limited.
- 4 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a statutory responsibility on all local authorities to make arrangements to identify children missing from education (CME) in their area. The local authority, schools and partner agencies have developed a protocol to enable escalation of any case to establish the whereabouts of a child before the school can delete the child's name from the school register. The protocol includes referral to children's social care, police, NHS and other local authority services to ensure children moving between areas are tracked, in appropriate cases.
- 5 In quarter two, 81 students were referred to the local authority.

Successfully tracked	60
Moved within county. School transfer discussions ongoing	5
Processing as admissions to schools in Durham	4
Moved out of county. Relevant local authorities informed	3
Referred for school attendance enforcement action	3
Elective home education registrations pending	2
Tracing via information held with partner agencies	2

Awaiting an appeal hearing for a school application	1
Abroad. Due to return	1
Total referrals	81

- 6 Attendance rates were 90% across all settings on 17 June 2021, however, they declined locally and nationally in the last four weeks of the school year 2020/21 around the same time as there were increases in infection rates associated with emergence of the COVID-19 delta variant and consequently school bubble closures. These trends were mirrored for vulnerable groups where rates of attendance for those with a social worker and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) were both 85% on 10 June 2021.
- 7 Across the academic year 2020/21, 189 children and young people were supported to return to school and as year 11 pupils became non-compulsory school age as of 25 June these factors resulted in a local overall decrease in local Elective Home Education (EHE) figures. Overall numbers continued to remain low at any point in the quarter at approximately 0.6% of the school age population. Staff continue to support families to return to school where this was the preferred choice of families and a multi-agency EHE panel continues to support EHE children and young people via meetings, safe and well calls and other checks.
- 8 The Early Years panel considered 64 requests for early years SEND Support, an increase of 40 (166%) on the previous year and six requests to initiate statutory assessment with five (84%) agreed in comparison to one request being agreed the previous year. As this quarter includes the end of the academic year it is timely to highlight that 350 children were supported across the academic year, an increase of 35 (11%) on the previous year, with 96 statutory assessments being initiated, three times as many as the previous academic year (32 initiated).
- 9 Support has continued to be provided to young people during the summer period, as they completed academic programmes. The latest data (August 2021) shows that the proportion of young people (aged 16-17) not in employment, education or training (NEET) is 6.6%, which equates to 708 young people from a cohort of 10,677. This compares to an average of 3.1% for England and 5.3% for the North East. It is important to note that DurhamWorks have been identifying young people and moving them to a NEET destination during this period in order to register them on the programme, so that they can receive appropriate support at the earliest opportunity. However, this does result in an increase in the proportion of young people who are NEET compared to other periods during the year. It also results in a lower proportion of young people whose current destination is not known and the rate in County Durham remains low – 2.4%, compared to an average of 5.6% in England and 7.3% in the North East.

- 10 A significant amount of work is currently being undertaken to ensure that young people who completed Years 11 and 12 at the end of June 2021 have a confirmed offer in education or training. This is known as the 'September Guarantee'. The proportion of young people undertaking an apprenticeship continues to be higher in County Durham – 5.8% compared to an average of 4.2% for England.

Long and Independent Lives

- 11 The ambition of Long and Independent Lives is linked to the following key objectives:
- (a) Children and young people will enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional well-being;
 - (b) Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will achieve the best possible outcomes.

Council Services

Children and young people enjoying the best start in life, good health and emotional well-being

- 12 The Join In programme, a locality-based physical activity programme, supports children, young people and their families in communities. It focuses on the following three key age groups: early years; primary; and secondary school age and beyond (10-18 years).
- 13 COVID-19 has had an impact on the delivery of the service, which is delivered through face to face group sessions. Whilst limited provision of the programme has taken place during the pandemic, the early years element of the service (Ready Sett Go) has recommenced in 20 early years settings and each runs for 10 weeks.
- 14 As part of the Active 30 programme two projects have commenced, funded through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. A targeted approach for primary schools in the top 20% most deprived areas of the county has been developed, to engage young people in deprived communities in physical activity. This aims to engage children and families through their schools and to embed these healthy behaviours at home.
- 15 The second project aims to promote physical activity opportunities to young people and families through a daily TV broadcast. Active North East works with Active 30 partners to film tailored and targeted, age-specific content with local young people, schools and clubs. These sessions are broadcast twice per day to

encourage young people and families to take part in 10-minute active blasts, either at school or at home.

- 16 The national 'Supporting Families' programme (formerly 'Troubled Families') and known in County Durham as 'Stronger Families' is on the first year of a possible three year extension and this will be confirmed in the Government's 2021 Spending Review.
- 17 Across County Durham, since the programme commenced in April 2015 we have supported 5,661 vulnerable families in achieving sustained positive outcomes. We are confident we will exceed our 2021/22 target of turning around 761 families having already reached 75% of this target (571 families).

Connected Communities

- 18 The ambition of Connected Communities is linked to the following key objectives:
 - (a) All children and young people will have a safe childhood;

Council Services

All children and young people will enjoy a safe childhood

- 19 Formal [feedback from Ofsted](#) was received on 23 August 2021 following the Focused Visit in July 2021. We have developed an action plan in response to the recommendations made and have shared this with Ofsted.
- 20 Referrals to children's social care are generally lower over the summer and we did not see a spike in September as we often do when children return to school following the summer holidays. The last 18 months have been very different for children in school and there were staggered starts in some schools and we continue to closely monitor referrals as levels were high in both October and November in 2019.
- 21 Domestic abuse remains the most common reason for referrals into children's social care, followed by neglect and physical abuse. COVID and complexity of cases has led to an increase in children and young people who are open to statutory social care teams.

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

age 70

Think Family

5,661 families turned around
(2015 - Sep 21)

following intervention...

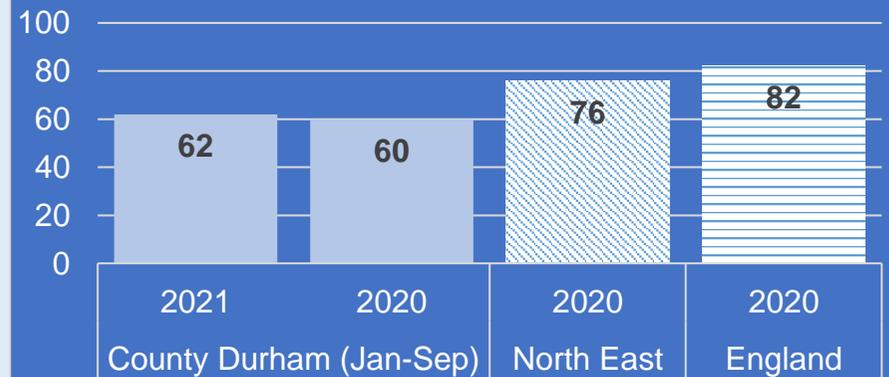
2,242 workless families progressed to work

2,730 families reported reduced mental health issues

1,025 families reported reduced substance misuse

4,937
families achieved significant & sustained outcomes
(2015 - Sep 21)

% EHCP completed within 20 week time period

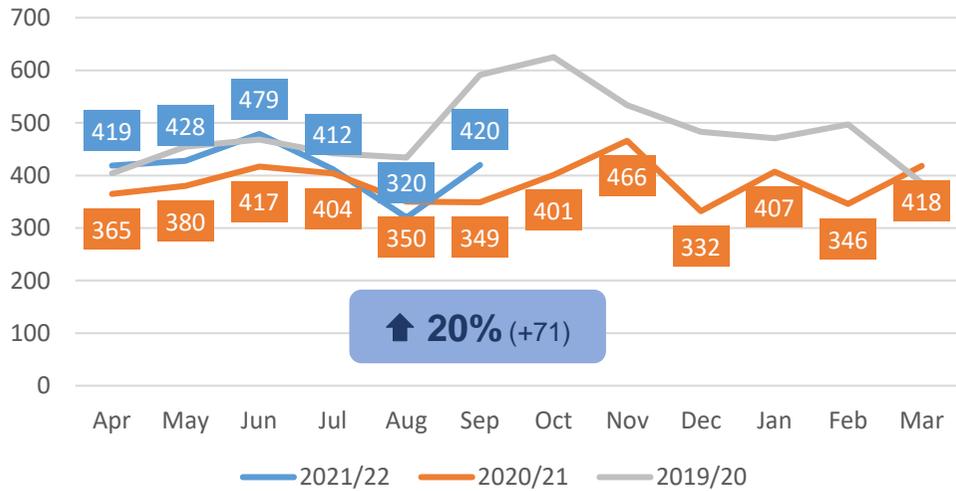


- 22 This has impacted on the social worker caseloads, and some have higher caseloads than we would want. Senior managers are aiming to address this with service redesign and continued close work with colleagues in early help. The council continues to support children's social care to recruit staff over-establishment.
- 23 A key area for improvement which we have focused on since 2019/20 was reducing the re-referral rate. This means children who are referred back into children's social care who had a previous referral in the last 12 months. This has decreased to 19% from 28% in 2019/20, and is now lower than in our national, statistical and regional neighbours.
- 24 Whilst the number of children in care across the county has reduced following increases during COVID due to the inability for children to leave care due to court closures etc., we are experiencing significant placement pressures.
- 25 We continue to progress our Residential Care and Fostering Transformation Programmes with the aim of increasing in-house capacity through recruitment and retention of foster carers and longer-term development of new council children's residential homes.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Page 72

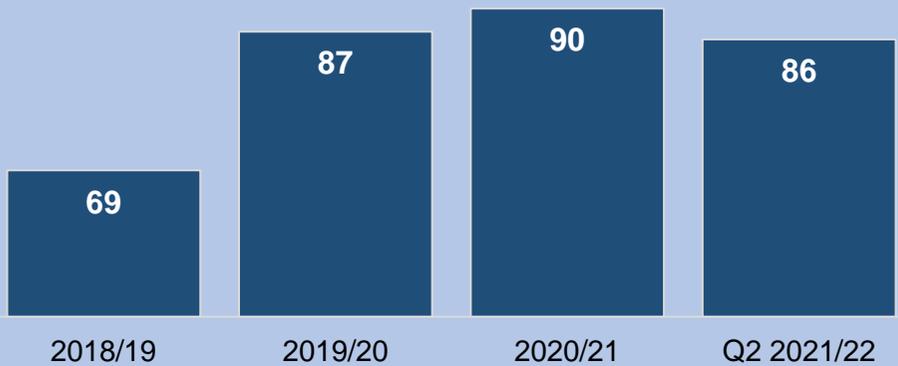
Referrals



No. of open cases



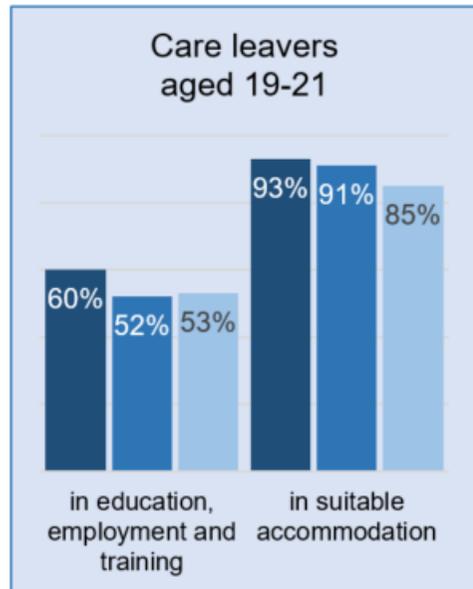
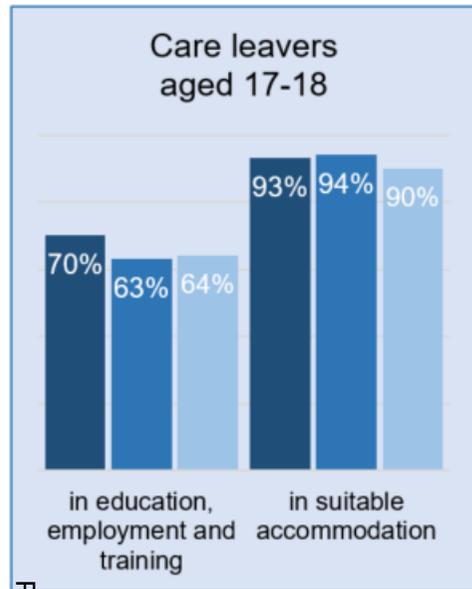
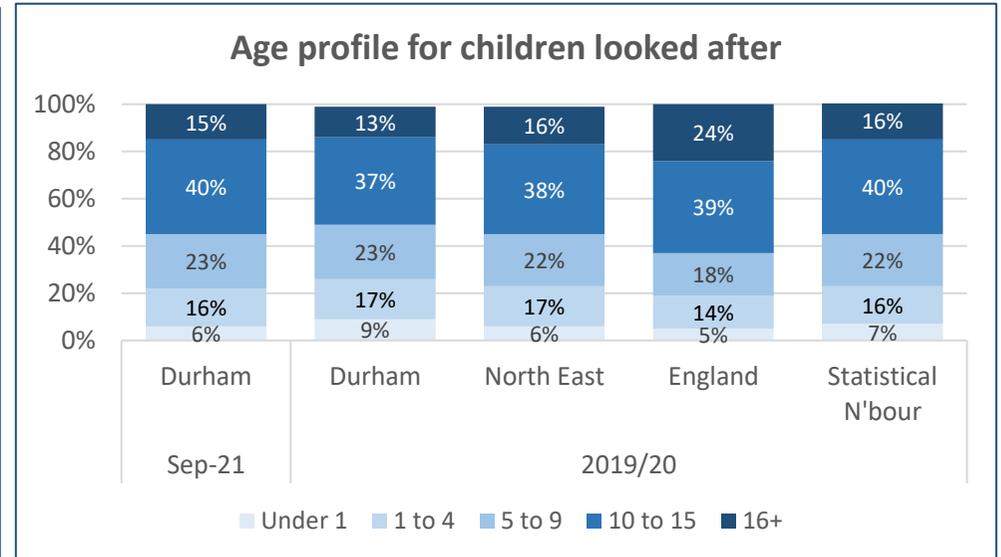
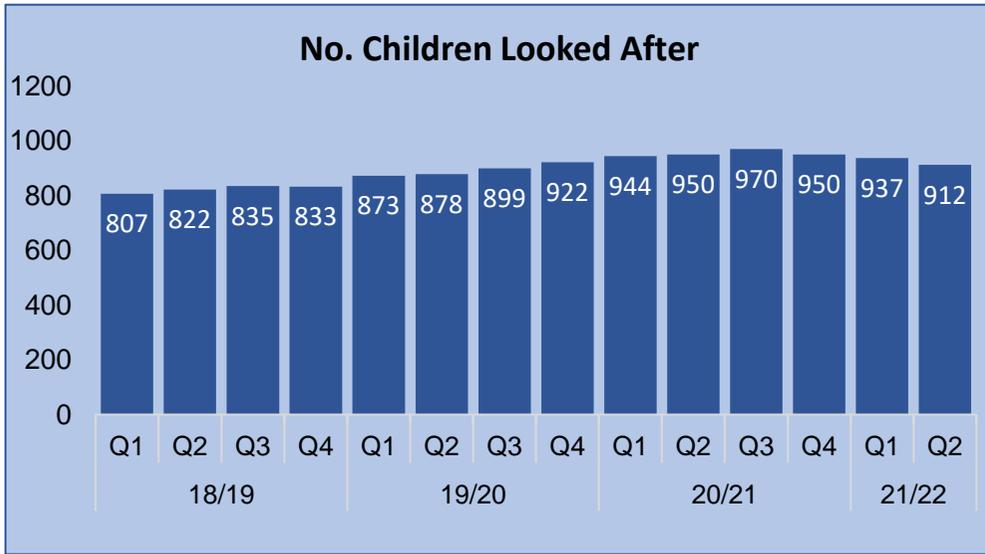
% ICPC held within 15 days of S.47 investigation commencing



No. of children subject to a child protection plan



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



■ County Durham ■ North East ■ England

Where our children in care live

In-house foster care	43%	Independent living (incl. supported lodgings)	4%
Independent fostering agency	18%	Placed for adoption	4%
Friends and family	14%	In-house residential (incl. children's homes)	4%
Placed with parents	7%	NHS/ Health Trust	<0.5%
External residential (incl. children's homes and res school)	6%	Secure (incl. YOI and prison)	<0.5%

Key Performance Indicators – Data Tables

There are two types of performance indicators throughout this document:

- (a) Key target indicators – targets are set as improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
- (b) Key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set as they are long-term and/or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners.

A guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2020/21 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet or can be requested from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Direction of travel	Benchmarking	Performance against target
GREEN	Same or better than comparable period	Same or better than comparable group	Meeting or exceeding target
AMBER	Worse than comparable period (within 2% tolerance)	Worse than comparable group (within 2% tolerance)	Performance within 2% of target
RED	Worse than comparable period (greater than 2%)	Worse than comparable group (greater than 2%)	Performance >2% behind target

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e., County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-On-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland.

More detail is available from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

MORE AND BETTER JOBS

Do our young people have access to good quality education and training?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
14	Average Attainment 8 score	48.8	2019/20 (academic year)	Tracker	Not comparable	53.1 (red)	48.4 (green)			No
15	Average point score per A level entry of state-funded school students	39.9	2019/20 (academic year)	Tracker	Not comparable	39.5 (green)	38.3 (green)			No
16	% of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (KS2)*	65	2018/19 (academic year)	Tracker	67	65 (green)	67 (red)	61 (green)		No
17	% of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training	5.8	Apr-Jun 2021	Tracker	4.8 (red)	3.0 (red)	4.9 (red)			No
18	Gap between average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (KS4)	-14.4	2019/20 (academic year)	Tracker	Not comparable	-13.5 (red)	-15.1 (green)			No
19	% of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage achieving a Good Level of Development*	71.8	2018/19 (academic year)		64 (green)	72.8 (amber)	71.8 (green)	71.8 (green)		No
20	Gap between % of disadvantaged pupils and % of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally who achieve expected standard in reading, writing and maths (KS2)*	-19.8	2018/19 (academic year)	Tracker	-15.1 (red)	-20 (green)	-18 (red)			No
21	Ofsted % of Primary schools judged good or better	89	as at 30 Sep 2021	Tracker	89 (green)	87 (green)	91 (red)			Yes
22	Ofsted % of secondary schools judged good or better	69	as at 30 Sep 2021	Tracker	64 (green)	76 (red)	60 (green)			Yes
23	Exclusion from school of all Durham children - percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion	1.88	2019/20 (academic year)	Tracker	2.2 (green)	1.87 (amber)	2.22 (green)	2.39 (green)		No

*not reporting for 2019/20 as assessments did not take place

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

Are children, young people and families in receipt of universal services appropriately supported?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
24	% of free school meals (FSM) eligible pupils taking FSM	76.0	Jan 2021	Tracker	75.8 (green)	82.6 (red)	82.6 (red)			No
25	Under-18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17	19.0	2019	Tracker	26.4 (green)	15.7 (red)	21.8 (green)	21.5 (green)		Yes
26	% of five year old children free from dental decay	73.2	2019	Tracker	74.2 (amber)	76.6 (red)	76.7 (red)	71.7 (green)		No
27	Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s (rate per 100,000)	52.8	2017/18-2019/20	Tracker	54.7 (green)	30.7 (red)	55.4 (green)	55.3 (green)		No
28	Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000)	361.2	2019/20	Tracker	354.3 (red)	439.2 (green)	536.6 (green)	656.3 (green)		No
29	% of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese**	24.9	2019/20	Tracker	24.0 (red)	23.0 (red)	24.8 (amber)	25.0 (green)		No
30	% of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese**	37.6	2019/20	Tracker	37.7 (green)	35.2 (red)	37.5 (amber)	37.2 (amber)		No
31	% of Education Health and Care Plans completed in the statutory 20 week time period (excl. exceptions)	62	Jan-Sep 2021	Tracker	60 (green)	58 (green)	75.9 (red)	82.0 (red)	2020	Yes

**The National Child Measurement Programme ended in March 2020 when schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparisons to North East and Nearest Statistical Neighbours should be treated with caution as not all submitted of their measurements.

Are children, young people and families in receipt of early help services appropriately supported?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
32	% of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 4)	75 ² [571/761]	Apr-Sep 2021	381 (green)	76.8 (amber) [567/730]					Yes

² Annual target of 761

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
33	% of children aged 0-2 years in the top 30% IMD registered with a Family Centre and having sustained contact	87.7	Jul-Sep 2021	80 (green)	88.8 (amber)					Yes

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SAFER

Are children, young people and families in receipt of social work services appropriately supported and safeguarded?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
55	% of statutory referrals received by the First Contact Team or Emergency Duty Team processed within 1 working day	95 [2,202 / 2,319]	Apr-Sep 2021	Tracker	93 (green)					Yes
56	% of statutory children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of a previous referral	18 [458]	Apr-Sep 2021	Tracker	23 [561] (green)	23 (green)	22 (green)	20 (green)	2019/20	Yes
57	% of single assessments completed within 45 working days	80 [2,002]	Apr-Sep 2021	Tracker	85.5 [2150] (red)	84 (red)	89 (red)	87 (red)	2019/20	Yes
58	Rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population aged under 18	47.05 [473]	as at Sep 2021	Tracker	47.05 [473] (green)	43	70	58	as at 31 Mar 20	Yes
59	Rate of children in need per 10,000 population (Cases open to Children's Social Care)	379 [3,813]	as at Sep 2021	Tracker	351.4 [3,533] (red)	324	463	414	as at 31 Mar 20	Yes
60	Rate of children open to One Point (early help) 10,000 population aged under 18	128 [1,305]	as at Sep 2021	Tracker	148 [1,497]					Yes
61	% of strategy meetings initiated which led to an initial child protection conference being held within 15 working days	86 [340 of 397]	Apr – Sep 2021	75 (green)	93 [340] (red)	78 (green)	83 (green)	82 (green)	2019/20	Yes
62	% of Social Workers with fewer than 20 cases	52	as at Sep 2021	Tracker	60 (red)					Yes
63	% of Statutory Case File Audits which are given a scaling score of 6 or above	85.2	Jul-Sep 2021	80	84.1 (green)					Yes

Are we being a good corporate parent to Children Looked After (CLA)?

Page Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
64	Rate of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18	90.3 [912]	as at 27 Sep 2021	Tracker	94.0 [950]	67	108	99	as at 31 Mar 20	Yes
65	% of children adopted from care (as % of total children leaving care)			Tracker	16	12	12	18	2019/20	
66	% of CLA who are fostered incl. friends and family, independent fostering agency, In-house foster care	75 [684]	as at 27 Sep 2021	Tracker	76 [725]	72	74	73	2019/20	Yes
67	% of external residential placements	6 [55]	as at 27 Sep 2021	Tracker	5 [43]					Yes
68	% of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who had a dental check	58	Sep 2021	Tracker	49 (green)	90 (red)	86 (red)	86 (red)	2019/20	Yes
69	% of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who have had the required number of health assessments	93	Jun 2021	Tracker	90 (green)	90 (green)	92 (green)	93 (green)	2019/20	Yes
70	Emotional and behavioural health of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more (score between 0 to 40)	14	2020/21 [prov.]	Tracker	15.5 (green)	14.2 (green)	14.1 (green)	14.0 (green)	2018/19	No
71	Average Attainment Tracker 8 score of Children Looked After	20.5	2019/20	Tracker	25.6 (red)	21.4 (red)	21.7 (green)	22.4 (red)		No
72	% of CLA achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (at KS2)**	55	2018/19	Tracker	39.5 (green)	36 (green)	47 (green)			No
73	% of care leavers aged 17-18 in education, employment or training	70	Sep 2021	Tracker	67 (green)	64 (green)	63 (green)	65 (green)	2019/20	Yes
74	% of care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment or training	60	Sep 2021	Tracker	56 (green)	53 (green)	52 (green)	53 (green)	2019/20	Yes
75	% of care leavers aged 17-18 in suitable accommodation	93	Sep 2021	Tracker	93 (green)	90 (green)	94 (amber)	100 (red)	2019/20	Yes
76	% of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation	93	Sep 2021	Tracker	95 (red)	85 (green)	91 (green)	90 (green)	2019/20	Yes

*provisional data **not reporting for 2019/20

Other additional relevant indicators

MORE AND BETTER JOBS

Do residents have good job prospects?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
4	% of 16 to 17 year olds in an apprenticeship	5.5	as at Aug 2021	Tracker	6.8 (red)	4.2 (green)	6.4 (red)	6.2 (red)		Yes

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

Are our services improving the health of our residents?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
34	% of mothers smoking at time of delivery	15.0	Jan-Mar 2021	14.7 (amber)	16.6 (green)	8.9 (red)	12.8 (red)	13.4 (red)		No
42	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth (%)	29.1	Apr-Jun 2021	Tracker	31.4 (red)	48.0 (red)	34.4 (red)	34.0 (red)	2019/20	Yes

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

How effective are we are tackling crime and disorder?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
77	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17)	186	2020	Tracker		220 (green)	303 (green)	231 (green)	2019/20	Yes
78	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%)	34.8	Oct 2018-Sep 2019	Tracker	TBC	38.4 (green)	41.8 (green)		Oct 2017 – Sept 2018	Yes

How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child exploitation and radicalisation?

Page Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
92	No of individuals with a referral for 1:1 CSE Support from Supporting Solutions Team**	61	2020/21	Tracker	new**					No

*under review ** New definition – Includes all children - High/Medium/Low Risk (Previously only High-Risk referred to Supporting Solutions)

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny

7 January 2022



Children and Young Peoples Services – Quarter 2: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021-22

Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the forecast outturn budget position for Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS), highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget for the year, based on the position at the end of September.

Executive Summary

2. The Children and Young Peoples Services is reporting a cash limit underspend of £1.607 million against a revised budget of £139.079 million which represents a 1.15% underspend. In Q2 the CYPS budget received a permanent £4.5 million base to addresses the identified recurrent base pressure experienced by the service.
3. In arriving at the cash limit position, Covid-19 related expenditure of £2.345 million, offset by Covid-19 related savings of £0.550 million within CYPS have been excluded from the forecasts. Covid-19 related costs are being treated corporately and offset by Government funding so far as is possible.
4. There is an overall anticipated net change in earmarked reserves including DSG and School reserves of c£1.835 million (including the £44,000 use of CYPS reserves in quarter one), leading to a revised balance of £28.274 million at the year end, of which £19,560 million are schools related.
5. The projected capital outturn is nil variance against a revised budget of £25.450 million.

Recommendations

6. Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny committee are requested to note the Children and Young Peoples Services overall revenue and capital position

Background

7. The County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2021-22 at its meeting on 24 February 2021. These budgets have subsequently been revised to take account of transfers to and from reserves, grant additions/reductions, budget transfers between service groupings and budget reprofiling between years. This report covers the financial position for:
 - *Children and Young Peoples Services Revenue Budget - £139.079 million (original £133.876 million)*
 - *CYPS - Capital Programme - £25.450 million (original £33.641 million)*
8. The original Children and Young Peoples Services revenue budget has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments as summarised in the table below:

Reason For Adjustment	£000s
Original Budget	133,876
Reason For Adjustment	
Transfer from Contingencies	10
Use of (+)/contribution to Children and Young Peoples Services reserves (-)	240
Use of (+)/contribution to Corporate reserves (ERVR) (-)	-
Use of (+)/contribution to Other Service reserves (ERVR) (-)	-
Transfer from Other Services	4,990
Transfer to Other Services	-37
Revised Budget	139,079

9. The use of / contribution to Children and Young Peoples Services reserves consists of:

	£000s
Durham Music Service Reserve	-22
Durham Learning Resources Reserve	43
Early Years Activity Reserve	10
Aycliffe Secure	176
National Supporting Families Programme Reserve	-49
DFE Holiday Activities and Food Grant	72
Vulnerable Young Learners Reserve	10
Total	240

10. The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2021-22 and show: -
- The approved annual budget;
 - The actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
 - The variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
 - For the Children and Young Peoples Services revenue budget, adjustments for items outside of the cash limit to take into account such items as redundancies met from the strategic reserve, capital charges not controlled by services and use of / or contributions to earmarked reserves.

Revenue Outturn (£000)

11. The Children and Young Peoples Services service is reporting a cash limit underspend of £1.607 million against a revised budget of £139.079 million which represents a 1.15% underspend.
12. The tables below show the revised annual budget, actual expenditure to Qtr 2 and the updated forecast of outturn to the year end, including the variance forecast at year end. The first table is analysed by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense) and shows the combined position for Children and Young Peoples Services, and the second table is by Head of Service.

Subjective Analysis (Type of Expenditure)

	Revised Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Covid 19 related Costs	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	77,191	36,466	74,000	(3,191)	-	(326)	(2,865)
Premises	4,240	1,660	4,384	144	-	-	144
Transport	22,368	7,887	23,902	1,534	-	-	1,534
Supplies and Services	11,162	8,133	11,038	(124)	-	(24)	(100)
Third Party Payments	42,386	19,426	39,304	(3,082)	-	-	(3,082)
Transfer Payments	1,515	1,020	1,300	(215)	-	-	(215)
Capital	24,315	426	24,315	-	-	-	-
Central Support and Other Recharges	29,574	2,640	28,024	(1,550)	-	-	(1,550)
Income	(73,672)	(37,409)	(67,000)	6,672	-	2,145	4,527
Total	139,079	40,249	139,267	188	-	1,795	(1,607)

Analysis by Head of Service Area

	Revised Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Covid 19 related Costs	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Youth Justice Service	1,066	(73)	894	(172)	-		(172)
One Point & Think Family Service	2,089	(4,386)	1,993	(96)	-		(96)
Head of Early Help Inclusion and Vulnerable Children	534	533	531	(3)	-		(3)
Aycliffe Site and Price Training	689	55	704	15	-		15
Secure Services	(1,590)	25	(622)	968	-	968	0
SEND Strategy & Assessment & Provision EHIVC	1,941	503	1,609	(332)	-	13	(345)
SEND Inclusion Support EHIVC	1,637	237	1,566	(71)	-	10	(81)
Head of Early Help Inclusion & Vulnerable Children.	6,366	(3,106)	6,675	309	0	991	(682)

CYPS Operational Support Service	1,698	736	1,716	18	-		18
Children's Services Operational Support	1,698	736	1,716	18	0	0	18
Looked After Children and Permanence	8,107	3,635	7,854	(253)	-		(253)
Looked After Children Resources	44,070	22,968	43,119	(951)	-		(951)
Families First North	5,654	2,019	5,162	(492)	-	60	(552)
Families First East DG1520	3,852	1,957	3,986	134	-	60	74
First Contact and Specialist Services	4,052	1,583	3,983	(69)	-		(69)
Strategic Manager Families First South	4,381	2,128	4,357	(24)	-	80	(104)
Head of Children's Services	18,621	480	17,243	(1,378)	-		(1,378)
Safeguarding and Professional Practice	1,883	1,016	1,946	63	-		63
Head of Children's Social Care	90,620	35,786	87,650	(2,970)	0	200	(3,170)
Other Services	1,031	(1,495)	1,031	0	-		-
Central Charges (CYPS)	1,031	(1,495)	1,031	0	0	0	0
Build Schools For The Future-Summ	(1,215)	(1,274)	(1,215)	0	-		0
Support and Development	252	(127)	716	464	-	433	31
Progression and Learning	949	1,234	1,030	81	-	81	0
School Places and Admissions	39,376	7,878	41,480	2,104	-		2,104
Head of Education	(819)	239	(971)	(152)	-		(152)
Performance and Standards DG2850	821	378	1,155	334	-	90	244
Head of Education and Skills	39,364	8,328	42,195	2,831	0	604	2,227
Total	139,079	40,249	139,267	188	0	1,795	(1,607)

13. The table below provides a more detailed commentary of the forecast cash limit variances against the revised budget, analysed by Head of Service. The table identifies variances in the core budget only and excludes items outside of the cash limit (e.g. central repairs and maintenance) and technical accounting adjustments (e.g. capital charges):

Service Area	Description	Cash Limit Variance £000
Head of Early Help Inclusion & Vulnerable Children.		
Youth Justice Service	The forecast underspend relates mainly to vacant posts in the service	(172)
One Point & Think Family Service	The forecast underspend relates mainly to vacant posts in the service	(96)

Head of Early Help Inclusion and Vulnerable Children	The forecast underspend relates to a forecast overspend of £77,000 relating to MTFP savings offset by savings of £80,000 on employees, transport, supplies and services and support recharges.	(3)
Aycliffe Site and Price Training	The minor forecast overspend relates to building utility charges.	15
Secure Services	Secure Services are forecasting to breakeven at Q2. The forecast at Q2 assumes the estimated shortfall in income (£1.406 million) from the sale of beds to other local authorities and delays in opening the new Transition Unit (£87,500) will be classed as outside the cash limit as Covid 19 related. The forecast savings on employees etc (£0.526 million) are being classed as a Covid related underspend in the current financial year.	0
SEND Strategy & Assessment & Provision EHIVC	The forecast underspend mainly relates to savings from vacant posts in the first 5 months of the financial year following an increase in the budget for additional staffing in this service.	(345)
SEND Inclusion Support EHIVC	The forecast underspend relates to Virtual School income and underspend on Supplies and Services	(81)
		(682)
Children's Services Operational Support		
CYPS Operational Support Service	The forecast overspend relates mainly to Visiting Lecturer fees / Professional Fees and a small overspend on Employees.	18
		18
Head of Children's Social Care		
Looked After Children and Permanence	The underspend is mainly due to savings on transport costs (£0.254 million), Inter Agency Adoption (£0.355 million) and over achievement of income (£0.251 million) offset by an overspend mainly related on the purchase of therapeutic services and leaving care accommodation (£0.607 million)	(253)
Looked After Children Resources	The forecast underspend is mainly due to Adoption Allowances, Child Arrangement Orders and Special Guardianship Orders (£0.602 million) and underspends relating to non-operational homes (£0.484 million) offset by an overspend (£0.135 million) mainly in relation to agency staff	(951)

Families First North	The forecast underspend mainly relates to forecast savings on vacant posts (£0.207 million) including newly created posts in the Disability Team, underspend on reduced travel costs (£0.126 million) a forecast saving (£0.200 million) on Direct Payments and additional income (£0.279 million) from the CCG for joint funded placements offset by a net overspend of £0.260 million on short breaks	(552)
Families First East DG1520	The forecast overspend relates mainly to employee costs (£0.190 million), non-recurrent expenditure (£40,000) offset by savings on reduced transport costs (£0.156 million)	74
First Contact and Specialist Services	The forecast underspend mainly relates to savings on staff travel costs	(69)
Strategic Manager Families First South	The forecast underspend mainly relates to savings on car allowances and transportation costs for children and young people	(104)
Head of Children's Services	The forecast underspend relates mainly to employee budgets, including £0.880 million aligned to the LAC Restructure and agency staff budget where expenditure is charged to the social work teams	(1,378)
Safeguarding and Professional Practice	The forecast overspend mainly relates to employee costs (£88,000) including additional Independent Reviewing Officers and maternity leave cover and training costs (£31,000) in the Social Work Academy offset by additional grant income (£33,000) for newly qualified social workers and savings on transport costs (£23,000).	63
		(3,170)
Head of Education and Skills		
Build Schools For The Future-Summ	There is no forecast under or overspend attributable to this service.	0
Support and Development	The forecast overspend mainly relates to £0.197 million shortfall in SLA income, £0.154 million shortfall in other income (particular Daycare Nursery and CPD income streams). There is also a forecast underspend of £0.249 million on employees from savings on vacant posts and other pay budgets, £25,000 underspend on car allowances, £24,000 underspend on staff recharges, and £22,000 underspend on Visiting Lecturers and Subsistence.	31
Progression and Learning	There is no forecast under or overspend attributable to this service.	0

School Places and Admissions	The forecast overspend is mainly attributable to a projected overspend of £2.332 million on Home to School Transport, £11,000 overspend which is due to the inability to achieve staff turnover savings, £1,000 overspend on Printing and Postages partially offset with an underspend of £0.242 million due to a reduction in pension liabilities.	2,102
Head of Education	This forecast underspend relates to an saving on Other Pay of £0.146 million (budget that is usually retained for incremental drift purposes) and a small underspend of £6,000 on Employees.	(152)
Performance and Standards DG2850	This forecast overspend mainly relates to a £0.433 million shortfall in SLA income and an income shortfall of £92,000 (largely attributable to School & Governor Support Unit and course income streams). There are also forecast underspends of £0.158 million on employees from savings on vacant posts and other pay budgets, a £79,000 underspend relating to staff recharges, a £28,000 underspend relating to savings on printing and postages budgets and an underspend on staff travelling and car allowances of £16,000.	244
		2,225
Total		(1,607)

14. The council has faced significant additional costs in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak and significant loss of income. In many areas the costs and loss of income for the first quarter is known. The likely impact over the remainder of the year however is much more uncertain. All additional costs and loss of income, net of Covid-19 related underspending, is being treated corporately and is therefore excluded from the cash limit.
15. The areas of forecast additional cost and loss of income in respect of CYPS are as follows:
- (a) Secure Services – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall in income of £1.494 million from the sale of bed nights to other local authorities and from delays in opening the new Step Down facility.
 - (b) Additional experienced agency staffing costs £0.200 million in Children’s Social Care in order to meet increase in demand.
 - (c) Shortfall in income of £10,000 from delays in programmes and the sale of courses provided to schools by the Educational Psychology Service.

- (d) Shortfall in income of £12,950 from schools between April and July for advice and guidance from SEND Advisory Officers
- (e) DCC Daycare Nurseries – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall in income of £0.195m as a result of less parental income due to parents working from home etc during the pandemic.
- (f) Durham Leadership Centre – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of £0.156m in lettings income at DLC due to employees / other organisations continuing working from home during the pandemic.
- (g) Curriculum and Professional Development – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of £0.102m in courses and lettings income due to face to face courses continuing not to take place during the pandemic.
- (h) Fixed Penalty Notices – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall in parental fine income of £48,000 as the Government has prohibited fining parents for pupil's non-attendance at school.
- (i) Training Course Income – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of income of £42,000 relating to training courses and reduced support provided to schools.
- (j) Adult Learning Income – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of income of £81,000 relating to grant income received for adult learners.
- (k) Education Lettings income at Stanley Teachers Centre – it is forecast that there will be a shortfall of £4,167 relating to room lettings income

16. The major areas of forecast Covid-19 related savings in respect of CYPS are as follows:

- (a) Savings relating to catering costs of £24,000 for Durham Leadership Centre due to less/no lettings taking place during the pandemic.
- (b) £0.526 million from staff vacancies in the Secure Centre.

17. In summary the Children and Young Peoples Services service is reporting a cash limit underspend of £1.607 million against a revised budget of £139.079 million which represents a 1.15% overspend.

18. The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings built into the 2021-22 budgets, which for Children and Young Peoples Services in total amount to £1.265 million.

Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools

19. The council currently maintains 187 schools, including nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and a single Alternative Provision (AP) school. The AP school is for pupils who have been permanently excluded from other schools, or who are at risk of permanent exclusion.
20. The current budget for 2021/22 for these 187 maintained schools is £275 million, funded by income of £64 million, budget shares of £201 million (from central government funding), and a budgeted £10 million use of accumulated schools' reserves. The table below summarises the schools' current budgets.

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special & AP	Current Annual Budget
	(£ million)	(£ million)	(£ million)	(£ million)	(£ million)
Employees	(4.480)	(151.450)	(30.563)	(30.275)	(216.768)
Premises	(0.277)	(10.138)	(2.352)	(1.294)	(14.062)
Transport	(0.001)	(0.375)	(0.385)	(1.142)	(1.903)
Supplies and Services	(0.490)	(30.853)	(5.611)	(4.996)	(41.951)
Gross Expenditure	(5.248)	(192.816)	(38.911)	(37.708)	(274.684)
Income	3.873	41.620	12.597	5.877	63.967
Net expenditure	(1.376)	(151.196)	(26.314)	(31.831)	(210.717)
Budget share	1.072	143.387	25.751	30.524	200.735
Contribution to/(from) reserves	(0.304)	(7.808)	(0.563)	(1.307)	(9.982)

Balance at 31 Mar 21	1.034	24.231	1.060	3.216	29.542
Balance at 31 Mar 22	0.731	16.423	0.498	1.909	19.560

21. Four schools were given approval to set deficit budgets where planned expenditure during 2021/22 would result in a deficit balance at 31 March 2022 (known as a licensed deficit). The budgets for these schools are summarised in the table below.

School Name	Phase	Deficit at 31 March 2021	Planned in-year use of reserves	Planned deficit at 31 March 2022	Licensed deficit (i.e. balance at 31 March 2022)
		£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Ferryhill Station	Primary	(0.045)	0.026	(0.019)	(0.019)
St. Thomas More RC	Primary	(0.047)	(0.025)	(0.072)	(0.065)
Wellfield	Secondary	(3.114)	0.200	(2.914)	(2.914)
The Durham Federation	Secondary	(0.504)	(0.310)	(0.814)	(0.814)

22. St Thomas More has now converted to an academy in September. This was expected and the licensed deficit took account of the fact that it was not expected to be a maintained school for the whole of the financial year. To facilitate the conversion of this school the council has agreed to write-off the deficit balance at the point of conversion. This will limit the council's exposure to having to write-off a larger deficit in the future if the school was to convert as a sponsored academy. The final balance upon conversion will be confirmed in December.
23. Ferryhill Station will be required to make operational changes In order to set a balanced budget by the end of 2022/23.The school is still considering options to achieve the required savings to comply with the licensed deficit and balance its budget by the end of next year.
24. Both Wellfield and Durham Community Business College expect to comply with their licensed deficits. (Durham Community Business College was formerly part of The Durham Federation, with Fyndoune Community College, which has now closed).
25. The School funding Team is monitoring the budget position for these schools and will work with them to identify further savings.

Dedicated Schools Grant Centrally Retained block

26. The quarter two financial forecasts for the centrally retained DSG budgets show an overspend of £1.455 million against a total expenditure budget of £101.056 million to year end, which represents a 1.44% overspend.

DSG Block	Budgeted Expenditure £ million	Budgeted Income £ million	Net Budget £ million	Forecast Outturn £ million	Forecast Over / (Under) Spend £ million
Schools de-delegated	0.352	(0.352)	-	-	-
High Needs	65.743	(67.198)	-	1.455	1.455
Early Years	31.935	(31.935)	-	-	-
Central Schools Services	3.026	(3.026)	-	-	-
TOTAL	101.056	(101.056)	-	1.455	1.455

27. The forecast overspend position relates to forecast savings against the High Needs Block (HNB), which is forecast to overspend by £1.455 million.
28. This forecast overspend largely relates to Top Up Funding for mainstream Nursery, Primary and Secondary pupils and the Local Authority PRU and associated income.
29. All areas of HNB expenditure will be kept under close review in light of continuing COVID-19 issues, with particular attention on the impact of schools returning where it is possible we will see an upward trend in the volume of requests for additional support for high needs pupils.
30. The impact of the current forecast on the DSG reserves position is shown in the following table:

DSG Reserves	High Needs Block £ million	Early Years Block £ million	Schools Block £ million	Total DSG £ million
Balance as at 1 April 2020	(5.726)	1.275	0.644	(3.806)
Early Years adjustment 2019/20	-	0.097	-	0.097
Use [-] / Contribution [+] in 2020/21	(2.321)	0.003	2.105	(0.213)
Balance as at 1 April 2021	(8.047)	1.375	2.749	(3.923)
Use [-] / Contribution [+] in 2021/22	(1.455)	-	-	(1.455)
Forecast balance as at 1 April 2022	(9.502)	1.375	2.749	(5.378)

31. The overall DSG reserve was in deficit of £3.923 million at the start of the financial year as a result of the accumulated deficit position in relation to the high needs block.

32. A five-year plan for high needs block funding and expenditure, including recovery of the accumulated deficit by the end of the five-year period, was approved by Cabinet in January 2020. An updated version of the plan was reported to Cabinet in July 2020.
33. Following a funding announcement from Government on 21 July 2021, further information is now available about HNB funding levels in 2022/23 . The provisional position for Durham is better than forecast in the previous version of the five-year plan and the process of updating the plan to reflect this change, as well as the revised forecast outturn position for 21/22, is underway.

Capital Programme

34. The capital programme has been revised to take into account budget reprofiled from 2020-21 following the final accounts for that year and to take account of any revisions in the current year.
35. The revised budget is presented below together with actual expenditure to date and the forecast outturn. The budget may be subsequently amended with approval from MOWG.

36. Summary financial performance to the end of Qtr 2 is shown below:

CYPS	Original (MAY MOWG) Budget 2021/22 £000	Revised Annual Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual Spend 30/09/21 £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Forecast Variance £000
Education-SCP - LEP	45	47	10	47	-
Children's Services-Children's Care	1,333	244	11	244	-
Planning & Service Strategy	1,616	1,616	302	1,616	-
Early Help Inclusion and Vulnerable Children- One Point	21	21	43	21	-
Education-Early Years	115	79	55	79	-
Education-School Devolved Capital	3,858	4,020	1,346	4,020	-
Education-School Related	22,128	15,013	4,643	15,013	-
SEN Capital	4,404	4,404	1,169	4,404	-
Children's Services-Secure Services	121	6	51	6	-
Total	33,641	25,450	7,630	25,450	-

Contact: A.Baldwin

Tel: 03000 263490

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Financial implications are detailed throughout the report which provides an analysis of the revenue and capital projected outturn position.

Staffing

There are no implications associated with this report. Any over or under spending against the employee budgets are disclosed within the report.

Risk

The management of risk is intrinsic to good budgetary control. This report forms an important part of the governance arrangements within Children and Young Peoples Services. Through routine / regular monitoring of budgets and continual re-forecasting to year end the service grouping can ensure that it manages its finances within the cash envelope allocated to it.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

