



Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 23 September 2022**

Time **9.30 am**

Venue **Committee Room 2, 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 7 July 2022 (Pages 3 - 16)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Growing up in County Durham - Children, Young People and Families Strategy - Report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 17 - 46)
7. Ofsted ILACS Inspection Durham - May 2022
 - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Service (Pages 47 - 54)
 - b) Presentation by the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 55 - 70)
8. Revenue and Capital Outturn Quarter 4 2021/2022 Report of the Corporate Director of Resources and Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn Quarter 1 2022/2023 - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 71 - 94)
9. Performance Management Quarter One 2022/2023 - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 95 - 106)
10. CAMHS Waiting Times Data - for information (Pages 107 - 108)
11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
14 September 2022

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

Councillor J Cosslett (Vice-Chair)

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

Faith Communities Representatives:

Mrs L Keenan and Mrs L Vollans

Parent Governor Representatives:

Mr P Debrett-Watson

Co-opted Members:

Ms R Evans and Ms A Gunn

Contact: Paula Nicholson Tel: 03000 269710

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 7 July 2022 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Hood (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors V Andrews, J Cosslett, C Bell, M Currah, O Gunn, C Hunt, C Martin, L Mavin, D Mulholland, K Rooney, A Sterling, S Townsend, C Varty, E Waldock and M Walton

Faith Community Representative:

Mrs L Keenan

Co-opted Members:

Ms R Evans and Ms A Gunn

Also Present:

Councillors J Howey and P Jopling

The Chair welcomed the newly appointed co-opted Members Ms R Evans, Ms A Gunn and Faith Representative Mrs L Keenan.

He also welcomed Members of Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee who had been invited to attend for Item 6, CAMHS Waiting Times.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Charlton-Laine, I Cochrane, S Deinali, J Griffiths, Mr P Debret-Watson and Mrs L Vollans.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor V Andrews substituted for Councillor J Griffiths.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2022 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised Members that there was one outstanding area of follow up, relating to a question from Councillor Walton to the Quarter 3 Budget report in relation to the underspend on staffing the potential impact on the service and what actions were being taken to address the issue. Officers were in the process of gathering information to answer the question which would be circulated to Members in due course.

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.

Councillor Jopling left the meeting at 11.00 am

6 CAMHS Waiting Times

The Director of Operations & Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability Services) Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust was in attendance to deliver a presentation on CAMHS Waiting Times (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The presentation provided Members with Key Areas of the Work Programme; Details of the i-Thrive framework of care; Response to CQC Concerns; Waiting Times including the Crisis Service and Eating Disorders; Case Example and Next Steps.

The Director of Operations and Transformation advised members that they had a 97% success rate of ensuring that service users and their carers were being kept in touch from CAMHS and other support services. She also advised that CAMHS were unable to cap caseloads as this was determined by the type and intensity of the work, but they were working with clinicians about this and reassured members that staff did receive the right training. The Trust were also looking at more creative ways of filling staff vacancies.

The Director referred to the work programme key areas and explained that the five areas highlighted in the presentation were intrinsically linked. Waiting times and

staffing remained the main areas and if they could get these right than the others would fall into place.

In relation to the i-Thrive model members were advised that this was a national recommended multi-agency framework that considered four areas; getting advice; getting help; getting risk support and getting more help. In relation to getting advice and help this did not need to be delivered by mental health staff and were children and young people in these groups did not need to interact with CAMHS. Those who received risk support or more help required specialist mental health support. However, in County Durham all children and young people whether they required advice and help, or risk support and more help went through the CAMHS system, and this needed to be managed as those who require advice and help could receive the support they need from other services. Only 5%-10% of children and young people need specialist treatment, but if children and young people seeking advice and help were not seen quickly their mental health could deteriorate and they may require specialist help.

Members were also advised that 90% of schools were part of the Mental Health Support Teams to provide school-based support, early help and prevention and meet young peoples need at place.

The Director advised that in the Teesside area also within the Trust, CAMHS only signposted those who were seeking advice and help and the waiting times in this area were lower than in County Durham area. She advised that a pilot was planned for North Durham but had no further details.

Information was given on waiting times for non neuro referrals where a triage assessment would take place prior to full assessment and members learned that TEWV calculated the wait from the triage assessment whereas nationally this was calculated from the start of treatment. In relation to specialist neuro assessments CAMHS do not carry out treatment unless there were mental health needs too. The nature of autism requires that assessments are carried out face to face and COVID and lockdown had impacted on the Trust's ability to carry out these assessments.

Members were also advised that there was a dedicated Crisis Team in County Durham, which was not available in all trusts. The Crisis Team were meeting their targets and providing a wrap around care at home so that the patient did not need to be admitted to hospital, this was similar to the service operated by Adult Mental Health Services but with better support.

The Director then referred to eating disorders and advised that this service experienced a peak in referrals as we came out of lockdown as parents did not realise their children had an issue and the schools were closed. She went on to advise that children and young people with eating disorders are usually admitted to hospital and they always had one young person in Durham or Darlington in hospital that took resources away from the community. She advised that Avoidable

Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (AFRID) had always been around but now had a name and was given a code by NHS England that would link to the eating disorder code, and this would show an increase in their numbers when this code went live in September. The Trust were lobbying NHS England to see if this code could be changed so that it did not impact on the eating disorder code, as people with AFRID were usually avoiding food because of a sensory issue or having had a bad experience with food.

Following the presentation, the Chair asked Members for their questions.

Councillor C Bell referred to a particular case and how their appointments were often cancelled, and the parent had to contact CAMHS to arrange a further appointment and asked if there was a reason for this.

The Director responded that she was unable to comment on particular cases but if Members wished to contact her direct with the details, she was happy to look into these.

Councillor C Bell then referred to assessment times and asked how long from the initial contact did it take for an assessment to take place and how many posts were currently vacant.

The Director indicated that it was dependent on what the child was being assessed for it could be hours or days and advised that they currently had vacancies in North End House.

In response to a question from Councillor C Bell about what help was available for families who had a child under CAMHS, the Officer responded that they carried out family therapy to ensure that no one falls through the gaps, however there was a difference between challenging behaviour and mental health issues.

Councillor Hunt referred to the waiting list and asked if those who were not deemed as severe if they were getting pushed back for severe cases. She also referred to the referral system in Durham been different and if this was something that needed to be looked at and if Autism patients were being treated before the assessment. She then asked if a child had been on the waiting list for some time, then become an adult what would happen to their case.

The Director responded that in the NHS urgent cases were dealt with as a priority and gave an example that if someone was suicidal then they would take precedence as they had to manage risk, but it would not impact too much on the waiting list. With regard to referrals, Durham had a single point of access where anyone could be referred even as a self-referral but until that initial assessment had taken place, they were unaware what help was required and which service could provide that help. Undertaking referrals was taking time away from seeing patients so they needed to think about this differently in view of the numbers. She then

advised that they did not carry out treatment for Autism but would refer patients to other places while they were waiting for their assessment. With regard to patients transitioning from a child to an adult they had an Autism waiting list for adults but the numbers on this list were lower and that person would be transitioned across to that list. This process would start when they were 17 so that the transition would be seamless as possible.

In response to a question from Councillor Currah, the Director indicated that clinicians carried out the Autism diagnosis and they had nearly 3,000 children currently within the system and they monitored cancelled appointments. They were currently carrying some vacancies that could impact on the service.

Councillor Currah then referred to the waiting list and asked if they had undertaken an analysis of how many staff, they would need to recruit to reduce the waiting list. The Director advised that the vacancies were not always in the Autism assessment as it was a small team, and the vacancies were more generic in the CAMHS team. They had looked at outsourcing some of the assessments to reduce the waiting list.

Councillor Currah then asked if the information could be presented on how many staff would be needed to reduce the waiting list so that Members could talk to people such as MPs.

Councillor Sterling referred to the i-THRIVE framework of care and asked if they measured the impact of waiting times so if there was an escalation of need from one advice through to risk how was that measured. She then referred to those needing advice and help and signposting to others such as voluntary groups and asked how this was measured and followed up. She then asked if voluntary groups had sufficient resources to properly work with these children and how was it assessed and it was uncomfortable that they were relying on volunteers for important work.

The Director indicated that it was the voluntary sector and not volunteers and staff were qualified paid to work in the organisation.

Councillor Sterling then asked how staff caseloads were monitored and how often were the keeping in touch sessions. She then referred to Autism and while they were waiting for an assessment, they should be working with other agencies such as schools, but they hear from schools that there was no funding for support without an assessment, she asked how agencies worked together on this and where did they obtain the funding.

In relation to the i-Thrive model the Director advised that it was too early to give an indication the respective areas of the model were not monitored but the initial assessment would calculate the risk which would be given a RAG rating, where red is urgent amber and green non-urgent, and this was monitored on a weekly basis.

The Director then referred to the keeping in touch process that had different tiggers and was dependent on the initial rag rating. It could range from keeping in touch on a daily basis or a monthly to six weekly bases. Members were advised that the keeping in touch phone call which was followed up with a letter that included the details of different local organisations and if there was a significant or immediate change in the mental health of the child contact details for the crisis team. If the child was stepped up from green to amber than the keeping in touch days would intensify. They currently had 7500 children and had to employ someone to help keep them on track and this was monitored every day to make sure they were on track. This was also scrutinised frequently by the Trust Board.

Councillor Sterling commented that it was reassuring that the keeping in touch was monitored on a daily basis.

The Director referred to the voluntary sector and advised that the team would still provide some supervisory support; however, this would be a commissioning decision but presently they were commissioned to provide the services. The money would follow the children and organisations would have to bid for the work and ensure due diligence was in place.

With regard to caseloads these were reviewed every month, but they had also undertaken deep dives in each of the teams to ensure the caseloads were appropriate and this would continue.

Councillor Gunn suggested that in view of the importance of the issue a further meeting be arranged to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to speak and identify their issues and add to the discussion.

In response to questions from Councillor Walton, the Director advised that the waiting lists were monitored electronically but were now linked to electronic patient records and were more accurate. The definition of urgent was not a mandate framework for children crisis referral but they monitored against the adult framework that was within four hours and it was a clinician that they would speak to.

Councillor Walton referred to the ARFID figures and was concerned that this would impact on the figures and what could they do as a committee to lobby.

The Director responded that they were lobbying as an organisation and other organisations were doing the same as they recognised that they needed a different code for ARFID so that it did not impact on figures.

Councillor Walton indicated that that there needed to be a distinction between a child that suffered from anorexia or bulimia to a child that struggled to eat.

The Director indicated that they could provide a distinction in the figures internally, but this would need to be reported externally as a general eating disorder.

Councillor Walton asked if the committee could be provided with the details of the number of appointments that were cancelled. The Director would obtain this information and circulate to the Members.

Mrs Gunn referred to the length of the waiting lists which were an issue, but it was important to recognise that some of the issues come pre CAMHS as well and were not purely a CAMHS issue. There were some really good long-term strategies starting to be implemented but wanted to see more of a short-term plan to address the length of the waiting list. She went on to ask what Full Time Equivalents were available to work on treatments and assessments and what were the gaps.

The Director responded that the long-term strategies were put on hold to deal with current issues. It was a systemwide issue and was everyone's responsibility and they needed to do quicker. In relation to behavioural problems the first three years of a child's life were very important and support for parents could help. The Director stressed the time it takes for clinicians assess children through the system and if a few hundred children were removed from the lists who had come to CAMHS with challenging behavioural issues rather than mental health those clinicians could be working with someone who had recognised mental health problems. They were currently being reactive, and they needed to get away from this and every time they took a step back the waiting list had increased, and the waiting time was not an acceptable level.

In response to further questions from Mrs Gunn, the Director indicated that they were focusing on the five key areas and provided details of actions. She then advised that the waiting lists had reduced in the last year, so they were going in the right direction and things were improving. Their work with partners was their longer-term vision for the next 12 months. She would confirm if it was working or calendar days but suspected it was working days and the figures were for Durham only. She indicated that Teesside's figures were better but had lower numbers, Darlington's wait assessment was 16 days as opposed to 23 for Durham but again their numbers were smaller. The national clock stopped at the assessment stage, but they also measured it internally and lots of children were open to lots of teams and no two children were the same and had different needs. Some children may be on a waiting list for Autism but were currently having some other assistance so numbers were helpful but there was lots of activity going on behind the scenes.

Mrs Gunn indicated that it would be helpful for Members to understand the current risks and where monitoring did not take place and the length of time it was taken to complete treatment. and the average number of treatments per child?

The Director responded that they monitored everything, but it was difficult to give an average treatment per child as this was variable as children all had different needs but would ask the question.

Mrs Gunn asked if they were considering the use of technology to try and reduce some of the processing times such as virtual appointments.

The Director responded that COVID helped with this process but now that restrictions had been lifted it would be rare not to see a child at least once as it was dangerous to see a child electronically all the time, but they had the technology in place.

In response to a question on the conversation rate for neuro figures the Director advised that this was 70% for a diagnosis. Demand was going up and was about streamlining people into the right pathway and to ensure that people were getting the right help they needed. They needed to get assessments such as in schools so that they were not going onto lists that they did not need to be on.

Mrs Gunn then referred to eating disorders and asked how many were currently on the lists and how many were new and were these increasing and the severity due to other waiting lists.

The Director responded that it was a completely different waiting list for eating disorders and was monitored differently. It was schools and families who could catch these disorders earlier.

Ms Evans commented on the advice and help areas of the i-THRIVE framework of care and at the last meeting they received a presentation on 'Young Families Strategy' that mentioned a social subscribing pilot and she asked for details of the North Durham pilot to be circulated to Members. She then referred to Young People and Families Partnership Board and asked about interface and how the commission was carried out and how voluntary sectors could help alleviate some of the advice and help sections. She then indicated that at the last meeting members observed how the voluntary sector was struggling and how it didn't have enough capacity and struggled with funding and asked that some cross check be carried out and those conversations be had and have a direction that was consistent and realistic and was going to work.

The Director indicated that she worked closely with commissioners and would get some further details on the North Durham pilot that was looking at the infrastructures around North Durham. If they did go down the voluntary sector route that would be recommissioned and the money would follow to deliver the service safely and effectively and commissioned properly through the appropriate channels.

Councillor Townsend asked about neuropathway and autism pathway and asked if this was the pathway for both Autism and ADHD. The Director would check on this and advise members accordingly.

Councillor Townsend then referred to the crisis team being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and that the average wait time was 1.68 hours, but she

had just seen a report of someone waiting 10 hours for a crisis team and some being told to ring the police. She asked when the crisis system was not working what would the Director advise members to do when they were contacted. She then commented that schools would not provide support to children until they had a diagnosis, but this was incorrect and should receive support in schools.

The Director referred to the crisis team and that they did have a 24 hour, 7 days a week crisis team but it was a small resource and due to staff shortages have had on occasions had to link it to the adult crisis team to keep the team going. She was happy to look at specific cases and indicated that in some cases it was appropriate to tell people to call the Police due to the immediate risk to the person.

Councillor Gunn indicated that they had to recognise that around some of the levels of this service there were national issues and commitment by organisations locally was one thing but commitment by government nationally for NHS spending and special education disability funding and for the increasing number of children with mental health issues and how this was dealt with had to be recognised. She wanted to look at the next steps and already mentioned was the North Durham Pilot and asked that details of this pilot be provided to Members at a future meeting. She then referred to communication plans for schools and the public regarding service developments and how to access support this was crucial and asked that scrutiny look at these communication plans. They had heard about casework and how difficult it was, but parents were desperate for the care and support for the child and the family and would like to see the plan. When looking at embedding mental health practitioners and primary care network again this was crucial to the system and asked if they could hear more about how this was going to happen, and the detail and the next steps were the crucial issues now. She again referred to a workshop to look at the issues in more detail or a paper briefing around some of the issues raised.

The Chair responded that the work programme would be discussed later in the agenda, but he could not see any issues with arranging a workshop.

The Director asked if the workshop could be system wide as they needed to move forward together.

The Chair referred to the NHS digital data analysed by the Royal College of Sociatrists that came out in March for routine cases waiting for an assessment that was 63 days nationally, the presentation stated 23 days for Durham, treatment nationally was 91 days and 203 days in the presentation for Durham and asked if this could be taken away and given some context.

The Director indicated that she would provide some data on a quarterly basis so that the statistics could be monitored.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

Councillor Howey left the meeting at 11.22 am

7 Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Chair of Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board which provided an update on the work of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board over the last year and its future work programme.

The Joint Head of Integrated Strategic Commissioning and Deputy Chair of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board, Sarah Burns was in attendance to deliver a presentation to provide Members with an update on the work of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board, its strategic priorities, and its future work programme. (for copy of the report and presentation, see file of minutes).

Members were advised that the Clinical Commissioning Groups had been replaced with the Integrated Care Board from 1 July 2022, but the County Durham Care Partnership would continue as the point of escalation and the partnership board structure would remain in place.

The Deputy Chair of the Partnership Board advised Members of key areas of work that was undertaken in the past year that included Ockenden report that was currently pauses for recruitment; strategic focus on unborns and under ones and the growing up in County Durham children's strategy which the committee fed into. The Deputy Chair informed the committee of the Partnership's future work programme that included work with CAMHS on the North Durham pilot to support people better.

Councillor Varty commented that she was saddened to see the number of under one's going into care. She indicated that people rarely see the same Health Visitor and asked if there was a shortage of Health Visitors in the area.

The Deputy Chair of the Partnership responded that it was very sad that they were seeing children so young going into care and they hoped that through the strategic focus work on unborns/under one's and the enhanced parent support pathway they could make a difference on this in the future. There continued to be staffing shortages in the 0-25 service which was a national issue. They had seen some slight improvements locally and had been working with Harrogate District Foundation Trust to see if there were other alternative staffing models they could try and if there were different ways that they could deliver services, this was going to be part of the role of the Transformation Manager when they come into post.

In response to a question from Ms Evans, the Deputy Chair indicated that they would consider Climate Change implications for future reports.

Councillor Gunn indicated that she had looked at the strategic priorities but could not see the impact of poverty which concerned her as one in three children lived in poverty and the impact of poverty could not be ignored and asked why this was not included in the report.

The Deputy Chair indicated that poverty had come through all the co-production and stakeholder sessions. It was a hugely important issue, and she would take back the feedback and ensure that it was front and central within the strategy as it was developed. She would ensure that it was visible as each of the priority areas poverty was a factor and influence in all of them.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her report and presentation.

Resolved: That the report and presentation be noted.

Councillor Townsend left the meeting at 11.55 am

8 Performance Management Quarter 4 2021/2022

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Resources, which provided progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the Council's corporate performance framework and highlighted key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes. The report covered performance in and to the end of quarter four, January to March 2022 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Strategy Team Leader was in attendance to present the report. She advised Members that more detailed information around children with Special Education Needs (SEN) would be brought to the committee going forward.

In response to a question from Ms Evans regarding the presentation of the report, the Officer indicated that the structure and presentation of the report followed the Council Plan. There was a new Council Plan so this would be the last report in this format and going forward would be structured around the new Council Plan and key themes.

Councillor Gunn referred to more and better jobs and access to training, education and apprenticeships and asked if Durham County Council were involved in the National Graduate Programme. The Officer would take this away and feed back to the Committee.

Mrs Gunn commented on Elective Home Education that was 1% and that this was a vulnerable group of children and suggested that their needs were not met and were forced into home education. That group may not be accessing services that they should be able to access but if they were brought into local services, they would be very high-cost individuals and there was little information in this area.

The Officer referred to the multi-agency panel who looked at this cohort of children that was monitored very closely. This cohort often had other vulnerabilities so that cohort was looked at alongside early help or social care services. The Officer indicated that the team within education over the last year had integrated over 100 children back into school and were very closely monitored.

Mrs Gunn asked how many children had multiple care and education moves. She then referred to the number of EHCPs completed and that it was good to hear that this was going to be looked at and they wanted to understand the process of the reviews that were going on and look at the timings and if they were any quick wins and the approval process. She asked about the culture in the team and how parental preference had been incorporated.

The Officer responded that this information could be provided to supplement the information provided in the report.

Mrs Gunn then referred to the residential care transformation and asked if they looked at past projects and the process to ensure that lessons were learned.

The Officer responded that there was a County Durham Sufficiency Strategy that contained a lot of the detail that was a statutory annual report.

Mrs Gunn then asked about breastfeeding which was on the workplan but asked if this could be linked to children who were overweight which the Officer noted.

Councillor Hunt asked for more information on the health care assessments for looked after children.

The Officer indicated that they saw a drop off during COVID but were now seeing that increase, the last figure was 93%.

Resolved: That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter four 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 be noted.

Councillors Andrews, Gunn, Mulholland and Varty left the meeting at 12.07 pm

Mrs Evans left the meeting at 12.10 pm

9 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Resources that provided Members with an updated work programme for 2022/23 (for copy of report see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer was in attendance to present the report and advised Members that the Ofsted Inspection Report of Durham County Council's Children Social Care would be included on the agenda for the next scrutiny meeting on 23 September 2022.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer highlighted that in order to deliver the work programme two additional special meetings would be required, a workshop that had been highlighted earlier in the meeting and a visit. Members were advised that should they wish to carry out task and finish work in relation to identifying further efficiencies or areas of income generation. This work would impact on the committee's intention to carry out review activity.

The Finance Manager (CYPS) was also in attendance to deliver the presentation outlining the process of development of MTFP (13), the suggested role for overview and scrutiny and the timeframes (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

Prior to the presentation, Councillor Gunn indicated that she did not believe that any scrutiny committee should have any part in any savings options and believed was the responsibility of Cabinet and did not wish to participate in looking at savings options that were cuts to the budgets of Children and Young People's Services. She stated as pointed out by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer if significant work was generated by this process of this committee identifying cuts to the budget, they may need to prioritise other planned scrutiny work which she disagreed with given that the committee had an agreed work programme and wished to exclude herself from this part of the meeting.

The Chair advised Councillor Gunn that the work programme had not been agreed at this stage.

Following the presentation, the Chair asked Members to discuss the draft work programme. He then indicated that the task and finish groups may wish to produce a range of high-level options for Cabinet to consider so it was putting proposals forward, but Cabinet would make the decisions.

Members asked if the process was not just about cuts, and they could ask for further funding which the officer confirmed was the case.

Councillor Walton referred to task groups and sought confirmation that these groups did not already exist, and the work programme had flexibility built into it that was confirmed.

Mrs Gunn referred to the language used such as savings which were often when roles were not recruited which was a financial saving but not in deliver terms. She indicated that she would like to see some of the drivers behind the costs to understand what was driving it and the strategy behind it to generate efficiencies in

the areas by the strategic decision made and gave an example of transport costs and SEN provisions. She commented that the committee could input into these strategies rather than cut the number of jobs.

The Finance Manager responded to the term savings was used by the council and was also used nationally. He then indicated that the exercise was looking for efficiency and income generation and staying away from reducing services. The deep dive areas were part of the task and finish groups.

Mrs Gunn indicated if they understood how the processes worked and how accurate the numbers were, and officers could guide the committee on areas where scrutiny could be helpful.

The Finance Manager responded that he would be cautious on giving guidance on areas of scrutiny.

Councillor Currah indicated that it would be helpful to look at the insource and outcome strategy particularly around children's homes.

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer responded to Mrs Gunn on the question of deep dive and advised that quarterly budget reports were brought to this committee with the next report in September and the contextual information that she had alluded to would be contained in that report. He indicated that potentially there may be a couple of areas that warranted that deeper dive, and the starting point of this process was what the committee was asked to consider. It may be that there were not any areas to be identified for inclusion in the MTFP development for February next year but that's not to say they would not warrant a further investigation for subsequent years budget. The budget report in September may inform the committee's deliberations further.

Resolved: That the work programme for 2022/2023 be agreed.

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

23 September 2022



**Growing up in County Durham Strategy:
Consultation**

**Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young
People's Service and Chair of Children, Young People and Families
Partnership Board**

Electoral division affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a draft Growing Up in County Durham (GUICD) 2023 – 25 Strategy for comment, which can be found at Appendix 2.

Executive summary

2. The current Children and Young People's Strategy 2019-2022 comes to an end this year and is due for review.
3. The strategy is based on evidence about the needs of children and young people in County Durham, which can be found in a range of infograms available on Durham Insight at <https://infogram.com/1p626dwy190l56t5kvjly77rjei3njxk7gv?live>.
4. The strategy is also based on four aims to better manage outcomes and reflecting the subgroup arrangements of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board (CYPFPB). The aims of the strategy are:
 - (a) Making sure every child has the best start in life – even before they are born.
 - (b) Making sure that all children are supported to be happy, healthy and safe to achieve their potential, and provide additional help when it is needed.

- (c) Making sure that children and young people with additional needs are supported throughout their childhood, teenage years and as they move into adulthood.
 - (d) Making sure the services we provide are joined up, with children, young people and families/carers at the centre.
- 5. The wider context of Growing Up in County Durham is reflected in the strategy, including the impact of Covid-19, which covers young people's physical health, mental health and wellbeing and signposts to other strategies provided where common themes and issues are identified.
- 6. A strategy development group was established to oversee the development of the strategy, including the coproduction process and ensure a wide cohort of partners, VCS representatives, children, young people, families and carers are involved in its development.
- 7. Coproduction sessions took place with children, young people, parents and carers to develop the new GUiCD Strategy which is based on what is important to those who use and need community support and services as well as the wider population, focusing on strengths, rather than deficits.
- 8. Consultation has taken place throughout the development of the strategy at three key stages.
- 9. CYP OSC were provided with a presentation at their meeting on 5 May, with an update on the development of the GUiCD strategy. Following discussion at that meeting, CYP OSC were asked to provide any comments on the draft GUiCD strategy as part of the consultation process.
- 10. The new strategy will run from 2023-25 to align with the timescales for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 and the County Durham Place Based Commissioning and Delivery Plan 2020-25.

Recommendations

- 11. Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
 - (a) Receive the draft GUiCD Strategy at the meeting 23 September 2022.
 - (b) Provide any additional comments/contributions to the new GUiCD Strategy to andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk by 2 October 2022.

Background

12. A Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board Development Session took place in October 2021 to give direction on developing the new Children and Young People's Strategy, and the following was agreed:
- (a) A name for the new strategy – Growing Up in County Durham 2023-25.
 - (b) The strategy is based on evidence about the needs of children and young people in County Durham, which can be found on Durham Insight.
 - (c) Coproduction sessions would take place with children, young people, parents and carers to develop the Strategy which will be based on what is important to those who use and need support from services, building on people's own strengths and those of communities.
 - (d) The strategy would have a narrower focus built on four aims to better manage outcomes and reflecting the subgroup arrangements of the CYPFPB. These aims are:
 - (i) Making sure every child has the best start in life – even before they are born.
 - (ii) Making sure that all children are supported to be happy, healthy and safe to achieve their potential, and provide additional help when it is needed.
 - (iii) Making sure that children and young people with additional needs are supported throughout their childhood, teenage years and as they move into adulthood.
 - (iv) Making sure the services we provide are joined up, with children, young people and families/carers at the centre.
 - (e) The wider context of Growing Up in County Durham would be reflected in the strategy, including the impact of Covid-19, which covers young people's mental health and wellbeing and signposts to other strategies provided where common themes and issues were identified, to avoid duplication.
 - (f) The new strategy will run from 2023-25 to align with the timescales for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 and the County Durham Place Based Commissioning and Delivery Plan 2020-25.

13. A strategy development group (SDG) was set up with the responsibility to develop the GUICD strategy. The group also oversaw the coproduction process, involving a wide cohort of partners, VCS reps, children, young people, families and carers in its development, ensuring a whole family approach was taken.

Consultation

14. Consultation has taken place throughout the development of the strategy at three key stages:
 - (a) Stage 1 – February to 30 April – coproduction sessions with children, young people, families and carers via the SDG and the VCS Alliance to establish the vision for the strategy and the priority areas that the strategy should focus on.
 - (b) Stage 2 – 22 June to 10 August – wider consultation on the proposed vision statement and priority areas, carried out via an online survey and targeted consultation with stakeholder groups.
 - (c) Stage 3 – 5 September to 2 October – further consultation on the proposed strategy document, carried out through an online survey with stakeholder groups, as well as presenting the draft strategy to key stakeholders, giving them the opportunity to comment before final agreement at the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board.
15. Following the analysis of the results from stage 2 of the consultation, the draft GUICD Strategy 2023-25 is attached at Appendix 2, which is now subject to further consultation in stage 3. Details of stage 1 and stage 2 consultations can be seen in Appendix 3.
16. Comments provided by CYP OSC following the meeting on 5 May were considered in developing the draft strategy. Details of the actions taken in response to the comments can be seen in Appendix 4.

Focus of the Proposed New Strategy

17. The new proposed vision for the strategy is:

“County Durham supports all children, young people and their families to achieve their goals in life, in an environment that is safe, happy and healthy.”
18. The seven priority areas identified by children, young people and families which we will focus on are as follows:
 - (a) Family, friends and community.

- (b) Being safe.
 - (c) Fairer opportunities.
 - (d) Development, learning and skills.
 - (e) Tackling the impacts of Covid-19.
 - (f) Physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing.
 - (g) Access to community support and services.
19. Some key programmes of work, identified within the priority areas above, are included in other strategies and plans. To avoid duplication, these are signposted in the GUiCD strategy. The GUiCD strategy includes a number of actions that identify the key areas of work which the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board will focus on and where they can add value to improve outcomes for children and young people.
20. These high-level actions will be owned by the subgroups of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board who will develop more detailed action plans to deliver the GUiCD strategy.

Performance Management

21. Key indicators/outcomes for measuring the success of the strategy are included in the strategy at Appendix 2.

Timeline and next steps

22. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the next steps as follows:
- (a) Stage 3 consultation on the draft GUiCD Strategy – **5 September to 2 October 2022**
 - (b) CYPFPB agrees GUiCD 2023-25 – **3 October 2022**
 - (c) Cabinet and Partner's endorse GUiCD 2023-25 – **16 November 2022**
 - (d) Launch and promotion of the strategy - **December 2022**

Equality Impact Assessment

23. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is being undertaken alongside the development of the GUiCD strategy.

Conclusion

24. The development of the GUiCD strategy has been led by the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board supported by a multi-agency and VCS development group. Children, young people, families and carers groups have been involved from the start in shaping the strategy and a robust consultation process has been in place throughout the development of the strategy. Relationships will be maintained with children, young people, families and carers across the lifespan of the strategy through to adoption and monitoring of outcomes.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The CYPFP ensures it incorporates the legal requirements pertaining to children's services.

Finance

Resources will need to be agreed and the CYPFP will guide resource decisions and priorities.

Consultation

Details of consultation are provided in the report. Partners and children, young people and their families and carers have all been provided with an opportunity to shape the direction and the content of the strategy and will continue to be involved throughout the lifetime of the plan.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken as part of the process for developing the new CYPF Strategy.

Climate Change

The new strategy is aligned with and contributes to the current priorities within the Climate and Emergency Response Plan which focuses on climate change.

Human Rights

There are no adverse implications.

Crime and Disorder

The new strategy is aligned with and contributes to the current priorities within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan which focuses on crime and disorder.

Staffing

Resources will need to be agreed and the CYPFP will guide resource decisions and priorities.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications.

Risk

A clear strategy framework is vital to ensure improvement in Children's services across the County.

Procurement

Commissioners will take account of the GUiCD strategy when procuring services aligned to children, young people and families.

Appendix 2: Growing Up in County Durham Strategy 2023-25

Attached as a separate document.

Appendix 3: Consultation – Stage 1 and 2

Consultation - Stage 1

Taking a whole family approach, a programme of coproduction sessions were arranged with children, young people, families and carers via the strategy development group (SDG) and the VCS Alliance. These sessions took place during March and April 2022 and feedback from these sessions was incorporated into the strategy and provided for other strategies where relevant.

Within the parameters of the four key aims outlined in paragraph 4, CYPF groups were asked to help identify the following:

- a vision for all children, young people and families and the key themes / areas of work we need to focus on to achieve this
- the aspirations and challenges that children, young people and families have/face in the county today
- where relevant, their experience of NHS and council services.

Activities included work with the Youth Council, United Voices, Investing in Children (IiC), the fostering network, and a range of children, young people, families and carers groups which incorporated young people from different backgrounds via One Point Centres, the Think Family / Stronger Families Programme and the NHS 0 – 25 service.

Engagement has also taken place with the VCS sector, via the VCS Alliance and 20 VCS sector representatives attended a Teams session in March and six VCS representatives from a range of organisations including NEPACS (supporting prisoners and their families), IiC and Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) have indicated that they wanted to be part of the SDG going forward and were invited to join the group.

Feedback from these sessions was analysed during April/May to identify common themes and issues which could be incorporated into the strategy and/or provided for other strategies where relevant, for example, the Poverty Action Plan. Other relevant strategies, surveys, coproduction and consultation exercises, such as the Student Voice survey, were also analysed to identify common themes and issues.

Following the feedback analysis, and together with evidence and the input of professionals and the SDG, a draft vision and seven priority areas were identified.

Seven priority areas were identified as follows:

- Family, friends and community
- Being safe
- Tackling inequalities
- Learning and skills development
- Tackling the impacts of Covid-19
- Emotional wellbeing
- Access to services

Consultation - Stage 2

A vision and the seven priority areas were further consulted on with the general public and wider stakeholders, during stage 2 of the consultation process, which ran from 22 June till 10 August, via an online survey. The survey was promoted by stakeholders including:

- Schools – through their extranet and a head teacher’s briefing note.
- VCS Alliance and Durham Community Action.
- Area Action Partnerships.
- Family Centres and 0-25 services.
- Durham Youth Network.
- County Durham Partnership network.
- Youth Council.
- Fun With Food network.
- Investing In Children.

Stakeholders promoted the survey by email, at meetings and through social media channels. Face to face sessions took place with young people supported by Investing in Children and the Youth Council.

The consultation asked:

- Do you agree with the vision for our children, young people and families for the next three years?
- Do you agree these are the right themes going forward?
- Are there any gaps?

There were 114 responses to the survey, which were generally positive and supportive of the vision and themes. The following is a breakdown and a selection of comments highlighting the key responses for each of the questions asked which have been incorporated into the draft GUiCD strategy.

Vision

Question 1	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree with the vision for our children, young people and families for the next three years?	69	19	12

Responses included:

- Difficult to read
- Not accessible to people with lower literacy
- Good sentiment but doesn't flow well

Based on these and similar comments the vision was simplified in the draft strategy and can be found at paragraph 16 in the report.

Theme: Family, friends and community

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'family, friends and community' is a theme we should focus on?	92	4	4

Responses included:

- Families are the most important influence on the children's lives and a focus on family life will be helpful.
- We need to focus on improving the environment. Litter and dumping of waste is a major problem in County Durham, families and communities need to be encouraged and rewarded to get involved to prevent this happening.
- Supporting all families regardless of type of family- special guardians, connected carers, single parents, same sex couples, heterosexual couples, working families as well as low income.

The environment people live in, and the make-up of families are reflected in 'family, friends and community' priority area section and throughout the wider narrative of the strategy.

Theme: Being Safe

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'being safe' is a theme we should focus on?	98	-	2

Responses included:

- We need to provide safe and enjoyable activities via youth provision to help keep young people safe.
- Tackling antisocial behaviour. Educating parents on keeping their children safe online.
- More education on the dangers of the Internet and social media for kids and parents.

Provision for young people in safe environments and importance of online safety are reflected in 'being safe' priority area section, throughout the wider narrative of the strategy and links from the strategy to work other partners are already undertaking, for example, the Safe Durham Partnership and the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Theme: Tackling inequalities

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'tackling inequalities' is a theme we should focus on?	88	-	12

Responses included:

- Include all factors behind inequalities - health, poverty, racial, LGBTQ+.
- Better access for all is needed with some initiatives tackling the particular problems faced in rural areas.
- I think this should be the main priority due to the number of children living in poverty or who will fall into this category due to cost of living impact.
- Needs to be fair and accessible to all families, e.g., families who do not have access to transport and unable to access a service over 10 miles away.
- I think there should be an accessible food bank and clothing which can be used anonymously and with easy access.
- many of our regions children aren't able to access regular healthy or nutritious meals which affects their ability to learn.

This priority was changed from 'tackling inequalities' to 'fairer opportunities' to reflect the wider range of comments people made during the consultation. There are also links from the strategy to work other partners are already undertaking, for example the Poverty Action Plan.

Theme: Learning and skills development

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'learning and skills development' is a theme we should focus on?	90	3	7

Responses included:

- Three fold approach to improve educational outcomes, learning & skills development. Firstly – encourage early years involvement in sensory stimulation of the outdoors, group activities & empathy. Secondly - recognise the development of creative thinking, wonder & self-expression. Thirdly - poverty decreasing activity participation & as a result limiting development.
- I think there should be a strong focus on the parents of babies and toddlers receiving parenting courses about how to play and interact with their children.
- Learning and skills should be included from a basic fundamental level to include parenting skills and engaging in child development and learning. So often schools are the first point of call for some social skills, potty training, manners, using eating implements, understanding right from wrong.

This priority was changed from 'learning and skills development' to 'learning, skills and development' to emphasise the importance of the development of babies and preschool children.

There are also links from the strategy to educational information and the new Inclusive Economic Strategy (once launched) for information on learning and employment opportunities.

Theme: Tackling the impacts of Covid-19

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'tackling the impacts of Covid-19' is a theme we should focus on?	68	10	22

Responses included:

- More things for teenagers to do & places for them to 'hang out'. Many of them have missed out on developing their independence by being stuck at home and not being able to socialize with friends.
- Think covid has ran its toll now and it's something we need to learn to live with. The only impacts I would advise focusing on would be all those children that missed out in the 2 years!! Specially socially interaction.

- Mental health and wellbeing support for kids and support for families affected. There should be more assistance available at a local level to assist individuals and families with future development.

There are also links from the strategy to work other partners are already undertaking, for example to the County Durham and Families Information service.

Theme: Emotional Wellbeing

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'emotional wellbeing' is a theme we should focus on?	94	1	5

Responses included:

- Due to the current economic climate across the country and the fact some areas of our county are experiencing high levels of deprivation and poverty. Emotional wellbeing is a very important theme for our regions children. I have been heartened to see this expand as a focus in schools in recent years and across the community. And think this is definitely something as a theme that should be continued.
- Emotional and physical wellbeing - including a focus on healthy weight.
- Anything for parents that have just had babies? Drop in centres or classes? Women struggle and there is absolutely nothing on offer in my area.
- Emotional wellbeing is a given in a loving, happy, comfortable home with parents, family & friends to provide all the emotional support for a child to flourish.

This priority was changed from 'emotional wellbeing' to 'physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing' to reflect people's comments about the importance of both mental and physical health.

The points about the impact of cost of living, community-based support, support for new mothers and the importance of family are reflected in this priority.

There are also links from the strategy to further information about the work partners are doing, for example, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Theme: Access to Services

Question	Agree %	Disagree %	Neither %
Do you agree or disagree that 'access to services' is a theme we should focus on?	91	4	5

Responses included:

- This is critical - how ever good services are children and young people need to be facilitated to access them! Agree with all of this but perhaps it needs to be stressed more strongly!! Particularly the issue of rural isolation and also digital isolation.
- It is critically important to ensure that support is 'joined up' given the multiplicity of support for children and young people and also parents. It is often not that support isn't available but there needs to be better information to access that support - if that makes sense! and that the support is appropriate and 'attractive' and the choices are not overwhelming.
- This should be timely and the right service. In order for this to be effective, there needs to be strong links and communication between all agencies and collaborative decision making between the children/young person, family/carers and services.
- Provide equitable access to positive and enjoyable activities for young people which they wish to engage in and also ensure that access is addressed by providing lower cost or free bus transport for young people.

This priority was changed from 'access to services' to access to community support and services' to reflect people's comments about access to locally based support and services. It also acknowledges the rurality of the county and transport.

There are links from the strategy to work other partners are already undertaking, for example the Advice in County Durham website.

Appendix 4: CYP OSC Comments and Responses

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Growing Up in County Durham 2022 – 2025

Consultation with wide range of stakeholders

Some members indicated there were gaps in those consulted and suggested that this should involve school staff as schools are part of our communities and their value and importance had been evident during the COVID-19 Pandemic as a key point of contact for CYP and families.

- The consultations were promoted through a Headteacher's briefing note and via the Education intranet, giving all school staff the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Strategy.
- The consultations have been promoted through the wide-ranging County Durham Partnership networks, which includes representation from the NHS, Durham University, VCS organisations, Durham Community Action across their network – including community buildings across the County, business, schools, elected members, the Police and Fire and Rescue services, Area Action Partnerships and the County Durham Association of Local Councils, who have promoted the consultations through their Town and Parish Council mailing lists.

Role of VCS

Members highlighted that there was a specific need to focus on teenagers as they were often portrayed negatively in the media. Members highlighted the importance of volunteers and of situations where groups either could not operate or did so at a reduced capacity due to a lack of adult volunteers. Members also commented on the decline of universal Youth Workers and while volunteers provided a valuable resource there were issues regarding the availability of funding.

- A Volunteering Development Fund has been created for County Durham that can be accessed by the VCS to be used to mainstream VCS work so it becomes part of the pathway to contributing to our broader service delivery.
- The VCS Alliance, Durham Community Action and other VCS organisations have joined the GUiCD Strategy Development Group, where they have been heavily involved in the development of the strategy over the past months.

Young people involved in developing the strategy

Members suggested that if children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities or those within the care system were involved in the development of the strategy then it was important that they were able to read their words and identify those issues being raised by them and they would potentially feel a greater sense of ownership of the Strategy.

- The consultations were promoted to special schools through the Education intranet, the Children in Care Council and IIC have been involved in the consultation. We received responses relating to both groups, which were considered in the development of the strategy, specifically relating to providing fairer opportunities for all and writing the strategy in a way which is easy for a young person to understand. We also looked to avoid duplication by signposting to strategies and support specific to these groups.
- Young people have been involved in promoting the consultation and developing the strategy, with the Youth Council and IIC running face to face consultation sessions and providing comments that supported the development of the strategy. The consultations have also been promoted through Durham Youth Network and the Fun and Food social media platforms.
- The strategy emphasises the need to support children, young people and their families, based on the idea of working with people to find solutions to their needs; and including them in the delivery and review of the strategy going forward, following co-production values.

Access to community support and services

Members emphasised the need for continuity in delivering services, especially areas of health care such as health visitors. They also stressed the need for accessibility to services with thought given to accessibility of services and the frequency of having to travel long distances to do so. Members indicated that there was a wealth of knowledge in communities and this knowledge should be used to inform the strategy.

- Access to community and support services is a key priority within the draft strategy
- A high level action in relation transport benefits to access wider health, education, leisure and work opportunities is included in the strategy
- Specific issues mentioned by CYP OSC including the importance of community and building positive relationships, providing opportunities, poverty, recovery from Covid-19, access to and continuity of services,

mental health and online safety resonate with responses received from stage 2 of the consultation; and have been included as key points within the strategy.

Climate change and poverty

Members also raised concerns about child poverty and that thought should be given as to how we can lift children out of poverty and also address the issue of how poverty can be a source of some stigma for children and young people.

Members indicated that young people were extremely concerned about climate change.

- The feedback received as part of the consultation relating to other areas of work, for example, Climate Change and poverty were fed back to leads responsible for these areas
- References to key areas that are governed outside the strategy are available through links within the strategy. This includes the poverty action plan, Climate Change, looking after your mental health, support for CYP with SEND and children in care.

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Growing Up in County Durham Strategy 2023-25



Introduction

We have a vision for all children, young people and their families, that creates a view of what we want to achieve in County Durham. Our vision is:

County Durham supports all children, young people and their families to achieve their goals in life, in an environment that is safe, happy and healthy.

This strategy is our high-level plan that explains what we are going to do to achieve our vision. It will tell you what our seven priority areas are for the next three years, how we have decided these priorities, the high-level actions we will focus on to achieve these priorities, which support the aims of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board, and how we will know if we have been successful.

It is designed to be easy for children and young people to understand. We have asked young people from County Durham Youth Council to tell us why this strategy is important, this is what they said:

‘The children, young people and families’ strategy is vitally important for us as a youth council, and as young people, because it gives us a chance to be informed about what is being done to ensure children, young people and families can grow up in a safe environment, and feel they are involved in the decision-making process that will affect them. The strategy’s aims, being developed using consultation and the opinion of the people the strategy focuses on, reflect how important the strategy is, as it targets the areas that children, young people and families feel are the most important areas to improve in County Durham. Everyone in County Durham deserves to have a say in the development of their local area, and the county, to improve safety, opportunities and health, and this strategy is vitally important to deliver that to children, young people and families.’

With any strategy it’s important to show the guiding principles we have used when developing it, and to be clear about what is included in it, and what isn’t:

- It is written in a way that makes it easy for a young teenager to understand, and in a format that is accessible to everyone.
- It is based on evidence gathered from consultation with children, young people, their families, carers and professionals.
- It is also based on what the data tells us are the issues children, young people and their families face in County Durham, for example – physical health, mental health, emotional wellbeing, child poverty levels or educational attainment.
- It gives a brief, but clear, overview of what we will be focusing on over the next three years.

- It focuses on adding to what is already being done. It doesn't duplicate the work being carried out by others, but it provides links to their strategies and plans, or the work that people are doing, so you can see what is happening.
- It is designed for all children, young people and their families, irrespective of their personal characteristics or family make up, including for example, those in care, with a disability or from the LGBTQ+ community.
- It covers the three years from the beginning of 2023 to the end of 2025.
- It doesn't include technical detail or jargon.

We developed the strategy during 2022. We took time to involve people, who will be affected by the strategy, in its development, carrying out engagement activities with lots of children, young people, families, carers and professionals. We worked with a number of community groups and children's groups across the County on the strategy development, with them often carrying out the engagement activities on our behalf. Their responses guided our ambitions and we worked with them to identify the seven priority areas outlined in the strategy.

Where are we now?

Working in partnership is very important to us and we think that, if we are to be successful, we have to work together to make changes; this includes working with children, young people and adults, in their own communities, to help them to find solutions to their issues.

The Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board are the people who have agreed this strategy, and who are responsible for delivering the high-level actions identified. These high-level actions will support the Board's four strategic aims:

1. Making sure every child has the best start in life – even before they are born.
2. Making sure that all children are supported to be happy, healthy and safe to achieve their potential, and provide additional help when it is needed.
3. Making sure that children and young people with additional needs are supported throughout their childhood, teenage years and as they move into adulthood.
4. Making sure the services we provide are joined up, with children, young people and families/carers at the centre.

These strategic aims provided a starting point to develop the strategy. We then looked at what the data told us about children and young people living in County Durham, and the issues that they face. Examples include:

- There are 115,000 children and young people (aged 0-19) in County Durham
 - 7 out of 10 children achieve a good level of development at the end of reception year in school
 - Childhood vaccination take up is better than the national average
 - 10,400 school age children have special educational needs
 - 91% of 16-17 year olds are in education or training
 - The county's care leavers are more likely to be in education, employment and training than in other areas both regionally and nationally
- Poverty: 1 in 4 children live in a household which cannot afford all the basics they need such as their food and fuel bills
- Impact of Covid-19:
 - A 20% increase in demand for children and young people's mental health services is projected over next 5 years
 - 1 in 6 children, aged 5-16 years, identified as having a probable mental health disorder (an increase from 1 in 9 in 2017)
- Healthy start to life:
 - There are almost 4,800 live births annually
 - 1 in 6 women smoke at time of baby's delivery
 - 1 in 3 are breastfeeding 6-8 weeks after birth
 - 1 in 4 of reception and more than 1 in 3 year 6 pupils are overweight
 - 1 in 4 5 year-olds have tooth decay
 - The number of babies, toddlers and school age children vaccinated is significantly better than the England average

You can see the data in more detail and other data that we have used by visiting the [Children and Young People section of the Durham Insight website](#).

Based on data, and what people told us, we have identified seven priority areas that we are going to focus on:

1. Family, friends and community

- You told us that where you live, both your home and your community is very important. Family relationships in a safe, loving and supportive home environment are key.
- Having friends and living in a community with good support networks and infrastructure, which you can easily be part of is what you want. Where there are things for children and young people to do, green spaces to play and good access to services and transport links.

- You want us to make sure that all mums, dads and carers have opportunities to access community support and services as family networks continue to change.
- You said that we need to make the most of the community support groups and facilities available for children and young people, to improve access to local services and activities.
- We are facing some challenges, for example the number of children and young people coming into council care continues to rise and support services, including accommodation, are experiencing high demand.

2. Being safe

- You told us that being and feeling safe at home, at school or college and when you are out and about is important; and that having safe spaces to meet and play, both in the real world and online, whether that's websites, gaming or social media sites is part of this.
- Making our communities clean and free from anti-social behaviour, where criminal activity is low and where there is mutual trust and respect is what we should be striving for.

3. Fairer opportunities

- You said that providing fairer opportunities to access community support and services, by targeting support to those most in need, will help improve prospects for all our children and young people.
- Having good access to healthy food is important to children and young people; helping them to grow up in good health, protected from infectious disease, be a healthy weight, be physically active and enjoying play and social activities.
- You highlighted the importance of how we deal with the many impacts of long-term financial hardship and poverty. These include poorer physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing and more limited access to learning and leisure opportunities. County Durham has some of the worst physical and mental health inequalities in the country and the proportion of children who live in poverty in the County is significantly higher than many other areas of the country.
- Many more families are struggling to pay their household bills (food, heating, water, rent/mortgage, council tax), due to the current cost of living crisis, and there is increasing demand for money advice services, foodbanks and other community support. Children and young people have told us they are worried about the current crisis and how it will affect them as they grow up.

4. Development, learning and skills

- From birth through to adulthood, childhood development, learning and skills is essential. Developing early childhood skills before the age of 2, such as play and socialising with other children, being ready for school at 5, then secondary school and further education or work are all key to accessing a happy and prosperous future.
- You have told us that parent and toddler groups and parenting skills programmes are critical at the start of life. As children get older, you have told us that developing emotional and life skills, such as confidence, citizenship, budgeting and cooking, are important alongside education and careers advice ensuring young people grow up to be resilient and responsible adults able to cope with what life brings them.

5. Tackling the Impacts of Covid-19

- The impact of Covid-19 on children and young people has been huge. Children and young people have missed out on so much in the two years of the pandemic. National lockdowns removed opportunities to socialise and develop and it has had a significant impact on your learning and mental health, which requires additional support from professionals.
- It has been reported in various studies that children's physical activity levels have also declined as a result of the pandemic. National data has indicated that more children are overweight than before the pandemic. Again, support is needed to help children back to pre-pandemic activity levels, both inside and outside school.
- Covid-19 has also impacted on support services such as mental health support. The reasons are twofold - services were put on hold, or diverted during the pandemic, which has caused a backlog and there has also been an increase in demand for these services as an impact of the pandemic. The scale and type of support needed to help those children and young people with Long Covid is still to emerge.

6. Physical Health, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

- The need for children and young people's emotional wellbeing support services continues to increase. According to a recent parliamentary report, 1 in 6 young people are now likely to experience poor mental health, compared to 1 in 9 pre-pandemic.
- Children and young people have told us that the challenges of lockdown, school studies, exam stress, peer pressure, social media, loneliness, worries about the environment, climate change, cost of living

and the war in Ukraine are reasons for their anxiety and stress. There was a feeling that education settings may be able to more support children and young people to be resilient and to promote emotional wellbeing.

- Parental mental health, including pregnant women, new mothers and their babies, was also cited as an important issue by parents and carers.
- Our recent 2022 Student Voice survey also highlighted high numbers of primary and secondary school children getting less than 8 hours sleep per night. Sleeping well helps children to thrive and promotes learning and good emotional wellbeing.
- We need to meet the challenge of the increasing need for support at all levels, whether that's the availability of advice and guidance in schools and colleges, and other settings such as youth clubs, through to more focused support for those who need it, from services such as our Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service.

7. Access to community support and services

- You told us that providing children, young people and families including new parents and babies, with access to good quality local services which are shaped round their needs, will support the best outcomes for them, and we need to ensure that we involve you in shaping the services we deliver.
- We also know that providing early enough support to children and young people, who need it, will reduce the need for crisis interventions and improve outcomes for all involved.
- You have told us that being able to navigate often complex systems, delivered by more than one agency, can be confusing, so providing clear information about how to access support and clear information about how that support will be delivered, is important to ensure you can make informed decisions, no matter the circumstances.
- You have also told us about issues where you have had to deal with different people, from different agencies, so providing a consistent source of support is important.
- You mentioned that travel to access opportunities and services is sometimes an issue, due to the large and rural nature of the County, and that services are not always available at a time to suit you, or within your budget.
- You said that we need to make the most of our community support networks to improve access to local services and activities.

What is already happening?

1. You said safety is important. You can find out more about what we are doing to keep you safe and the support you can get by going to:
 - Keeping children safe - [Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
 - Community safety, anti-social behaviour etc. - [Safe Durham Partnership](#) and Anti-social Behaviour Strategy (currently being developed – added when strategy is launched)
 - Support for domestic abuse - [Domestic Abuse](#)

2. You said the environment you live in is important. You can find out more about what we are doing to protect and improve the environment by going to:
 - Environment and climate - [Environment and Climate Change Partnership](#) and [Climate County Durham](#)

3. You said supporting people who need some extra help is important. You can find out more about what we are doing to support people by going to:
 - Supporting children in care – [Corporate Parenting Strategy.pdf](#) and [Investing in Children](#)
 - Supporting young carers - [The Bridge Young Carers Service](#)
 - Supporting adult carers - [Durham County Carers Support](#)
 - Supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - [SEND Strategy.pdf](#)
 - Children and families affected by poverty - [Poverty Action Plan.pdf](#)

4. You said learning, employment and life skills are important. You can find out more about what we are doing by going to:
 - Schools and education - [Durham Schools and Education](#)
 - Employment and skills – Inclusive Economic Strategy (currently being developed – added when strategy is launched)

5. You said supporting people’s physical health, mental health and emotional wellbeing is important. You can find out more about what we are doing to support people by going to:
 - Health and wellbeing - [Health and Wellbeing Board](#) and [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
 - Mental Health - [Looking After Your Mental Health](#)
 - Physical activity – Physical Activity Strategy for County Durham (currently being developed – added when strategy is launched)
 - Oral Health Strategy - (currently being developed – added when strategy is launched)

6. You said having easy access to information about community support and services is important. You can find out more about what is available by going to:
 - Community support - [Advice in County Durham](#) and [Onepoint Family Centres and Hubs](#)
 - Community information - [County Durham Families Information Service](#)

What are we going to do?

We have identified eight high level actions, based on what the Children Young People and Families Partnership Board can do, to add to the work that is already being done by other people:

1. Working with the strengths and opportunities in local communities to develop a network of family hubs which can support the delivery of a range of local community support and services to children, young people and families.
2. Ensure every young person, who has health, education and/or care needs, and their family, has access to the right support on their move from children's to adult's services, when they are old enough to do so.
3. Work with children, young people and their families to address the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the development, emotional wellbeing and physical health of children and young people.
4. Monitor and evaluate the Bus Service Improvement Plan in relation to benefits brought to young people through concessionary fares and other favourable benefits, allowing young people to have wider access to health, education, leisure, volunteering and other services, and for young people aged 16 and over, work and apprenticeships.
5. Build community support and services as a clear offer which is communicated in a way that is easy for children, young people and families to understand.
6. Ensure children, young people and families have an equal role in the development and redesign of the support and services they use.
7. Develop seamless services that support children, young people and families across health, education and social care.

8. Use data and intelligence across health, education and social care and other services, to build stronger communities and a fairer county for children, young people and families.

How will we measure our success?

We will know we have been successful if we have:

1. Improved the network of family hubs across the County to provide better community-based support and services.
2. Reduced the number of babies going into care to help families stay together.
3. Increased the number of babies who are breastfed during the first months of their life.
4. Increased the number of children who achieve a healthy development during the first years of their life.
5. Reduced the number of times children and young people have to go to hospital with unintentional injuries.
6. Improved children and young people's experience of the move from children to adult's services.
7. Shown how children, young people and families are more involved in developing the support and services they use.

We are going to work together to deliver this plan by the end of 2025 when we, working with children, young people and families, will review it in detail to see how we have done.

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

23rd September 2022

**Ofsted ILACS Inspection
Durham - May 2022**



Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director, Children and Young Peoples Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the outcomes of the recent Ofsted Standard ILACS Inspection of Childrens Services. Arrangements have been made for the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services to present the accompanying presentation.

Executive summary

- 2 The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspects services providing education and skills for learners of all ages as well as the inspection and regulation of services that care for children and young people.
- 3 The ILACS Inspection Framework is the means by which Ofsted inspect Local Authority Childrens Social Care Services. The Framework focuses on the effectiveness of services and arrangements in relation to the:
 - help and protection of children;
 - experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home;
 - arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption;
 - experiences and progress of care leavers;
 - effectiveness of leaders and managers;

- impact they have on the lives of children and young people;
 - quality of professional practice.
- 4 As part of the Framework, Ofsted Inspectors make a graded judgement on a 4-point scale as below:
- Outstanding;
 - Good;
 - requires improvement to be good;
 - inadequate.
- 5 During the Childrens Services Standard ILACS Inspection in September 2019, the Service was judged as ‘requiring improvement to be good’. Following the inspection, the Council implemented a range of improvement actions to address the issues identified by Ofsted.
- 6 In late April 2022, Ofsted announced the next ILACS Standard Inspection of Durham County Council Childrens Services, with the Inspection Team being onsite from the 9th - 20th May 2022.
- 7 The inspection process involved interviewing frontline staff from across the whole service, speaking to significant numbers of young people, parents, and care leavers, holding individual discussions with adopters, foster carers, schools’ staff, partners, senior managers, and council leaders. Ofsted also scrutinised strategy and policy documents, audit information and a range of statistics and performance data, as well as reviewing individual child case files.
- 8 Following the completion of the inspection process Ofsted concluded that Durham County Council has improved and expanded services to children since its last inspection in 2019 and has provided swift and purposeful responses to areas for improvement.
- 9 Ofsted provided the following judgments in respect of the Council’s Childrens Services in the final report published on the 5th July 2022:

Evaluation Criteria	Ofsted Judgment
Impact of leaders on social work practice	Outstanding
Experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
Experiences and progress of Children in care and care leaver	Good
Overall Effectiveness	Good

Recommendations

- 10 Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny to note the report and presentation.

Background

- 11 The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) inspects services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. They also inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people.
- 12 The ILACS Inspection Framework is the means by which Ofsted inspect Local Authority Childrens Social Care Services and focuses on the effectiveness of services and arrangements in relation to the:
- help and protection of children;
 - experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home;
 - arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption;
 - experiences and progress of care leavers;
 - effectiveness of leaders and managers;
 - impact they have on the lives of children and young people;
 - quality of professional practice.
- 13 Ofsted Inspectors make a graded judgement based on the evidence and findings identified during the inspection period. The graded judgment is on a 4-point scale:
- Outstanding;
 - Good;
 - requires improvement to be good;
 - inadequate.
- 14 During the Childrens Services Standard ILACS Inspection in September 2019, Durham County Council was judged as 'requiring improvement to be good'. Following the inspection, the Council has implemented improvement actions to address the issues identified by Ofsted and also those raised during a further focussed visit in July 2021.

- 15 In April 2022, Ofsted announced the next ILACS Standard Inspection of Durham County Council Childrens Services. The Onsite Inspection activity took place between 9 May to 20 May 2022, with the Inspection Team being based at Green Lane in Spennymoor.
- 16 The ILACS inspection is a rigorous process which requires a major logistical effort by the Council to ensure it is well managed and well communicated.
- 17 This includes both an intensive period of offsite activity by the Council to provide a vast array of data, information, and strategic and policy documents to evidence how Services are lead, managed, governed and outcomes driven.
- 18 This is followed by the onsite activity which was undertaken over a 2-week period and involved:
- Interviews with over 100 members of staff;
 - Onsite visits to First Contact and the MASH to review services;
 - Phone calls with representatives from the Courts and CAFCASS;
 - A significant number of phone calls to children and their parents which require consent;
 - Meeting with Care Leavers at the Care Leavers Hub;
 - Meeting with Children from the Children in Care Council;
 - Interviews with the Councils Leader, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young Peoples Services and the Chief Executive;
 - Phone calls to Adopters and Foster Carers;
 - Discussions with Designated Safeguarding leads and teaching staff in schools;
 - Daily Keeping in touch meetings with the Senior Management Team.
- 19 Ofsted concluded that Durham County Council had ‘improved and expanded services to children since its last inspection. There have been swift and purposeful responses to the areas for improvement in the last inspection and the areas for priority action identified at the last focused visit.’
- 20 Ofsted identified the following as key strengths in County Durham:
- an acute knowledge of the needs of children in Durham and an accurate self-assessment of their service;

- identified the highest areas of need and demand and have built effective and responsive services around them;
- well-designed and improved structures which reflect the ambition to continually improve the response to all children and young people;
- Highly innovative specialist teams which are providing very high-quality support for the most vulnerable children;
- Core social work practice in the majority of service areas is effective, reducing children’s needs and risks and improving their lived experiences;
- Children in need of help and protection, and children in care, are benefiting from relationship-based practice that focuses on children’s needs. This is leading to children and families making sustainable progress;
- The recently strengthened care leavers service and the ‘hub’ are beginning to improve experiences for care experienced young people.

21 Ofsted also identified a small number of areas which the council should continue to improve:

- The response to children who go missing from home or care;
- The sufficiency of short-break placements, respite, and sessional care for disabled children;
- Pathway assessments and planning for care leavers.

22 Ofsted’s conclusion was that the Councils Childrens Services have demonstrated sustained and positive improvement from the previous ILACS Standard Inspection in 2019 and as a result agreed the following judgments which were published in the final inspection report on the 5th July 2022:

Evaluation Criteria	Ofsted Judgment
Impact of leaders on social work practice	Outstanding
Experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Good
Experiences and progress of Children in care and care leaver	Good
Overall Effectiveness	Good

Conclusion

- 23 It is pleasing to note that the investment, prioritisation and hard work of Durham County Council and its staff and the improvements made have been recognised through the Ofsted ILACS inspection process. The report provided by Ofsted acknowledges the significant improvement to children's services since the previous inspection in September 2019 and most importantly that this is leading to children and families making sustainable progress.
- 24 The Ofsted report and findings provide a strong foundation for the Council to further develop its services to children moving forward.

Background papers

- 25 The full report is accessible on the link below:

[50187560 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspections/50187560)

Contact:

Keith Forster Strategic Manager, Operational Support 03000 267396

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

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Ofsted ILACS Inspection Durham May 2022

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 September 2022



Outcome of the Inspection

- Highly innovative and specialist teams are providing high quality support to the most vulnerable children
- Core social work practice is effective
- Relationship based practice is a strength
- Partnership work with families to achieve sustained change is a strength
- Children and families are making sustainable progress

Key headlines and themes

- Services have improved since 2019
- Swift and purposeful response to the areas identified for priority action in the focused visit in 2021
- Leaders have an acute and accurate knowledge of the needs of children in Durham with an accurate self assessment
- Effective and responsive services have been developed
- Political leaders are committed and scrupulous
- Children are a high corporate priority
- Strategic partnerships are strong
- Corporate parenting strategy is ambitious

Key headlines and themes

- Highly innovative and specialist teams are providing high quality support to the most vulnerable children
- Core social work practice is effective
- Relationship based practice is a strength
- Partnership work with families to achieve sustained change is a strength
- Children and families are making sustainable progress

Areas for improvement

- The response to children who go missing from home and care
- Sufficiency of short break placements; respite and sessional care for disabled children
- Pathway assessments and planning for care leavers

Children in Need of Help and Protection – feedback

- Well established and coordinated early help hubs
- Families receive sensitive and proportionate early help support
- Appropriate and timely management decision making of contacts
- Children are promptly transferred to Families First teams where immediate concerns are identified
- Good attendance and information sharing at strategy meetings
- Child protection enquiries are timely
- EDT response is prompt and proportionate
- Assessments are detailed and analytical
- Strong pre birth work
- Prompt assessments for children who are homeless

Children in Need of Help and Protection Feedback

- Comprehensive assessments for Disabled children with creative direct work and sensitive partnership work with parents
- Effective use of family networks
- Robust and helpful family led plans leading to children's needs and risks reducing
- Child protection conferences involve parents and participation of children is welcomed
- Robust management oversight of legal proceedings
- Children at risk of exploitation are identified and risk assessed through multi agency meetings
- LADO are experienced and effective
- Improvements in Private Fostering arrangements for children
- Comprehensive systems in place to ensure children who are electively home educated receive an appropriate education

Children in Care - Feedback

- Children are brought into care at the appropriate time
- Well supported by committed social workers
- Early consideration given to permanent care options
- Children live in caring and stable homes where they make progress
- IRO's know their children well
- Parents, carers and children are encouraged to participate in review meetings
- Opportunities for children to share their views and opinions in different forums
- A vibrant and enthusiastic CICC

Children in Care - Feedback

- Children speak highly of their social workers and feel listened to
- Children are making good progress
- Virtual School is championing the educational needs of CIC
- Leaders are working hard to increase sufficiency and choice of placed for CIC
- An increase in the number of foster carer households
- Recruitment, assessment and approval of foster carers is rigorous
- LA has widened the pool of adopters via the RAA
- Children aged 16 and 17 are well supported in supported accommodation

Care Leavers

- Strong relationships with Young People's Advisors (YPA's)
- YP described feeling cared for and were exceptionally positive about their YPA
- Education, employment and training needs are identified
- Vast majority live in appropriate accommodation of their choice
- Staying put arrangements are increasing
- Care leaver's hub is a positive achievement and YP are proud of its development

Impact of leaders on social work practice

- Strong practice model – Signs of Safety
- A drive to achieve sustainable change for families
- Good understanding of the needs of Durham’s children
- Development of highly innovative, specialist teams
- Service restructures have been welcomed by children and staff and have significantly enhanced social work services
- QA programme is comprehensive

The workforce..

- Inspectors met a range of highly skilled and motivated social workers with aspirational aims for their own practice and are proud that this practice is achieving positive outcomes for children
- They like working for Durham
- The workforce offer is substantial
- Ambitious aims for Durham to be an employer of choice locally
- There is mutual respect between leaders and social workers that creates a positive and open working culture
- This is having a direct and positive impact on services for children

Next Steps..

- Inspection Action Plan to address the areas for development identified
- Service Improvement Plan to be updated using all of the feedback received
- Addressing ongoing challenges in service demand and capacity
- Aim for the stars!



Questions?



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Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny

23 September 2022



Children and Young People's Services – Final Outturn Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/22

Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide details of the final outturn position for Children and Young People's Services (CYPS), highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget for the year.

Executive summary

- 2 The revenue outturn for 2021/22 was a cash limit overspend of £3.771 million for the year, representing circa 2.8% of the total net revenue budget for CYPS. This compares to a forecast cash limit overspend at quarter three of £2.210 million.
- 3 The final position takes into account the in-year £4.5 million budget transfer from AHS. Had this not been actioned the outturn would have been a £8.271 million overspend when compared to the original budget approved by Council in February 2021.
- 4 In arriving at the outturn position, £2.955 million of additional costs, and lost income relating to COVID-19 and £0.840 million of COVID-19 related underspends were excluded from the CYPS cash limit. The net impact of these is £2.115 million, which has been financed corporately by utilising Central Government grants.
- 5 The cash limit outturn reported is the position after a net £3.322 million use of CYPS reserves in year.
- 6 The council's financial procedure rules state that where a service groupings cash limit reserve is in deficit, the relevant service is required to make savings/ underspends the following year to bring the reserve back into balance. In this case, given the financial pressures and issues facing CYPS a further transfer from general reserves has been actioned this year end to retain the CYPS cash limit reserve at zero.

Recommendation(s)

- 7 Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny committee are requested to:
- (a) note the Children and Young People's Services overall revenue position;

Background

- 8 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:
- (a) Children and Young People's Services Revenue Budget - £136.004 million (original £133.876 million);
- (b) CYPS – Capital Programme - £14.525 million (original £33.641 million).
- 9 The original Children and Young People's Services revenue budget has been revised to incorporate various permanent and temporary budget adjustments as summarised in the table below:

Reason For Adjustment	£m
Original Budget	133.876
Budget Build - Use of Children and Young Peoples Services Reserves	-0.455
Original Budget Excluding Reserves	133.421
Reason For Adjustment	
Transfer From Contingencies	0.010
Use of (+)/contribution to (-) Children and Young Peoples Services reserves	-2.931
Use of (+)/contribution to (-) Corporate reserves (ERVR)	0.505
Use of (+)/contribution to (-) Corporate reserves (Insurance Reserve)	0.043
Transfer from Other Services	4.990
Transfer to Other Services	-0.036
Revised Budget	136.004

- 10 The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2021/22 and show:
- (a) the approved annual budget;

- (b) the actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
- (c) the variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
- (d) for the Children and Young People's 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

- 11 The revenue outturn for 2021/22 was a cash limit overspend of £3.771 million for the year, representing circa 2.8% of the total net revenue budget for CYPS. This compares to a forecast cash limit overspend at quarter three of £2.210 million.
- 12 The table below compares the forecast outturn with the budget by Head of Service. A further table is shown at Appendix 2 analysing the position by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense).

Head of Service	Revised Annual Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Variance £m	Items Outside Cash Limit £m	COVID-19-related £m	Cash Limit Variance £m
Head of Social Care	90.342	94.309	3.967	0.043	0.200	3.724
HoSC Excluded	0.175	0.177	0.002	0.003	0	-0.001
EHIVC	5.032	5.755	0.723	0.680	1.537	-1.494
Operational Support	1.738	1.922	0.184	0.217	0	-0.033
Education and Skills	37.537	83.839	46.302	44.448	0.378	1.476
Central Charges	1.180	0.971	-0.209	-0.308	0	0.099
Total	136.004	186.973	50.969	45.083	2.115	3.771

- 13 The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings of £1.861million built into the 2021/22 budgets.
- 14 The outturn consists of an overspend of £2.232 million in Children's Services (Social Care and Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children) and £1.476 million in Education. Further details are shown below.
- 15 The Children's Services outturn was a net £2.232 million overspend for the year. These services had an overspend of £4.263 million in relation to children looked after placements and £2.733 million in relation to Bespoke Placements.

- 16 These overspends were partially offset by an underspend of £2.141 million on employee budgets, £0.993 million on transport budgets, £0.687 million on Special Guardianship, Child Arrangement and Adoption allowances, £0.333 million on other care related activity and third-party payments, £0.203 million on Direct Payment budgets, and £0.407 million additional income from SLA arrangements.
- 17 The pressure on the budget in children's social care has been evident for a number of years, as the number of children in the care system has increased significantly and their needs have continued to become more complex. There are now 950 looked after children, compared to an average of 877 in 2019/20.
- 18 The budget was increased by £5.5 million in 2018/19 and by a further £6.5 million in 2019/20 to cover the escalating care costs, as well as additional costs for staffing in order to meet the expected challenges and pressures identified in 2019/20. The 2020/21 budget included an additional increase for placement costs of £3.417 million.
- 19 The Children's Social Care and Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children 2021/22 budget included base growth of £6.14 million, further base growth of £4.50 million following an in-year transfer from Adult and Health Services and investment of £0.821 million temporary one off-funding in order to meet the challenges and pressures being experienced by the service. In setting the 2022/23 budget the Council agreed further growth of £4.51 million in the current year in these budgets.
- 20 Within the Education Service there was a net cash limit overspend of £1.539 million, consisting of an overspend of £2.072 million on Home to School Transport, a shortfall in school and academy SLA income of £0.464 million, a shortfall on other income (contributions from schools, course income etc) of £0.374 million and an overspend due to bearing the costs of non-MTFP related early retirement costs of £0.119 million.
- 21 These overspends were partially offset by underspends of £0.449 million in employee costs, mainly due to vacant posts and other pay budgets, an underspend on Early Years Administrative costs of £0.385 million, an underspend of £0.233 million on Early Years Sustainability / Activity budgets, an underspend of £0.195 million on 'Other Pay' related activity a £0.172 million underspend relating to an underspend on the SEN Inclusion Fund and general Supplies & Service saving of £56,000.
- 22 The 2021/22 budgets also included additional budget growth of £1.7 million to recognise the financial pressures experienced in delivering home to school transport, which had seen costs increase by 35% over the preceding two years. Additional growth of £2.6 million was built into

the 2022/23 budget to reflect the continuing pressure in the home to school transport budget.

- 23 In arriving at the outturn position, £2.955 million of additional costs, and lost income relating to COVID-19 and £0.840 million of COVID-19 related underspends were excluded from the CYPs cash limit. The net impact of these is £2.115 million, which has been financed corporately by utilising Central Government grants.
- 24 The cash limit outturn reported is the position after a net £3.322 million use of CYPs reserves in year. There are a number of transfers to and from earmarked reserves, cash limits and contingencies which have been applied with the main areas detailed below:
- (a) A £119,142 use of the Schools Reserve to cover costs of deficits associated with schools who have academised in year.
 - (b) A £108,641 contribution to the Swimming Reserve mainly derived from venue hire savings to go towards future running costs of the service.
 - (c) A £106,451 contribution to the Early Years Activity reserve linked to Early Years Professional Development unspent grant funds.
 - (d) A £145,158 use of the Adult Learning reserve to support payments to delivery partners.
 - (e) A £897,568 contribution to the PFI Lifecycle reserve.
 - (f) A £191,075 contribution to Durham Enable linked to unspent grant funds.
 - (g) A £598,776 contribution to the Durham Directions reserve relating to unspent grant funds.
 - (h) A £110,326 contribution to the Kickstart reserve relating to unspent grant funds.
 - (i) A £284,490 contribution to the Mental Health Support reserve relating to unspent grant funds.
 - (j) A £368,714 contribution to Emotional Wellbeing Reserve from surplus income and funding received for future project.
 - (k) A £489,632 contribution to Holiday Activities with Food Reserve from grant income which will be repaid to DfE.
 - (l) A £310,500 contribution to Aycliffe Secure Centre Transitions Home Reserve as a contingency related to the capital programme

- (m) A £409,487 use of Corporate ER/VR reserve to fund redundancies in relation to MTFP savings (relating to the Education Service).
- (n) A £148,804 use of Corporate Insurance reserve
- 25 Taking the 2021/22 outturn position into account, there is a £3.771 million deficit cash limit position at the year end.
- 26 The council's financial procedure rules state that where a service groupings cash limit reserve is in deficit, the relevant service is required to make savings/ underspends the following year to bring the reserve back into balance. In this case, given the financial pressures and issues facing CYPS a further transfer from general reserves has been actioned this year end to retain the CYPS cash limit reserve at zero.

Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools

- 27 Taking into account academy transfers during the year, the council currently maintains 174 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.
- 28 The original budget for 2021/22 for these 174 maintained schools was £259.582 million, funded by income of £60.069 million, formula funding budget shares of £191.850 million (from central government funding) and a budgeted £7.663 million use of accumulated schools' reserves. The table below summarises the schools' initial budgets that were set for these 174 maintained schools.

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special / AP	Total
	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million)	£ million
Employees	4.384	141.206	30.572	30.210	206.371
Premises	0.272	9.471	2.348	1.294	13.385
Transport	0.001	0.347	0.385	1.141	1.874
Supplies and Services	0.432	27.042	5.592	4.887	37.953
Income	-3.804	-37.799	-12.594	-5.872	-60.069
Net expenditure	1.285	140.267	26.302	31.660	199.513
Budget share	-1.072	-134.503	-25.751	-30.524	-191.850
Contribution (to)/ from reserves	0.213	5.764	0.551	1.135	7.663

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special / AP	Total
	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million)	£ million
Balance at 1 April 2021	-1.034	-22.444	-1.085	-3.216	-27.779
Balance at 31 March 2022	-0.822	-16.680	-0.534	-2.081	-20.116

29 The forecasts prepared by schools at Quarter 3 indicated that they would use of £1.436 million of their accumulated schools' reserves in 2021/22. This was significantly less than the budgeted use of balances and was consistent with the cautious approach adopted by schools over recent years.

30 The final outturn was that rather than there being a draw on reserves, there was a contribution to reserves of £1.929 million, a difference of £3.365 million from the Quarter 3 forecast, representing 1.3% of the original budgeted gross expenditure.

31 The table below summarises the schools' outturn position:

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special / AP	Total
	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Employees	4.593	143.698	30.706	31.986	210.982
Premises	0.292	10.407	2.578	1.530	14.807
Transport	0	0.369	0.427	1.152	1.948
Supplies and Services	0.484	27.240	5.419	4.823	37.966
Income	-4.094	-47.032	-16.112	-7.383	-74.621
Net expenditure	1.274	134.682	23.017	32.109	191.082
Budget share	-1.073	-134.554	-25.774	-31.610	-193.011
Cont (to)/ from reserves	0.201	0.128	-2.757	0.499	-1.929
Balance at 1 April 2021	-1.034	-22.374	-1.085	-3.216	-27.709
Balance at 31 March 22	-0.833	-22.246	-3.842	-2.717	-29.638

32 In setting the 2021/22 budgets, the council's S151 officer (Corporate Director of Resources) gave approval for four schools to set deficit budgets. A deficit budget arises where planned expenditure during 2021/22 results in a deficit balance at 31 March 2022 (known as a licensed deficit). One of these schools (St. Thomas More RC Primary) subsequently converted to academy during 2021/22. The remaining three schools budgeted, and outturn positions are summarised in the following table:

School Name	Phase	Deficit at 31 March 2021	Planned in-year use or contribution to reserves	Licensed deficit at 31 March 2022	Outturn in-year use or contribution to Reserves	Deficit at 31 March 2022
		£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Ferryhill Station	Primary	0.045	-0.026	0.019	-0.024	0.021
Wellfield	Secondary	3.114	-0.200	2.914	-0.208	2.906
Durham Community Business College	Secondary	0.504	0.310	0.814	0.166	0.670

33 All of these schools have complied with the terms of their licensed deficit. The council will continue to support and work with schools causing concern to help them resolve their financial concerns, and the s151 officer (Corporate Director of Resources) will consider requests for a licensed deficit for 2022/23. A report summarising the school budget plans for 2022/23 will be presented to Cabinet in September.

34 During 2021/22 the council wrote off £75,000 of accumulated deficits in respect of St Thomas More, RC primary. This was agreed to facilitate the conversion.

Dedicated Schools Grant Centrally Retained Block

35 The 2021/22 outturn for centrally retained DSG budgets is an overspend of £1.863 million against a total budget of £98.705 million at year end, which represents a 1.89% overspend.

DSG Block	Budgeted £ million	Outturn £ million	Over / (Under) Spend £ million
Schools de-delegated	0.257	0.645	0.388
High Needs	65.746	66.542	0.796
Early Years	29.676	30.395	0.719
Central Schools Services	3.026	2.986	-0.040
TOTAL	98.705	100.568	1.863

- 36 The overspend position relates to overspends on Schools de-delegated, High Needs Block, the Early Years Block partially offset with an underspend against the Central School Services Block.
- 37 The Schools De-delegated funds overspend of £0.388 million relates to overspends on Behaviour Support, Contingencies and Trade Union Support.
- 38 The overspend of £0.796 million on High Needs mainly relates to Top Up Funding for mainstream Nursery, Primary and Secondary pupils, Special Schools Pupil and Banding Top Up and a shortfall in Turnaround and Permanent Exclusions income.
- 39 The overspend of £0.719 million on Early Years largely relates to the reduction of £902 million in funding experienced in year due to funding being allocated on a termly basis and numbers at the beginning of the year being particularly low due to COVID. It is expected that this funding will be recouped in the summer of 2022/2023 when funding allocations are returned to being allocated on an annual basis against the January 2022 census where pupil numbers had fully recovered.
- 40 The small underspend of £40,000 on the Central School Services Block largely relates to an underspend against the former 'Team around the School' service which has now ceased operation.
- 41 The impact of the outturn 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	0.097	0	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	-0.796	-0.719	-0.348	-1.863
Balance as at 31 March 2022	-8.843	0.656	2.401	-5.786

- 42 The overall DSG reserve position was a net deficit balance of £3.923 million at the start of the financial year, which increased to a net accumulated deficit balance of £5.786 million at 31 March 2022. The

accumulated deficit position is dominated by the high needs block position.

- 43 The latest five-year plan for high needs block funding and expenditure, including recovery of the accumulated deficit was considered by Cabinet in April 2022. The financial forecasts indicate that the accumulated budget deficit on the high needs grant will be recovered by the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The position for Durham is better than forecast in the previous version of the five-year plan, reflecting the increased HNB funding levels in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Capital Programme

- 44 The capital programme has been revised to take into account budget reprofiled from the previous financial year following the final accounts for that year and to take account of any revisions in the current year.
- 45 The revised budget is presented below together with actual expenditure.
- 46 Summary financial performance to the end of the financial year is shown below:

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Revised Budget 2021/22 Q3	Outturn 2021/22	Variance 2021/22
Education-SCP - LEP	44,985	81,095	44,889	(36,206)
Childrens Services-Childrens Care	1,333,093	244,385	23,088	(221,297)
Childrens Services - Planning & Service Strategy	1,616,259	1,429,659	1,301,954	(127,705)
Early Help Inclusion and Vulnerable Children	20,663	20,663	64,281	43,618
Early Years	114,701	66,010	59,163	(6,847)
School Devolved Capital	3,857,688	3,072,082	3,952,896	880,814
School Related	22,128,331	10,228,737	7,280,700	(2,948,037)
SEN Capital	4,403,737	1,305,164	1,461,722	156,558
Secure Services	121,442	444,946	336,240	(108,707)
CYPS Total	33,640,899	16,892,741	14,524,932	(2,367,809)

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

Finance

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

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Climate Change

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Staffing

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

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this 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 People's 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.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report

Appendix 2: CYPS Forecast position by subjective analysis

Subjective Budget Heading	Revised Annual Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m	Items Outside Cash Limit £m	Covid 19 related Costs £m	Cash Limit Variance £m
Employees	77.016	74.371	-2.645	0.501	0.616	-2.530
Premises	4.139	4.896	0.757	0.429	0.000	0.328
Transport	22.382	24.626	2.244	0.000	0.000	2.244
Supplies and Services	11.569	13.791	2.222	0.001	0.024	2.245
Third Party Payments	42.403	49.611	7.208	0.000	0.000	7.208
Capital	1.515	2.523	1.008	0.000	0.000	1.008
Central Support and Other Recharges	51.304	111.200	59.896	58.391	0.000	1.505
Gross expenditure	210.328	281.018	70.690	59.322	0.640	12.008
Income	-74.324	-94.142	-19.818	-14.335	-2.754	-8.237
Total	136.004	186.876	50.872	44.987	-2.114	3.771

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny

23 September 2022



Children and Young People's Services – Quarter 1: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2022/23

Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Purpose of the Report

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

Executive summary

- 2 Children and Young People's Services is reporting a cash limit overspend of £4.865 million against a revised budget of £145.321 million which represents a 3.3% overspend.
- 3 In arriving at the cash limit position, inflation costs of £1.283 million in relation to Home to School transport and £0.352 million on energy have been excluded. Pay award costs of £2.746 million (£1.537 million following general contingencies provision) have also been excluded.
- 4 There is an overall anticipated net use of earmarked reserves of £1.230 million, leading to a revised balance of £36.574 million at the year end, of which £13.546 million is for delegated schools.
- 5 The projected capital outturn is nil variance against a revised budget of £45.375 million.

Recommendation(s)

- 6 Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny committee are requested to are requested to:
 - (a) note the Children and Young People's Services overall revenue position.

Background

7 The County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2022/23 at its meeting on 23 February 2022. 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:

- (a) Children and Young People's Services Revenue Budget - £145.321 million (original £142.315 million);
- (b) CYPS – Capital Programme - £45.375 million (original £37.802 million).

8 The original Children and Young People's Services revenue budget has been revised to incorporate various permanent and temporary budget adjustments as summarised in the table below:

Description	Transfer in	Transfer out
Permanent	£m	£m
Q1 Workforce Development Officer to Resources		-£0.050
Q1 Transfer from AHS – Navigation Team	£0.840	
Q1 TF Trainer to Resources		-£0.021
Q1 Pay Award	£0.807	
Sub-total permanent changes	£1.647	-£0.071
Temporary	£m	£m
Q1 Recovery Support Reserve	£0.633	
Q1 Holiday Activities and Food Reserve	£0.490	
Q1 Young Parents Programme Reserve	£0.107	
Q1 RAA Early Permanence Project	£0.050	
Q1 Durham Learning Resources Reserve	£0.040	
Q1 Early Years Activities Reserve	£0.011	
Q1 Easington Sports Partnership	£0.009	
Q1 Durham Sports Partnership	£0.053	
Q1 Sessional Employment	£0.036	
Sub-total temporary changes	£1.430	-
Total changes	£3.077	-£0.071
Net budget change	£3.006	

9 The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2022/23 and show:

- (a) the approved annual budget;

- (b) the actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
- (c) the variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
- (d) for the Children and Young People's 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

- 10 The Children and Young People's Services service is reporting a cash limit overspend of £4.865 million against a revised budget of £145.321 million which represents a 3.3% overspend.
- 11 The table below compares the forecast outturn with the budget by Head of Service. A further table is shown at Appendix 2 analysing the position by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense).

Head of Service	Revised Annual Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Variance £m	Items Outside Cash Limit £m	Inflationary Pressures £m	Cash Limit Variance £m
Head of Social Care	96.614	100.613	3.999	-	-0.076	3.923
HoSC Excluded	0.049	0.049	0	-	0	0
EHIVC	6.597	6.819	0.222	-	-0.240	-0.018
Operational Support	1.915	1.875	-0.040	-	0	-0.040
Education and Skills	39.053	41.365	2.312	-	-1.312	1.000
Central Charges	1.093	1.100	0.007	-	-0.007	0
Total	145.321	151.821	6.500	0	-1.635	4.865

- 12 The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings of £0.365 million built into the 2022/23 budgets.
- 13 The forecast outturn position factors in forecast overspends within Children's Services of £3.923 million and Education of £1.000 million, with further details provided below:
- (a) Children's Services is forecast to be a net £3.923 million over budget for the year. The Service is forecasting an overspend of £5.39 million relating to the cost of placements for children looked after where demand continues to rise;

The pressure on the budget in children’s social care has been evident for a number of years, as the number of children in the care system has increased significantly and their needs have continued to become more complex. The budget for this area for 2022/23 was increased by £4.230 million, consisting of £2.29 million base budget growth, £1.160 million inflationary budget increase and £0.780 million internal budget transfers.

As at 30 June 2022 there were 983 Children Looked After, which continues a trend of growth in demand in this area as illustrated in the table below:

Date	Number of CLA
March 2021	946
June 2021	943
September 2021	912
December 2021	924
March 2022	982
June 2022	983

The budget associated with the Transitions Navigation team cases transferred from AHS to CYPS in Quarter 1 along with associated expenditure. A review of activity data is underway to align budget with expenditure across CYPS Social Care prior to reporting at Quarter 2 and, at this stage an underspend of £1.255 million is reported. There is also an underspend of £0.311 million on budgets relating to Adoption Services.

- (b) Education is forecasting an overspend of £1.000 million against budget after adjusting for inflationary pressures to be funded corporately.

The main reasons for the overspend position are an income shortfall of £1.586 million and an overspend of £0.350 million on Home to School transport (after adjusting for inflation costs funded corporately). Of the total income shortfall, £0.894 million relates to courses fees, charges and lettings, and £0.692 million is a direct result of lost SLA income following schools converting to academy status;

This overspend is partially offset by an underspend of £1.092 million against employee budgets, which largely results from a planned restructure to address budget pressures which comes into place from September 2022.

- 14 The forecast cash limit outturn shows the position after a net £1.430 million use of reserves. The main reserves used are as follows;
- (a) £0.633 million budget transfer from the Recovery Support Reserve to fund committed expenditure in 2022/23;
 - (b) £0.490 million transfer from reserves in relation to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme;
 - (c) £0.107 million transfer from the Young Parents Programme Reserve to fund the programme in 2022/23;
- 15 Taking the forecast outturn position into account, there is a forecast £4.865 million deficit cash limit reserve balance at 31 March 2023. This will be funded from general reserves as CYPS has no cash limit balance to call on.

Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools

- 16 The council currently maintains 164 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.
- 17 The original budget for 2022/23 for these 164 maintained schools was £255 million, funded by income of £62 million, formula funding budget shares of £186 million (from central government funding) and a budgeted circa £7 million use of accumulated schools' reserves. The table below summarises the schools' initial budgets.

Subjective Budget Heading	Nursery £m	Primary £m	Secondary £m	Special / AP £m	Original Annual Budget £m
Employees	4.523	141.327	25.354	32.723	203.927
Premises	0.311	9.543	1.881	1.750	13.485
Transport	0.001	0.366	0.445	1.189	2.001
Supplies and services	0.391	26.171	4.629	4.757	35.948
Gross expenditure	5.226	177.407	32.309	40.419	255.361
Income	-3.883	-43.804	-6.290	-8.037	-62.014
Net expenditure	1.343	133.603	26.019	32.382	193.347
Budget share	1.072	128.305	25.390	31.259	186.026
Reserves	0.271	5.298	0.629	1.123	7.321
Balance at 31 Mar 2022	0.833	21.260	3.842	2.717	28.652
Balance at 31 Mar 2023	0.562	15.962	3.194	1.597	21.331

- 18 Seven maintained schools had deficit balances at 31 March 2022, however, for five of these the budget plans for 2022/23 sought to fully recover the position in year.
- 19 Two schools (Durham Community Business School and Wellfield) have been given approval to set deficit budgets in 2022/23 – where planned expenditure during 2022/23 would result in a deficit balance at 31 March 2023 (known as a licensed deficit). Both schools have been required to set budgets with an in-year surplus so that the accumulated deficit is reduced, as summarised in the table below:

School Name	Phase	Deficit at 31 March 2022	Planned movement of reserves	Planned deficit at 31 March 2023	Licensed deficit (i.e., balance) at 31 March 2023
		£m	£m	£m	£m
DCBC	Secondary	-0.670	0.093	-0.577	-0.577
Wellfield	Secondary	-2.906	0.203	-2.703	-2.703

- 20 Like the Council, schools are facing a range of unfunded inflationary pressures, for pay awards and energy costs in year which are forecast to outstrip the initial budget planning assumptions. The forecast position for all maintained schools for quarter 1 is shown in the following table:

Budget Heading	Original Budget	Quarter 1 Forecast	Forecast Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Employees	203.927	220.624	16.697
Premises	13.485	16.233	2.748
Transport	2.001	2.081	0.080
Supplies	35.948	38.580	2.632
Gross expenditure	255.361	277.518	22.156
Income	-62.014	-73.819	-11.805
Net expenditure	193.347	203.699	10.351
Budget share	186.026	186.026	0
Use of reserves	7.321	17.673	10.351
Balance at 31 March 2022	28.652	28.652	0
Balance at 31 March 2023	21.331	10.979	10.351

21 The forecasts are based on the following main assumptions:

- (a) pay award for teachers at 5% for Upper Pay Scales (UPS) grades and higher levels for Main Pay Scales (MPS) – compared to the budgeted assumptions of a 2% increase in year;
- (b) pay award of £1,925 per employee per annum for non-teaching support staff – compared to a flat 2% pay award budget assumption;
- (c) electricity costs are 63% higher than the 21/22 outturn figures – around 10% higher than the 22/23 budgeted amounts;
- (d) gas costs 96% higher than the 21/22 outturn figures – around 40% higher than the 22/23 budgeted amounts;
- (e) impact of inflation on supplies and provisions (particularly food products) has been considered with individual schools;
- (f) income forecasts have been reviewed and updated to include the latest available information, particularly for SEND funding;
- (g) no additional grant income is included in the forecast to cover costs associated with pay awards at this stage.

- 22 The forecast at quarter 1 indicates schools will be required to utilise £17.673 million of reserves in comparison to £7.321 million included in original budget plans. The change relates to the following:
- (a) employees – an increase of £16.697 million, the majority of which relates to the forecast of staff pay awards of £7.8 million for non-teaching support staff and £3.5 million for teaching staff (7/12ths impact in 22/23);
 - (b) premises – an increase of £2.748 million due to updated energy and repairs and maintenance forecasts;
 - (c) supplies – an increase of £2.632 million due to updated forecasts reflecting latest inflation figures;
 - (d) income – increase in income of £11.8 million, mainly relating to £9.75 million of grant funding plus SEN funding and increases in fees and charges.
- 23 The forecast position at individual school level indicates that a small number of schools may be in deficit at the end of the current financial year (this is in addition to the two schools given permission to set a licensed deficit) and a more significant number of schools may not have sufficient reserves available to set a balanced budget in 2023/24.
- 24 The School Funding Team will work closely with schools over the autumn term to support the financial planning process in the current and future financial years.

Dedicated Schools Grant Centrally Retained Block

- 25 The forecast outturn position for the centrally retained DSG budgets shows a projected underspend of £0.205 million, relating to the High Needs block, as detailed below:

DSG Block	Budgeted 2022/23 Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Over / (Under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m
High Needs	76.267	76.062	-0.205
Early Years	29.374	29.374	0
Central Schools Services	2.860	2.860	0
TOTAL	108.501	108.296	-0.205

- 26 The forecast underspend position shown against the High Needs block reflects the continuing effort to reduce the High Needs Block cumulative deficit, however it should be noted that a fuller understanding of

pressures linked to top-up funding will only become clearer once the new academic year begins. The council continues to work towards reducing the high needs block deficit position.

- 27 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.
- 28 The impact of the current forecast on the DSG reserves position is shown in the following table:

DSG Reserves	High Needs Block (Unusable Reserve)	Early Years Block	Schools Block	Total DSG
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balance as at 1 April 2021	-8.047	1.375	2.749	-3.923
Use / Contribution in 2021/22	-0.796	-0.719	-0.348	-1.863
Balance as at 1 April 2022	-8.843	0.656	2.401	-5.786
Use / Contribution in 2022/23	0.205	0.000	0.000	0.205
Forecast balance as at 1 April 2023	-8.638	0.656	2.401	-5.581

- 29 The overall DSG reserve was in a net deficit position of £5.786 million at the start of the financial year – primarily due to the accumulated £8.843 million deficit position in relation to the high needs block. The overall deficit position is forecast to decrease slightly to £5.581 million to the year end.
- 30 An updated 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 April 2022.
- 31 The latest financial forecasts indicate significant increased expenditure across top-up funding, Pupil Referral Unit and Educational Health Needs areas compared to that include in the five-year plan in April. It is however, anticipated that these pressures can be managed within the funding available for the current financial year, although this will impact on the timing of the recovery of the HNB deficit.
- 32 A review of the current programme of work is taking place in the autumn and this will also include a workshop with Schools Forum. In addition, Durham is identified as one of the 55 local authorities with HNB deficits to work with the DfE on its Delivering Better Value programme.

Capital Programme

- 33 The capital programme has been revised to take into account budget reprofiled from 2021-22 following the final accounts for that year and to take account of any revisions in the current year.
- 34 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. Summary financial performance to the end of Qtr. 1 is shown below:

CYPS	Actual 30-Jun- 22 £m	2022/23 Budget £m	2023/24 Budget £m	2024/25 Budget £m	2025/26 Budget £m	Total Capital Prog. £m
PFI	-0.001	0	0	0	0	0
BSF	0	0.045	0.335	0	0	0.380
Support For Childs Homes	0.313	1.952	1.646	0	0	3.598
AAP Scheme	0	0.005	0	0	0	0.005
Planning & Service Strategy	0.021	0.617	0.100	0	0	0.717
Education-Early Years	0	0.001	0	0	0	0.001
30 Hours Free Childcare	0.003	0.019	0	0	0	0.019
School Devolved Capital	0.535	3.503	1.200	0	0	4.703
DFE School Capital Inc Basic Need	1.177	35.164	37.784	2.710	0	75.658
DFE Special Provision Capital Fund	0	0.628	0	0	0	0.628
CYPS - High Needs Capital	0	2.314	0	0	0	2.314
Secure Services	0.321	1.127	0.427	0	0	1.554
Total	2.369	45.375	41.492	2.710	0	89.577

Author(s)

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Procurement

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Appendix 2: CYPS Forecast position by subjective analysis

Subjective Budget Heading	Revised Annual Budget £m	YTD Actual £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Variance £m	Items Outside Cash Limit £m	Inflationary Pressures £m	Cash Limit Variance £m
Employees	87.169	19.786	84.376	-2.793			-2.793
Premises	4.411	1.240	4.861	0.450		-0.352	0.098
Transport	25.415	4.103	26.855	1.440		-1.283	0.157
Supplies and Services	11.299	4.525	12.367	1.068			1.068
Third Party Payments	45.284	8.744	49.289	4.005			4.005
Transfer Payments	1.560	0.628	1.311	-0.249			-0.249
Capital	20.482	0	20.482	0			0
Central Support	25.653	1.221	26.336	0.683			0.683
DRF	0.023	0	0.023	0			0
Grant	-21.194	-6.642	-21.072	0.122			0.122
Contributions Summary	-4.001	-0.595	-4.302	-0.301			-0.301
Sales Summary	-0.071	-0.011	-0.081	-0.010			-0.010
Charges	-16.862	-2.564	-15.664	1.198			1.198
Rents	-0.560	-0.084	-0.372	0.188			0.188
Recharges	-33.264	-8.686	-32.417	0.847			0.847
Other Income Summary	-0.023	-0.107	-0.171	-0.148			-0.148
Total	145.321	21.558	151.821	6.500	0	-1.635	4.865

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

23 September 2022

**Quarter One, 2022/23
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 one 2022/23, April to June 2022.

Executive Summary

- 3 A new [Council Plan](#) for 2022-2026 was approved by Council on 22 June. This sets out a new performance framework for the Council. Corporate Management Team has agreed to the development of a new quarterly performance report format which provides greater focus on these issues. This is the first report for the new reporting period to follow this format.
- 4 The performance report is structured around the two main components.
 - (a) State of the County indicators to highlight areas of strategic importance and reflected in both the [County Durham Vision 2035](#) and the [Council Plan](#).
 - (b) Performance of council services and progress against major initiatives as set out in the [Council Plan](#).
- 5 Performance is reported against the five thematic areas within the Council Plan 2022-2026: our economy, our environment, our people, our communities, and our council.
- 6 Performance is reported on an exception basis with key messages under each thematic Council Plan areas being broken down into national, regional

and local picture, things that are going well, areas which require attention and other areas to note.

- 7 We are now transitioning into a post-pandemic world, but the impacts of COVID-19 can still be seen in our performance reporting. The last two financial years are not representative for many areas of performance and will be an unfair comparison due to pandemic impacts.
- 8 We have therefore, wherever possible, tried to make the comparison of current performance against pre-pandemic data. Whilst COVID-19 continues to impact on certain performance metrics, there is evidence of some areas returning to pre-pandemic levels.
- 9 However, the largest challenge for our residents, local businesses and the council is the current cost of living crisis. Inflation is currently running at 10.1%¹ with the Bank of England forecasting it to peak at 13.3% at the end of March 2023. Ofgem are expected to increase the energy cap again in October and further again in January 2023. The inflationary increase is largely driven by the rise in the cost of fuel and energy bills, which is being impacted significantly by the war in Ukraine.
- 10 The cost of living crisis has a triple impact on the council.
 - (a) It impacts on our residents. High inflation is outstripping wage and benefit increases resulting in a fall in income in real terms. This has been further exacerbated by the tax increases implemented in April. This will result in increased demand for services to help support people facing financial hardship or who are in crisis.
 - (b) Increased costs for the council. Our premises and transport costs have increased because of the rise in energy costs and fuel prices, and, also the cost of other supplies and services where prices have increased as suppliers face similar issues themselves. It is also anticipated that employee costs will increase by more than in previous years when the settlement is negotiated to accommodate inflation.
 - (c) Reduced income for the council. Users of council services may seek to save money resulting in a fall in income from discretionary services such as leisure centres and theatres.
- 11 Other areas which require attention relate to social work caseloads which remain higher than optimum and the extreme pressure on child placements in the looked after service remains.

Recommendation

- 12 That Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter one performance, the continuing impact of COVID-19 and the increased cost of

¹ UK Consumer Price Index for 12 months to July 2022

living on the council's performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic.

Analysis of the Performance Report

Going well

Our economy

- 13 94% of three and four year olds in the county are receiving their free education entitlement.

Our people

- 14 581 families have been turned around via the Stronger Families programme, 545 by attaining significant and sustained outcomes and 36 by maintaining continuous employment.

Areas which require attention

Our people

- 15 Caseloads remain high across our social workers. Newly qualified social workers recruited will take up their posts over the summer. We remain focused on retention as well as recruitment.
- 16 More children in care have resulted in significant placement pressures, which are reflected both regionally and nationally, and are focusing on increasing capacity within our in-house children's homes, recruiting more foster carers, and working with children and their families to prevent them entering the care system. The CLA placement budgets are forecast to overspend by £5.39 million this year.
- 17 High demand for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) continues. More than 500 requests were received in the year ending June 2022 - higher than in the same period in any of the last three years.

Other areas of note

Our people

- 18 The National Child Measurement Programme 2020/21 shows a reduction in the percentage of children, across all age ranges, who are of a healthy weight in the national and regional data. This survey used a sampling methodology, and local authority level data is not available, however, this suggests that County Durham will likely see a reduction in children who are of a healthy weight.

Performance Indicators – Summary

- 19 We are now transitioning into a post-pandemic world, but the impacts of COVID-19 can still be seen in our performance reporting. The last two financial years are not representative for many areas of performance and will be an unfair comparison due to pandemic impacts.
- 20 We have therefore, wherever possible, tried to make the comparison of current performance against pre-pandemic data.

Risk Management

- 21 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](#).

Background papers

- County Durham Vision (County Council, 23 October 2019)
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s115064/Draft%20Durham%20Vision%20v10.0.pdf>

Other useful documents

- Council Plan 2022 to 2026 (current plan)
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=56529>
- Quarter Four, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s157533/Year%20End%20performance%20report%202021-22.pdf>
- Quarter Three, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s152742/Performance%20Report%202021-22%20003.pdf>
- Quarter Two, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s149087/Q2%20Performance%20Report%202021-22%20-%20Cabinet.pdf>
- Quarter One, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s144872/Q1%20Performance%20Report%202021-22.pdf>

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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 One, 2022/23



1.0 Our Economy: National, Regional & Local Picture

Education

- 1 Our exclusion rate has reduced by around 0.05% since the 18/19 academic year. Although 50 pupils were permanently excluded in 2020/21, the pandemic and sustained period of school closures will have played some part. Suspensions remain around 5%, higher than nationally but lower than the North East (7%).

2.0 Our People: National, Regional & Local Picture

Children in Care

- 2 Although more children are in care, the rate per 10,000 children aged 0-17 remains the third lowest in the North East.

Pupils attending good or outstanding schools

- 3 A lower proportion of pupils in County Durham attend good or better schools in comparison to national and regional averages.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

- 4 An additional 200 children and young people were given an Educational Health Care Plan during the last 12 months. This figure continues to rise year on year.

2.1 Council Activity: Going Well

Stronger Families Programme

- 5 The programme has turned around 581 families. 545 attained significant and sustained outcomes and 36 families achieved continuous employment.

2.2 Council Activity: Areas which require attention

Children's Social Care

- 6 Both children looked after and children in need² continue to show an increasing trend, and this, combined with more complex cases, has led to caseload pressures

² includes our children in care as well as children in need, children on a child protection plan and care leavers

for our social workers. Whilst we have recruited newly qualified social workers, who will take up their posts over the summer, we are also focusing on staff retention.

- 7 More children in care have led to increased placement pressures, which are reflected both regionally and nationally. We are focusing on increasing the capacity in our own in-house children's homes, recruiting more foster carers, and working with children and their families to prevent them entering care.

Education, Health and Care (EHCP) Plans

- 8 High demand for EHCP plans continues. More than 500 requests were received over the latest 12 months, higher than the same period over the last three years.
- 9 We are struggling to recruit education psychologists as there is a national shortage, and this is impacting our ability to complete assessments within statutory timescales.

2.3 Council Activity: Other Areas to Note

Healthy weight in children

- 10 Regional and National data from the National Child Measurement Programme suggest that we are likely to see a reduction in the percentage of children, across all age ranges, who are of a healthy weight.

3.0 Data Tables

Key to Symbols

Performance against target		Performance against comparable groups		Direction of Travel	
	meeting or exceeding target		same or better than comparable group		higher than comparable period
	within 2% of target		worse than comparable group (within 2%)		static against comparable period
	more than 2% behind target		worse than comparable group (greater than 2%)		lower than comparable period

NB: oldest data in left column

Types of indicators

There are two types of performance indicators throughout the report:

1. Key target indicators – targets are set as improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
2. 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.

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, e.g., 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 - 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

Our Economy

Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	Performance compared to:				Direction of Travel - last four reporting periods				updated this quarter
					Pre-COVID	National	North East	Nearest neighbour					
Increase the proportion of young people in education, employment and training to be consistently higher than regional and national levels	94.2%	Jun 2022	higher than regional/national 	93.6% 	94.3% 	95.2% 	93.9% 	-				n/a	Yes
% uptake of free early education entitlement for 3-4-year-olds	93.7%	2022	Tracker	92.8% 	96.1% 	90% 	96% 	94.1% 					Yes
Improve the proportion of children achieving expected standards in maths and reading at key stage 2 in line with 2030 ambitions* (reported by academic year)	65%	2018/19	Tracker [90% by 2030]	67% 	65% 	65% 	67% 	61% 	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
Improve the average grade of achievement of all our pupils within GCSE English and Maths to a Grade 5 (in line with 2030 ambitions)	data not yet published	new PI	5 by 2030	new PI	new PI	-	-	-	new PI	new PI	new PI	new PI	No
Improve the educational attainment of our most disadvantaged cohorts to meet basic threshold measures in English and Maths	new PI	new PI	new PI	new PI	new PI	-	-	-	new PI	new PI	new PI	new PI	No

*Not reported for 2019/20 or 2020/21 academic years as no Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) or Key Stage 2 (KS2) assessments took place

Our People

Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	Performance compared to:				Direction of Travel - last four reporting periods				updated this quarter
					Pre-COVID	National	North East	Nearest neighbour					
Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage achieving a good level of development (reported as academic year)	71.8%	2018/19	Tracker	72.8% 	-	71.8% 	71.8% 	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	No
% of County Durham pupils attending an Ofsted judged 'good or better' school	83.1%	as at 30 Jun 22	Tracker	n/a	-	86.3% 	83.9% 	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Yes
No. of Children Looked After per 10,000 population	99 [1,005]	as at 30 Jun 22	Tracker	93 [2020/21]	-	67	108	103					Yes
No. of Children in Need per 10,000 Population	369 [3,979]	as at 30 Jun 22	Tracker	361 [2020/21]	-	321	461	421					Yes
% of Children Looked After placed within 20 miles of their home address	85%	as at 31 Mar 22	Tracker	87% [2020/21] 	89% 	74% 	87% 	89% 					Yes
No. of families on our Stronger Families Programme attaining significant and sustained outcomes	581	Apr-Jun 2022		760 [2022/23] 	372 	311 	-	-					Yes
Increase the % of children aged 4-5 who are of a healthy weight ***	74.6%	2019/20	90% 	75.6% 	-	76.1% 	74.5% 	74.4% 					No
Increase the % of children aged 10-11 who are of a healthy weight ***	61.5%	2019/20	79% 	61.1% 	-	63.4% 	61.3% 	61.3% 					No
No. of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan	4,038	Jun 2022	Tracker	3,855 	3,496 	-	-	-					Yes

*Not reported for 2019/20 or 2020/21 academic years as no Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) or Key Stage 2 (KS2) assessments took place

***National Child Measurement Programme ceased March 2020 when schools closed due to the pandemic, so north east and nearest neighbour comparators should be treated with caution due to missing data from some LAs. Whilst the data for the academic year 2020/21 has been published, local authority data is not available as only a 10% sample of data was recorded.

Other relevant indicators

Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	Performance compared to:				Direction of Travel - last four reporting periods				updated this quarter
					Pre-COVID	National	North East	Nearest neighbour					
Increase the % of 16-17-year-olds in an apprenticeship	8.5%	as at Jun 2022	Tracker	5.5% ★	6.8% ★	4.7% ★	7.6% ●	-	↑	↓	↓	n/a	Yes
% of mothers smoking at time of delivery	14.8%	Jan-Mar 2022	0% ▲	15% ★	18.1% ★	9.4% ▲	12.8% ▲	12.1% ▲	↑	↓	↑	↑	Yes
Reduce the % point gap in breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks between County Durham and the national average	17.4pp	2020/21	Tracker	20.2pp ★	20.2pp ★	-	12.2pp ▲	13.3pp ▲	↓	↑	↑	↓	Yes

County Durham CAMHS

Initial assessments completed in 28 days (as of 5th July 2022)

There were 0 referrals in County Durham awaiting a first contact.

The average time being taken to fully complete an initial assessment was 54 days.

MHST referral waiting times (as of 5th July 2022)

Young people referred in Durham are assessed within 14 days on average.

Autism and ADHD Waiting Times (as of 5th July 2022)

Total numbers awaiting Autism or ADHD or ‘Autism AND ADHD’ assessments:

	Patients waiting 1-2 years	Patients waiting 2-3 years	Patients waiting over 3 years	Total patients waiting
County Durham CCG	998	64	2	3061

Eating Disorder Waiting times (current data)

National standards are assessment within 1 week for ‘urgent’ and within 4 weeks for ‘routine’ referrals.

There are 0 children waiting, following an urgent referral.

Following routine referrals there are:

2 children waiting 0-1 weeks

2 children waiting 1-2 weeks

4 children waiting 2-4 weeks

1 child waiting 4-6 weeks (following declined appointments)

1 child waiting 8-12 weeks (initial assessment completed, but further assessment required. Also, re-scheduled appointments at family request)

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