



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

**Date**            **Tuesday 24 February 2015**  
**Time**            **9.30 am**  
**Venue**          **Committee Room 1A/B, County Hall, Durham**

---

### **Business**

#### **Part A**

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend. Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.**

1.        Apologies for Absence
2.        Substitute Members
3.        Declarations of Interest, if any
4.        Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
5.        Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage
6.        LSCB Serious Case Review Process (Pages 1 - 4)
  - a)      Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell Assistant Chief Executive and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director Children and Adult Service
  - b)      Presentation by Pixley Clarke, Business Manager, Local Safeguarding Children's Board
7.        Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Reforms (Pages 5 - 8)
  - a)      Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director Children and Adult Services
  - b)      Presentation by Jane Le Sage, Strategic Manager CAS

8. Update of Alcohol and Substance misuse by Young People Review - Joint Report of Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director Children and Adult Services (Pages 9 - 26)
9. Verbal Update on Review of Self-harm
10. Children, Young People and Families Partnership minutes summary (Pages 27 - 30)
11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**Colette Longbottom**  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall  
Durham  
16 February 2015

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

Councillor J Blakey (Chairman)  
Councillor C Potts (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, K Corrigan, K Dearden, I Geldard, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, K Hopper, H Liddle, J Measor, S Morrison, T Pemberton, L Pounder, M Simmons, H Smith, M Stanton and P Stradling

**Faith Communities Representatives:**

Mrs G Harrison and Mr G Moran

**Parent Governor Representatives:**

Mr R Patel

**Co-opted Members:**

Mr K Gilfillan and Mr D Kinch

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

**24 February 2015**



**Local Safeguarding Children's  
Board Serious Case Review  
Process**

---

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive,  
and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children & Adult  
Services**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information on the processes involved in the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Serious Case Review. The presentation will be given by Pixley Clarke, Business manager for County Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

**Background**

2. Members requested an overview on the serious case review process after receiving the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report at Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June.

**Detail**

3. Serious Case Reviews are multi agency reviews of how professionals and organisations have worked together with a child and their family when a serious incident has occurred.
4. The Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulation 2006 indicates the functions of local safeguarding children boards including the criteria for serious case reviews.
5. A serious case review must be initiated when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; a child is seriously injured or when a child has died. Other circumstances where such a review must be conducted are outlined in the presentation slides.
6. The Local Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager will provide the committee with information in relation to:
  - What is a serious case review?
  - When and why they are carried out?
  - Who is involved in serious case reviews?
  - Which organisation leads serious case reviews?
  - How are Serious Case Reviews undertaken?
  - What happens after the review has taken place?

7. The presentation will also outline the new freedom and flexibilities and specific expectations on Safeguarding Children's Boards to publish Serious Case Review reports as set out in Working Together 2013. Mention will be made of the role of the Department for Education (DfE), the National Panel of Experts and the NSPCC.

**Recommendation**

8. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to receive the presentation and note its content.

---

Contact: Pixley Clarke, Business Manager, LSCB, Tel: 03000 265775  
[pixley.clarke@durham.gov.uk](mailto:pixley.clarke@durham.gov.uk)

Ann Whitton, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 03000 268143,  
[ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk)

---

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance** – Serious Case reviews cost money to conduct because of the national requirement to commission an independent person to conduct the review. These will vary depending on how complex a case might be. The cost of reviews are primarily met by the LSCB through its direct funding from partner agencies. Some agencies also commission independent reviewers to conduct individual management reviews which inform the overview report.

**Staffing** – Serious Case Review involves significant amount of staff time in terms of their involvement in meetings and interviews with the reviewer and afterwards in attending training sessions to learn lessons from reviews.

**Risk** - However if poor practice is highlighted in a review there are risk associated for the council and its partners who make up the LSCB – e.g. reputational risk

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – Serious Case reviews have to take into account issues of Equality and Diversity

**Accommodation** - No direct implications.

**Crime and Disorder** – No direct implications.

**Human Rights** - No direct implications.

**Consultation** – No direct implications.

**Procurement** – the LSCB is required to commission an independent Overview author to lead the Serious Case review and write the final overview report for publication. This therefore has implications for the LSCB Budget.

**Disability Issues** – No direct implications

**Legal Implications** – In conducting Serious Case Reviews the LSCB has to take account of any legal processes that are taking place such as Coroner proceedings, proceedings in the family or the criminal court.

This page is intentionally left blank

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

**24 February 2015**



**Special Educational Needs &  
Disabilities Reforms**

---

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive,  
and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children & Adult  
Services**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with information in relation to the new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms which will be presented to the committee by Jane Le Sage, Strategic Manager Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and Inclusion.

**Background**

2. The Children and Families Act 2014 placed duties on local authorities and others in relation to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). From September 2014 local authorities had a number of new legal duties that they were required to meet, including:
  - a new 0-25 co-ordinated assessment process and single Education, Health and Care Plan. This replaced the Statutory and Learning Difficulties Assessments.
  - the option of a personal budget for all families with children with an Education, Health and Care Plan
  - developing a web-based Local Offer of all services available to children and young people with SEND and their parents or carers. This should also inform strategic developments through, for example, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint commissioning arrangements for individual children.
  - a new approach to identifying SEN through a single Early Years setting-based category and school-based category of SEND.
  - a new duty on health to provide services detailed in EHC plans.
3. In November 2014, the Department for Education published draft regulations about the new duties to support children and young people with SEND in youth custody i.e. those placed in a Young Offender Institution, Secure Training Centre or Secure Children's Home. The new duties come into effect

from 1 April 2015 and a working group has been established to consider the implications and implementation arrangements. The new duties include:

- Maintaining and reviewing an EHC plan when a child or young person enters custody; and
  - arranging appropriate special educational provision for the detained person while he or she is detained (if they have an EHC Plan before or during the period of detention).
  - If the EHC plan for a detained person specifies health care provision the health services commissioner for the custodial establishment must arrange appropriate health care provision for the purposes of the EHC plan.
4. The presentation will focus on developments and implementation in County Durham about the:
- Education, Health and Care assessments;
  - Local Offer;
  - transition arrangements;
  - personal budgets; and
  - workforce developments.

### **Recommendation**

5. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to receive the presentation and note its' content and comment accordingly.

### **Background Papers**

Children and Families Act 2014

SEND Code of Practice

Previous report to Children and Adults Services Senior Management Team

Transition Guidance

Draft Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015

---

**Contact:** Jane Le Sage, Strategic Manager [jane.lesage@durham.gov.uk](mailto:jane.lesage@durham.gov.uk)  
Derek Sayers, SEND Officer, Tel: 03000 265866,  
[derek.sayer@durham.gov.uk](mailto:derek.sayer@durham.gov.uk)  
Ann Whitton, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 03000 268143,  
[ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk)

---



---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance** – No direct implications.

**Staffing** - Within existing resources although part of the additional burden funding from the DfE has been used to employ temporary Casework staff to support the arrangements for converting statements to Education, Health and Care Plans.

**Risk** –

**a) Timescales for implementing the reforms**

An earlier report identified that there would be a significant risk if the reforms were not implemented by September 2014. The reforms have been implemented and we are also in a strong position to implement the new duties for young people with SEN in youth custody in April 2015. A strategic risk report has recently been prepared for CASSMT.

**b) Workforce development**

There will need to be a continuing comprehensive training programme for staff across education, health and care to ensure that we are all skilled to meet the requirements of the reforms and effect cultural change.

**c) Limited engagement with partners**

All partners have been engaged with the developments across County Durham and joint commissioning arrangements at both strategic level and for individual children and young people are ongoing.

**d) Duplication**

The Education, Health and Care Plan assessments have been considered alongside other assessment processes including those currently being developed in social care. This work will continue to develop. We must ensure that the key principles e.g. the child and family at the centre of the process and the “tell us once” approach across the different assessment processes are achieved.

Any risks will be mitigated against by developing governance and information sharing arrangements.

**e) IT developments**

The development of the Local Offer was considered alongside other IT developments and the software secured through the procurement processes.

## **f) Sustainability**

Ongoing maintenance and development of the Local Offer website is a statutory duty and a further report will be submitted to CASSMT in March 2015..

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty -**

**Accommodation** - An Equality Impact assessment has been completed.

**Crime and Disorder** – From April 2015, new duties on Local Authorities will be introduced in relation to young people with special educational needs who are detained in youth custody. A summary of the new duties are outlined in paragraph 4 of this report.

**Human Rights** - The reforms are the result of a change in the law. The proposed reforms will improve provision for children and young people with special educational needs. The right to freedom from discrimination is particularly relevant. Allowing parents of children with SEN with greater choice over provision for their child and service development will reduce the risk of discriminatory practice.

**Consultation** – The Children and Families Act and the SEN Code of Practice are clear that children and young people with SEN and their families should be involved in all aspects from the outset. This includes strategic planning and decisions about themselves. Consultation events, multi-agency conferences and network meetings have enabled us to engage with parents and carers and professionals across different agencies about the reforms and developments in Durham.

### **Procurement -**

Through competitive tendering, an independent disagreement resolution and mediation service has been secured and is joint funded across education, health and care.

### **Disability Issues –**

The reforms apply to children and young people with special educational needs, some of whom will be disabled.

### **Legal Implications –**

The Children and Families Act 2014 places statutory duties on the Local Authority and Health. These relate to the joint commissioning and planning of services as well as meeting the needs of individual children and young people.

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



**24 February 2015**

**Update on Recommendations on  
Alcohol and Substance Misuse by  
Young People Review**

---

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive,  
and Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children & Adult  
Services**

---

**Purpose**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress made against the recommendations from the review of Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People.

**Background**

- 2 Alcohol and substance misuse by young people was identified as a review topic by the committee in June 2013 following a refresh of the work programme. Members of the committee agreed the terms of reference for the review at their meeting on 2 October giving a priority focus on alcohol.
- 3 The review followed five key lines on enquiry :
  - Is the problem of underage drinking countywide or concentrated to certain localities?
  - What is the number of related admission into hospital and are these admissions being mirrored in the number of referrals to the 4Real Service? Who makes the referrals to 4Real Service? Why referrals to the service are not being made? What procedures are in place?
  - How are young people getting alcohol? What interventions or measures can the Council use to stop proxy sales/under age sales of alcohol?
  - What is being done in schools to educate young people on the dangers of alcohol and/or substance abuse?
  - Facts indicate that where children and young people are exposed to adults drinking alcohol they will be more likely to start drinking at a young age. What early intervention measures are in place to prevent this from happening?

- 4 The Working Group found that the majority of young people do not drink but the minority that continue to drink alcohol are consuming larger amounts of stronger alcohol more frequently. Underage drinking is countywide with small pockets where underage drinking behaviour is acute. Young people are not drinking in pubs or clubs but in people's homes or open spaces. Evidence indicates that young people are obtaining their alcohol via proxy sales from parents, older family members or older friends.
- 5 Tackling young people's misuse of alcohol is complex; young people drink alcohol for many reasons and there is no single solution to reduce young people drinking alcohol. Encouraging young people to delay their drinking alcohol for as long as possible and when they do start drinking, to do so responsibly is difficult when they are surrounded by advertisements to drink alcohol or face peer pressure.
- 6 The review report made six recommendations in relation to alcohol education, data sharing, parental awareness, supporting the work of Balance and taking a Think Family approach when parental alcohol/substance misuse is identified. All the recommendations were agreed by the County Council's Cabinet and the report and its recommendations have been shared with both the Health and Wellbeing and the Children and Families Partnership Boards. A copy of the original Cabinet report is attached at Appendix two for members' information.
- 7 An essential part of the review process is that the report's recommendations are systematically reviewed and members are provided with an update in relation to their progress including a timescale of completion. Attached at Appendix three is an action plan which details the review report's recommendation with what actions have been completed or planned and their timescales.

### **Recommendation**

- 8 Members are requested to note the update on the recommendations from Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People review report and comment accordingly.

### **Background Papers**

- Cabinet Report: Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People Review – Report of Assistant Chief Executive.

---

**Contact: Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager,**  
**Tel: 03000 268027 [tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk](mailto:tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk)**  
**Ann Whitton, Overview and Scrutiny Officer Tel: 03000 268143**  
**[ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk)**

---

---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

**Finance - None**

**Staffing – None**

**Risk - None**

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –** The review report takes into consideration Equality and Diversity; an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out

**Accommodation - None**

**Crime and Disorder -** The review report received information on the impact of alcohol on young people's offending.

**Human Rights - None**

**Consultation – None**

**Procurement - None**

**Disability Issues – None**

**Legal Implications – None**

**Cabinet**  
**16 April 2014**  
**Alcohol and Substance Misuse by**  
**Young People Review**



---

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive**

---

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee working group review report on Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People attached at appendix 2.

**Background**

2. At its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review looking at Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People, with a priority focus on alcohol as this is by far the biggest issue in the County.
3. The review followed five key lines of enquiry:
  - Is the problem of underage drinking countywide or concentrated to certain localities?
  - What is the number of related admission into hospital and are these admissions being mirrored in the number of referrals to the 4Real Service? Who makes the referrals to 4Real Service? Why referrals to the service are not being made? What procedures are in place?
  - How are young people getting alcohol? What interventions or measures can the Council use to stop proxy sales/under age sales of alcohol?
  - What is being done in schools to educate young people on the dangers of alcohol and/or substance abuse?
  - Facts indicate that where children and young people are exposed to adults drinking alcohol they will be more likely to start drinking at a young age. What early intervention measures are in place to prevent this from happening?
4. Evidence was gathered over a series of six meetings from officers of the Council from Children and Adult Services, Neighbourhood Services, Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and Balance.
5. The review makes five recommendations which can be found towards the end of the attached report in relation to alcohol education, data sharing, increasing parental awareness, supporting the work of Balance and taking a Think Family approach when addressing alcohol misuse.

## Service Response

6. Children and Adult Services welcome the review of alcohol misuse by young people. In particular, we support the Committee's approach of considering both the health implications of overuse of alcohol as well as the crime and anti-social behaviour impacts which tend to dominate public discourse. All future plans should include both of these aspects, rather than focus purely on the public nuisance and crime.
7. The report is relevant for many areas of Children and Adult Services, including Public Health, Community Safety, child protection, support to schools, young people's substance misuse services, early help services, youth services and Think Family.
8. Any successful strategy must tackle both the supply issue and provide education and prevention activity. In particular, effective partnership working is crucial. The service is pleased that the Committee found many examples of effective partnership working, in particular with Police, community safety and neighbourhoods colleagues, schools, the youth offending service and with the voluntary sector. It is clear though, that there is more work to do with health partners, particularly in the acute sector to challenge practice in partnership working for young people admitted to hospital as a result of alcohol misuse.
9. We particularly welcome the involvement of the Area Action Partnerships in local planning and action, and it is clear from the review that this approach has benefitted communities. However, we would encourage AAPs also to include health impacts and to educate and involve parents in future local campaigns, alongside control and community safety campaigns.
10. It is striking that the findings of the committee, supported by numerous research studies, were that a vast majority of young people do not drink and do not drink excessively. This runs counter to the public perception of young people's behaviour, and that perception in turn puts young people under pressure to conform to the perceived social norm. CAS supports current work in schools on social norms and this is proving to be an effective way to provide a balanced view to young people.
11. The role of parents is shown to be critical, both in modelling behaviour with alcohol and in offering access to alcohol. There is clearly a need for parent education and advice on this issue. CAS will consider how best to tackle this.
12. Similarly, school's role is central to the education of young people and the report makes clear that some schools take this matter very seriously and provide effective support and education to their pupils. CAS supports the recommendation of the committee that minimum standards should be agreed for all schools and that Governing Bodies should be actively involved in reviewing their school's policy on alcohol.

13. Having said that the vast majority do not drink and do not drink problematically, it is clear that County Durham has a group of young people who do have a problem with alcohol and who do cause problems for others when they drink.
14. Although alcohol related hospital admissions have reduced, levels in the County are still far too high. That conclusion is drawn on the evidence of one Trust only. It is concerning that two NHS Trusts, likely to deal with many young people from County Durham, have not to date captured data on this subject, which may mean that the problem is even worse.
15. It is also very concerning that the one Trust able to report on hospital admissions of young people so infrequently refer their patients for the help and support of the 4Real Service. This indicates that health services fail to associate problematic, excessive drinking with other vulnerabilities, such as child sexual exploitation, underage and unprotected sex, poor school attendance and achievement as well as crime and disorder. Clear information sharing duties are set out in statutory guidance and legislation for all with a duty to cooperate in the protection of children. These apply to NHS Trusts. Where a child is at risk of harm, or where the wellbeing of a young person is compromised, professionals have a duty to share information to ensure needs can be properly assessed and support provided. Excessive alcohol misuse can indicate a range of other vulnerabilities, both for the child and for his or her family. A referral to 4Real as a minimum would ensure that such assessments would take place. Whilst consent for this onward referral of information would be desirable, there is clear guidance, supported by the Office of the Information Commissioner as well as NHS Caldicott Guardians to support sharing even without consent, in the interest of child protection and welfare.
16. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board has a duty to assure the quality of partnership working to protect children. The report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be considered by the LSCB, so that appropriate discussions can be had with NHS Trusts in order to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency.
17. CAS supports the specific recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Whilst clearly there are areas where national policy is required, such as minimum unit alcohol price, there is work we can do locally.

## **Recommendation**

18. That Cabinet notes the recommendations in the attached report (appendix 2) and formulates a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of recommendations.

---

**Contact: Jenny Haworth**  
[jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk)  
**Author: Ann Whitton**  
[ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk](mailto:ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk)

**Tel: 03000 268071**  
**Tel: 03000 268143**

---



## Children and Young People's Overview and scrutiny Committee

## Systematic Review: Support for Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues

Review Recommendation	Cabinet Response		Implementation	
	Agreed?	Actions	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1. That Cabinet request that the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services encourage school governing bodies to refresh of their policies on alcohol and substance misuse. To include minimum standards for education resources that are available to schools and minimum training for people delivering interventions in schools, and in doing so ensure that not drinking is considered a viable option in alcohol education and a whole school approach is taken to physical and emotional wellbeing. Additionally, ensure that youth services and Area Action Partnerships are enabled to provide alcohol education to young people to the minimum standard above.</p>	Yes	<p>The Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services presented at a Secondary School Head Teachers meeting in November 2014. Within the presentation the recommendations from the report were highlighted and Governing Bodies were encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be actively involved in reviewing and refreshing their school's policies.</li> <li>• raise awareness of the good practice guidance</li> <li>• Schools are encouraged to work with parents to address all three strands of alcohol education – knowledge, skills/support and attitudes and values.</li> </ul> <p>AAPs and Youth Services to be trained in Alcohol Education for their setting.</p>	CAS	<p>Complete</p> <p>June 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Cabinet Response		Implementation	
	Agreed?	Actions	Resib'ty	Timescale
2. That Cabinet request that the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board, the Children and Families Partnership, Safe Durham Partnership and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board remind NHS Foundation Trusts in the North East of their clear duty to share information where children are at risk, in this instance young people who attend Emergency Departments with alcohol related injuries. They need to ensure that children and young people who present with alcohol or substance misuse related injuries at emergency departments in the trust areas are referred for specialist interventions to address any alcohol or substance misuse related problem at the earliest opportunity.	Yes	<p>Referral pathways have been established between UHND and 4Real.</p> <p>The new drug and alcohol service for young people and adults will aim to build on the existing pathways in UHND and expand to other hospitals.</p>	JHWB/ CFP	September 2015

Review Recommendation	Cabinet Response		Implementation	
	Agreed?	Actions	Resib'ty	Timescale
3. That Cabinet request that the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services, the Director of Public Health and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board consider how to increase awareness among parents of the dangers of alcohol to their children and advice about safe drinking under 18.	Yes	<p>A leaflet developed as part of the Wear Community Alcohol Partnership has been amended and is now available across County Durham and can be found at appendix 4. When 4Real are undertaking education within schools they are highlighting the leaflet. A number of secondary schools have made the leaflet available on this website.</p> <p>Further work will be undertaken on engaging parents through Operation ARIES and within the development of the new Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.</p>	CAS/ JHWB	<p>Complete</p> <p>September 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Cabinet Response		Implementation	
	Agreed?	Actions	Resib'ty	Timescale
4. That Cabinet support the work of Balance in its quest to make changes in minimum unit pricing of alcohol, alcohol advertising and changes to licensing legislation. Request that the Director of Public Health write to the Directors of Public Health Network and Public Health England to raise the issue of alcohol sales and advertising in cinemas where films are rated as U or PG.	Yes	<p>The Director of Public Health wrote to the Home Office in relation to alcohol advertising and sales in cinemas. The response received from the Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP, Minister for Crime Prevention is attached at appendix 5.</p> <p>Balance, the North East Alcohol Office, on behalf of the Directors of Public Health from across the North East, will continue to lobby for change to alcohol advertising and alcohol licensing.</p>	CAS	<p>Complete</p> <p>October 2015</p>

Review Recommendation	Cabinet Response		Implementation	
	Agreed?	Actions	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>5. That Cabinet request the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services to ensure a 'Think Family' approach is used when parental alcohol and/or substance misuse is identified. Parental drug and alcohol misuse can have a serious impact on the lives of children and young people therefore the children of those parents receive early interventions to assess the impact of their parents drinking/drug taking on them even when parents are known to have a problem but are not accessing treatment services.</p>	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children's Services to incorporate the AUDIT tool into their assessment paperwork to ensure all families are screened for parental alcohol use and referred to recovery/treatment services as appropriate</li> <li>2. Children's Services staff in First Contact, One Point, Stronger Families and Safeguarding to be trained in identification (AUDIT) and brief advice and referral pathways.</li> <li>3. Referral pathways from First Contact, One Point, Stronger Families and Safeguarding to be developed and implemented following the implementation of the new alcohol and drug service for young people and adults.</li> <li>4. Children who need help due to parental alcohol misuse to be referred to the Stronger Families Program.</li> </ol>	CAS	<p>Sept 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p> <p>July 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Talking with your child about alcohol

### Useful contacts

#### 4Real

(Under 18s Drug & Alcohol Service)  
Green Lane,  
Spennymoor,  
DL15 6JQ  
☎03000 267567

#### Community Alcohol Service

(Over 18s Alcohol Service)  
William Robson House  
Moody's Yard  
Claypath  
Durham  
DH1 1SA  
☎0191 386 6555  
Fax: 0191 384 5749

#### Police

In an emergency dial 999  
In a non emergency dial 101

### Useful websites

#### Balance

[www.balancenortheast.co.uk](http://www.balancenortheast.co.uk)

#### 4Real

[www.4realcountydurham.co.uk](http://www.4realcountydurham.co.uk)

#### Frank

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

With thanks to the Parents Group from Sunnybrow Primary School, County Durham for their contribution to the development of this booklet.

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

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

[community.safety@durham.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@durham.gov.uk)  
03000 261 381

 Braille
  Audio
  AAA Large Print

Altogether  
safer

Safe Durham Partnership

## Talking with your child about alcohol Information booklet



[www.durham.gov.uk/alcohol](http://www.durham.gov.uk/alcohol)

## Talking with your child about alcohol

This guide is designed to support you as a parent or carer to deal with the questions you and your children may have about alcohol.

Talking with your child about alcohol before they start drinking is important. Balance (The North East of England's Alcohol Office) suggests you do this before they go to secondary school.

Take advantage of everyday opportunities like riding in the car, walking to the shops or eating dinner to begin the conversation.

It can be difficult to know what to say to your child on alcohol. Well how about starting with the facts found in this leaflet and dispel any myths they may have about drinking alcohol. Try putting the facts in your own words so they sound more natural.

Be honest about what you tell them and ask your son or daughter questions about their beliefs about alcohol and listen to what they have to say.

Discuss how they can deal with any pressure they get from their friends to drink (there are a few suggestions on page 6) and how to avoid taking unnecessary risks and stay safe. Despite alcohol being pictured as an important part of life most children in County Durham are choosing not to drink alcohol at all.\*

\*Children and Young People's Survey 2012

## You and your drinking

Be a good role model by not being drunk or suffering from the effects of alcohol in front of your children and sticking to the recommended daily limits for lower risk drinking. The adult guidelines for alcohol state that men shouldn't regularly drink more than 3 to 4 units per day and women shouldn't regularly drink more than 2 to 3 units per day. Children often copy what their parents do and how they act. Parents and carers often underestimate just how much influence they have on their own children.

It is important to talk to your child about why you drink alcohol (if you do). Discuss how alcohol can make you feel – including when you've had too much, how it can change your behaviour and make you do things you wouldn't normally do.

## Alcohol and children the key facts

- Giving alcohol to your child from an early age does not turn them into a responsible drinker as an adult. In fact, the earlier a child is introduced to alcohol the more likely they are to have an alcohol problem later in life.
- The human brain takes until the age of 25 to fully develop and alcohol can slow down brain development and have a long term impact on memory, reactions and attention span.
- Young people will be less able to consent to sex or sexual touching if they drink alcohol. They are also more likely to have unprotected sex.
- Children who drink alcohol are more likely to be behind at school or play truant.
- Underage drinking increases the chance of longer term problems with alcohol misuse.
- Even though there are recommended daily guidelines for adult drinkers, there are NO guidelines for safe alcohol consumption for children (under 18s). That is because their bodies are still developing and alcohol affects them more than adults.







## Myth busters

**Myth:** The majority of children drink alcohol.

**Wrong:** The truth is fewer children are drinking alcohol. However, those who do drink are drinking too much too often.

**Myth:** Most parents give their child alcohol.

**Wrong:** The truth is seven out of ten parents in the North East have never given their child alcohol.

**Myth:** If you drink regularly your body develops a tolerance to alcohol and you can drink a lot more.

**Wrong:** The truth is the more you drink the more damage you do to your body and the risks become greater. If you think you can tolerate more alcohol it is a warning that your body has started to be affected by it.

**Myth:** Alcopops are ok for children to drink.

**Wrong:** The truth is Alcopops contain the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine or a measure of spirit.

## Alcohol, your child and the consequences, parents frequently asked questions

### What if my child is found drunk?

If the police find your child drunk, they will decide whether your child needs medical attention. If so, an ambulance will be called and the police will telephone you to let you know. If medical attention is not required the police will return your child home to you.

The police will tell you that that a referral has been made to 4Real the County Durham Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Service. Depending on the circumstances the Safeguarding Team within Durham Constabulary may also be informed.

### What are the potential consequences for my child?

Alcohol changes the way people behave and the decisions they make. Children might do things when they have had a drink of alcohol that they normally wouldn't do.

Drinking alcohol can increase the risk of children becoming a victim of crime or committing a crime.

Some children who have drunk alcohol have ended up in trouble with the police. Your child could get a criminal record which would make it harder to get a job when they are older. It can also affect them if they are going abroad because some countries may refuse entry to people with a criminal record.

Mobile phones can be used to capture embarrassing and inappropriate pictures and videos which can then be shared with others via social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter. This can be a painful and lasting reminder of a child's behaviour when they were drunk.



## What if my child goes to someone else's house and is given alcohol by another adult?

It is important that your family and friends know what your wishes are where alcohol and your child is concerned. Before your child attends a party or other occasion where you will not be, talk to the other adults who will be around so they know your views on under-age drinking.



### Alcohol – what is the law?

It is a criminal offence for a person under the age of 18 being found in persistent possession of alcohol. If they are found in possession of alcohol three or more times in 12 months they may be taken to court and receive a fine of up to £500 and therefore have a criminal conviction.

The police, PCSOs and wardens have the power to seize/confiscate any alcohol from young people in public spaces.

It is a criminal offence if you sell alcohol to or buy alcohol for a person under 18. You can receive a fine of up to £5,000.

If an over 18 is found drinking alcohol where there are under 18's and it is believed that the alcohol will be passed to an under 18 then any alcohol may be seized.

## How can my child deal with peer pressure to drink alcohol?

It is not always easy to say no to alcohol when many of their friends are drinking. Discuss this with your child and agree some tactics that they can use, for example:

- I've got a big match tomorrow (or another sporting event)
- I'm in training for....
- I'm not drinking as I'm going to look after you to make sure you're ok
- I'm on antibiotics
- I've got to be up early in the morning

Tell them that if they are in an uncomfortable situation involving alcohol they can always call you to get picked up.





Home Office

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP  
Minister for Crime Prevention

2 Marsham Street,  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Anna Lynch  
Director of Public Health  
Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham,  
DH1 5UJ

CTS Reference: M17963/14

18 DEC 2014

Dear Ms Lynch,

Thank you for your letter of 24 November to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, about the concerns raised by Durham County Council's Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the availability of alcohol and the protection of young people. I am replying as the Minister of State for Crime Prevention.

The Government believes that the sale of alcohol to children is unacceptable. For this reason we raised the maximum fine for the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children to £20,000. We have also lowered the evidence threshold that must be met before the licensing authority can take action to review a licence and we have also issued statutory guidance to licensing authorities to ensure that they consider revoking the licence completely.

Turning to your concerns about outlet density being linked to harms, I should explain that the cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a matter which a licensing authority may consider in developing its licensing policy statement. Cumulative impact policies (CIPs) may relate to premises licensed to carry on any licensable activity, including the sale of alcohol for consumption on or off the premises.

When the licensing authority decides to introduce an approach to cumulative impact, it must indicate this in its statement of licensing policy. A CIP is a special policy whereby, when a licensing authority receives relevant representations, there is a rebuttable presumption that new applications or applications to vary a licence will be refused or subject to certain limitations. While there are no plans to prevent the sale of alcohol in cinemas, cinemas applying for a premises licence in a CIP area would be subject to the provisions of the special policy.

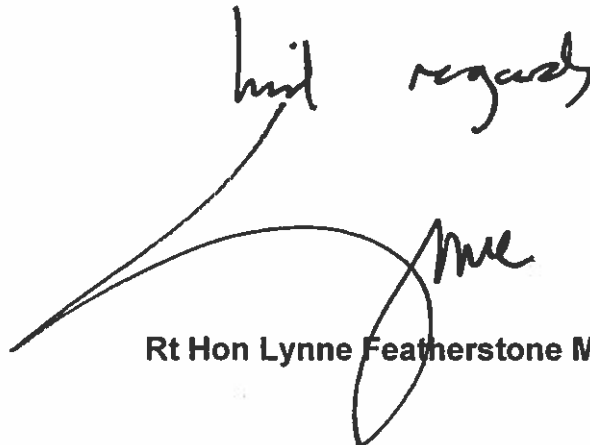
Where any person has concerns that alcohol sales might undermine one of the four licensing objectives (these are: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm), he or she may make a representation to the licensing authority to seek a review of the premises licence.

With regard to the marketing of alcoholic drinks, the Portman Group operates, on behalf of the alcohol industry, a Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks. The Code seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years old or older. If a product's packaging or point-of-sale advertising is found to be in breach of the Code, the Portman Group may issue a Retailer Alert Bulletin to notify retailers of the decision and ask them not to replenish stocks of any such product or to display point-of-sale material, until there has been compliance with the decision.

There are also specific provisions governing the advertising of alcohol in cinemas. The Advertising Standards Authority's (ASA) remit covers cinema advertisements. The policy on alcohol advertising is set out in the guidelines for commercial content as outlined in the UK Code of Non-broadcast Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing (the CAP Code). The Cinema Advertising Association (CAA) also requires that cinema advertisements comply with the CAP Code.

The codes on alcohol advertising state that alcoholic drinks should not be advertised if more than 25% of its audience is under eighteen-years-of-age. To comply with this code, alcohol advertisements are scheduled to screen only with films that will have an average audience of 75% or more adults, based on audience predictions by the CAA's alcohol panel. According to the provisions of the CAA Alcohol Film panel, alcohol advertisements can be shown with all '18' certified films. The CAA policy also requires that alcohol advertisements must not constitute more than 40 per cent of advertisements and that they must not run sequentially.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Kind regards  
  
Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP

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

24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

15<sup>th</sup> December 2015



County Durham Children  
and Families Partnership

#### **Family Nurse Partnership**

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation on the Family Nurse Partnership, which is a health-led preventative programme offered to first time mothers under the age of 20 years. The programme has three overarching aims, which are: to improve antenatal health; to improve child health and development and to improve economic self-sufficiency.

#### **Transfer of 0-5 commissioning responsibilities**

Public Health provided an update on the 0-5 commissioning responsibilities, which will transfer to local authorities from 1st October 2015. The update gave details on the current position, including both a local and national perspective and the governance arrangements for the transfer. Finances have been scrutinised as part of the planned transfer to the local authority.

#### **Stronger Families Programme update**

The Children and Families Partnership received an update on the Stronger Families programme, following a previous update to the partnership. The update outlined Phase 1 delivery and the plans for Phase 2 development.

The Stronger Families programme is required to 'turn around' 1,320 families by 31st March 2015. At the end of October 2014, the programme had identified / worked with 1,695 families and was successful in 'turning around' the lives of 932 families, equating to 70.6% of the target for March 2015.

Durham has been invited to be one of the 50 Early Starters for Phase 2, and to take part in the design and development of Phase 2 ready for national implementation in April 2015. It will be delivered over a 5 year time period, with Durham having 4,330 families to work with during this time.

The Children and Families Partnership will receive a further update report in March 2015.

#### **Healthy Weight Strategic Framework**

Public Health gave an update on the Healthy Weight Strategic Framework for County Durham, which has been developed by the County Durham Healthy Weight Alliance as a local response to 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Call to Action on Obesity in England'.

The strategic framework was agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 5th November 2014. It aims to achieve a sustained upward trend in healthy weight for children, young people and adults in County Durham by 2020, and

is aligned to existing strategies including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Sustainable Communities' Strategy, Cardiovascular Disease Delivery Framework, Sustainable Food Strategy, Physical Activity Strategy, School Food Action Plan, Children, Young People and Families Plan, North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group commissioning intentions.

It was agreed that further work needs to take place with 'whole family units' to address this issue.

The Healthy Weight Alliance will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board annually through the Director of Public Health County Durham.

### **CAMHS strategy**

The 1-year interim CAMHS strategy was presented to the Children and Families. The 1-year interim strategy has been developed whilst more detailed work is undertaken to develop a three-year Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan commencing in 2016.

The interim strategy was ratified by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 5th November 2014. It includes details of the action plan, which has been developed with relevant stakeholders. The main focus is on re-affirming partnership and governance arrangements; refreshing the local needs assessment; consulting and engaging with children, young people and families and reviewing current services to inform the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Plan.

Development of the interim strategy has been informed by national policy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and draws on previous reviews and feedback from children and young people. It aligns to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, specifically in regard to improving the mental and physical wellbeing of the population.

### **Progress of SEND reforms and implementation in Durham**

Following a report to the Children and Families Partnership meeting in March 2014, an update report was provided on the progress that has been made with the implementation of the SEND reforms in County Durham and the plans for the 2014/15 school year.

Significant progress has been made with all aspects of the SEND reforms in County Durham.

The Local Offer has been published on the Families Information Services website, providing information on the range of services available to support children and young people with SEND, as well as useful guidance for children, young people, parents and carers and professionals.

Transition arrangements have also been published on the Families Information Services website, and an Implementation Plan for 2014/15 has been finalised.

### **Reducing re-offending by young people in County Durham**

County Durham Youth Offending Service provided an update to the Children and Families Partnership on County Durham Youth Offending Service's work to reduce re-offending by children and young people in County Durham. The report includes details of outcomes and impact, and outlines the key developments for 2014/15.

Between 2007/08 and 2013/14 there has been an 81.4% reduction in first time entrants.

Between 2010/11 and 2013/14 there has been a 47.7% reduction in the number of offences committed and a 50.5% reduction in the number of young people offending.

Current developments to further reduce re-offending, include:

- Improving communication and interventions with young people
- Putting victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything
- Targeting resources on young people who are committing the most offences
- Ensuring robust quality assurance processes, and a skilled management team are in place
- Ensuring young people and their families are listened and respond to
- Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people is a key component of the work undertaken with young people and victims.

The Children and Families Partnership will receive a further update in 12 months.

### **Refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-18 initial working draft**

The Children and Families Partnership were presented with a draft of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2015-18 for comment.

A new CYPFP was developed in 2014, following a review of the membership, governance arrangements and priorities for the Children and Families Partnership. The CYPFP has been refreshed for 2015-18 to ensure it remains fit for purpose, continues to meet the needs of children and young people and is aligned to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

The 2015-18 refresh includes updates on policy information, consultation and evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Safety Strategic Assessment.

Consultations have taken place with key partners and organisations to inform the refresh of the CYPFP for 2015-18, specifically with young people, young carers, partner organisations and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Children and Young People Survey (Student Voice) 2015**

An update was given on the work that has been undertaken with primary and secondary schools in relation to a children and young people's survey.

The Children and Families Partnership agreed to the secondary school survey being undertaken. The outcome of the survey will inform the CYPFP and other reviews and included school level information will be provided to schools.

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

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation from staff and young people from Investing in Children (IIC) about the IIC membership award. The presentation gave an overview of what the award means, and highlighted good examples of IIC memberships in County Durham, which clearly demonstrate evidence of dialogue and change.

An open discussion took place around how the Children and Families Partnership can renew its IIC status. An action plan was agreed to progress the renewal.

This page is intentionally left blank