



Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Monday 5 October 2015**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, 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. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 June 2015 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage
7. Care Leavers Strategy - Consultation - Report of Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services (Pages 9 - 52)
8. Review of Home to School Transport Policy - Joint Report of Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services (Pages 53 - 102)
9. Quarter 1 2015/16 - Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Management Team (Pages 103 - 114)
10. Revenue and Capital Outturn 2014/15 - Report of Head of Finance (Financial Services) (Pages 115 - 126)
11. Quarter 1: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 - Children and Adult Services - Head of Finance (Financial Services) (Pages 127 - 138)
12. Summary of the Minutes from the Children and Families Partnership (Pages 139 - 142)
13. 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
25 September 2015

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

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)
Councillor M Nicholls (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, K Corrigan, K Dearden, O Gunn, D Hall, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, K Hopper, P Lawton, J Measor, S Morrison, L Pounder, M Simmons, H Smith, M Stanton, P Stradling and W Stelling

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

Contact: Jackie Graham

Tel: 03000 269704

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1A, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 25 June 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, K Corrigan, K Dearden, O Gunn, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, K Hopper, P Lawton, J Measor, S Morrison, M Nicholls, M Simmons and H Smith

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Kinch

Also Present:

Councillor T Smith

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Hall, L Pounder, M Stanton, P Stradling, Mr K Gilfillan, Mrs G Harrison, Mr G Moran (Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle) and Mr R Patel (Parent Governor Representative)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular new Members of the Committee.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2015 and of the joint meeting with Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 April 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With reference to Item No. 10 relating to the Self Harm report, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that when agreeing the minutes it was found to be too late to change the report for Cabinet and the issues raised would be addressed when it comes back to Committee in November with a progress update on the recommendations.

4 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from co-opted Members or interested parties.

6 Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes). The articles were:-

- Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson opened the new Trinity special school;
- Exam results in the County continue to improve – congratulations from the Committee were given to all involved especially the young people;
- To reduce inactivity a National Child Management Programme to test fitness in Primary Schools has been recommended by health campaigners; and
- 4 schoolboys from Newton Aycliffe have been praised for helping a homelessness man. They offered him money and when he refused they bought him a hot drink. The Committee praised the individuals for showing unconditional respect for the man.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Overview Presentation - Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training Update

The Committee noted a report of Director of Children and Adult Services and received a presentation by Policy, Planning and Partnerships Officer, Progression and Learning, CAS relating to young people not in education, employment or training (for copies see file of Minutes).

The Policy, Planning and Partnerships Officer highlighted the following information in his presentation:-

- Statutory Responsibilities as a Local Authority
- Trends in Performance for County Durham, North East and England
- April 2015 Performance for County Durham, North East and England
- County Durham April 2015 Performance for Academic ages 16, 17 and 18
- Current and Future Programmes available

Councillor O Gunn asked if the trends were available geographically as she was interested to find out if numbers were higher in certain areas. The Policy, Planning and Partnerships Officer said that these were available and long term trends showed that they were higher in areas such as Stanley, Peterlee, Seaham, Ferryhill and Newton Aycliffe. The Strategic Manager, Reform, CAS added that Peterlee has shown lower levels more recently than historical figures show. Practitioners have focused on young people in the area to

encourage take up of education, employment and training. The Chairman added that there is an improving picture across the board.

Referring to finance, Councillor M Nicholls required about capital funding receipts and was informed that £17.87m had been earmarked covering all elements. Councillor J Armstrong pointed out that this was European funding and had not yet been released. He expressed concerns that if the money was re-directed it would be the young people who would suffer as a result.

Councillor Gunn referred to the talent match referred to in the current and future programme and asked how Councillors would find out what was going on in their own areas. The Policy, Planning and Partnerships Officer said he would take this back to the Services to look at how they could share this information. The Strategic Manager, Reform, CAS advised that there is a locality section available on One Touch User that publicises what is being carried out in each area. Councillor J Armstrong suggested using AAPs as was an ideal vehicle for information sharing.

The Chairman thanked the Policy, Planning and Partnerships Officer for his presentation.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

8 Performance Management Report Quarter 4 2014/15

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Management Team which presented Members with progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme, as well as other significant performance issues for the 2014/15 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information, highlighted the key achievements and key performance improvements issues, giving a detailed analysis of the figures within the report.

In response to a question from Councillor J Hart relating to reference 17 of Appendix 3 of the report, the Strategic Manager, Reform, CAS explained that a lot of work was undertaken with teachers carrying out assessments and when carrying out the review of Childrens Centre's a whole range of issues were looked at. This included identifying early years children who were vulnerable and to drive forward to initiate contact and engagement with them. Their focus was on speech and language with a commitment to ensure the children were ready to start school.

Councillor Hart touched on free child care and expressed concern about results decreasing. The Strategic Manager, Reform, CAS responded by saying that the service would also support vulnerable children and they would be concerned if they saw a dip in performance but they would be able to action this.

Referring to childcare settings, Councillor Hart was informed that both private and local authority led nurseries were regulated by Ofsted.

Councillor K Dearden asked for an explanation of the number of looked after children sitting their GCSEs referred to in reference 22 of Appendix 3 and compared to the total of pupils referred to in reference 19 of Appendix 3. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information confirmed that only those looked after children who were in their last year of secondary school were included in the figures and that 2 children had achieved 5 GCSE's at A* - C.

The Chairman expressed concern in the increase of children who were overweight or obese and noted that we were now higher than the national figure. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information advised that Public Health had been consulted on this issue and interventions put in place through the Healthy Weight Alliance. He advised of cooking skills available in Children's Centre's to help combat the difficulties for parents in knowing what and how to prepare healthy meals. He also referred to health trainers that had been appointed by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust to work with children whose BMI was over a certain level. They would also provide advice on physical activity and diet. He went on to explain that this was a complex issue and suggested that it could be helpful for a Public Health colleague to attend a future scrutiny meeting.

Mr D Kinch referred to reference 25 of Appendix 3 relating to child protection cases and was concerned that this target was always in the red. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information advised that the North East and England the average was around 95% and that Durham was consistent with this. It would only take one conference to be missed and the target would not be hit. The Strategic Manager, Reform, CAS added that every individual case was looked at to gain a full understanding and was monitored on a regular basis to ensure conferences did take place and were re-arranged when required. Mr Kinch asked if we did see results and asked if the delays were related to staffing problems. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information explained that there are a number of reasons why conferences sometimes have to be re-arranged, however, every effort was made to ensure this happened within timescales and that senior managers are made aware and agree to any proposals to change conferences dates.

Councillor Armstrong referred to tracker 20 of page 30 in the report in relation to self-harm and said that it was very important to continue to monitor. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information suggested that he cover this section within the next performance report.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

9 Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2013/2014

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services, which shared with Members the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) (for copy see file of minutes).

The Business Manager LSCB summarised the report and highlighted that the board planned to reduce the number of children looked after, reported the priorities for 2014/15 and advised that the priorities for 2015/16 would come back to the Committee in the next report.

In response to a query from Councillor Hart, the Business Manager LSCB advised that there were a number of stresses on the budget and contributions from each partner had reduced. However, the board were meeting priorities and there was no indication that they would not be met in the near future. The board would be monitoring the finances and carrying out six monthly reviews.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

10 Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Director of Public Health that informed of the draft proposals for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-20 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator highlighted objective 3 as one of the key objectives relating to Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme and asked for feedback by 12 July 2015.

The Chairman introduced Eve Mason to the Committee who was carrying out her work experience with the Council. Ms Mason commented that people from deprived areas tended to suffer more, especially if they had a bad family life. She suggested that helping building relationships within the school environment with support workers and young people may alleviate the dependency on alcohol. Ms Mason also suggested that the service should continue to test purchase and retailers should always ask for ID. She concluded that cheap alcohol prices encouraged people to drink more.

The Chairman thanked Eve for her comments and welcomed the view from a young person.

Councillor Armstrong said that intelligence needs to be improved and the dangers that alcohol and child sexual exploitation brings. He advised that Safer Stronger OSC would be looking into this area. He added that young people needed education on the dangers of alcohol.

Councillor P Lawton advised of a Youth Council in Spennymoor whereby they were trying to get young people on board so that they could pass on messages to their peers. She felt that it was important to move away from stereotypes of adults always being the ones to give advice to young people. She asked who she could contact for further information. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator advised that she would provide all Members with details of a new Lifeline Service, operational since 1 April 2015.

Referring to Licensing powers, Councillor Hart asked if anything could be done locally. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator advised that areas in Middlesbrough were being piloted using Public Health. Councillor Gunn added that the culture of alcohol needs to change and the changes to advertising. She referred to TV/radio programmes whereby alcohol is used as a prop. She also pointed out that at school fairs alcohol featured in raffles prizes.

Ms Mason pointed out that football clubs do not help the culture when advertising alcohol.

Picking up on Ms Mason's point about school counselling, Councillor Armstrong said that most young people would want peers to carry this out and not necessarily older people.

Councillor Hart commented that the majority of alcohol bought for young people comes from family members. He also made a point that with regards to driving he believed there should be a zero tolerance. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator agreed that we should match Scotland in this regard.

Councillor Dearden emphasised the need to provide somewhere safe for young people to discuss their problems and added that it was important to try to change the attitude of young people towards alcohol. Councillor Lawton said that the youth group in Spennymoor provides a safe haven for young people and advised that she has been liaising with Catherine Richardson of Public Health.

Ms Mason commented that cigarettes were not advertised so did not believe that alcohol should be.

Members agreed that a national campaign was needed to drive this issue forward and recognised that issues such as alcohol, suicide and self harm were linked.

Resolved:

That feedback be given to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator by 12 July 2015.

11 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, which provided Members with an updated work programme for 2015-16 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised Members that 2 special meetings had been arranged for 25 September 2015 and 2 December 2015.

In relation to the topics which Members wished to investigate further, it was suggested by the Chairman and Vice Chairman that the issue of child poverty be investigated. A report would be going to Cabinet late Summer. Councillor Armstrong advised that with a heavy work programme and potential changes due to the budget on 8 July 2015 caution is given to any extra work. He added that the Committee may wish to look at how child poverty was measured. Mr Kinch agreed and said that the Committee needed to be clear on the definition. Members agreed that this was an area for investigation but that criteria relevant to the children of County Durham should be set.

Councillor Hart said that he would be interested in keeping an eye on the academisation of schools and the effect on attainment. Councillor Armstrong added that feedback had shown that the County schools compared favourably compared to Academies.

Resolved:

That the work programme be agreed with the addition of an overview on Educational Attainment and that Committee carry out a review on child poverty.

12 Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

The Committee considered the minutes of the Children and Families Partnership on 25 March 2015 (for copies see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

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



5 October 2015

Care Leavers Strategy - Consultation

Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director Children and Adult Services

Purpose of the Report

1. This covering report to the Care Leavers Strategy outlines the importance of having a Care Leavers Strategy, who we will consult with about the strategy and when this will take place.

Context

2. The National Care Leavers Strategy was launched in October 2013 and sets out the actions that government departments will take in order to improve the support care leavers receive during their transition to adulthood and independence. A one year on progress update to the Care Leavers Strategy was launched in October 2014. These documents set out clear expectations for local authorities’ support to care leavers. In order to meet all expectations placed on the local authority, a three year Care Leavers Strategy has been developed in line with DfE requirements and is attached to this report.

Consultation Process and Timeline

3. Table 1 below outlines the range of groups that we will consult with about the Care Leavers Strategy. A copy of the strategy will be shared for information purposes, to highlight how the local authority will work in partnership to deliver improved outcomes for care leavers.

Table 1 – Consultation Forward Plan

Group / Forum	Date
Children in Care Council	21.07.15 - complete
Corporate Parenting Panel	31.07.15 - complete
LSCB	20.08.15 - complete
Health and Wellbeing Board	Circulate early Sept for comment
Children and Families Partnership	21.09.15
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	05.10.16
Cabinet Pre-Agenda	04.12.15
Cabinet Briefing	14.12.15
Cabinet	16.12.15

Recommendation

4. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
 - (i) Note the contents of this report.
 - (ii) Consider the attached Strategy and provide feedback.

Contact: Karen Robb – Strategic Manager Looked After Children and Permanence. Tel: 03000 265 759; Lindsey Herring – Efficiency and Improvement Manager, Commissioning. Tel: 03000 265 766

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – N.A

Staffing – N.A

Risk – N.A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The Care Leavers Strategy highlights how we will provide care leavers with the same opportunities as their peers.

Accommodation - The strategy highlights the range of accommodation available to our care leavers.

Crime and Disorder - N.A

Human Rights - N.A

Consultation - A range of operational teams, services, CSSMT and CASSMT have been consulted with during the development of this strategy. The Young People's Service has consulted with young people about the strategy.

Procurement - N.A

Disability Issues - N.A

Legal Implications - As a local authority we have statutory obligation to provide support services to care leavers. These are reflected in the strategy.

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Care Leavers Strategy

2015 – 2018

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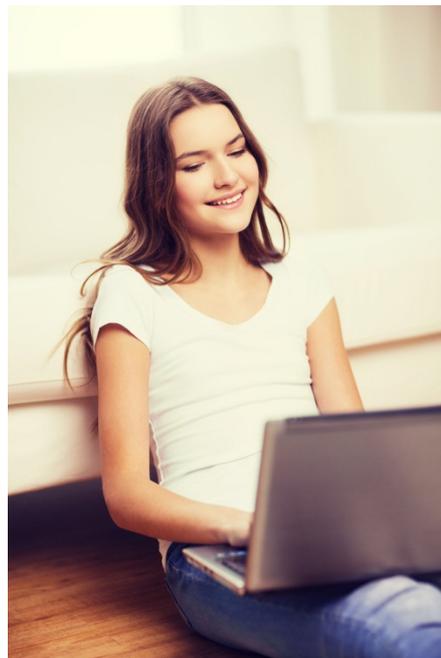
1.	Number of Care Leaver's – Table
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1. Introduction

As Corporate Parents we want to give Care Leavers every opportunity to be happy, healthy and safe and to achieve their full potential. It is important that their transition into adulthood is positive and that all young people have the necessary life-skills, confidence and experience to enable them to thrive.

The responsibility for meeting the needs of Care Leavers requires a multi-agency approach involving the Young People's Services within Children's Services, our partners and the council as a whole.

This Strategy is supported by a Care Leavers Action Plan (2014-2017) which outlines how the priorities within this document will be delivered.



2. Care Leaver Definition

The term 'care leavers' as defined in The Children (Care Leavers) Act 2000 refers to eligible, relevant and former relevant children:

- Eligible children are those young people aged 16-17 who are still in care and have been 'looked after' for a total of 13 weeks from the age of 14 and including their 16th birthday;
- Relevant children are those young people aged 16 and 17 who have already left care, and who were 'looked after' for at least 13 weeks from the age of 14 and have been 'looked after' at some time while they were 16 or 17;
- Former relevant children are those young people aged 18, 19 or 20 who have been eligible and/or relevant.

Care Leavers can also be classified as 'qualifying' care leaver. This category applies to young people who:

- Left care after 1st October 2001, after they had turned 16, but who are not 'eligible' or 'relevant' because they did not fulfil the 13 week criteria.
- Were accommodated, but in residential education, mental/health provision private fostering or Special Guardianship.

For this category of care leaver, local authority help is discretionary, but can include advice, assistance, be-friending, help with education and training costs and the provision of accommodation during college/university vacations.

3. Purpose

This Strategy reflects a 'whole' system integrated approach to support Care Leavers. It provides a framework for the Council, elected members, officers and partners to fulfil our duties and responsibilities as Corporate Parents of Care Leavers.

The document outlines what we have achieved and areas that we would like to develop further.

The successful implementation of this strategy will result in the following benefits:

- Improved health and well-being of our Care Leavers;
- Emotional resilience;
- Improved placement stability, safety and quality;
- Better attainment at school / college / university for our young people;
- Young people leaving care on an educational or work route that meets their ambitions;
- The best use of available resources.

4. National Context and Guidance

Around 10,000 young people leave care in England each year aged between 16-18 years old. They leave home at a younger age and have more abrupt transitions to adulthood than their peers.

The Department for Education sets out its vision and strategy for Care Leavers in the Care Leavers Strategy 2013.

Care leavers should expect the same level of care and support that other young people get from their parent(s). The strategy is based on the principles of good corporate parenting and sets out the government's commitment to remove some of the practical barriers that care leavers face as they progress into adulthood. The strategy wants to see 'holistic and quality support provided in all mainstream and specialist services; services should be integrated, simplified and should treat care leavers with respect and dignity'.

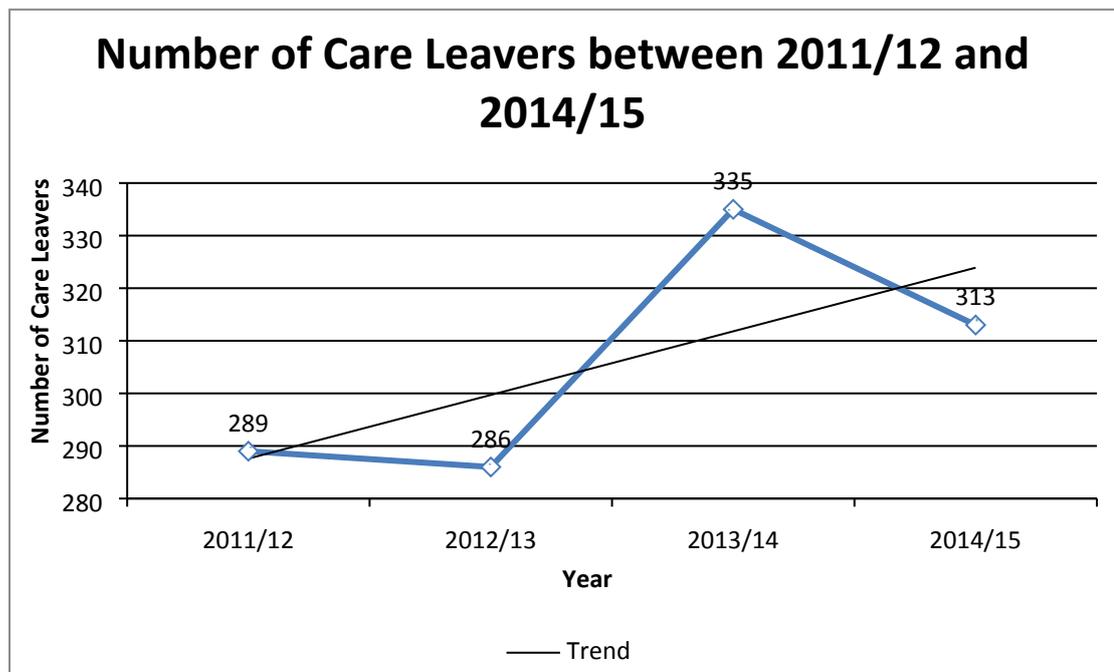
The broad areas of concern for care leavers in Durham which are also captured in the strategy are:

- Physical Health and Mental Health
- Housing and Staying Put
- Education and Attainment
- Employment and Training
- Access to ongoing advice and support
- Financial Assistance
- The Justice System

5. Local Context and Our Vision

Between 2011/12 and 2014/15 Durham has seen a 7.7% overall increase in the number of care leavers that it has. This upward trend is reflected in Graph 1 on page 3.

Graph 1 – Care Leaver Trend



As soon as a looked after child turns 15 years old the Young People’s Service works closely with the Looked After Service, becoming involved in the young person’s pathway plan and providing ongoing support to develop independent living skills. When the young person reaches the age of 18 they are assigned a Personal Advisor, unless the young person is a young parent or has complex needs then the case remains with the Social Worker. The Personal Advisor will support the young person in their life choices and providing practical support. If a former relevant young person chooses to remain in further education they can remain in supported lodgings until the age of 25 with the support of a Personal Advisor.

Our vision is that:

“All care leavers are in appropriate accommodation, feel supported and are able to maximise their potential”

Durham’s Highlights:

- 49% of our Care Leavers in 2014 were in education, employment and training (EET), in comparison to the England Average of 45% and the regional average of 50%.
- In 2014, 74% of our Care Leavers were in suitable accommodation, below national rates at 77.8% and statistical neighbour rates of 84%.

- Between 2011-2013 (a three year average), 20% of our Care Leavers looked after continuously for 12 months achieved 5+ A* - C grades at GCSE and equivalent in English and Maths, which is greater than the England average of 15% and our statistical neighbour Wakefield at 15%.
- We were in the final of the 'Local Government Chronical (LGC) Award' for our model of holistic temporary accommodation.
- We participated in the 4 year peer research study which focuses upon 'Corporate Parenting'. Catch22 led on this study.

Please refer to Appendix 5 of this document for further performance information.

6. Our Promise

Children and young people that are looked after have the right to the same outcomes as every child in County Durham – to ensure that children and young people are kept safe from harm and are enabled to 'believe, achieve and succeed'.



Our 'promise' to all children and young people in care is:

- To treat you with respect and as an individual;
- To help find you the best available home where you feel safe, cared about and treated well for as long as needed;
- To help you stay in touch with family and friends like other young people not in case where it is safe and appropriate;
- To take what you say seriously by listening to you and trying to act on what you say;
- That you will have a Social Worker who will get to know you well and who will keep in contact and listen to what you say;
- To really listen to things you would like to change about the care system to make your daily life better where there are problems;
- To work in an open and honest way and share any information or changes with you;

- To involve you in any decisions, plans and changes that affect you and your future and your Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and carers will make sure that this happens;
- To make sure we offer you the opportunities, guidance and support needed in placement, in education and all other areas of life;
- To help you be the best that you possible can at school, college, training and employment;
- To give you all the support and help you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life;
- To work together and support you during every transition in your life while you are looked after, for example during placement moves, when you are leaving care and similar situations.

See appendix 2 – Our Promise

7. Corporate Parenting and Governance

The Corporate Parenting Panel in Durham recognise that they have a critical role in both setting the strategic direction of the council’s services and in determining policy priorities. The Corporate Parenting Action Plan sets out 3 priority areas (see appendix 2). These are:

- Employment, education and training (EET);
- Care Leavers; and
- Placement Stability

We will:

“Continue to be excellent parents for care leavers and wish to see every care leaver have the very best experience and chances in life, as any good parent would expect”

8. Strategic Priorities

We have outlined 7 key strategic priorities for the local authority over the next 3 years. These are in line with those prioritised outlined in the National Care Leaver Strategy.

(i) Physical Health and Mental Health

Children often enter the care system with a poorer level of physical and mental health than their peers, and their longer-term outcomes remain worse.

Young people making the transition to adulthood may have continuing health needs that require ongoing treatment. The Department of Education Statutory Guidance – Promoting the health and wellbeing of looked-after children (2015) states that local authorities should ensure that there are effective plans in place to enable looked after children aged 16 to 17 to make a smooth transition to adulthood, and that they are able to continue to obtain the health advice and services they need.

We will continue to:

- *Support the emotional wellbeing of care leavers so they are able to reach their full potential. Ensure that each Looked After Child and Care Leaver has an up to date statutory health assessment and a plan that outlines how their physical and emotional health needs will be met. These will be of high quality and will be timely.*
- *Make sure that health plans include personal and family health histories in order to enhance the value of health plans and facilitate better awareness of health needs, including when children return home.*
- *Ensure that all Care Leavers have access to and understand their full health history. They will have access to all key documents such as birth certificate, passport, national insurance number and NHS number.*
- *Ensure that Care Leavers receive advice and support from health services to enable the transition into adulthood.*
- *Ensure that Care Leavers have advice on health matters prior to moving onto independence or semi-independence and have ongoing support. This will provide knowledge of their health history so that Care Leavers are empowered to manage their own health needs.*
- *There will be an emphasis on partnership working between the young person and their personal advisor, and the designated doctor and nurse who will be involved in the young person's health assessment.*



- *Ensure that personal advisers have access to information and training about how to promote physical and mental health.*
- *Make sure that the last statutory health assessment before a child leaves care includes a discussion between the nurse and the young person about their overall health needs and future health prognosis, based on assessment of their health chronology and assessment that have been undertaken.*
- *Ensure that a young person health plan and pathway plan enables looked after children and care leavers to understand how they can promote their own health in the future by adopting healthy lifestyle choices e.g. diet, substance misuse, risk taking behaviours and emotional well-being, pregnancy, keeping safe, sexual health and the benefits of sport and exercise.*
- *Ensure that commissioning arrangements for health provision addresses inequality for care leavers and ensure they are a priority group.*
- *Continue to provide the Full Circle Service which is joint-funded with CAMHS that provides services to support and promote the emotional and psychological wellbeing of Looked After Children, young people and their carers.*

We will:

- *Explore potential options for extending referral criteria to include access for all Looked After Children and Care Leavers to emotional health and wellbeing services. This will prioritise short term placements, new placements, placements which may be at risk of breakdown and care leavers. The difficulties faced by Care Leavers in receiving mental health services has been highlighted by young people and their needs will be addressed within this review.*
- *Develop policy and guidance so that all children, young people and care leavers can have access to support and specialist services to help them understand their past and reasons why they became looked after e.g. through life-story work, revisited at key stages as they grow up.*

(ii) Housing and Staying Put

Care Leavers are a vulnerable group of young adults who have particular needs in relation to housing and homelessness. Nationally around a quarter of those living on the streets, have a background in care.

Securing better placement stability and increased choice will enable young people to stay safe. Young people are discouraged from leaving their final placement until they are ready to manage on their own, with ongoing support as required. We aim to secure placement stability through increased placement choice.

In 2013/14, 74% of Care Leavers (aged 19, 20 and 21) in Durham lived in suitable accommodation, in comparison to the England average of 77.8%. In 2014/15 we have set a target of 95%. This target will be supported by our 'Staying Put Policy', which was implemented in 2014, enabling young people to leave stable and secure homes when they are ready and able to make the transition to independence. It also helps young people enter adult life with the same opportunities and life prospects as their peers.

Staying Put enables care leavers to continue living with their foster carers when they reach the age of 18. This is an 'arrangement' whereby a young person, who when they became 18 was in law an 'eligible child' placed with a foster carer, continues to live with that person. This arrangement can continue until the young person becomes 21, or stops living in the household before then. A young person who enters into a staying put arrangement is likely to view this as continuation of fostering and to refer to the person providing the care as their foster carer, in much the same way. Similarly, staying put carers will often view the arrangement as just an extension of fostering.

If a young person cannot stay within the family network or does not feel that this option is appropriate to them, our Young People's Service is able to offer tailored accommodation options that provides a pathway between care and independence. When it is appropriate for a young person to return home, we will support the young person to do this, through a package of support.

Durham is part of the 'New Belongings Project', which is led by the Care Leavers Foundation and supported by a grant from DfE. This will enable us to access resources and expertise. The aim of the project is to improve radically the lives of care leavers, not just through the initial transition, trauma and adjustment of leaving care, but by enabling care leavers to become citizens, participants, and full members of their communities and wider society. The project will support us to embed key principles and the Charter of Care Leavers into local services and communities. A project group has been established to drive forward this area of work.



We will continue to:

- *Take appropriate steps to increase the number of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation.*
- *Support Care Leavers to move into a Staying Put arrangement with their carer(s) if this is what the young person and carer wants.*

- *Use a 'Pathway Plan' for young people in care which provides a range of support and different types of semi-independent living accommodation which supports different levels of independence and transitions to adulthood.*
- *Commission a range of placements to meet the needs of young people who have come through the care system and are moving towards independence, including those young people who come into care as 16 or 17 year old Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.*
- *Increase and improve the capacity for Supported Lodgings for the 16-19 year group. This will provide accommodation and support to young people who cannot 'Stay Put' or who wish to move. This will include provision of placements for vulnerable young people and young people with complex needs/behaviours that preclude them from mainstream supported accommodation options within County Durham.*
- *Apply a zero tolerance approach to the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for young people involved with our service. Only in an extreme emergency will bed and breakfast accommodation be used (for a maximum of 2 days).*

We will:

- *Develop a 'no eviction policy' with HTASS and Supported Housing Schemes within County Durham, which will result in improved placement stability.*
- *Implement the 'New Belongings Project' which will deliver a range of benefits and improved outcomes for Care Leavers.*

(iii) Education and Attainment

There continues to remain a gap between the educational achievements of care leavers and their peers. In 2014, 5% of Durham's former relevant young people were in higher education (6% England average), in comparison to 31% of 'all' young people in Durham in higher education (Department of Business, Innovation and skills).

Care leavers are less likely to achieve 5 A*-C GCSE's. In 2013, 20% of Durham's children continuously looked after for 12 months achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and Maths (15% England average), in comparison to 63.1% of all children in Durham achieving this.

It is a priority that care leavers receive the support they need from schools, colleges, universities and local authorities to maximise their educational attainment and employment opportunities.



We will continue to:

- *Ensure that Personal Advisors engage with future care leavers from Year 9.*
- *In line with Section 23 of the Children's Act 1989, ensure that young people eligible for leaving care services resume a programme of education or training after the age of 21.*
- *Provide care leavers with a Personal Advisor where they wish to resume education and training up to the age of 25.*
- *Encourage care leavers to attend further and higher education and give them specialist advice and support and careers advice when applying for further education or higher education.*
- *Support young people fully in their transition to higher education or further education, employment and training. The future life-chance of Care Leavers are dramatically improved if they can be supported effectively.*
- *Ensure that all partners are aware of a young person's potential from the end of Year 9 to enable them to receive the right support in a timely manner.*
- *Have a post 16 PEP in place for all year 11's from July 2014 in line with Improving Progression legislation.*
- *Ensure that the Virtual School Head will take on the responsibility of education for care leavers over 16 years old.*
- *Ensure that foster carers, social workers and teachers will work in partnership having an acting role in supporting transition into education, employment and training.*
- *Increase the proportion of young people aged 16 who get qualifications equivalent to 5 GCSEs (A*-C).*

(iv) Employment and Training

Employment and training not only provides the best route out of poverty, it also delivers positive change for individuals and for communities across County Durham. Having a job or accessing appropriate training provides structure, a sense of purpose, progress, achievement, encourages self-confidence and personal responsibility for young people who are Care Leavers. It is also important to note that young people have a statutory duty to participate in education, employment or training until at least their 18th birthday.

In 2013/14, 49% of Durham's Care Leavers aged 19-21 were in education, employment and training, in comparison to an England Average of 45% (see appendix 4 for further information). In 2014/15 38% of Durham's Care Leavers between 16-18 years old were in education, employment and training compared to a rate of 95% for all Durham 16-18 year olds. As a lower proportion of Care Leavers are participating in education, employment and training, it is essential that they receive additional support to enable to progress through learning and into sustainable employment. Therefore through focused action and support and in partnership with other agencies and Council departments, we will strive to increase the number of care leavers in Durham who are in employment, education and training. This will include targeted support to pregnant care leavers and single parents.

We will continue to:

- *Work collaboratively with DCC's Regeneration Economic Development Service to sustain the work that was implemented through the 'From Care2Work' programme. This brought national and local employers and local authorities to enable care leavers to benefit from new employment opportunities by increasing internal and external career taster days, through apprenticeships, work placements, work experience and internships.*
- *Continue to build good working relationships with colleagues from One Point:*
- *To promote the EET Protocol for 16+ looked after children and 18-19 year old former relevant young people, which will support our aim to increase the number of Care Leavers in employment, education and training.*
- *Promote the Work Programme (a European Social Fund Project) to Care Leavers so that they can benefit from tailored, locally-appropriate employment support as early as possible if they are making a benefit claim and work with colleagues from across the local authority to promote any other Youth Employment Initiatives to our Care Leavers.*
- *Enhance the quality of pathway planning in relation to EET by ensuring that the Young People's Service has a greater awareness of advice, information and guidance.*

We will:

- *In line with new data collection requirements we will collect data from April 2015 about care leavers who are 18+ who are not in education, employment and training.*
- *To ensure that additional advisor support is provided by One Point up until the age of 19 and then through adult learning and beyond.*

(v) Access to ongoing advice and support

Care leavers require support and guidance before and after they turn 18. The Department for Education have issued regulations and guidance, 'Transitions to Adulthood' which sets a clear expectation that local authorities continue to stay in touch and support young people when they leave care through pathway planning until the young person reaches 21 and up to 25 if he or she stays in education. As an authority we have signed up to the Care Leaver Charter which is a set of principles that capture the aspirations and needs of young people. This Charter endorses the principle of staying in touch with young people when they are no longer anybody's statutory responsibility.



We will continue to:

- *Provide a range of services to meet the needs of older Looked After Children aged 16 to 25 through our Young People's Service.*
- *Ensure all that Providers support young people with transition to independence in line with the young person's pathway plan e.g. providing guidance and support to find permanent housing, accessing education, employment and training, practical living skills such as financial management, budgeting and claiming benefits.*
- *Encourage care leavers to access advice and support from independent advocates when required and to continue accessing Independent Visitors until they no longer feel the need to.*
- *Offer advice and support care leavers who are pregnant or who are young parents through the Young People's Service. Additional support will be offered through the Family Nurse Partnership.*
- *Make sure that Care Leavers know how to make a complaint if they need to.*

We will

- *Develop new processes to ensure that we stay in touch with care leavers aged from 16 to 25 (in line with new performance requirements).*
- *We will explore links with Stronger Families to identify where additional mentor support may be required and that care leavers are perceived as a priority group.*

(vi) Financial Assistance

Having timely financial help is crucial when you do not have the support of family to fall back on. Care leavers find it difficult to navigate services and work out what financial support they are entitled to. As a local authority we are committed to ensuring that care leavers are adequately supported financially in their transition from care to adulthood to enable young people leaving care to have the same opportunities to fulfil their potential as their peers.

We will continue to:

- *Provide information to Care Leavers so they understand how to access support from Durham's assigned DWP worker. DWP will ensure that Care Leavers claiming Universal Credit, who need help to manage their money and pay bills, have access to personal budgeting support.*
- *Give care leavers a Higher Education Bursary of £2,000 if they are attending a university.*
- *Support care leavers so that they can make an advance claim to DWP to ensure early release of benefits, one month prior to their 18th birthday.*
- *Provide a 'Setting Up Home Allowance' (up to £2,000) to care leavers.*
- *In line with DfE guidance, support care leavers aged 16-19 attending a Further Education course to access a £1,200 Further Education Bursary (Educational Maintenance Allowance replacement).*
- *Ensure that care leavers have an understanding of their rights and benefit entitlement.*

This will result in care leavers receiving financial support and guidance, so that they are able to manage their income and reduce the risks of falling into debt. The Education Bursary's will also result in care leavers attending further and higher education.

(vii) Justice System

We recognise that young adults who have been in care can be particularly vulnerable as they transition into adulthood, particularly if they are in the criminal justice system. They are also a particularly vulnerable group that are at risk of being drawn into crime. Care leavers can also be particularly

vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime, including in some cases falling victim to grooming and exploitation online or offline.

We will continue to:

- *Ensure that all previously and current looked after children and young people in custody are recorded on the prison system as being a care leaver.*
- *Ensure that they receive the appropriate support and services from probation, Children and Adult Services, Youth Offending Service and the National Offenders Management Service upon release from custody.*
- *All looked after children and young people upon release from custody will have a release plan and a review of their pathway plan in partnership with relevant agencies.*
- *Introduce restorative approaches to reduce the likelihood of young person re-offending.*
- *Implement the Ministry of Justice guidance in partnership with the Youth Offending Service and Youth Offending Institution.*



9. Conclusion

This strategy sets out how we will deliver our commitment to Care Leavers and their families over the next three years. We recognise the progress that we have made as an authority and the ongoing improvement that is required, which will make a difference to the lives of Care Leavers.

Delivering this strategy requires a coordinated and sustained effort across Children's Service, other council departments and our partner agencies which will continue to improve service standards and everyday practice, and to be able to meet the challenges that the current economic climate brings.

This Strategy will be reviewed annually and an update against the key priorities within this document will be provided.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Number of young people know to the Young People's Service

Appendix 2: Our Promise

Appendix 3: Corporate Parenting Panel Action Plan (2014-2016)

Appendix 4: Young People's Service Case History

Appendix 5: Performance Indicators

APPENDIX 1

Current number of young people known to the young people's service

As of the 18 February 2015 there were 313 young people known to the young people's service. This consisted of:

- 47.92% of young people aged 15-17 years
- 51.78% of young people aged over 18 years; and
- 0.3% of young people aged 10-14 years

Please refer to Table 1 below for a further breakdown

Table 1: Young people known to the Young People's Service, based on age.

Team & Age Group	Cases as at 18.2.15		
	Monitoring	Open	TOTAL
Young Peoples Service North	0	159	159
Aged 15 – 17	0	71	71
Aged Over 18	0	88	88
Young Peoples Service South	5	149	154
Aged 10 – 14	0	1	1
Aged 15 - 17	3	76	79
Aged Over 18	2	72	74
TOTAL	5	308	313

This leaflet has been written for children and young people who are looked after by Durham County Council. Your Social Worker should talk to you about these promises and what you can expect from your care. *Their details are below.*

Social Workers Name:.....

Tel:.....

Address:.....

.....

Useful Contacts:

Investing in Children

Supports the Children in Care Council

Telephone: 0191 3729200

Website: www.investinginchildren.net (you can also contact us through the website)

NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service)

If you feel that you need help, advice, support or information.

Helpline: 0300 330 3131

Web: www.nyas.net

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

The NSPCC aims to protect children from cruelty, support vulnerable families, campaign for changes to the law and raise awareness about abuse.

Helpline: 0800 800 5000

Web: www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline

Childline deal with any issues you have – no problem is too big or too small. If you feel scared, out of control or just want to talk to someone, contact:

Helpline: 0800 1111

Web: www.childline.org.uk

Talk to Frank

A confidential helpline for anyone concerned about drug use.

Helpline: 0800 77 66 00

Web: www.talktofrank.com

4Real

A service for children and young people aged under 18 years who are concerned about their drug or alcohol abuse, contact:

Telephone: 03000 267567

Web: www.4realcountydurham.co.uk

Durham City Centre Youth Project

Aims to contact with young people in their own environment e.g. on streets, in bus shelters, at youth clubs etc.

Telephone: 0191 3868564

Our Promises to YOU



Our Promises To You:

Durham County Council have 'corporate responsibility' for all looked after children and young people. This means that we have a shared responsibility for you while you are in our care and up until you are 21 years old and we take seriously the fact that children and young people have rights too.

This leaflet explains the promises which Durham County Council are making to you to ensure you are happy, safe and supported while in our care.

- 1.** We promise to treat you with respect and as an individual.
- 2.** We promise to help find you the best available home where you feel safe, cared about and treated well for as long as needed.
- 3.** We promise to help you stay in touch with family and friends like other young people not in care (for example, sleepovers at your friend's homes).
- 4.** We promise to take what you say seriously by listening to you and trying to act on what you say.
- 5.** We promise that you will have a Social Worker who will get to know you well and who will keep in contact and listen to what you say.
- 6.** We promise to really listen to things you would like to change about the care system to make your daily life better where there are problems (where it is appropriate to do so).
- 7.** We promise to work in an open and honest way and share any information or changes with you.
- 8.** We promise to involve you in any decisions, plans and changes that affect you and your future, and your Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and Carers will make sure that this happens.
- 9.** We promise to make sure we offer you the opportunities, guidance and support needed in placement, in education and all other areas of life.
- 10.** We promise to help you be the best that you possibly can at school, college, training and employment.
- 11.** We promise to give you all the support and help you need to make a success of moving on from care to adult life.
- 12.** We promise to work together and support you during every transition in your life while you are looked after, for example, during placement moves, when you are leaving care and similar situations.

If you have something which you would like to talk about or feel that these promises are not being kept by your Social Worker, Foster Carer, Residential Worker, Young People's Advisor, etc. please contact the Children in Care Council who will talk to you about this.

What do the words mean?

Care System

The care system is the name given to all of the services that support looked after children and young people, for example health services and children's services.

Children in Care Council

All children and young people in care in County Durham are automatically members of the Children in Care Council and have the right to attend meetings to talk about what's good about being in care as well as what needs to change.

Corporate Responsibility

This is when the Council takes responsibility for your care because your family cannot look after you properly without their help.

Corporate Director

Rachael Shimmin is the director of Children's and Adults Services and she is the most important person to you in Durham County Council as she is the overall person responsible for making sure that people do their jobs properly in caring for you.

Elected members

These are Councillors, people who live in your area who have been voted by the community to work on your behalf in Durham County Council.

Foster Carers & Residential Workers

Children and young people may live with foster carers in their own homes as part of their plan. Residential workers work with children and young people in children's homes but do not live there full time.

Independent Reviewing Officer

Your Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO for short) is responsible for checking how the Council is looking after you and that you are listened to when decisions are being made about your care.

Social Worker

Every child or young person in care must have a Social Worker who is responsible for your overall care, such as your education, health and other parts of your care plan.

Young People's Advisor

When you are 16 years old, a worker called a Young People's Advisor will start to work with you to help you think about and plan for when you leave care.

Contact Us:

Investing in Children supports the Children in Care Council. Please contact Darren or Ellie for more information Tel: 0191 3729200 Email: info@investinginchildren.net or visit the Children in Care Council website www.standtogether.info

Karen Robb Strategic Manager for Looked After Children, Lead Officer for Corporate Parenting Direct Line 03000 265759 Email: karen.robbs@durham.gov.uk

If the above people cannot help you, you can contact Rachael Shimmin Corporate Director, by emailing her at rachael.shimmin@durham.gov.uk

APPENDIX 3

Corporate Parenting Panel Action Plan 2014 - 2016

Young lives. Positive futures.



Corporate Parenting Panel Top 3 Priorities 2014 / 15

Employment, Education & Training – Page 4

- To engage Durham County Council in providing increased opportunities for looked after children to access work, training and apprenticeships.
- To ensure looked after young people are afforded additional educational support to prepare them for work interviews within the organisation.
- To ensure the council understands it's corporate parenting responsibilities as a whole in respect of creating a level playing field for looked after children
- To engage young people from the Children in Care Council to better understand the barriers to EET

Placement Stability – Pages 5 &6

- Members want to understand the roles adoption, fostering and residential care placements play in the lives of looked after young
- Members want performance information on placement stability for LAC
- Members want to understand what a stable placement looks like.
- Members want to know the barriers to improving placement stability.
- Members want to know about young people living in County Durham from other local authorities.

Increasing Understanding of Professional Roles – Pages 7 & 8

- Understanding the role and function of a Looked After Social Worker, Fostering Officer, Adoption Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, etc
- Members want to improve their understanding of the role of adopters, foster carers, supported lodgings providers.
- Members would like to increase their understanding of all accommodation / placements utilised by Durham County Council.
- Members want to know the long-term outcome of those who leave our care.

Employment, Education and Training

Areas to Action	Work Required (How)	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcome
<p>The Corporate Parenting Panel wants to engage Durham County Council in providing increased opportunities for looked after children to access work, training and apprenticeships.</p> <p>Promote support for university graduates to seek placements / employment within the council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect in the Care Leavers Strategy Report to be completed for the corporate management team, requiring the council and associated partners to provide protected work opportunities to looked after children. Including work experience in Years 10 and 11. 	<p>Cllr Brookes Karen Robb/Lindsey Herring Selwyn Morgans</p> <p>Gill Palin</p>	<p>April 2015</p> <p>May 2015</p>	<p>More work opportunities Increased employability. Target figures : T2W – 10 Extended T2W - 5 Apprenticeships - 16 (not necessarily solely within the council)</p> <p>Council to offer placements for university graduates e.g .law student Target figure – 16</p>
<p>Members want to support more creative ways of engaging the hard to reach young people in gaining employment by understanding current performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young parents programme NEET protocol ESF provision / Youth employment provision Figures of current group Figures of emerging groups 	<p>Selwyn Morgans YPS Managers</p>	<p>Quarterly Updates</p>	<p>Increase knowledge of statistics and current guidance</p> <p>Champion the success of care leavers obtaining their degrees</p>

Placement Stability

Areas to Action	Work Required (How)	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcome
Increase understanding of the roles of adoption, fostering and residential care in the lives of looked after young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure information on placement stability is regularly discussed on a quarterly basis. Monthly information preferred. Members want to understand what a stable placement looks like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlighting the barriers to improving placement stability. - Providing information on making changes to improve placement stability. 	Dorothy Alexander Karen Robb Selwyn Morgans	6 months	To establish the position of County Durham performance.
	This information is key to Members understanding placement stability. Members have not received any information yet.	Karen Rob Dorothy Alexander	January / February 2015	Members to be sufficiently knowledgeable to understand performance.
Statutory Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members would like an update on the changes to SEND. Members would like information on how the pupil premium is being spent on LAC. Members would like an analysis on how affective it is and information on the creation of the individual education plan. Members would like to know how young people are supported in their exams. 	Clive Horton Jane Le Sage Clive Horton Jane Le Sage Clive Horton Jane Le Sage		Members to be sufficiently knowledgeable to understand performance.

Increasing Understanding of Professional Roles

Areas to Action	Work Required (How)	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcome
<p>Members want to improve their understanding of the role of Adopters, Foster Carers and Supported Lodgings providers.</p> <p>Members would like to increase their understanding of all accommodation / placements utilised by Durham County Council.</p> <p>Increasing member involvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite relevant professionals to CPP to discuss their roles. • Presentation to Members at Member Seminars / CPP meetings. • For members not engaged in Reg 45's a rota of shadow visits will be organised. 	<p>Dorothy Alexander Selwyn Morgans</p> <p>Sarah Thompson</p>	<p>April 2015</p>	<p>Increase Member understanding. Generate more interest in panel membership. Actively promote adoption.</p> <p>To increase Member involvement in Reg 45</p>
<p>Members want to know the long-term outcome of those who leave our care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YPS to attend Corporate Parenting Panel meetings each month. • Care Leavers Strategy to be presented at the Corporate Parenting Panel. • Investing in Children Council to conduct the same workshop from Corporate Parenting with social work staff from the YPS. 	<p>Sharron Pearson Lesley Grieveson</p> <p>Selwyn Morgans Karen Robb</p> <p>Selwyn Morgans Ellie Seed</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2015</p> <p>July 2015</p>	<p>To ensure young people's views are incorporated into service development</p> <p>Members informed of key points</p> <p>Increase young people's input into leave care services.</p>

<p>Reg 45 Visits</p> <p>Clarify role and expectations of Members so that everyone is confident in engaging naturally with young people and they would like to receive some guidance</p> <p>Develop handover process between Councillor to Councillor when identified leads are changed for Regulation 45 visits for each home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to discuss the appropriate length of attachment to homes for Regulation 45 purposes. Currently it is 3 months. Young people recommended a longer period. Increase period of time to 6 months/12 months* Protocol / guidance to be established for Members. Previous report to be sent to new Councillor prior to the 1st visit. 	<p>Cllr Brookes Selwyn Morgans</p> <p>Selwyn Morgans Steve Percival</p> <p>Sarah Thompson</p>	<p>April 2015 (?)</p> <p>February 2015</p> <p>January 2015</p>	<p>Councillors strengthen relationships with children and young people</p> <p>Smoother arrangements for arranging visits. Clarity of requirements for Member and Reg 45 Officer.</p> <p>Greater understanding of the needs of Looked After Children in residential care</p>
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Underpinning Area's

Areas to Action	Work Required (How)	Lead Person	Timescales	Outcome
<p>Engagement with Young People Corporate Parenting Panel wish to increase their engagement with children and young people. To ensure that the young person remains at the centre of policy development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop regular meetings with the Children in Care Council. The Chair of the Corporate Parents Panel to be invited to agreed Children in Care Council meetings to provide opportunity for children/young people to question Councillors Ensure the Young People's Promise is promoted and ensure decisions are made in line with the promise. Reg 45 visits to take place at times when young people are present but not to interfere with their daily lives. Seek Investing in Children's status for Corporate Parenting Panel 	<p>Cllr Brookes Karen Robb</p> <p>Cllr Brookes</p> <p>Cllr Brookes Karen Robb</p> <p>Steve Percival</p> <p>Working on this with ICC</p>	<p>22nd May 2015 30th October 2015</p> <p>Twice per year</p> <p>Achieved, ongoing</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>In progress</p>	<p>Increase Councillors knowledge of issues/problems from the young people's perspective</p> <p>Active participation in CPP through Children in Care Council.</p> <p>Young people's views are represented in Reg 45 feedback</p> <p>Use EET as the example, evidence of impact</p>
<p>Financial Understanding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPP to become familiar with the financial entitlement to young people in placement i.e. comparisons between fostering and residential e.g. pocket monies, clothing allowance etc 	<p>Karen Robb</p>		

Training and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions on attachment theory, child sexual exploitation, basic counselling, improved ways to communicate with young people, planning regulations, Ofsted developments. All Members to be invited for these items • Opportunities to understand the role and function of a Looked After Social Worker, Fostering Officer, Adoption Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer and others • Induction training 	Karen Robb / Selwyn Morgans Karen Robb Gill Palin	Ongoing over a period of 12 months	Members better informed and knowledgeable.
Strategic Issues affecting service changes	Financial impact on delivery of service.	Carole Payne	Ongoing	Members kept informed of these issues at the panel Reports to always reflect financial implications.
Promoting the achievement of young people in the looked after system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good news stories. • Members want to be able to promote the positive achievements of children in the looked after system. • Celebration of looked after children events • Consider separate celebration of care leavers annual events 	Selwyn Morgans Clive Horton Karen Robb	Ongoing	More positive view if both LAC and CPP

<p>Promoting the children's promise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that all appropriate DCC buildings are displaying the Promise posters • Documentation sent out for monthly Corporate Parents meeting to include the Children's Promise • Members to ask staff members / young people on Regulation 45 visits on their understanding of the Promise. Document to be amended as a prompt question. • Members to ensure that all council members are aware of their Corporate Parenting roles and how the Promise applies to them. • All Councillors to made aware of Children's Residential Care Homes within their ward or locality (not just those who are on the Corporate Parents Committee). Map of homes and location including the council homes and private homes. 	<p>Karen Robb</p>	<p>November 2014</p>	<p>Greater understanding of the Children's Promise</p> <p>Greater awareness of all Councillors on their corporate parenting responsibilities and needs of looked after children</p>
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The Corporate Parent Panel Action Plan represents a 3 year programme of work, which identifies targets to improve the quality of life for the young people within the Looked After System of Durham County Council. The 3 year plan fits with the remaining political cycle and provides realistic opportunities to engage with young people and professionals using the political awareness of the panel to create change.

APPENDIX 4

YPS case history 2012-2015 (snapshot at point in time)

Team	Cases as at 20-FEB-12					Cases as at 18-FEB-13					Cases as at 17-FEB-14					Cases as at 18-FEB-15				
	Monitoring	Open	Opened To Duty	Review	TOTAL	Monitoring	Open	Opened To Duty	Review	TOTAL	Monitoring	Open	Opened To Duty	Review	TOTAL	Monitoring	Open	Opened To Duty	Review	TOTAL
Young Peoples Service North	0	147	0	1	148	0	143	0	0	143	0	177	0	0	177	0	156	3	0	159
Young Peoples Service South	9	132	0	0	141	5	136	2	0	143	8	150	0	0	158	5	148	1	0	154
TOTAL	9	279	0	1	289	5	279	2	0	286	8	327	0	0	335	5	304	4	0	313

- 289 in 2011/12
- 286 in 2012/13 (a 1.2% reduction since 2011/12)
- 335 in 2013/14 (a 13.8% increase since 2011/12)
- 313 in 2014/15 (a 7.7% increase since 2011/12)

APPENDIX 5 - Performance Indicators and Analysis

(i) Number of Care Leavers in employment, education and training in 2014

Source: SSDA903

Rank	LA Code LA Name	% three age groups combined	Percentage of former relevant young people who were in education, employment or training and who on 31 March 2014 were			Number of former relevant young people who on 31 March 2014 were			Number of former relevant young people who were in education, employment or training and who on 31 March 2014 were		
			aged 19	aged 20	aged 21	aged 19	aged 20	aged 21	aged 19	aged 20	aged 21
	ENGLAND	45	52	45	39	9,090	9,210	8,840	4,740	4,130	3,440
80	841 Darlington	45	42	x	55	25	10	10	10	x	5
59	840 Durham	49	47	53	48	60	45	50	30	25	25
31	390 Gateshead	57	48	64	59	35	35	30	15	20	20
104	806 Middlesbrough	40	30	56	x	35	30	15	10	20	x
80	391 Newcastle Upon Tyne	45	45	46	42	65	65	55	30	30	25
75	392 North Tyneside	46	64	58	24	25	25	35	15	15	10
47	929 Northumberland	53	68	52	33	25	30	20	15	15	5
9	807 Redcar and Cleveland	65	79	79	x	15	20	15	10	15	x
16	393 South Tyneside	63	75	58	61	25	35	35	20	20	20
91	808 Stockton-On-Tees	42	41	40	45	20	35	20	10	15	10
75	394 Sunderland	46	42	50	45	50	50	45	20	25	20
114	384 Wakefield	38	56	33	29	35	55	50	20	20	15

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or fewer, or the denominator was 10 or fewer, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x).

- In 2014, 49% of Durham's Care Leavers were in employment, education and training. This is higher than the England average of 45% and our statistical neighbours EET rate of 38%. The average Care Leavers EET rate across the region is 50.09%

(ii) Number of Care Leavers in suitable accommodation in 2014

Source: SSDA903

Rank	LA Code	LA Name	% three age groups combined	Percentage of former relevant young people who were in suitable accommodation			Number of former relevant young people			Number of former relevant young people who were in suitable accommodation		
				aged 19	aged 20	aged 21	aged 19	aged 20	aged 21	aged 19	aged 20	aged 21
	ENGLAND		78	83	79	71	9,090	9,210	8,840	7,550	7,270	6,300
117	841	Darlington	72	77	x	64	25	10	10	20	5	5
112	840	Durham	74	68	79	78	60	45	50	40	35	40
3	390	Gateshead	97	100	94	97	35	35	30	35	30	30
81	806	Middlesbrough	81	88	88	53	35	30	15	30	30	10
91	391	Newcastle Upon Tyne	78	80	78	75	65	65	55	55	50	40
35	392	North Tyneside	90	92	88	91	25	25	35	25	20	30
1	807	Redcar and Cleveland	100	100	100	100	15	20	15	15	20	15
10	808	Stockton-On-Tees	96	95	100	91	20	35	20	20	35	20
131	394	Sunderland	67	66	74	62	50	50	45	35	35	30
112	384	Wakefield	74	88	67	71	35	55	50	30	35	35

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or fewer, or the denominator was 10 or fewer, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x).

- In 2014, 74% of Durham's care leavers were in suitable accommodation, which is on par with our statistical neighbour (Wakefield), but less than the England average of 78%.

(iii) Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months who achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent in English and Maths in 2013

Rank	LA Code	LA Name	Indicator value for the 3 year average in 2011, 2012 and 2013 (%)	Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months who achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and mathematics					Number of children looked after continuously for 12 months who were eligible to sit GCSEs					Number of children looked after continuously for 12 month who achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and mathematics				
				2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	ENGLAND		15	11	12	14	15	15	4,560	4,960	5,020	4,850	4,850	500	620	680	730	750
37	841	Darlington	18	x	x	x	x	x	x	10	15	20	15	0	x	x	x	x
46	840	Durham	17	x	27	15	17	20	30	25	45	45	35	x	5	5	10	5
30	390	Gateshead	19	37	x	x	x	30	20	20	30	30	20	5	x	x	x	5
122	806	Middlesbrough	10	0	20	x	x	x	15	35	20	30	30	0	5	x	x	x
113	391	Newcastle Upon Tyne	11	x	x	x	14	10	35	35	45	55	60	x	x	x	10	5
14	392	North Tyneside	23	x	x	x	x	x	20	10	15	15	20	x	x	x	x	x
26	929	Northumberland	20	x	x	43	x	x	20	20	15	25	25	x	x	5	x	x
17	807	Redcar and Cleveland	22	x	x	x	x	x	10	10	10	10	10	0	x	x	x	x
72	393	South Tyneside	14	x	x	x	x	x	25	15	20	20	15	x	x	x	x	x
30	808	Stockton-On-Tees	19	x	x	x	x	x	20	20	15	15	20	x	x	x	x	x
101	394	Sunderland	12	x	x	x	x	x	35	30	35	40	25	x	x	x	x	x
65	384	Wakefield	15	x	x	25	0	x	30	25	30	30	20	x	x	5	0	x

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or fewer, or the denominator was 10 or fewer, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x)

- In 2013, 20% of Durham children looked after continuously for 12 months achieved 5+ A*-C grade at GCSE and equivalent including English and Maths, in comparison to 10% of looked after children in Newcastle and 30% of looked after children in Gateshead.

(iv) Percentage of former relevant young people who were in higher education in 2014

Rank	LA Code		% three age groups combined	Percentage of former relevant young people who were in higher education			Number of former relevant young people who were in higher education			Number of former relevant young people who were in higher education		
	LA Name			aged 19	aged 20	aged 21	aged 19	aged 20	aged 21	aged 19	aged 20	aged 21
	ENGLAND		6	6	7	7	9,090	9,210	8,840	510	610	620
4	841	Darlington	15	x	x	0	25	10	10	x	x	0
79	840	Durham	5	x	x	x	60	45	50	x	x	x
NA	390	Gateshead	x	0	x	0	35	35	30	0	x	0
NA	806	Middlesbrough	x	0	x	0	35	30	15	0	x	0
20	391	Newcastle Upon Tyne	10	x	19	x	65	65	55	x	10	x
NA	392	North Tyneside	x	x	x	x	25	25	35	x	x	x
NA	929	Northumberland	x	x	x	0	25	30	20	x	x	0
NA	807	Redcar and Cleveland	x	x	x	x	15	20	15	x	x	x
20	393	South Tyneside	10	x	x	x	25	35	35	x	x	x
NA	808	Stockton-On-Tees	x	x	0	x	20	35	20	x	0	x
65	394	Sunderland	6	0	x	x	50	50	45	0	x	x
48	384	Wakefield	7	x	x	x	35	55	50	x	x	x

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or fewer, or the denominator was 10 or fewer, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x).

- In 2014, 5% of former relevant young in Durham were in higher education, in comparison to the England average of 6%. Durham's statistical neighbour, Wakefield, reported 7% of former relevant young people in higher education. The table above also provides some regional comparisons.

Karen Robb
Strategic Manager – Looked After
Children and Permanence

County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

Telephone: 03000 265759
Karen.Robb@durham.gov.uk

Lindsey Herring
Children’s Commissioning

County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

Telephone: 03000 265766
Lindsey.Herring@durham.gov.uk

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

5 October 2015



**Review of Home to School
Transport Policy**

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

Purpose of Report

1. To inform members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee of proposed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings associated with Home to School Transport Policy proposals.

Background

2. At its meeting on 16 September the Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals to generate MTFP savings associated with the Home to School Transport Policy and agree to commence a consultation on the proposals before reporting back to Cabinet for final consideration.
3. A copy of the Cabinet report is attached to this report at Appendix 2.

Overview and Scrutiny Considerations

4. As part of the stakeholder consultation and engagement associated with policy changes of this nature, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are often invited to consider proposals and comment on them as part of this process.
5. Key considerations that Overview and Scrutiny may wish to consider include:-
 - Medium Term Financial Plan implications arising from the proposals including details of potential savings realised from the proposed changes;
 - Consultation and Engagement proposals including what is being consulted upon, who are to be consulted and the consultation dates.

We are consulting on three proposals which would remove the automatic entitlement to free home to school transport for students; who move house during exam year 10 and 11, Post 16 students who have no access to public transport and Post 16 pupils who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition and or disability. The proposals would retain a hardship fund to support those who are in financial need or have exceptional circumstances.

The consultation period will last between 30th September to 11th November 2015 and we will consult with young people, parents, Head teachers, College Principals, Parent Support Groups, and Disability Groups amongst others.

- Equality Impact Assessment issues identified in respect of the proposals.
6. The Strategic Manager, School Places and Admissions, Children and Adult Services will be in attendance and will provide members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a short powerpoint presentation to appraise members of the key considerations as mentioned above. Also in attendance will be a representative from Partnerships and Engagement team, ACE.

Recommendation

7. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider the information presented in this report and to comment on the proposals as part of the consultation in respect of Home to School Transport Policy.

Background Papers

- Cabinet Report - Review of Home to School Transport Policy – 16 September 2015

Contact: Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Improvement Manager,

Tel: 03000 268027, Email tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk

Ann Whitton, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 03000 268143, Email: ann.whitton@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – See attached Cabinet report

Staffing - See attached Cabinet report

Risk - See attached Cabinet report

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - See attached Cabinet report

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - See attached Cabinet report

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - See attached Cabinet report

Legal Implications - See attached Cabinet report

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Cabinet**16 September 2015****Review of Home to School Transport Policy**

Report of Corporate Management Team**Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Children & Adults Services
Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children
and Young People's Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek Cabinet approval to begin consultation on proposed changes to home to school transport which would be implemented from 1 September 2016 to remove discretionary elements of the existing policy. This would make savings of approximately £740,000 as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) across the period 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Background

- 2 The financial outlook for the Council continues to be extremely challenging. The final Coalition Government Budget in March 2015 identified the need for significant reductions in the spending of "unprotected" government departments over the 2016/17 to 2018/19 period. At that point, the forecasted impact on the Council's medium term financial plan was an additional funding reduction of £75m over the three year period with a £33m reduction in 2016/17.
- 3 The scale of the challenge faced by the Council remains significant with total funding reductions across the four year period 2016/17 to 2019/20 forecast to be £78m and with the Council also facing increased budget pressures with the introduction of a National Living Wage.
- 4 The position will remain uncertain however until November 2015 when we will receive details of the Government's Spending Review, which will detail the funding reductions to be faced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Council is then expected to receive its draft financial settlement in December, at which point the forecasts reported to Cabinet in July will be updated.

- 5 By 31 March 2016, savings of £153.2m will have been realised since the beginning of austerity in 2011/12. It is presently forecast that this figure will be £256m by 2018/19 and exceeding £260m by 2019/20.
- 6 The Council's Home to School Transport Policy was last reviewed in 2010/11. This resulted in phased changes being implemented in September 2011 and September 2012.
- 7 The changes made at that time were:
- a. removal of a contribution towards all Post 16 students travel other than in specific circumstances (implemented 2011)
 - b. introduction of a charge for concessionary travel (implemented 2011)
 - c. increase the distance limit from 2 to 3 miles for entitlement to free transport to the nearest suitable school (implemented 2012)
 - d. removal of associated transport (implemented 2012)
 - e. removal of transport to faith schools (implemented 2012)
- 8 The combined impact of these changes resulted in savings of £5.9m realised across the period 2011/12 to 2015/16. The changes implemented in 2011 and 2012 were phased in, with transitional protection provided to students already in receipt of free transport when the changes were introduced. These changes did not remove all discretionary element of home to school transport. Given the ongoing budget reductions faced by the Council this paper seeks Cabinet agreement to consult on removing the remaining discretionary elements of the policy.

Provision of Travel Arrangements: Eligible Children

- 9 The Education Act 1996 and Education and Inspections Act (EIA) 2006 sets out the duty on Local Authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children.
- 10 The EIA 2006 defines eligible children – those categories of children of compulsory school age (5-16) for whom free travel arrangements will be required:

(i) Statutory walking distances eligibility

The Local Authority must provide free transport for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16) if their nearest suitable school is:

- Beyond 2 miles (if below the age of 8); or
- Beyond 3 miles (if aged between 8 and 16)

(ii) Special educational needs, a disability or mobility problems eligibility

The Local Authority must make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety issues related to their special educational needs (SEN) or disability. Eligibility, for such children should be assessed on an individual basis to identify their particular transport requirements. Usual transport requirements (e.g. the statutory walking distances) should not be considered when assessing the transport needs of children eligible due to SEN and / or disability.

(iii) Unsafe route eligibility

The Local Authority must make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk to nearest suitable school because the nature of the route is deemed unsafe to walk.

(iv) Extended rights eligibility

The Local Authority to provide free transport where pupils are entitled to free school meals or their parents are in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit if:

- The nearest suitable school is beyond 2 miles (for children over the age of 8 and under 11);
- One of their three or more nearest suitable schools, if that school is between 2 and 6 miles (for children age 11 -16);
- The nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief, for pupils whose parents adhere to that particular faith, where that school is between 2 and 15 miles (for children aged 11 – 16)

Accompaniment

- 11 In determining whether a child cannot reasonably be expected to walk for the purposes of 'special educational needs, a disability or mobility problems eligibility' or 'unsafe route eligibility', the local authority will need to consider whether the child could reasonably be expected to walk **if accompanied** and, if so, whether the child's parent can reasonably be expected to accompany the child. When considering whether a child's parent can reasonably be expected to accompany the child on the journey to school a range of factors may need to be taken into account, such as the age of the child and whether one would ordinarily expect a child of that age to be accompanied.

Discretionary Arrangements: Travel Arrangements for other children

- 12 The Education Act provides Local Authorities with discretionary powers to go beyond their statutory duties and provide transport for children who are not

entitled to free transport. It is for individual Local Authorities to decide whether and how to apply this discretion as they are best placed to determine local needs and circumstances. It is recognised that Local Authorities will need to balance the demands for a broad range of discretionary travel against their budget priorities

Post 16 Transport to Education and Training

- 13 Local Authorities have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the Local Authority considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of all Post 16 (16-18 year olds) receiving education or training.
- 14 The overall intention of the 16-18 transport duty is to:
 - i. Ensure that learners of sixth form age are able to access the education and training of their choice.
 - ii. Ensure that, if support for access is required, this will be assessed and provided where necessary.
- 15 The planning of transport at a local level should take into account the following recent changes:
 - i. Under the Education and Skills Act 2008, young people have been required, since June 2013, to stay in education or training for a further year after the compulsory school leaving age. From June 2015, this requirement was extended until their 18th birthday. To support the raising of the participation age local authorities have responsibility for promoting the effective participation in education and training of young people who are subject to the duty to participate.
 - ii. Under the September Guarantee, every young person aged 16 or 17 must be offered a suitable place in education or training.
 - iii. Increasingly young people will be undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships. The government has made it easier and faster for employers to recruit an apprentice and we would expect young people to benefit from continued expansion of the apprenticeships programme.
- 16 Ensuring that young people have access to the education and training provision that is commissioned at a local level will be essential in order to support these reforms.
- 17 The duty applies to all local authorities in England in respect of arrangements for young people (over compulsory school age) aged 16-18 and those continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday.
- 18 The legislation recognises that a local response to transport arrangements is important as it allows local circumstances to be taken into account. The

legislation therefore gives Local Authorities the discretion to determine what transport and financial support are necessary to facilitate young people's attendance. The Local Authority must exercise its power to provide transport or financial support reasonably, taking into account all relevant matters.

Specific Consideration of Learners with Learning Difficulties and / or Disabilities

- 19 The 16-18 transport duty relates to young people of sixth form age with learning difficulties and / or disabilities up to age 19 (and beyond age 19 if they are continuing on a particular course that they started before age 19).
- 20 The transport needs of young people with learning difficulties and / or disabilities should be reassessed when a young person moves from compulsory schooling to Post 16 education.
- 21 In terms of good practice, Independent Travel Training should be considered as part of the Council's transport policy, for the all-round benefits that it can bring for the young people in their personal development, development of life skills and independence, at the same time as having the potential to realise financial savings and providing support to young people in a more cost-effective way.

Personal Budgets

- 22 The parent / carer of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan, or the young person if he or she is between the ages of 16 and 25 years, has the right to request a personal budget for some or all of the provision. Transport would only be recorded in a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan in exceptional circumstances. Transport costs could be considered as part of a personal budget if a child or young person is entitled to free home to school transport or post-16 transport assistance. In making a decision, the Council would have to be satisfied that:
 - Any different arrangements would meet the needs of the child or young person; and
 - No additional costs would be incurred by the County Council.

Current Position

- 23 Durham County Council has continued to provide free transport to some groups of students beyond the statutory requirements.
- 24 The Council has recently reviewed these non-statutory elements of the Home to School Transport Policy to consider a range of options which would lead to continued support with home to school transport costs for families in exceptional circumstances and those in low income groups, at the same time as bringing the Council's policy in line with other authorities and realising savings for the Council.

Proposals for Consultation

- 25 It is proposed that the council will consult on changes in three specific areas of discretionary financial support from the Council:
- (i) Free transport for students in Years 10 and 11 who move house during these important exam years;
 - (ii) Free transport for Post 16 students who have no access to a viable public transport system;
 - (iii) Free transport for Post 16 students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability;

26 **(i) – Year 10 and 11 Exam Movers**

It is proposed that the Council seeks the views of key stakeholders through consultation on a proposal to remove automatic entitlement to free transport if families move house when their children are in Year 10 or 11. Currently, there are 70 pupils benefit from this provision. This is similar to the numbers who received transport in this category in 2013/14 and 2012/13. It is accepted that there are likely to be exceptional circumstances where families have had to move house and may still need support with transport costs to enable a child/children to remain at the same school. In these important exam years, it is in the school's interest to retain pupils as well as being in the best interests of the pupils. In such circumstances, the council will liaise with schools to discuss what support can be provided. Criteria (attached as Appendix 2) will be used to consider exceptional circumstances which have led to a family having to move house. The council would continue to provide support to these families. A Hardship Fund would be established to enable financial support to be provided, where appropriate.

27 **(ii) – Post 16 Students with no access to a viable public transport system**

It is proposed that the Council seeks the views of key stakeholders through consultation, on a proposal to remove automatic entitlement to free transport where a student lives in an area with no access to a viable public transport system. Currently, there are 24 pupils benefit from this provision. In 2013/14 there were 22 students and in 2012/13 there were 19 students who received transport in this category. It is accepted that there may be exceptional circumstances where families will not be in a position to fund transport for their child and will still require support from the Council. In such circumstances criteria will be used to consider these exceptional circumstances (attached as Appendix 3). The proposed Hardship Fund will be used to provide funding, where appropriate in such circumstances.

28 **(iii) – Post 16 Students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability**

It is proposed that the Council should seek the views of key stakeholders through consultation, on a proposal to remove automatic entitlement to free transport through the Council's Home to School Transport Policy as it may be possible to support these students in other ways (attached as Appendix 4). Currently, there are 240 students benefit from this provision.

In 2013/14 there were 228 students and in 2012/13 there were 192 students who received transport. Numbers have been increasing as more students are staying in Post 16 education and there are more students with complex SEND needs who are attending Post 16 education provision.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice makes clear the legislation which applies to children with SEND, in relation to transport costs. The requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and Section 508B of the Education Act 1996 will continue to be met irrespective of any proposed changes to transport arrangements.

The Council would make early contact with families when their child is in Year 11, through the established Special Educational Needs and Disability review process, prior to decisions being made about Post 16 education and training. Discussions about transport and how that could be provided will be a key aspect of the decision making process.

- 29 The proposals highlighted in this report for Post 16 transport are consistent with the Council's Adult Service Policy on transport eligibility. This policy refers to the duty on Local Authorities for the provision of transport under Section 508F of the Education Act 1996 to help young adults attend education institutions. Young adults are considered to be students up to the age of 25 years.

Hardship Fund

- 30 The council recognises the need to continue to support families so that Year 10/11 students and Post 16 students will be able to access education and training that is specific to their needs. There is no intention to remove financial support that would result in students missing out on educational opportunities due to lack of transport provision. On this basis, the council would retain a Hardship Fund to provide financial support, where necessary, dependent on individual family circumstances.
- 31 In addition, where the Council operates transport to a school for statutory school aged pupils, concessionary seats may be available for Post 16 students, at a cost of £1.50 per day. This represents a continued subsidy from the Council.

Current Financial Position

32 The proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy which would be subject to consultation have the potential to realise MTFP savings of approximately £740,000 across a three year period. The table below provides an overview of the forecast savings over this 3 year period 2016/17 to 2018/19. The potential savings have taken account of the following:

- Transitional Protection – it is recommended that students who will have been receiving free transport under the respective options from September 2015 should continue to do so until they complete their existing course of study. Where students are on a two year course, this delays the saving by one year.
- Academic Years – any policy change will only be introduced from 1 September 2016. As such, a full year saving would not be achieved until financial year 2018/19 having taken into account both the academic year start date and the impact of transitional protection.

Savings	Forecast Savings			
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
	£	£	£	£
Option (i) - Year 10/11 Exam Mover	33,000	50,000	17,000	100,000
Option (ii) - Post 16 Unable to Travel Independently because no public transport	13,000	20,000	7,000	40,000
Option (iii) - Post 16 Unable to Travel Independently due to SEND	200,000	300,000	100,000	600,000
Improved Commissioning	151,000	0	0	151,000
Hardship Fund	(50,000)	(75,000)	(25,000)	(150,000)
TOTAL	347,000	295,000	99,000	741,000

Consultation / Timescales

33 It is proposed that consultation would begin across the Local Authority area and neighbouring authorities specifically targeted at those most likely to be affected by the proposals, in Autumn 2015.

- 34 A further report would be presented to Cabinet in Spring 2016 to enable Cabinet members to make a final decision on the proposals, to take account of consultation.
- 35 As it is a statutory requirement to publish Post 16 transport arrangements by the end of May each year, the statement for May 2016 will need to take account of any decisions that are to be made following a consultation.
- 36 The Council's Home to School Transport Policy for all students will be reviewed and a revised policy would be published for implementation from 1 September 2016, by 31st May 2016.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 37 An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken to assess the impact on the groups most likely to be affected by the proposals. The EQIA is attached as Appendix 5.

There are potential impacts in terms of disability, gender, age and race/ethnicity. Removal of free travel for some home mover pupils will impact on young people in Year 10/11. Removal of taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people with a medical condition over the age of 16 with a disproportionately higher impact on males. Removal of the link taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people over the age of 16. Any potential impact on pupils will have a financial impact for their parents and/or carers.

The Equality Impact Assessment will be reviewed following the consultation.

Recommendations

- 38 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (i) Agree to begin consultation on proposed changes to three elements of non-statutory provision:
 - (a) Year 10 and 11 pupils whose families move house during these exam years
 - (b) Post 16 students with no access to a viable public transport system
 - (c) Post 16 students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability.
 - (ii) Receive a further report in Spring 2016 following consultation.

Background papers

None

Contact: Sheila Palmerley Tel: 03000 265 731

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy set out in this report would realise MTFP savings of approximately £740,000, across a three year period (2016/17 to 2018/19). The potential savings take into account transitional protection – students who will have been receiving free transport under the respective options outlined in the report from September 2015 would continue to do so until they complete their course of study. Where students are on a two year course, this delays the saving by one year. The profiling of savings also takes account of the impact of the academic years – any policy change agreed would only be introduced with effect from 1 September 2016. As such, a full year saving would not be achieved until financial year 2018/19.

Staffing – If the recommendations are approved, staff in the Council will be required to support families to maximise all opportunities for benefits assessment. Existing staff will continue to review unsafe walking routes and implement schemes to improve these, where appropriate.

Risk – If changes are not made to elements of Home to School Transport there is a risk that the Council's School Transport budget will continue to be significantly higher than other Local Authorities and savings that the Council is seeking to make may need to be taken from other areas of the Council's services which could have a greater impact on children and adults in local communities. Further risks are that young people will withdraw from Education and Training, attendance at school will decline and the number of students not in Education, Training or Employment will increase.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - As a public body, the Council must take into account the Equality Act 2010, a consolidating Act which brings together previous Acts dealing with discrimination. Decisions must be reviewed for potential impact on persons with "protected characteristics". An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out for each proposed change.

S.149 of the 2010 Act also lays down the Public Sector Equality Duty whereby from the 5 April 2011, local authorities and other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to 3 key areas:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and
- Foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't.

The relevant "protected characteristics" are: age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

There are potential impacts in terms of disability, gender, age and race/ethnicity. Removal of free travel for some home mover pupils will impact on young people in Year 10/11. Removal of taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people with a medical condition over the age of 16 with a disproportionately higher impact on males. Removal of the link taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people over the age of 16. Any potential impact on pupils will have a financial impact for their parents and/or carers.

The Equality Impact Assessment will be reviewed following the consultation.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights – will not be affected by the proposals.

Consultation – details of the consultation are included in the main body of the report.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – these are covered in the main body of the report.

Legal Implications – these are covered in the main body of the report.

Option (i)

Year 10/11 Exam Movers

It is proposed in the future that no Year 10 or 11 student would automatically receive free transport if the family moved during these important exam years.

There may be some instances where it is necessary for the Council to provide free transport. In these cases, the Council would consider exceptional circumstances and would examine any request made against a range of criteria i.e. if the move has been the result of:

- a) A significant change in family circumstances i.e. death of a parent / family caring role;
- b) The family fleeing domestic violence;
- c) A family member being assessed as having specific and significant requirements for an adapted property;
- d) The previous home being uninhabitable as a result of flood / fire etc.;
- e) A home being re-possessed.

This list is not exhaustive and cases will be considered on an individual basis.

Option (ii)

Post 16 students with no access to a viable public transport system

It is proposed in the future that no Post 16 student would automatically receive free transport to take them to the nearest viable public transport system.

An exception to this would be for students who would be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or whose families are eligible for funding through the national Extended Rights Policy. This is where parents receive their maximum level of Working Tax Credit. Consideration would also be given to families who qualify for Local Council Tax Reduction.

Using these criteria would enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive funding for transport to school / college. Others, who could afford to pay, would be expected to do so.

Families would also be encouraged to apply for funding via 16-19 bursary schemes and where schools / colleges assist with transport, as a number already do, families should apply for this financial support.

The Local Authority will ensure that young people have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education and training is provided.

Although it is expected that students will attend their nearest school / college that offers the course a student wishes to follow, the Local Authority will consider each request for transport on a case by case basis to support access to a school / college that is most appropriate for each student.

The Local Authority will have regard to any preference an individual student may have for a particular institution based on their religion or belief.

Option (iii)

Post 16 students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability

It is proposed that in the future there would be no automatic entitlement to free transport for Post 16 students who cannot travel independently due to a medical condition / disability.

Students with SEND would be considered on a case by case basis and the Council would support families in the first instance in the following ways:

- To maximise opportunities for benefits assessment to ensure that families are supported from a range of sources.
- Support families to access Education Funding Agency (EFA) bursary funding.
- Help equip students to travel independently, where appropriate.

The Council would make early contact with families when their child is in Year 11, through the SEND review process, prior to decisions being made about Post 16 education and training. Discussions about travel assistance and how that could be provided will be a key aspect of the decision making process.

The Local Authority will ensure that young people have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education and training is provided.

Although it is expected that students will attend their nearest school / college that offers the course a student wishes to follow, the Local Authority will consider each request for transport on a case by case basis to support access to a school / college that is most appropriate for each student.

The Local Authority will have regard to any preference an individual student may have for a particular institution based on their religion or belief.

Durham County Council – Altogether Better equality impact assessment form

NB: Equality impact assessment is a legal requirement for all strategies plans, functions, policies, procedures and services. We are also legally required to publish our assessments. You can find help and prompts on completing the assessment in the guidance from page 7 onwards.

Section one: Description and initial screening

Section overview: this section provides an audit trail.	
Service/team or section: CAS, School Admissions and Transport Team	
Lead Officer: Strategic Manager, School Places and Admissions	Start date: 15 April 2015
<p>Subject of the Impact Assessment: (please also include a brief description of the aims, outcomes, operational issues as appropriate)</p> <p>Changes to home to school/college transport policy for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam movers • Post 16 – Medical needs • Post 16 – Link Taxi Provision <p>Durham County Council’s home to school/college transport policy provides the framework under which free travel can be awarded. The Authority has a duty to provide free transport for ‘eligible children’ under Schedule 35B, Education Act 1996 (as amended).</p> <p>Exam Movers The Council’s policy provides free travel to allow, typically, Year 10/11 pupils to remain at the same school to complete their GCSE’s if the family moved house, where the pupil was attending the nearest suitable school prior to the house move.</p>	

The proposal is to remove the automatic entitlement under the Council's policy to free travel for these pupils, save for those where there are exceptional circumstances, for example, the move has been a result of:

- A significant change in family circumstances i.e. death of a parent/ family caring role;
- The family fleeing domestic violence;
- A family member being assessed as having specific and significant requirements for an adapted property;
- The previous home being uninhabitable as a result of flood/fire etc.
- A home being re-possessed.

This list is not exhaustive.

The Council would retain discretion to consider each case on an individual basis and determine if a payment from a dedicated Hardship Fund made available by the Council for such support is warranted. Additionally an assessment of a family's ability to pay would be made.

Post 16 Medical Needs

Pupils and students aged 16-19 are not classified as 'eligible children' under the Act, however, the Authority provides, on a discretionary basis, automatic entitlement to travel assistance for full time students commencing a course before the age of 19 where they are unable to travel independently because of a medical condition. The travel assistance is in the form of taxi provision from the pupil/student's home to the place of study.

The proposal is to remove the automatic entitlement under the Council's policy to free taxi transport for those pupils/students with a medical condition, but to support families to maximise opportunities for benefits assessment. Examples of benefits that could possibly be used to help with home to school/college transport are:

- The Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance
- A Personal Independence Payment
- Other financial support because of a disability

An assessment of a family's ability to pay would be made to enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive a level of funding required from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council.

Post 16 Link Taxi Provision

Pupils and students aged 16-19 are not classified as 'eligible children' under the Act, however, the Authority provides, on a discretionary basis, automatic entitlement to travel assistance for full time students commencing a course before the age of 19 where they are unable to travel independently because of the lack of a viable public transport system. The travel assistance is largely in the form of taxi provision which provides a link from the pupil/student's home to the nearest public transport service.

The proposal is to remove the automatic entitlement under the Council's policy to free link taxi transport for those pupils/students unable to access a viable public transport system, save for those from low income families. An assessment of a family's ability to pay would be made to enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive a level of funding required from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council. In addition, where the Council operates transport to a school for statutory school aged pupils, concessionary seats may be available for Post 16 students, at a cost of £1.50 per day.

The Local Authority will ensure that young people have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education and training is provided. Although it is expected that students will attend their nearest school/college that offers the course a student wishes to follow, the Local Authority will consider each request for transport on a case by case basis to support access to a school/college that is most appropriate for each student. The Local Authority will have regard to any preference an individual may have for a particular institution based on their religion or belief.

Who are the main stakeholders: General public / Employees / Elected Members / Partners/ Specific audiences/Other (please specify) –

The general public, young people and their parents who move home (typically those who move during Year 10/11 of the pupil's schooling), young people including those with medical conditions and their parents who apply for post 16 home to school/college transport.

Is a copy of the subject attached? Yes – a copy of the Council's current Home to School/College Transport Policy is attached at Appendix 1.

If not, where could it be viewed?

Initial screening

Prompts to help you:

Who is affected by it? Who is intended to benefit and how? Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups? Is it likely to affect relations between different communities or groups, for example if it is thought to favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others? Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality?

Is there an actual/potential negative or positive impact on specific groups within these headings?

Indicate :Y = Yes, N = No, ?=Unsure

Gender	Y	Disability	Y	Age	Y	Race/ethnicity	N	Religion or belief	?	Sexual orientation	?
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How will this support our commitment to promote equality and meet our legal responsibilities?

Reminder of our legal duties:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination & harassment
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting good relations between people from different groups
- Promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and taking account of someone's disability, even where that involves treating them more favourably than other people
- Involving people, particularly disabled people, in public life and decision making

Removal of the free travel for some home mover pupils will impact on young people in, typically, Year 10/11. Removal of taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people with a medical condition over the age of 16. Removal of the link taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people over the age of 16. Mitigation for potential negative effects is detailed in the evidence section below.

Formal consultation on proposals will take place in Autumn 2015 prior to a decision being made in Spring 2016 for implementation in September 2016. The consultation will be advertised, to include an outline of the proposals and an explanation of how to submit comments. In addition, a notice will appear in the local press. Responses will be able to be made on-line through the County Council's website or by completing a consultation response questionnaire. We intend to consult with those listed in Appendices 2 and 3.

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Exam Movers

An initial assessment has been undertaken of all pupils currently receiving free transport because of a house move, see Appendix 2, although implementation of this change would be in respect of new applicants only.

There is no legal responsibility to provide free travel for pupils who move home in, typically, Year 10/11 to enable them to remain at the same school. The proposal will not affect those families where the move has been the result of exceptional circumstances and there is an inability of the family to fund the travel to the existing school, as an assessment of a family's ability to pay would be made to enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive a level of funding required from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council. Others where there were no exceptional circumstances or where there were exceptional circumstances but the family could afford to pay would be expected to do so. There is also an expectation that the family approaches the school to ascertain if there would be any support which could be available. It is in the schools best interests to retain pupils within the exam years, as well as being in the best interest of the pupils.

Post 16 Medical Needs

An initial assessment has been undertaken of all pupils/students currently accessing taxi provision by reason of a medical condition, see Appendix 2, although implementation of this change would be in respect of new applicants only. Mitigation for any negative effects is detailed below.

There is no legal responsibility to provide free travel for post 16 pupils/students. The proposal is not likely to affect take up of post 16 educational opportunities as the Council would liaise with families to ensure that they access all opportunities for benefits assessment. Those who do need financial support would be awarded this from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council.

The Council will work with schools and colleges to seek to promote a programme of Independent Travel Training that could become part of pupil/students' Year 9/10/11 curriculum, which may remove the need for taxi transport to be provided post 16. It is noted that for some pupils/students independent travel training would not be appropriate due to their complex needs.

Post 16 Link Taxi Provision

An initial assessment has been undertaken of all pupils/students currently accessing, largely, link taxi provision, see Appendix 2, although implementation of this change would be in respect of new applicants only. Mitigation for any negative effects is detailed below.

There is no legal responsibility to provide free travel for post 16 pupils/students. The proposal is not likely to affect take up of post 16 educational opportunities for those unable to fund the whole cost of the link taxi arrangements, as an assessment of a family's ability to pay would be made to enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive a level of funding required from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council. Others who could afford to pay would be expected to do so.

Decision: Proceed to full impact assessment – Yes Date: 15.4.15

If you have answered 'No' you need to pass the completed form for approval & sign off.

Section two: Identifying impacts and evidence- Equality and Diversity

Section overview: this section identifies whether there are any impacts on equality/diversity/cohesion, what evidence is available to support the conclusion and what further action is needed.			
	Identify the impact : does this increase differences or does it aim to reduce gaps for particular groups?	Explain your conclusion, including relevant evidence and consultation you have considered.	What further action is required? (Include in Sect. 3 action plan)
Gender	<p>1.Moved in Exam Years The gender split of young people entitled to transport because they moved in exam years varies from the school population. However, this is not a statistically significant variation.</p> <p>2.Post 16 - Medical The gender split of post 16 young people entitled to medical transport varies significantly from the school population, therefore its removal or a reduction in contribution would have a higher than expected negative impact on males (and a corresponding lower than expected negative impact on females).</p> <p>3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) Although the gender split of current post 16 young people entitled to 'no</p>	<p>Baseline Overall School population Overall School Population;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50.85% are Male • 49.15% are Female. <p>1.Moved in Exam Years Current Cohort 66 pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43.93% are Male. • 56.06% are Female. <p>2.Post 16 - Medical Current cohort 232 pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60.34% are Male. • 39.66% are Female. <p>3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) Current cohort 36 pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36.11% are Male. • 63.89% are Female. 	<p>Formal consultation on proposals.</p> <p>An assessment of a family's ability to pay would be made to enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive a level of funding required from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council.</p> <p>Council will liaise with families to ensure that they maximise all funding streams/benefits.</p> <p>The Council will work</p>

	<p>viable public transport' varies from the school population (presently a greater proportion of females), conclusions cannot be drawn from this due to the low numbers of pupils affected.</p>		<p>with schools and colleges to seek to promote a programme of Independent Travel Training that could become part of pupil/students' Year 9/10/11 curriculum, which may remove the need for taxi transport to be provided post 16. It is noted that for some pupils/students independent travel training would not be appropriate due to their complex needs.</p>
Age	<p>All Categories Overall school population figures are not a useful comparator as young people receiving any free travel within the 3 categories do not form a subset of the school population. Useful analysis therefore cannot be carried out, but it can be assumed that the removal or a reduction in contribution of the award would negatively impact.</p> <p>Any potential impact on pupils will have</p>	<p>1.Moved in Exam Years Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30.30% are aged 14. • 69.70% are aged 15. <p>2.Post 16 - Medical Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38.79% are aged 16. • 33.62% are aged 17. • 25.43% are aged 18. • 2.16% are aged 19. 	<p>As above</p>

	a financial impact for their parents and/or carers.	3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) Current cohort; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58.33% are aged 16. • 38.89% are aged 17. • 2.78% are aged 18. 	
Disability	1.Moved in Exam Years The current cohort does not vary significantly from the total school population in terms of disability. 2.Post 16 - Medical The proportion of young people receiving support through School Action, School Action Plus, SEN Support, EHCP or with statements of Special Educational Needs and also entitled to the Post-16 Medical Transport is significantly higher than the total school population. Removal or a reduction in contribution would have a significant negative impact on young people with disabilities, if mitigating actions are not put in place. 3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) The current cohort does not vary	Baseline Disability Data Overall school population; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81.05% of pupils in Durham are non SEN. • 18.95% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs. 1.Moved in Exam Years Current cohort; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83.33% of pupils are non SEN. • 16.67% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs. 2.Post 16 - Medical Current cohort; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.90% of pupils are non SEN. • 93.10% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN 	As above

	significantly from the total school population.	Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs. 3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) Current cohort; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94.44% of pupils are non SEN. • 5.56% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs. 	
Race/Ethnicity	<p>1.Moved in Exam Years Data of sufficient quality for analysis is not available in terms of race for this cohort.</p> <p>2.Post 16 - Medical White British young people would be negatively impacted more than would be expected.</p> <p>3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) White British young people would be negatively impacted more than would be expected.</p>	<p>Baseline Race/Ethnicity Data Overall school population;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The largest ethnic group in Durham is White British with 95.37% in this group. • All other ethnic groups have below 1.2%. <p>1.Moved in Exam Years Insufficient data</p> <p>2.Post 16 - Medical Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% White British <p>3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% White British 	As above

<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>All Categories As religion or belief data is not collected in the school census comparison is not possible.</p> <p>The Local Authority will ensure that young people have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education and training is provided. Although it is expected that students will attend their nearest school/college that offers the course a student wishes to follow, the Local Authority will consider each request for transport on a case by case basis to support access to a school/college that is most appropriate for each student.</p>	<p>1.Moved in Exam Years Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43.93% are Christian • 24.24% have no religion • 19.69% the religion is unknown • 6.06% are Anglican • 6.06% are Roman Catholic <p>2.Post 16 - Medical Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51.72% are Christian • 18.10% have no religion • 10.34% the religion is unknown • 8.62% are Anglican • 4.74% are of other religion • 4.31% are Roman Catholic • 1.29% are Methodist • 0.86% are Church of England <p>3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guaranteed Concession) Current cohort;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47.22% are Christian • 25.00% the religion is unknown • 11.11% have no religion • 5.56% are of other religion • 5.56% are Anglican • 5.56% are Methodist 	<p>As above</p> <p>The Local Authority would have regard to any preference an individual may have for a particular institution based on their religion or belief.</p>
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Sexual orientation	Data not collected	Data not collected	As above
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How will this promote positive relationships between different communities?

Section three: Review and Conclusion

Summary: please provide a brief overview, including impact, changes, improvements and any gaps in evidence.

There are potential impacts in terms of disability, gender, age and race/ethnicity. Removal of the free travel for some home mover pupils will impact on young people in, typically, Year 10/11. Removal of taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people with a medical condition over the age of 16 with a disproportionately higher impact on males. Removal of the link taxi arrangements for some pupils/students will impact on young people over the age of 16. Any potential impact on pupils will have a financial impact for their parents and/or carers.

Formal consultation on proposals will take place in Autumn 2015 prior to a decision being made in Spring 2016 for implementation in September 2016. This EIA will be re-visited post consultation.

Action to be taken if consultation is agreed	Officer responsible	Target Date	In which plan will this action appear
Formal consultation on proposals.	Within Children and Adults Services	Commencing September 2015	
An assessment of a family's ability to pay would enable those who do need financial support to continue to receive a level of funding required from a dedicated Hardship Fund established by the Council.	Within Children and Adults Services		
The Local Authority would have regard to any preference an individual may have for a particular institution based on their religion or belief.	Within Children and Adults Services		
Council would liaise with families to ensure that they access all opportunities for benefits assessments.	Within Children and Adults Services		

The Council would work with schools and colleges to seek to promote a programme of Independent Travel Training that could become part of pupil/students' Year 9/10/11 curriculum, which may remove the need for taxi transport to be provided post 16.	Within Children and Adults Services		
When will this assessment be reviewed?	Date: Post consultation and prior to Spring 2016 decision		
Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken in relation to this assessment?	No		
Lead officer - sign off: Strategic Manager, School Places and Admissions			Date: 11.6.15
Service equality representative - sign off: Strategic Manager, Quality and Development			Date:

Please email your completed Impact Assessment to the Equality team - equalities@durham.gov.uk.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVICES

HOME TO SCHOOL/COLLEGE TRANSPORT POLICY EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2012

(Please note that the home to school transport policy is under review and some elements of provision may not be available from September 2015)

Introduction

1. This publication is designed to provide information and guidance on the home to school/college travel policy of Durham County Council for pupils and students of different ages. Its purpose is to provide parents, pupils, and students with a clear indication of whether they or their child will qualify for free home to school/college travel. However, it is important to note that all applications for free transport will be assessed by the County Council and parents and students should not assume it will be made available until notification has been received in writing from the County Council.
2. This policy could be subject to change if new legislation is introduced by the Government. From time-to-time it could also be amended by the County Council, following consultation.
3. The County Council wishes to work in partnership with those for whom it provides services. If you wish to comment on the policy or this publication please write to the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (marked School Admissions and Transport Team), Children and Adults Services, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ.

General Principles Applying to Free Travel

4. This policy applies to Durham County Council's duty to provide "home to school" travel arrangements at the start of the day, and "school to home" travel arrangements at the end of the day. A child's "home" is the place where he/she is habitually and normally resident. Where pupils reside at more than one address, the home address will be deemed as that where the parent receives child benefit unless the contrary is proved by the parent. The Authority will issue only one bus pass from one address during an academic year. Where there is joint custody for which both parents qualify, individual agreements will be reached between both parents and the Authority as to which address will be used.
5. To qualify for free travel pupils and students of compulsory school age are required to attend the nearest suitable school. Free travel will only be made available in exceptional circumstances to other than the nearest suitable school. You are advised to take this into consideration when applying for a school place. "Suitable school" throughout this policy is defined and in accordance with paragraphs 38 and 39.
6. The County Council will provide free travel for pupils of compulsory school age, who live beyond a reasonable walking distance from the nearest suitable school, provided that they attend that school. For pupils aged under 8 years the maximum walking distance has been determined by legislation to be two miles and for pupils aged 8 to 16 years as three miles.
7. The County Council does not have a similar duty to provide free travel for children attending nursery units/schools or for post compulsory school age students.
8. In assessing home to school distance the County Council measures by the shortest walking route. Routes are measured from the centre point* of the child's house, or in the case of a flat from the centre point* of the building, to the nearest school site entrance. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is used to identify and measure the shortest walking route. The GIS identifies routes on the Ordnance Survey Integrated Transport Network (ITN) and Urban Paths Network (UPN), which are national recognised datasets. The LA will not include any other routes. In all cases the GIS identifies the route to be measured by connecting in a straight line the centre point* of the child's house to the closest point on the nearest route on the ITN/UPN. *In accordance with the co-ordinates of the Basic Land and Property Unit on the National Land and Property Gazetteer.

With the exception of Greenfield Community College and Sunnydale Community College, where a school operates on two sites, the site the pupil will attend for the majority of the academic year for which transport is applied will be the one used for the purpose of measurement of home to school distance. The County Council may have a duty to provide free travel where the home to school distance is less than the maximum walking distance and where the home to school walking route has been assessed as unsafe. The courts have held that a route is available if a child, accompanied as necessary, can walk along it with reasonable safety. The County Council has an agreed policy on the criteria to be used when assessing whether a route is unsafe and will apply this policy in all circumstances. All walking routes are periodically reviewed to determine if they are suitable, if a route can be made suitable, or if an alternative suitable walking route can be identified.

9. The County Council is required to provide reasonably safe home to school travel. Occasionally some pupils exhibit poor behaviour on school buses and public service operations. This behaviour may put that pupil and other pupils travelling on the same vehicle at risk. Where this happens the County Council endeavours to take all reasonable measures to overcome this problem. Occasionally, however, it may be necessary to restrict home to school transport arrangements for pupils where this difficulty cannot easily be resolved and the behaviour of that pupil puts themselves and/or others at risk of harm.
10. The County Council endeavours to ensure reasonable pupil behaviour on vehicles used for home to school travel. Where pupils cause wilful damage to those vehicles, however, the County Council reserves the right to restrict home to school travel provision and, where appropriate, hold parents responsible for any damage their children cause to vehicles and other property.
11. The County Council provides free travel on the basis of information made available by parents and students. The County Council reserves the right to request reasonable written evidence to verify information supplied to it before an award of free travel is made.
12. Should any information made available to the County Council be deemed to be inaccurate the County Council reserves the right to remove the provision of free travel and to seek reasonable compensation for the cost of any travel that has been provided.
13. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they wish their child to attend and the relevant admission authority is required to offer a place in accordance with that preference if a place is available. Local authorities are not required to provide free travel if the parent makes a choice to send their child to a school that is not the nearest suitable

school.

14. Free travel may be made available by the County Council outside the scope of the general policy in individual and exceptional circumstances (see paragraphs 5 and 28(b) for more information). If you feel that there are exceptional and individual reasons why you or your child should be provided with free travel, you should write to the Senior Officer, School Admissions and Transport, Children and Adults Services, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ and explain what these circumstances are and provide as much written evidence to support your request as is possible.
15. In determining whether a child should receive free or supported school travel, and how this is provided, the County Council will consider the issues of cost and value for money for the County Council in coming to any decision. Such consideration can not, of course, remove any legal duty on the Council.

Free Travel for Pupils Attending Primary Schools

16. In law free travel is generally made available to enable pupils to attend the nearest suitable primary school where the home to school distance is over two miles for children up to the age of 8 years; and where the distance is over three miles for pupils of 8 years and over. Durham County Council has agreed that the 3 mile limit will not apply on the child's 8th birthday but will be from the start of the academic year after the child reaches the age of 8 years (i.e. usually from the commencement of Year 4).
17. For children aged 8 but under age 11, who are eligible for free school meals, or whose parents receive their maximum level of Working Tax Credit, free transport will be provided to their nearest suitable school, if that school is more than two miles from the child's home.

Free Travel for Pupils Attending Secondary Schools Aged 11 to 16 Years

18. Free travel is generally made available to enable pupils to attend the nearest suitable school where the home to school distance is over three miles.
19. For children transferring to secondary school who are eligible for free school meals, or whose parents receive their

maximum level of Working Tax Credit, free transport will be provided to:

- One of their three nearest qualifying secondary schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the child's home; or
- The nearest secondary school preferred because of your *religion or belief for pupils whose parent(s) adhere to that particular faith, where that school is more than two but less than 15 miles from the child's home.

*For this purpose, parental adherence to the Roman Catholic faith has been defined as where at least one parent and the pupil are baptised Roman Catholic; and to the Anglican faith where at least one parent is a confirmed Anglican and the pupil is a baptised Anglican.

The six mile upper limit to a choice of schools and the 15 mile upper limit to a school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief are not walking routes therefore these routes will be measured along road routes.

20. In addition, free travel may be made available to allow, typically, Year 10 and 11 pupils to remain at the same school to complete their GCSE studies following a house move by their parents, where the pupil was attending the nearest suitable school prior to the move.

Free Travel for Pupils and Students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan

21. Free travel is generally made available to enable pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan to attend the nearest suitable primary or secondary school and where the home to school distance is over two miles for pupils aged under 8 (but Durham County Council will provide this up until the start of the academic year after their 8th birthday), or more than three miles for pupils aged 8 to 16 years.
22. A number of mainstream schools have specialist provision for children and young people with particular types of special educational needs. Children and young people do not require a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan to be considered for a place in an enhanced mainstream provision school. For pupils and students offered a place in an enhanced mainstream provision, free travel is generally made available to the nearest suitable primary or secondary school with that type of provision and where the home to school distance is over two miles for pupils aged under 8 (but Durham County Council will provide this up until the start of the academic year

after their 8th birthday), or more than three miles for pupils aged 8 to 16 years.

23. Where a decision is taken that a child or young person should attend a Special School, free travel will be made available to the nearest suitable Special School, identified by the Authority, and where the home to school distance is over two miles for pupils aged under 8 (but Durham County Council will provide this up until the start of the academic year after their 8th birthday), or more than three miles for pupils aged 8 to 16 years.

Personal Budgets

24. The parent/carer of a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan, or the young person if he or she is between the ages of 16 and 25 years, has the right to request a personal budget for some or all of the provision. Transport would only be recorded in a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan in exceptional circumstances. Transport costs could be considered as part of a personal budget if a child or young person is entitled to free home to school transport or post-16 transport assistance. In making a decision, Durham County Council would have to be satisfied that:
- Any different arrangements would meet the needs of the child or young person; and
 - No additional costs would be incurred by the County Council.

Travel Assistance for Students Attending Post Compulsory Education Aged Over 16 Years

25. Post 16 students who, in the view of the Local Authority, are unable to travel independently, e.g. are unable to access a viable public transport system or by reason of a medical condition, will receive assistance with transport.
26. Travel assistance is not made available for part-time students (i.e. those studying less than 15 guided learning hours per week over a 30 week period) and students who commence a programme of learning after their nineteenth birthday. Students attending independent fee-paying establishments are not entitled to travel assistance.
27. Post 16 students have the option to apply for a concessionary seat on a school vehicle operating into a school with sixth form provision (see paragraph 32(a)).

Free Travel in Other Circumstances

28. Free travel may be made available for pupils of statutory school age who attend the nearest suitable school when they live under the maximum walking distance from that school in the following circumstances:

(a) ***Based on an Assessment of whether the Walking Route is Safe***

Free travel may be made available for pupils if the walking route from home to the nearest suitable school is assessed by the County Council to be unsafe. If a walking route is assessed as unsafe it is not deemed to be available for use by pupils. Such walking routes are, therefore, not taken into account in assessing the home to school travel distance. You should note that the Courts have held that a route is available if a child, accompanied as necessary, can walk it with reasonable safety to school. The County Council has an agreed policy on the criteria to be used when assessing whether a route is unsafe and will apply this policy in all circumstances. All walking routes are periodically reviewed to determine if they are suitable, if a route can be made suitable, or if an alternative suitable walking route can be identified.

(b) ***Exceptional and Individual Circumstances***

Free travel may be made available outside the scope of the normal home to school/college travel policy in exceptional and individual circumstances. If you feel that there are exceptional and individual reasons why you or your child should be provided with free travel you should write to the Senior Officer, School Admissions and Transport, Children and Adults Services, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ and explain what these circumstances are and provide as much written evidence to support your request as is possible. The Senior Officer's decision will be confirmed in writing.

Types of Free Travel

29. Free travel may be made available through a seat on a school contract vehicle (bus or taxi) or by the provision of a bus pass for use on a public service bus, at the discretion of the County Council. Escorts on vehicles are only provided for those pupils who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan and only where these identify the need for escort provision.
30. Other arrangements, including the payment of daily fares, may be made at the discretion of the County Council.

31. The type of free travel provided may, at the discretion of the County Council, change during the period of schooling of any child. Travel arrangements are reviewed periodically during the academic year to ensure best value and appropriate arrangements for entitled travellers. Where it is necessary to change travel arrangements during an academic year, a minimum of two weeks notice will be given prior to the implementation of new arrangements.

Assistance with Home to School Travel Costs

32. Where free travel is not normally made available by the County Council assistance with home to school/college travel may be available in the following circumstances:

(a) ***Concessionary Travel***

Where places surplus to the requirements of the County Council are available on school busses they may be made available for use by any pupil or student. This type of support with travel is referred to as “concessionary” travel within County Durham. The County Council is not under any obligation to make concessionary travel places available and may charge for such places. The charge for concessionary travel is £1.50 per day, which may be paid in instalments. The charge is subject to review and may be increased prior to the start of the academic year. For further information on concessionary travel please contact Sustainable Transport, telephone 03000 264444 or email sustainabletransport@durham.gov.uk

(b) ***Students attending Specialist Residential Colleges***

Transport will be provided at the beginning and end of each term in the academic year, i.e. a total of 12 single journeys will be funded.

(c) ***Other Situations***

The County Council will not normally provide assistance with travelling expenses in other situations. However, for those who are not entitled to free transport or assistance under this policy, further public transport options may be available to help a pupil or student attend school or college. For further information please contact Sustainable Transport, email sustainabletransport@durham.gov.uk, telephone 03000 264546.

Appeals Process

33. The County Council has a two stage appeal process for parents/carers who wish to challenge a decision about:
- the transport arrangements offered;
 - their child's eligibility;
 - the distance measurement in relation to statutory walking distances; and
 - the safety of the route

Stage 1 – Review by a Senior Officer

34. Parents/carers have 20 working days to appeal against the decision about home to school transport made by the Local Authority. Parents should write to the Senior Officer, School Admissions and Transport, Children and Adults Services, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UJ, detailing why the decision should be reviewed, giving details of any personal/family circumstances and including any supporting evidence to be considered. Within 20 working days of receipt of this letter parents will be advised in writing of the Senior Officer's decision.

Stage 2 – Review by an Independent Appeal Panel

35. Parents/carers have 20 working days from the receipt of the Local Authority's Stage 1 written decision notification to make a written request to escalate the matter to Stage 2. Within 40 working days of receipt of the parents request an independent appeal panel will consider written and verbal representations from both the parent and officers involved in the case and will give a detailed written notification of the outcome within 5 working days.
36. Parents/carers can complain to the Local Government Ombudsman only if they consider that:

- there was a failure to comply with the procedural rules or
- if there are any other irregularities in the in the way the appeal has been handled.

37. If a parent/carer considers the decision of the Independent Panel to be flawed on public law grounds, the parent may also apply for judicial review.

The Definition of Suitable School

38. A suitable school is the maintained school or academy which, in the view of the County Council, offers an efficient full-time education suited to the age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs of the pupil and at which there is a place available for the pupil. Individual subject choices will not be considered in determining the nearest suitable school. For pupils whose nearest suitable school is in a neighbouring authority, the County Council will, if the parent would prefer a school place in County Durham for their child, also provide free transport to the nearest suitable school within County Durham, providing that other eligibility criteria (e.g. distance) are met.
39. If the nearest suitable school is a Voluntary Aided maintained school, transport will be provided over the distance limit (see paragraph 6) to this and to the nearest suitable non Voluntary Aided maintained school.

Appendix 2

29/05/15 Performance & Data Team

Please note: all overall population data is taken from the Spring 2015 school census, almost all cohort information is taken from EMS. This means that the cohort is mostly not included in the population figures, and the cohort information may be out of date. This is the most accurate data available, and will be sufficient to inform this assessment.

1.Moved in Exam Years

(cohort 66 pupils)

Gender

Overall School Population;

- 50.85% are Male
- 49.15% are Female.

This cohort;

- 43.93% are Male.
- 56.06% are Female.

The gender split of young people entitled to transport because they moved in exam years varies from the school population. However, this is not a statistically significant variation.

Disability

Overall school population;

- 81.05% of pupils in Durham are non SEN.
- 18.95% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs.

This cohort;

- 83.33% of pupils are non SEN.

- 16.67% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs.

The cohort does not vary significantly from the total school population.

Age

This cohort;

- 30.30% are aged 14.
- 69.70% are aged 15.

Overall population figures are not a useful comparator in this context as young people who moved in exam years do not form a subset of the school population. Analysis therefore cannot be carried out, but it can be assumed that the removal or a reduction in contribution of the award would negatively impact on this group as a whole.

Race/Ethnicity

Data of sufficient quality for analysis not available for this heading as ethnicity could not be reliably obtained for 15% of the cohort

Religion or belief

This cohort;

- 43.93% are Christian
- 24.24% have no religion
- 19.69% the religion is unknown
- 6.06% are Anglican
- 6.06% are Roman Catholic

Religion is not collected in the school census so comparison data is not available for analysis.

Sexual orientation

[Data not available for this heading]

2.Post 16 - Medical

(cohort 232 pupils)

Gender

Overall School Population;

- 50.85% are Male
- 49.15% are Female.

This cohort;

- 60.34% are Male.
- 39.66% are Female.

The gender split of post 16 young people entitled to medical transport varies significantly from the school population, therefore its removal or a reduction in contribution would have a higher than expected negative impact on young men (and a corresponding lower than expected negative impact on young women).

Disability

Overall school population;

- 81.05% of pupils in Durham are non SEN.
- 18.95% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs.

This cohort;

- 6.90% of pupils are non SEN.
- 93.10% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs.

The proportion of young people receiving support through School Action, School Action Plus, SEN Support, EHCP or with statements of Special Educational Needs and also entitled to the Post-16 Medical Transport is significantly higher than would be expected based on the total school population, and so therefore its removal or a reduction in contribution would have a higher than expected negative impact on young people with disabilities, if mitigating actions are not put in place.

Age

This cohort;

- 38.79% are aged 16.
- 33.62% are aged 17.
- 25.43% are aged 18.
- 2.16% are aged 19.

Overall population figures are not a useful comparator in this context as young people who are entitled to Post 16 Medical Transport do not form a subset of the school population. Analysis therefore cannot be carried out, but it can be assumed that the removal or a reduction in contribution of the award would negatively impact on this group as a whole.

Race/Ethnicity

Overall school population;

- The largest ethnic group in Durham is White British with 95.37% in this group.
- All other ethnic groups have below 1.2%.

This cohort;

- The largest ethnic group in this cohort is White British also with 100% in this group.
- There are no other ethnic groups in the cohort

The ethnicity split of young people entitled to the Post-16 Medical Transport varies significantly from the school population. This means that White British young people would be negatively impacted more than would be expected.

Religion or belief

This cohort;

- 51.72% are Christian
- 18.10% have no religion
- 10.34% the religion is unknown
- 8.62% are Anglican
- 4.74% are of other religion
- 4.31% are Roman Catholic
- 1.29% are Methodist
- 0.86% are Church of England

Religion is not collected in the school census so comparison data is not available for analysis.

Sexual orientation

[Data not available for this heading]

3.Post 16 – No viable public transport (Link Taxi/Guranteed Concession)

(cohort 36 pupils)

Gender

Overall School Population;

- 50.85% are Male
- 49.15% are Female.

This cohort;

- 36.11% are Male.
- 63.89% are Female.

This cohort does not vary significantly from the total school population.

Disability

Overall school population;

- 81.05% of pupils in Durham are non SEN.
- 18.95% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs.

This cohort;

- 94.44% of pupils are non SEN.
- 5.56% are School Action/School Action Plus/SEN Support or have an EHCP or statement of special educational needs.

The cohort does not vary significantly from the total school population.

Age

This cohort;

- 58.33% are aged 16.
- 38.89% are aged 17.
- 2.78% are aged 18.

Overall population figures are not a useful comparator in this context as Post 16 young people who do not have a viable public transport option available to them do not form a subset of the school population. Analysis therefore cannot be carried out, but it can be assumed that the removal or a reduction in contribution of the award would negatively impact on this group as a whole.

Race/Ethnicity

Overall school population;

- The largest ethnic group in Durham is White British with 95.37% in this group.
- All other ethnic groups have below 1.2%.

This cohort;

- The largest ethnic group in this cohort is White British also with 100% in this group.
- There are no other ethnic groups in the cohort

The cohort does not vary significantly from the total school population.

Religion or belief

This cohort;

- 47.22% are Christian
- 25.00% the religion is unknown
- 11.11% have no religion
- 5.56% are of other religion
- 5.56% are Anglican
- 5.56% are Methodist

Religion is not collected in the school census so comparison data is not available for analysis.

Sexual orientation

[Data not available for this heading]

Appendix 3

Persons Consulted
Elected Members
Members of Parliament
Headteachers
College Principals
All schools, with additional emphasis on secondary schools
All colleges
Young People
Governing bodies of secondary schools / colleges
Neighbouring LAs
Parents
Diocese
Town and Parish Councils
Parent Support Groups for those with children with a disability
Disability Groups – Durham Disability Partnership, Visual Impairment Problem Solving in Co Durham, Durham Deafened Support, PHAB Durham
The Children and Young People's Network
Investing in Children Extreme Group
Private schools

**Children and Young People's
Overview and Scrutiny Committee****5 October 2015****Quarter 1 2015/16****Performance Management Report**

Report of Corporate Management Team**Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive****Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

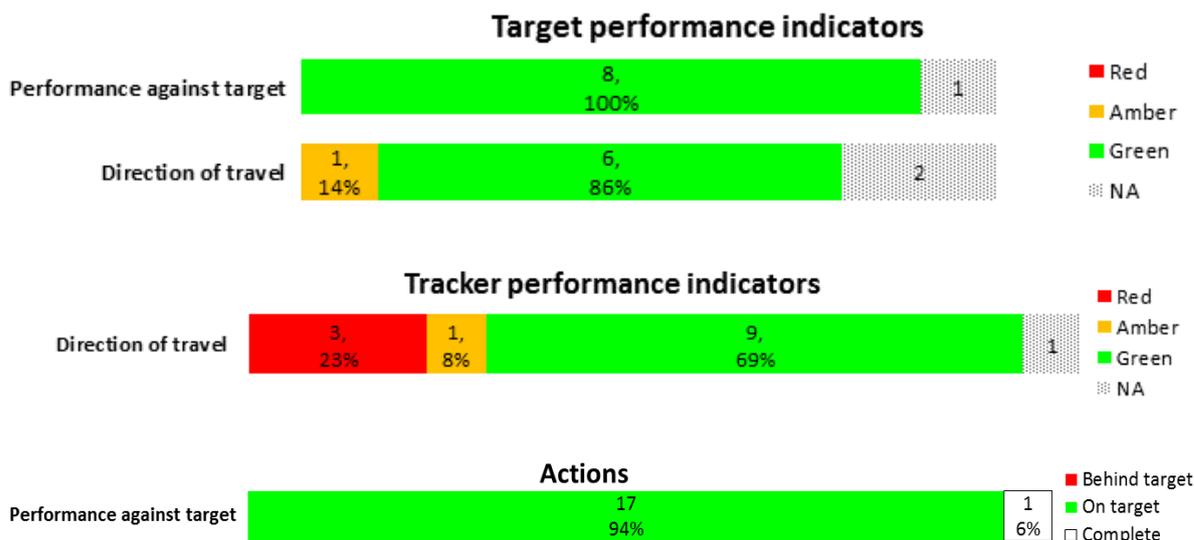
Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme for the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period April to June 2015.

Background

2. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:
 - a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners (see Appendix 3, table 1); and
 - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence (see Appendix 3, table 2).
3. The report continues to incorporate a stronger focus on volume measures in our performance framework. This allows us to better quantify productivity and to monitor the effects of reductions in resources and changes in volume of activity. Charts detailing some of the key volume measures which form part of the council's corporate set of performance indicators are presented in Appendix 4.
4. The corporate performance indicator guide has been updated to provide full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2015/16 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet (at Councillors useful links) or can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People: Overview



Council Performance

5. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. The Stronger Families Programme aims to assist individuals in a family to achieve reductions in crime/anti-social behaviour, improve school attendance or move back into employment as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Troubled Families Programme Financial Framework (March 2012). As of March 2015, 1,320 families have had a successful intervention, which equates to 100% of County Durham's overall target by May 2015. A total reward grant of £1,435,200 has been secured. Comparator data (as of March 2015) show that County Durham has exceeded the national (98.9%), regional (99.9%) and statistical neighbours (99.6%) averages. Following on from the success of the programme, stage two commenced on 1 April 2015 and will continue until May 2020.
- b. Data for April to June 2015 show that 317 of 1,566 children in need referrals occurred within 12 months of the previous referral, which equals 20.2%. This is achieving the target of 21% and has improved from the same period last year (36.6%) (Appendix 4, chart 4). The rate is better than the 2013/14 national (23.4%), regional (22.9%) and statistical neighbour averages (25.9%).
- c. Tracker indicators show:
 - i. At 30 June 2015, there were 352 children subject to a child protection plan, which equates to a rate of 35.1 per 10,000 under 18 population and is a reduction from 44.5 (446 children) at the same point last year. Performance is better than the March 2014 England (42.1), North East (59.3) and statistical neighbour averages (54.8).
 - ii. Provisional under 18 conception rate data for 2013/14 show a rate of 30.9, which is a reduction from 2013 (33.8). Although there has been a reduction the rate is above the provisional regional (29.7) and national (23.9) averages.

6. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. Latest data show 194 of the 474 young people in the July 2012 to June 2013 cohort re-offended within 12 months, which equates to 40.9%. This is an increase when compared against the same period in the previous year (37.5%). The rate in County Durham is higher than the national rate of 36.6%. The 474 young people in the offender cohort committed a total of 611 offences, which equates to an offending rate of 1.29 offences per person. This rate is higher than the same period of the previous year (1.15) and the national average of 1.11. With the aim of reducing reoffending, County Durham Youth Offending Service has developed an enhanced programme of interventions for a cohort of young people identified as offending six or more times in the previous 12 months. The interventions include intensive levels of supervision, short-cut access to a range of multi-agency specialist professionals, and support for leisure activities, reparation and education, training and employment.
- b. There has been a reduction in young people aged 10 to 24 years admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm, although the rate remains above national levels. For the latest three year figure (2011/12 to 2013/14) County Durham's rate is 489.4 per 100,000 population aged 10 to 24 years, which is lower than the previous three year figure (504.8 for 2010/11 to 2012/13). This is worse than the national average of 367.3. An update on progress in relation to the recommendations from the report on self-harm requested by OSC in 2014 will be presented by the Mental Health Partnership Board Self-Harm Group to CYP OSC on 2 November 2015. Additionally, Public Health is leading on the development of the Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan and this will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 3 November 2015.
- c. Tracker indicators show:
 - i. At 30 June 2015 there were 641 looked after children (LAC), which equates to a rate of 63.9 per 10,000 population. This rate is an increase from 60.2 (603 LAC) at the same point last year. March 2014 benchmarking data show that County Durham's rate is better than the North East average (81) and statistical neighbours (81) but worse than the England rate of 60. The reduced numbers of children with adoption plans nationally and locally are having an impact on the overall numbers, and following recent serious case reviews this is contributing to a more robust approach to the management of long standing cases of neglect within County Durham. A number of large sibling groups becoming looked after in the early months of 2015, including a family of seven and a family of six have had an impact on the looked after numbers (Appendix 4, chart 3).
 - ii. As at February 2015, 20,060 children were living in families claiming out-of-work benefits in County Durham, which is equivalent to 22.7% of all 0 to 15 year-olds in the county. This is the same as the previous quarter and is 6.1 percentage points higher than the equivalent figure for England (16.6%). This gap is larger than at any point in the last eight years. It should be noted however that this is a proxy measure of child poverty as it reflects a snapshot of the number of children in

families claiming out-of-work benefits only and does not reflect in-work poverty in the area.

- d. There are no Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme.
7. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Recommendation and Reasons

8. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising there from.

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance
Tel: 03000 268071 **E-Mail** jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

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

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

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

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - Corporate health PIs are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Accommodation - Not applicable

Crime and Disorder - A number of PIs and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Human Rights - Not applicable

Consultation - Not applicable

Procurement - Not applicable

Disability Issues - Employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Legal Implications - Not applicable

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

Where icons appear in this report, they have been applied to the most recently available information.

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel

Performance against target

Latest reported data have improved from comparable period

GREEN

Performance better than target

Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period

AMBER

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period

RED

Performance >2% behind target

Actions:

WHITE

Complete (Action achieved by deadline/achieved ahead of deadline)

GREEN

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline

RED

Action not achieved by the deadline/unlikely to be achieved by the deadline

Benchmarking:

GREEN

Performance better than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

AMBER

Performance in line with other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

RED

Performance worse than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Better for Children and Young People											
15	CASCYP 15	Percentage of children in the early years foundation stage achieving a good level of development	56.7	2013/14 ac yr	48.0	GREEN	41.9	GREEN	60.0	56**	2013/14 ac yr
16	CASCYP4	Percentage of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths	57.6	2013/14 ac yr	Not set	NA [1]	New indicator	NA [1]	56.6	54.6*	2013/14 ac yr
17	CASCYP7	Achievement gap (percentage points) between Durham pupils eligible/not eligible for pupil premium funding achieving five A*-C GCSE's including English and maths at key stage 4	29.2	2013/14 ac yr	29.5	GREEN	30.0	GREEN	27.5		2013/14 ac yr (state funded)
18	CASCYP6	Achievement gap (percentage points) between Durham pupils eligible/not eligible for pupil premium funding achieving level 4 in reading, writing and maths at key stage 2	15.9	2013/14 ac yr	20.5	GREEN	21.0	GREEN	16.0		2013/14 ac yr

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
19	CASCYP5	Percentage of pupils on level 3 programmes in community secondary schools achieving two A levels at grade A*-E or equivalent	98.7	2013/14 ac yr	98.5	GREEN	98.9	AMBER	98.0	98.4*	2013/14 ac yr
20	CASAS5	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population of 10 to 17 year olds) (Also in Altogether Safer)	89	Apr - Jun 2015	160	GREEN	105	GREEN			
21	CASCYP9	Percentage of children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral	20.2	Apr - Jun 2015	21.0	GREEN	36.6	GREEN	23.4	22.9*	2013/14
22	CASCYP 14	Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Also in Altogether Safer)	100	Apr 2012 - Mar 2015	70.0	GREEN	51.2	Not comparable [2]	98.9	99.9*	As at Mar 2015
23	CASCYP8	Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery (Also in Altogether Healthier)	19.0	2014/15	20.5	GREEN	19.9	GREEN	11.4	19.9*	2014/15 (NE - Durham, Darlington and Tees area team)

[1] Due to changes to the definition data are not comparable/available

[2] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Better for Children and Young People											
122	CASCYP 16	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Also in Altogether Wealthier)	6.3	Apr - Jun 2015	6.7	GREEN	6.8	GREEN			
123	ACE016	Percentage of children in poverty (quarterly proxy measure) (Also in Altogether Better Council)	22.7	As at Feb 2015	22.7	AMBER	23.6	GREEN	16.6	23.3*	As at Feb 2015
124	ACE017	Percentage of children in poverty (national annual measure) (Also in Altogether Better Council)	22.7	2012	23.0	GREEN	23.0	GREEN	18.9	23.4*	2012
125	CASCYP 18	Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Healthier)	23.8	2013/14 ac yr	21.9	RED	21.9	RED	22.5	24.4*	2013/14 ac yr
126	CASCYP 19	Percentage of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Healthier)	36.1	2013/14 ac yr	35.9	AMBER	35.9	AMBER	33.5	36.1*	2013/14 ac yr

Page 112	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
127	CASCYP 29	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%) (Also in Altogether Safer)	40.9	Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	38.7	RED	37.5	RED	36.6	38.5*	England - Jul 2012 - Jun 2013 NE - 2012/13
128	CASCYP 20	Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17	30.9	2013/14 (provisional)	33.8	GREEN	33.8	GREEN	23.9	29.7*	2013/14 (provisional)
129	CASCYP 21	Under 16 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 13 to 15	7.9	2013	8.9	GREEN	8.9	GREEN	4.8	7.4*	2013
130	CASCYP 23	Emotional and behavioural health of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more (scored between 0 to 40)	15.1	2014/15	15.5	GREEN	15.5	GREEN	13.9	13.9*	2013/14
131	CASCYP 30	Percentage of Community and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) patients who have attended a first appointment within nine weeks of their external referral date	70.7	Apr - Jun 2015	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
132	CASCYP 26	Young people aged 10 to 24 years admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000 population aged 10 to 24 years)	489.4	2011/12 - 2013/14	504.8	GREEN	504.8	GREEN	367.3	532.2*	England - 2011/12 - 2013/14 NE - 2010/11 - 2012/13
133	CASCYP 28	Rate of children with a child protection plan per 10,000 population	35.1	As at Jun 2015	37.6	GREEN	44.5	GREEN	42.1	59.3*	As at Mar 2014
134	CASCYP 24	Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18	63.9	As at Jun 2015	61.8	RED	60.2	RED	60.0	81*	As at Mar 2014
135	CASCYP 25	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 to 8 weeks from birth (Also in Altogether Healthier)	28.9	2014/15	28.5	GREEN	28.5	GREEN	43.8	27.6*	2014/15 (NE - Durham, Darlington and Tees area team)

Appendix 4: Volume Measures Chart numbers

Chart 1 - Number of looked after children cases

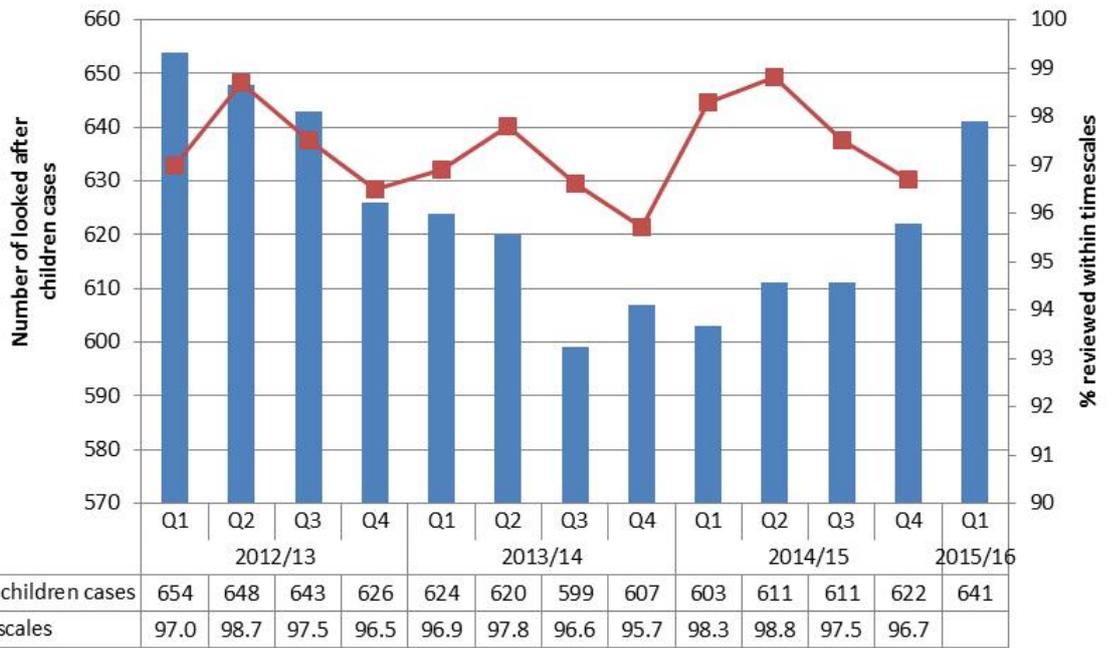
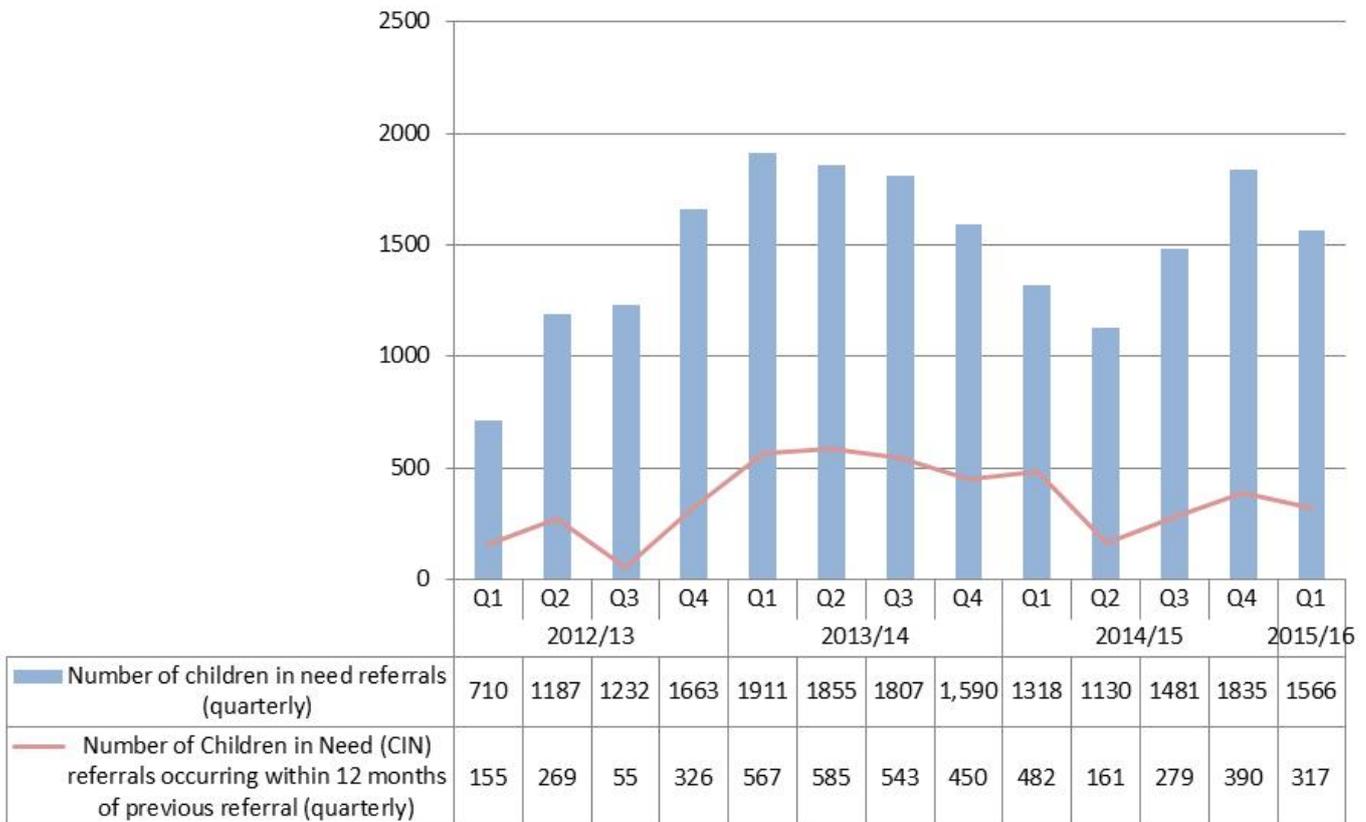


Chart 2 - Children in need referrals within 12 months of previous referral



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



5 October 2015

Revenue and Capital Outturn 2014/15

Report of Paul Darby, Head of Finance (Financial Services)

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the committee with details of the final budget outturn position for the CAS service grouping, highlighting major variances in comparison with the (revised) budget for the year, based on the position to the end of March 2015, as reported to Cabinet in July 2015. The report focuses on the Children and Young People’s services included in CAS.

Background

2. County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2014/15 at its meeting on 26 February 2014. 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:
 - CAS Revenue Budget - £252.133m (original £275.232m)
 - CAS Capital Programme – £46.894m (original £74.322m)
3. The original CAS revenue budget has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments as summarised in the table below:

Reason For Adjustment	£'000
Original Budget	275,232
Transfers to other services	(909)
Purchase of annual leave reduction	(103)
Car mileage reduction	(89)
Use of (+)/contribution to Corporate reserves (-)	(15,523)
Use of (+)/contribution to reserves (-)	(6,475)
Revised Budget	252,133

4. The use of / (contribution) to reserves consists of:

Reserve	£'000
Corporate Demographics Reserve	(15,900)
Corporate other	377
Social Care Reserve	(4,830)
CPD Reserve	5
Special Reserve	23
Education Reserve	(1,262)
Public Health GRT Reserve	88
Public Health Assets Reserve	42
Public Health Redundancy Reserve	15
Secure Services Trading Reserve (R&M)	360
Tackling Troubled Families Reserve	(916)
Total	(21,998)

5. The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2014/15 and show: -
- The approved annual budget;
 - The actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
 - The variance between the annual budget and the outturn;
 - For the CAS 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

6. The CAS service **outturn was a cash limit under budget of £873k** against a revised budget of £252.133m. This compares with the quarter 3 forecast of a break-even position, after contributions to and from reserves in year. The cash limit outturn is net of a £15.15m contribution to the Demographics / Hyper Inflation Reserve to offset and delay MTFP pressures in future years.
7. The tables below show the revised annual budget, actual expenditure to 31 March 2015 and the variance at year end. The first table is analysed by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense) and shows the combined position for CAS, and the second is by Head of Service.

Subjective Analysis (Type of Expenditure)

	Revised Annual Budget	Outturn	Variance	Conts to/from Reserves / Items Outside Cash Limit	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	114,326	107,729	(6,597)	3,324	(3,273)
Premises	8,383	8,942	559	(1,122)	(563)
Transport	18,279	17,621	(658)	(11)	(669)
Supplies & Services	20,326	18,092	(2,234)	(1,655)	(3,889)
Third Party Payments	194,296	184,808	(9,488)	13	(9,475)
Transfer Payments	11,978	11,072	(906)	47	(859)
Central Support & Capital	49,661	33,605	(16,056)	29,409	13,353
Income	(165,116)	(171,396)	(6,280)	10,782	4,502
Total	252,133	210,473	(41,660)	40,787	(873)

Analysis by Head of Service Area

	Revised Annual Budget	Outturn	Variance	Conts to/from Reserves / Items Outside Cash Limit	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adult Care	137,856	132,166	(5,690)	(1,330)	(7,020)
Central/Other	(3,734)	8606	12,340	2,663	15,003
Commissioning	1,662	(2,410)	(4,072)	536	(3,536)
Planning & Service Strategy	11,342	10,131	(1,211)	96	(1,115)
Central Charges (CYPS)	6,375	2950	(3,424)	3,412	(13)
Childrens Services	59,817	52,908	(6,909)	3,662	(3,247)
Education	38,501	5,763	(32,739)	31,793	(945)
Public Health	314	359	45	(45)	0
	252,133	210,473	(41,660)	40,787	(873)

8. The table below provides a brief commentary of the cash limit variances against the revised budget, analysed by Head of Service for those areas which relate to the Children's area of the service, which is of specific interest to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The table identifies variances in the core budget only and excludes items outside of

the cash limit (e.g. central repairs and maintenance) and technical accounting adjustments (e.g. capital charges):

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Central Charges (CYPS)		
Central Charges (CYPS)	£13k under spend re non-staffing costs	(13)
		(13)
Childrens Services		
Aycliffe Conference Centre & Site Wide Costs	Shortfall on income at the Conference Centre of £20k associated with lower than anticipated use of the Centre for training courses offset by lower than budget spend (£16k) on supplies and services etc. on the Aycliffe site.	4
Child Protection & Disability Services	Expenditure on legal fees was (£241k) less than the budget due to less care proceedings. Underspend on Direct Payments (£305k) resulting from an increase in refunds following audits of Direct Payments and recharges to the CCGs for agreed shared costs. Expenditure on the care element of the costs of children placed in external residential and special schools was (£247k) under budget. The above savings were offset by spend above budget on Special Guardianship Allowances £433k and transportation of children and young people to and from contact etc £92k and employee costs of £55k including agency staff to cover vacant posts.	(217)
Childrens Services Reform	Early appointment of the newly created Children's Services Reform Strategic Manager. This post is funded in full in 2015-16.	14
External Agency Placements Central Recharges & SLAs	Saving in connection with the Head of Safeguarding Services post of (£126k) in 2014-15 (NB The budget for this post is an MTFP saving in 2015-16). Transport under budget (£350k). This saving is offset by expenditure above budget on transportation of looked after children and children subject to Child Protection procedures. Saving (£89k) from lower budget activity in secure remand beds in 2014-15.	(550)
First Contact & Intervention	Under budget on vacant posts (£165k) including the 4 Real Service. NB this service will be undertaken as part of the Drug Recovery and Substance Misuse contract that has been recommissioned by Public Health in 2015-16.	(165)
Head of Service	Expenditure on supplies is lower than budget.	(29)
Looked After & Permanence	Saving on Employees of (£400k) from vacancies including the closure of 5 Brough Close at the end of 2014. Expenditure on transporting looked after children was £159k above budget and the cost of accommodation for young people leaving care was £99k over budget. Expenditure on a reduced number of external fostering and adoption placements was (£977k) under budget offset by	(1,077)

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
	<p>£216k on less expensive fees for foster carers.</p> <p>There was a one off refund of (£200k) from an external adoption agency for non-compliance with a contract in 2014-15.</p>	
One Point Service	<p>Income levels exceeded budget by £526k. A large part of this (£440k) relates to recharges to County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust for occupation of Children's Centres. Other recharge arrangements including those with Youth and Community groups and schools have generated £86k.</p> <p>Staffing expenditure was lower than budget by £123k due to vacancies.</p> <p>Costs associated with Children's Centre buildings came in under budget by £151k due in part to revised arrangements and additional use of community venues.</p> <p>Activity budgets were also under budget by around £177k.</p>	(977)
Secure Services	<p>Secure Services operates as a Trading Account, the net variance balances to zero but there was a deficit of £185k in 2014-15. The £185k will be transferred from the Secure Services Reserve at the end of 2014-15. Primarily the deficit in Secure Services related to an outstanding payment for repairs and maintenance for the 2 years following the opening of the new Secure Services building, additional management costs and agency staff costs.</p> <p>There was an over recovery of income of £57k from the sale of welfare beds in 2014-15. Average welfare bed occupancy was 7.45 when compared to the budget of 7.2.</p>	-
Think Family Service	<p>Vacancies across Family Pathfinder teams delivered savings of £71k against staffing budgets.</p> <p>Tackling Troubled Families, is grant funded, expenditure and income is managed through an earmarked reserve and does not therefore impact on the cash limit position.</p>	(71)
Youth Offending Service	<p>Staffing expenditure was £140k lower than budget and this was also the case on employee transport budget where expenditure was £54k lower.</p> <p>Partner contributions of £46k were rolled forward into 2015/16.</p>	(130)
Youth Service	<p>Expenditure on staffing was £49k lower than budget in this area.</p>	(49)
		(3,247)
Commissioning		

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Adult Care / Other	£157k over budget on employees £180k under budget on car mileage and transport for service users £218k under budget on supplies and services / other £3,001k under budget on agency and contracted services/transfer payments, mainly in respect of under spends on non-assessed services/one-off funds £169k net over achievement on income	(3,411)
Financial Services	£76k under budget on employees due to vacant posts £27k under budget on transport, mainly in respect of a new assessment process £13k over budget on supplies and services £35k additional income mainly in respect of financial protection	(125)
		(3,536)
Education		
Progression and Learning	Durham Education Business Partnership contributed a sum of £24k to their earmarked reserve this year bring the balance on the reserve to £345k. The Adult Learning service is funded from grant that is allocated on an academic year basis. The funds not used by the end of March 2015 have been rolled forward to support expenditure in the Summer Term of the 2014/15 academic year. The Improving Progression for Young People team outturn is in line with budget.	10
School Places and Admissions	There is an underspend of £167k in the School Places and Admissions Team relating to vacancies created by the early release of staff in connection with MTFP savings for 2015/16. Higher education pension liabilities expenditure was £182k lower than budget and the Home to School Transport budget was also under budget by £22k. One-off expenditure of £253k relating to balance sheet write offs linked to academies that transferred in 2011 have incurred in year and charged here.	(118)
SEN and Disability and Inclusion	Expenditure on employees was £100k lower than budget due to vacancies held in advance of required MTFP savings and restructures in the SEN Placement and Provision team. The main Educational Psychology service has generated additional income of £178k above budget.	(278)
Support and Development	<u>Curriculum and Professional Development (CPD)</u> A sum of £42k was contributed to the CPD reserve in 2014/15. <u>Education Development Service (EDS)</u> Across EDS there was an under spend of £177k, achieved mainly through vacancies held in advance of MTFP savings.	(559)

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
	<p>There is was also a transfer to the Primary Swimming Reserve of £48k.</p> <p><u>Durham Music Service (DMS)</u> Income levels in excess of budget provided an under spend in DMS of £46k.</p> <p><u>Early Years Team</u> The early release of staff in relation to MTFP has resulted in an under spend of £208k.</p> <p><u>School and Governor Support Service</u> Income levels were in excess of budget by £128k as action has been taken to increase prices in advance of achieving MTFP savings of 2015/16.</p> <p><u>Durham Learning Resources (DLR)</u> Reduced expenditure has resulted in a contribution to reserves of £19k by DLR.</p>	
		(945)
Planning & Service Strategy		
Performance & Information Mgt	<p>£71k under budget on employees due mainly to early achievement of MTFP savings</p> <p>£2k over budget on transport</p> <p>£21k under budget on supplies and services</p> <p>£9k under achievement of income</p>	(81)
Policy Planning & Partnerships	<p>£42k under budget on employees due mainly to early achievement of MTFP savings</p> <p>£29k under budget on supplies and services/other</p>	(71)
PSS Management	£19k under budget on supplies and services/other re early achievement of MTFP savings	(19)
Service Quality & Development	<p>£96k under budget on employees mainly re early achievement of MTFP savings</p> <p>£411k under budget on supplies and services/other</p>	(507)
Service Support	<p>£179k under budget on employees mainly re early achievement of MTFP savings</p> <p>£258k under budget on supplies and services/other budgets</p>	(437)
		(1,115)

9. In summary, the service has maintained spending within its cash limit. The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings built into the 2014/15 budgets, which for CAS in total amount to £12.430m.

Dedicated Schools Grant

10. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2014/15 was £351.413m, however due to schools converting to academies and a reduction in high needs allocation for payments made direct by the

Education Funding Agency the budget was reduced by £70.140m in year to £281.273m. This includes both the delegated schools budget and the centrally retained DSG budget.

11. The total revised delegated budget for maintained schools (including early years' providers) was £255.179m.
12. Where schools spent more or less than their delegated budgets, the difference either reduces or increases their accumulated balance. Schools-related balances were £24.296m at 31 March 2015, a decrease of £0.389m from the previous year, which is significantly less than the planned for and previously forecast position, where a £7.351m use of reserves was planned for by schools.
13. The level of school balances continues to be closely managed, particularly those schools with a deficit balance and robust arrangements have been put in to place to monitor these in parallel with budget plans given the additional risks from schools that could potentially become a sponsored academy.
14. There has been greater scrutiny and challenge being put into schools budget plans to identify and address areas of concern and risk to the Council in 2013/14 and this is an ongoing process. Whilst the vast majority of schools continue to be well managed and are financially sound, termly updates have been required from all maintained schools on their projections for the year, with reports also provided to School Governors. The Council have worked constructively with schools to address any concerns and where appropriate take action to ensure the risk to the School and the Council is mitigated.
15. At 31 March 2015 there were 9 schools with a deficit balance carried forward totalling £1.779m, 16 schools holding a balance less than 2.5% of their overall funding and 229 schools with balances of more than 2.5% of their overall funding.
16. The pressure areas for the centrally controlled element of the DSG in 2014/15 have been within the post 16 high needs provision and capitalised repair and maintenance costs. This has been offset by underspends within early years provision; school improvement; High Needs Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) children's placements in maintained, academy and independent special schools; and the Education Service Team dealing with SEND children;.
17. The overall outturn position for the centrally retained element of the DSG shows an underspend of £3.997m. The earmarked reserve relating to centrally retained DSG carried forward at 31 March is £10.364m, of which £1.493m is earmarked for Schools relating to the Growth Fund, school improvement and business rates, £3.296m relates to early years provision, £0.711m for outstanding commitments for the capital programme and the balance will support High Needs pressures.

Capital Programme

18. The CAS capital programme was revised earlier in the year to take into account budget reprofiled from 2013/14 following the final accounts for that year. This increased the 2014/15 original budget. Further reports during the year to MOWG have detailed further revisions to the CAS capital programme, adjusting the base for grant additions/ reductions, budget transfers and budget profiling into later years. The revised capital budget currently totals **£46.894m**.
19. Summary financial performance to the end of March is shown below.

CAS -Service Area	2014-15 Budget	Actual Expenditure (31-03-15)	2014/15 Remaining Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Adult Care	62	-	(62)
Commissioning	101	121	20
Childrens Care	71	14	(57)
Early Intervention & Involvement	-	(5)	(5)
Early Years	692	635	(57)
Free School Meals Support	1,126	1,067	(59)
Policy Planning & Performance	40	13	(27)
Public Health	469	233	(236)
SCP - LEP	23,379	22,786	(593)
School Devolved Capital	4,623	2,767	(1,856)
School Related	16,331	13,970	(2,361)
CAS Total	46,894	41,601	(5,293)
% Annual Budget Expended to 31 March		88.7%	

20. **Appendix 2** provides a more detailed breakdown of spend across the major projects contained within the CAS Children's capital programme.

Recommendations:

21. It is recommended that Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Members note the revenue and capital outturn included in the report, which are summarised in the outturn report to Cabinet in July.

Contact: Graham Stephenson – Finance Manager
Andrew Baldwin – Finance Manager

Tel: 03000 268 583
Tel: 03000 263 490

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

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

Risk

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

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

Appendix 2 - CAS 2014-15 Capital Programme

Childrens Services	2014-15 Total Budget	2014/15 Actual Expenditure	2014/15 Remaining Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Support For Childs Homes	67	14	54
CAS AAP Scheme	4	1	3
Childrens Care Total	71	14	56
PCT Co-Location	0	(5)	5
Early Intervention and Involvement Total	0	(5)	5
Increased Provision for Two Year Olds	692	635	57
Early Years Total	692	635	57
Free School Meals Support	1,126	1,067	60
Free School Meals Support Total	1,126	1,067	60
School Devolved Capital	4,623	2,767	1,856
School Devolved Capital Total	4,623	2,767	1,856
Childrens Access/Safeguarding	92	104	(12)
DFE School Capital Inc Basic Need	11,395	9,588	1,806
DSG Structural Maintenance	4,198	3,813	385
Prior Year Projects	-	116	(116)
School Modernisation	646	348	298
School Related Total	16,331	13,970	2,361
BSF	22,592	21,947	645
PFI	787	839	(52)
SCP - LEP Total	23,379	22,786	593
TOTAL	46,222	41,233	4,989

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



5 October 2015

**Quarter 1: Forecast of Revenue and
Capital Outturn 2015/16 – Children and
Adult Services**

Report of Paul Darby, Head of Finance (Financial Services)

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the committee with details of the forecast outturn budget position for Children and Adult Services (CAS), highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget for the year, based on the position to the end of June 2015, as reported to Cabinet in July 2015. The report focuses on the Children and Young People’s services included in CAS.

Background

2. County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2015/16 at its meeting on 25 February 2015. 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:

- CAS Revenue Budget - £251.484 (original £252.931)
- CAS Capital Programme – £50.723m (original £45.453)

3. The original CAS revenue budget has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments as summarised in the table below:

Reason For Adjustment	£'000
Original Budget	251,450
Transfers to other services	(61)
Energy Efficiency Reduction	(148)
Transfer From Contingency - Soulsbury Pay award	111
Contribution To Capital	(1,002)
Use of (+)/contribution to CAS reserves (-)	26
Use of (+)/contribution to Corporate reserves (ERVR) (-)	2,555
Revised Budget	252,931

4. The use of / contribution to CAS reserves consists of:

Reserve	£'000
Social Care	87
EBP	120
Emotional Wellbeing	(5)
Mental Health Counselling	18
Movement Difficulties Service	(13)
Re-Profiling Activity	(175)
SEND reform Grant	239
Swimming	(66)
Secure Services Capital	1,002
Tackling Troubled Families	281
Transformation	(1,528)
Remodelling of Health Improve Service	(300)
Accumulated fund CPD	366
Total	26

5. The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2015/16 and show: -
- The approved annual budget;
 - The actual income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
 - The variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
 - For the CAS 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

6. The CAS service is reporting a cash limit under budget of £7.613m against a revised budget of £252.931m which represents a 3.0% underspend.
7. The tables below show the revised annual budget, actual expenditure to 30 June 2015 and the updated forecast of outturn to the year end, including the variance forecast at year end. The first table is analysed by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense) and shows the combined position for CAS, and the second is by Head of Service.

Subjective Analysis (Type of Expenditure)

	Revised Annual Budget £000	YTD Actual £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000	Items Outside Cash Limit £000	Contribution To From Reserves £000	Cash Limit Variance £000
Employees	115,938	31,317	112,511	(3,427)	-	-	(3,427)
Premises	7,002	648	7,095	93	-	-	93
Transport	17,360	2,896	16,994	(366)	(76)	-	(442)
Supplies & Services	19,176	1,808	18,345	(831)	-	-	(831)
Third Party Payments	238,673	47,680	232,468	(6,205)	-	-	(6,205)
Transfer Payments	13,069	1,876	12,789	(280)	-	-	(280)
Central Support & Capital	64,389	2,471	65,018	629	-	-	629
Income	(222,677)	(79,746)	(219,827)	2,850	-	-	2,850
Total	252,930	8,950	245,393	(7,537)	(76)	-	(7,613)

Analysis by Head of Service Area

	Revised Annual Budget £000	YTD Actual £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000	Items Outside Cash Limit £000	Contribution To From Reserves £000	Cash Limit Variance £000
Head of Adults	124,305	27,802	119,733	(4,572)	(9)	-	(4,581)
Central/Other	8,847	86	8,643	(204)	-	-	(204)
Commissioning inc Supporting People	10,141	(27,255)	8,416	(1,725)	(3)	-	(1,728)
Planning & Service Strategy	11,689	2,765	11,202	(487)	(4)	-	(491)
Central Charges (CYPS)	4,393	(2,204)	4,393	-	-	-	-
Childrens Services	53,156	14,655	53,414	258	(48)	-	210
Education	39,699	(2,845)	38,893	(806)	(13)	-	(819)
Public Health	701	(4,055)	701	-	-	-	-
Total	252,931	8,949	245,395	(7,536)	(77)	-	(7,613)

8. The table below provides a brief commentary of the forecast cash limit variances against the revised budget, analysed by Head of Service for those areas which relate to the Children's area of the service, which is of specific interest to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The table identifies variances in the core budget only and excludes items outside of the cash limit (e.g. central repairs and maintenance) and technical accounting adjustments (e.g. capital charges):

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
Central Charges (CYPS)	In line with budget	-
		-
Childrens Services		
Aycliffe Conference Centre & Site Wide Costs	Energy and water costs are £13K above budget on the Aycliffe site and a projected shortfall in income of £20K from lower than anticipated rechargeable usage of the Conference Centre.	33
Child Protection & Disability Services	Employees and car allowances are forecast to be over budget by a total of £230K in the Child Protection Teams including expenditure on agency staff employed to cover vacancies and increased workloads. Legal fees are forecast to be under budget by £88K. Expenditure on the care element of the costs of children placed in external residential and special schools is forecast to be £37K over budget. Cost associated with children placed with families and foster carers is also forecast to be over budget by £296K.	475
Childrens Services Reform	Small overspend on employees from savings on vacancies offset by the cost of the new Project Officer post with no currently identified budget provision in 2015-16.	9
External Agency Placements Central Recharges & SLAs	The cost of hired transport and volunteer drivers is forecast to be under budget by £300k, this saving if recurring could be used towards future MTFP savings relating to Supervised Contact and LAC.	(300)
First Contact & Intervention	Expenditure on agency staff in the Assessment and Information (A&I) teams covering vacancies and maternity leave etc is forecast to be £574k over budget offset by savings on vacant posts of (£262K). £90k of the agency staff costs specifically relate to the backfilling of posts of staff employed in A&I Teams that are to be included in Families First Phase 2 scheduled for February 2016. The budget has been revised at Quarter 1 to take into account the first phase of the new Families First Service and the establishment of the 3 new teams in the east of the County.	339
Head of Service	Investing in Children SLA is forecast to be under budget.	(46)
Looked After & Permanence	Savings on employees of (£590K) from the early closure of 5 Brough Close and the planned closure of 12 Brough Close. Car allowances are forecast to be over budget by £45k mainly in the Looked After and Young Peoples Services Teams. Expenditure on a reduced number of external fostering	(3)

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
	and adoption placements was (£281K) under budget offset by £784K on less expensive fees for in house foster carers. The balance of the variance - £45K - relates to the accommodation costs of young people leaving care.	
One Point Service	Additional income from County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust in relation to occupancy of council buildings (MTFP 16/17) and reduced expenditure on One Point Service outreach buildings is contributing to the position.	(241)
Secure Services	Secure Services operates as a Trading Account ,the net variance balances to zero. In the first quarter of 15-16 welfare bed average occupancy was 6.07 against a budget of 7.2. The shortfall in income for this period is £81K. At Quarter 1 welfare bed income is forecast to breakeven in 2015-16 with an anticipated increase in the sale of welfare beds expected following remedial works due to be completed later this year.	-
Think Family Service	Stronger Families plans will be funded from earmarked reserves	-
Youth Offending Service	Expenditure against staffing and mileage budgets are forecast to be below budget.	(56)
Youth Service		-
		210
Commissioning		
Commissioning Management	Under budget mainly in respect of future MTFP savings, particularly agency and contracted services budgets held.	(1,630)
Financial Services	Mainly in respect of under budgets on employees, (£55k) due to effective vacancy management, and associated travel costs (£25k). £17k over budget on supplies and services. Additional income receivable of £35k.	(98)
		(1,728)
Planning & Service Strategy		
Performance & Information Mgmt	£83k under budget on employees re future MTFP savings.	(83)
Policy Planning & Partnerships	£78k under budget on employees re future MTFP savings. £8k under budget on transport/supplies and services/other budgets. £24k under achievement of income.	(62)
Service Quality & Development	Future MTFP savings linked in the main to employees (£134k) and supplies and services (£88k). £7k under budget on other areas.	(229)
Service Support	£99k under budget on employees re future MTFP savings. £18k under budget on transport/supplies and services/other budgets.	(117)
		(491)
Education		
Progression and Learning	Durham Education Business Partnership is forecast to overspend by £120k as income levels are anticipated to fall below budget, however this will be funded from an earmarked reserve. The Adult Learning service is funded from grant that is allocated on an	(1)

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
	<p>academic year basis and funds not used by the end of March 2016 will be rolled forward.</p> <p>At present the Improving Progression for Young People team are forecasting to be in line with budget although this includes funding of £37k from the Special Projects reserve to fund the YEI Development Manager post.</p>	
School Places and Admissions	<p>A review of the Home to School Transport budget will take place over the next month following the end of the summer term and the forecast will be reported at Quarter 2.</p> <p>It is anticipated that there will be an under spend on staffing in the School Places and Admissions team due to vacancies held in advance of delivering 16/17 MTFP savings.</p> <p>There is also anticipated to be an under spend of £100k in relation to pension liabilities.</p>	(129)
SEN and Disability and Inclusion	<p>The forecast outturn position in this area relates mainly to additional SLA income in Education Psychology (£231k) and vacancies in the same area (£55k).</p> <p>Additionally in the SEN Placement and Provision team there is a saving of £84k relating to staffing.</p>	(381)
Support and Development	<p>Curriculum and Professional Development (Use of reserve £566k) The forecast anticipates use of reserves of £674k in line with that reported to MTFP Project Board in June 2015 offset by savings in staffing and additional SLA income totalling £108k.</p> <p>Education Development Service £75k Under There is anticipated to be a contribution to the Primary Swimming Reserve of £65k. An under spend of £75k across the rest of EDS relates to a vacant Sports Development post (MTFP saving for 16/17) and a forecast under spend on school health budget and outdoor education in advance of 16/17 MTFP savings.</p> <p>Early Years Team £145k under The main factor in the Early Years Team contributing to the forecast position is an under spend on employee budgets due to a vacant Operational Lead post (MTFP 16/17). In addition the in-house nursery provision is expected to be £65k under budget.</p> <p>Music Service £61k under The under spend position is a combination of reduced staffing costs and increased income levels.</p> <p>School and Governor Support Service £27k under The forecast under spend relates mainly to a pension augmentation budget for which the final year of costs was 2014/15. This budget is earmarked for MTFP savings in 16/17.</p>	(308)
		(819)

9. The following is a breakdown of items outside of the cash :
- Adjustment for delayed reduction in Car Mileage allowance rate 48p to 45p per mile - £76,434
10. In summary, the service is on track to maintain spending within its cash limit. The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings built into the 2015/16 budgets, which for CAS in total amount to £8.590m.

Schools

11. The total delegated budget for maintained schools (including early years' providers) in 2015-16 is £258.382m. In addition, schools are estimated to receive around £20.751m in Pupil Premium income and £18.231m in other income. Other income consists of:

	£000
Grant Income	9,360
Sales	5,339
Lettings	903
Income from local authority	1,370
Other	1,259
Total	18,231

12. Grant income includes funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals, PE and infant class sizes. Sales income is mainly from school meals and out-of-hours care (e.g. breakfast clubs). Income from the local authority is mainly funding for early years funding and funding from Communities of Learning budgets, (which are used to support provision for special educational needs).
13. All schools have delegated budgets and most have earmarked reserves / accumulated balances arising from underspending in previous years. Where schools spend more than their delegated budgets in any one year, the over spend reduces their accumulated balance carried forward to the following year. At 31 March 2015, 9 schools had a deficit balance, where their spending had exceeded their delegated budget / resources, totalling £1.779m, 16 schools were holding a balance of less than 2.5% of their overall annual funding and 229 schools had balances of more than 2.5% of their overall annual funding. The Council encourages schools to have a retained balance of at least 2.5% of their overall annual funding to provide a contingency sum against unforeseen budget pressures.
14. Cumulative school reserves brought forward from 2014-15 were £24.245m. This balance is net of loans to schools and other balances not related to maintained schools. Maintained schools balances amounted to £24.098m. Based on budget plans approved by Governing bodies and the latest updated forecasts, schools are

currently planning to use £6.355m of these balances in 2015-16. The forecast balances at 31 March 2016 are therefore £17.743m and a summary of this forecast position is provided below:

	Nursery	PRU	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Schools forecasting a surplus balance above 2.5% of annual funding						
Number	12	-	187	6	9	214
Forecast Balances	(£724,948)	-	(£16,519,060)	(£1,247,125)	(£1,822,784)	(£20,313,917)
Schools forecasting a surplus balance of less than 2.5% of annual funding						
Number	-	-	22	7	-	29
Forecast Balances	-	-	(£275,529)	(£488,999)	-	(£764,527)
Schools forecasting a deficit balance						
Number	-	1	2	3	-	6
Forecast Balances	-	£322,346	£14,975	£2,997,649	-	£3,334,969
Total						
Number	12	1	211	16	9	249
Forecast Net Balances	(£724,948)	£322,346	(£16,779,614)	£1,261,525	(£1,822,784)	(17,743,475)

15. The Council is working with the schools in deficit and has strengthened its financial monitoring of schools over the last few years. There is a more integrated approach in place now, with officers in the Education Service being supported by Finance and HR to determine appropriate action to support these schools in the context of their financial position and any wider education / performance concerns.

Capital Programme

16. The CAS capital programme was revised earlier in the year to take into account budget reprofiled from 2014/15 following the final accounts for that year. This increased the 2015/16 original budget. Further reports to MOWG in May and July have detailed further revisions to the CAS capital programme, adjusting the base for grant additions/ reductions, budget transfers and budget reprofiling into later years. The revised capital budget currently totals **£50.723m**.

17. Summary financial performance to the end of June is shown below.

CAS -Service Area	2015-16 Total Budget	Actual Expenditure (30-6-15) £000	Remaining Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Adult Care	901	-	901
Commissioning	-	-	-
Social Inclusion	-	-	-
Childrens Care	58	2	56
Early Intervention and Involvement	-	2	(2)
Early Years	48	(7)	55
Free School Meals Support	190	70	120
Secure Services	1,002	21	981
Planning & Service Strategy	132	94	38
Public Health	1,396	36	1,360
School Devolved Capital	4,529	203	4,326
School Related	25,193	2,695	22,498
SCP - LEP	17,274	7,286	9,988
Total	50,723	10,402	40,321

18. **Appendix 2** provides a more detailed breakdown of spend across the major projects contained within the CAS Children's capital programme.

Recommendations:

19. It is recommended that Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Members note the financial forecasts included in the report, which are summarised in the Quarter 1 forecast of outturn report to Cabinet in July.

Contact: Graham Stephenson – Finance Manager
Andrew Baldwin – Finance Manager

Tel: 03000 268 583
Tel: 03000 263 490

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

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

Staffing

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

Risk

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

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications associated with this report.

Accommodation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no implications associated with this report.

Consultation

There are no implications associated with this report.

Procurement

There are no implications associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no implications associated with this report.

Appendix 2 - CAS 2015-16 Capital Programme

Children and Young People Services	Revised Annual Budget 2015/16 £000	Actual Spend 30/06/15 £000	Remaining Budget £000
Support For Children's Homes	54	-	54
CAS AAP Scheme	4	2	2
Childrens Care Total	58	2	56
PCT Co-Location	-	2	(2)
Early Intervention and Involvement Total	-	2	(2)
Increased Provision for Two Year Olds	48	(7)	55
Early Years Total	48	(7)	55
Free School Meals Support	190	71	120
Free School Meals Support Total	190	71	120
School Devolved Capital	4,529	203	4,326
School Devolved Capital Total	4,529	203	4,326
Childrens Access/Safeguarding	15	-	15
DFE School Capital Inc Basic Need	23,952	3,025	20,927
DSG Structural Maintenance	888	225	663
Prior Year Projects	-	(334)	334
School Modernisation	338	(221)	559
School Related Total	25,193	2,695	22,498
BSF	17,267	7,271	9,996
PFI	7	15	(8)
SCP - LEP Total	17,274	7,286	9,988
Secure Service	1,002	21	981
Secure Services Total	1,002	21	981
TOTAL	48,294	10,273	38,022

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

5 October 2015

**Summary of Minutes from Children
and Families Partnership**

15 June 2015



**County Durham Children
and Families Partnership**

School Nursing review

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation on the review of the School Nursing service. A comprehensive review and consultation will end in July 2015. The presentation provided information on the consultation to date.

An update on the service, following implementation will be provided to the Children and Families Partnership in June 2016.

Beyond the Statistics: A study of NEETs in County Durham

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation, following research undertaken by Force 7 on a study of young people in the North East who are NEET. A specific County Durham report was also developed.

The presentation outlined the research questions, the methodology used which includes an evidence review, qualitative review and survey, and the headline findings which indicate that 40% of those who took part in the survey have suffered from stress, anxiety or depression and almost one in ten have taken drugs since becoming NEET.

The findings outline barriers preventing getting into work, education or training and the extra support young people indicated they would like.

The Children and Families Partnership agreed that this research could be used to inform discussions if County Durham are successful in future European funding bids. Further updates will be provided to the Partnership.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was presented to the Children and Families Partnership for comment.

The vision of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is *"To change the drinking culture in County Durham to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities while ensuring that adults who choose to drink alcohol are able to enjoy it responsibly"*.

The strategy is underpinned by six draft key objectives relating to the County Durham Partnership's Altogether Themes:

- *Altogether Safer*. Objective 1: To reduce the harm caused to communities by tackling alcohol related crime and disorder and vulnerability.
- *Altogether Healthier*. Objective 2: To improve health inequalities and reduce early deaths in County Durham by reducing alcohol consumption across the population.

- *Altogether Better for Children and Young People.* Objective 3: To build resilience and develop a culture where young people choose not to drink alcohol and reduce the negative impact alcohol has on the lives of children, young people and their families.
- *Altogether Wealthier.* Objective 4: To increase the number of competitive and successful people in the County Durham workforce by reducing the negative impact that alcohol has on work attendance and productivity, and Objective 5: To expand the night time economy offer through the promotion of responsible drinking practices and through the development and promotion of alcohol free alternatives.
- *Altogether Greener.* Objective 6: To reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on the physical environment in County Durham.

Comments from the Partnership are to be provided to members of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Partnership in relation to the wording of objective 3.

Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing update

The Children and Families Partnership received an update on the CAMHS 1 year interim strategy and the development of the Children and Young People’s Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan. The latter takes account of the recent Department of Health policy document ‘Future in Mind, 2015’ which promotes children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.

The CAMHS 1 year interim strategy’s Action Plan was presented to partners, which sets out the detail of the strategy and the work taking place across County Durham.

The Children and Families Partnership will receive the draft Children and Young People’s Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience in September 2015 as part of the formal consultation process.

Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2015/18 – Delivery Plan

The CYPFP 2015/18 was agreed by the Children and Families Partnership in March 2015.

The Delivery Plan will ensure that the CYPFP is implemented and performance managed to ensure the Children and Families Partnership is transparent in demonstrating the work taking place to achieve the strategic actions in the CYPFP and outlining what is still left to do.

Performance indicators in the Delivery Plan will be reported quarterly with updates against actions presented to the Children and Families Partnership on a six monthly basis.

Children and Families Partnership Governance Review

The Children and Families Partnership received an update on the annual review of the governance of the Children and Families Partnership and agreed the recommendations relating to the membership, terms of reference, governance structure and communications plan.

Educational Attainment/Standards 2014-15

Partners received a report summarising how Durham County Council’s Education service area provides support and intervention to ensure the best educational outcomes for children and young people across the County. The report highlighted that County Durham attainment levels are positive when compared to national averages.

The Children and Families Partnership agreed that moving forward work should be undertaken to promote County Durham as a high performing County in terms of school educational attainment and subsequent skills levels and promote this to residents, employers and businesses.

Young People's Issues

The Children and Families Partnership received two prestigious awards for their work with children and young people:

- **Young Carers Charter for County Durham**

The Children and Families Partnership have worked in collaboration with The Bridge, part of Family Action to sign up to the County Durham Young Carers Charter, and were successful in achieving charter status.

The Children and Families Partnership believes that young carers are young people first and carers second, that they have the same rights as all other children and young people and should have access to the same facilities, services and support that is available to other young people across County Durham.

- **Renewal of Investing in Children Membership Award**

The Children and Families Partnership have worked with Investing in Children on the successful renewal of the Investing in Children Membership Award.

The award recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice, and the Children and Families Partnership have been able to demonstrate a commitment to dialogue with young people that leads to change. This is an ongoing process, where young people are seen as partners with a valid contribution to make to the design and delivery of services.

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