



Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Monday 16 January 2017
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
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 29 September, 27 October and 9 November 2016 (Pages 3 - 22)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage
7. Role of the Children's Social Worker - Overview (Pages 23 - 30)
 - a) Report of the Interim Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services
 - b) Presentation by Mark Gurney, Strategic Manager for Child Protection & Disability
8. Performance Management Q2 - Report of the Corporate Management Team (Pages 31 - 46)
9. Quarter 2 Forecast and Revenue and Capital Outturn 2016/2017 - Report of the Head of Financial and HR Services (Pages 47 - 56)
10. 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
6 January 2017

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 A Swift

Parent Governor Representatives:

Mr R Patel

Co-opted Members:

Miss K Ashcroft and Mr D Kinch

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 29 September 2016 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, K Corrigan, O Gunn, D Hall, C Hampson, J Hart, S Morrison and H Smith

Faith Community Representative:

Mrs A Swift

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bell, D Hicks, K Hopper, M Nicholls, M Simmons, P Stradling and Mr D Kinch.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 1 July, 25 July and 5 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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 recent press articles relating to the remit of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The articles were:

- County Durham Students – Durham County Council had issued a press release congratulating students with regards to their A Level results
- Durham County Council was presented with the Young Carers Charter, developed by Family Action – The Bridge Young Carers Service, for its commitment to supporting young carers across the county
- Sugar intake in children double recommended level – a national survey had found that four to ten year olds were consuming twice as much sugar as the recommended intake and teenagers were consuming three times as much
- The Youth Offending Service had received three nationally recognised accolades

The Chairman requested that a letter be sent to the Youth Offending Service, recognising the achievement and congratulating them on behalf of the Committee.

7 County Durham Teenage Pregnancy

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services which provided an update on local plans and progress to reduce under 18 conceptions and unplanned teenage pregnancies (for copy see file of minutes).

Members received a presentation from Portfolio Lead for Public Health, (for copy see file of minutes) which gave an overview on the need to reduce teenage conceptions, an update on the current U16 and U18 conception rate, a summary of the findings from the teenage pregnancy HNA 2015 and six key actions to reduce teenage conceptions in County Durham.

Members were advised that the information regarding the reduction of both under 18 and under 16 conceptions in County Durham related to 2014 and this was due to a data time lag.

Councillor Hart referred to a time when there was significantly high rate of teenage pregnancy in Newcastle which had required government intervention and following the setup of a Teenage Pregnancy Unit, the figures had reduced by 51%. The reduction had been in conjunction with a rise in sex education and there was always a worry that there would be another influx of unplanned teenage pregnancy if the measures in place were relaxed. The Portfolio Lead in Public Health confirmed that even when considering reductions in budgets, teenage pregnancy was a priority and would continue to be monitored. It was important that Schools and School Nurses continued to identify and support young people who may need it. There was also a lot of support for teenage parents who were being encouraged to pursue aspirations. There was funding available for 16-19 year olds and she referred to the Care to Learn scheme and the Teen Parents Support Programme which was a 20 week course to develop skills and knowledge such as self-esteem and confidence, sexual health awareness and money management. The programme had been successful enough to be nominated for a national award, however funding was non-recurrent which was a continued concern.

Councillor Gunn referred to the importance of childcare for young people and referred to the recently appointed shadow education secretary who, having been pregnant at 16 years old with no qualifications was an inspiration to young teenagers in the same situation. The shadow secretary had publically credited Sure Start for helping her to overcome the difficulties she had faced being a teenage parent. The Portfolio Lead for Public Health

confirmed that many of the parents on the Teen Parents Support Programme were anxious at being separated from their children and therefore it had been delivered within Children's Centres in order to ensure that babies were cared for on the premises. As a result of the programme some parents had gone on to higher education, employment, or had returned as a mentor.

The Head of Children's Services confirmed that since the review in 2014, Sure Start had improved and there was now consistent engagement with all young mothers.

In response to a question from Councillor Hart, the Head of Children's Services confirmed that the possibility of registering births at Children's Centres had been considered, however it was acknowledged that contact levels with new teenage mothers was 100% and therefore no improvement was required.

Resolved

That the report and presentation be noted.

8 Update on School Funding Reforms

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships, Interim Corporate Director Resources and Interim Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Services which provided information on School Funding Reforms (for copy see file of minutes).

Members received a presentation from Finance Manager, Education Services (for copy see file of minutes), which provided Members with information on the ongoing Government consultation with regards to Authority proposals affecting 2017/18 school funding and changes to the National Funding Formulas (NFF) for;

- Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools
- Early Years (nursery schools)
- Special Educational Needs

Early Years Funding was based on historical spend and proposals were for a national formula to allocate funding to local authorities from 2017/18. Indicative allocations provided as part of the consultation indicated that Durham would receive a 3% increase in funding. The early years funding formula would require greater equality in distributing funding to providers. However the specific impact for County Durham, for Early Years providers and SEN Funding would not be known until the outcome of the consultation.

Councillor Gunn referred to the information which had been presented to Members and the significant impact it would have on young people in County Durham for years to come. It was not a case of a few changes or minor changes, but a significant amount of huge changes which would affect schools drastically. A reduction of £7.5k was the difference in having a teacher or not having a teacher and although she had many unanswered questions, she acknowledged that they could not be answered until the consultation had ended.

Councillor J Armstrong acknowledged that the presentation had raised more questions than answers, however the changes which the Government were making were essentially leading up to remove the responsibility of education services from Councils and pushing schools to becoming Academies. There was no clarity to the plans other than there would be a reduction to the budget and the Finance Manager, Education Services agreed that when more information was available, he would present it to the Committee.

Councillor Hart referred to the potential impact the new formulas could have on small rural primary schools and the Finance Manager, Education Services confirmed that a potential reduction in budget of £30k would have a huge impact on any school, however until the outcome of the consultation, no modelling work could be undertaken as there was too much uncertainty.

In response to a question from Councillor Smith, the Finance Manager, Education Services confirmed that sparsity funding may be applicable to small schools which were located in areas where pupils would have to travel long distances to the nearest alternative school.

Mrs Swift commented that Governing Bodies were anxiously waiting for the consultation to end and queried what would happen to those schools who were sitting on large surplus budget balances which they had carried forward. The Finance Manager, Education Services confirmed the capping mechanism had been removed a few years ago and however some schools were carrying money forward because of required capital works or to assist contingency plans following the Reform.

Councillor Gunn suggested getting the information that this was a Government reform, into the public domain should to be a priority. Councillor Armstrong agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young Peoples Services would be consulted in circulating information to all Members, Schools and how to address and keep the public informed. It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Children and Young People's Services which advised the Portfolio Holder of the Committees concerns and requested a communication plan be put in place following the outcome of the consultation to ensure that the relevant information was disseminated and all concerned be informed that any future funding reductions as a result of the reforms were not within the Council's control.

Resolved

That the report be noted and a letter be sent to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services, as requested.

9 Children and Young People's Services Ofsted Single Inspection Framework

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Services which presented Members with the final improvement plan for submission to Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) following the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in February 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Children's Services presented Members with an overview of the report and confirmed that the Service response was not entirely with regards to the outcome of the

Ofsted Inspection, as they had already been working towards making improvements before receiving the judgement. She reassured the Committee that the whole workforce was committed to responding to the outcome of the Inspection.

The Chairman confirmed that the work plan included a presentation to the Committee on the role of Social Workers and would give Members an idea of the problems that were faced within the Service.

Councillor Hall queried the response of Local Authorities to make improvements on the outcome Ofsted Inspections and suggested that occasionally the response was to throw money at the Service. The Head of Children's Services agreed that was sometimes the case and referred to Stockton Borough Council who had been offering new employees up to £10000 for signing up with them. She was pleased to report that Durham had only lost a couple of employees because of this, however there was a worry that the Social Work Programmes which were being offered by Durham, would be used to gain excellent skills through training would then be recruited by other Councils. There was also an issue in recruiting Managers as people didn't seem to want the responsibility. A Management Development Programme had been started alongside South Tyneside Council, and now Durham was continuing to offer the programme in the hope that it would give people the confidence to put in for those roles that were proving difficult to fill.

In response to a query from Councillor Hart, the Head of Children's Service confirmed that cases were open longer, but the new model of work did take longer to complete. In addition the Court process was taking a lot longer, which had in turn impacted on the time it took to go through the adoption process. There had been a 20% increase in the number of care orders and interim care orders which required Court involvement and therefore impacting on cases. Considering the problems in recruiting Social Workers, there had also been an increase in LAC's - there were 120 more than there had been in 2014.

Councillor Hart then queried why £360k was being spent on agency staff and the Head of Children's Services confirmed that it was simply because agency staff were paid more. People were signing up to agencies as they were paid twice as much for carrying out the same work and were not tied into the Councils terms and conditions.

Councillor Hart referred to the extensive amount of work the Portfolio Holder had to do and suggested that like Newcastle City Council, it could be beneficial to have a Junior Cabinet Member to share the responsibilities. The Head of Children's Services confirmed that the Service was well supported by the current Portfolio Holder and Councillor Armstrong confirmed that should Councillor Hart wish to make suggestions about the structure of Cabinet, that he should put them in writing to the Group Secretary.

With regards to the relationship with Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Head of Children's Services confirmed that there had always been good engagement with Members, however it was acknowledged that there had been oversights with regards to the reports presented to the Committee. For example, Members were regularly updated on performance but there were never any performance issues and this may have led to false assurances. One of the themes covering the 14 recommendations identified by Ofsted was to strengthen political and management oversight and Members could be assured that there would be more transparency in future.

Councillor Armstrong confirmed that all Members of the Council were Corporate Parents and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny had a strategic role, therefore the Committee would receive an overview on the Role of the Social Worker to a future meeting of the committee.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

10 Draft Oral Health Strategy For County Durham

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Public Health which presented Members with the Draft Oral Health Strategy for County Durham for consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

The Portfolio Lead, Public Health presented Members with an Overview of the report.

Councillor Armstrong confirmed that there was evidence in North West Durham that fluoridation worked and recommended that the information be presented to Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Gunn welcomed the report and commented on how far schools had come with regards to restricting the amount of refined sugar in schools and encouraging fruit as an alternative. The problems with regards to adult oral hygiene, were compounded by a phobia that many people had of dentists was and also poor oral health in residential homes. The Portfolio Lead, Public Health also drew members' attention to the link between areas of deprivation and poor oral health.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

11 CAS - Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 and CAS - Quarter 1: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2016/17

The Committee considered reports of the Head of Finance which provided them with details of the actual outturn budget position for the CAS service grouping based on the final position at the year end, and details of the forecast outturn budget position based on the position to the end of June 2016 (for copies see file of minutes).

Resolved

That the reports be noted.

12 Quarter One 2016/17 Performance Management Report

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Management Team which presented progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators, Council Plan, and service plan actions and other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering the period April to June 2016 (for copies see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management presented Members with an overview of the report.

Councillor Hart queried whether there had been a response a question he had raised at the meeting in July with regards to CASCYP 30 and the waiting times for CAMHS referrals. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management confirmed that a response had been received from the CCG and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust. Both had ~~had~~ acknowledged that the 22% increase in referrals needed addressing, possibly by re-evaluating the service in order for patients who require lower level services to be referred quickly and also free up clinical staff to treat patients requiring more complex treatment. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the written response would be forwarded to Councillor Hart following the meeting.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

13 Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

Members received a copy of the Summary of Minutes from the Children and Family Partnership (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved

That the minutes be noted.

14 Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Councillor Gunn confirmed that at the meeting on 1 April 2016, she had raised the issue with regards to the management of school exclusions and asked that it was included as part of the Work Programme. The Chairman confirmed that this issue would be covered at the meeting in February 2017.

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 27 October 2016 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, K Corrigan and D Hall

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Kinch

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Gunn, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, K Hopper, P Lawton, S Morrison, M Nicholls, M Simmons, H Smith and Mrs A Swift (Faith Rep)

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Gunn, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, K Hopper, P Lawton, S Morrison, M Nicholls, M Simmons, H Smith and Mrs A Swift.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

4 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

5 Childhood Obesity in County Durham

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which provided an introduction to workshop activity on Childhood Obesity in County Durham.

A joint presentation was given with contribution from Public Health, Culture and Sport, 0-19 Services, Harrogate and District Foundation Trust, Tech and Learn Assessment Secondary and East Durham AAP.

The Interim Director of Public Health commenced a joint presentation on Childhood Obesity which provided Members with a typical case study of a day in the life of a typical family (for copy see file of minutes).

The Interim Director of Public Health confirmed a number of presumptions made by the general public with regards to Childhood Obesity were untrue and although it was presumed to be as a result of overeating, malnutrition and the type of food that children were accessing was also an issue.

Parents were unable to notice when their child was overweight as it had become such a common issue and therefore appeared normal in comparison to other children of the same age. The costs incurred by the NHS were at a cost to society obesity also had an impact on employers due to sickness absence in the workplace.

The Government had issued a Childhood Obesity Plan which had highlighted the importance of the public sector and detailed of the introduction of a sugar tax levy to be implemented.

In December 2015 Durham had been given the opportunity to be one of four Local Authorities to work with Leeds Beckett University in a national pilot, identifying a whole systems approach to tackle Obesity.

The Public Health Portfolio Lead described a typical morning breakfast time with a typical supermarket product range aimed at children and heavily promoted sugar products, with many price promoted products, which was known to equate to 60% of a typical shopping basket.

In response to a question from Councillor Armstrong the Interim Director of Public Health confirmed that a Council in the North West had launched a campaign showing how many sugar cubes were in individual drinks and there was pressure for this to be included on food labelling. Councillor Armstrong queried the rate of sickness absence in the workplace due to obesity and the Interim Director of Public Health confirmed that national evidence indicated an extra four days per year. The Public Health Portfolio Lead confirmed that the financial implications equated to £125k per 1000 employees.

The 0-19 Services Harrogate & District Foundation Trust confirmed that BMI would be measured at a child's two year check with Health Visitors and there were plans to reduce the number of contacts for weights and measures to avoid the impression that weight gain in infants was always positive. After a baby is born, an increase in weight was expected and parents were attending weekly clinics and associating weight gain as a positive process in growth, therefore it was difficult to send out a different message as a child grew older. Weighing at 5 weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks would be carried out on all babies', then a Health Visitor Contact would be between 6-8 weeks and then 6 months and 12 months. The next important weight would be measured at a 2 year contact, where BMI became relevant and would therefore also be recorded.

In response to a question from Councillor Potts the Public Health Portfolio Lead confirmed that there were certain areas within County Durham with significant weight problems and although the data was three years old, deprivation was a relatable factor. The two areas which were most at risk were Sedgefield and Easington and in response to a question from Mr Kinch, the Public Health Portfolio Lead confirmed that there was not currently any data with regards to obesity and children who received free school meals.

There were a significant number of missed appointments with regards to Specialist Services in County Durham. Missed appointments would trigger an alert for the consideration of safeguarding issues such as neglect, however cancelled or rescheduled appointments would not trigger an alert.

The Service Manager, Culture and Sport referred to the Change4Life programme which encouraged children of pre-school age and school age do 180 minutes and 60 minutes of activity bursts daily. The Council was promoting walking to school and a walking school bus was used in some schools throughout the County, however this was parent led and therefore relied on volunteers to ensure its longevity. School crossing patrols ensured safe walking routes and Bikeability was by schools to encourage and promote safe cycling to school.

It was highlighted that Secondary School children were more focused on attainment and time for activities was reduced – lunch times were sometimes reduced to combat behavioural challenges and school days were being reduced further with some finishing at 3pm.

With regards to School Meals, the Health and Wellbeing Lead confirmed that some schools were restricting sugar products from being taken into school. Following the campaign by Jamie Oliver, the Dfe had commissioned the School Food Plan in 2013 which had recommended 17 actions for School Governors and Head Teachers to consider. In response to Councillor Armstrong who had not had sight of the plan, the Health and Wellbeing Lead confirmed that she would request the Lead Governance Manager recirculate the information.

In response to a comment from Councillor Armstrong regarding Head Teachers' responsibility for their own policies within School, the Health and Wellbeing Lead confirmed that food contained within packed lunches could be restricted if necessary, and suggested that Members make a recommendation for all Schools to consider implementing policies.

The Principle Community Development Officer, East Durham AAP, confirmed that Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) had developed and funded a number of after school activities or holiday activity programmes which included:

The 4 Together Partnerships offered a programme for all members of the community - The Healthy Changes Project included sessions with regards to healthy eating on a budget. The 3 Towns AAP offered a Physical Activity Partnership Outreach Project which focused on physical activity and wellbeing for early years children. Councillor Armstrong advised that AAP's prioritised children in their action plans and any potential projects or programmes could be considered at coordinated meetings.

East Durham AAP had been running a successful programme to assist in addressing holiday hunger, which had provided 5056 meals in total with 3189 children benefitting from the scheme. Peterlee one point had also served 670 meals.

There was a huge issue with sugary drinks as some contained a third of the recommended daily intake for young people and with regards to advertising, there was hope that vending machines containing high sugar produce could hide brands in a similar way to how cigarettes had been hidden in shops. Energy drinks were something that had become popular amongst school children and had almost treble the amount of sugar in than high performance sports drinks. In response to a comment from Mr Kinch, the Principle Community Development Officer confirmed that there could be a link to antisocial behaviour and some schools had complained of behavioural issues in school as a result of children drinking them. There was also a worry that they could contribute to the early consumption of alcohol. With regards to a typical high street, Takeaways had almost taken over and children could easily access them on an evening.

The Service Manager, Culture and Sport confirmed that County Durham had quality play areas which were accessible and section 106 agreements could be used to ensure that outdoor play was provided or maintained. Outdoor play was also encouraged and in some areas, cars could be prohibited between specific times to allow children designated play time. The Council had also reduced the speed limit outside of some schools to 20mph to ensure child safety.

Councillor Potts advised that the format of the presentation was both interesting and engaging and thanked Officers for taking the time to put it together.

Councillor Armstrong reiterated the importance of Partnerships and of ensuring good working practices continued in future notwithstanding the budget savings of £65m over the coming years.

6 Next Steps

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9 November 2016 at Wellfield School, Wingate.

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held at Wellfield Community School on **Wednesday 9 November 2016 at 9.40 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors D Bell, J Hart, P Lawton and H Smith

Faith Community Representative:

Mrs A Swift

Co-opted Members:

Miss K Ashcroft

Also Present:

Councillor T Smith

The meeting was not quorate and any item of business which was not for information would be considered at the next meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Armstrong, K Corrigan, D Hall, C Hampson, D Hicks, K Hopper, L Pounder, S Morrison, M Simmons, P Stradling and Mr D Kinch.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2016 could not be approved as the meeting was not quorate so they would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to recent press articles relating to the remit of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The articles were:

- Council looks to Increase support for Care Leavers - Care leavers could soon be given more help to beat the "benefits trap" with Durham County Council looking at funding up to 10 people into apprenticeships and jobs every year.
- Play Parks Across Co Durham in line for Modern Revamp thank to £1.75 m funding.
- National Award for Co Durham Schools - More than a dozen County Durham schools have been recognised by the British Council for outstanding international teaching and learning.

Councillor Hart questioned the identification and selection of media stories for this item to which the Chair noted his comments.

7 Young Carers Update

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Director Transformation and Partnerships and the Interim Corporate Director Children & Young People's Services which provided an update on Young Carers in County Durham (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Members received a presentation from the Strategic Manager, Children's Services Reform that provided the background; priorities in December 2015 when the last update was received; progress since December 2015 including the Horizons project which helped young people in the transition to adulthood; Raising Aspirations a Bridge Young Carers Project which supports young carers to attend university open days, Referrals to the Bridge Young Carers Project has increased with 190 referrals from a range of agencies and 132 assessments. Breaks and opportunities continue to be offered to young carers ranging from non-residential breaks, residential breaks and opportunities such as driving lessons to bus passes and sports equipment.

Progress has been made in the development of an E-Learning module, Carers Card Discount Scheme and the Young Carers Service has been marketed. The Bridge Project had worked with Macmillan Cancer Care to support carers of cancer sufferers and this work has been shortlisted for a Children and Young People Now national award. Members were advised that improvements had been made to the website and Bishop Auckland and Shildon Area Action Partnership had received a Young Carer Neighbourhood Charter. Priorities for 2016/17 were to continue to improve engagement among all services and to continue to implement the Young Carer Charter to improve the identification of children and young people with caring responsibilities. It was highlighted that when adults are being discharged from hospital questions should be asked as to who will be taking on caring responsibilities and responsibilities for administering drugs (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

Councillor Hart asked if they reached all children who were carers would they have the resources available.

Officers responded that not all young carers had a detrimental impact. The lower level needs were to ensure that they were attending school. The One Point service meant that children were in their sights and they could refer to more intense services if needed.

The Head of Education advised that all schools had a duty to support young carers and had a universal service to support young carers and sometimes it was just arranging for pupils to arrive late at school to enable them to take younger siblings to school or allow them to bring a mobile telephone into lessons.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for her presentation and asked if she could provide Members with an update at a later stage.

The Chairman welcomed pupils from Wellfield School who had joined the meeting and the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager gave a presentation to the pupils on Scrutiny in Durham.

8 Educational Attainment of Looked After Children

The Committee considered the Joint Report of the Director of Transformation & Partnership and Interim Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services that provided Members with details of the educational attainment of looked after children (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Members received a presentation from the Strategic Lead, Special Education Needs and Disabilities, Standards and Improvement, Virtual School Head that outlined the Headlines; SEND data for Key Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4; attendance and exclusion and areas for further development (for copy of slides, see file of minutes).

The Virtual Head explained that all looked after children were her pupils and her case managers acted as pushy parents with schools. The Virtual Head advised members that at Key Stage 2 (KS2) looked after children in Durham performed better than any other KS2 children in Durham. At KS4 30% of looked after children achieved five GCSEs A*-C and one girl had achieved a total of 11 GCSEs nine of which were A* including maths which was an outstanding achievement. Members were informed that looked after girls outperformed looked after boys but there were more looked after boys than girls.

Durham's looked after children attend school regularly with an overall attendance of 98% and a persistence attendance of 3%. Members were advised there were no permanent exclusions and 6% fixed term exclusions, but this was too high and work was being undertaken with schools to reduce this figure.

The Virtual Head advised that there were several areas for development which included writing for KS1 looked after children; grammar, punctuation and spelling for looked after children at KS2 and English and maths for KS4 looked after children. Further development was needed in for transfer between phases including post 16 to raise aspirations.

Councillor T Smith congratulated the Virtual Head on the excellent results and queried whether the Virtual School be rolled out to Children in Need.

The Virtual Head responded that the remit of the Virtual School had been extended to include adopted children and Children In Need could possibly be included in the future and went on to advise members that currently results among adopted children were lower than looked after children but coming out of the care system and going into a stable family was stressful for children.

Councillor Hart asked if the Virtual Head provided pastoral support.

Officers responded that each case worker had 15 children and a school would contact them in the first instance. Inclusion workers all had a speciality i.e. music, Lego and writing.

Councillor Hart sought clarification if there was a designated teacher/governor for looked after children in every school and how foster carers can get the balance right as pushy parents. The Virtual Head responded that there was a designated person in each school who also received the relevant training. They also trained foster carers on the basics in education and what role they could take and if this was not done they would step in and ask the questions of the school. They had also invested a lot of resources in to support looked after children with reading through the letterbox programme; looked after children were also supported to attend after school clubs and summer clubs.

Councillor T Smith sought clarification if the Virtual School used tutors to help and support looked after children in readiness for GCSE and 'A' level examinations. The Virtual Head responded that they had access to specialist teachers but would buy in subject specialists to provide one to one support if needed.

9 Education Services Update

The Committee considered the Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services that provided Members with updated information on educational outcomes in County Durham and related updates on the focus and provision of education services (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manger Education Development Services presented the report and circulated to Members details of the KS4 2016 outcomes; the new GCSE performance measures in 2016 and the regional results (for copy, see file of minutes).

Members were advised that the early learning goals gap at Early Years Foundation Stage had reduced considerably and was level to the national figure for all. The gender gap had been closed by two percentage points and the gap between children receiving free school meals and all children was reducing.

The Strategic Manager for Educational Development and Improvement indicted that 2025 two year olds had been placed in County Durham during the current term and that these figures placed Durham 24th out of 152 local authorities.

In terms of Ofsted outcomes Durham was also a highly effective local authority with 90% of good or better PVI settings and 93% of good or better primary schools.

At Key Stage (KS) 1 outcomes had been a priority for the local authority and while the gap between national and local had been reducing this was the first year where national figures were exceeded. At KS2 attainment levels across the local authority continued to be strong against national levels and the trend of improvement continued.

Although results at KS4 were not validated until later in the school year they indicate progress of pupils, English has significantly improved and there was moderate improvement in maths. Members were advised of new GCSE performance measures, Attainment 8 which is the points score awarded to a pupil across 8 qualifications with English and maths being double weighted and Progress 8 which is based on a calculation of pupil's performance across the same eight qualifications using the base line from KS2.

Members were advised that A Level, AS Level and vocational qualifications had gone through major reforms but despite this results for County Durham students had remained broadly consistent with the success of previous years.

It was reported that nationally the government had dropped its plan for a Bill to force all schools to become academies and consultation continues on the 'Schools that work for Everyone' green paper which include lifting a ban on new grammar schools and allowing faith schools to select 100% of its pupils based on their faith.

Councillor Hart asked for the figures in relation to academies.

The Officer responded that the results would be validated in January so he would be able to provide the figures after this date.

In response to a question from Councillor T Smith in relation to whether modern foreign language teaching was in decline the Strategic Manager replied that language teaching nationally was in decline.

10 Annual Report of the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel Report

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services that presented the report to Members on the Annual report of the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel Report for April 2015 – March 2016 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Head of Children's Services was in attendance to present the report and highlighted changes to the Adoption Service, challenges, key achievements and priorities for the coming year. Members were informed that the performance of the adoption service had been assessed as good by Ofsted in the recent inspection.

Members were advised that the adoption process via the courts could be a slow process and outcomes may not be as expected as courts had in some cases chosen to provide guardianship orders to extended family rather than adoption.

Councillor Hart referred to the reasons for people not progressing through the adoption recruitment process and queried smoking or recent cessation of smoking as a reason for applications that had not been progressed and how the numbers for cessation of smoking was falling.

The Head of Children's Services indicated that the bar for parents was set high and there were health risks from smoking and passive smoking and the County Council had a no smoking policy.

11 Annual Report of the Fostering Panels and the Fostering Service

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services that provided Members with details on the activity of the fostering service (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Head of Children's Services was in attendance to present the report and highlighted the robust marketing strategy to increase the number of fostering applicants to Durham; further develop the Fostering Plus Scheme to provide care for children with complex needs; implement a review of the fostering service to ensure efficient and effective use of resources the outcome of this review is expected Spring 2017 and to deliver initiatives to promote fostering such as social media campaigns, liveried vehicles and targeted recruitment to specialist fostering programmes.

The Chair suggested presenting information on Fostering recruitment to Area Action Partnerships to which the Head of Children's Services agreed this would be very welcome as they wanted to get the word out far and wide.

12 Durham Local Safeguarding Annual Report

The Committee considered the report of the Independent Chair of Local Safeguarding Children's Board that presented to Members the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report for 2015-16 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Independent Chair of Local Safeguarding Children's Board presented the Annual Report set out the priorities of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board for 2016-2019; achievements and progress made in the past year and areas for development. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board had delivered taxi driver awareness training of Child Sexual Exploitation to over 1000 taxi drivers and had delivered a comprehensive training plan to frontline staff and managers. They had increased visibility and partnership working through the implementation of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board Marketing and Communications Strategy.

In relation to further development the Independent Chair advised that quality assurance and performance management processes were further developed to provide a detailed and comprehensive picture of the quality and impact of frontline practice; that quality assurance and audit work contribute to understanding the impact of training and embedding lessons learned from serious case reviews and developing more effective feedback processes from children, young people and families who have received child protection services to support ongoing service improvement.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board Business Unit Manager advised Members that the Annual Report for Young People 2015/16 would be officially launched on the 15 November 2016 with the County Durham Young Persons' Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner.

The Chair asked if members of the committee could receive a copy of the Annual Report for Young People 2015/2016 following its launch. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board Business Unit Manager agreed that she would send it to the Scrutiny Officer for distribution.

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Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2017



Role of the Social Worker - Overview

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships and Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director - Children & Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to raise awareness and understanding among members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny committee of the role of the social worker in Durham County Council.
- 2 Mark Gurney Strategic Manager for Child Protection and Disability and Principal Social Worker will present a power point presentation to members of the committee which will include the range of work covered by Children's Services Social Workers.

Background and Legislation

- 3 The fundamental purpose of children's social care is to make sure that the most vulnerable children can have a safe and dependable foundation from which to grow and flourish.
- 4 Children's Services in County Durham have the lead responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children with a key aim to provide early help for children and families and protection for those that need it.
- 5 Services are delivered under legislative frameworks and associated guidance; the primary legislation is the Children Act 1989 but it is estimated that since 1987 there have been 98 separate acts of parliament and over 400 different sets of associated statutory guidance and initiatives that directly impact on children and young people. Other critical pieces of legislation and guidance include the Adoption and Children Act 2002, Children Act 2004, Care Leavers Act 2002, Children and Families Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013.
- 6 In England social work is a degree level profession and social workers must also be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council, which set standards of conduct and proficiency.
- 7 As in all other Local Authorities which have statutory responsibilities to deliver children's services, children's social work in County Durham is performed within a highly regulated and statutorily organised environment.
- 8 This statutory framework sets the parameters around many aspects of social work activity – for example maximum timescales for undertaking an assessment,

visiting frequencies to children who are looked after, the role of the social worker as the key worker for children on a child protection plan and lead assessor for children who are defined as children in need under the Children Act 1989.

- 9 Members will be aware that there is an accompanying performance management framework that enables a detailed understanding of the activity of social workers and their teams. Managers receive a monthly team profile with 49 indicators of team performance, ranging from completion of assessments within timescales, child protection conferences occurring within 15 days of a strategy meeting along with HR data such as vacancies, supervisions and appraisals.
- 10 Local Authorities are required to submit data returns on their performance to the DfE and this is aggregated into annual reports with an emphasis on safeguarding children and children who are looked after or adopted. Measures that are included are: types of placement of looked after children, placement stability, and educational attainment.
- 11 The nationally collected data supports the availability of data for the purposes of accountability and transparency at national and local level, and provides benchmarks of national performance against which performance can be judged locally. It is collected through a range of statutory data collection exercises including the children in need census which is a large scale data collection exercise that is submitted in the May of each year.
- 12 Local Authority Children and Family Social Work functions are inspected and regulated by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted). Ofsted is a non-ministerial department of Government.
- 13 Local Authorities are also expected to designate a Principal Child and Family Social Worker. This role was created following the recommendations of the Munro Review of Child Protection in 2011. The person holding the role is expected to be a senior manager who has lead responsibility for practice and can report the views of front-line practitioners to all levels of management including the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, Chief Executive and Council Leaders. At a national level the Principal Social Worker Network is valued as a source of valuable professional insight by the DfE and Chief Social Worker. In Durham County Council the post is held by Mark Gurney, Strategic Manager Child Protection and Disability.

Service Structure

- 14 Child and Family Social Work workforce in County Durham is delivered via a number of teams. These are as follows:
 - **First Contact:** this is a social work led service which receives and processes all requests and referrals for assessment to Children's Social Care. The team is co-located with colleagues from the police and NHS so that all safeguarding referrals are triaged through a multi-agency safeguarding hub (often referred to as MASH).

- **11 Families First Teams:** offering assessment and intervention to children in need and their families, including carrying out child protection inquiries, supporting children on a child protection plan and reducing risk of significant harm or the need to become looked after by the Local Authority.
- **3 Child Protection/Court Work Teams:** managing cases where there may be a need to offer a family one final chance before issuing care proceedings and also those cases where the risk is so great that the Local Authority has put the matter before the Court.
- **2 0-13 and 14-25 Children with a Disability/Transitions Teams:** these teams carry the cases of the children with the most complex disabilities and/or life-limiting illnesses. The Transitions Team works to ensure a smooth transition for those young people who will require services as young adults from Adult Services.
- **3 Looked After/Permanence Teams:** there are 3 teams in the Looked After Service that support children and young people who are in permanent and long term looked after placements such as foster care or residential care. The Permanence 3 Team specialises in preparing reports to support the decision to place children for adoption and also works with colleagues in the Adoption Service to find and match suitable families for these children.
- **2 Young People's Service Teams:** these 2 teams support care leavers (in some cases up to the age of 25) as well as vulnerable young people aged 16-18 including unaccompanied asylum seekers and young people who may be vulnerable to homelessness.
- **3 Fostering Teams and 1 Adoption Team:** these teams recruit, assess and support foster carers and adopters as well as providing post-adoption "post-box" contact arrangements for parents whose children have been adopted.
- **Full Circle Service:** this team provides therapeutic support to children who have experienced traumatic life experiences and/or have attachment issues. The team supports children and their foster carers or adopters where they may be associated attachment or emotional/behavioural issues.
- **Youth offending Service:** as part of the multi-agency service, several social workers are employed within the Youth Offending Service.
- In addition to the above, Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) who have a statutory responsibility to oversee care planning for looked after children (and in Durham also act as independent chairs of child protection conferences) must be qualified social workers. There are also regulatory requirements for managers of children's homes to hold designated qualifications, of which a social work qualification is one example.
- Excluding managers and independent reviewing officers, 245 social worker employees within Durham County Council renewed their HCPC registration at the end of November 2016.

Casework Examples

- 15 At the time of writing this report there are 3,732 active cases across the Service. 773 of these cases are children who are looked after by the Local Authority, 434 are children who are on a child protection plan and 362 are young people who are 16+ including care leavers. The remaining 2163 cases are children in need age 0 – 16 across the County.
- 16 Durham County Council has issued 165 sets of care proceedings in the last 12 months involving over 200 children.
- 17 On a typical day therefore the type of work that will be carried out by children and family social workers in County Durham could include:
 - Undertaking an assessment of children in a family where there have been a number of domestic abuse referrals to the police; this would include support to the mother as a victim of abuse, encouraging her male partner to accept responsibility for his violence and seek support from a perpetrator group and working with the children to understand and address the impact on their emotional and psychological well-being of witnessing domestic abuse.
 - Working with a mother with mental health issues to identify who in her extended family may look after her child if she attends as a voluntary patient at hospital and working with the child to understand what is happening because their mother is unwell.
 - Attending a team around the family meeting with the parents of a child with significant physical and learning disabilities to ensure that the care package meets the child's needs and also supports the parents as the child's carers.
 - Attending a meeting with parents and their solicitor at a meeting before proceedings, also attended by the Local Authority's solicitor. This might be a case where a protection plan to address concerns about neglect (household cleanliness, children's personal hygiene and attendance at medical appointments and school for the children) is not working well and the meeting would issue a letter before proceedings – effectively giving the parents one final opportunity to change before care proceedings are issued.
 - Giving evidence and being cross examined in Court at a contested hearing where the Local Authority's care plan of permanent removal of the children from the care of their parents has been challenged by the parents.
 - Visiting two children who are placed in permanent care with family members who have been approved as foster carers; the family resides in West London and the children attend local schools and health services and the Local Authority needs to ensure through regular visiting that the placement is meeting their long term needs and the children feel safe and supported.

- Working with a vulnerable 17 year old who has been at risk of homelessness and whose current accommodation is becoming problematic due to her behaviour.
- Visiting prospective adopters to discuss the potential placement of a child who has been approved for adoption is awaiting a suitable match for a permanence adoptive family.

Current Pressures

- 18 In common with other Children's Services Local Authorities Durham County council faces a number of pressures to delivering its children's social work services.
- 19 The number of current vacancies across the service is 23. Vacancies are covered by the use of agency staff and there is an active recruitment and retention programme chaired by Carole Payne, Head of Children's Services.
- 20 The main recruitment issue is with suitably qualified and experienced staff; we can recruit and train newly qualified workers and currently have 30 across the service. Newly qualified workers require an assessed and supported year in practice and we are able to support them in teams or through the Social Work Academy (a time-limited funded opportunity for a more bespoke model of support in the 1st year post qualification). However it is acknowledged that by virtue of their limited experience and knowledge, they are not well placed to take on the most complex and challenging work.
- 21 Members will be aware that following the Ofsted Inspection in March 2016 there are key challenges to ensure consistent quality of service delivery. This is being managed through the Quality Improvement Programme overseen by the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services.
- 22 Issues have also arisen about high caseloads in some parts of the service. High caseloads have a significant impact on the capacity of practitioners to deliver high quality work. We aim to achieve a caseload of 20 cases per worker across the service for full time experienced workers and 10-15 for newly qualified practitioners. At the time of writing, caseloads in the service average 22.
- 23 Whilst the total number of cases across the service has remained broadly the same for the past 12 months (approx. 3500 at any one time), at the same time the service has seen an escalation in numbers of children on a child protection plan and looked after children. The number of child on a CP plan has grown from 348 on 31/12/2015 to 434 to date (increase of 86). The number of children looked after has grown from 665 to 773, an increase of 108.
- 24 Escalation in the number of such cases means that the service faces additional pressures in terms of case complexity and challenge. These numbers also are reflected in the increase in numbers of care proceedings referred to in paragraph 14 above.
- 25 Increased case complexity alongside the need to ensure a suitably qualified and experienced workforce are able to continue to deliver a high quality service to

the most vulnerable children and families in the County are the key challenges facing the service at present.

Conclusion

- 26 This report has provided Members with an overview of the range and complexity of child and family social work in County Durham. The legislative framework and the associated statutory guidance that underpin the Local Authority's responsibilities are outlined.
- 27 The pressures on Durham County Council to continue to meet its statutory responsibilities to children in need and children looked after are also summarised as are the actions currently being taken to address these pressures.

Recommendations

- 28 Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:
- i. Note the content of the presentation
 - ii. Comment accordingly on the presentation
 - iii. Indicate if more information is required from the service.

Background Papers

None

Contact: Mark Gurney, Strategic Manager Child Protection & Disability
Tel: 03000 265758

Ann Whitton, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 03000 268143

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing - None

Risk – The report outlines the statutory and regulatory background to the provision of children’s social work services. A key part of this work is to ensure that the welfare of children and young people across the County is actively promoted and that they are safeguarded from risk of significant harm.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – The report highlights the legal framework that underpins the delivery of statutory social work services to children and families in the Council

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

16 January 2017



**Quarter 2 2016/17
Performance Management Report**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate performance framework for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme for the second quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering the period July to September 2016.

Background

2. Work is underway to review how we present performance information in the clearest possible way. This quarter we have tightened the format of the report to make it more concise. We have included an Executive Summary which outlines key performance messages from data released this quarter. We have reviewed the Altogether theme moving from a narrative format to an at a glance, more visual style presentation of one summary page per Altogether theme which presents key data messages showing, where available, the latest position in trends and how we compare to others.
3. A more comprehensive table of all performance data is presented as usual in Appendix 3.
4. Key performance indicator progress is still 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; 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.
5. We will continue to look at ways to further develop the format of the report, as part of the transformation programme, to provide a clearer way of understanding how the council is performing, with the leanest possible process.

6. An outline of the colour rating applied to our performance and the groups we use to compare ourselves is outlined in Appendix 2.
7. To support the complete indicator set, a guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2016/17 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.

Executive Summary

Key performance messages from data released this quarter

8. The council has a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the development of all children and young people in County Durham. This includes specific duties in relation to three key areas; our corporate parent role for looked after children; child assessment and safeguarding; and delivery of universal services such as early help, education and health.
9. At September 2016 there were 731 looked after children (LAC) in County Durham, more than last year (661). The increased rate reflects a national and regional trend. The upward trajectory in County Durham is felt to reflect better social work practice, particularly in relation to the identification of neglect. It is not anticipated that the recent upward trend will significantly decrease as the majority of LAC in County Durham have a long-term plan for permanence eg. children are placed with foster carer (currently around 70%). The number of LAC continues to be monitored closely by Children and Young People's Service senior management to ensure looked after arrangements are appropriate and children have access to suitable care to meet their needs.
10. Timeliness of care plan reviews has worsened for looked after children however all reviews have now been completed and strategies have been put in place to prevent future delays. Looked after children reviews show there were four reviews held out of timescale, involving seven children.
11. Turning to assessment and safeguarding services, between April and September 2016, there were 2,354 referrals of children in need (CiN). This is fewer than last year (3,282), but it is of concern that the proportion of re-referrals (occurring within 12 months of previous referral) has increased. Work is underway to look at this through an audit. More children are having their assessments done on time, a significant improvement. Although the target was not met all immediate safeguarding referrals were processed within 24 hours. The service continues to address challenges with recruitment and retention of social work staff in the Family First team and Child Protection team as identified in the Ofsted report.
12. Timeliness of care plan reviews for children subject to a child protection plan has worsened with five child protection reviews, relating to eight children, held out of timescale in quarter two. All reviews are now complete. There are various reasons which led to reviews having to be rearranged and therefore going out of

timescale including parental attendance and unavailability of conference reports. The review is an important element of ensuring the quality of care for children and young people and strategies have been put in place by the Independent Reviewing Officer Service to ensure the timing of reviews is closely monitored to try to prevent further reviews going out of timescales.

13. Performance in relation to universal services around child health shows under 18 conceptions continue to reduce and are the lowest since reporting began in 1998 although not as low as the England average. The number of mothers smoking at delivery has reduced from last year but remains worse than regional and national comparators.
14. In relation to educational attainment, children in Durham are performing well across the different key stages. Provisional figures for 2015/16 show children in early years have higher achievement rates than last year, a rate that is in line with national and regional averages. At GCSE level, the new government measure, Attainment 8 has been introduced to focus on pupils' performance across their best eight qualifications measured on a points award basis, with each grade worth points on an ascending scale. Under this new system, Durham's GCSE results are in line with national and regional averages. At A level, there is also a newly introduced measure, the Average Point Score, translating letter grades into numbers and pupils in Durham are performing better than the national and regional average.

Volume of Activity

15. Although the number of children in need referrals received reduced this period, the number of children with a child protection plan and the number of looked after children cases continue to increase. The latest position in volume trends is presented in the charts available at Appendix 4.

Risk Management

16. Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects.
17. The key risks in delivering the ambitions of this priority theme and how we are managing them is:

Altogether Better for Children and Young People: *Failure to protect a child from death or serious harm (where service failure is a factor or issue).* Management consider it possible that this risk could occur which, in addition to the severe impacts on children, will result in serious damage to the council's reputation and to relationships with its safeguarding partners. To mitigate the risk, actions are taken forward from serious case reviews and reported to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Lessons learned are fed into training for front line staff and regular staff supervision takes place. This risk is long term and procedures are reviewed regularly. (critical / possible)

Key data messages by Altogether Theme

18. The next section provides a one page summary of key data messages for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme. The format of the Altogether theme has been revised to provide a snap shot overview aimed to ensure that key performance messages are easy to identify. The Altogether theme is supplemented by information and data relating to the complete indicator set, provided at Appendix 3.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

Corporate parenting		Child safeguarding: How are we responding?							
<p>731 Looked after children (LAC) (30 Sep16), more than last year (661)</p>	<p>LAC reviews completed within timescale (Tracker PI)</p> <p>96.2%</p>	<p>Child's journey</p>	<p>2,354 Children in need referrals (CiN) (Apr–Sep 16), fewer than last year (3,189).</p>	<p>First contact enquiries processed in 24 hrs Target of 85% not met</p> <p>71.5%</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Sep 16 there were 731 LAC in the county, around 70% of these have a plan for permanence. Durham's LAC rate (72.9 per 10,000) is better than North East average (84) but worse than England average (60). At Key stage 4, GCSE Average Attainment 8 score of looked after children is 31.5. Review of support for young people moving from Children's Services into adult social care completed ahead of schedule (Mar 17). 			<p>1,952 Single Assessments(Apr–Sep 16), fewer than last year (2977).</p>	<p>CiN referrals occurred within 12 months of previous referral Target of 20.7% not met</p> <p>23.8%</p>					
			<p>406 Children with a child protection plan (CPP) (30 Sep 16), more than last year (340).</p>	<p>Single assessments completed in 45 days Target of 85% not met</p> <p>82%</p>					
			<p>161 Child sexual exploitation referrals (Oct 15-Sep16), 17% fewer than last year.</p>	<p>Children with a CPP with all reviews completed within timescale (Tracker)</p> <p>91.4%</p> <p>✓ Durham's Children with a CPP rate (40.5 per 10,000) is better than both North East (59.6) and England (43.1) averages.</p>					
<p>Education- provisional data</p> <p>A new way to judge the pupils' attainment at GCSE and A levels has been introduced by translating pupils' attainment grades into points.</p>		<p>Health</p>							
<p>Early Years 69%</p>	<p>✓ Children in early years achieving good level of development, met target of 64%, in line with North East (68.4%) and national (69.3%) averages.</p>	<p>Under 18 conception rate (per 1,000 population) Lowest since reporting began in 1998 (Jul 14-Jun 15).</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Durham</th> <th>North East</th> <th>England</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>26.4 (222 conceptions)</td> <td>28.6 ✓</td> <td>21.8 ✗</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Durham	North East	England	26.4 (222 conceptions)	28.6 ✓	21.8 ✗
Durham	North East	England							
26.4 (222 conceptions)	28.6 ✓	21.8 ✗							
<p>KS 4 49 points</p>	<p>✓ GCSE Average Attainment 8 Score, in line with North East (48.5 points) and England (49.8 points) averages.</p>	<p>Mothers smoking at time of delivery* Achieved target (17.2%) and is an improvement on last year (18.1%).</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Durham</th> <th>North East</th> <th>England</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16.6%</td> <td>15.6% ✗</td> <td>10.2% ✗</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Durham	North East	England	16.6%	15.6% ✗	10.2% ✗
Durham	North East	England							
16.6%	15.6% ✗	10.2% ✗							
<p>KS4 gap 12.3 points</p>	<p>Gap between disadvantaged pupils in Durham and non-disadvantaged pupils in England at Key stage 4, comparative data are available in Jan 17.</p>	<p>*The Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group area has the second highest rate in the North East and ninth highest in England.</p>							
<p>KS 5 31.7 points</p>	<p>✓ Average A level entry of state funded school students, better than National (30.7 points) and North East (30.4 points) averages.</p>								

Recommendations and Reasons

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

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance

Tel: 03000 268071 E-Mail jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Appendix 2: Report Key

Appendix 3: Summary of key performance indicators

Appendix 4: Volume measures

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 Performance Indicators (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: Report key

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel/benchmarking

Performance against target

Same or better than comparable period/comparator group

GREEN

Meeting/Exceeding target

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (within 2% tolerance)

AMBER

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Worse than comparable period / comparator group (greater than 2%)

RED

Performance >2% behind target

National Benchmarking

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

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland. The number of authorities also varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils.

Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

The nearest neighbour model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), one of the professional accountancy bodies in the UK. CIPFA has produced a list of 15 local authorities which Durham is statistically close to when you look at a number of characteristics. The 15 authorities that are in the nearest statistical neighbours group for Durham using the CIPFA model are: Barnsley, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wigan, Kirklees, St Helens, Calderdale, Dudley, Northumberland, Tameside, Sheffield, Gateshead, Stockton-on-Tees and Stoke-on-Trent.

We also use other neighbour groups to compare our performance. More detail of these can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

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

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											
17	CASCYP 15	Percentage of children in the early years foundation stage achieving a good level of development	69.0	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)	64.0	GREEN	63.6	GREEN	69.3 AMBER	68.4* GREEN	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)
18	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)	193	Apr - Sep 2016	291	GREEN	164	RED			
19	CASCYP 9	Percentage of children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral	23.8	Apr - Sep 2016	20.7	RED	21.8	RED	24 GREEN	22.3* RED	2014/15
20	CASCYP 31	Percentage of first contact enquiries processed within one working day	71.5	Apr - Sep 2016	85.0	RED	50.7	GREEN			
21	CASCYP 32	Percentage of single assessments completed within 45 days	82.0	Apr - Sep 2016	85.0	RED	76.7	GREEN	81.5 GREEN	84.9* RED	2014/15
22	CASCYP 14	Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 2) (Also in Altogether Safer) [1]	7.2	Sep 2014 - Sep 2016	TBC	NA	NA	NA	NA		

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
23	CASCYP 8	Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery (Also in Altogether Healthier)	16.6	Apr - Jun 2016	17.2	GREEN	18.1	GREEN	10.2	15.6*	Apr - Jun 2016
									RED	RED	

[\[1\] Reported as a % target PI again following 2015/16 when the numbers were reported as a tracker indicator](#)

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											
113	CASCYP 33	Average attainment 8 score/score for LA (all pupils at the end of key stage 4 in state-funded mainstream and special schools and academies - replacing GCSE attainment)	49	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA	49.8	48.5*	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)
									AMBER	GREEN	
114	CASCYP 37	Average point score per A level entry of state-funded school students	31.7	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)	New indicator	New indicator	NA	NA	30.7	30.39*	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)
									GREEN	GREEN	
115	CASCYP 16	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Also in Altogether Wealthier) [2]	6.3	Jul - Sep 2016	6.1	RED	7.7	GREEN			
116	CASCYP 34	Gap between the average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the average Attainment 8 score of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (at KS4)	12.3	2015/16 ac yr (provisional)	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
117	CASCYP 35	Gap between the percentage of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the percentage of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally who achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (at KS2)	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA	New indicator	NA			
118	ACE016	Percentage of children in poverty (quarterly proxy measure) (Also in Altogether Better Council)	22.1	As at May 2016	22.2	GREEN	22.4	GREEN	15.5 RED	22.6* GREEN	As at May 2016
119	CASCYP 18	Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Healthier)	23.0	2014/15 ac yr	23.8	GREEN	23.8	GREEN	21.9 RED	23.7* GREEN	2014/15 ac yr
120	CASCYP 19	Percentage of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese (Also in Altogether Healthier)	36.6	2014/15 ac yr	36.1	AMBER	36.1	AMBER	33.2 RED	35.9* AMBER	2014/15 ac yr
121	CASCYP 29	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%) (Also in Altogether Safer)	45	2014	46.9	GREEN	44.4	AMBER	37.9 RED	44.9* AMBER	2014
122	CASCYP 20	Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17	26.4	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015	27.5	GREEN	29.0	GREEN	21.8 RED	28.6* GREEN	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015

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
123	CASCYP 21	Under 16 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 13 to 15	5.8	2014	7.9	GREEN	7.9	GREEN	4.4 RED	6.5* GREEN	2014
124	CASCYP 23	Emotional and behavioural health of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more (scored between 0 to 40)	14.9	2015/16 (provisional)	15.1	GREEN	15.1	GREEN	13.9 RED	13.9* RED	2013/14
125	CASCYP 30	Percentage of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) patients who have attended a first appointment within nine weeks of their external referral date	83.1	Apr - Sep 2016	70.3	GREEN	81.7	GREEN			
126	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) (Also in Altogether Healthier)	489.4	2011/12 - 2013/14	504.8	GREEN	504.8	GREEN	367.3 RED	532.2* GREEN	England 2011/12-2013/14 NE 2010/11-2012/13
127	CASCYP 28	Rate of children with a child protection plan per 10,000 population	40.5	As at Sep 2016	35.7	RED	33.9	RED	43.1 GREEN	59.6* GREEN	As at Mar 2016
128	CASCYP 12	Percentage of children subject to a child protection plan who had all of their reviews completed within required timescales	91.4	Apr - Sep 2016	93.8	RED	97.1	RED	94 RED	94.6* RED	2014/15

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
129	CASCYP 36	Number of child sexual exploitation referrals	161	Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	193	NA	193	NA			
130	CASCYP 24	Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18	72.9	As at Sep 2016	71.0	RED	65.9	RED	60.0	84*	As at Mar 2016
131	CASCYP 11	Percentage of children looked after who had all of their reviews completed within required timescale	96.2	Apr - Sep 2016	97.1	AMBER	97.8	AMBER			

[\[2\] Data not comparable due to the high number of school leavers whose status is 'not known' which impacts significantly on this indicator](#)

Chart 1. Children in need referrals within 12 months of previous referral

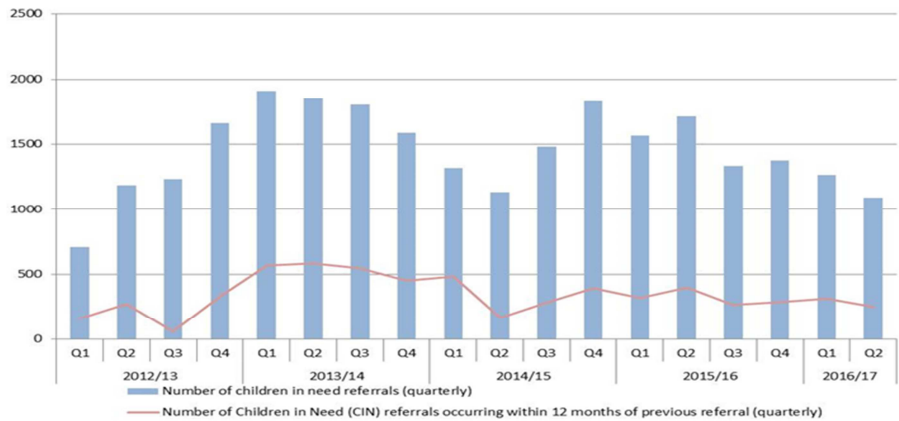


Chart 2. Looked after children cases

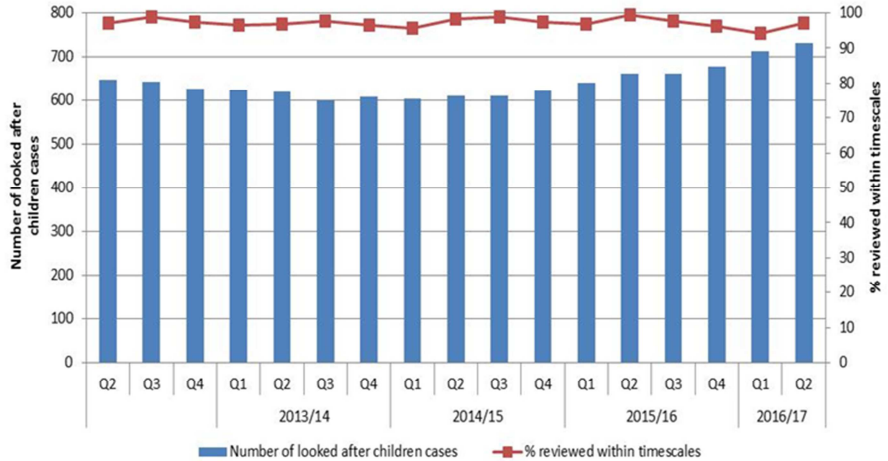
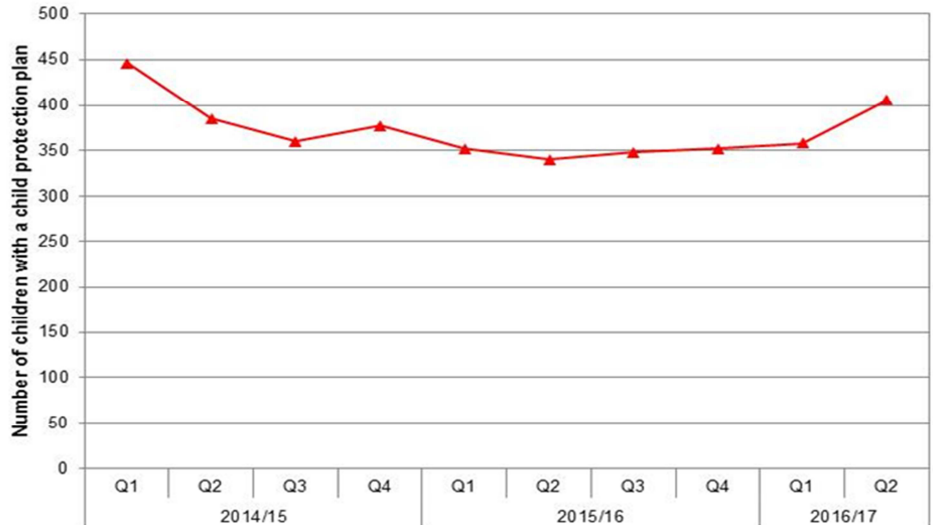


Chart 3. Children with a child protection plan



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Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2017

CAS – Quarter 2: Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2016/17



Report of Paul Darby, Head of Financial & HR Services

Purpose of the Report

- To provide the committee with details of the forecast outturn budget position for the CAS service grouping, highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget for the year, based on the position to the end of September 2016 as reported to Cabinet in November 2016.

Background

- County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2016/17 at its meeting on 24 February 2016. 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 - £252,817m (original £247,863m)
 - CAS Capital Programme – £29.406m (original £31.351m)
- 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	247,863
Reason For Adjustment	
Transfer From Contingency - Closed School Premises Cost	189
Transfer From Contingency - Pay award	772
Transfer From Contingency - Residential Care Fees	630
Transfer From Contingency - Auto Enrolment	121
Transfers to other services	(45)
Transfers From other services	15
Use of (+)/contribution to CAS reserves (-)	2,357
Use of (+)/contribution to Corporate reserves (ERVR) (-)	915
Revised Budget	252,817

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

Reserve	£'000
AWH- Social Care Reserve	1,644
AWH-Cash Limit	2,206
CHS-INNOVATIONS Cash Limit Support	(1,059)
CHS-NQSW Academy Reserve - 16&17 Academic year	(372)
CHS-Secure Services Capital Reserve	204
CHS-Tackling Troubled Families Reserve	(167)
CPD-Accumulated fund CPD Reserve	(70)
EDU-Durham Learning Resources Reserve	20
EDU-EBP Reserve	220
EDU-Emotional Wellbeing Reserve	(90)
EDU-Re-Profiling Activity Reserve	3
EDU-School Condition Survey	200
PHE-Grant Reduction Support Reserve	(382)
Total	2,357

5. The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2016/17 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 underspend of £1.781m against a revised budget of £252.817m which represents a 0.7% underspend.
7. The tables below show the revised annual budget, actual expenditure to 30 September 2016 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	Cash Limit Variance £000
Employees	114,680	54,544	111,354	(3,326)	-	(3,326)
Premises	6,955	2,160	6,846	(109)	-	(109)
Transport	17,814	6,415	17,587	(227)	-	(227)
Supplies & Services	17,913	7,446	17,893	(20)	-	(20)
Third Party Payments	238,716	107,482	241,950	3,234	-	3,234
Transfer Payments	13,698	5,195	13,019	(679)	-	(679)
Central Support & Capital	73,521	24,508	74,446	925	-	925
Income	(230,480)	(117,948)	(232,059)	(1,579)	-	(1,579)
Total	252,817	89,802	251,036	(1,781)	-	(1,781)

Analysis by Head of Service Area

	Revised Annual Budget £000	YTD Actual £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance £000	Items Outside Cash Limit £000	Cash Limit Variance £000
Head of Adults	126,882	55,502	124,415	(2,471)	-	(2,471)
Central/Other	9,627	215	9,559	(68)	-	(68)
Commissioning inc Supporting People	5,780	(1,752)	5,027	(753)	-	(753)
Planning & Service Strategy	10,944	4,809	10,237	(707)	-	(707)
Central Charges (CYPS)	3,023	(1,280)	3,023	-	-	-
Childrens Services	50,618	17,839	53,579	2,961	-	2,961
Education	42,833	3,600	42,090	(743)	-	(743)
Public Health	3,109	10,870	3,109	-	-	-
Total	252,817	89,802	251,036	(1,781)	-	(1,781)

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
Children's Services		
Aycliffe Conference Centre & Site Wide Costs	Early MTFP Achievement of savings (17/18) from the relocation of teams off the Aycliffe site.	(30)
Child Protection & Disability Services	Employee related costs are forecast to be over budget by a total of £380K in the Child Protection Teams as a result of expenditure on agency staff employed to cover vacancies and increased workloads. Expenditure on placements costs of looked after children with a disability in external residential schools is forecast to be £115K over budget. Placement costs associated with children not looked after i.e. in Child Arrangement or Special Guardianship arrangements is forecast to be over budget by £653K- Direct Payments are forecast to be under budget by (£136K).	1,012
Childrens Services Reform	Total forecast (£121K) under budget as a result of vacancies and new arrangements for Business Support services and revised commissioning of domestic violence services with Public Health are forecast to generate in year savings.	(121)
External Agency Placements Central Recharges & SLAs	Primarily related to delivery under budget on Premises related expenses and Volunteer Drivers	(128)
First Contact & Intervention	Expenditure on agency staff in the Families First teams covering vacancies and maternity leave etc. is forecast to be £1.051m over budget offset by savings on vacant posts (£0.556m). Agency staff and managers are claiming for all hours worked (up to 60 hours per week) compared to employees paid for 37 hours per week.	495
Head of Service	The budget for auto enrolment in the Local Government Pension Scheme is held here before reallocation to services (£62K). The forecast also includes a one off (£56K) contribution from Health to build additional capacity	(118)
Looked After & Permanence	The budget for foster care and external residential placements is forecasting to be overspent by £2.270m. The outturn overspend forecast on LAC is partially offset by additional income including, Adoption Support Fund (£77K).	2,194
One Point Service	Underspend primarily as a result of Employees vacancies.	(363)
Secure Services	The Secure Centre has a revised pricing structure for welfare beds of £855 per night and is required to operate at 90% capacity (12.6 beds).For the period 1 April to 16 October the Centre has averaged the sale of 13.29 welfare beds generating surplus income of £117K. The forecast at Q2 assumes average occupancy of 13.1 and surplus income of £156K for the full financial year, which is transferred to the earmarked trading account reserve.	-
Think Family Service	Stronger Families plans are funded from earmarked reserves and the service is currently forecast to be on budget	-
Youth Offending Service	Expenditure on remand bed nights is forecast to be £156K over budget partially offset by savings on transportation costs (£22K), supplies and services (£71K) including activities (£38K) and additional income from the Police and Crime	21

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
	Commissioner (42K).	
Youth Service	Expenditure on agency staff in the Families First teams covering vacancies and maternity leave etc. is forecast to be £1.051m over budget offset by savings on vacant posts (£0.556m). Agency staff and managers are claiming for all hours worked (up to 60 hours per week) compared to employees paid for 37 hours per week.	-
Total		2,962
Commissioning		
Commissioning	£404,000 under budget on employees in respect of early achievement of future MTFP savings. £349,000 under budget on non-staff costs in respect of early achievement of future MTFP savings.	(753)
Total		(753)
Education		
Progression and Learning	The current forecast for Durham Education Business Partnership is for expenditure to exceed income by £120k in the year, which will lead to a use of reserves of this figure. The Improving Progression of Young People service is expected to spend in line with budget.	-
School Places and Admissions	At this stage it is anticipated that expenditure on Home to School Transport will be in line with budget in overall terms, however there is a forecast over spend in Post 16 SEN transport offset by under spend across other areas of transport provision. Work is underway in the School Places and Admissions Team to develop a restructure to meet 2017/18 MTFP savings and some early savings will be achieved which, in addition to income from fines, is expected to lead to a cash limit under spend of £35k. Expenditure on pension liabilities is expected to be below budget by £100k and this is in advance of an MFTP savings target of £222k required in 2017/18.	(135)
SEN and Disability and Inclusion	In advance of 2017/18 MTFP savings there are two posts in the SEN Placement and Provision Team that are currently vacant and will generate an under spend of £46k. Within the Education Psychology Service savings from vacant posts will generate an under spend of £168k The SEN Reform grant is funding expenditure of £589k in 2016/17.	(214)
Support and Development	In the Early Years Team a restructure to deliver 2017/18 MTFP savings has been implemented and will therefore deliver an under spend in 2016/17 of £165k. A number of employees left the service at the end of August in advance of MTFP savings for 2017/18 and this will generate an under spend of £229k in the current year.	(394)

Service Area	Description	Cash limit Variance £000
	At this stage it is anticipated that there will be a use of £130k of the CPD reserve in 2016/17. Durham Learning Resources operates as a trading account and it is anticipated that expenditure in this year will exceed income by £20k due to an early retirement/voluntary redundancy as part of a restructure of the team. This will lead to a use of reserves in 16/17.	
Total		(743)
Planning & Service Strategy		
Performance & Information Mgmt	£62,000 under budget on employees re effective vacancy management/early achievement of future savings.	(62)
Policy Planning & Partnerships	£45,000 under budget on employees, mainly re future MTFP savings. £9,000 under budget on transport/supplies and services/other budgets. £6,000 under achievement of income.	(60)
Service Quality & Development	Managed and planned under-spending linked to early achievement of future MTFP savings linked in the main to employees.	(267)
Service Support	£148,000 under budget on employees, mainly re future MTFP savings. £170,000 under budget on transport/supplies and services/other budgets towards future MTFP savings.	(318)
Total		(707)

9. In summary, the CAS service is on track to maintain spending within its cash limit overall. The outturn position incorporates the MTFP savings built into the 2016/17 budgets, which for CAS in total amount to £17.326m.

Schools

10. Cumulative school reserves brought forward from 2015/16 were £24.083 million. This balance is net of loans to schools and other balances not related to maintained schools. Maintained schools balances amounted to £23.880 million. Based on budget plans approved by Governing bodies and the latest updated forecasts, schools are currently planning to use £10.308 million of these balances in 2016/17. The forecast balances at 31 March 2017 are therefore £13.572 million 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	-	168	6	9	195
Forecast Balances	(£627,978)	-	(£13,106,792)	(£1,779,063)	(£1,441,788)	(£16,955,621)
Schools forecasting a surplus balance of less than 2.5% of annual funding						
Number	-	1	29	5	-	35
Forecast Balances	-	-	(£353,062)	(£313,176)	-	(£666,238)
Schools forecasting a deficit balance						
Number	-	-	9	5	-	14
Forecast Balances	-	-	£223,892	£3,825,815	-	£4,049,707
Total						
Number	12	1	206	16	9	244
Forecast Net Balances	(£627,978)	-	(£13,235,962)	£1,733,576	(£1,441,788)	(£13,572,152)

11. The School Funding Team is visiting all schools this term to review their budgets and forecasts of their year-end position, as part of preparation for budget-setting for 2017-18. Three of the secondary schools have long-term financial problems and these are the subject to detail review by CYPS management team. The other two secondary schools with forecast deficits are expected to have resolved their position at the end of the year, after completing staff re-structuring exercises and the forecasts will be updated at quarter three. The primary schools with forecast deficits are all expected to be able to alter their spending plans to avoid a deficit; where this is not now the case following budget reviews they are starting staff re-structuring exercises to address these base budget issues and the forecasts will be updated at quarter three.

Capital Programme

12. The CAS capital programme has been revised earlier in the year to take into account budget re-profiled from 2015/16 following the final accounts for that year. This increased the 2016/17 original budget.
13. Further reports to the Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) in May, July, September and October included revisions to the CAS capital programme. The revised capital budget currently totals £29.406m.
14. Summary financial performance to the end of September is shown below.

CAS	Actual Expenditure 30/09/2016 £000	Current 2016-17 Budget £000	Remaining 2016-17 Budget £000
LD Provider Services	51	62	11
Support For Childs Homes	-	43	43
Increased Provision for Two Year Olds	(28)	129	157
Free School Meals Support	1	75	74
Secure Services	71	210	139
Planning & Service Strategy	26	159	133
Drug & Alcohol Premises Upgrade	184	383	199
Drugs Commissioning DACT	9	72	63
Public Health	-	431	431
School Devolved Capital	1,141	4,419	3,278
DFE School Capital Inc Basic Need	12,294	20,949	8,655
DSG Structural Maintenance	-	2	2
PSBP - Additional Works Not Covered by EFA	27	182	155
School Modernisation	41	106	65
BSF	849	2,146	1,297
PFI	38	38	-
TOTAL	14,704	29,406	14,702

Recommendations:

15. 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 2 forecast of outturn report to Cabinet in November 2016.

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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.

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