



Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Monday 27 February 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 for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2017 (Pages 3 - 8)
3. Declarations of Interest, if any
4. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
5. Media Relations - Update on Press Coverage
6. School Funding Update (Pages 9 - 30)
 - a) Joint Report of the Corporate Director Resources and the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services
 - b) Presentation by Finance Manager Education Services
7. Management of School Exclusions - Report of the Interim Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services (Pages 31 - 34)
8. Children's Services Update - Report of the Corporate Management Team (Pages 35 - 54)
9. Children and Families Partnership Summary of Minutes (Pages 55 - 60)
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
17 February 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 **Monday 16 January 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Potts (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, O Gunn, D Hall, C Hampson, J Hart, D Hicks, K Hopper, P Lawton, S Morrison and P Stradling

Faith Community Representative:

Mrs A Swift

Co-opted Members:

Miss K Ashcroft

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors K Corrigan, M Nicholls, L Pounder, M Simmons and Mr D Kinch.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 29 September, 27 October and 9 November 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:

- More cash on the way for North East Schools – as a result of changes to the funding system (Members had received an update in September and a further update would be given in February)
- Children 'left at risk by government reform delay' – Public Accounts Committee had called for the urgent publication of Child Protection Plans
- Transformed school in Sedgefield makes top 50 UK rankings – Sedgefield Community College made the Sunday Times top 50 list of schools in the UK

7 Role of the Children's Social Worker - Overview

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the Interim Director of Children and Young People's Services which purposed to raise awareness and understanding of the role of a social worker in County Durham. Members also received a presentation from the Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability (for copies see file of minutes).

Members were informed that since 1987 there had been numerous legislation, associated statutory guidance and initiatives that impacted on children and young people. The primary legislation in relation to children's care were the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 which set out the duties of the Local Authority to promote and safeguard the welfare of children.

Members were advised that as well as a National increase in Court proceedings, the Northern Region of family courts, which served 12 of the regions Local Authorities, had seen a significant increase in cases. The pressures faced by social workers were exacerbated by the increase in casework which was now more complex and challenging.

The Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability confirmed that there was a national problem with regards to the recruitment of social workers. Durham County Council had no problem in recruiting newly qualified staff, however there were some issues with inconsistent standards of teaching. There was a diminishing pool of experienced staff and sometimes problems retaining them. The use of Agency staff was not ideal as they tended to leave if offered a higher rate of pay elsewhere and in addition, there were staff who were not retained due to inability.

The government had announced that from 2020 all social workers would need to be accredited and Durham had recently started a programme to ensure this with a 1-2 year timetable.

Councillor Hart referred to the Children and Social Workers Bill which would allow Local Authorities to opt-out of procedures which were not appropriate to them and queried whether there were any outdated procedures which were still adhered to and deemed to be burdensome. The Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability referred to the Children Act 1989 which had been introduced with the rights of all children at heart, however it was built on working practices of the time and it could be argued that there were potentially better ways of doing things which were less regulated but just as thorough. He was not keen for Durham to set aside statutory guidance and lead the way on a change in working practices, it was more preferable to await new guidelines and consider new procedures from there.

Councillor Gunn was concerned about the National increase in the number of cases, acknowledging the pressures and stress that social workers were under and presuming that the increase would be affected by austerity. The Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability confirmed that there was no doubt that the growth in caseloads was linked to austerity and reductions in Adult Mental Health Services, domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse. In addition to socio-economic factors, partnership working had improved, for example, the Police reported all domestic violence incidents where a child was present to Social Services. He referred to a national increased focus on child sexual exploitation, which was another contributor. Councillor Gunn asked if some comparisons with regional and national figures could be provided to help Members understand of the size of the problem in Durham. The Strategic Manager confirmed that he would circulate statistics to members after the meeting.

Councillor Armstrong reminded Members of their responsibility as Corporate Parents and offered the opportunity for the Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability to advise how the Committee could support the service in future. He confirmed that the service welcomed the input of Scrutiny and hoped for the continuing support of Members through challenges arising. The Strategic Manager, Looked after Children and Permanence, confirmed that one of the biggest costs to the service was placement of looked after children and requested that consideration be given to the effect on services as a result of any future budget restrictions, should there be any potential savings identified.

Councillor Armstrong confirmed that he would be interested to see what the social care system was like from a child's point of view. He also reminded the Strategic Managers to consider how to present their service to new members at the induction programmes following the election in May 2017.

The Chairman confirmed that she had once heard from a child within the Newcastle care system that it was critical for them to have stability and continuity and to have changes in social workers could be detrimental to their progression. The Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability referred to a recent complaint from a service user who had been assigned to too many different social workers, however this had been due to the heavy reliance on agency workers, which was one of the criticisms of Ofsted.

Councillor Armstrong referred to the Ofsted rating as harsh, however he was satisfied that plans in place would guarantee the improvements they had required. He queried when a social worker could be considered no longer 'newly qualified'. The Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability confirmed that a graduate would commence employment but their first year in practice would be working on a reduced caseload, under an employer led programme known as the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment. Further experience was gathered following on from this, and a gradual progression to a tier 3 social worker would take 2-3 years, but this could only be obtained by demonstrating experience to a panel.

In response to a query from Mrs Swift regarding the reporting system in place for schools, the Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability confirmed that there was a first contact hub to request referrals and there was a 24-hour period to respond. He confirmed that should a Head Teacher have a concern that needed addressing urgently, Strategic Managers were willing to become involved in such cases.

Councillor Hart queried whether on occasions, concerns had not been given sufficient urgency, due to the pressure on social workers. The Strategic Manager, Child Protection and Disability confirmed that audits had confirmed the opposite; there was not a sense that people were not satisfied with the level of service received, nor was there any indication that people were downgrading a concern. He confirmed that there were escalation routes if people were not satisfied, however since the introduction of One Point, there was huge support available and the levels of referrals had reduced. First contact referrals had increased, however this was the service which determined the level of intervention required and there could often be tension with a person reporting an incident and the level of action deemed appropriate by a social worker.

Councillor Gunn wanted to relay a positive experience and in her role as a school governor she had referred an issue to the Head of Children's Services which had been dealt with immediately and satisfactory.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted. A focused piece of work on this topic would be considered by the Committee at a future meeting when considering the future work programme.

8 Performance Management Q2

The Committee considered a joint report of the Corporate Management Team which presented 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 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager confirmed that officers were engaged on a project to reduce the burden of planning and performance management. One element of this was to reduce the size of performance reports to senior managers and Members. A new style of report was being introduced which involved a more pictorial, at a glance, dashboard-style of presentation to replace the pages of narrative that Members were familiar with. This page contained the highlights for this quarter reporting performance on an exception basis. A tabular presentation of all performance indicators that each Committee was responsible for monitoring was still provided in the interests of transparency.

Councillor Hart referred to KS4 gap points between disadvantaged pupils in Durham and non-disadvantaged pupils in England and the confirmation in the report that comparable data would be available in January 2017. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management confirmed that the information would be shared with Councillor Hart.

In addition, Councillor Hart queried the increase in first time entrants to the criminal justice system, although he acknowledged that performance was still on target. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management confirmed that he would seek a response from the Head of the Youth Offending Service.

In response to a query from Councillor Armstrong regarding the changes to school funding, Mrs Swift confirmed that although it had been reported that some schools would benefit from the changes, her school would not.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Quarter 2 Forecast and Revenue and Capital Outturn 2016/2017

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Financial & HR Services which provided 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 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 February 2017



Schools National Funding Formula Government Consultation - Stage 2

Joint Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director Resources and Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young Peoples Services

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the Government's proposals for a National Formula for School Funding, which was published on 14 December 2016 and which is subject to consultation.

Background

2. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a specific earmarked grant provided by the Government which provides the major source of funding for schools and the provision of support to them. It is notionally split into three 'blocks': Early Years, High Needs and Schools. Local authorities are currently able to transfer funding between blocks and have some limited flexibility in how this funding is allocated to individual schools. All DSG funding must be spent on schools or support to them.
3. A National Funding Formula for allocating DSG funding to each mainstream primary and secondary schools has been a government policy aim since 2012.
4. The intention is that schools should be funded on a consistent basis across the country and that as far as possible funding should be directly related to pupil numbers or needs.
5. At present funding varies between schools and between local authority areas, reflecting local decision making about formulae to distribute funding to individual schools and also different allocations of funding per pupil allocated to a local authority area through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Allocations of funding are largely based presently on historic allocations dating back to the mid-2000s.
6. Since 2013/14, local discretion over funding formulae has been significantly restricted, with local decision making limited to the application of a relatively small number of formula factors, most of which are pupil led or relate to specific premises related costs. There is still, however, significant variation between local authorities in terms of the proportions of funding allocated to different factors within the formula. Currently, there is local discretion over the proportion of funding that can be allocated through deprivation for instance or via a lump sum allowance for individual schools (subject to limitations on the maximum

amount that can be given to individual schools and the lump sums being consistent across each phase).

7. The Government announced the intention to make further progress towards a national formula in the 2015 autumn statement and an initial consultation took place in the spring of 2016 with a view to beginning a transitional phase from April 2017. The second stage consultation was expected in the summer of 2016, but this was delayed by the new Secretary of State and the start of the transitional phase was subsequently delayed until April 2018.
8. The delayed second stage of consultation, where detailed proposals on how the new National Formula would be applied, was announced on 14 December 2016 and runs until 22 March 2017.
9. In addition to consultation proposals relating to a NFF for mainstream primary and secondary school funding, the DfE also launched a second stage consultation on a High Needs National Funding Formula which is running in tandem with the Schools NFF and closes on 22 March 2017 also. The outcome of the Early Years National Funding Formula consultation was also announced in December 2016 and the formula is being implemented to distribute Early Years Funding to local authorities from April 2017.

High Needs Formula Funding

10. Proposals for a national formula for the allocation of High Needs funding (for Special Educational Needs provision) have also been published, along with estimates of what funding would have been provided in 2016/17.
11. Funding for High Needs (HN) is largely based on historic allocations dating back to 2012/13 and the Government intends to replace this with a national formula from April 2018, which will take account of relative need, measured by factors including deprivation and disability.
12. The Stage 1 consultation made proposals on factors to be used in the National Funding Formula, these have now been agreed and the second stage of the consultation is now proposing the relative weighting to be applied to each of these factors that will determine funding allocations from 2018/19. The following is a list of the factors being used in the formula and the relative weightings being proposed: -
 - i. Historic spend (50%)
 - ii. Basic amount per pupil - £4,000
 - iii. Remainder of the high needs funding distributed through
 - i. Population for the age range 2 to 18 (50%)
 - ii. Deprivation factors
 1. Free School Meals (10%)
 2. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (10%)
 - iii. Low Attainment

1. Key Stage 2 (7.5%)
 2. Key Stage 4 (7.5%)
- iv. Health and Disability
1. Children in Bad Health (7.5%)
 2. Disability Living Allowance (7.5%)
13. The DfE have indicated that no authority will face a reduction in their high needs funding in comparison to current spending and for those that gain through the formula will have gains of up to 3% in each of the next two years (2018/19 and 2019/20). Illustrative figures provided by the DfE suggest that Durham's funding in 2016/17 would have been 2.6% higher in year 1 using the national formula in 2016/17 than the existing allocations; however the actual impact in 2018/19 is uncertain at this stage.

Early Years National Funding Formula

14. Proposals for an Early Years National Formula were published earlier in the autumn of 2016 and on 1 December the DfE announced their response to the consultation conducted earlier in the year and the new formula which will allocate funding to local authorities will come into effect from 1 April 2017.
15. For Durham for the hourly rate for funding for two year olds will increase from £4.85 to £5.20 (7.2% increase) in 2017/18. This increase must be passed onto providers. The hourly rate for funding for 3 and 4 year olds will increase from £4.13 to £4.31 (4.4%) overall next year also.
16. All councils will be required to work towards introducing a universal base rate of funding per hour to be paid to all providers. Durham currently has three different base rates in our local formula:
- Mainstream schools with nursery units - £3.01 per hour;
 - Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) and Governor-led settings - £3.19 per hour; and
 - Nursery Schools £4.03 per hour.
17. Options for a new local funding formula have been modelled with a view to implementing a universal base rate from April 2017 and Early Years providers were consulted early in the New Year regarding our proposals.
18. Some of the other key messages from the new Early Years formula include: -
- i. The new funding rates include a base rate and an uplift for additional needs, based on measures of free school meals, Disability Living Allowance and English as an Additional Language.
 - ii. The formula also includes an **area cost adjustment multiplier** to reflect variations in local costs. This will use the **general labour market** measure to reflect staff costs (no increase for Durham) and the **Nursery Rates Cost Adjustment (NRCA)** to reflect premises costs (**Durham multiplier of 1.07**).

- iii. The government will provide **supplementary funding** of £55million a year to local authorities **for maintained nursery schools** for the duration of this Parliament (i.e. up to and including 2019-20). These schools have additional costs compared to other providers, (for example a headteacher), which are currently reflected in higher rates of funding. The supplementary funding is intended to allow these schools to make a transition to the universal base rate. The original proposals would only have allowed supplementary funding until 2018/19, so this has been extended by one year and it is possible that supplementary funding may continue beyond this. The amount of supplementary funding for Durham is not yet confirmed, but an indicative figure of £1.3million has been provided by the DfE.
- iv. Local authorities will be able to use a limited set of funding supplements, with a total value capped at 10% of allocated budget to providers. The **permitted supplements are for:**
- **deprivation (mandatory**, but for authorities to decide locally the measures they use);
 - **discretionary supplements for rurality/sparsity, flexibility and quality (to support workforce qualifications and system leadership);**
 - a supplement for **English as an additional language.**
- Durham currently has deprivation and quality supplements which can be as much as 21% of funding.
- v. There will be a **new Disability Access Fund (DAF) of £12.5million**, equivalent to **£615 per child per year to support access to the free entitlements**. This Fund will be for **three and four-year olds** who are **taking up their free entitlement** and are **in receipt of Disability Living Allowance**.
- vi. The DfE will **legislate for every area to set up a local inclusion fund for children with special educational needs** to support providers in driving outcomes for these children. Local authorities will **need to include this in their Local Offer** and it will be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant funding for Early Years or High Needs.
- vii. The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP), which is paid as a supplement to the hourly rate funding for 3 and 4 year olds will continue.
19. The impact on Maintained Nursery schools is that the current level of funding will be protected, but there will be no increase in funding for 2017/18 and there is no guarantee that they will continue to receive higher levels of funding than other providers beyond 2019/20. The government are planning to have a further consultation in 2017 on the future role of Maintained Nursery Schools.

20. The impact on other providers, Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector and Primary Schools with nursery provision is that their funding will increase. The impact on individual settings will be dependent on the local formula (universal base rate plus agreed supplements) which will be consulted on with providers during January.

Mainstream NFF – Proposals and Implications

21. The government is proposing that mainstream formula funding for all primary and secondary schools will be through the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2019/20.
22. 2018/19 will be a transitional year. There will be a NFF in place, but it will be used to determine overall Schools Block allocations to each local authority only in this year and not to allocate funding to individual schools. This means that the Council will still need to determine a local formula in 2018/19. However, the DfE wishes authorities to voluntarily start to move their local formulas in 2018/19 towards the NFF requirements.
23. Schools will be able to compare the funding that they receive under the local formula with what they would receive under the NFF, mainstream NFF proposals and implications which may lead to more challenge from schools about the decisions over the local formula.
24. The NFF proposals provide information about the factors to be included in the NFF and these have been compared to the Council's local formula for 2017/18. The main differences in terms of funding allocations between the various factors are:
 - i. The allocation to the basic unit of funding per pupil (AWPU – Age Weighted Pupil Unit) is higher in the NFF: the current 2017/18 local formula allocates 70% of funding through this factor, but the NFF allocates 72.5% via this factor, which is equivalent to a difference of around £7million. This will direct more funding to schools with higher pupil numbers.
 - ii. The allocation to deprivation funding is lower in the NFF: the current 2017/18 local formula allocates 12.3% of funding via deprivation linked indices, but the NFF will only allocate 9.3%, which is equivalent to around £9million less funding being distributed via deprivation linked funding. This will proportionately direct less funding to schools in more deprived areas.
 - iii. The NFF includes a significantly higher allocation for low prior attainment (to recognise the relative number of pupils in each school whose progress at their previous school was not sufficient and who need additional support to bring their level of achievement up to an acceptable level). The current 2017-18 local formula allocates only 1.9% to this factor, but the NFF allocates 7.5%, which is equivalent to a difference of around £16 million. This could help offset the impact of the limitations on deprivation linked funding, with proportionately more of this funding going to schools in more deprived areas.

- iv. The NFF includes a lump sum for each school in addition to pupil led funding, but it is significantly lower than the lump sum allocated in Durham. The NFF lump sum is £110,000 per school, but the lump sums in Durham are £160,000 (primary) and £175,000 (secondary). Using £110,000 in the current 2017/18 formula would have reduced the amount allocated through the lump sum in Durham by £13million in 2017/18 - £10.8million in the primary phase and £2.1million in the secondary phase.
- v. The NFF includes sparsity funding but the allocation is at a relatively low level, and will not provide significant funding for schools. The table below shows how much sparsity funding would have been received by schools that are eligible in 2017/18, using the method proposed for the NFF:

| | Number on roll | Sparsity funding £ | Comment ¹ |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Cotherstone Primary | 52 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Hamsterley Primary | 42 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Frosterley Primary | 41 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Rookhope Primary | 10 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| St. John's Chapel Primary | 23 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Wearhead Primary | 32 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Forest of Teesdale Primary | 14 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Woodland Primary | 42 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Middleton in Teesdale Primary | 118 | 10,614 | Tapered |
| Stanhope Barrington Primary | 115 | 11,615 | Tapered |
| Gainford CE Primary | 73 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Ingleton CE Primary | 70 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Bowes Hutchinson's CE Primary | 61 | 25,000 | Maximum |
| Wolsingham School | 479 | 26,217 | Tapered |
| Staindrop School | 525 | 16,250 | Tapered |
| Teesdale School | 488 | 24,267 | Tapered |

- vi. The NFF includes an area cost adjustment in respect of labour costs, which will benefit schools in the South East, but not in Durham. The NFF allocates 2.5% of funding through this adjustment. It is difficult to say what the effect of this is on individual local authorities, but current allocations are around £290million, so it would be fair to say that there is likely to be a significant effect on future funding through the NFF.
- vii. The NFF, like all local formulas, allocates more funding to secondary than primary education, measured by funding per pupil. The ratio in the NFF is 1:1.29, which is more than the current 2017/18 local formula, where the

¹ The maximum funding is £25,000/school (primary) and £65,000/school (secondary), and is subject to a maximum number on roll of 150 (primary) and 600 (secondary). Schools with less than half the maximum number on roll receive the maximum amount, but funding for other eligible schools is tapered, i.e. reduces as pupil numbers increase.

ratio is 1:1.27. To match the draft NFF ratio would imply transferring around £0.9million to secondary schools from the primary school funding allocations. The lump sum for primary schools was reduced by £7.5k in 2016/17 and in 2017/18 and the funding released each year (£1.6million) transferred from primary to secondary funding factors. Had this not been done, the funding transfer would have equated to £4.1million.

- viii. Schools whose funding increases through the formula will see increases in funding more quickly than they do at present; schools going the other way will see protection at similar levels to the current arrangements. However, the maintenance of protection appears to be at the expense of increasing overall levels of formula funding.
25. Looking at the implications for schools in the county, the most significant impact of applying the NFF would be to give more funding to larger schools, because the savings on the lump sum go to pupil-led funding, which benefits schools with more pupils. The impact of the changes in deprivation is likely to be more variable from school-to-school, because there are significant differences to the way in which deprivation funding would be allocated. Small schools are likely to suffer from the reduction in the lump sum and won't get sufficient additional funding through the increased pupil-led funding to compensate, however there will be protection, so the reduction will be gradual.
26. The Pupil Premium will continue to be provided separately, at least during this parliament. Most of this funding is provided for pupils suffering deprivation and the allocation for 2016/17 is around £19million. This funding is intended to be targeted to individual pupils, whereas the deprivation funding in the formula is intended to be a proxy measure of relative need for additional support for pupils.
27. Attached to this report in Appendix 2 is a list of schools and academies in the County, which shows the difference between actual 2016/17 funding and the NFF equivalent produced by the EFA, both with and without protection.
28. There are significant variations up and down in terms of the 2016/17 illustrative data. The most notable feature is that most of the faith schools would lose funding. For primary schools, 111 out of 215 would see a reduction in funding, with 101 increasing; for secondary schools 21 would see a reduction in funding and 10 would see an increase.

Consultation

29. The consultation invites responses to a series of questions, to be submitted by 22 March 2017. A high level summary of the key impacts and the governments indicative modelling, published at the same time as the NFF proposals were released, based on 2016/17 local formula funding allocations to individual schools, has been published on the Schools Extranet and sent to the Schools Forum members. In addition a members briefing was issued to all members earlier this month.
30. CYPS and Finance staff are currently preparing responses on behalf of the Council and are also arranging for the Schools Forum working groups to consider the issues raised in advance of the next Forum meeting on 15 March 2017.

31. Individual Schools and Forum members will be encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation.
32. Appendix 3 provides details of the consultation questions for the Schools NFF and the High Needs NFF.

Conclusions

33. The Government is consulting on significant changes to the way in which schools and special educational needs are funded. This is likely to cause significant problems for nursery schools, because there is no guarantee that they will continue to receive higher levels of funding than other providers, and also for small mainstream schools, because they will be disadvantaged by the emphasis on pupil-led funding. More work will be undertaken to assess the impact of the proposals and to inform a response, which will be required by 22 March 2017.
34. Initial work indicates that around half of mainstream primary and secondary schools could see reductions in funding, but given the sensitivity of funding to pupil numbers this position could change by the time that the national formula replaces local formulas in 2019/20. Schools that are already causing financial concern are unlikely to benefit from the NFF unless they see a significant increase in pupil numbers.
35. This will be disappointing news for a number of schools and governing bodies who were hoping for more significant regional distribution of funding. Many of these schools will need to consider some radical collaborative solutions to be able to maintain the academic standards we expect to support the equality of opportunities and aspirations the council has for all of the young people of Durham and the long term economic prosperity of the county.
36. Looking to the future, the Council will need to consider the long-term implications for school organisation, in particular the number of small mainstream schools.
37. The Council will also need to consider its approach to the local formula in 2018/19, in respect of whether to make changes that will make the local formula more like the NFF: this could reduce turbulence when the NFF replaces local formulas in the following year, but schools that lose funding might question why the Council is doing this earlier than is necessary. Equally, schools that expect to gain funding from the NFF might question any decision not to make changes to the local formula. It is likely that in the run up to 2018/19, schools will be in a much better position to compare the funding that they could get through the NFF with their funding through the local formula and to challenge the Council about the local formula.

Recommendations

38. Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Members is recommended to note the content of this report and provide any views on comments on the Government's proposals, which can then be included in the Council's consultation response.

Appendix 1 - Implications

Finance

The Government is consulting about significant changes to the way in which schools and special educational needs are funded. This is likely to cause significant problems for nursery schools, because there is no guarantee that they will continue to receive higher levels of funding than other providers, and also for small mainstream schools, because they will be disadvantaged by the emphasis on pupil-led funding. More work will be undertaken to assess the impact of the proposals and to inform a response, which will be required by 22 March 2017.

Initial work indicates that around half of mainstream primary and secondary schools could see reductions in funding, but given the sensitivity of funding to pupil numbers this position could change by the time that the national formula replaces local formulas in 2019/20.

Staffing

There is likely to be consequential redundancies in schools whose funding is reduced.

Risk

Small schools will potentially become financially unviable, with potential additional transport costs and adverse effects on local communities. Strategic decisions are required on any move towards the NFF requirements in 2018/19 during the transition year.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

The delayed second stage of consultation, where detailed proposals on how the new National Formula would be applied, was announced on 14 December 2016 and runs until 22 March 2017. A high level summary of the key impacts and the governments indicative modelling, published at the same time as the NFF proposals were released, based on 2016/17 local formula funding allocations to individual schools, has been published on the Schools Extranet and sent to the Schools Forum members. In addition a members briefing was issued to all members earlier this month.

CYPS and Finance staff are currently preparing responses on behalf of the Council and are also arranging for the Schools Forum working groups to consider the issues raised in advance of the next Forum meeting on 15 March 2017.

Individual Schools and Forum members will be encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

None

Legal Implications

None

Appendix 2 – NFF Illustrative allocations based on 2016/17 data

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|------------------------------------|------------|--|---|--|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 2000 | Seaham Ropery Walk Primary | Maintained | 1,019,000 | 75,000 | 26,000 |
| 2001 | Middlestone Moor Primary | Maintained | 956,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 |
| 2002 | Chilton Primary | Maintained | 1,053,000 | 65,000 | 28,000 |
| 2003 | North Park Primary | Maintained | 867,000 | 54,000 | 22,000 |
| 2004 | Seascape Primary | Maintained | 1,254,000 | 98,000 | 32,000 |
| 2005 | Pelton Primary | Maintained | 1,160,000 | 116,000 | 30,000 |
| 2008 | Acre Rigg Academy | Academy | 1,037,000 | 37,000 | 28,000 |
| 2009 | Victoria Lane Academy | Academy | 714,000 | -17,000 | -9,000 |
| 2010 | Stephenson Way Academy | Academy | 1,250,000 | 135,000 | 34,000 |
| 2015 | Browney Academy | Academy | 405,000 | -9,000 | -4,000 |
| 2016 | Rosa Street Primary | Academy | 875,000 | 28,000 | 23,000 |
| 2017 | Shield Row Primary | Academy | 808,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 |
| 2018 | Dene House Primary | Academy | 1,168,000 | 40,000 | 31,000 |
| 2019 | South Hetton Primary | Academy | 873,000 | 26,000 | 23,000 |
| 2023 | New Seaham Academy | Academy | 967,000 | 40,000 | 26,000 |
| 2043 | Seaham Westlea Primary | Maintained | 977,000 | 49,000 | 25,000 |
| 2105 | Edmondsley Primary | Maintained | 667,000 | -7,000 | -7,000 |
| 2107 | Lumley Juniors | Maintained | 656,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 2108 | Lumley Infant and Nursery | Maintained | 499,000 | -11,000 | -6,000 |
| 2114 | West Pelton Primary | Maintained | 399,000 | -8,000 | -4,000 |
| 2116 | Nettlesworth Primary | Maintained | 426,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 2123 | The Sacriston Primary | Maintained | 990,000 | 86,000 | 25,000 |
| 2125 | Chester-le-Street Red Rose Primary | Maintained | 948,000 | -1,000 | -1,000 |
| 2126 | Fence Houses Woodlea Primary | Maintained | 805,000 | 22,000 | 21,000 |
| 2133 | Chester-le-Street Cestria Primary | Maintained | 1,429,000 | 66,000 | 39,000 |
| 2136 | Ouston Primary | Maintained | 1,019,000 | -26,000 | -13,000 |
| 2146 | Bournmoor Primary | Maintained | 557,000 | -13,000 | -6,000 |
| 2185 | Cotherstone Primary | Maintained | 302,000 | -5,000 | -3,000 |
| 2205 | Beamish Primary | Maintained | 445,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2208 | Collierley Primary | Maintained | 645,000 | -3,000 | -3,000 |
| 2210 | Catchgate Primary | Maintained | 1,002,000 | 37,000 | 25,000 |
| 2212 | Annfield Plain Juniors | Maintained | 596,000 | 48,000 | 15,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|---------------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 2213 | Annfield Plain Infants | Maintained | 513,000 | -1,000 | -1,000 |
| 2217 | East Stanley Primary | Maintained | 942,000 | 33,000 | 25,000 |
| 2225 | South Stanley Infants | Maintained | 628,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2226 | South Stanley Juniors | Maintained | 757,000 | 55,000 | 19,000 |
| 2232 | Stanley Burnside Primary | Maintained | 847,000 | 36,000 | 22,000 |
| 2233 | Bloemfontein Primary | Maintained | 634,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2234 | Burnopfield Primary | Maintained | 1,164,000 | 104,000 | 31,000 |
| 2257 | Shotley Bridge Primary | Maintained | 1,296,000 | 63,000 | 30,000 |
| 2259 | Leadgate Primary | Maintained | 777,000 | 83,000 | 18,000 |
| 2261 | Burnhope Primary | Maintained | 418,000 | -9,000 | -4,000 |
| 2266 | Castleside Primary | Maintained | 566,000 | -11,000 | -7,000 |
| 2269 | Consett The Grove Primary | Maintained | 699,000 | 18,000 | 17,000 |
| 2272 | Delves Lane Primary | Maintained | 1,216,000 | 66,000 | 33,000 |
| 2276 | Consett Moorside Primary | Maintained | 564,000 | 21,000 | 13,000 |
| 2277 | Consett Juniors | Maintained | 716,000 | 48,000 | 18,000 |
| 2278 | Consett Infant and Nursery Unit | Maintained | 592,000 | 40,000 | 14,000 |
| 2301 | Hamsterley Primary | Maintained | 262,000 | -3,000 | -1,000 |
| 2302 | Hunwick Primary | Maintained | 694,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2307 | Tow Law Millennium Primary | Maintained | 503,000 | -11,000 | -5,000 |
| 2308 | Crook Primary | Maintained | 1,462,000 | 112,000 | 41,000 |
| 2310 | Crook Hartside Primary | Maintained | 862,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 |
| 2311 | Peases West Primary | Maintained | 501,000 | -7,000 | -6,000 |
| 2313 | Stanley (Crook) Primary | Maintained | 542,000 | -13,000 | -6,000 |
| 2316 | Sunnybrow Primary | Maintained | 497,000 | -7,000 | -6,000 |
| 2318 | Howden-le-Wear Primary | Maintained | 458,000 | - | - |
| 2319 | Frosterley Primary | Maintained | 307,000 | -5,000 | -3,000 |
| 2321 | Rookhope Primary | Maintained | 215,000 | -3,000 | -2,000 |
| 2322 | St. John's Chapel Primary | Maintained | 252,000 | -4,000 | -2,000 |
| 2324 | Wearhead Primary | Maintained | 233,000 | -3,000 | -1,000 |
| 2326 | Willington Primary | Maintained | 905,000 | 39,000 | 23,000 |
| 2328 | Witton-le-Wear Primary | Maintained | 430,000 | -9,000 | -4,000 |
| 2329 | Wolsingham Primary | Maintained | 745,000 | -3,000 | -3,000 |
| 2330 | Oakley Cross Primary | Maintained | 667,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|------------------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 2351 | Byers Green Primary | Maintained | 488,000 | -11,000 | -6,000 |
| 2357 | Bluebell Meadow Primary | Maintained | 391,000 | -9,000 | -4,000 |
| 2361 | Kirk Merrington Primary | Maintained | 531,000 | -10,000 | -6,000 |
| 2362 | Cassop Primary | Maintained | 570,000 | -13,000 | -6,000 |
| 2368 | Ferryhill Station Primary | Maintained | 473,000 | -3,000 | -3,000 |
| 2370 | West Cornforth Primary | Maintained | 779,000 | -15,000 | -9,000 |
| 2372 | Coxhoe Primary | Maintained | 967,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 2374 | Kelloe Primary | Maintained | 526,000 | -5,000 | -5,000 |
| 2379 | Tudhoe Colliery Primary | Academy | 769,000 | 22,000 | 20,000 |
| 2385 | Dean Bank Primary and Nursery | Maintained | 701,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2388 | Bowburn Juniors | Maintained | 710,000 | 38,000 | 18,000 |
| 2389 | Bowburn Infant and Nursery | Maintained | 654,000 | 25,000 | 16,000 |
| 2394 | Spennymoor Ox Close Primary | Maintained | 1,005,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 2397 | Cleves Cross Primary | Academy | 839,000 | -1,000 | -1,000 |
| 2399 | Fishburn Primary | Maintained | 681,000 | -4,000 | -4,000 |
| 2400 | Broom Cottages Primary and Nursery | Maintained | 1,050,000 | 65,000 | 28,000 |
| 2401 | Bp Auckland Etherley Lane Primary | Maintained | 1,151,000 | 45,000 | 31,000 |
| 2409 | Ramshaw Primary | Maintained | 383,000 | -8,000 | -4,000 |
| 2410 | Forest-of-Teesdale Primary | Maintained | 212,000 | -2,000 | -1,000 |
| 2411 | Aycliffe Village Primary | Maintained | 646,000 | -5,000 | -5,000 |
| 2413 | Butterknowle Primary | Maintained | 261,000 | -5,000 | -3,000 |
| 2417 | Escomb Primary | Maintained | 818,000 | -12,000 | -10,000 |
| 2419 | St. Helens Auckland Primary | Maintained | 703,000 | -17,000 | -9,000 |
| 2423 | Thornhill Primary | Maintained | 851,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2426 | Toft Hill Primary | Maintained | 680,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| 2428 | Woodland Primary | Maintained | 290,000 | -5,000 | -2,000 |
| 2430 | Middleton-in -Teesdale Primary | Maintained | 475,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 2433 | Cockton Hill Juniors | Maintained | 959,000 | 69,000 | 25,000 |
| 2434 | Cockton Hill Infants | Maintained | 736,000 | -18,000 | -9,000 |
| 2438 | Timothy Hackworth Primary | Maintained | 1,545,000 | 169,000 | 43,000 |
| 2440 | Cockfield Primary | Maintained | 495,000 | -9,000 | -5,000 |
| 2442 | Barnard Castle Montalbo Primary | Maintained | 482,000 | -11,000 | -6,000 |
| 2453 | New Brancepeth Primary | Maintained | 487,000 | -11,000 | -6,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|---------------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 2455 | Langley Moor Primary | Maintained | 790,000 | 18,000 | 18,000 |
| 2462 | Witton Gilbert Primary | Maintained | 725,000 | 34,000 | 18,000 |
| 2470 | Pittington Primary | Maintained | 749,000 | -19,000 | -10,000 |
| 2472 | Ludworth Primary | Maintained | 407,000 | -9,000 | -5,000 |
| 2473 | Sherburn Primary | Maintained | 864,000 | 98,000 | 17,000 |
| 2475 | West Rainton Primary | Maintained | 640,000 | -4,000 | -4,000 |
| 2477 | Bearpark Primary | Maintained | 458,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 2481 | Neville's Cross Primary | Maintained | 972,000 | 26,000 | 25,000 |
| 2488 | Newton Hall Infants | Maintained | 648,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 2497 | Esh Winning Primary | Maintained | 854,000 | 46,000 | 20,000 |
| 2498 | Belmont Cheveley Park Primary | Maintained | 673,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 2499 | Laurel Avenue Community Primary | Maintained | 461,000 | -9,000 | -5,000 |
| 2509 | Hesleden Primary | Maintained | 541,000 | -13,000 | -6,000 |
| 2516 | Deaf Hill Primary | Maintained | 713,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 2523 | Thornley Primary | Maintained | 696,000 | - | - |
| 2526 | Wheatley Hill Community Primary | Maintained | 807,000 | -15,000 | -10,000 |
| 2528 | Wingate Juniors | Maintained | 704,000 | -12,000 | -9,000 |
| 2531 | Wingate Infants | Maintained | 658,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 2532 | Horden Cotsford Juniors | Maintained | 658,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 2534 | Horden Cotsford Infants | Maintained | 425,000 | -9,000 | -5,000 |
| 2536 | Shotton Primary | Maintained | 1,271,000 | 119,000 | 34,000 |
| 2540 | Acre Rigg Infants | Maintained | 880,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2563 | Sedgefield Primary | Maintained | 721,000 | -11,000 | -9,000 |
| 2593 | Sedgefield Hardwick Primary | Maintained | 749,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2704 | Copeland Road Primary | Maintained | 685,000 | -17,000 | -9,000 |
| 2705 | St. Andrew's Primary | Maintained | 552,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 2706 | Byerley Park Primary | Maintained | 816,000 | -15,000 | -11,000 |
| 2708 | Horndale Infants | Maintained | 489,000 | -8,000 | -6,000 |
| 2729 | Langley Park Primary | Maintained | 671,000 | 23,000 | 16,000 |
| 2733 | Yohden Primary | Maintained | 741,000 | - | - |
| 2734 | Howletch Lane Primary | Maintained | 1,485,000 | 79,000 | 41,000 |
| 2737 | Blackhall Colliery Primary | Maintained | 914,000 | 48,000 | 23,000 |
| 2742 | Vane Road Primary | Maintained | 1,362,000 | 114,000 | 37,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|---------------------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 2743 | Sugar Hill Primary | Maintained | 1,416,000 | 122,000 | 39,000 |
| 2744 | Pelton Roseberry Primary | Maintained | 644,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| 2745 | Bullion Lane Primary | Maintained | 1,175,000 | 60,000 | 32,000 |
| 2746 | Easington Colliery Primary | Maintained | 1,958,000 | 139,000 | 53,000 |
| 2747 | Durham Gillesgate Primary | Maintained | 733,000 | 54,000 | 18,000 |
| 2748 | Finchale Primary | Maintained | 760,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 2749 | Benfieldside Primary | Maintained | 907,000 | 89,000 | 22,000 |
| 2750 | King Street Primary | Maintained | 870,000 | 24,000 | 23,000 |
| 2751 | Framwellgate Moor Primary | Maintained | 763,000 | 52,000 | 20,000 |
| 2943 | Chester-le-Street Newker Primary | Maintained | 1,460,000 | 90,000 | 39,000 |
| 3031 | Chester-le-Street CE Primary | Maintained | 1,197,000 | 81,000 | 32,000 |
| 3063 | Ebchester CE Primary | Maintained | 416,000 | -9,000 | -5,000 |
| 3085 | St. Stephen's CE Primary | Maintained | 865,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 3087 | Stanhope Barrington CE Primary | Maintained | 469,000 | -1,000 | -1,000 |
| 3121 | Green Lane CE Primary | Maintained | 820,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| 3123 | St. Anne's CE Primary | Maintained | 844,000 | -8,000 | -8,000 |
| 3130 | Evenwood CE Primary | Maintained | 445,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3131 | Gainford CE Primary | Maintained | 391,000 | -8,000 | -4,000 |
| 3134 | Ingleton CE Primary | Maintained | 389,000 | -8,000 | -4,000 |
| 3141 | Staindrop CE Primary | Maintained | 674,000 | -1,000 | -1,000 |
| 3161 | Belmont CE Primary | Maintained | 989,000 | 35,000 | 26,000 |
| 3165 | St. Oswald's CE Primary & Nursery | Maintained | 499,000 | -11,000 | -6,000 |
| 3167 | Shincliffe CE Primary | Maintained | 794,000 | -9,000 | -9,000 |
| 3168 | St. Margaret's CE Primary | Maintained | 1,337,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 3182 | Easington CE Primary | Maintained | 480,000 | -11,000 | -6,000 |
| 3183 | Hutton Henry CE Primary | Maintained | 336,000 | -7,000 | -3,000 |
| 3213 | Lanchester EP Primary | Maintained | 1,131,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| 3300 | St. Cuthbert's RC Primary, New Seaham | Maintained | 776,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 3301 | St. Mary Magdalen RC Primary | Maintained | 952,000 | 37,000 | 25,000 |
| 3303 | Bowes Hutchinson CE Primary | Maintained | 291,000 | -5,000 | -2,000 |
| 3343 | St. Cuthbert's RC, Chester-le-Street | Maintained | 743,000 | -2,000 | -2,000 |
| 3344 | St. Bede's RC Primary, Sacriston | Maintained | 461,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3346 | St. Benet's RC Primary | Maintained | 789,000 | -20,000 | -10,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|--|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 3381 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, Stanley | Maintained | 852,000 | -22,000 | -11,000 |
| 3382 | St. Patrick's RC Primary, Dipton | Maintained | 722,000 | -19,000 | -9,000 |
| 3384 | St. Mary's RC Primary, South Moor | Maintained | 624,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| 3401 | St. Mary's RC Primary, Blackhill | Maintained | 773,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| 3403 | St. Pius X RC Primary | Maintained | 472,000 | -11,000 | -5,000 |
| 3404 | St. Patrick's RC Primary, Consett | Maintained | 1,300,000 | 85,000 | 36,000 |
| 3406 | Esh CE Primary | Maintained | 444,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3407 | St. Michael's RC Primary, Esh Laude | Maintained | 661,000 | -17,000 | -8,000 |
| 3409 | Our Lady & St. Joseph's RC Primary | Maintained | 551,000 | -2,000 | -2,000 |
| 3411 | Bishop Ian Ramsey CE Primary | Maintained | 755,000 | -8,000 | -8,000 |
| 3413 | All Saints' RC Primary | Maintained | 658,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| 3421 | St. Cuthbert's RC Primary, Crook | Maintained | 821,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| 3425 | Our Lady & St. Thomas RC Primary | Maintained | 526,000 | -10,000 | -6,000 |
| 3441 | St. Michael's CE , Bishop Middleham | Maintained | 472,000 | -11,000 | -5,000 |
| 3442 | St. Williams RC Primary, Trimdon | Maintained | 499,000 | -12,000 | -6,000 |
| 3444 | St. Charles' RC Primary, Tudhoe | Maintained | 834,000 | -14,000 | -11,000 |
| 3461 | St. Mary's RC Primary, Barnard Castle | Maintained | 424,000 | -9,000 | -4,000 |
| 3462 | St. Wilfrid's RC Primary | Maintained | 894,000 | -9,000 | -9,000 |
| 3465 | St. Chad's RC Primary | Maintained | 423,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3469 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, Coundon | Maintained | 600,000 | -15,000 | -7,000 |
| 3470 | St. Mary's RC Primary, N/A | Maintained | 769,000 | 32,000 | 19,000 |
| 3471 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, N/A | Maintained | 619,000 | 31,000 | 16,000 |
| 3472 | St. Francis CE Juniors | Maintained | 581,000 | -12,000 | -7,000 |
| 3481 | St. Patrick's RC Primary, Langley Moor | Maintained | 459,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3483 | Our Lady Queen of Martyrs' RC Primary | Maintained | 447,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3485 | St. Hild's College CE Primary | Maintained | 778,000 | 21,000 | 20,000 |
| 3486 | St. Godric's RC Primary, Durham | Maintained | 758,000 | -6,000 | -6,000 |
| 3488 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, Ushaw Moor | Maintained | 492,000 | -12,000 | -6,000 |
| 3489 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, Durham | Maintained | 633,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| 3491 | Blue Coat CE Juniors | Maintained | 805,000 | -7,000 | -7,000 |
| 3492 | St. Thomas More RC Primary | Maintained | 450,000 | -10,000 | -5,000 |
| 3501 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, Murton | Maintained | 557,000 | -14,000 | -7,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|--|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 3502 | St. Godric's RC Primary, Thornley | Maintained | 533,000 | -12,000 | -6,000 |
| 3504 | Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary | Maintained | 632,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 3505 | St. Mary's RC Primary, Wingate | Maintained | 386,000 | -8,000 | -4,000 |
| 3506 | St. Joseph's RC Primary, Blackhall | Maintained | 374,000 | -8,000 | -4,000 |
| 3507 | Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary | Maintained | 521,000 | -12,000 | -6,000 |
| 3510 | Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary | Maintained | 1,079,000 | 43,000 | 29,000 |
| 3511 | Blessed John Duckett RC Primary | Maintained | 412,000 | -9,000 | -5,000 |
| 3513 | St. John's CE Primary Shildon | Maintained | 928,000 | 26,000 | 24,000 |
| 3516 | Prince Bishops Primary School | Maintained | 867,000 | -22,000 | -11,000 |
| 3517 | Ribbon Academy | Academy | 1,918,000 | 142,000 | 55,000 |
| 3518 | Woodham Burn Primary School | Maintained | 941,000 | 31,000 | 24,000 |
| 3519 | Silver Tree Primary School | Maintained | 825,000 | 55,000 | 21,000 |
| 3520 | Seaview Primary School, Deneside | Maintained | 1,310,000 | -8,000 | -8,000 |
| 3522 | Tanfield Lea Community Primary School | Maintained | 1,041,000 | 47,000 | 28,000 |
| 3523 | Woodhouse Community Primary School | Maintained | 964,000 | -7,000 | -7,000 |
| 3524 | Seaham Trinity Primary School | Maintained | 1,541,000 | 115,000 | 41,000 |
| 3525 | Brandon Primary School | Maintained | 1,109,000 | 75,000 | 28,000 |
| 3526 | Greenland Community Primary School | Maintained | 1,160,000 | 99,000 | 31,000 |
| 3527 | Shotton Hall Primary School | Maintained | 1,424,000 | 58,000 | 37,000 |
| 4000 | North Durham Academy | Academy | 5,650,000 | -69,000 | -69,000 |
| 4001 | Consett Academy | Academy | 5,443,000 | -21,000 | -21,000 |
| 4003 | Apollo Studio Academy | Academy | 636,000 | -16,000 | -8,000 |
| 4006 | UTC South Durham | Academy | - | - | - |
| 4019 | Seaham High School | Maintained | 4,434,000 | -128,000 | -64,000 |
| 4047 | Park View School | Academy | 5,279,000 | -15,000 | -15,000 |
| 4052 | Fyndoune Community College | Maintained | 2,262,000 | -64,000 | -32,000 |
| 4054 | The Hermitage Academy | Academy | 4,338,000 | 51,000 | 51,000 |
| 4099 | Tanfield School | Maintained | 2,810,000 | -35,000 | -35,000 |
| 4128 | Parkside Sports College | Academy | 3,836,000 | -46,000 | -46,000 |
| 4139 | Wolsingham School | Maintained | 2,501,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 4150 | Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College | Maintained | 3,292,000 | -72,000 | -47,000 |
| 4154 | Whitworth Park School & 6th Form College | Maintained | 4,671,000 | 67,000 | 67,000 |

| | | | 2016/17 Formula Funding (before de- delegation adjustments) | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF without transitional protection | EFA figure for change in 2016-17 funding using NFF with first year transitional protection |
|------|---------------------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
| | | | £ | £ | £ |
| 4162 | Bishop Barrington School | Maintained | 3,931,000 | -95,000 | -56,000 |
| 4171 | Staindrop School | Academy | 2,694,000 | -23,000 | -23,000 |
| 4174 | Teesdale School | Academy | 2,340,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 4175 | Woodham Academy | Academy | 3,793,000 | 58,000 | 58,000 |
| 4176 | Greenfield Community College | Maintained | 5,603,000 | -36,000 | -36,000 |
| 4178 | King James 1 Academy | Academy | 3,296,000 | -92,000 | -48,000 |
| 4185 | Belmont Community School | Maintained | 3,995,000 | -64,000 | -57,000 |
| 4190 | Framwellgate School Durham | Academy | 3,733,000 | -17,000 | -17,000 |
| 4192 | Durham Community Business College | Maintained | 2,285,000 | -57,000 | -32,000 |
| 4200 | Durham Johnston Comprehensive School | Maintained | 5,841,000 | 67,000 | 67,000 |
| 4214 | Dene Community School of Technology | Maintained | 3,491,000 | -88,000 | -49,000 |
| 4215 | The Academy at Shotton Hall | Academy | 6,539,000 | -13,000 | -13,000 |
| 4218 | Wellfield School | Maintained | 3,150,000 | -25,000 | -25,000 |
| 4231 | Sedgefield Community College | Maintained | 5,332,000 | 52,000 | 52,000 |
| 4280 | Easington Academy | Academy | 3,746,000 | -19,000 | -19,000 |
| 4681 | St John's School & Sixth Form College | Academy | 5,328,000 | -11,000 | -11,000 |
| 4691 | St. Leonard's Catholic School | Academy | 5,149,000 | 87,000 | 87,000 |
| 4693 | St. Bede's RC Comprehensive, Peterlee | Maintained | 3,222,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| 4694 | St Bede's RC & Sixth Form College | Academy | 5,465,000 | 53,000 | 53,000 |
| | TOTAL | | 285,196,000 | 3,057,000 | 1,306,000 |

| SUMMARY OF IMPACT ACROSS PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | Number and (%) impacted | Average change without protection £ | Average change with protection £ |
| Primary Schools | | | |
| Increased Funding | 101 (48%) | 46,485 | 21,772 |
| Reduced Funding | 111 (52%) | (9,874) | (5,712) |
| No change | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Secondary Schools | | | |
| Increased Funding | 10 (32%) | 46,400 | 46,400 |
| Reduced Funding | 21 (68%) | (47,905) | (34,429) |
| No change | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| All Schools | | | |
| Increased Funding | 111 (46%) | 46,477 | 23,991 |
| Reduced Funding | 132 (54%) | (15,924) | (10,280) |
| No change | 4 | 0 | |

Schools National funding Formula

1. In designing our national funding formula, we have taken careful steps to balance the principles of fairness and stability. Do you think we have struck the right balance?
2. Do you support our proposal to set the primary to secondary ratio in line with the current national average of 1:1.29, which means that pupils in the secondary phase are funded overall 29% higher than pupils in the primary phase?
3. Do you support our proposal to maximise pupil-led funding, so that more funding is allocated to factors that relate directly to pupils and their characteristics?
4. Within the total pupil-led funding, do you support our proposal to increase the proportion allocated to the additional needs factors (deprivation, low prior attainment and English as an additional language)?
5. Do you agree with the proposed weightings for each of the additional needs factors?
6. Do you have any suggestions about potential indicators and data sources we could use to allocate mobility funding in 2019-20 and beyond?
7. Do you agree with the proposed lump sum amount of £110,000 for all schools?
8. Do you agree with the proposed amounts for sparsity funding of up to £25,000 for primary schools and up to £65,000 for secondary, middle and all-through schools?
9. Do you agree that lagged pupil growth data would provide an effective basis for the growth factor in the longer term?
10. Do you agree with the principle of a funding floor that would protect schools from large overall reductions as a result of this formula? This would be in addition to the minimum funding guarantee.

High Needs Funding Formula

1. In designing our national funding formula, we have taken careful steps to balance the principles of fairness and stability. Do you think we have struck the right balance?
2. We are proposing a formula comprising a number of formula factors with different values and weightings. Do you agree with the following proposals?
 - Historic spend factor – to allocate to each local authority a sum equal to 50% of its planned spending baseline
 - Basic entitlement – to allocate to each local authority £4,000 per pupil
3. We propose to use the following weightings for each of the formula factors listed below, adding up to 100%. Do you agree?

- Population – 50%
- Free school meals eligibility – 10%
- IDACI – 10%
- Key stage 2 low attainment – 7.5%
- Key stage 4 low attainment – 7.5%
- Children in bad health – 7.5%
- Disability living allowance – 7.5%

4. Do you agree with the principle of protecting local authorities from reductions in funding as a result of this formula? This is referred to as a funding floor in this document.
5. Do you support our proposal to set the funding floor such that no local authority will see a reduction in funding, compared to their spending baseline?
6. Do you agree with our proposals to allow limited flexibility between schools and high needs budgets in 2018-19?
7. Do you have any suggestions about the level of flexibility we should allow between schools and high needs budgets in 2019-20 and beyond?
8. Are there further considerations we should be taking into account about the proposed high needs national funding formula?
9. Is there any evidence relating to the eight protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010 that is not included in the Equalities Analysis Impact Assessment and that we should take into account?

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

27 February 2017



Management of School Exclusions

**Report of Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director
Children and Young people's Services**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the management of exclusions in County Durham.

Background

2. In response to a specific request from one of the members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this report will outline factors affecting school exclusion, and the response of the local authority to what is a matter of national concern.
3. Government guidance states that a decision to exclude should only be made
 - (a) In response to serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
 - (b) If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.
4. Permanent exclusion is an acknowledgement by the school that it has exhausted all available strategies for dealing with the child and should normally be used at a last resort. However, other exceptional circumstances might justify a school's decision to permanently exclude: these might include:
 - (a) Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff;
 - (b) Sexual abuse or assault;
 - (c) Supplying an illegal drug;
 - (d) Carrying an offensive weapon.

Procedures Following Permanent Exclusion

5. The pupil remains on the roll of the school until any appeal is determined, until the time limit for the parents to lodge an appeal has expired without an appeal being brought, or the parent has informed the LA in writing that no appeal is to be brought. It is the responsibility of the school during the first 5 days of a permanent exclusion to ensure that work is sent home for the pupil to complete. During these initial 5 days of exclusion parents must ensure that their child is not found in a public place during normal school hours without reasonable

justification. Parents are subject to a fixed penalty notice fine if they fail to do this. (Information of fixed penalty notice can be found on the extranet: "Penalty Notices for Truancy/Penalty Notice for excluded pupils protocol").

6. From the 6th day of the permanent exclusion the LA is statutorily responsible for ensuring that suitable full-time education is provided. In the situation where many permanent exclusions occur, including times when schools permanently exclude pupils without fully exploring alternatives to this, an excessive and unreasonable burden can be placed on the local authority to provide suitable education. It is therefore not only in the interests of schools and children, but also of the local authority, that exclusions are carefully managed.
7. Schools may exclude for a fixed term period (ie: not permanent exclusion) and are required to set and mark work during this period. If the fixed term exclusion exceeds 5 days, the responsibility is for the school to find suitable alternative education beyond this point.
8. Interviews with parents during the period of exclusion to consider reintegration are mandatory.

Behaviour panels

9. As part of a move to manage exclusions in County Durham, and in response to an increasing rate of exclusion by schools, consultation was undertaken resulting in setting up four 'behaviour partnership panels'. These panels, meeting monthly, receive referrals from schools and consider the best course of action in each case. This can include managed moves, turnaround placements and – only where necessary – exclusion.
10. The panels comprise school leader representatives and local authority officers in a supporting capacity. Panels take joint responsibility for the young people who have been brought to their attention. Representatives from One Point and Think Family have supported the work of the panels by providing updates of agencies involved with individual cases as well as offering advice and support to schools, young people and their families by both delivering or sign-posting support.
11. Each panel receives £150,000 to support schools in their collaborative approaches to meet the needs of young people at risk of exclusion. This funding allows schools to continue to work together and with alternative education providers and services to offer appropriate pathways for young people disengaged with education.
12. The effectiveness of these panels can be gauged by the fact that during the academic year 2015/16, 197 young people at risk of permanent exclusion were supported by the panels across County Durham and only 49 cases went on to permanent exclusion. There has also been a reduction of difficult in-year transfer meetings, as the panels act to mediate and ensure the application of the local authority's Fair Access Protocol.
13. Where possible, Year 11 pupils remain on their school's role even if receiving off-site alternative support packages, thus avoiding unnecessary and unhelpful movement of pupils during their critical GCSE year. It also minimises the scope

for schools to make tactical moves to protect their headline results by excluding pupils.

14. From September 2016, The Woodlands (formerly the PRU) has offered off site intervention at the Bridge Placement in Lanchester. The key elements of this provision are:
 - The referring schools nominate a member of staff who must attend all review meetings and be available to discuss any issues.
 - The referring school must provide academic progress data, including KS1 and 2 SATs data, risk assessments, attitudes to learning used to engage and motivate, history of interventions including a full record of agency's involvement and copies of any SEN Support Plans/provision maps.
 - Any pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs as the underlying concerns will only be offered a start date once the referring school has submitted paperwork to the SEN placement and provision team for a statutory assessment to be considered.
 - A reintegration action plan will be agreed for every pupil to support their return to school.

Conclusion

15. Exclusion remains a significant concern for the local authority, matching the high national priority it currently has. Actions taken in County Durham have helped to reduce high levels of exclusion, but the work of the behaviour panels needs to be supported and developed as this issue will not be resolved.
16. From 2016, the application of Progress 8 as an outcome measure at GCSE is likely to impact upon schools that choose to exclude pupils in order to avoid the negative effect of any student failing to make sufficient progress. The local authority is keeping a close watch on any emerging patterns of exclusion and will continue to work with the behaviour panels to counteract – as far as possible – actions taken by schools to exclude pupils without having first fully explored and applied every alternative.

Recommendation

17. Members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to read and note the content of the report

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - None

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The review report takes into consideration Equality and Diversity; schools failing to comply with local and national statutory guidance will be in breach of equality and diversity legislation.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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

27 February 2017



Children's Services Update

Report of Corporate Management Team

Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services

Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People's Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the local regional and national developments in relation to Children's Services. In addition, the report provides an update on progress following the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in February 2016, the pressures facing the Service, workforce initiatives and strategic programmes aimed at reducing these pressures. The report also provides an update on the Stronger Families Programme, Child Sexual Exploitation and the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The national policy context is attached at Appendix 2.

Background

- 2 A report was last presented to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 September 2016 providing information on the national and local developments which support early intervention and prevention and protection of children and young people.
- 3 The report provided Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Children's Service's inspection regime and an update on the transformation journey that has been undertaken in Children's Services in Durham.

Local Context

Children's Services – Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF)

- 4 The Ofsted improvement plan was submitted to Ofsted on 28 September 2016. The Senior Inspector and Lead Inspector were assured by the content of the plan and fed back that it is a comprehensive and focused document with clear actions and timescales.
- 5 The final Ofsted improvement plan has been made available in the Members' library.

- 6 The improvement plan is grouped into the following 4 themes covering the 14 recommendations:
- Strengthening management and staffing capacity;
 - Strengthening political and management oversight;
 - Improving the quality of practice; and
 - Compliance with regulations.
- 7 A Quality Improvement Board (QIB) is chaired by the Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People’s Services and meets monthly to provide strategic oversight and lead improvements in quality. The Board oversees the implementation of the Ofsted improvement plan.
- 8 A forward plan to ensure all themes are looked at in detail each month has been agreed. To date the Board has considered three themes in detail:
- Theme 1 - strengthening management and staffing capacity;
 - Theme 2 - strengthening political and management oversight; and
 - Theme 3 - improving the quality of practice.

Improvement Plan Progress Overview

- 9 Performance summary reports on compliance to the tasks within the improvement action plan are considered on a monthly basis by the Board. There are a total of 79 actions to be taken and as at 5 December 2016, performance is as follows:

| Status | Actions | % |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Completed | 33 | 42 |
| On target | 33 | 42 |
| Behind target | 0 | 0 |
| Not started | 13 | 16 |
| Total | 79 | 100 |

Theme 1 - strengthening management and staffing capacity

- 10 There are five key milestones in Theme 1, all of which are on target:
- M1 Resources required identified and financial management processes applied to meet demand.
 - M2 Recruitment process reviewed and monitored through key performance data.
 - M3 Evaluation of social work development programmes completed.
 - M4 Social Worker Health Check completed.
 - M5 Structure designed and implemented.
- 11 Good progress has been made in relation to Theme 1 and a number of positive outcomes have been achieved as detailed below.

- a) Key performance data relating to human resources activity, staff turnover, agency staff usage, attendance, staff supervision and appraisal have been considered in detail. Staff sickness is now at the lowest it has been since 2014/15 with the number of days lost to sickness down to 3.31 days per Full Time Equivalent (FTE). There is more stability in the workforce; the turnover rate is currently 6.1% which represents an improvement of 2.8% from the previous quarter and the vacancy rate is 8.87% which represents an improvement of 1.83%.
- b) A detailed analysis of workflow and caseload pressures within Children's Social Work teams has been carried and the analysis provided the rationale for the recommendation to Cabinet in December 2016 for additional resources and a growth bid. The MTFP(7) model for 2017/18 has been updated to reflect the full year impact of the budget pressures with a sum of £4.2million included to reflect the increase in the base budget required for care placements and additional social workers.
- c) The growth bid will be key to taking forward work to address both resource capacity and a re-profiling of the MTFP savings linked to current and projected spend relating to Looked After Children (LAC) cases.
- d) The Council has commissioned a 'deep dive' study of the organisation that will look at cost, quality and maturity of the service provision across the Council, including Children and Young People's Services. This will inform our strategy for using digital technologies, identify opportunities for efficiencies and bring ideas and expertise from good practice across the country.
- e) A Lean Review is to be undertaken in Children and Young People's Services. Lean is a customer-centric methodology used to continually improve any process through the elimination of waste. It is based on the ideas of 'continuous incremental improvement' and 'respect for people'.
- f) There is a shortage of qualified and experienced social workers in the region. In response to this a number of initiatives have been implemented to recruit, develop and retain social workers and managers.
- g) The Recruitment Strategy has been refreshed. The website has been revised and includes a recruitment brochure, revised materials and 'talking heads' which are short video clips of staff talking about their experiences in Durham. These include a talking head of the Head of Children's Services and a Team Manager as well as a Newly Qualified Social Worker and are engaging and innovative. Seventeen social workers have been recruited in 2016.
- h) The Social Work Academy, which focuses on the nurturing and support of 12 Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSWs) is now fully functioning and led by a Practice Lead. A further 24 newly qualified social workers are employed in teams. A review undertaken in November 2016, indicates the following:

- NQSWs in the Academy are more likely to report that they have a positive learning experience than NQSWs in social work teams.
 - NQSWs in the Academy feel more secure and attached to their NQSW colleagues than NQSWs placed in teams and therefore are more likely to ask questions and challenge the status quo.
- i) The review has recommended a number of actions including implementation of a new model from Spring/Summer 2017 to ensure that all NQSWs in Durham are attached to the Academy and have a permanent contract.
 - j) The 'Strengthening Managers' programme has been developed and the first cohort of 23 managers have started with a completion date of June. At that point, a second cohort will begin the programme. The 'Aspirant Team Managers' programme has also been recruited to and six prospective team managers are now engaged on the programme.
 - k) A staff survey has been circulated to be used by the Principal Social Worker as part of the annual 'Health Check'. This includes seeking views on the quality of the information technology systems, workplace environment, business support and details on working hours and levels of supervision support etc. The information gathered from the survey will be used to provide senior managers with some insight into a range of issues impacting on social workers and to determine areas of future priority.
 - l) Frontline is a two year programme for people with high level degree qualifications who want to work as social workers with children and families. Children's Services intends to host one unit of four students in 2017.
- 12 The Enterprise Act 2016 introduced apprenticeship targets for public bodies and from April 2017 the way the Government funds apprenticeships in England is changing as part of the Apprenticeship Levy. As a result of these initiatives the development of a social work apprenticeships programme is being proposed which will:
- (a) Provide an opportunity for skilled and experienced support to staff to undertake social work qualifications.
 - (b) Support the recruitment and retention of social workers and support staff.
 - (c) Utilise the apprenticeship levy.
 - (d) Increase the number of apprenticeship starts across Durham County Council.
- 13 Children's Services agreed to participate in the development of the standard. The bid to create the standard was accepted by Department for Education in December, 2016. Work is expected to commence from January 2017.
- 14 Paragraphs 71-77 outline further regional and workforce development initiatives and strategic programmes aimed at reducing workforce pressures.

Theme 2 - strengthening political and management oversight

- 15 There are four key milestones in Theme 2, all of which are on target:
- M1 Political and senior management reporting programmes set.
 - M2 Opportunities to discuss success and issues are generated across the Council.
 - M3 Updated electronic record management system procured and implemented.
 - M4 Review existing working practices and undertake audits to determine effectiveness in key areas of service delivery.
- 16 The work of Theme 2 is linked to the Council's Transformation Programme which recognises the significant challenges that the Council faces, aims to redesign services to reduce cost, prioritise resource on the front line, manage demand by helping individuals, families and communities become more resilient, make best use of partners and empower staff. The Children and Young People's Services Transformation Programme is an intrinsic part of the Council's Transformation programme, informing the prioritisation of council-wide transformation activity and being shared by organisational wide work.
- 17 The work also links to a corporate Transformation project which aims to radically shape and streamline council-wide performance management, by shifting planning, refocusing performance management on cross council transparency, making the process more lean and improving analysis.
- 18 The Cabinet Member, Chair of Corporate Parenting (CPP) and Scrutiny Chairs have agreed a series of recommendations to refocus and better join up their respective oversight roles. This was further discussed at the Constitutional Working Group on 11 January 2017. A report benchmarking Durham's approach to corporate parenting with other councils was shared with the QIB in October. Further benchmarking work focusing on Regulation 44 visits and constitutional changes are nearing completion.
- 19 A Special Professional Services Provider was recruited in August 2016 to support the SSID Review and produce a clear process to deliver a new system as quickly as possible for Children's Services social care records. A detailed project plan is in place to ensure this is managed effectively. In line with the Procurement timetable, the outline business case will be considered in January 2017 and it is planned to have selected the preferred system and awarded the contract by May 2017. This is two months earlier than the original planned date. The project is on target and a range of key actions are being progressed to ensure an effective procurement. A substantial amount of user engagement sessions with front line staff, managers and finance colleagues are underway to ensure there is a firm understanding of the project from a practice perspective. Visits to other local authority sites in York City and North Yorkshire to observe the two leading Children's IT Systems in operation have been completed.
- 20 In the interim, a project has been established to implement a 'work around' electronic case file system for Children's Services. Sharepoint has been identified as the appropriate platform for this piece of work and work is

progressing to agreed timescales. Engagement, demonstration and training sessions on the sharepoint platform have been carried out with the appropriate staff and personnel.

Theme 3 - improving the quality of practice- outcomes

- 21 There are seven key milestones in Theme 3, all of which are on target:
- M1 Review existing working practices in relation to assessment and undertake internal and external audits to determine effectiveness.
 - M2 Practice standards for care planning are agreed and implemented.
 - M3 Introduce family friendly care plan documentation.
 - M4 LSCB strategy meetings attendance monitored and comprehensive IRO report on quality of planning to CYPST.
 - M5 Family outcomes framework developed and evaluated to determine service improvement.
 - M6 Culture of quality instilled with the workforce.
 - M7 Comprehensive programme of internal and external audits undertaken and areas of concern acted upon.
- 22 The Service has undertaken a number of actions in relation to Theme 3 to ensure greater challenge, clearer expectations on what good quality casework entails and ensuring that learning and improvement as result of audit, are being acted upon and the feedback 'loop' is being strengthened. Some examples are listed below:
- Revised Practice Standards for Assessment and Planning;
 - A key reference tool for practitioners and managers for evaluating casework activity has been developed;
 - Training and support delivered through eight workshops on "Putting Analysis into Assessments";
 - A thematic audit of assessments has been completed;
 - Broader training on assessments for social work practitioners is planned.
- 23 There is further work to be undertaken on the improvement journey and new initiatives are being implemented such as established Quality Champions within the service.
- 24 The Family Outcomes Framework and Family Friendly Care Plan have now been developed and nine workshops are currently being delivered to support practitioners to implement the Outcome Focussed Care Plans within their casework practice.
- 25 A number of actions have been undertaken to support the Independent Reviewing Officers to challenge effectively and contribute to service improvement, including the Dispute Resolution Process (DRP) which was launched on 1 November 2016.
- 26 A full case file audit tool and accompanying auditors handbook have been developed and are being piloted with a view to full implementation in January 2017. This should lead to a comprehensive and detailed quality control

process which will provide clear and accountable evidence on the quality of front line practice.

- 27 A number of actions have been taken to improve management grip of cases. Out of Parental Care clinics run in each of the three Families First localities on a monthly basis. The intention behind these clinics is to ensure that drift and delay in care planning is minimised; that cases are worked according to appropriate procedures and regulation and that legal advisors are fully aware of the details of these cases.
- 28 The reviewing process within the Child Protection Service is primarily via the PLO panel which occurs in each locality on a monthly basis. The PLO case tracking system and process has been reviewed and revised.
- 29 Social work consultants within Families First teams have established case review clinics on a monthly basis to review all cases which have been open for more than six months. This is intended to ensure that the risk of drift and delay is minimised.

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) - Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF)

- 30 The Action Plan, resulting from the Ofsted Inspection, was approved by the LSCB Board and submitted to Ofsted on 2 August 2016. All actions have been incorporated into the LSCB Business Plan 2015-2018 which has been refreshed following the Ofsted inspection.

Children’s Homes Inspection Activity

- 31 The overall position at 18 November 2016 with regard to Durham County Council (DCC) children’s homes is as follows:

| Name | Full inspection date | Full inspection overall judgement |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| West Rainton | 15.12.15 | Outstanding |
| Cedar Drive | 25.10.16 | Good |
| Park House | 17.05.16 | Good |
| Attlee Estate | 31.05.16 | Good |
| Newton Drive | 07.06.16 | Outstanding |
| Moorside | 28.06.16 | Requires improvement |
| New Lea House | 12.07.16 | Good |
| Aycliffe Secure | 27.09.16 | Good |
| High Etherley | 27.09.16 | Good |
| Blackgate East | 11.10.16 | Good |

Care Leavers

- 32 As Corporate Parents, Durham County Council has a responsibility towards supporting young people who are leaving care and making the transition into adulthood. As part of this process, the Council must ensure that our Care

Care Leavers are equipped with the necessary skills, confidence and experience to enable them to enter the labour market and ultimately lead happy, healthy, safe and fulfilling lives.

- 33 Considerable activity is now taking place across the Council to support our Care Leavers, including:
- Care Leavers Strategy 2015-2018 and associated Action Plan.
 - Youth Employment Statement, which specifically targets opportunities to Care Leavers. This sets out a commitment to Care Leavers as part of an overall programme of youth employment support, delivering 64 apprenticeships and 20 traineeships for care leavers by 2020.
 - Participation Plan 2015-2018 which aims to identify and co-ordinate a range of activities to increase the participation of young people in learning and to reduce the number of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The Plan (and separate action plan) has a specific focus on increasing the participation of Care Leavers in learning.
 - A £17.04 million ESF funded Youth Employment Initiative Programme – DurhamWorks – to reduce 16-24 year old unemployment, which offers enhanced support to Care Leavers including 1:1 support from Transition Advisors and programmes of activity including support to enter and remain in employment.

Stronger Families

- 34 By March 2015 Durham met its full target and “turned around” 1,320 families under Phase 1 of the Stronger Families Programme.
- 35 As one of the Troubled Families Programme’s Phase 2 “Early Starters”, Durham will work with 4,360 families and deliver Phase 2 over a five year period. Phase 2 includes much broader eligibility criteria, enabling the majority of families worked with by a range of statutory and non-statutory services to be part of the programme and to achieve results payments.
- 36 At the end of September 2016, Durham had identified and claimed results for 315 families as being ‘turned around’ against the new Family Outcome Framework (FOF).
- 37 The programme continues to participate in the national evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme by providing bi-annual family progress data.
- 38 The Stronger Families Programme has informed the development of the Children’s Services Innovation Programme. This will make the best use of the learning and expertise built during the programme, but also the resources generated through the programme, in order to achieve improved outcomes for all vulnerable families in County Durham.
- 39 Key challenges that must be addressed if the programme is to achieve its target of “turning around” 4,360 families by 2020 include:

- Achieving the results required to close the “claim gap” will be a priority for Children’s Services and the engagement of corporate and external partners in this will be key to accelerating the rate of claims.
- Addressing the low level of participation by partner agencies and ensuring that the programme is embedded across all agencies. The overwhelming majority of nominations are made by Children and Young People’s Services teams (approximately 83% of all nominated families to the end of September 2016).
- Should performance in terms of results payments not improve, action will be required to reconsider current budgetary plans in light of revised financial projections and budget pressures.
- Ensuring that there is accountability and monitoring of the delivery of the programme and that this is exercised through an active and robust Think Family Partnership.
- Embedding the outcomes-focussed plan development within SSID through well-managed and monitored implementation.
- Improving management oversight and quality assurance by Operational Managers across Children and Young People’s Services and partners, in order that practice translates into achieving the outcomes in the Family Outcome Framework.

Local Government Association (LGA) Children & Young People Now 2016 Awards

40 The Children & Young People Now Awards 2016 recognises initiatives from the public, private and voluntary sector that work with children and young people from birth to adolescence as well as their families. The Awards Ceremony took place on 24 November 2016 and the Council was successful in the following categories:

- **Winner of the Public Sector Children’s Team Award – West Rainton Children’s Home**
The home is a unique therapeutic setting for younger children with a dedicated staff team skilled at helping prepare children for living within a family setting. The project enables children to achieve stability within placement. The team strive to ensure that the home creates an environment that allows the children to achieve. Ofsted have recognised this good practice leading to an Outstanding rating, and the home has been asked to share their approach with other local authorities.
- **Young Carers Award – Supporting Young People with a Cancer Caring Role (in partnership with The Bridge Young Carers Project) – Highly Commended**
The project improves the lives of young people affected by cancer. It is the only young carers’ service in the country that Macmillan is working directly with. On completion of the pilot, it is hoped to work with Macmillan to roll the pilot out to other organisations across the country.

Children's Social Care Innovation Programme – April 2016 to March 2020

- 41 As part of the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme April 2016 to March 2020 Durham County Council submitted a bid for £6 million around wider transformation for the continuation and expansion of this work. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) also submitted a bid for £80,000 to increase the Voice of the Child, especially in relation to hard to reach groups.
- 42 On 2 November 2016 we were notified by the Department for Education (DfE) that both of these projects were unsuccessful. Of the 300 Expressions of Interest to the DfE, only 20 were selected and all projects selected were new projects.

0-19 Health Services Commissioned by Public Health

- 43 A new branding for the 0-19 health services '*Growing Healthy 0-19 County Durham*', has been developed. The school nursing service (5-19) has also been relaunched to promote and encourage young people to access support and advice about their health needs. A promotional bus will travel across all locations in County Durham from October 2016 – March 2017 visiting a variety of venues to raise the visibility of the school nursing service.
- 44 Five Emotional Resilience Nurses have been recruited as part of the 5-19 Healthy Child Team. These mental health trained nurses will provide direct support to school nurses and the pastoral staff in schools, building capacity within the Team to provide early support to young people on issues relating to their mental health and wellbeing. The staff will also be trained to deliver Youth Awareness Mental health (YAM) which will be rolled out in secondary school year 9 pupils.
- 45 There are many families who require additional support with risk factors such as substance misuse, domestic abuse and known mental health concerns. A new vulnerable parent pathway has been developed to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach in relation to the support offered to vulnerable families and to ensure this is integrated with partner agencies/services.

Youth Offending Service (YOS)

- 46 Charlie Taylor's Review of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales was published on 12 December 2016. It outlines the considerable achievements of the youth justice system, recognising the impact of the YOTs: '*There is no doubt that a key strength of the youth justice system has been the delivery through YOTs of locally based, multi-disciplinary services for children who offend*'.
- 47 The Review makes a compelling case for change, especially in relation to the secure estate (putting education at the heart of detention and creation of secure schools). It also recommends changes to the sentencing framework (including the introduction of Children's Panels and restricting the availability of short custodial sentences); a more devolved youth justice system; changes

to the inspection framework of YOTs (Ofsted rather than HMIP), and greater involvement of health.

- 48 Other recommendations include: devolution of the budget and commissioning responsibility for youth custody; reducing the criminalisation of children who are looked after; and review of LAC status for young people who are remanded to youth detention accommodation.
- 49 The Government's response to the Review, also published on 12 December, outlines the Government's commitment to work with partners and stakeholders to implement key recommendations, by putting education at the heart of youth custody and improving the provision of health care to tackle the factors that increase the risk of offending. The Government's response focuses on three main areas:
- The right framework for improvement
 - Tackling offending
 - Improving youth custody
- 50 The Youth Justice Board welcomes the publication of the report and the Government's response. Some recommendations in the Taylor Review require further work and consultation. The Government and YJB will consult with youth offending services, Management Boards, stakeholders and partners.
- 51 A summary report of key issues/recommendations will be available early in the New Year.
- 52 The Government has committed to continue to ring-fence grants for the provision of youth justice services within local authority areas (the Youth Justice grant). Their decision to ring-fence the Youth Justice grant is contrary to a central recommendation of the Taylor review.
- 53 It is pleasing to see, following Charlie Taylor's visit to Durham earlier this year, that CDYOS is highlighted in the Taylor Review: *'Some local authorities such as County Durham and Cornwall have retained a YOT model closer to its original form but co-located it with their children's services to achieve a more integrated response to vulnerable and offending children'*.

Speech Language and Communication Needs Strategy (SLCN)

- 54 CDYOS Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Strategy is evidencing extensive unmet needs among young people in the youth justice system in County Durham. The strategy is receiving considerable national recognition; receiving a Butler Trust Award 2015/16 (one of only 10 in the UK) and a visit from Lord McNally, Chair of the Youth Justice Board, and Colin Allars, Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board on 23 September 2016.
- 55 ClearCut Communication (communication friendly resources for young people in the youth justice system) developed by CDYOS and copyrighted to the Council, are being used nationally by other youth offending teams/services, and training to other YOTs regionally has been provided. The latest resource

'Thinking about Victims' was launched at the YJB Convention in late November 2016 and CDYOS have also held a seminar on SLCN work.

Local Safeguarding Children Board Update

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

56 Durham Constabulary have submitted a report to the LSCB on CSE Profile Key Findings 2016 (September 2015-March 2016) for Durham and Darlington. In summary the analysis found that:

- In the Durham area 283 individuals were at risk of CSE which includes all initial referrals and repeat referrals relating to the same case. This compares to 230 individuals at risk of CSE in 2015. Of these, 18 were high risk compared with 17 cases in the 2015 period. Initial referrals are categorised into low, medium and high risk and proportionate service support is provided in line with this assessment.
- The majority of sexual offences recorded are against children under 18, accounting for 63% of all sexual offences. 24% of all sexual offences recorded against children were CSE offences, as opposed to sexual abuse.
- Online CSE is one of the largest threats, accounting for 71% of all CSE crimes. Victims are younger, with a common age of 12. Certain groups are vulnerable to online harm, particularly those with learning difficulties, mental health or who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T). In 30% of online CSE incidents the offender has made an attempt to meet the victim. 87% of online incidents were reported by someone else and not the victim.
- Females are most at risk of CSE with the common age of 13-16 years of age, although online CSE victims were younger. Males accounted for 19% of CSE reports. In 40% of reports, victims had more than one vulnerability, for example, missing from home, drug and/or alcohol abuse, domestic abuse, mental health, learning difficulties, chaotic backgrounds, criminality, LGB&T communities, not in education etc.
- During the profiling period, in total 183 offenders/possible suspects have been identified with 97% male and 3% females. The majority of offending (29%) was perpetrated by young people from mid-teens to early 20s. Most were lone offenders, although some offenders are repeat offenders with multiple victims linked to them.
- Inappropriate relationships accounted for 18% of reports. Late teens/early 20s and older perpetrators are targeting those in their mid-teens. Boys were identified at risk of higher victimisation in this category.
- In relation to location, the analysis found that 7% of CSE occurred in public areas.

- 57 Durham County Council's Action Plan, setting out the actions the Council needs to take in response to CSE, is complete. Actions include further training for Members with the roll out of e-learning in 2017 and raising awareness of CSE amongst Area Action Partnerships.

Neglect

- 58 Child poverty in County Durham is higher than the England average, with 20,875 equating to 23.9% of children under 16 years living in poverty. Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on the development of children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. Work is being undertaken to address child poverty through a Poverty Action Group chaired by Durham County Council. A report, to be presented to Cabinet on the 18 January 2017, provides an update on the welfare reform programme and the wider issues of poverty and the council's response so far through its poverty action plan.
- 59 The Early Help and Neglect Strategy 2015-17 outlines our partnership commitment to deliver early timely help to children, young people and their families in County Durham and links to a suite of practice tools including:
- A Home Environment Assessment Tool which aims to identify early the indicators of neglect or poor home conditions and the adverse impact these may have on outcomes for children and young people. It will be used by health visitors, midwives, housing officers and social care staff.
 - Single Assessment Procedures help practitioners and professionals working with children and young people to undertake assessments by bringing together a range of expertise, knowledge and skill to meet needs at the earliest possible opportunity to keep children and young people safe from the risk of adverse outcomes.
 - Neglect Practice Guidance assists practitioners across services to identify early signs of neglect and develop more responsive and timely interventions to address concerns about neglect.
 - Durham Continuum of Need threshold document supports professional decision making to ensure needs are identified and appropriate support provided.

Serious Case Reviews

- 60 The Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations (LSCB) requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards to undertake a Serious Case Review in accordance with the criteria and procedures that are set out in chapter four of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).
- 61 Two serious case reviews have reached a conclusion, since the last report to Cabinet in July 2016, and have been published. Three new serious case reviews have commenced and will be published in due course.

- 62 The Learning and Improvement Sub-Group of the LSCB are responsible for monitoring progress on action plans and challenging agencies to ensure relevant outcomes.
- 63 Further Learning Lessons Events, to help raise awareness of the key messages and lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews and other reviews were undertaken by Durham LSCB in October and November 2016.

Performance

- 64 The culture that needs to develop and become embedded within Children's Services is described in the Quality Improvement Framework. The challenge lies with ensuring that all staff embrace and have a commitment to developing a high quality, consistent and professional service, at every level. The required culture will:
- recognise the need to raise and meet practice standards;
 - gain a common and confident understanding of 'what good looks like';
 - provide and welcome high expectations, high challenge and high support;
 - stop the line and address work which falls below a good standard;
 - have a strong sense of professional pride and accountability;
 - understand that in delivering services to children and families only good or above is good enough.
- 65 Audits form part of the improvement cycle that includes quality improvement activities prior to and post the audit activity itself. The audit in itself provides insight into the quality of practice. Following audits it is essential that the learning from these insights takes place, it leads to action planning and further quality improvement activities. It is essential that the focus on the required improvement actions identified from the audit are followed through if audits are to play their part in improving the quality of practice.
- 66 The outcome of recent audits provide some evidence of improvement that auditors understanding of 'what good looks like' is becoming more accurate and clear, an important first step towards improving practice. The audits, however, show limited improvement in the quality of frontline practice, at this stage. Improvement activities in teams and on the frontline require a robust and rapid focus to support the pace of change, which is urgent.
- 67 At Cabinet in December 2016 key performance messages for Children's Services from data released in the second quarter of 2016/17 were presented:

Regional Context

Regional Adoption Agencies

- 68 There are plans for the reform of adoption including creation of regional adoption agencies by 2020. The Regional Adoption Board, chaired by the Stockton Director of Children's Services, is leading on this work. Two sub-regional adoption agencies have been developed. Proposals for Durham County Council's involvement in these arrangements will be put forward in the near future.

Sector Led Improvement

- 69 Sector Led Improvement Board arrangements for the North East have been in place for over four years as the region has continued to amend its model for children's sector led improvements (SLI) based upon a balance between national and local priorities. Directors have taken stock of the current Board arrangements and their suitability to take the region forward and work is ongoing to understand in detail what a new model will look like, although some outline principles have been agreed.
- 70 The new model will include:
- A focus upon self-assessment and director challenge sessions.
 - A greater emphasis upon understanding the detail behind regional performance data.
 - Greater sharing of peer review findings and a commitment to continue a regional programme.
 - The SLI programme to be project focused based upon themes where local authorities agree a joint approach would be beneficial.
 - A commitment for interested local authorities to join resources for a case file audit review programme. Durham will participate in this.

Regional Workforce Development and Strategic Programmes

- 71 A regional website has been developed to bring together all the new workforce initiatives within the region including participation in Frontline, Step Up to Social Work, Think Ahead and to promote a regional masterclass programme.
- 72 A North East Aspirant Director Programme has been delivered by the Staff College, supported by regional sector-led improvement funding. A total of 25 colleagues from across the region (children and adults services) participated in the programme in 2015/16. Evaluations to date have shown this is a valuable programme for participants.
- 73 Guided by the Knowledge and Skills Statement for practice leaders, a Practice Leader Development Programme was launched by the Secretary of State for Education in November 2016. The programme is designed to prepare participants to undertake a practice leader role in children's social care, equivalent to Head of Service.
- 74 Durham County Council was one of a small number of social work employers to participate in a national 'proof of concept phase' for the assessment and accreditation of child and family social workers. The Department for Education has invited all organisations which participated in the proof of concept to opt in. Children's Services have chosen to take part in the full phase 1 rollout during 2017.
- 75 Ministers approved an application from the North East to participate in the expansion of the Teaching Partnerships programme on 3 November 2016. Durham County Council will act as lead local authority with responsibility for holding and distributing funding on behalf of the North East

partnership, and hosting associated staff. The application was supported by all 12 local authorities in the North East region and six universities offering pre-qualifying social work education and is designed to give local authorities more influence over the content of social work training.

- 76 The first cohort of Step Up to Social Work in the North East commenced in January 2016. Durham County Council has supported five of the 39 candidates across the region. All five are expected to qualify in Spring 2017. A regional bid to participate in the next cohort of the programme is being developed. Children's Services plans support eight candidates if the bid is successful.
- 77 FirstLine is a leadership development programme which develops good social work managers into high performing, influential leaders who will set high practice standards, and contribute to the creation of high-functioning services. Durham County Council expects to be able to access the programme in 2017-18.

Recommendations

- 78 Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- a) note the contents of this report,
 - b) agree to receive further updates in relation to Children and Young People's Services on a six monthly basis.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Substantial efficiencies have already been delivered in Children’s Services as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Investment has been made into the Service to support increased resourcing for staff to reduce caseload and improve quality.

Staffing – Workforce development will benefit staff and will help to challenge thinking and introduce new ways of working into practice. A series of programmes of activity and work associated with the resourcing, recruitment and retention of the workforce are being undertaken.

Risk – Children’s Services deliver a number of the Council’s statutory responsibilities and failure in the service carries risk for children and reputation.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The needs of vulnerable children and families will be better met through implementation of the improvement plan.

Accommodation – None.

Crime and Disorder – The Taylor Review has implications for delivery of youth offending services.

Human Rights – None.

Consultation – Members and Senior members of Corporate Management Team have been consulted and engaged in the development of the improvement plan.

Procurement – To be managed within existing working arrangements.

Disability Issues – None.

Legal Implications – There are a number of key policy developments / initiatives that have led the way and contributed to the Children’s Services Transformation agenda in County Durham. All changes must be compliant with legal requirements.

Appendix 2: Children's Services - National Context

Reporting and Acting on Child Abuse and Neglect (July 2016)

The Home Office and Department for Education published a consultation which sets out the Government's wide-ranging programme of reform to provide better outcomes for vulnerable children. The consultation seeks views on the possible introduction of one of two additional statutory measures:

- A mandatory reporting duty, which would require certain practitioners or organisations to report child abuse or neglect if they knew or had reasonable cause to suspect it was taking place.
- A duty to act, which would require certain practitioners or organisations to take appropriate action in relation to child abuse or neglect if they knew or had reasonable cause to suspect it was taking place.

Durham County Council, Children and Young People's Services and the Durham LSCB submitted a response to this consultation which closed on 13 October 2016. The Government will consider all responses before deciding on the next steps.

Keep on caring: supporting young people from care to independence (July 2016) sets out the Government's vision for the further reform of support for care leavers based on innovation, system reform, and the embedding of corporate parenting responsibility across society. The Strategy identifies and describes how the Government will support care leavers to achieve five key outcomes:

- Better prepared and supported to live independently.
- Improved access to education, training and employment.
- Experiencing stability and feeling safe and secure.
- Improved Access to Health Support.
- Achieving Financial Stability.

Putting children first: our vision for children's social care (July 2016) sets out fundamental reform of each of the three pillars on which the children's social care system stands; people and leadership, practice and systems, governance and accountability. By 2020, the Government wants to ensure that every local children's social care service across the country has a workforce, at all levels equipped with the knowledge and skills, verified through robust assessment and accreditation. The ambition is that, by 2020, over a third of all current local authorities will either be delivering their children's services through a new model or be actively working towards a different model.

Residential Care in England: Report of Sir Martin Narey's Independent Review of Children's Residential Care (July 2016) makes 34 recommendations to deliver significant improvement in the care of children who live in children's residential homes including:

- A priority for the DfE should be a fundamental review of fostering.
- Ofsted are urged to introduce arrangements which will mean that, save in exceptional circumstances, homes achieving a good or outstanding rating will be inspected only once a year.
- Ofsted should no longer encourage authorities only to place children in good or outstanding homes.
- The Government is urged to commit to introducing Staying Close which would guarantee support for three years for children leaving residential homes.

- Establishment of a Residential Care Leadership Board which should report to the Minister for Children.

Future of social care inspection (June 2016)

Ofsted published a consultation seeking views on proposed changes across Ofsted's inspections of children's social care in four key areas:

1. The principles of social care inspection
2. Inspections of local authority children's services
3. A social care common inspection framework (SCCIF) for all
4. Specific changes to Ofsted's inspections of independent fostering agencies (IFAs)

Ofsted expect to start the new inspections of local authorities in 2018, after they complete the single inspection programme. The SCCIF will be implemented from April 2017, including any agreed changes to the arrangements for the inspections of independent fostering agencies.

Children and Social Work Bill 2016-17 (May 2016) aims to accelerate adoption procedures, puts a requirement on all councils to inform children leaving care what services they are entitled to and grant all care leavers up to the age of 25 a right to a personal adviser, and introduces a new social work regulator which will focus on training and professional standards as well as a duty for councils and schools to promote educational achievement for adopted children.

Review of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales by Charlie Taylor (December 2016)

The Taylor Review makes recommendations for extensive reform of the youth justice system covering devolution, courts, sentencing and custody. The government's response supports many of the principles of The Taylor Review and sets out the intention to review the governance of the system, to improve the way youth offending is tackled and to put education and health at the heart of youth custody.

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

27 February 2017

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

16 January 2017



**County Durham Children
and Families Partnership**

Student Voice Survey 2017

Following the success of the student voice survey of secondary schools in 2015, the Children and Families Partnership agreed to repeat the survey in 2017 with 22 secondary schools and 138 primary schools.

Actions from the 2015 include schools providing extra time to do homework, and the Carers Card being developed to provide discounts in more relevant shops and restaurants as a response to young carers saying that they would like more support.

The 2017 survey will be undertaken between the end of January and 31st March 2017 to fit in with school requirements and to avoid examination periods. Work will also take place with Durham Community Action to undertake the survey in community settings with 'hard to reach groups' including Young Carers. These results will be clearly identified in the subsequent survey analysis.

Upon completion of the survey each school will receive a set of confidential reports including, school-specific overall results, a breakdown for each participating year group, free-text comments received from students, and County-wide results, covering all year-groups and each participating year group for benchmarking purposes. Individual school results will not be shared with other stakeholders without their consent.

It is anticipated results from the survey will be shared with the Children and Families Partnership in summer 2017. Partners will then be able to use the valuable aggregated information to inform service developments, planning and commissioning.

Further work is taking place with special schools in assessing the feasibility of them undertaking a Student Voice survey.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge

Partners received an update on the range of activities which took place as part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge in 2016, including young people becoming commissioners for the day, and taking over a college's senior leadership team. Activities include:

- Durham County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee hosting a meeting at a school, providing an opportunity for children and young people to take part in the meeting.
- Police Cadets from across County Durham and Darlington elected a year 7 pupil who is also Deputy Head Boy at Parkside Academy to take over the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner role for the day.
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) worked with young people in local schools to design a young person's LSCB Annual Report. The annual report was launched by the Young Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner on 15th November 2016. <http://www.durham-lscb.org.uk/children-young-people/>
- The Interim Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and the Senior Councillor with specific responsibilities for Children and Young People's Services met with young people on 16th November, to provide young people an overview of their roles and responsibilities. This opportunity was very well received by the young people who all had a positive experience. Feedback from young people included the importance of being healthy and having services easily accessible to young people (e.g. school nurses, counselling), having a job, good transport links, and accessing age-specific activities.
- A set of 10 voting priorities have been agreed for all 14 [Area Action Partnerships](#). Voting on these priorities took place with young people in County Durham secondary schools during September and October 2016, providing an opportunity for over 3,000 young people to influence priorities for their local area. The top three issues for young people in their local areas were identified as Children, Young People and Families, Older People and Community Safety.
- Durham County Council's Commissioning Team gave a small group of young people the opportunity to become commissioners for the day, learning about the commissioning cycle by fulfilling a lunch order, considering value for money, availability, preferences and the nutritional and dietary needs of their 'service users'. The young people enjoyed their experience and were praised for completing their 'commission' on time and within budget.
- Durham County Council health colleagues met young parents who have engaged with the teenage parent support programme for their input to help shape, and improve the programme for the next wave. They also held a focus group on how breast feeding rates can be increased in County Durham.
- The Policy, Planning and Partnership Team worked with Health Trainers to host a family fun day in August 2016 with the Gypsy Roma Traveller community,

including children and young people, to ensure the voice of this hard to reach group is heard.

- The Senior Leadership Team at East Durham College, was taken over by the Student Union. Five students from the Peter Jones Enterprise course were given the opportunity to take over major roles for the day: Principal of the college, Vice principal of curriculum and performance, Vice principal of finance, and Assistant principal for curriculum operations.
- Durham County Council Staff worked with a group of children and young people who attended a Family Group Conference to review a range of resources suitable to gain their wishes and feelings prior to a conference and to enhance their understanding of the process. A Family Group Conference is a meeting between family members and professionals such as social workers who work together to make plans in the best interests of a child. A booklet has been devised by the children to give them the opportunity to put forward their views prior to a Family Group Conference, which includes their graphics.
- Young people from Wolsingham School became Team Around the School (TAS) worker for the day. TAS is a mechanism for professionals to pool their resources to provide support to families where there is concern about a child. The young people planned and delivered a TAS meeting in school to their friends and workers. The young people gained new skills and experience, and suggested ways in which the TAS programmes can be delivered in the future.
- Durham Constabulary made a short crime prevention film, where young people recruited from the mini police/drama groups in schools were the actors. The film covered the topic of drink driving, and was launched on Durham Constabulary's Facebook page on 18th November. The film can be viewed on the following link: [Durham Constabulary Takeover Challenge](#)
- County Durham Youth Offending Service work with a group of young people who have been victims of crime, looking at how work with young victims can be improved. Young people lead the group and its work, which includes how to increase young people's understanding of, and engagement in, communication friendly restorative justice processes; how young people can be better supported through the process; and identifying areas for development for 2017/18. Further details of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge can be found at <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/learn-more/takeover-challenge>

Following the success of the Takeover, the Children and Families Partnership are championing this initiative and encouraging partners to consider how engagement with children and young people can take place throughout the year. To help facilitate this, a SharePoint engagement database is in development which will be shared amongst partners across the county to ensure engagement opportunities are maximised and outcomes from engagement are captured. This will ensure the best use of resources, and will reduce duplication of engagement requests to children and young people;

All Children and Families Partnership representatives agreed to actively promote the Takeover Challenge and opportunities for children's engagement within their organisations;

The Children and Families Partnership will submit evidence to support an application for the Takeover Challenge commendation scheme *Up for the Challenge*. A successful bid would involve the Partnership being awarded a bronze, silver or gold certificate signed by the Children's Commissioner.

Supporting the Ambition of Young People

The Institute for Local Governance, will undertake a project to measure the ambition of young people in County Durham.

This is the first longitudinal research project of its kind, with completion anticipated in July 2018. Findings will be provided to the Children and Families Partnership on completion, with an interim report provided to partners. Timescales for the research project have been designed to align with the development of DurhamWorks.

Area Action Partnership Priorities 2017/18

An AAP Coordinator provided the Children and Families Partnership with a summary of the headline results from the first Countywide Priority survey, where over 3346 young people voted for their top 3 priorities for their AAP area. There are 14 Area Action Partnerships across County Durham, which are in place to identify and tackle issues in local communities. You can find out more about AAP's [here](#)

The Top 3 priorities identified were:

- Children, young people and families
- Older people
- Community safety

AAP Coordinators will analyse the survey results and consider next steps around how this information will be used.

A young people's group gave an overview of a project they are developing with an AAP as a result of voting for their AAP priorities in a previous survey. The project is for a Youth Café, run by young people and is an example of how involvement in priority voting can lead to young people developing solutions to issues and concerns they have raised, and improving outcomes.

The aim of the project is to provide somewhere safe for young people to meet, and to provide work experience opportunities for example, managing money, people skills, food hygiene and preparation etc.

Arts Council funding bid

Culture and Sport, Public Health, Children's Services and Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust submitted a bid for Arts Council funding to support a creative approach to literacy for children aged 2-4. If the bid is successful, the service will be delivered in community settings such as libraries and it is anticipated the programme would work with 2,500 children across a year. The outcome of the bid will be known by 31st March 2017.

Beat the Street

Beat the Street is a place based initiative which turns a town into a game where people earn points as they walk, cycle and run around. In 2016 300,000 people got involved in various areas of the country where the initiative was implemented, increasing physical activity in these communities. Some areas have introduced prizes to encourage team and individual performance.

In County Durham the programme is being piloted in Chester-le-Street and Fishburn with schools in these areas competing against each other to achieve the highest levels of activity. Children and young people will be encouraged to get everyone they know involved in the initiative.

If successful, consideration will be given to rolling the initiative out across the County.

