



Local Government Act 1972

I Hereby Give You Notice that an **Ordinary Meeting** of the **Durham County Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 19 July 2017** at **10.00 a.m.** to transact the following business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 (Pages 5 - 12)
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
3. Chairman's Announcements
4. Leader's Report
5. Questions from Area Action Partnerships
6. Questions from the Public
7. Petitions
8. Report from the Cabinet (Pages 13 - 20)
9. County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 - Report of Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services (Pages 21 - 58)
10. Elected Member Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks - Joint Report of Corporate Director of Resources and Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 59 - 68)
11. Honorary Aldermen - Report of Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Pages 69 - 72)
12. Adoption of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan and the Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan - Report of Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services (Pages 73 - 76)

13. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17 - Report of Director of Transformation and Partnerships (Pages 77 - 100)
14. Statement of Returning Officer - Dawdon By-Election (Pages 101 - 102)
15. Motions on Notice

Councillor L Hovvels to Move

The Rural Services Council is calling on local authorities in rural areas to support a motion calling on the Government to provide extra funding to attract rural GPs. Whilst Clinical Commissioning Groups in County Durham have not identified GP pay as an issue in recruitment within the County, there have been other challenges, for example, an ageing GP demographic.

As GPs get older and wish to retire, it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract, recruit and sustain new GPs as there is a national shortage, which needs a national solution.

Local Clinical Commissioning Groups are taking forward a range of initiatives to support General Practice.

There is the potential that the challenges in GP recruitment may create additional pressures on other parts of the health care system, such as Accident and Emergency in the future, although local CCG's have provided assurance that patients across the County are able to access GP services in a timely way. To further support this, in County Durham, plans are progressing to introduce Teams Around Patients (TAPs) where local GPs work more closely together in order to improve access to services, however, this work is in its infancy.

I urge this Council to call on local Members of Parliament to lobby the government for the further development of initiatives for the continued recruitment and retention of GPs, which may include a weighting system to support areas across the country where there are difficulties in recruiting GPs. Such a system will create a positive incentive for the GPs to work across the north east, including County Durham, bringing benefits to individuals, as well as our entire communities.

Councillor K Thompson to Move

That Durham County Council begin immediately to video all Full Council Meetings, and make them available for the public to view.

16. Questions from Members

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You**
to attend the said meeting

Dated this 11th day of July 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Pattinson', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Clare Pattinson
Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To: All Members of the County Council

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor B Kellett in the Chair

Councillors E Adam, J Allen, J Atkinson, P Atkinson, B Avery, A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, A Batey, A Bell, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, H Bennett, J Blakey, G Bleasdale, L Boyd, D Boyes, P Brookes, J Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Charlton, J Clare, J Clark, M Clarke, I Cochrane, K Corrigan, P Crathorne, R Crute, G Darkes, M Davinson, S Dunn, S Durham, D Freeman, N Grayson, O Gunn, C Hampson, K Hawley, T Henderson, S Henig, D Hicks, A Hopgood, K Hopper, L Hovvels, P Howell, E Huntington, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, C Kay, A Laing, J Lethbridge (Vice-Chairman), K Liddell, H Liddle, L Maddison, J Maitland, J Makepeace, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Marshall, C Martin, L Mavin, S McDonnell, M McGaun, M McKeon, I McLean, O Milburn, A Napier, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, J Nicholson, R Ormerod, A Patterson, L Pounder, S Quinn, A Reed, G Richardson, J Robinson, S Robinson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, E Scott, P Sexton, K Shaw, A Shield, A Simpson, H Smith, T Smith, J Stephenson, B Stephens, A Surtees, L Taylor, P Taylor, O Temple, K Thompson, F Tinsley, T Tucker, J Turnbull, A Watson, A Willis, C Wilson, M Wilson, S Wilson, D Wood, R Yorke and S Zair

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Bell, D Brown, L Brown, J Considine, A Gardner, S Hugill, P Jopling, E Mavin, S Morrison, P Oliver, C Potts, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, W Stelling and M Wilkes

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman referred to the recent tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London and also to the terrorist related incident at the Finsbury Park area of London.

The Council stood for a moments silence as a mark of respect to those who had lost their lives in these events and to the many people and communities who had been affected.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2017 were confirmed by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

The Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services referred to the advice previously provided to enable Members to determine whether they needed to

declare an interest. The Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services then advised of declarations that had been made.

The following Members declared an interest as having a close family member who was a Teaching Assistant, or other prejudicial interests, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the business:-

Councillors J Allen, J Atkinson, P Atkinson, A Bainbridge, B Bainbridge, L Boyd, P Crathorne, E Huntington, C Kay, H Liddle, J Makepeace, L Mavin, G Richardson, E Scott, K Shaw, A Shield, A Surtees, L Taylor, T Tucker and S Wilson.

The following Members declared their interests as School Governors and remained in the meeting.

Councillors A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, J Blakey, G Bleasdale, D Boyes, P Brookes, J Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clark, I Cochrane, K Corrigan, R Crute, G Darkes, O Gunn, C Hampson, T Henderson, D Hicks, A Hoggood, K Hopper, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, J Lethbridge, L Maddison, C Marshall, L Marshall, O Milburn, H Nicholson, J Nicholson, A Patterson, S Quinn, J Robinson, A Savory, H Smith, T Smith, K Thompson, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, A Willis, C Wilson, M Wilson and R Yorke.

Councillor O Temple declared a personal interest and remained in the meeting.

3 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman was pleased to report that Durham had been successful in the annual Municipal Journal Achievement Awards. The County Council had been awarded the MJ Achievement Award for Excellence in Community Engagement for its work with communities, businesses, the University and schools around life-saving water safety work, and in particular the 'Dying to be Cool' campaign and riverside safety improvements in Durham City.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Fiona Gosling whose work with the Council on 'Dying to be Cool' had played a key role in the efforts to reduce drownings.

The Chairman presented the award to members of staff who had worked on the initiatives and campaigns.

The Chairman reminded the Council that the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services would be giving a short briefing about being a corporate parent immediately following the meeting.

4 Leader's Report

The Leader, on behalf of the County Council, expressed condolences to those affected by recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester and the tragic incident at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. While investigations into the fire were underway there were concerns about high rise residential housing across the country, similar to that at Grenfell Tower.

Much of the public concern related to a type of cladding used in the refurbishment of the tower. As a result, all local authorities and other registered providers of social housing had been asked by DCLG to review their property portfolios to identify whether any panels used in new build or refurbishments were similar to that used in Grenfell Tower.

Whilst the Council was no longer a provider of social housing, it had liaised with social landlords across County Durham who had confirmed there was no high rise type residential accommodation although many were reviewing their wider fire safety arrangements.

The Council was also working with DCLG to review its property portfolio and this review had commenced, and they would continue to work closely with partners during this process to ensure that it conducted a thorough and comprehensive review and ensure fire risks were being managed and controlled effectively whilst learning any lessons to take forward in the future.

As a precautionary measure, all County Council buildings that used cladding were being checked, although the Council specified fire retardant cladding in all new build and refurbishment work.

The Leader went on to advise of the robust system of fire risk assessments in place, about the evacuation plans, and of the robust plans in place should the county face a major incident along the lines of recent tragic events.

The Leader assured Members that the Council would closely monitor the recommendations which came out of the investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire and, if any were relevant to the County Council, these would be fully implemented.

The Leader referred to the General Election and congratulated the County's six Members of Parliament on their election, five of whom were re-elected alongside Laura Pidcock, a new representative from North West Durham. The Council's Cabinet would be meeting with the County's MP's in the next few weeks to discuss key issues. The Leader also commiserated with those candidates who were unsuccessful.

The Leader thanked election staff for their work on a full set of elections, council, parish and general elections, over the past few months. Running elections across an area of half a million people comprising six parliamentary constituencies, sixty plus wards and many parishes was no easy task.

The Leader informed the Council that, notwithstanding the Queen's Speech which was due later in the day, there remained a degree of national uncertainty which made it difficult for the Council to set out its plans. Nevertheless three key priorities for the Council moving forward would be working with all local communities and building community resilience across County Durham, taking forward the council's transformation programme towards 2020 and beyond and getting the best out of Brexit.

The Leader concluded by informing the Council that there was a lot going on across County Durham over forthcoming weeks and months and he encouraged all Members to join in. Events included Kynren, Brass, the Miners Gala as well as many other visitor attractions.

5 Questions from Area Action Partnerships

Questions had been received from Mid Durham Area Action Partnership and Teesdale Area Action Partnership relating to the following:

- The key interventions in place to address the issue of community safety and where the AAP could make the greatest impact to enhance this work;
- The support available to small businesses who wished to develop and be in a position to take on apprentices.

Janet Box, Public Representative and Vice-Chair of Mid Durham AAP Coordinator and Craig Morgan, Teesdale AAP Coordinator were in attendance to ask their questions.

Councillor L Hovvels, Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services thanked the Mid Durham AAP for their question and provided a response. Councillor C Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration thanked the Teesdale AAP for their question and provided a response.

6 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

7 Petitions

There were no petitions for consideration.

8 Report from the Cabinet

The Leader of the Council provided the Council with an update of business discussed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 15 March 2017 (for copy see file of Minutes).

9 Teaching Assistants – Review of Terms and Conditions

The Council considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Resources and Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services which provided an update following the review of roles and responsibilities of teaching assistants which had been undertaken with Trade Unions and representatives from Head Teachers and Teaching Assistants and sought authority for a revised proposal in relation to changes to teaching assistant terms and conditions of employment (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Corporate Director of Resources apologised for the late circulation of the complete updated report and explained the reasons for this. If approved, then the

recognised Trade Unions would ballot their members on the proposals prior to school holidays.

The Corporate Director of Resources informed Council that the report being considered was the result of hard work by all of those who had been involved in the process and thanked them for their work.

In **moving** the report Councillor J Brown, Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion thanked all those who had been involved in the review process, including recognised Trade Unions, Teaching Assistants, County Council staff and Head Teachers. The proposed offer was a significant improvement on the previous position and it was important to note that no Teaching Assistant would lose any money until the end of a 2 year period following implementation. The recognised Trade Unions had shown a willingness to ballot their members on the proposal but before this could happen Council needed to approve the recommendations contained in the report. If the recommendations were not approved then the recognised Trade Unions would be denied their right to carry out this democratic process.

In **seconding** the report Councillor O Gunn, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services informed Council that the review process had been undertaken with openness and commitment on all sides with a level of co-operation which was commendable. The proposal would bring equality and fairness for all employees while recognising the work undertaken by Teaching Assistants.

Councillor R Bell expressed concern that there was no sight of the proposed job descriptions which had been agreed with Head Teachers and would result in nearly 80% of Teaching Assistants being forecast to receive an increase in pay. Councillor Bell sought an assurance that the process for the review of job descriptions had been independent and objective. Councillor Brown replied that the assimilation process had been undertaken with recognised Trade Union and Human Resources representatives present. The Corporate Director of Resources added that the County Council's Job Evaluation process had been followed.

Councillor O Temple **moved** a Motion under Paragraph 12(k) of the Council Procedure Rules that the debate be adjourned. While he was pleased that the proposal would withdraw the dismissal notices issued to Teaching Assistants and would increase to two years the protection for all Teaching Assistants who would lose income under the new proposals, the report circulated to Members was short on the precise detail of the proposals and had been circulated with very short notice which had not allowed for detailed consideration of the proposals.

Seconded by Councillor A Hopgood.

Upon a vote being taken the Motion was **Lost**.

Councillor A Watson thanked the review team for the work they had undertaken but considered that Teaching Assistants should have been consulted on the offer before it was brought to Council. Councillor J Brown replied that it was the wish of

the recognised Trade Unions to carry out a consultative ballot after Council approval of the proposals had been obtained.

Councillor A Hopgood informed Council that she considered Members were being asked to vote on a new grading structure for Teaching Assistants without any knowledge of what that structure was. She considered it was unfair to ask Council to do this given the lack of detail in the report and the short notice given to consider the report. The Council had been told 18 months ago that the offer then to Teaching Assistants was a final offer, yet this had now changed.

Councillor P Howell also expressed concern that Council was being asked to vote on a report which had only been circulated 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Councillor A Napier, Portfolio Holder for Finance apologised for the lateness of the circulation of the report. He reminded the Council that the terms and conditions of employment for Teaching Assistants needed to be reviewed to mitigate the risk to the Council of equal pay claims. It was not the duty of elected Members to determine Job Record Documents, Job Description's and Grades. The Job Evaluation process had been agreed by Council with unanimity and this was now being used in the Teaching Assistant review.

Councillor O Gunn reminded the Council that the review had been carried out by a Working Group which had made recommendations. She apologised for the late circulation of the report for which an explanation had been provided. The recognised Trade Unions had requested that the report be considered by Council prior to the start of the school holidays. It was for the recognised Trade Unions to provide details of the proposal to their members before the consultative ballot took place.

In accordance with Standing Order 16.4 Councillor O Temple sought a named vote on the approval of the report. The requirements were met.

A named vote on the recommendations in the report was taken.

For

Councillors E Adam, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, H Bennett, G Bleasdale, D Boyes, P Brookes, J Brown, C Carr, J Carr, J Chaplow, J Clare, J Clark, M Clarke, K Corrigan, R Crute, M Davinson, S Dunn, O Gunn, C Hampson, S Henig, D Hicks, K Hopper, L Hovvells, S Iveson, I Jewell, O Johnson, B Kellett, A Laing, J Lethbridge, J Maitland, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Marshall, M McKeon, I McLean, O Milburn, A Napier, M Nicholls, H Nicholson, A Patterson, L Pounder, S Quinn, J Robinson, H Smith, T Smith, B Stephens, J Stephenson, P Taylor, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, C Wilson, M Wilson, D Wood and R Yorke.

Against

Councillors B Avery, A Bell, R Bell, J Blakey, J Charlton, I Cochrane, G Darkes, S Durham, D Freeman, N Grayson, K Hawley, T Henderson, A Hopgood, P Howell, K Liddell, L Maddison, C Martin, S McDonnell, M McGaun, J Nicholson, R Ormerod, A

Reed, S Robinson, J Rowlandson, A Savory, P Sexton, A Simpson, O Temple, K Thompson, A Watson, A Willis and S Zair.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The suspended notices of dismissal and re-engagement issued in October 2016 be withdrawn with immediate effect;
- (ii) The work of the project board and project team in reviewing the roles and responsibilities of teaching assistants be noted with thanks;
- (iii) The Corporate Director of Resources be authorised to communicate the offer set out at paragraph 16 of the report to teaching assistants and relevant recognised trade unions;
- (iv) The Corporate Director of Resources be authorised to conclude the changes to teaching assistant terms and conditions of employment by agreement upon acceptance of the offer by all of the relevant recognised trade unions.

10 Community Governance Review - Central unparished areas of Durham City

The Council considered a report of the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided an update on the outcome of the consultation as part of the Community Governance Review of the central unparished areas of Durham and made draft recommendations in this regard (for copy see file of Minutes).

Moved by Councillor Henig, **Seconded** by Councillor Hopgood and

Resolved:

That the report be approved.

11 Motions on Notice

There were no motions for consideration.

12 Questions from Members

No questions had been received from Members.

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19 July 2017

Report from the Cabinet



Purpose of the Report

To provide information to the Council on issues considered by the Cabinet on 20 June 2017 to enable Members to ask related questions.

Members are asked to table any questions on items in this report by 2 pm on 18 July 2017 in order for them to be displayed on the screens in the Council Chamber.

Contents

- Item 1 Annual Enforcement Programme Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Item 2 Quarter Four 2016/17 Performance Management Report
- Item 3 Transport Asset Management Plan - Annual Update
- Item 4 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2016/17

1. **Annual Enforcement Programme Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003**
Cabinet Portfolio Holder– Councillor Brian Stephens
Contact – Joanne Waller 03000 260924

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which reviewed enforcement activities under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and the Licensing Act 2003 for the period April 2016 to March 2017 and sought approval of a new enforcement programme 2017/18.

The County Council has a statutory duty to consider, at least once a year, the extent to which the Authority should carry out a programme of enforcement under the relevant legislation. The County Council has a statutory responsibility for enforcement of age restricted products and the Authority has also elected to enforce the age-restricted sales of solvents, glues and knives, and, access to gaming establishments and access to sunbed premises. A

review of activities of 2016/17 was contained in Appendix 2 to the report. The report provided details of the enforcement programme for 2017/18 which includes the following activities:

- (a) An intelligence led approach to under age sales enforcement and tobacco.
- (b) Investigation of all consumer and trader complaints.
- (c) Continuation of joint working with the Police Harm Reduction Unit and other agencies to adopt a holistic approach to solving problems associated with the accessibility and misuse of age related products.
- (d) The holding of events to raise public awareness of the harms associated with illicit tobacco, to publicise the work of the service and encourage reporting of this criminal activity.
- (e) Continuation of the 'Do You Pass' retailer training as a way of assisting business.
- (f) Continuation of work in partnership with the police, HMRC and other agencies to tackle sales from private premises to children, particularly in relation to alcohol and tobacco.
- (g) Continuation with a practice of reviewing premises when appropriate.
- (h) Continuation of work to tackle health inequalities and antisocial behaviour associated with the misuse and illegal supply of age-restricted products, in particular alcohol and tobacco.
- (i) Deliver business advice on and carry out enforcement of new legislation for which the authority may be statutorily responsible including all new legislation.

The agreement of the proposed Enforcement Programme for 2017/2018 will ensure that the Council continues to address the problem of underage sales and access to age restricted products by those under age, as well as the wider health and criminal issues surrounding these products.

Decision

We have approved the proposed Enforcement Programme for 2017/2018.

2. Quarter Four 2016/17 Performance Management Report Leader of the Council– Councillor Simon Henig Contact – Jenny Haworth 03000 268071

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director of Transformation and Partnerships which presented progress against the council's corporate

performance framework by Altogether priority theme for the fourth quarter of the 2016/17 financial year.

The Council continues to prioritise improving or maintaining performance in many key areas. The employment rate has notably increased this quarter, the highest rate recorded since 2008. Both women and men are generally living longer but this continues to be below national averages. First time entrants to the youth justice system remain low with a significant reduction since 2010. Street and environmental cleanliness is good and the council has achieved improvement in maintenance of major roads and overall satisfaction with maintenance and the condition of our highways.

In other areas there is a pattern of increasing needs or demand, and some performance challenges. There has been a significant increase in the number of looked after children. The increased rate in Durham has been steadily rising since 2008 and is reflective of the regional picture but is significantly higher than national levels. Increases are also evident in the number of children with a child protection plan, which has gradually increased over the past six successive quarters and is the highest recorded since 2014. Successful alcohol and drug treatment completions remain low. Fly-tipping incidents increased from last year although other local authorities across the country are experiencing rises in this area.

Decision

We have agreed the changes to the Council Plan outlined below:

Altogether Wealthier

- (i) Informing and supporting Regional/National policy development across the North East Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership is behind target from March 2017 to September 2017 due to a delay with to the Housing White Paper and the response to it.
- (ii) Agreeing a programme of works for Festival Walk at Spennymoor is behind target from March 2017 to September 2017 due to a delay in the property purchase process.
- (iii) Adoption of the County Durham Plan has been paused until the implications of the Housing White Paper published in February 2017 are known.
- (iv) Agreeing a proposal for North Road has been delayed from March 2017 due to ongoing reassessment of viability and delivery options. The revised date is to be confirmed.
- (v) The review of Durham Town Hall and development of a new operating model to improve the visitor experience and maximise the revenue streams is delayed from March 2017 to March 2018. The work is presently on hold and

will now be considered as part of the wider Millennium Place project.

- (vi) Development of a new operating model for Bishop Auckland Town Hall to increase income generation through improving the range of facilities, public interest and access by March 2017 is behind target with the completion date revised to August 2017. A feasibility study is almost complete.

Altogether Safer

- (vii) Working with responsible authorities to deliver the County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015 -2020 is delayed from May 2017 to September 2017 due to staff capacity issues delaying the project to target underage drinking.

Altogether Greener

- (viii) Reviewing current operational practices for the collection of clinical waste, developing a Clinical Waste Protocol that will harmonise the collection arrangements across the county is delayed from March 2017 to September 2017. Progress has been made with contractual collections brought in-house using existing resources. A working group has been set up and is now considering options to form a new countywide policy.
- (ix) Work to develop and improve the strategic cycle route network across County Durham has been further delayed from March 2017 to March 2018 as negotiations to purchase land failed and an alternative option to reconfigure the carriageway will need be investigated and designed.

Altogether Better Council

- (x) The streamlining of corporate planning arrangements including the Council Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy has been delayed from January 2017 to October 2017 to allow input on the new vision of the council following the elections in May.
- (xi) The review of corporate management development to meet organisational priorities and the changing needs of the organisation linked to the office accommodation programme is delayed from March 2017 to October 2017 to coincide with the timescale of the action above.
- (xii) The review of public conveniences to ascertain the distribution and standard of provision to inform future countywide proposals by March 2017 is behind target with a revised completion date of May 2017. A report on options is being considered.

- (xiii) Improving the overall approach to managing DCC buildings to ensure building compliance and provide an improved working environment is delayed from March 2017 to March 2018. A number of improvements have been achieved with some service areas retaining their responsibilities for properties.
- (xiv) Embedding the RED Project Management programme has been delayed from March 2017 due to corporate restructure. The revised date is to be confirmed.
- (xv) The Corporate Transport Review in liaison with Children and Adult Services has been delayed from March 2017 to March 2018. The improvement in invoicing process was delayed by Information and Communications Technology (ICT) bidding.

Deleted actions

Altogether Better Council

- (xvi) As part of the renewal of the County Durham Partnership (CDP), the development and implementation of a programme of change is to be deleted as this now forms part of the Transformation Programme.

3. Transport Asset Management Plan - Annual Update Cabinet Portfolio Holder– Councillor Brian Stephens Contact – Joanne Waller 03000 260924

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which provided Cabinet with an annual update on the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

The highway network is the Council's largest and highest value asset. It is vital to ensure that investment is well directed to ensure a safe, serviceable and sustainable highway network. A TAMP is a key tool in delivering this. It provides an opportunity to systematically understand the condition of the highway asset, and to establish policy and priorities regarding investment. The TAMP puts the Council in a good position for establishing a clear case for investment, particularly from the Department for Transport. The TAMP was set out in full in the report at Appendices 2 and 3.

It was reported that the condition of A, B and C principal roads have improved in recent years and are close to the national average. This reflects that the Council has prioritised budgets at maintaining principal roads which have the highest usage. Structures are generally in 'good to fair' condition. Key issues include that the condition of unclassified roads is below the national average, a high proportion of footways require resurfacing and a significant number of street lighting columns have reached the end of their service life. The report noted that the maintenance backlog in relation to carriageways, footways and street lighting has reduced from 2015/16.

Despite unprecedented reductions in government funding since 2010, the Council has protected and continued to prioritise investment in programmed capital maintenance. The Council has achieved the maximum Band 3 efficiency rating under the Department for Transport's Incentive Fund which was introduced in 2016. Durham was one of only two Highway Authorities to achieve this maximum efficiency rating out of 119 participating Highway Authorities in England in 2016 and has maintained the maximum Band 3 efficiency rating in 2017. This rating will help ensure the Council maximises funding from the Department for Transport's Incentive Fund going forward.

The Council has led the development and implementation of the North East Highways Alliance which was formally established in September 2013. This is a forum for collaborative working for all 12 North East Councils. The North East Highways Alliance has delivered a number of initiatives that are helping all Councils involved, including Durham, maximise efficiencies in highways through sharing resources, collaborative procurement and knowledge sharing. This partnership working together with on-going collaborative working of the in-house Highway Services team with the supply chain of competitively procured external sub-contractors has led to the Council being one of the first in the UK to be awarded British Standard BS11000 – Collaborative Business Relationships. This will assist in maximising funding from the Department for Transport.

In addition to the TAMP the Council has a Highway Maintenance Plan (HMP) which sets out the Council's service levels for inspections, reactive maintenance and routine maintenance in accordance with national codes of practice. This includes the highway safety inspection regime which helps ensure that the adopted highway throughout the County is maintained in a safe condition as far as reasonably practicable.

Like most Highway Authorities, the Council has a highways maintenance backlog and faces considerable challenges to maintain the condition of the highway network. However, the TAMP demonstrates that work is progressing well in helping to maximise the condition of the highway for the available budget. The Council has been steadily increasing its own investment and has also been proactive in attracting considerable funding from Department for Transport. This TAMP, together with the top efficiency rating will ensure that it is well placed to maximise the much needed funding from the Department for Transport going forward.

Decision

We have:

- a) Approved the annual update report; and
- b) Noted the substantial investment in programmed capital maintenance and the ongoing work to maximise funding going forward.

**4. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2016/17
Cabinet Portfolio Holder– Councillor Lucy Hovvels
Contact – Gill O’Neill 03000 267696**

We have considered a report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services which presented the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham.

The 2016 Director of Public Health annual report focuses on the importance of good work with a specific emphasis on our mid-life population (age 40 -70 years). As the UK workforce continues to age and stay in work longer and more workers develop long term health conditions; policy makers, employers, clinicians and older workers themselves will need to work together to improve their health and employment outcomes. Whilst there remains much to be done to support those not in employment, this report focuses on keeping those already in employment productive and functioning well.

The recommendations of the report include outcomes working towards reducing the gap in healthy life expectancy, emphasising self-help and encouraging small changes.

Decision

We have:

- a) received the 2016/17 annual report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham.
- b) Endorsed and championed the recommendations within the report.

**Councillor S Henig
Leader of the County Council**

11 July 2017

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County Council

19 July 2017



**County Durham Youth Offending Service
Youth Justice Plan 2017/19**

Report of Corporate Management Team

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

Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 for information of Council and highlights some of the key achievements in reducing re-offending during 2016/17.

Background and Legal Framework

- 2 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team – County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) in Co. Durham – within their area. Police, National Probation Service (NPS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.
- 3 Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out:
 - How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
 - How the YOS will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- 4 The Youth Justice Plan must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The deadline for submission is the end of July 2017.
- 5 Statute requires the production of an annual plan, but the YJB welcomes plans that cover more than one year. Plans covering more than one year

require an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly in relation to finance and governance.

- 6 CDYOS is a statutory partnership, accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding (formerly Head of Children's Services), Durham County Council. Membership of the Board and governance are reviewed annually in line with '*Modern Youth Offending Partnerships – Guidance on Effective Youth Offending Team Governance in England*' (MoJ/YJB, November 2013), to ensure they remain robust in a complex, changing operating environment.
- 7 Statutory requirements placed on the YOS and the Management Board include:
 - Complying with the statutory requirements laid out in s.38 to 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other relevant sections of the Act;
 - Complying with National Standards (NS) for Youth Justice (including returning the annual National Standards audit);
 - Reporting Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents (CSPPI) to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in accordance with published guidance;
 - Submitting required data to the YJB in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance;
 - Approving the annual Youth Justice Plan.

Key Achievements 2016/17

- 8 Key achievements are outlined in the Executive Summary. We are particularly proud of:
 - Continuing to maintain low numbers of first time entrants (164 in 2016/17);
 - Achieving 85.5% reduction in first time entrants (FTEs) since 2007/08;
 - Continuing to reduce the number of young people re-offending and the number of re-offences committed;
 - Achieving a 56.3% reduction in the number of all offences committed and a 60.4% reduction in the number of young people offending since 2010/11;
 - Having only 21 custodial sentences;
 - Our Health Needs Assessment (HNA) which has resulted in a new model of co-commissioned health provision in CDYOS for 2017/19;
 - Further development of our ClearCut Communication resources to support young people's engagement in the youth justice system;
 - Influencing the youth justice system nationally – over 40 YOTs have purchased and are using our ClearCut Communication resources;

- Our specialist restorative justice work to support victims of youth crime;
- Our strong partnership work;
- Implementing new ways of working to ensure value for money while improving outcomes and quality;
- Delivering 3966 hours of court ordered reparation/unpaid work.
- Our staff and volunteers' hard work and continued commitment to reduce first time entrants, re-offending and use of custody; their work to improve outcomes for young people, families, victims and communities; and their willingness to adapt to new challenges, and to change and improve.

Youth Justice Plan 2017/19

- 9 A copy of the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 is attached for information. The plan highlights key achievements for 2016/17, key priorities, the service improvement plan for 2017/18, and the partnership pooled budget. A refresh will be produced for 2018/19.
- 10 As stated in paragraph 3, the Youth Justice Plan is statutory. Key requirements of the plan (namely: structure and governance; resourcing and value for money; partnership arrangements; risks to future delivery) are prescribed by the Youth Justice Board (*'Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Partnerships'*, YJB, May 2017).
- 11 The plan was approved by CDYOS Management Board (1 June 2017) and presented to Cabinet and Council (July 2017) for approval before submission to the YJB. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP - lead for YOS inspections) and are placed in the House of Commons library for Ministers.
12. The Plan outlines how CDYOS will:
- reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System;
 - reduce re-offending by young people;
 - reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people.
- by:
- improving how we communicate with young people and the interventions we complete with them;
 - putting victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything we do;
 - targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
 - ensuring we have robust quality assurance and staff management processes in place and a skilled management team to manage those processes;

- ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
- ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims;
- ensuring that case management systems and administration support provide the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities and young people.

Recommendations and reasons

13. Council are requested to:

- (i) note the contents of this report;
- (ii) receive and approve the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19.

Background papers

Youth Justice Plan 2017/19

Contact:	Carole Payne, Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding
Tel:	03000 268657

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The Youth Justice Plan contains CDYOS partnership pooled budget 2017/18.

Staffing – Staff establishment is included in the plan, in line with YJB requirements.

Risk – Risks to future delivery have been considered and are included in the plan.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Have been considered.

Accommodation – Not Applicable.

Crime and Disorder – The statutory function of CDYOS partnership is the prevention of offending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

Human Rights – Not Applicable

Consultation – CDYOS Management Board and partners have been consulted.

Procurement – Not Applicable.

Disability Issues – Have been considered.

Legal Implications – The Youth Justice Plan ensures Durham County Council and statutory partners meet their legal implications to the partnership.

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Durham
County Council



County Durham Youth Offending Service

Youth Justice Plan

2017 / 2019



National
Probation
Service



Foreword from the Chair

It is my pleasure to present County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2017/19. This statutory plan reviews the work of the service over the last year and sets out priorities for the next 12 months.

County Durham Youth Offending Service continues to achieve some remarkable outcomes. Since 2007/08, the number of young people entering the criminal justice system has reduced by an impressive 85.5% as a result of effective joint work between the service and the Police. We know that for most young people this will be their only involvement in the youth justice system and that they will not be in trouble again.

Since 2010/11 the number of young people committing offences has reduced by 60.4%, and the number of offences has reduced by 56.3%. The number of young people re-offending and the number of offences they commit have also reduced. Most of those offences had a victim, so that means there are many fewer victims too. That's great news for our community as a whole.

Many other achievements are set out in the plan, including the success of Restorative Justice; speech, language and communication work; and community reparation. CDYOS' innovation continues to be acknowledged nationally, with a string of national award successes. CDYOS' work over the last 12 months to improve its response to young people's communication needs, including partnership work with Health and further development of ClearCut Communication resources, has resulted in several awards, including winning the Shine A Light Innovation Award 2017 for the ClearCut Communication resource 'Thinking About Victims'. The Service has also been awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark, by the Restorative Justice Council, for its restorative approach across all our work; and Investing in Volunteers accredited the service for a further three years for our work with volunteers, both adults and young people. CDYOS has also achieved Investing in Children award for our work with young people who have been victims of crime.

These achievements would not be possible without the full and active engagement of a wide range of partners, committed to working together to meet the needs of challenged and challenging young people. I would like to thank the partners who make up the Youth Offending Service partnership for their continued commitment of time, expertise and resources.

I would also like to thank the staff of the service, under the leadership of Gill Eshelby and Dave Summers. Their unceasing commitment to realising the best possible quality and outcomes is shown in this performance.

All public services are facing challenges from reduced funding, and CDYOS is no different. However, the service has set out realistic priorities for the future, building on the firm foundations built over recent years. This plan gives the full flavour of what has been achieved and what the next steps are.

I am confident that by continuing to work together, we can continue to achieve great things.



Carole Payne
Chair of CDYOS Management Board

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Executive Summary

The Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 highlights work done to date, and key achievements and outcomes for 2016/17. It outlines key priorities, budget, staffing, service developments and the service improvement plan for 2017/18.

'County Durham YOS has a good reputation and performs to a high standard. The service is proud of its creative and innovative approach to service delivery and has won a number of awards, in particular for work around restorative practices. It was apparent that staff and managers alike are widely respected, skilled and experienced in understanding, and working with, some of the hardest to reach young people in the county.' (Peer Review, November 2015)

National Outcome Measures 2016/17

■ **First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs): 164**

CDYOS' performance remains strong against this measure with 164 young people entering the Youth Justice System in 2016/17. Overall there has been an **85.5% reduction** in FTEs since 2007/08 (from 1129 in 2007/08 to 164 in 2016/17).

■ **Re-offending**

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2014 – March 2015 cohort) shows a binary rate (percentage of young people re-offending within a 12 months' timeframe) from a cohort of all young people sentenced and/or cautioned) of **45.9%** and a frequency rate of **3.36** (offences per young person re-offending). Although the binary rate has risen by 1.2 percentage points compared to the previous year, the cohort size reduced by 7.8% and the **number** of young people re-offending fell by 10.

Since 2007/08, the number of young people in the cohort has **fallen by 81.7%** (from 2145 to 392), the number of young people re-offending has **fallen by 75.3%** (from 728 to 180) and the number of offences committed by those re-offending has **fallen by 69%** (from 1950 to 605). Most of these offences had a victim, so that means many fewer victims too.

The most recent MoJ re-offending data (July 2014 – June 2015 cohort) issued 26 May 2017, shows a binary rate of **43.6%**. 161 young people out of 369 in the cohort re-offended, committing 540 offences.

■ **Use of Custody**

Custodial Sentences: 21

CDYOS performance remains strong in relation to use of custody. Since 2011/12 we have **reduced the number of custodial sentences by 52.3%** (from 44 to 21).

Remand Bed Nights: 627

Since 2011/12 we have **reduced the number of remand bed nights by 39.3%** (from 1037 to 625).

In 2016/17, CDYOS worked with 1243 people. 928 (74.7%) were young people who had offended; 315 (25.3%) were victims of youth crime. The total number of contacts in the year was 33,308.

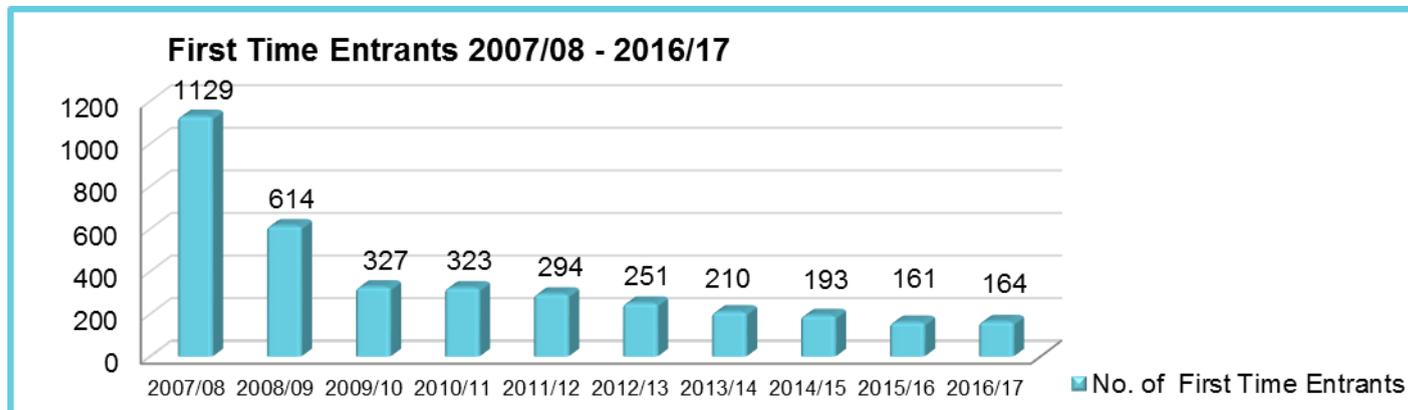
In 2015/16, CDYOS worked with 1221 people. 900 were young people who had offended; 321 were victims of youth crime. The total number of contacts in the year was 34,497.

In 2016/17, 3966 hours of court ordered reparation were completed by young people supervised by CDYOS.

First Time Entrants 2007/08 – 2016/17

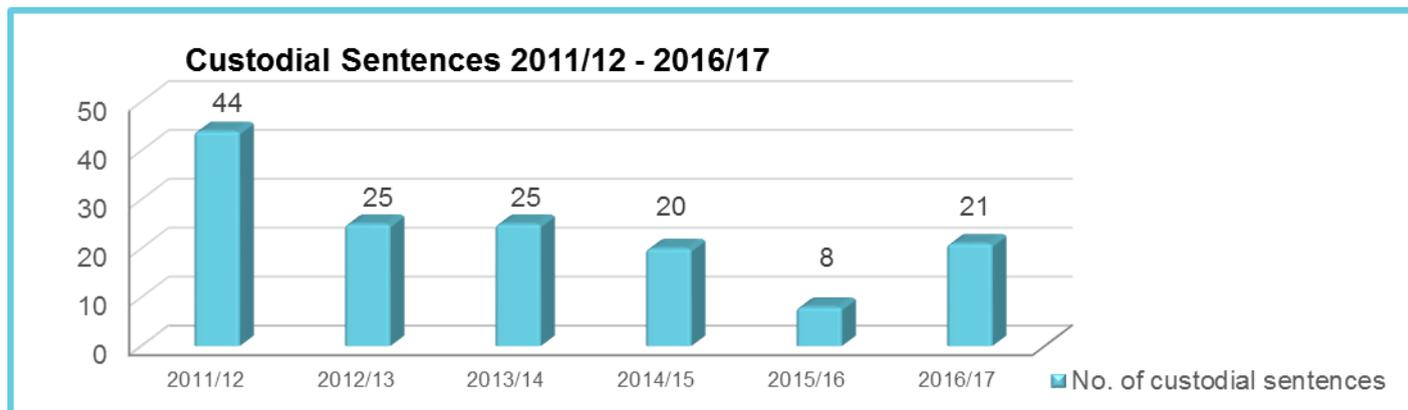
As a result of our fully integrated out of court system which provides assessment and intervention when a young person has gone through formal Police process (e.g. arrest/ Police custody suite), we have reduced first time entrants (FTEs) and re-offending.

Between 2007/8 and 2016/17, we have achieved an **85.5% reduction** in first time entrants, from 1129 in 2007/08 to 164 in 2016/17. N.B. Co Durham’s 10-17 population is 42,937 (2015 mid-year estimates. Source: ONS).

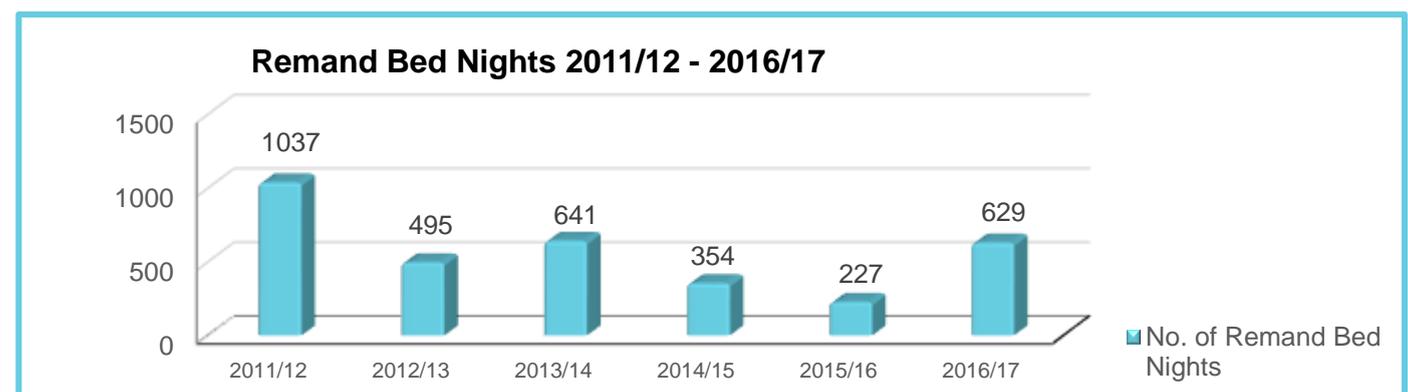


Reducing the Use of Custody 2011/12 – 2016/17

Between 2011/12 and 2016/17 we have reduced the number of custodial sentences by **52.3%**, from 44 custodial sentences in 2011/12 to 21 in 2016/17. 2016/17 performance is in line with previous years. 2015/16 performance (8 custodial sentences) was an exceptionally low year.

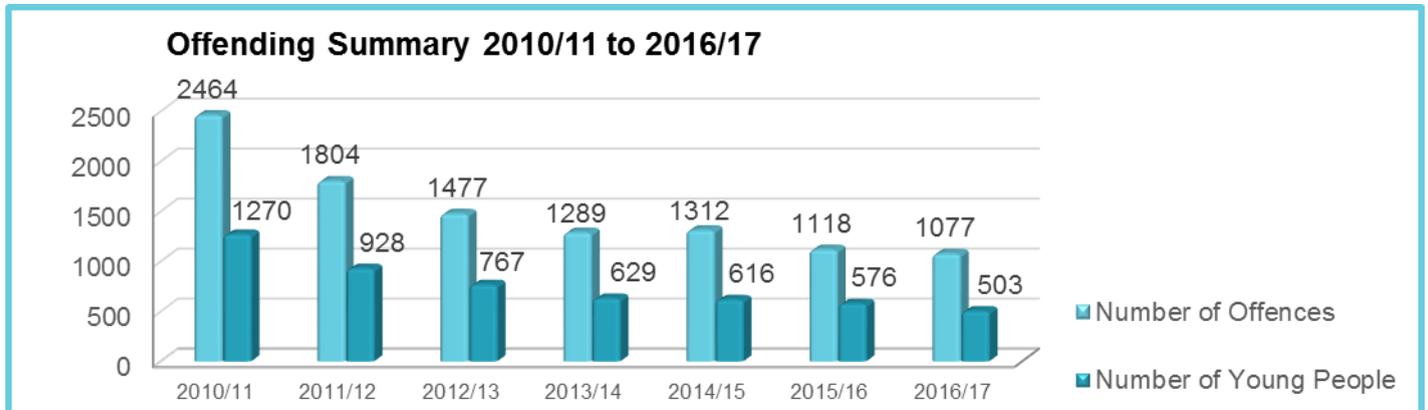


Over the same period we have reduced the number of remand bed nights (Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation) by **39.3%**, from 1037 in 2011/12 to 629 in 2016/17. Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA) is a volatile area, and depends on the seriousness of the offence(s) committed by a young person.



Number of Young People Offending and Offences Committed 2010/11 – 2016/17

Since 2010/11 we have achieved a **56.3% reduction** in the number of offences committed, from 2464 in 2010/11 to 1077 in 2016/17; and a **60.4% reduction** in the number of young people offending, from 1270 in 2010/11 to 503 in 2016/17. This includes **all** offences committed by young people aged 10-17 years, resulting in a Pre Reprimand Disposal (PRD) 2008 - 2013 / Pre Caution Disposal (PCD) 2013 onwards, out of court disposal or a court conviction. Most of these offences had a victim, so that means many fewer victims too.



Reducing Re-offending 2007/08 – 2014/15

The evidenced success of CDYOS fully integrated out of court system which provides assessment and intervention when a young person has been through formal Police processes (arrest/ Police custody suite) in reducing re-offending, has resulted in:

- 81.7% reduction in the cohort (from 2145 young people in 2007/8 to 392 in 2014/15)
 - 75.3% reduction in the number re-offending (from 728 in 2007/8 to 180 in 2014/15)
 - 69% reduction in re-offences (from 1950 in 2007/8 to 605 in 2014/15)
- (See table on following page)

Re-offending is measured nationally by the MoJ. The measure is a 12 month rolling cohort and includes all young people who:

- Receive an out of court disposal (N.B. This does not include the Pre Caution Disposal)
- Receive a court conviction other than immediate custody
- Were discharged from custody

The measure counts any offences committed in a 12 month follow up period, where those offences are proved by a court conviction or out of court disposal in that period or in a further 6 months. This gives a methodologically robust measure of re-offending.

All data is taken from the Police National Computer (PNC) and is summarised before distribution to youth offending services/teams.

The binary rate of re-offending shows the number of young people re-offending as a percentage of the number of young people in the cohort. The frequency rate previously showed the number of re-offences as a rate per young person in the whole cohort (old frequency rate in table below). It has recently changed to show a rate per young person re-offending (new frequency rate in table below).

Both binary and frequency rates have increased regionally and nationally due to the continued and significant decrease in cohort size.

MOJ Re-Offending Data (March 2017)

(N.B. PCDs are not included in MoJ data as they are not a formal outcome).

Year	Number in the cohort	Number re-offending	Binary Rate	Number of re-offences	Old Frequency Rate	New Frequency Rate
2007/08	2145	728	33.9%	1950	0.91	2.68
2008/09	1384	489	35.3%	1425	1.03	2.91
2009/10	944	393	41.6%	1150	1.22	2.93
2010/11	773	337	43.6%	1052	1.36	3.12
2011/12	631	239	37.9%	725	1.15	3.03
2012/13	489	189	38.7%	612	1.25	3.24
2013/14	425	190	44.7%	611	1.44	3.22
2014/15	392	180	45.9%	605	1.54	3.36
% reduction (07/08 – 14/15)	-81.7%	-75.3%		-69%		

(Source: YOT Data Summary, March 2017)

In 2016/17 we:**Miscellaneous**

- Undertook a comprehensive Health Needs Assessment of CDYOS cohort to inform future commissioning intentions;
- Reviewed our practice in response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) thematic inspections to inform our service improvement plan actions and quality assurance;
- Continued to improve the service we offer to victims and young people who offend through our restorative justice work;
- Further developed and embedded our group of mentors and 'leaders' all of whom are young people who have been victims of crime;
- Expanded restorative justice interventions across all orders in the service;
- Continued to work closely with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC);
- Improved our work in recognising and dealing with child sexual exploitation;
- Established a programme for parents who are victims of their child's offending;
- Continued our response to the speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) of young people in the Youth Justice System (phase 3 of our SLCN Strategy);
- Expanded our ClearCut Communication resources for young people in the Youth Justice System;
- Continued to expand the range of interventions delivered by the Delivery Team and improved the quality of programmes delivered;

- Reviewed and improved our work with young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour;
- Contributed to a new multi-agency process for dealing with young people 'sexting';
- Developed and delivered staff focus groups on a range of pertinent issues;
- Developed and delivered management development sessions;
- Extended the use of volunteers as mentors for young people under the supervision of CDYOS;
- Embedded performance measures into our administration processes;
- Improved management information for front-line managers.

Reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs)

- Ensured we delivered a 'scaled approach' to young people subject to out of court disposals (OOCd);
- Refined and developed our assessments of young people and families;
- Reviewed and developed our process for identifying families under the Stronger Families programme;
- Expanded, developed and improved our range of intervention programmes delivered by the Delivery Team;
- Embedded the out of court quality assurance process;
- Improved the quality of assessments of young people and families.

Reducing Re-offending

- Continued to work with colleagues in residential homes to reduce offending by Looked After Children (LAC);

- Identified a cohort of young people who are persistent offenders (6 or more offences in previous 12 months) and provided them with an enhanced intervention programme;
- Embedded the Re-offending Panel into practice;
- Expanded, developed and improved the range of intervention programmes delivered by the Delivery Team;
- Improved the involvement of victims in deciding the type of reparation work to be undertaken;
- Continued to improve our work to meet young people's speech, language and communication needs;
- Implemented AssetPlus and the consequent new ways of working;
- Improved staff's confidence in working with young people's emotional and mental health needs through training and mentoring;
- Extended the Transfer to Local Authority Accommodation Protocol under PACE to include those 17 years old and those detained outside of PACE;
- Developed a process for the transfer of young people from CDYOS to NPS and CRC;
- Extended young people's volunteering opportunities;
- Completed our Health Needs Assessment and agreed a new co-commissioned model of CDYOS health provision for 2017/19.

Reducing Use of Custody

- Embedded improvements to the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme;
- Targeted young people at risk of a Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation as a means of reducing both remand bed nights and custodial sentences;
- Reviewed and improved our working practices with other parts of Children's Services;
- Continued our close working relationship with the Magistrates' Court;
- Maintained a 6 day per week service, including experienced court officers available for Saturdays and Bank Holiday special courts;
- Maintained dedicated management cover for 6 day week service.

In 2016/17 we are particularly proud of:

- Continuing to maintain low number of FTEs;
- Continuing to reduce the number of young people re-offending and the number of offences committed;
- Having only 21 custodial sentences;
- Our work on resettlement: All young people leaving custody in 2016/17 had appropriate accommodation sourced and available prior to release.

- Embedding new roles for volunteers in service delivery and having 70 trained active volunteers;
- Our Health Needs Assessment (HNA) which resulted in a new co-commissioned model of health provision for 2017/19;
- Further development of ClearCut Communication resources to support young people's engagement in the Youth Justice System;
- Influencing the youth justice system nationally – over 40 YOTs have purchased and are using our ClearCut Communication resources;
- Our 'Thinking about Victims' programme (ClearCut Communication) winning the national Shine A Light Innovation Award 2017. The programme supports engagement (by both victim and perpetrator) in the restorative process;
- Implementing new ways of working to ensure VfM while improving outcomes and quality;
- Increasing the number/proportion of 16-18 year olds known to CDYOS, in education, employment and training (DurhamWorks);
- Achieving the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RJC); a further Investing in Volunteers Quality Mark; and Investing in Children status for our service;
- Our specialist Restorative Justice (RJ) work to support victims of youth crime;
- Our strong partnership work;
- Our work to become communication friendly;
- Our child-centred approach – where safeguarding of young people is a priority alongside preventing re-offending;
- Our range of professionals in the service who work to their specialist skills;
- Delivering our work in the communities where young people and families live;
- Delivering 3966 hours of court ordered reparation/ unpaid work;
- Raising £800 for charity from young people's reparation work;
- Our staff and volunteers' hard work, innovation and continued commitment to reduce re-offending, FTEs and use of custody; their willingness to adapt to new challenges, and to change and improve.

'In Sarah and Susan's case, the dedication and passion they have brought to their work in transforming the Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) strategy really shone through. Our Panel were deeply impressed by their commitment and inspirational leadership which is making such a difference to the young people in their care.'
(The Butler Trust, March 2016)

In 2017/18 we will:

- Reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System;
- Reduce re-offending by young people;
- Reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people.

By:

- Improving how we communicate with young people and the interventions we do with them;
- Putting victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything we do;
- Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
- Ensuring we have robust quality assurance and staff management processes in place and a skilled management team to manage these processes;
- Ensuring that we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
- Ensuring that volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we do with young people and victims;
- Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities, victims, families and young people.

See Appendix 3 (Service Improvement Plan 2017/18) for more detail.

'County Durham YOS' restorative practice and work with volunteers clearly provides an excellent service to young people, families and victims.'
(Lord McNally, 23 September 2016)

'I am delighted that County Durham Youth Offending Service's Restorative Work has been awarded the RSQM. It is an acknowledgement of their dedication to providing a consistently excellent service for young people who offend and their victims, who are guaranteed a safe and effective restorative justice process.'
(Jon Collins, RJC Chief Executive, April 2016)

Introduction

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team within their area. Police, National Probation Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.

Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement a statutory annual youth justice plan setting out:

- How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
- How the Youth Offending Service (YOS) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.

Plans covering more than one year require an annual refresh and updating of key information, particularly in relation to finance and governance.

Statutory requirements placed on the YOS and the Management Board include:

- Complying with the statutory requirements laid out in s.38 to 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other relevant sections of the Act;
- Complying with National Standards for Youth Justice (including returning the annual NS audit). From 1 July 2017 AssetPlus is the only assessment framework approved by the YJB and is therefore mandatory for compliance with National Standards and assessments;
- Reporting Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents (CSPPI) to the YJB in accordance with published guidance;
- Submitting required data to the YJB in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance;
- Ensuring Connectivity is used to transfer data across the youth justice system (including case transfers and stage updates under AssetPlus sent between YOT; between YOTs and YJB Placements; and between YOTs and the secure estate in accordance with AssetPlus requirements).

The Taylor Review of the Youth Justice System

In September 2015 Charlie Taylor was asked to lead a departmental review of the youth justice system for the Ministry of Justice. The Taylor Review and Government's response were published on 12 December 2016.

The Taylor Review makes recommendations for extensive reform of the youth justice system covering devolution, courts, sentencing and custody. The review states health and education need to play a bigger role in improving outcomes for young people in the youth justice system.

The Review acknowledges the significant reduction in the number of children and young people in the youth justice system since 2007, due to the impact of coordinated delivery of services at local level.

The Review outlines the considerable achievements of the youth justice system. It recognises the impact of the Youth Offending Teams (YOTs).

CDYOS is highlighted in the Review following Charlie Taylor's visit to Durham (March 2016).

'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.'
(The Taylor Review, paragraph 22).

Youth Justice Reform Programme

The Government's response to the Taylor Review sets out a number of actions the Government will take including: reviewing governance of the system; improving the support available to young people 'upstream' and throughout the youth justice system; taking decisive action to tackle violence and improve outcomes for young people in custody; and putting health and education at the heart of youth custody.

The Government has committed to further engagement with stakeholders and interested parties on a number of recommendations made.

The overarching role that youth offending services have in case management for all young people in the youth justice system is recognised as one of the key factors in the success seen in recent years. This includes: a reduction in the number of young people in the youth justice system, in first time entrants to the youth justice system, and the number in custody.

'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.'
(The Taylor Review, paragraph 18).

A national Youth Justice Reform Programme will commence during 2017/18. The Strategic Manager CDYOS has been invited to be part of some national workstream(s).

Charlie Taylor was appointed Chair of the YJB (March 2017), following Lord McNally's decision to stand down at the end of his tenure as Chair.

County Durham Youth Offending Service

County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS), a statutory multi-agency partnership, is part of Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council, and is managed by them on behalf of the partnership. Active links are maintained at both strategic and operational level to Criminal Justice, Community Safety and Children, Young People and Families arenas.

The Service is represented at strategic level in a range of key partnerships (e.g. Children and Families Partnership, Safe Durham Partnership (CSP), Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), Strategic MAPPA Board, Think Family Partnership etc.), as well as relevant sub groups.

Strategic Purpose of CDYOS

- To prevent re-offending by children and young people;
- To reduce First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system;
- To be achieved by delivering specialist interventions;
- Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection.

For 2017/19, CDYOS' primary focus is on the following three outcome areas:

- reducing first time entrants
- reducing re-offending
- reducing the use of custody (both sentenced and remanded)
- and ensuring public protection/safeguarding by providing specialist interventions.

We will embed service improvements; focus on the quality of practice; and work to ensure we continue to improve outcomes and focus on core business.

See Appendix 3: Service Improvement Plan 2017/18

Structure and Governance

Governance – Management Board

CDYOS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Children's Services, Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council. The membership and terms of reference of the Management Board are reviewed annually. Membership is at Chief Officer or appropriate Senior Officer level.

The Management Board consists of:

- Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council (DCC) - Chair;
- Durham Constabulary;
- National Probation Service;
- North East Commissioning Support (NECS) representing the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs);
- HM Courts and Tribunals Service;
- Improving Progression of Young People Team, DCC;
- Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC);
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company;
- Public Health, DCC;
- SEND and Inclusion, Education, DCC;
- NHS England Health and Justice (new member from April 2017)

Membership and governance are reviewed annually in line with *'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships – Guidance on Effective Youth Offending Team Governance in England'* (MoJ/YJB, November 2013) to ensure they remain robust in a complex and changing operating environment.

From January 2017, the Management Board has established a series of subgroups/aligned partnership subgroups. The Board receives regular updates from the Chairs (CDYOS Board members) at each meeting. This ensures synergy and ensures youth justice continues to be a priority across the wider partnership arena.

Subgroups include the following (Chair in brackets):

- Health Steering Group (Strategic Manager CDYOS);
- Reducing Re-offending (cross cutting subgroup across Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Darlington Partnership - OPCVC);
- Victims and Witnesses (cross cutting across Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Darlington Partnership – OPCVC);

- Vulnerable Child Pathway (subgroup of Healthy Child Programme Board – Public Health);
- Transitions (group to be established across DTV CRC area, Durham, Darlington and Tees Valley, to include the 5 YOS – CRC)

The Management Board reports to the Children and Families Partnership, Safe Durham Partnership and County Durham Partnership (overarching partnership for Co. Durham). Durham County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees also monitor performance against the 3 national outcome measures and receive annual presentations from the Strategic Manager CDYOS on progress against the Youth Justice Plan.

The Management Board ensures CDYOS can deliver effective youth justice services and improve outcomes for young people by:

- Providing clear performance oversight and direction;
- Receiving regular budget reports;
- Ensuring the service is adequately resourced;
- Providing clear governance and accountability;
- Reviewing the statutory partners' budget contribution to CDYOS;
- Ensuring excellent links with the Children and Families Partnership, Safe Durham Partnership, Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and broader partnership arena.

This is achieved by providing:

- Strategic oversight and direction;
- Support;
- Partnership working;
- Planning and resources.

The Youth Justice Plan, after approval by the Management Board, is presented to Cabinet and full Council for approval before submission to the YJB.

Durham County Council (DCC) Structures

Durham County Council's new Chief Executive took up post in January 2016. A major transformation programme across the whole council commenced in 2016. This has included the creation of some new service groupings.

The former Children and Adults Service directorate was disaggregated during 2016 and two new directorates created: Children and Young People's Services and Adult and Health Services. Each has a Corporate Director.

CDYOS is part of Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council and managed by them on behalf of the partnership. The Strategic Manager CDYOS is line managed by the Head of Children's Services (Chair of the Management Board) and is a member of Children's Services Senior Management Team.

Children and Young People's Services include:

- One Point (Early Help, Prevention and Think Family Services)
- CDYOS
- Aycliffe Secure Services
- Child Protection and Disability
- Looked After Children and Permanence
- First Contact and Intervention
- Families First
- Education

Children and Young People's Services provides a clear continuum of services (including early help and prevention, education, children's social care, specialist youth justice services) and valuable opportunities for joint work and innovation across the spectrum of services. Think Family and Early Help Strategies underpin CDYOS' work.

CYPS Strategic Managers work closely with the Corporate Director and Heads of Service on cross cutting themes e.g. quality improvement.

CDYOS continues to work closely with colleagues in Adult and Health Services (e.g. Public Health) and across the council. Joint work and innovation is essential in the context of a rapidly changing operating environment and reducing resources.

A new Head of Service (Tier 3) structure in CYPS was implemented in June 2017. The Head of Children's Services has become Head of Early Help, Assessment and Safeguarding. The post holder will continue to line manage the Strategic Manager CDYOS and to chair CDYOS Management Board.

Reducing Youth Crime – Integrated Strategic Planning

The primary focus of CDYOS – preventing re-offending by young people, reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice System and

reducing the use of custody – is fully integrated into the following strategic plans/strategies in County Durham:

- Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Plan;
- County Durham Children, Young People and Families Plan;
- Durham County Council Plan;
- The Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham;
- Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-Offending Strategy;
- Safe Durham Partnership Integrated Restorative Practice Strategy;
- Safe Durham Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy;
- Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy;
- Safe Durham Partnership Drug Strategy
- Think Family Strategy;
- Early Help Strategy;
- Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Plan;
- County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Durham County Council Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities.

The health needs of young people who offend are included in both the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Strategic Assessment. This maximises opportunities for joint work across partnerships and ensures a co-ordinated strategic approach across County Durham.

CDYOS has developed effective links with health partners. During 2016/17 the service worked with Public Health and partners to complete a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) of young people who offend. This has resulted in a new co-commissioned model of health provision in CDYOS for 2017/19, agreed by the Management Board and health commissioners. The HNA has been shared with a range of partnerships and will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2017.

The service has developed effective links with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. CDYOS partnership priorities are included in the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan.

Think Family work in Co. Durham has been improved by the active involvement of CDYOS. Additional funding has been secured to expand the role of CDYOS volunteers as family mentors for the Stronger (Troubled) Families programme until March 2018.

Resources and Value for Money

CDYOS is committed to the following principles:

- maintaining front line delivery and core services to young people and partners as far as possible;
- ensuring CDYOS remains in a position to improve practice and outcomes for young people;
- ensuring young people are safeguarded and risk is managed;
- ensuring Value for Money (VfM).

These underpin all our work re. budgetary management. Robust financial management is underpinned by regular budget reports to the Management Board, CYPS Management Team and Finance colleagues, DCC.

Budget 2017/18

CDYOS budget comprises partnership funding, YJB funding and specific grant funding. The budget allocation is reviewed annually by CDYOS Management Board and all partners (Police, Probation, Health (CCGs) and Local Authority) agree funding contributions for the following year.

CDYOS pooled budget for 2017/18 is £3,662,885.
92% of CDYOS budget is spent on staff costs.
94% of this is front line delivery.

A detailed budget breakdown can be found at Appendix 2.

CDYOS partnership has implemented a comprehensive youth crime strategy, focused on reducing re-offending, which includes out of court and post court.

Our nationally recognised fully integrated out of court system has evidenced success in reducing first time entrants and re-offending and is an Invest to Save strategy. It has resulted in 85.5% reduction in first time entrants since 2007/08; and 56.3% reduction in the number of offences committed and 60.4% reduction in the number of young people offending since 2010/11. The number of young people re-offending and the number of offences committed has fallen consistently since 2010/11.

YJB Grant Funding 2017/18

The YJB provides 2 grants which are part of CDYOS' pooled budget:

- Youth Justice (YOT) Grant (England)

- Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA) Grant

Both grants are ring-fenced to youth justice services.

Youth Justice (YOT) Grant: £612,038

The ring-fenced grant is provided by the YJB to local authorities 'for the purposes of the operation of the youth justice system and the provision of youth justice services' ('Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Note for Youth Offending Service Partnerships', YJB, May 2017). The grant may only be used by the Local Authority to fund its Youth Offending Team with a view to achieving the following outcomes:

- Reduction in youth re-offending;
- Reduction in the numbers of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System;
- Reduction in the use of the youth custody;
- Effective public protection;
- Effective safeguarding.

The YJ Grant is used as part of CDYOS pooled budget (see Appendix 2). This supports delivery of our Service Improvement Plan 2017/18 which focuses on the key outcome measures:

- Reducing re-offending;
- Reducing first time entrants;
- Reducing use of custody;
- Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection.

Uncertainty caused by late notification of YJB grants can cause problems re. business planning.

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation: £2,324

From April 2013, the full cost of all remand bed nights became the responsibility of the local authority, following implementation of that part of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012. The Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA) presents a new – and major – burden and risk to local authorities. The grant is for bed nights in Young Offenders Institutions (YOI) only.

The 2017/18 remand grant is a 64% reduction on that received for 2016/17 (£6,430) and a 98% reduction on that received for 2015/16 (£46,218). Actions to mitigate risk include: Reducing Remand Bed Night Strategy and remand/special court cover for all courts, including weekend and Bank Holidays.

Budget Savings 2016/17

CDYOS, like all public services, has to manage within a tough budgetary environment.

Since 2010/11, CDYOS budget has reduced by £1.6m (30.4% reduction). It should be noted the budget savings have been achieved while improving performance across a range of measures.

The Service had a further budget reduction of £128,493 for 2017/18.

We managed the budget reduction for 2017/18 by:

- reviewing all staffing in light of service needs and re-profiling some posts to increase resilience/capacity;
- formalising working arrangements for service operation 6 days per week (7 when necessary), including Bank Holidays, with dedicated management cover;
- deleting 3fte vacancies to minimise risk to staff;
- reducing support/admin services;
- introducing a range of lean admin processes/operating procedures;
- reducing all non-staffing expenditure to an absolute minimum;
- maximising Durham County Council's support structures;
- changing the way we work with local partnerships (e.g. Safe Durham Partnership/ Children and Families Partnership etc.).

Staffing and Service Delivery

Service Delivery

CDYOS works with young people across the whole Youth Justice spectrum (out of court and post court) to reduce re-offending. All young people have been through formal Police processes (e.g. arrest/Police custody suite).

CDYOS work includes:

- pre conviction arena (bail and remand management);
- fully integrated out of court system (nationally recognised);
- community sentences;
- long term custodial sentences.

CDYOS ensures the delivery of court orders (both in the community and custody) in line with National Standards for Youth Justice, national Case Management Guidance and other statutory requirements. We recruit, train, manage, supervise and deploy volunteers to carry out a range of functions (including the statutory delivery of Referral Order Panels). We operate a fully staffed court rota for the Youth Court, Remand Court, Crown Court and Special Courts (Saturdays and Bank Holidays) with dedicated management cover. We ensure safeguarding and management of risk, including public protection, in relation to young people in the Youth Justice System.

Restorative Justice underpins all our work. CDYOS works with victims of youth crime to ensure meaningful input to work with young people who have offended and has expanded restorative justice across all orders within existing resources. CDYOS was awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark in 2016. CDYOS also achieved Investing in Children accreditation in 2016 for our work with young victims of crime.

As a result of the increasing complexity of cases, CDYOS operates a specialist model of case management, enabling staff to work to their expertise. The primary focus of staff is on their specialist roles. Specialist case managers in our two case management teams are responsible for assessment, intervention planning and overall case management. Interventions, based on risk of re-offending, are delivered by the Delivery Team and Wrap Around Team

The focus of all our work is reducing re-offending. We operate a multi-professional Team around the Child, maximising expertise of professionals in CDYOS, and utilising additional skills from outside the service as required.

In 2016/17, CDYOS worked with 1243 people. 928 (74.7%) were young people who had offended; 315 (25.3%) were victims of youth crime. The total number of contacts in the year was 33,308.

In 2016/17, 3966 hours of court ordered reparation were completed by young people supervised by CDYOS.

Staffing

The Service is staffed in line, and fully complies, with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, including:

- Social Workers;
- Probation Officers (NPS);
- Police Officers;
- Police staff;
- Health staff;
- Education Officers (DurhamWorks).

There is a range of other staff, for example:

- Managers;
- Practice Improvement Officers;
- Case Managers;
- Victim Liaison Officers;
- Think Family Mentor;
- Family Support Officer;
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) Officer;
- Reparation Officer;
- Admin staff;
- Delivery Team staff who deliver a range of interventions with young people to reduce re-offending, including ISS, reparation, and out of court.

Staffing Structure

See Appendix 4 for CDYOS Staffing Structure.

As of 1 April 2017 CDYOS has 89 (82fte) staff and 70 active volunteers.

76 (69fte) staff are employed by Durham County Council on behalf of the partnership; 13 (13fte) are seconded from partners (Durham Constabulary, National Probation Service, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Mental Health Trust (TEWV) and the Think Family Team.

All staff and volunteers are trained in Restorative Approaches/ Restorative Justice. 50 are trained to facilitate Restorative Justice conferences.

Specialist Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs) are responsible for high level/complex work with victims.

Based on the findings and recommendations of our HNA, a new model of co-commissioned health provision in CDYOS has been approved by the Management Board and agreed with commissioners for 2017/19. This is currently

being implemented and will be fully operational by autumn 2017. The new model of Health provision is included in the service structure (Appendix 4).

Funded by a range of partners – Public Health, NHS England (Health and Justice), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), CDYOS and the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC) - the new model comprises:

- 1fte Speech and Language Therapist;
- 1fte Specialist Public Health Children's Nurse;
- 2fte Mental Health Support Workers;
- 2fte Drug and Alcohol Workers;
- 1.5fte Liaison and Diversion Link Workers;

The Voice of Young People in the Youth Justice System

Young people play an active role in the work of CDYOS. Their involvement during 2016/17 has helped to shape the Service Improvement Plan 2017/18 and the priorities included in the Youth Justice Plan.

The service has numerous ways of obtaining young people's views, including;

- Annual HMIP e-survey;
- Manager reviews of cases with young people;
- Referral Order panel reviews with young people;
- Every assessment includes a self-assessment by the young person;
- Re-engagement Panels with young people (for those at risk of breach/non-compliance);
- Every intervention programme is concluded by obtaining young people's views on the work undertaken;
- With Youth in Mind – young victims' consultation and engagement group.

The active participation of young people in their own assessments and intervention plans is a theme running through all CDYOS quality assurance work.

Young people supervised by CDYOS provide feedback on intervention programmes, both those provided by CDYOS and those delivered in partnership, at the end of each intervention. Their views are used, among other things, by CDYOS to determine what is included in our Directory of Interventions, used by all case managers.

Young people's feedback, their experience and frequent lack of understanding of their journey through the criminal justice processes, has been – and continues to be – central to our Speech, Language and Communication Needs Strategy. Their engagement in the process – both as young people who offend and young victims of crime – has transformed how we work and been central to the development of our ClearCut Communication resources, regarded as national best practice and purchased by other YOTs nationally.

With Youth in Mind, our young people's group, comprising 38 young victims of crime (aged 9 to 20), actively shapes our work with young victims to improve the service we offer. 71 young people have been involved since the group was established in May 2015; 38 attend on a regular basis. 10 young team leaders are trained to offer peer support to other young victims of crime.

'We started this group because we all were very interested in helping young people because of our own experiences. This could be about bullying or problems at home with the idea being that young people support other young people who have had similar experiences. The leaders and staff put time and effort in and really care about you and you get the chance to talk about different stuff and plan what you want to do for activities.'

(Members of With Youth in Mind, 2016)

'County Durham Youth Offending Service continues to demonstrate its commitment to young people's rights by engaging with young people as both victims of crime as well as young people who offend. The Service listens to their views and has taken seriously the issues they have raised. Investing in Children is proud to be able to make their Award TM in recognition of this commitment to young people's involvement.'

(Investing in Children, 2016)

Our Health Needs Assessment included feedback from young people and this helped to shape the new co-commissioned model of health provision.

The views of parents/carers and victims also shape service delivery e.g. our Parenting Support Group which supports parents who are victims of their own child's offending.

Partnership Arrangements

Partnership Arrangements

Partnership arrangements in place to deliver effective and efficient youth justice services in County Durham include:

- Partners (Police, National Probation Service and Health) have maintained their specialist staff and financial contributions to the service for 2017/18;
- Durham County Council as lead partner;
- The Management Board consists of statutory partners plus broader membership (Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, HMCTS, CRC, Public Health, SEND);
- NHS England Health and Justice have joined the Board from April 2017;
- Seniority of Management Board members;
- Management Board members are proactive, working both within and outside the Board, to support the work of the service;
- Subgroups/aligned groups ensure effective linkages and synergy with other partnerships/work and avoid duplication;
- Partnership work to support the development of a range of projects and initiatives e.g. Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Strategy; work with RSPCA, Fire and Rescue Service, Police re. development of additional intervention programmes; Positive Futures re. interventions directory;
- Police Officers and Police staff in CDYOS are responsible for the collection of forensic samples and for fingerprinting all young people who attend the Police station on a voluntary basis for a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution. They operate in line with ACPO/YJB Guidance and also carry out some functions formerly carried out by the Criminal Justice Unit (CJU);
- CDYOS Interventions Directory includes some interventions delivered in partnership; some are delivered by partners for CDYOS.

Effective Partnership Work

CDYOS has strong partnership work with an extensive range of partners at both strategic and operational level. Partners include:

- Criminal Justice (Police, Probation, Courts);
- Community Safety (DCC, Health, Fire and Rescue);
- Children and Families Partnership (DCC, Health, Police, VCS);
- Local Safeguarding Children Board;

- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA);
- Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC);
- Health (HDFT, CCGs, NECS, TEWV, NTHFT);
- National Probation Service (NPS);
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC);
- Think Family/Stronger (Troubled) Families;
- Local Criminal Justice Board (LSCB).

CDYOS is a key partner in the Criminal Justice Board for Durham and Cleveland. Chaired by the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, the Board has recently set out an ambitious vision for an end-to-end criminal justice system which supports victims, reduces re-offending and supports rehabilitation. All partners are committed to working across organisational boundaries, pursuing shared objectives, sharing performance information and data, and working together to solve problems.

CDYOS, as the largest youth offending service in the area, will play a key role in affirming the youth offending services' contribution to the delivery of an effective criminal justice system.

Partnership resourcing in CDYOS is formalised by HR Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in regards to seconded staff. SLAs are reviewed annually.

The Service operates a range of protocols with partners (including courts, health, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Children's Services (former children's social care) which are regularly reviewed.

'There were good examples of sound and effective operational partnership arrangements. A particularly good example was...housing provision available for young people. This was underpinned by an effective protocol and well integrated practice supported by the availability of plentiful, quality arrangements. The effective working relationships between the YOS and the wider Children's Services were apparent.'
(Peer Review, November 2015)

Commissioned Services

The new model of co-commissioned health provision in CDYOS (2017/19) is based on the findings and recommendations of our Health Needs Assessment of young people who offend in County Durham. Jointly lead by Public Health and CDYOS, it has provided, for the first time, a comprehensive analysis of health needs of young people in contact with CDYOS and has enabled us to enter into discussions to commission health services, confident of the needs to be met.

In addition to services commissioned for CDYOS, the service has also been commissioned to deliver training to other services for 2017/18. This includes:

- SLCN awareness/ ClearCut Communication resources to the Victim Care Advice Service (VCAS), Durham Constabulary and staff working in the RJ Hubs (commissioned by the OPCVC);
- SLCN awareness and ClearCut Communication screening tool to One Point staff;
- ClearCut Communication resources and/or training have been purchased by over 40 YOTs and a range of other services nationally;
- Restorative Approaches training for partners;
- Independent Visitors pilot for LAC (using some of our volunteers).

Stronger (Troubled) Families

CDYOS is an active partner in the successful delivery of the Stronger Families programme in County Durham. A Think Family Mentor is aligned to CDYOS, supporting staff in ensuring we 'Think Family'.

CDYOS Volunteer Programme supports at least 50 families (Stronger Families) each year, from across the range of agencies acting as lead professional. Funding for this has been secured until March 2018.

Resettlement after Custody

As a result of our multi-agency approach to resettlement, all young people leaving custody in 2016/17 had appropriate accommodation sourced and available prior to release. CDYOS works closely with Housing and Children's Services to ensure young people are effectively resettled.

No young people were remanded to the secure estate in 2016/17 as a result of inappropriate accommodation.

Prevent

Local Authorities, including Youth Offending Services, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

This duty, known as the Prevent duty, applies to a wide range of public bodies. Within CDYOS this duty is discharged through our casework with young people who have offended and through our membership of partnerships charged with carrying out the Prevent work. All CDYOS staff have been trained in Prevent and the inherent duties through use of e-learning. CDYOS also has two staff trained to deliver 'WRAP' (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training which will be rolled out to staff during 2017/18. All managers attended a presentation by Dr Dave Sloggett, a leading authority on Prevent, in April 2016.

Case Managers have worked closely with Police and other colleagues when concerns about radicalisation/extremism have been identified with young people and/or families.

The Strategic Manager CDYOS is the CYPS (Durham County Council) lead for Prevent. She is a member of the Silver Contest Board and Chair of the Channel Panel for Co. Durham. Channel considers the case management of any individual about whom there are concerns in respect of radicalisation and/or extremism.

Information Sharing

Partnership information sharing protocols/agreements work very well and ensure holistic assessment, intervention and outcomes for young people who offend. Staff have access to a range of case management systems/ databases in CDYOS offices, including:

- All Police intelligence systems inc. PNC, Sleuth, Blue Delta, Red Sigma, Vicman (Police);
- SystemOne (Health);
- ICS/SSID (Safeguarding/ Children's social care);
- Capita ONE (Education);
- Hanlon (DurhamWorks);
- CareDirector Youth (Youth Justice case management system).

Police intelligence systems are available to a group of vetted and suitably trained staff in CDYOS, in addition to Police Officers and Police staff.

The range of case management systems/databases in CDYOS allows staff and secondees to access critical, real time information regarding the young person/family to support management of risk and vulnerability. This ensures holistic assessment and information sharing to improve outcomes for young people in the Youth Justice System.

In addition, CareDirector Youth is available for:

- Emergency Duty Team (EDT);
- All magistrates courts in County Durham for CDYOS access.

Key New Partnerships

Key new partnerships/joint work includes:

- The Royal British Legion – reparation work;
- Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Services, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust – Speech, Language and Communication Needs Strategy;
- SEND – joint work between Children’s Services and Education;
- Safe Durham Partnership – strategic lead for partnership work on Integrated Restorative Practice;
- The Prince’s Trust – accreditation of core work;
- Colleges, training providers, VCS, Improving Progression of Young People Team – DurhamWorks (Youth Employment Initiative, ESF funded);
- Office of the Police, Crime and Victims’ Commissioner – young victims of youth crime;
- RSPCA – Paws4Change programme;
- Durham Constabulary Armoury – Air Guns programme;
- Durham Constabulary – U Turn programme;
- Fire and Rescue Service – Firebreak programme;
- Positive Futures partners – range of programmes available;
- The Open Awards – accreditation of core work;
- Checkpoint – partnership diversion programme for low level adult offenders;
- Newcastle Skill Mill/ Newcastle YOS – development of Skill Mill Durham;
- Blue Cross – Respectabull intervention programme;
- Street Doctors – new intervention programme;
- NHS England Health and Justice, CCGs, Public Health, OPCVC – new model of health provision;
- Open Awards and Prince’s Trust – CDYOS is an Open Awards accreditation centre and a member of The Prince’s Trust xl network.

DurhamWorks

CDYOS is a Delivery Partner of the DurhamWorks programme (Youth Employment Initiative) and, as a result, significant additional resource is available to support young people who are known to the Service into education, employment and training. This is an exciting development and will continue the steady increase of the number of young people (age 16 to 18 years) in education, employment and training. DurhamWorks ends in 2018.

National Recognition

National recognition of CDYOS’ work since 2010 includes:

- Winning the Youth Justice Award, Children and Young People Awards (2010, 2012, 2013);
- Runner up in the Howard League Community Programmes Awards 2010;
- Being awarded Investing in Volunteers (IiV) status (January 2013);
- IiV status awarded for a further 3 years (2016-2019) – we are the only Durham County Council service to achieve IiV status;
- Two staff awarded a Butler Trust Award (March 2016) for their innovative work in meeting young people’s speech, language and communication needs;
- Two Butler Trust Commendations – for contribution to diverting young people from the criminal justice system (Strategic Manager, 2011); and one of our volunteers for over 10 years’ service in CDYOS (2012);
- We are the only YOS in the country to have been awarded a Butler Trust Award and 2 Commendations;
- Our fully recognised Out of Court system included as national best practice in the Out of Court Disposals Guidance (MoJ/YJB, 2013);
- Finalist in the Children & Young People Now Awards 2015 for ClearCut Communication resources;
- Highly Commended in the Shine A Light Awards (2015/16) for our ClearCut Communication SLCN screening tool;
- Winning the Shine A Light Innovation Award (2016/17) – ‘Thinking About Victims’ programme, ClearCut Communication;
- Awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark by the Restorative Justice Council for our restorative work across the service;
- Awarded a further three years Investing in Volunteers Mark;
- Awarded Investing in Children accreditation (2016).

Risks to Future Delivery against Youth Justice Outcome Measures

All public services are facing challenges from reduced funding, and CDYOS is no different. CDYOS budget has reduced by £1.6m (30.4%) since 2010/11. Despite this, CDYOS has continued to improve outcomes for young people who offend, families, victims and communities.

The current review of the funding formula for policing may result in reduced funding for Durham Constabulary and the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, which may place additional pressure on the budget, on top of the pressure already likely to be faced as a result of local authority reductions.

The service has set out realistic priorities for the future, based on the firm foundations built over recent years. These are outlined in this plan.

Risks to future delivery against youth justice outcome measures

Risks have been identified (see table on pages 22-23) and a series of mitigating actions agreed.

In addition there are a number of other actions in place to mitigate risk, including:

- Sector Led Improvement;
- Peer Review;
- Role of Practice Improvement Officers (PIOs);
- HMIP Practice Assessors;
- CDYOS Quality Assurance Framework;
- Involvement in Youth Justice Reform Programme;
- Development work with colleagues in CYPs and across partnerships;
- Workforce Development.

Sector Led Improvement

Involvement in Sector Led Improvement enables CDYOS to keep up to speed with national developments, share good practice and learn from others. The Strategic Manager is a YJ Peer Reviewer and has been actively involved in a range of national youth justice work.

CDYOS is involved in effective practice sharing through the North East Practice Development Group and the Youth Justice Board, involving practice exchange, quality assurance and developing protocols.

The Youth Justice Resource Hub contains examples of good practice in the Youth Justice System, enabling effective practice to be disseminated across the sector. CDYOS' work is included on the hub e.g. our Parenting Support

Group (which supports parents who are victims of their child's offending). This resource has been accessed by other youth justice professionals over 350 times (May 2017).

Youth Justice Peer Review

CDYOS undertook a Youth Justice Peer Review during October 2015. The focus of the review was our practice and partnerships to reduce re-offending. Feedback was complimentary and helpful. Areas for consideration were discussed by the Management Board (November 2015). Improvement and development plans were incorporated into our Service Improvement Plan 2016/17 and completed.

Practice Improvement Officers

Practice Improvement Officers (PIOs) have a crucial role in driving forward service improvement and quality of front line practice. They have shared responsibility for the delivery of high quality services; provide senior case management advice and guidance to staff; and play a vital role in quality assurance for both OOC and post court. They have driven forward service improvements in a range of areas, e.g. AssetPlus; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE); Speech Language and Communication Needs; interventions; and the voice of the young person in the Youth Justice System.

HMIP Practice Assessors

Two PIOs and a team manager are HMIP Practice Assessors. This helps to mitigate risk by keeping CDYOS' practice up to speed with inspection standards.

CDYOS Quality Assurance (QA) Framework

CDYOS has implemented a comprehensive Quality Assurance Framework which covers all QA work undertaken by line managers in the service. One element of this is a robust audit programme and quarterly thematic audits, including reviewing our practice against HMIP thematic inspections and implementing improvement areas.

Themed audits to be undertaken in 2017/18 include:

- SEND
- SLCN
- CSE
- Full case file audits
- Substance Misuse
- Outcomes

Both the Management Development programme, for CDYOS managers, and the staff focus sessions will continue throughout 2017/18, as part of our QA framework.

YJ Reform Programme

CDYOS will take an active role in the Youth Justice Reform Programme via key stakeholder groups to help to shape the future direction of the youth justice landscape nationally, regionally and locally.

Development work with CYPS and across Partnerships

Development work with colleagues in CYPS includes: developing pathways with One Point; improving outcomes for young people with SEND in the Youth Justice System; work to reduce offending by Looked After Children; and a range of improvement activity. CDYOS is represented on the Children’s Services Quality Improvement Champions Network which is improving the quality of assessment, plans, the voice of the child and progress towards outcomes.

Development work with partners includes: work with the Reducing Re-offending Group (desistance pathways etc.); Safe Durham Partnership Peer Review (Sept 2017); and work with the Child Advocacy Centre.

Workforce Development

An extensive programme of workforce development is in place (including youth justice, CYPS, SEND, LSCB etc.) to ensure CDYOS staff can maintain and develop their skills in a rapidly changing operating environment.

Diversity

CDYOS is committed to meeting the needs of the young people, families and victims with whom we work. All staff have undertaken specialist diversity training for youth offending, SLCN training and, in addition, case managers have undertaken specialist diversity training for assessments. Diversity issues are a specific category on the checklist used by managers to countersign assessments and intervention plans

Risk	Action to Mitigate Risk
Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA) – financial risk to local authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Remand Bed Nights Strategy • Management oversight • Mid-week and weekend staffed court cover • Remand Court specialists • ISS Bail Programme • Joint work with Children’s Service’s colleagues • Monthly monitoring of RYDA/corporate reporting
Future budget efficiencies/reductions in partner contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going review of Service structure • Review accommodation • Review all vacancies • Review and develop pathways to support young people after statutory supervision • Consider new ways of working • Development of Skill Mill Durham
Maintaining improving performance in face of on-going budget reductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIP 2017/18 • Quality Assurance framework • Self-assessment against HMIP criteria • Innovation • Staff forums • Managers forums
Uncertainty about future Youth Justice landscape complicates planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Reform Programme • Involvement in YJ Reform Programme at national, regional and local level • On-going review of Service structure • Staff forums • Managers forums • Innovation • Emphasis on improving quality of core practice
Re-offending rate (binary) increases due to continued reduction in full cohort numbers at a rate greater than reduction in numbers of young people re-offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of re-offending cohort • Review and changes to enhanced programme for re-offending cohort • Introduction of AssetPlus • Amendments and improvement in QA processes • Managers forums • Staff forums • Emphasis on improving quality of core practice • SIP 2017/18

Robust management and governance will continue to ensure that CDYOS improves outcomes for young people in the Youth Justice System and reduces re-offending. The Service is well placed to build on the progress and improved performance of the last 9 years.

'We were extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff team, who were clearly motivated to provide the best service to meet the needs of the young people engaged with the service. There was substantial evidence from both the staff team and the young people themselves. We heard good evidence of relationship based practice and young people felt their YOS workers were there for them.'
(Peer Review, November 2015)

'We would like to thank members of the youth offending service for all their help, support and advice. They have all been fantastic... We felt A had not received the right support until working with members of the YOS.'

Over the years we have had a variety of agencies working with A, but we have never received such caring, conscientious, understanding and outstanding support that we have received from the youth offending service. We can't praise or thank the staff who have worked with A enough. We are going to miss them, their support and advice immensely. They are a credit to your service.'
(Family of a young person, March 2017)

Appendix 1

CDYOS Management Board – Approval of Strategic Plan

This plan was considered by CDYOS Management Board in May 2017.

I approve this plan on behalf of the Board.



Carole Payne

Chair of CDYOS Management Board

1 June 2017

Appendix 2

County Durham Youth Offending Service Budget 2017/18

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in Kind	Other Delegated Funds	Total
Local Authority			2,016,452	2,016,452
Police Service	153,991	72,000	121,600	347,591
National Probation Service	91,084		10,000	101,084
Health Service	212,000		50,268	262,268
OPCVC (Community Safety Fund)			152,828	152,828
YJB – Youth Justice (YOT) Grant			612,038	612,038
Other Funding (Stronger Families)			35,000	35,000
Total	457,075	72,000	2,998,186	3,527,261

CDYOS also has a budget of £135,624 for specific projects as detailed below.

OPCVC (Victims' Fund)	24,100	24,100
OPCVC (Community Safety Fund)	24,100	24,100
YJB - Remand Grant	2,324	2,324
Youth Employment Initiative	85,100	85,100
Total CDYOS Pooled Budget	3,133,810	3,662,885

N.B.

The Youth Justice (YOT) Grant is used as part of partnership pooled budget to support delivery of our Service Improvement Plan (see Appendix 3) to support work to reduce re-offending, first time entrants and use of custody.

Community Safety Fund and Victims' Fund comes from the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner. The OPCVC is also contributing to the new co-commissioned model of health provision for 2017/19.

Appendix 3

Service Improvement Plan 2017/18

Priority

1) Improving how we communicate with young people and the interventions we complete with them

- Expand the SLCN resources available for work with young people – ‘Thinking about Victims’, Referral Order
- Further develop the ClearCut brand
- Continue to expand the range of interventions delivered by the Delivery Team, especially in respect of desistance factors
- Develop interventions that support the ‘Good Lives’ model
- Continue to improve the quality of the programmes delivered
- Improve Case Managers’ confidence in screening for a range of health needs
- Embed and improve the quality of assessments through AssetPlus
- Implement the new model of health provision within CDYOS
- Develop and implement the Skill Mill for County Durham
- Develop and implement pathways with One Point, especially in respect of young people displaying anti-social behaviour
- Improve the pathways and risk management process for young people displaying sexually harmful behaviour
- Develop links and integrate with the Child Advocacy Centre developments
- Improve the quality of our work with young people leaving care

2) Putting victims, especially young victims, and Restorative Justice at the heart of everything we do

- Expand With Youth in Mind Group for young people who have been victims of crime
- Expand the Parenting Support Group for parents who are victims of their own child’s offending
- Expand the role of Case Managers in work with victims

3) Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences

- Improve the monitoring and evaluation of the Re-offending Cohort
- Review and improve both the enhanced programme and the process for reviewing the re-offending cohort

4) Ensuring we have robust quality assurance and staff management processes in place and a skilled management team to manage these processes

- Deliver a series of training sessions for managers based on audit findings
- Ensure CDYOS is prepared for the implementation of the new HMIP inspection framework
- Expand the programme of ‘operational managers’ development sessions
- Implement the programme of themed audits to compliment routine case auditing
- Ensure CDYOS auditing programme complements and links with the wider Children’s Services auditing programme
- Audit managers’ compliance with CDYOS Quality Assurance processes
- Improve the collation and presentation of audit findings and ensure feedback to staff

5) Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us

- Develop and implement revised on-line feedback for young people to replace the HMIP e-survey
- Improve the use of young people’s self-assessment into the AssetPlus assessment process
- Review and increase the Voice of the Child in our work
- Embed and expand With Youth in Mind Group for young people who have been victims of crime
- Expand the Parenting Support Group for parents who are victims of their own child’s offending

6) Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims

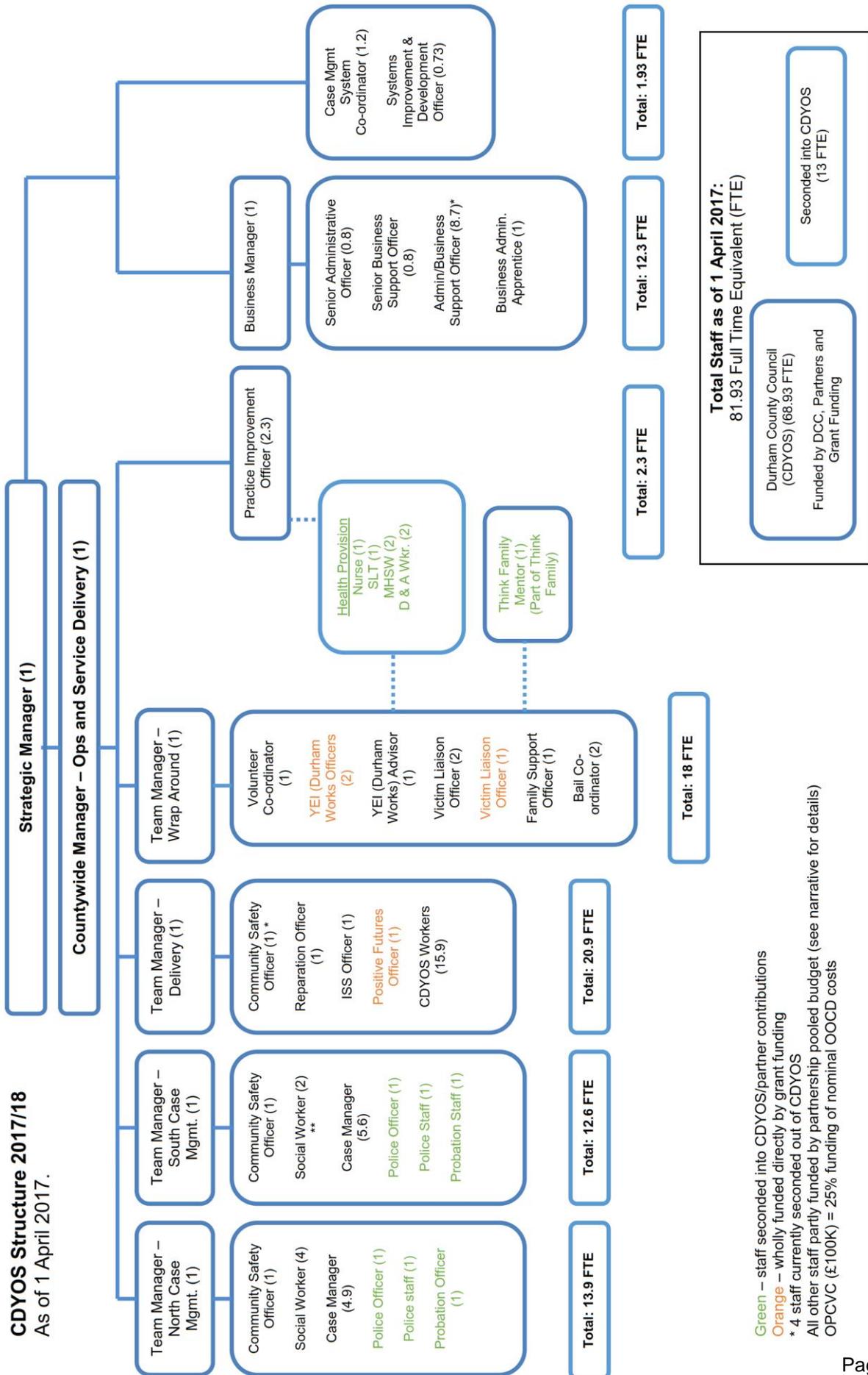
- Embed and expand With Youth in Mind Group for young people who have been victims of crime
- Improve the quality of our work and monitoring of Family Mentors through the Stronger Families Programme
- Increase the opportunities for young people working with CDYOS to take-up volunteering opportunities
- Develop the Independent Visitors programme for LAC based upon the findings of the pilot programme
- Increase the use of volunteer mentors working with young people

7) Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities, victims, families and young people.

- Expand the review of management information to include all management information needs, especially in respect of individual team performance

Appendix 4

Service Structure 2017/18



Appendix 5

CDYOS Statutory Functions

Provision of:

- Case management of Court Orders (Community and Custody) in line with National Standards for Youth Justice
- Out of Court Disposals
- Specialist assessment based on criminogenic factors and desistance
- Interventions to reduce re-offending
- Court staffing (Youth, Crown, Remand Courts including Saturday and Bank Holiday working)
- Bail Supervision functions
- Appropriate Adult service for Police interviews (PACE)
- Pre Sentence Reports for Courts
- Community Volunteers (Referral Order Panels)
- Recruit, train, manage, supervise, and deploy volunteers to carry out statutory functions
- Referral Order Panel Reports
- 'Prevention' services to prevent youth crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour escalation supervision
- Service to victims of youth crime (both young people and adults)
- Delivery of court-ordered reparation to community and victims
- Delivery of Unpaid Work requirements (16/17 year olds)
- Transition services to NPS/CRC
- YJMIS data / management info to Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice regarding youth justice cases
- Parenting Orders imposed in the Youth Court (Criminal Matters)
- Case management of Sex Offenders (Assessment, Intervention and Moving On (AIM)) – young people under 18
- Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA)
- Resettlement of young people after custody

Duty to:

- Comply with National Standards for Youth Justice (accountable to Ministers)
- Comply with arrangements for multi-agency public protection (MAPP)
- Comply with relevant legislation
- Cooperate with MAPP/LSCB/SDP (CSP)
- Provide and support a Management Board
- Produce and deliver an annual Youth Justice Plan
- Provide assistance to persons determining whether Youth Cautions or Youth Conditional Cautions should be given
- Cooperate with Children's Services to improve wellbeing of children and young people in County Durham
- Cooperate regarding safeguarding and public protection incidents in the community (YJB)

Additional Functions:

- Provision of Out of Court Disposals (service delivery)
- Provision of Think Family / Stronger Families
- Manage safeguarding and risk management inherent in all the above
- Team Around the Child (TAC) / Team Around the Family (TAF)
- Assessment, Planning Interventions, Supervision (APIS)
- Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs)

Appendix 6

Glossary

Acronym	Meaning
AIM	Assessment, Intervention and Moving on
APIS	Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Supervision
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCG(s)	Clinical Commissioning Group(s)
CDYOS	County Durham Youth Offending Service
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSPPI	Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents
DCC	Durham County Council
DTO	Detention and Training Order
ESF	European Social Fund
FTEs	First Time Entrants (to the Youth Justice System)
fte	Full Time Equivalent (staff)
HDFT	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
HMCTS	Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
HMIP	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation
HNA	Health Needs Assessment
HR	Human Resources
liV	Investing in Volunteers
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (alternative to custody)
LAC	Looked After Children
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NECS	North East Commissioning Support (Health)
NTHFT	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
NPS	National Probation Service
OBPs	Offending Behaviour Programmes
OPCVC	Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner
OCD	Out of Court Disposal
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence Act
PCD	Pre Caution Disposal (April 2013 onwards)
PIO	Practice Improvement Officer
PNC	Police National Computer
PRD	Pre Reprimand Disposal (May 2008 – March 2013)
QA	Quality Assurance
RJ	Restorative Justice
RJC	Restorative Justice Council
RSQM	Restorative Service Quality Mark
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals
RYDA	Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disability

Acronym	Meaning
SDP	Safe Durham Partnership (CSP)
SIP	Service Improvement Plan
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
TAC	Team Around the Child
TAF	Team Around the Family
TEWV	Tees, Esk, and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (Mental Health)
VCAS	Victim Care Advice Service
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
VfM	Value for Money
VLO	Victim Liaison Officer
YOI	Youth Offender Institution
YJ	Youth Justice
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YJMIS	Youth Justice Management Information System
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Appendix 7

Contact Details

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Strategic Manager

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03000 265 999



County Durham Youth Offending Service
Youth Justice Plan
2017 / 2019

County Council

19 July 2017

Elected Member Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks**Report of Corporate Management Team****Joint Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources and Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships****Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To advise Council on the review of DBS checking processes for elected members and to present a new policy framework on DBS checks for Council agreement.

Background

- 2 DBS checks provide information about a person's criminal record history at the point at which the check is made. The Council has adopted a policy of routinely re-checking eligible staff every five years.
- 3 At present, checks on Members are requested on an individual basis by Schools and / or individual services dependent on whether the Member performed specific tasks (e.g. School Governorship duties / attendance on Corporate Parenting Panels etc.).

Application of DBS Eligibility Criteria for Elected Members

- 4 The Casey report, produced following the child exploitation investigations at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in 2015, drew renewed attention to the issue of Elected Members and DBS checks.
- 5 Consideration of the implications of the Casey report for Durham identified that although the Council generally had strong arrangements in place, there were some areas for improvement or further work, including DBS checks for Members.
- 6 The evaluation highlighted that Elected Members had not been DBS checked consistently and systematically despite being eligible for discretionary enhanced level checks (without a check of the Barred List) due to their leadership role in the local community and a position of trust, with potential access to vulnerable children and adults.
- 7 Under Section 80(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 1972, persons standing for election are required to declare relevant convictions prior to election and it is an offence to provide false information. An Enhanced DBS check will identify details of all spent and unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings held on central police files. It may also reference any additional information held on local police records that is reasonably considered relevant to the role in question. It will not however include a check of the DBS barred

lists, which identifies individuals who are prohibited from working with children or vulnerable adults.

- 8 Constitution Working Group on 11 January 2017, and Council on 22 February 2017, agreed that officers should develop a policy framework in respect of DBS checks on Members for consideration and approval. A draft policy, prepared by officers based on the policy for employees, was considered by the Constitution Working Group on 7 July 2017. The group suggested some minor amendments to the draft policy and confirmed that it should be recommended to Council for adoption.

DBS Policy for Elected Members

- 9 A full DBS Policy has been developed (see appendix two), setting out the principles, rationale and logistics for DBS checking of elected members. Importantly this identifies responsibilities for the risk assessment of DBS disclosure information received.
- 10 The policy would be implemented following Council endorsement of it and in this first year, DBS checks would be required within 14 days of the Council meeting, with subsequent checks being undertaken within 14 days of any future elections.
- 11 Should the policy be agreed, notwithstanding that some members may have current valid enhanced level checks (i.e. have had a DBS check within last 5-years), it would be prudent to undertake renewed DBS checks of all Members that have not had one subsequent to the recent local elections.

Recommendations and reasons

- 12 It is recommended that:
- (a) the draft Policy for DBS checking of Members (see draft attached for consideration in Appendix 2) is approved;
 - (b) subject to agreement of the policy, DBS checks are undertaken for all elected Members (without a current check post the election).

Background Documents

Report to CWG 07 July 2017 - Elected Member Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

Report to CWG 11 January 2017 – Elected Member Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

Report to Council 22 February 2017 – Elected Member Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks

Casey Report into Child Sexual Exploitation 2015

Contact: Paul Darby 03000 261 930 Jenny Haworth 03000 268 071

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - DBS application costs incurred by the Council @ £52 per check (inclusive of £4 e-bulk charge for uploading / submitting the DBS check electronically).

Staffing - All eligible workers are DBS checked in accordance with DBS Code of Practice and Council Policy. This policy doesn't currently extend to a blanket DBS checking of all elected members.

Information shared on a DBS certificate is managed in the strictest of confidence. Human Resources officers are fully trained in the correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of disclosures and disclosure information received. The sharing of any disclosure information received is restricted to those identified to risk assess whether the impact of any spent unspent convictions or cautions is detrimental to the post in question. Unlawful disclosure of information contained in a DBS certificate is a criminal offence. It is proposed that any decisions on material contained within a DBS certificate in relation to an Elected Member should be made by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the relevant Group Leader.

Risk - The attached policy seeks to establish a new policy framework on DBS checks for members for agreement, which will ensure that DBS checks are undertaken for all elected members, thereby reducing risk to the Council.

Given the revised definitions of Regulated Activity introduced as a result of the Protection of Freedoms Act, there is no statutory requirement for a criminal records check on Elected Members unless they are undertaking Regulated Activities. However, the Council has a duty of care to service users and the public, and must take reasonable steps to identify foreseeable risks. Elected Members are considered as persons of trust and authority within their local community. Securing DBS checks for Elected Members is a proportionate means of discharging the Council's duty of care

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – The attached Policy has no detrimental impact on any of the protected characteristics covered by the Councils Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duties and responsibilities.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - The attached policy seeks to establish a new policy framework on DBS checks for members for agreement by CWG, which will ensure that DBS checks are undertaken for all elected members.

Human Rights - None

Consultation – The proposals set out in this report follow on from discussions held between the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Resources and Head of Strategy, Transformation and Partnerships and discussions previously held at CWG. The policy framework developed for consideration follows on from the report considered by Council on 22 February, 2017.

Procurement - None

Disability Issues - None

Legal Implications – Under Section 80(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 1972, persons standing for election are required to declare relevant convictions prior to election and it is an offence to provide false information. There is however no obligation to disclose matters considered to be “spent” under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Acts.

An Enhanced DBS check will identify details of all spent, unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and final warnings held on central police files. It may also reference any additional information held on local police records that is reasonably considered relevant to the role in question. It will not however include a check of the DBS barred lists, which identifies individuals who are prohibited from working with children or vulnerable adults. The policy sets out how adverse information will be addressed.

The Disclosure and Barring Service has confirmed that whilst the role of ‘Elected Member’ does not meet the definition of Regulated Activity (and therefore does not qualify for an Enhanced DBS check with a check of the barred lists), a discretionary Enhanced DBS check (without a check of the barred list) could be undertaken given their responsibility for discharging educational functions and / or social services functions on behalf of the local authority. The barred list is most relevant to employees as it covers concerns raised by professional regulators.

Human Resources



and Barring checks for Elected

1.0 Introduction and Background



1.1 Background to the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS)

As a Regulated Activities Provider (RAP) the Council has a legal duty to carry out Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) to ensure that people who pose a threat are not allowed to work (paid or unpaid) in positions where they can exploit vulnerable groups, including children.

1.2 DBS Checks

The type of DBS disclosure that is required is determined by way of a risk assessment of the activity that the individual will be undertaking.

The DBS states that all reasonable endeavours must be made to ensure that each individual application submitted is eligible for a DBS check. The Council maintains confidential records on its HR system (Resourcelink) of each DBS check that has been processed, including the level of check associated with each role.

The Disclosure and Barring Service may return any application form that does not meet the eligibility criteria. Repeated breaches of the DBS eligibility criteria could result in the DBS withdrawing the Councils authorisation to submit DBS applications altogether.

1.3 Levels of Disclosure

There are six types of check available.

Level of Check	When to be used	What is checked
Enhanced check for regulated activity (children)	When someone is undertaking regulated activity relating to children (see Appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police national computer • Police Information • The Children's barred list
Enhanced check for regulated activity (adults)	When someone is undertaking regulated activity relating to adults (see Appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police national computer • Police Information • The Adults barred list
Enhanced check for regulated activity (children and adults)	When someone is undertaking regulated activity relating to both children and adults (see Appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police national computer • Police information • The Children's and Adults barred list
Enhanced DBS check (without check of the Barred List)	Where someone meets the pre-September 2012 definition of regulated activity (see Appendix 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police national computer • Police information
Standard DBS check	People entering certain professions such as members of the legal and accountancy professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police national computer
Basic DBS Check (DBS Scotland)	Applicants who access information in line with the Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unspent criminal convictions only

It is proposed that all elected members are subject to an Enhanced DBS check (without check of the Barred List).

2.0 Application of DBS eligibility criteria for Elected Members

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002 set out the circumstances in which a request for an enhanced disclosure and barring service check may be made. They include considering the applicant's suitability to engage in 'regulated activity relating to children' and considering the applicant's suitability to exercise defined functions relating to vulnerable adults.

The Disclosure and Barring Service have confirmed that a discretionary Enhanced DBS check (without check of the barred list) can be undertaken linked to Elected Member responsibility in discharging educational functions and/or social services functions on behalf of the local authority.

Under Section 80(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 1972, persons standing for election are required to declare relevant convictions prior to election and it is an offence to provide false information.

Important Note: The Council will not accept a DBS disclosure certificate that has been provided by another organisation due to the risk factors involved. The only exception would be where the individual has signed up to the DBS Update Service (please contact the HR Operations & Data Team for more information on the DBS Update Service).

3.0 Frequency of DBS checks

All Elected Members will be required to apply for a DBS check within 14 days of their initial appointment. As good practice the Council will conduct appropriate checks at least every five years whilst the individual remains in their position.

A Member who refuses or fails to apply for a DBS check within 14 days of their appointment to a function will be ineligible to continue in their elected member capacity.

If a Member applies for a DBS check and provides the correct documentation to support an application, but for any reason DBS does not process the application or the application is delayed, the Member will be able to continue in their role until the DBS check is received. Likewise, if the Member is already in situ, they will be able to continue in their existing capacity until which time they receive a completed check.

4.0 Risk assessment of disclosures information

If an Elected Member's completed DBS check highlights any disclosure information then a risk assessment will be undertaken; pending which the Elected Member would be unable to fulfil the functions for which a DBS check is required with immediate effect. The risk assessment process would be carried out by the Council's Monitoring Officer, with appropriate advice received from HR colleagues, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the relevant Group Leader.

Disclosure information may not prohibit a person from continuing to undertake their official Elected Member functions. However, since October 2009 it has been a criminal offence to knowingly appoint individuals who are 'barred' to roles which involve regulated activity.

Consideration must be given to the following factors:

- how relevant the offence is to the position undertaken;
 - the nature of the person's duties and whether the conviction may undermine the Council's trust in the person performing or continuing to perform those duties.
 - the seriousness of the offence or matter revealed and its relevance to the safety of other employees, customers, clients or property;
- age of applicant at the time of committing the offence;
- the applicant's subsequent record and length of time since the offence occurred;
- whether the offence was a one off, a pattern or part of a history of offending;
- whether the applicant's circumstances have changed since the offence was committed making re-offending less likely;
- whether the offence has been decriminalised by Parliament; and
- the degree of remorse, or otherwise, expressed by the individual and their motivation to change.

This list is not exhaustive and the Monitoring Officer must consider the full degree of risk and determine the action required. The details of all DBS checks and the contents of any discussion between the Member and Monitoring Officer, plus Human Resources as appropriate, concerning such checks shall remain strictly confidential.

Risk assessment is required to decide whether the risk of continuing to engage the Elected Member in these functions can be taken and what precautions and safeguards would be needed to manage and minimise that risk. Prior to making any final determination, the Member will be offered the opportunity to comment on the disclosure. Copies of appropriate risk assessment pro-formas can be obtained from the HR Operations & Data Team.

5.0 Processing an application form for disclosure

The Council uses an e-bulk facility for the upload and processing of DBS checks. Applications are completed, verified and countersigned online. Anyone who requires a check will be issued further instruction in writing along with a log-in/password.

An ID checker has been assigned within Members Support to verify original documentation.

A record of the DBS check (and date undertaken) will be recorded centrally and will inform re-checking protocols.

6.0 Further information

Detailed guidance and information on DBS checks, the risk assessment of disclosure information and the processing of DBS application through e-bulk is available from the HR Operations & Data Team: DBS@Durham.gov.uk or by telephoning Angela Nicholson, HR Officer 03000267250

If you have any specific queries regarding the progression of an individual application, please contact the HR Operations and Data Team, Resources, Green Lane Council Offices, Level 0, Spennymoor, County Durham DL16 6JQ or via email to hrresources@durham.gov.uk

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County Council

19 July 2017

Honorary Aldermen



**Report of Corporate Management Team
Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of the Council**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek confirmation of the criteria for the conferment of the title of Honorary Aldermen upon retiring Members to identify those upon whom the title of Honorary Aldermen should be conferred.

Background

- 2 Section 249 of the Local Government Act provides that the Council may by resolution, passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting of the Council, confer the title of Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Members. It is not therefore possible to award the title to current Councillors.
- 3 Under LGR transitional arrangements, some of the former District Councils were able to, and did, confer the title on serving Members. This appointment transferred automatically to the new Council, and there is therefore no need to re-confer the title on those who received it from a former authority. It is no longer possible to confer the title on serving Members of the Council.
- 4 In 2013, it was resolved by the Council to adopt a single criterion for deciding whether eminent service had been rendered to enable the Titles to be conferred. This criterion was the completion of a total of sixteen years' service as a Councillor (whether of the existing County Council or any of the former two-tier authorities, and irrespective of whether the service was concurrent or consecutive in the case of Members of more than one Council).
- 5 It was noted in the July 2013 report to Council that sixteen years' service was the equivalent of four Council terms. However, the specific resolution of the Council was to adopt the criterion of sixteen years' service.
- 6 The title is not allowed to be used by anyone whilst serving as a Member of the Council, nor is an Alderman or Alderwoman entitled to attend or take part in any of the Council's Civic Ceremonies of the Council as an Alderman or Alderwoman.

- 7 An Honorary Alderman is entitled to attend and take part in such Civic Ceremonies as the Council may, from time to time, decide, but shall not have the right to:
- (a) attend meetings of the Council or Committees of the Council (except as a member of the public); or have the right to influence meetings of the Council or a Committee of the Council; or
 - (b) receive allowances or payments under Sections 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972 (travelling allowance, subsistence allowances, allowances for attending conferences, payment of expenses of official and courtesy visits).
- 8 Traditionally, any invitations to Civic Ceremonies to Honorary Aldermen has been left to the discretion of the serving Chairman of the Council and over recent years Honorary Aldermen have been invited to participate in the Chairman's Christmas lunch. Honorary Aldermen are also invited to each meeting of the County Council.
- 9 The Council may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purposes of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom they have conferred the title. The County Council has previously presented a framed certificate to those on whom they have conferred the title.

Former Arrangements

- 10 The Constitution Working Group (CWG) reviewed the previously adopted criteria on 7 July 2017. They noted the previous adoption of 16 years' service, and the fact that in coming to that conclusion, it would mean that four full terms had been served. They also considered whether additional criteria should be used over and above years served but concluded that the subjectivity of such criteria was not appropriate. The repeated re-election of prospective candidates by the electorate should be considered sufficiently objective criteria for conferring the title.

The Process

- 11 The 2017 local elections saw the retirement of 39 Members, and Council is invited to consider the exercise of the Council's power under section 249 of the Local Government Act to confer further Titles.
- 12 Council will need to firstly confirm the basis of conferring the Title, agree upon whom the Title should be conferred and then hold a special meeting where a resolution is passed in respect of the conferment by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting.

Considerations

- 13 The foot and mouth outbreak in 2001 delayed the holding of the local elections in that year. This has resulted in two retiring Members narrowly failing to meet the currently adopted criterion of sixteen years' service, although they did each serve four full terms.

- 14 Members may also recall that they were elected to the new Council in May 2008, which meant the first term of the Council was in fact 5 years rather than four.
- 15 There are ten other retiring Members who are eligible for the Title under the existing criteria, although 4 of these already hold the Title as conferred by the former districts and should not therefore have the same re-conferred.
- 16 CWG believed that the existing criterion of sixteen years' service was equivalent to having served four full Council terms – whether those terms are shorter or longer than the usual four years. They therefore agreed that Council should consider a list of retiring members, which acknowledges this small departure from the existing criterion in the case of the two Councillors first elected in June 2001.

Recommendations and reasons

- 17 It is recommended that Council:
 - (a) acknowledge the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman is sixteen years' service, or four full terms;
 - (b) confer the title of Honorary Alderman on those past Members who meet the sixteen years' service criterion including, on this occasion, because of the circumstances set out in the report, those two Members that have served four full terms but whose service falls slightly short of sixteen years as a result of the 2001 election date having been delayed by a month.

Contact: Clare Pattinson Tel: 03000 269732

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance:

There will be the cost of agendas and calling of a special meeting including Councillor travelling expenses. Holding the special meeting on a date already scheduled for a Council meeting will reduce these costs. The overall costs can be met from within existing budgets.

Staffing: None specific within this report

Risk: None specific within this report

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Duty: None specific within this report

Accommodation: None specific within this report

Crime and Disorder: None specific within this report

Human Rights: None specific within this report

Consultation: None specific within this report

Procurement: None specific within this report

Disability Discrimination Act: None specific within this report

Legal Implications:

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act, the Council may by resolution, passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting of the Council, confer the title of Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Members.

To aid consistency of determination as to whether to award the honorary title, the Council adopted a criteria of 16 years' service in 2013, having considered that four full terms service was sufficient to evidence eminent service to the Council.

County Council**19 July 2017****Adoption of the Great Aycliffe
Neighbourhood Plan and the Whorlton
Village Neighbourhood Plan**

Report of Corporate Management Team**Ian Thompson, Director of Regeneration and Local Services****Councillor Carl Marshall, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic
Regeneration**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a right for communities to draw up neighbourhood development plans. Great Aycliffe Town Council and Whorlton and Westwick Parish Council, with support from the County Council, have both produced a neighbourhood development plan which have subsequently undergone a successful examination.
- 2 On Thursday 22 June, a referendum was held into the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan, which is the first plan in County Durham to reach this stage of the process. 91.2% of all votes were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. On Thursday 29 June, a referendum was held into the Whorlton Neighbourhood Plan. 68.1% of all votes were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. This report advises that the Great Aycliffe and Whorlton Village neighbourhood plans should be made (adopted) by the County Council as part of the statutory development plan.

Background

- 3 The 2011 Localism Act allowed for local communities to shape their areas by enabling town and parish councils and other designated bodies to prepare neighbourhood development plans. A detailed legislative framework for undertaking neighbourhood planning was set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as well as the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Neighbourhood planning has been enthusiastically taken up and to date 23 Neighbourhood Areas have been formally designated and 14 plans are under preparation.
- 4 A neighbourhood plan, once adopted, forms part of the statutory development plan and sits alongside the local plan prepared by the County Council. Should planning permission be sought in areas covered by an adopted neighbourhood development plan, the application must be determined in

accordance with both the neighbourhood development plan and the Local Plan.

- 5 There are a number of legally prescribed stages that need to be undertaken in preparing a neighbourhood development plan. The plan needs to be subject to examination by an independent examiner. Subject to a positive outcome from such an examination the plan then proceeds to a referendum. Where a neighbourhood plan is subject to a successful referendum, and the local planning authority is satisfied that EU and human rights obligations have been met, it is a legal requirement to bring the plan into force as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event, within 8 weeks of the referendum.

Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan

- 6 The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan (the Neighbourhood Plan) relates to the whole of the Great Aycliffe Town Council parish area and is entirely within County Durham. Great Aycliffe Town Council undertook pre-submission consultation on the draft Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 between 25 April and 6 June 2016.
- 7 Following the submission of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to the Council in July 2016, the Neighbourhood Plan was consulted upon for a six-week period starting on 27 July 2016, and representations were invited in accordance with Regulation 16. The consultation ended on 9 September 2016 and was then subject to an independent examination.
- 8 The Examiner's report dated November 2016 was formally submitted on 6 December 2016. The Examiner has concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan meets all of the statutory requirements subject to a number of modifications to ensure that it meets the four 'Basic Conditions'. Following the necessary modifications, the plan proceeded to referendum which was held on Thursday 22 June 2017. It was declared that 91.2% of votes were in favour of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan.

Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan

- 9 The Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan (the Neighbourhood Plan) relates to an area of the village that coincides with the Whorlton Village Conservation Area from the Teesdale Local Plan and is entirely within County Durham. Whorlton and Westwick Parish Council undertook pre-submission consultation on the draft Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 between 29 June and 10 August 2015.
- 10 Following the submission of the Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to the County Council in December 2015, the Neighbourhood Plan was consulted upon for a six-week period starting on 24th January 2016, and representations were invited in accordance with Regulation 16. The consultation ended on 15 February 2016 and was then subject to an independent examination.

- 11 The Examiner's report dated March 2017 was formally submitted on 14 March 2017. The Examiner has concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan meets all of the statutory requirements subject to a number of modifications to ensure that it meets the four 'Basic Conditions'. Following the necessary modifications, the Plan proceeded to referendum which was held on Thursday 29 June 2017. It was declared that 61.8% of votes were in favour of the Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan.

Recommendation

- 12 It is recommended that:
- a) The Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan is formally made (adopted) by the Council to become part of the statutory development plan;
 - b) The Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan is formally made (adopted) by the Council to become part of the statutory development plan; and
 - c) The Head of Legal and Demographic Services be authorised to satisfy the necessary publicity requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 in respect of both the Great Aycliffe and Whorlton Neighbourhood Plans.

Background papers

[Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan](#)
[Great Aycliffe Planning Referendum – Declaration of Result](#)
[Great Aycliffe's Examiners Report](#)

[Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan](#)
[Whorlton Village Planning Referendum – Declaration of Result](#)
[Whorlton Village Examiners Report](#)

Contact: Mike Allum Tel: 03000 261 906

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

There will be no financial implications from adopting the neighbourhood plans.

Staffing –

None identified.

Risk –

The council has a duty to adopt the neighbourhood plans and if the recommendations are not implemented the council will be in breach of its statutory duty under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –

The Examiner's reports have confirmed that both plans meet the Basic Conditions and would appear to have neutral or positive impacts on groups with protected characteristics.

Accommodation –

None identified.

Crime and Disorder –

None identified.

Human Rights –

None identified.

Consultation –

Both the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan and Whorlton Village Neighbourhood Plan have been subject to statutory consultation requirements of the Town and Country Planning England – the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Procurement –

None identified.

Disability Issues –

None identified.

Legal Implications –

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 which came into force on 1 October, 2016 require local planning authorities to make a plan that has been supported at referendum within eight weeks of the day after the referendum.

County Council

19 July 2017



**Overview and Scrutiny Annual
Report 2016-17**

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17 (attached at Appendix 2) as required by the Council's Constitution.

Background

- 2 In accordance with the Article 6 paragraph 6.03(d), the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is required to report annually to County Council on the work of all of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 3 The attached report outlines the work that has been undertaken during 2016/17, and has been agreed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board prior to submission to Full Council.
- 4 It is intended that the report will be distributed electronically to Members, Officers and Partners.

Recommendation

- 5 That County Council receive the annual report for 2016/17, in line with the Council's Constitution to report annually on overview and scrutiny activity.

Contact: Jenny Haworth

Tel: 03000 268071

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - none

Staffing - none

Risk – none

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Impact assessments are carried out for all Overview and Scrutiny reviews.

Accommodation – none

Crime and Disorder - none

Human Rights – none

Consultation – Members of the Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered and commented on the report prior to it being presented to County Council

Procurement – none

Disability Issues – none

Legal Implications – The Council's Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to report annually on the work of all the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.



Altogether better

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-2017

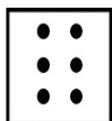
**Transformation and Partnerships
Durham County Council**

May 2017

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

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Scrutiny@Durham.gov.uk
03000 268145



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Chair's Foreword

The next three years 2017-2020 will be challenging for the Council in terms of continued reductions in Government funding. A key achievement for the authority will be to continue to maintain services and deliver improvements where possible, whilst meeting the required savings targets. Overview and Scrutiny will contribute in a constructive way to support the Council in meeting these challenges.

This report provides an update of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2016/17, under the leadership of the former Chair, Councillor Joe Armstrong, and Vice-chair, Councillor Paul Stradling and Chairs and Vice-chairs of the thematic scrutiny committees under the former Council. The achievements set out are a reflection of the hard work of these former Chairs and Vice-chairs and committee members, as well as continuing members of scrutiny.

It was once again a very busy year. We carried out a number of reviews, continued to play our part in the Council's budget process, monitored quarterly performance, and continued to maintain an excellent relationship between executive and non-executive members.

The statutory scrutiny roles of Health, Crime and Disorder and Flooding Risk Management feature within this Annual Report alongside thematic scrutiny work. Issues covered included a light touch review of the customer relationship management system; scrutiny reviews on skills development; improved safety in the home; suicide rates and mental health and wellbeing in County Durham; free school meals and holiday hunger; alcohol and demand on the emergency services; as well as scrutiny having input into a number of consultations.

An important area of future focus is the Council's Transformation Programme, an evolving programme for DCC over the next 3-5 years. It comprises a number of existing projects along with a series of new projects, which are currently under development. Together these projects form a comprehensive change programme for the Council. Scrutiny will play its role in this, and will receive regular updates to committee meetings.

In last year's foreword it was reported that the authority had been shortlisted as a finalist in the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation and governance arrangements. The authority subsequently won this award – congratulations to all concerned.

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council said, "The council is committed to making sure residents are at the heart of everything we do so we're extremely proud that this has been recognised with such a prestigious award. The last few years have seen major change across the county and the wider region which shows no sign of slowing down. So now, more than ever, it's vital that we not only make sure residents are kept fully informed but continue to make sure they have a major say on the future direction of their county."

Thanks again to everyone who has been involved in supporting and assisting the Overview and Scrutiny process – be it Members, officers, partners, or co-opted members. Following the May 2017 elections and formation of the new Council, thanks to the outgoing Members who have been involved in overview and scrutiny over the past few years, and a warm welcome to new Members who will be taking over this very important role. Members will by now have received their induction training, including that for overview and scrutiny.

We hope that you find this report interesting and informative. If you would like to find out more, all Scrutiny Committee meetings are open to the public and the scrutiny team will be pleased to supply you with more information. Contact details are listed at the end of this report.

Councillor Rob Crute

Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Key Achievements 2016-17

Municipal Journal Awards



Durham County Council (DCC) was successful in being awarded the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation and governance arrangements.

Overview and Scrutiny Review Activity

The following in depth evidence based reviews have been completed and have been/or will be, reported to Cabinet and the appropriate thematic Partnership.

Alcohol and Demand on the Emergency Services – highlighted the significant impact and avoidable demand on our police, fire, ambulance and medical services. The review's key findings focus on education and campaigns, affordability, availability, drink driving limits and information sharing and identify recommendations which if implemented at either a local or national level may contribute to a reduction in demand.

Improved Safety in the Home – focused on an initiative led by County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Services with referrals to partner agencies on outcomes of safe and wellbeing visits within people's homes that focus on prevention of the underlying causes of house fires within County Durham.



Skills Development - the Skills Development Working Group examined the role and performance of DCC in supporting skills development within County Durham; how DCC works in partnership to support skills development; changes within further education and skills and how this impacts on the authority and the county; identified gaps and barriers in relation to current skills support provision; and identified future skill priorities.

Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger - the Children and Young People's OSC set out to raise awareness among eligible parents of the importance of claiming free school meals, identify any barriers that may stop parents or children from claiming their free school meals, and highlight what is being done in local communities to address holiday hunger.

A working group of CIOSC Members also carried out a light touch review of the **Customer Relationship Management system (CRM)**, looking at functionality and implementation.

Members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of **Suicide rates and mental health and wellbeing in County Durham** – the report will be finalised in the summer of 2017.

Other review activity in 2016/17 included:

- Scrutiny of the budget process through consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan. Considerations were broad-based and ranged from scrutiny of the timetable for the budget process, scrutiny of developing cost reduction proposals, as well as ongoing quarterly scrutiny of the delivery of savings.
- Increased awareness of the Council's scrutiny function through articles in local media, Members' Bulletin, and an ongoing update of the scrutiny web pages.
- Formally responded to NHS Quality Accounts 2016/17 for: North East Ambulance Service; County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.
- Continued to maintain and establish links with all thematic partnerships. A series of briefings and reports have been shared with thematic partnerships, for example:
 - The review of Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger was shared with both the Children and Families Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - Skills Development review was shared with the Business, Enterprise and Skills Working Group of the County Durham Economic Partnership.
- Contributed to:
 - activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Board;
 - Police and Crime Panel;
 - the Road Casualty Reduction Forum;
 - Youth Justice Plan;
 - Checkpoint programme.
- Scrutiny Members worked with the Area Action Partnerships during review work on skills development and free school meals and holiday hunger.
- Had input into:
 - The Review of Youth Support Consultation
 - Draft Oral Health Strategy for County Durham
 - Consultation on the Fire and Rescue service's annual Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2016/17 to 2018/19
 - Proposed reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient (Dementia) Wards serving County Durham and Darlington
 - Proposed reconfiguration of Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG) – Consultation in respect of a proposed review of Urgent Care Services
 - The Review of Youth Support Consultation
 - The review of Durham Key Options Lettings Policy
 - The County Durham Plan (Issues and Options consultation).

Key Achievements 2016-17

Overview and Scrutiny Site Visits

Members and/or Officers have undertaken a number of scrutiny visits to support the Committees' work programmes, including:



Wildflower meadows/planting



Emergency Planning Exercise



Cycle routes



Caterpillar Learning Centre of Light



Durham Fire Station



O'Brien's Waste Recycling Plant

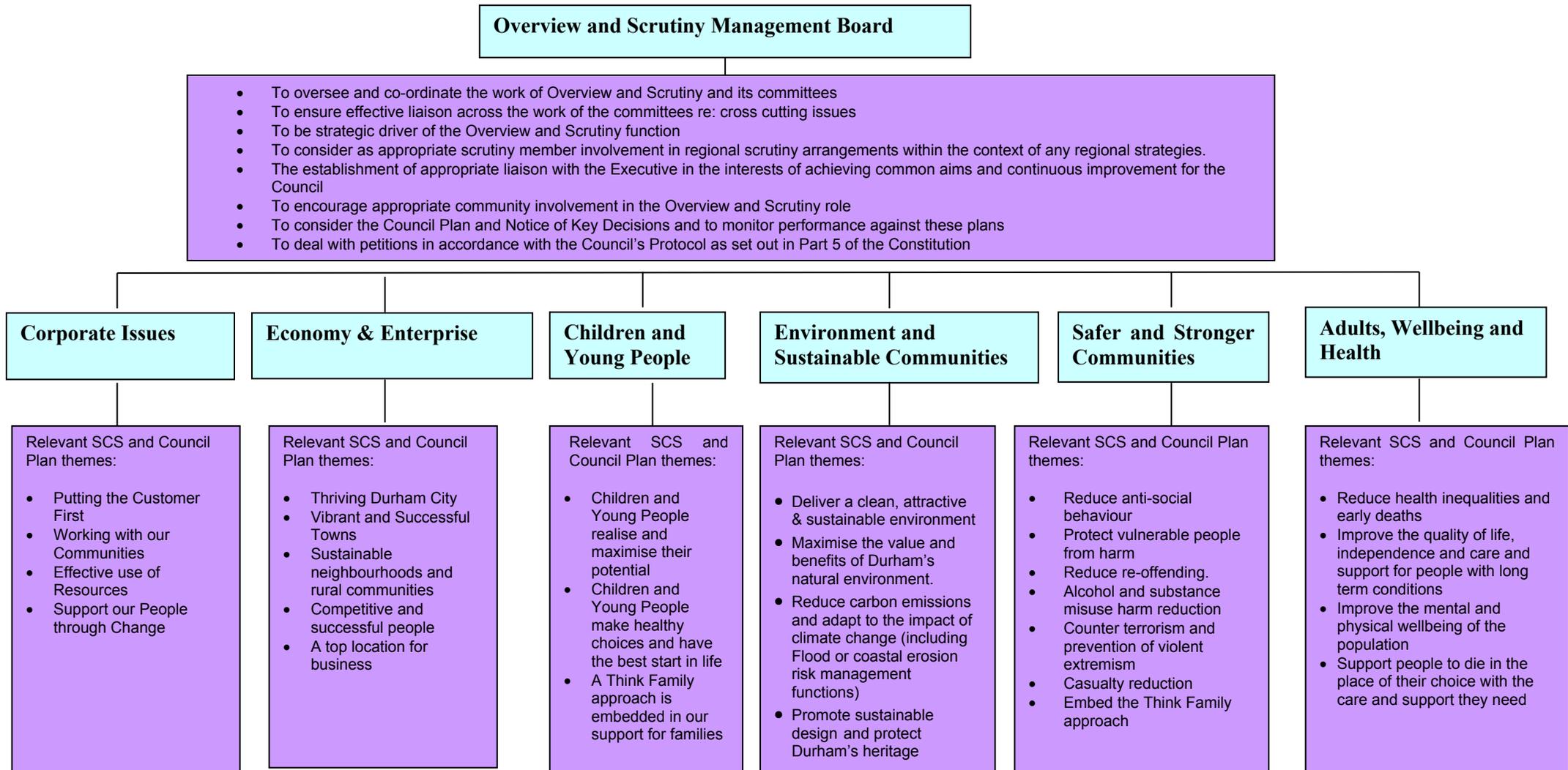
- Environment Overview and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a number of visits linking to overview and review activity, to:
 - O'Brien's Waste Recycling Plant, linking to the Waste Strategy;
 - Cycle Routes – looking at strategic cycle routes within County Durham
 - Wildflower meadows and planting scheme, including roundabouts, verges and grasslands.
- Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members as part of overview and review activity visited a number of sites including South West Durham Training at Aycliffe Business Park, Infinite Learning and Development which includes the Caterpillar Learning Centre of Light based at Peterlee, and Hitachi at Newton Aycliffe.

- Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger held a review session at Seaham School of Technology
- Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) Working Group visited Northumberland County Council to look at and discuss their system.
- Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Alcohol and the Demand on Emergency Services review – the Vice-chair shadowed an Ambulance crew on a Friday evening shift. Members also visited Durham Fire Station and observed firefighters undertake home safety visits for its review on ‘Home Safety – Safe and Wellbeing Visits’. In addition the Chair and Vice Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities OSC observed an emergency planning exercise at a chemical plant in Newton Aycliffe.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committees 2016/17

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees are aligned to the key priority themes of the Council's vision, which is to build an Altogether Better Durham that is better for local people and provides better places to live and work. Information on all elements of the Overview and Scrutiny function can be found on the scrutiny pages of the Durham County Council website, www.durham.gov.uk. Below is the structure of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, for 2016/17. In 2017/18 the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Corporate Issues combined to form a new Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, which will provide integrated oversight of cross committee and corporate issues.



Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

The **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB)** provides a strategic direction for the work of all the committees. Its work programme for 2016/17 included the following:

- Examination of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2019/2020 and budget proposals for 2017/2018 to make sure that the Council's resources are used effectively and efficiently;
- Updates on petitions received which enables Members to track progress on behalf of communities;
- Updates on major policy developments and announcements made by central government and the implications for the council and County Durham;
- Received updates on:
 - The County Durham Partnership
 - Welfare Reform
 - The delivery of the Medium Term Financial Plan;
- Continued to receive regular updates on:
 - Performance management every quarter before it is disseminated to respective overview and scrutiny committees for further comment;
 - Council's Notice of Key Decisions - to ensure that Members are aware of key decisions to be made by Cabinet, and to provide information on scrutiny involvement if any;
 - Work programme activity from each of the overview and scrutiny chairs;
- Received regular updates on the Durham Light Infantry collections;
- Led and co-ordinated on the reappointment of the non-voting scrutiny co-optees and the appointment of new co-optees to scrutiny committees.



Cllr Joe Armstrong
Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny



Cllr Paul Stradling
Vice-chair of Overview
and Scrutiny

Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr John Lethbridge,
Chair of Corporate
Issues Overview and
Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Katherine Henig
Vice- Chair of Corporate
Issues Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

The **Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee**, which is aligned to the **Altogether Better Council** priority in our Council Plan has:

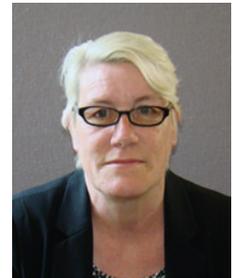
- Undertaken a review of the Customer Relations Management System (CRM). A task and finish group looked at functionality and gave Members the opportunity to have input into the new system, to gather evidence, and to formulate a number of recommendations for the new CRM, including ensuring it was fit for purpose and fully compliant with Data Protection legislation.
- Agreed that Members pilot/trial the new bespoke Member Portal in the new CRM system, which will then be finalised in autumn 2017.
- Received updates on the progress of the recommendations of the Attendance Management Review, including Members being consulted on the annual staff survey.
- Held a series of meetings to scrutinise the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/2018 – 2019/2020 and budget proposals for 2017/2018 to make sure that the Council's resources are used effectively and efficiently. Members:
 - considered and commented on the new MTFP model and timetable;
 - received a verbal update on the Autumn Statement;
 - considered and commented on the Consultation and Cabinet reports;
 - prepared a scrutiny response which was included in the report to Council on 22 February 2017.
- Received details and commented on the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000;
- Received quarterly updates on:
 - Performance Management 2016/17 and commented on progress against the Council's corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Better Council Theme;
 - the Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn for Transformation and Partnerships/Assistant Chief Executives and Resources;
 - Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions;
- Received the annual update of the former Children's and Adults Service Annual Representations Report 2015/16.

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (AWH OSC) has a statutory role under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 as amended to scrutinise local health services. This committee is aligned to the **Altogether Healthier** priority theme and has:



Cllr John Robinson
Chair of AWH OSC



Cllr Jan Blakey
Vice Chair
AWH OSC

- Examined and provided commentary upon Quality Accounts 2016/17 including proposed priorities for 2017/18 for Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT; County Durham and Darlington NHS FT and North East Ambulance Service NHS FT. The Committee also considered updates on progress from all three Trusts in respect of priorities during 2016/17;
- Undertaken a Review into Suicide Rates and Mental Health and Wellbeing in County Durham
- Reviewed Annual Reports and performance information in respect of County Durham HealthWatch and the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Received information on the following NHS Service reviews and as statutory consultees commented upon the proposals and associated communications and engagement plans:
 - Proposed reconfiguration of Organic Inpatient (Dementia) Wards serving County Durham and Darlington
 - Proposed reconfiguration of Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES CCG) – Consultation in respect of a proposed review of Urgent Care Services
- Examined the development and publication of Sustainability and Transformation Plans covering County Durham – the Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP;
- Continued to oversee the development of the Better Health Programme with representatives of the Committee sitting on the Better Health Programme Joint Health OSC;
- Considered update reports in respect of:
 - Care Quality Commission 5 year strategy
 - North Durham CCG and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCGs Primary Care Strategies
 - System Resilience and the Local A&E Delivery Board;

- DDES CCG Accident and Emergency Ambulance Service Review – post implementation update;
- Proposals for Renal Services at University Hospital North Durham;
- The work of the North East Regional Joint Health OSC;
- Received information on:
 - The North East and Cumbria Urgent and Emergency Care Network;
 - Preventative Mental Health Services Review and Recommissioning;
 - Community Hospitals and Community Health provision;
 - Dentistry Services at the Richardson Hospital, Barnard Castle;
 - Specialist referral services for North Durham CCG;
 - The temporary closure of an Inpatient Ward at Shotley Bridge Hospital;
- Responded to consultations on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- Considered and commented upon the proposed County Durham Oral Health Strategy;
- Examined the CQC inspection report action plan in respect of County Durham and Darlington NHS FT;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports.

Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CYP OSC) is aligned to **Altogether Better for Children and Young People** priority theme in the Council Plan. This Committee has:

The committee has completed review activity on:

- Free school meals and Holiday Hunger;
- Received information on:
 - Concessionary travel arrangements for disabled residents and their carers
 - Childhood Obesity in County Durham workshop activity
 - Educational Attainment of Looked After Children;
 - Role of the Social Worker.
- Commented upon:
 - The Review of Youth Support Consultation
 - Draft Oral Health Strategy for County Durham
 - Schools National Funding Formula;
- Scrutinised Annual Reports from the Director of Public Health; and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board; the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel; and Foster Panels and Fostering Service;
- Received updates on:
 - The Innovations Programme
 - Erase Team
 - Children's' Services
 - Stronger Families Programme Phase 2
 - School Funding Reforms
 - County Durham Teenage Pregnancy
 - Young Carers;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports;
- Along with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel, the Chair of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been involved in strengthening the links between Corporate Parenting Panel and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Received summary of minutes from Children and Families Partnership;
- Involved young people through taking committee meetings to them in their school.



Cllr Christine Potts
Chair of CYP OSC



Cllr Morris Nicholls
Vice-Chair of CYP OSC

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Economy OSC) is aligned to the **Altogether Wealthier** priority team in the Council Plan. This Committee has:

- Completed review activity on Skills Development in County Durham;
- Considered and commented on the progress of various EU funded programmes including the LEADER Programme and Regional funding programmes such as the Local Growth Fund.
- Received detail of the performance of the DurhamWorks Programme which was considered during the Skills Development review;
- Commented on the progress of:
 - the County Durham Plan
 - the Housing White Paper
 - Building our Industrial Strategy Green Paper
 - the various Masterplans for County Durham;
- Received detail of and commented on:
 - Durham Key Options revised lettings policy;
 - the development of Chapter Homes sites in the County;
 - the progress of the Homelessness Strategy;
 - the performance of the County Durham Housing Group;
 - projects undertaken with the private rented housing providers;
 - Housing and health collaborative working in the County;
- Examined the development of the North East Combined Authority (NECA);
- Considered the progress of:
 - the Local Transport Plan for County Durham
 - NECA transport activity;
- Received detail of and commented on the progress of the Digital Durham Programme and the support it provides for the business sector;
- Considered on an annual basis detail of the work undertaken by the County Durham Economic Partnership and Business Durham;
- Received an update on the progress of recommendations of the Tourism marketing activity undertaken by Visit County Durham scrutiny review;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports;
- Received minutes from the County Durham Economic Partnership.



Cllr Rob Crute,
Chair of Economy and
Enterprise OSC



Cllr Alison Batey
Vice-chair of Economy
and Enterprise OSC

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Barbara Graham
Chair Environment
OSC



Cllr Eddy Adam
Vice Chair
Environment OSC

The **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** (Env OSC) has statutory responsibility under the Localism Act 2011 as amended to scrutinise flooding and coastal risk management functions of the council and external bodies (Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water Ltd.) This committee is aligned to the **Altogether Greener** priority theme in the Council Plan. The committee has:

- Received information and commented on the waste programme, European Structure and Investment Funding Programme, Carbon Management Plan, Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan, Warm Up North Project and Fuel Poverty;
- Received an update on the progress of recommendations on:
 - The Management of the Woodland Estate owned by Durham County Council scrutiny review
 - The Flooding scrutiny review;
- Considered information on:
 - Environment improvement campaigns and projects
 - Air quality in County Durham
 - The use of targeted interventions by the Community Action Team;
- Received an overview of:
 - strategic cycle routes in the county
 - County Durham Environment Awards Scheme
 - School environmental projects;
- Received minutes from the County Durham Environmental Partnership, the Durham Strategic Flood Group and Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee;
- Monitored the performance and revenue and capital expenditure through quarterly performance management and budgetary reports;
- The Committee is the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Committee for County Durham and dedicates a scrutiny meeting on an annual basis to review and scrutinise the work of the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham which focuses on:
 - Flood mitigation work currently being undertaken within County Durham by the Flood Risk Management Authorities for County Durham;
 - Future flood mitigation work to be undertaken and detail of funding;
 - Any issues identified by the Flood Risk Management Authorities in relation to flood mitigation schemes/projects within the County.

Meetings have resulted in:

- Increased member involvement in identifying flood risk in the County
- Improved flood mitigation schemes
- Excellent partnership working between the flood risk management authorities.

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** (SSC OSC) has powers under the Police and Justice Act 2006 as amended to scrutinise work being undertaken by the statutory crime and disorder reduction partnership; the Safe Durham Partnership. The committee is aligned to the **Altogether Safer** priority theme in the Council Plan.



Cllr David Boyes
Chair of Safer and Stronger
Communities OSC



Cllr Thomas Nearney
Vice-chair of Safer and Stronger
Communities OSC

The committee has completed review activity on:

- Alcohol and Demand on the Emergency Services
- Improved Safety in the Home – Safe and wellbeing visits

Received reports on the progress of recommendations from review activity of:

- Organised Crime
- Schools 20 mph part-time speed limits project

Held focused sessions and provided a response to respective Portfolio Holders on:

- Substance Misuse Centres
- the ERASE Team (Child Sexual Exploitation)
- Road Safety Young Drivers and the Fatal Four

Considered reports and presentations on:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015-2018
- Consumer Protection – Enforcement Activity
- Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-20
- Community and Organisational Resilience for Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Cyber Crime Action Plan
- Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy
- Vulnerability Intervention Pathways (VIP & formerly MAIS)
- Responded to consultation on County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- Received reports and provided comment on activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Board, Police and Crime Panel, the Road Casualty Reduction Forum, Youth Justice Plan and Checkpoint programme.
- Monitored quarterly performance reports and provided acknowledgment of high performance areas and included performance challenges within its work programme.

2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards

Durham County Council was successful in being awarded the Excellence in Governance and Scrutiny category of the 2016 Municipal Journal Achievement Awards for its approach to scrutiny, community engagement and consultation and governance arrangements.

The Award, sponsored by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, was presented to the council for its innovative approach to engaging with the public. It recognised the council's Area Action Partnerships (AAPs), the scrutiny review of 20mph zones and subsequent 'Slow to 20' road safety campaign, and the consultation carried out over the devolution proposals for County Durham alongside other recent successes.

Regional Scrutiny

The North East Regional Employers' Organisation supports a Region – wide Joint Member and Officer Scrutiny network where all twelve North East local authorities' Scrutiny leads discuss national developments in scrutiny and also have an opportunity to share their work programmes and priorities and consider emerging issues that have an impact across local authority boundaries.

Whilst the Joint Member and Officer Scrutiny Network has not met during the past year, all member authorities have agreed a submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government Select Committee's Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government Inquiry. The deadline for submissions was 10 March 2017 and the NEREO Regional Joint Member and Officer Scrutiny Network will meet in autumn 2017 to consider any key messages from the Inquiry to date.

North East Combined Authority (NECA) scrutiny arrangements

The North East Combined Authority (NECA) has agreed three broad areas of focus:

- Transport
- Employability and Inclusion
- Economic Development and Regeneration

Governance arrangements for the NECA include an Overview and Scrutiny Committee which enables local councillors, on behalf of their communities, to scrutinise and challenge all matters within the remit of the Combined Authority. The committee investigates matters of significant importance to residents across the areas covered by the seven councils with a view to influencing decisions made in respect of all matters within the remit of the Combined Authority. The North East Combined Authority (NECA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of 14 councillors from across the 7 combined authority areas. During 2016/17 Durham County Council was represented on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Councillor Joe Armstrong, Chair of DCC's OSMB, Councillor Rob Crute, Chair of DCC's Economy and Enterprise OSC, and Cllr David Boyes, Chair of SSC OSC was the nominated substitute member.

Also during 2016/17 the NECA scrutiny committee completed a scrutiny review on transport related barriers to employment and training, which was reported to the NECA leadership board in March 2017.

The NECA scrutiny committee meets 6 times a year at varying locations across the NECA area and meetings are open to the public. Further details on NECA can be found at www.northeastca.gov.uk

Regional Health Scrutiny

The Council continues to work collaboratively at a regional level to ensure that the impact of changes to health services across local authority boundaries does not adversely impact upon residents of County Durham. The North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee consists of lead Health Scrutiny members from all 12 North East local authorities and is charged with scrutinising issues around the planning, provision and operation of health services in and across the North East region, comprising for these purposes the areas covered by all constituent authorities.

During 2016/17, the committee has examined:

- the North of England Regional Back Pain programme;
- NHS England – North East and Cumbria specialised commissioning updates regarding Neonatal Services; Neonatal transport; Congenital Heart Disease Review and Vascular services;
- The North East and Cumbria Learning Disabilities Fast Track Transformation Plan;
- The Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and North Durham STP and the Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP;
- Care Quality Commission Inspection of North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust;
- NEAS Quality Accounts and performance updates;
- North East Urgent and Emergency Care Vanguard;
- Proposals to implement standards for Congenital Heart Disease services for Children and Adults in England.

In addition, in 2016 a sub-regional joint health overview and scrutiny committee was set up to look at the Better Health Programme which aims to achieve and sustain high quality care provided by hospital services in the Durham, Darlington and Tees (DDT) area as defined by agreed clinical quality standards and national expectations. Commissioners stated their desire to work with stakeholder organisations and public representatives during the programme. The committee consists of representatives from Durham County Council, Darlington B.C., Hartlepool B.C., Middlesbrough B.C., North Yorkshire County Council, Redcar and Cleveland B.C. and Stockton-on Tees B.C. with each Council having three representatives on the Committee for the duration of the programme.

It is envisaged that much of this work will roll forward into 2017/18 and proposals are currently being explored for a formal sub-regional joint scrutiny arrangement to be implemented to scrutinise the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans and any associated proposals for substantial developments or significant variations in services arising out of these plans.

Ofsted Inspection and Children's Services

Following the Ofsted Inspection of the Council's Children's Services in March 2016 and the subsequent publication of their report and recommendations work has been undertaken to strengthen the roles of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Parenting Panel in relation to their joint working. Chairs from each committee will sit within the membership of the other to ensure matters are picked up and referred to the respective committee.

Co-optees

Non-councillors may be co-opted onto overview and scrutiny committees and working groups, and can help scrutiny to engage with the public. They are used:

- to act as a non-political voice for those who live or work in County Durham;
- to bring specialist knowledge and/or skills and an element of external challenge to the overview and scrutiny process;
- to take an interest in, attend and contribute to the committees or working groups to which appointed;
- to establish good relations with other members, officers and co-optees;
- where individuals are representatives of any particular organisation or group, to feed back any appropriate discussions or decisions of the relevant committee or working group to their respective organisation or group.

A fundamental review of the appointment process for non-statutory, non-voting co-optees was undertaken in 2014, for a two-year period. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed in March 2016 that the appointment period for currently serving non-statutory, non-voting co-optees would be extended for a further two years with a fundamental review of the appointment process planned for 2018.

Two vacancies occurred on Children and Young People's OSC in 2016/17 which were filled by young people.

Work Programmes

The current work programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the Council Plan, the Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.

It was agreed by full Council on 22 March 2017 that Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee would merge with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, with a new committee post-election named Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. This will take on the remits of both former committees in a new combined work programme.

2017/18 - Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs

Following the local elections in May 2017, we have a revised set of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs:

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Cllr Rob Crute



Cllr Andrea Patterson

Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr David Boyes



Cllr Heather Liddle

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Alison Batey



Cllr Malcolm Clarke

Children and Young Peoples CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Christine Potts



Cllr Heather Smith

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Morris Nicholls



Cllr Jean Chaplow

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Eddy Adam



Cllr Olga Milburn

Overview and Scrutiny Team

The Overview and Scrutiny team is part of the Transformation and Partnerships directorate which leads on the transformation programme, policy and planning, performance management and improvement, consultation and engagement, communications, partnership working, equalities and diversity and information management, as well as the Council's Area Action Partnerships and emergency planning functions.



Contact us in the Scrutiny Office on 03000 268145 scrutiny@durham.gov.uk, or see the Durham County Council website, www.durham.gov.uk

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County Council

19 July 2017

Dawdon Electoral Division –
By-election

Statement of Returning Officer

Following a by-election held on 29 June 2017 in the Dawdon Electoral Division, I formally submit below a Statement for the information of the County Council showing details of the persons elected as a County Councillors:-

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME, ADDRESS AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSON ELECTED
DAWDON	Leanne Kennedy 32 Embleton Street Dawdon Seaham County Durham SR7 7NW LABOUR

TERRY COLLINS
Returning Officer

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