

Cabinet

16 October 2019

The County Durham Strategic Partnership Approach to Early Help for Children, Young People and Families



Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide Durham County Council's Cabinet with a brief cover note for the attached updated strategy: The County Durham Strategic Partnership Approach to Early Help for children, young people and families.

Executive summary

- 2 The purpose the strategy is to set out our partnership vision, priorities and approach for providing effective, targeted and coordinated 'early help' in County Durham in order to address inequalities, promote opportunity and secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 3 The strategy focuses on supporting family and community resilience. The strategy also outlines the collective responsibility across key partners for identifying children and young people who require additional help and support as well as our collective response to meet the needs of these children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity.
- 4 The strategy has been developed jointly with key partners and wider consultation undertaken to ensure the strategy is fully collaborative. Feedback from parents, carers, young people and children has also helped shape our approach.
- 5 An updated performance management framework is being developed for the Early Help and Think Family Partnership to monitor success of this strategy.

Performance exceptions will be escalated to the Integrated Steering Group for Children (ISGC).

- 6 The strategy is accompanied by an action plan (see Appendix 2) setting out a range of key actions we will progress over the coming year to ensure we continue to develop effective approaches to delivering Early Help for children, young people and families in County Durham.

Recommendation

- 7 Cabinet are recommended to:

- (a) Receive the updated strategy and provide comments on it.

Background Papers

- 8 None.

Contact:	Martyn Stenton	Tel: 03000 268067
	Karen Davison	Tel: 03000 286 904

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

A key government policy directive focussed on effective early help to families with complex needs is the national Troubled Families programme, known in Durham as the Stronger Families programme. Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area, as the authority considers appropriate.

Finance

No direct financial implication however cost efficiencies from joint working will be explored.

Consultation

Consultation with key partners across Durham with a duty to collaborate to ensure children, young people and families receive timely and effective early help services.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 3).

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

An up to date partnership approach to early help is one area considered in children's services inspections.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Early Help Action Plan 2019/20

Mission: ‘An effective early help offer brings together local partners to provide early support for children and families that builds resilience, prevent difficulties from escalating and leads to better outcomes that are sustained.’

Key Outcome 1. A place based approach will be developed and implemented across Ferryhill/ Newton Aycliffe/ Stanley and Consett/ Peterlee				
Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Status (Qtr1-4)
1.a	Work with Public Health Intelligence to complete a detailed set of locality indicators for each of the three identified locations by March 2019;	May 2019	Karen Davison	
1.b	Hold local stakeholder events to bring key partners together to explore and develop the approach in each locality	June 2019	Fiona Smith	
1.c	Work with key stakeholder to agree priorities and develop an associated action plan which will track progress and measure impact;	Sept 2019	Fiona Smith	
1.d	Work with key stakeholders, including First Contact Service to develop the terms of reference for Locality Early Help Conversations;	October 2019	Karen Davison/ Fiona Smith	
1.e	Implement fortnightly Locality Early Help Conversations;	Sept 2019	Karen Davison/ Fiona Smith	

Key Outcome 1. A place based approach will be developed and implemented across Ferryhill/ Newton Aycliffe/ Stanley and Consett/ Peterlee

Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Status (Qtr1-4)
1.f	Develop an effective communications plan	Sept 2019	Fiona Smith /Communications and Marketing Team	

Key Outcome 2. Children, young people and families have access to a broad range of support from within their community which develops self-reliance and resilience

Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Status (Qtr1-4)
2.a	Family Centres provide a clear early help offer based on local need	Oct 2019	Judith Bowman/ Lindsey Ellwood	
2.b	Revise Family Centre literature and OPS website	Sept 2019	Judith Bowman / Lindsey Ellwood/ Alison Underwood	

Key Outcome 3. 4,360 families achieve significant and sustained change as described in County Durham Family Outcome Framework by May 2020 as per Stronger Families programme

Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Status (Qtr1-4)
3.a	Implementation of Earned Autonomy plan	May 2020	Karen Davison/ Fiona Smith	

Key Outcome 4. Service user feedback informs service improvement and commissioning activity;				
Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	
4a.	Development and implementation of a Quality Improvement Framework across Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children which includes service user feedback from a broad range of sources(surveys/collaborative audits, liC Membership, Compliments and Complaints)	October 2019	Lisa Skelton	

Key Outcome 5. Practitioners across early help system use evidence based approaches, interventions and distance travelled tools to support and evidence positive outcomes for children young people and families:				
Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	
5a.	Embed Signs of Safety practice model including monthly group supervisions for all staff within the One Point Service	April 2019	Pamela Bloomfield	
5b.	Provide opportunities for partners to attend local multi-agency Signs of Safety group supervisions	Sept 2019	Pamela Bloomfield	
5c.	Family Network meetings are routinely delivered at beginning of support to children and families	Dec 2019	Pamela Bloomfield	

Key Outcome 6. Families across County Durham have access to support to reduce the negative impact of parental conflict on children

Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	
6a.	Multi-agency working group to be developed	April 2019	Fiona Smith/ Edith Wood	
6b.	RPC planning tool developed with partners	June 2019	Fiona Smith/ Edith Wood	
6c.	RPC Training programme implemented across partners	July 2019	Fiona Smith/ Edith Wood	
6d.	Pathways to specialist provision in place	June 2019	Karen Davison	
6e.	County Durham Local Family offer to RPC developed and implemented	April 2020	Karen Davidson/Edith Wood	

Key Outcome 7. Development and implementation of County Durham Workforce Academy

Ref	Key Action	Timescale	Responsible Officer	
7a.	Work with key partners to design and delivery an Induction Programme aimed at all managers and practitioners working with children, young people and adults who are parents/ carers across County Durham. The programme will support new staff to understand and adopted a 'think family' approach	Sept 2019	Fiona Smith/ Edith Wood	

Appendix 3: Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	One Point and Think Family Service
Lead Officer	Karen Davison
Title	Strategic Manager
MTPF Reference (if relevant)	n/a
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	October 2019
Start Date	7 th September 2019
Review Date	September 2021

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

The County Durham Strategic Partnership Approach to Early Help for children, young people and families 2019-2022

This strategy sets out our partnership vision, priorities and approach in providing effective, targeted and coordinated 'early help' in County Durham in order to promote opportunity, address inequalities and secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families. It has been prepared jointly with key partners. Feedback from parents, carers, young people and children have also helped shaped the strategy. The strategy will be refreshed on an annual basis and contains a forward-looking action plan setting out a range of key actions over the coming year.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

All partners within the County Durham Partnership who are responsible for working with children, young people and adults who are parents/carers (0-19 or up to 25 SEND)

Service users will be children, young people and adults who are parents/carers (0-19 or up to 25 SEND)

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	No	Yes Strategy provides a framework to focus on providing more effective, collaborative approaches to providing early help to children, young people and adults who are parents/carers (0-19 or up to 25 SEND)
Disability	No	Yes – focus on children and young people with disability and provide early help and support
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	No	No
Pregnancy and maternity	No	No
Race (ethnicity)	No	No
Religion or Belief	No	No
Sex (gender)	No	No
Sexual orientation	No	No

Transgender	No	No
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Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

There is no anticipated adverse impact on children, young people and their carers from the development and implementation of the strategy.

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups.

This strategy sets out the County Durham’s partnership vision, priorities and approach for providing effective, targeted and coordinated ‘early help’ in County Durham in order to promote opportunity, address inequalities and secure better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

We will monitor the strategy’s impact through a range of key performance indicators these will be reported through governance arrangements.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

Research shows that the most impact in improving outcomes for children and young people can be made during a child’s early years, however ‘Early Help’ is not just for very young children as problems may emerge at any point throughout childhood and adolescence.

Local Context

County Durham has around 28,000 children under five years old and 100,500 under 18-year olds. We have 5,300 babies born each year in the County. Unlike the national trend, the county has seen a gradual fall in the number of its children and young people since 2011. However, the number of preschool children aged 0-4 years is projected to increase by 3% by 2039. We have 21,000 children and young people living in poverty this accounts for 20.9% of the youth population, however we also have communities where almost half of children live in poverty. Childhood obesity is a persisting issue, with almost one in four 10-11-year olds being obese; this is significantly worse than England.

(Durham Insight: <https://www.durhaminsight.info/>)

Key Durham Data

- Almost 330 children subject of a protection plan: 32.8 per 10,000 children which is lower than the national rate of 45.3 and the North East rate of 65.7.
- Around 21,000 children living in poverty: 20.8% which is significantly higher than England but lower than the North East average.
- Around 880 looked after children: 87.5 per 10,000 children. This rate is rising showing an increase of over 65% since 2011 and is statistically significantly higher than England but significantly lower than the North East.
- Around 3,363 children in need: 334.5 per 10,000 children, slightly lower than the national average (341) and lower than the North East (460). One Point report an additional 2,218 children and young people who do not meet the statutory threshold.
- Around 11,200 young people with SEND at school: 14.9% of all school pupils. This is not significantly different from England or the North East.
- 10% of children have a diagnosable mental health condition, that's around 10,000 children in County Durham
- 72.8% of children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception (for year 17-18). This is significantly better than England average.

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	No
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	No

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Karen Davison	Date: 7.9.2019
Service equality representative sign off: M Gallagher	Date: 10.09.19

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at equalities@durham.gov.uk