

# Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 May 2022

## Developing a new County Durham Children, Young People and Families Strategy



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### Report of John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Service and Chair of Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board

#### Electoral division affected:

Countywide

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny with an update on the development of the new County Durham Children, Young People and Families Strategy – Growing Up in County Durham (GUICD) 2022 – 25 and advise the committee that a presentation will be delivered at the meeting on 5 May 2022.
- 2 To invite the committee to make comment and provide a contribution to the new GUICD Strategy. Sarah Burns, Joint Head of Integrated Strategic Commissioning and Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager, Partnerships will be in attendance at Committee.

#### Executive summary

- 3 The current Children and Young People's Strategy 2019-2022 comes to an end this year and is due for review.
- 4 The strategy is based on evidence about the needs of children and young people in County Durham, which can be found in a range of infograms available on Durham Insight at <https://infogram.com/1p626dwy190l56t5kvjly77rjei3njxk7gv?live>
- 5 The strategy will have a narrower focus on four aims to better manage outcomes and reflecting the subgroup arrangements of the Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board (CYPFPB). The aims of the strategy are:

- (a) Integration/Service Transformation
  - (b) Prevention and Early Help
  - (c) Best Start in Life
  - (d) Supporting Young People into Adulthood (14-25)
- 6 The wider context of Growing Up in County Durham will be reflected in the strategy, including the impact of Covid-19, which covers young people's mental health and wellbeing and signposts to other strategies provided where common themes and issues are identified.
- 7 Coproduction sessions are taking place with children, young people, parents and carers to develop the new "Growing Up in County Durham" Strategy which will be based on what is important to those who use and need support from services as well as the wider population, focusing on strengths, rather than deficits.
- 8 The new strategy will run from 2022-25 to align with the timescales for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2021-25 and the County Durham Place Based Commissioning and Delivery Plan (C&DP) 2020-25.
- 9 A strategy development group has been established to oversee the development of the strategy, including the coproduction process and ensure a wide cohort of partners, VCS representatives, children, young people, families and carers are involved in its development.

## **Recommendations**

- 10 Members of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:
- (a) Receive a presentation at the meeting 5 May 2022
  - (b) Provide any additional comments/contributions to the new GUICD Strategy to [andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.petty@durham.gov.uk) by 12 May 2022.

## Background

- 11 A Partnership Board Development Session took place in October 2021 to give direction on developing the new Children and Young People's Strategy, and the following was agreed:
- (a) A name for the new strategy – Growing Up in County Durham
  - (b) The strategy is based on evidence about the needs of children and young people in County Durham, which can be found on Durham Insight.
  - (c) Coproduction sessions will take place with children, young people, parents and carers to develop a new Children and Young People's Strategy. The "Growing Up in County Durham" Strategy will, therefore, be based on what is important to those who use and need support from services as well as the wider population, focusing on strengths, rather than deficits.
  - (d) The strategy would have a narrower focus on four aims to better manage outcomes and reflecting the subgroup arrangements of the CYPFPB. These aims are:
    - (i) Integration/Service Transformation
    - (ii) Prevention and Early Help
    - (iii) Best Start in Life
    - (iv) Supporting Young People into Adulthood (14-25)
  - (e) The wider context of Growing Up in County Durham would be reflected in the strategy, including the impact of Covid-19, which covers young people's mental health and wellbeing and signposts to other strategies provided where common themes and issues were identified
  - (f) The new strategy will run from 2022-25 to align with the timescales for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2021-25 and the County Durham Place Based Commissioning and Delivery Plan (C&DP) 2020-25

## Progress to date

- 12 During March and April 2022, a programme of coproduction sessions has been arranged with children, young people, families and carers via the strategy development group (SDG) and the VCS Alliance.

- 13 Within the parameters of the four key aims outlined in paragraph 5, CYPF groups have been asked to help identify the following:
  - (a) a vision for all children, young people and families and the key themes / areas of work we need to focus on to achieve this
  - (b) the aspirations and challenges that children, young people and families have/face in the county today
  - (c) where relevant, their experience of NHS and council services.
- 14 Activities have included work with the Youth Council, United Voices, Investing in Children (IiC), the fostering network, and a variety of children, young people, families and carers groups, via One Point Centres, the Think Family / Stronger Families Programme and the NHS 0 – 25 service.
- 15 Feedback from these sessions is currently being analysed to identify common themes and issues which will be incorporated into the strategy and/or provided for other strategies where relevant, for example, the Poverty Action Plan. Other relevant strategies, surveys, coproduction and consultation exercises, such as the Student Voice survey, are also being analysed to identify common themes and issues.
- 16 Follow up sessions with United Voice, Investing in Children and the Youth Council will be arranged in the draft and the consultation phases of strategy development to allow these groups to check and challenge content.
- 17 It is planned to utilise the summer holiday fun and food programme for further engagement opportunities with CYPF during the consultation period.
- 18 Once the strategy is agreed, VCS reps and CYPF groups will be invited to be involved in the following:
  - (a) Creating versions of the strategy for different audiences eg easy read / summary.
  - (b) Launch and promotion of the strategy.
  - (c) Annual checks on performance.
  - (d) The opportunity to be involved in shaping services in the future.

## **Performance Management**

- 19 A development session has been organised for 9 May 2022 with Chairs and strategy development leads of each of the four CYPFPB subgroups

to discuss and develop outcomes and indicators for the GUICD strategy.

- 20 Key indicators/outcomes for measuring the success of the strategy will be developed from this session.

### **Overview and Scrutiny as Key Stakeholders**

- 21 The Partnership Board would like views from Overview and Scrutiny about the development of the new strategy and to engage the Committee as key stakeholders in the development of the strategy asking the same questions asked of all service users and stakeholders as follows:
- (a) What words and phrases do you think should be included in a new vision for children, young people and their families?
  - (b) What aspirations should we have for our children and young people?
  - (c) What things are important as young people get older and become adults?
  - (d) What challenges do children, young people and families face?
  - (e) What can families and communities do?

### **Timeline and next steps**

- 22 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the next steps as follows:
- (a) Performance Framework development session with CYPFPB subgroup leads – **9 May 2022**
  - (b) Strategy Development Group consider draft GUICD strategy – **13 May 2022**
  - (c) Youth Council and United Voice (via liC) check and challenge sessions – **May 2022**
  - (d) CYPFPB agree draft GUICD strategy for wider consultation - **14 June 2022**
  - (e) Wider consultation GuiCD strategy – **15 June to 19 August 2022**
    - (i) County Durham Care Partnership Executive Sub Partnership Boards x 3 – **June 2022**
    - (ii) HWB – **12 July 2022**

- (iii) Youth Council and United Voice sessions – **July 2022**
- (iv) Summer holiday activity programme engagement opportunities – **July / August 2022**
- (f) Strategy Development Group Session – **w/c 19 September 2022**
- (g) CYPFPB agrees GuiCD 2022-25 – **13 October 2022**

## **Conclusion**

- 23 The strategy is being developed on four aims to better manage outcomes and reflecting the subgroup arrangements of the CYPFPB.
- 24 The development of the new GuiCD strategy is on the pathway to coproduction. Although it starts with some clear parameters to work within, it is more than consultation, as children, young people, families and carers groups are being involved from the start in shaping information within those parameters and relationships will be maintained across the lifespan of the strategy from draft through to adoption and monitoring of outcomes.

## **Background papers**

- None

## **Other useful documents**

- None

## **Author**

Julie Bradbrook

Tel: 03000 267325

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The CYPFP ensures it incorporates the legal requirements pertaining to children's services.

### **Finance**

Resources will need to be agreed and the CYPFP will guide resource decisions and priorities.

### **Consultation**

Details of consultation are provided in the report. Partners and children, young people and their families and carers have all been provided with an opportunity to shape the direction and the content of the strategy and will continue to be involved throughout the lifetime of the plan.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

An Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken as part of the process for developing the new CYPF Strategy.

### **Climate Change**

There are no climate change implications.

### **Human Rights**

There are no adverse implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

The new strategy is aligned with and contributes to the current priorities within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan which focuses on crime and disorder.

### **Staffing**

Resources will need to be agreed and the CYPFP will guide resource decisions and priorities.

### **Accommodation**

There are no accommodation implications.

**Risk**

A clear strategy framework is vital to ensure improvement in Children's services across the County.

**Procurement**

Commissioners will take account of the GUiCD strategy when procuring services aligned to children, young people and families.