

Appendix 3 - Growing Up in County Durham Annual Report

Health and Wellbeing Board

April 2024

Growing Up in County Durham
progress report



Report of

John Pearce, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to inform the County Durham Care Partnership Executive (CDCPE) of the progress in delivering the Growing Up in County Durham (GUICD) strategy.
- 2 This report covers the period April 2023 – March 2024

Executive summary

- 3 This report has been co-ordinated by the Operational management Group (OMG) of the Starting Well Partnership (SWP) which has responsibility for delivery of the GUICD strategy.
- 4 The Delivery Plan for the GUICD strategy has 18 actions which will be delivered across the system. There has been significant progress across all areas, with a large number of actions completed and no significant delays.

Recommendation(s)

- 5 The CDCPE is recommended to receive and approve this report.

Background

- 6 The Growing Up in County Durham (GUiCD) strategy for children, young people and families was approved by Cabinet in November 2022 and runs until 2025. This relatively short time period for a strategy brings updates in line with other key Durham County Council strategies.
- 7 The GUiCD strategy is attached at appendix 2. Appendix 3 is the delivery plan for the strategy which was produced with help from the Youth Council and discussion facilitated by Investing in Children. The delivery plan sets out which groups are responsible for delivery of each part of the strategy. A copy of this update report will be circulated to the Youth Council and Investing in Children with the opportunity to comment and/or discuss offered.
- 8 Responsibility for delivery of the GUiCD strategy lies with the Starting Well Partnership (SWP), although much of the work is carried out by other groups who have their own governance arrangements. This is because the strategy was co-produced and reflects the concerns of our children, young people and families in their daily lives. The Operational Management Group (OMG) of the SWP is responsible for co-ordinating the assurance around delivery of the GUiCD strategy.
- 9 The SWP received a mid-year report of delivery progress in November 2024.

Progress against delivery

Vulnerable Groups sub-group of the SWP.

- 10 Responsible for:
 - (a) Production of a delivery plan for Family Hubs
 - (b) Operationality of Family Hubs by April 2023
 - (c) Review and adjustment of services delivered from Family Hubs to meet need.
- 11 The delivery plan was drawn up and successfully implemented. All 15 Family Hubs were operational from April 2023.
- 12 The County Durham Family Hub and Start for Life programme continues to make good progress against all the programme expectations. We have recently developed and implemented support to better identify and address low to moderate perinatal and infant mental health (PIMH) and in particular therapeutic interventions to strengthen parent-infant interactions. A significant workforce development programme has been delivered which included both maternal and

paternal mental health awareness: IHV Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Awareness Training to help the wider workforce identify concerns relating to PIMH.

- 13 A Specialist Health Visitor and a skill mixed team are now in place offering a range of direct therapeutic work from Family Hubs such as Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) which has a strong evidence base in increasing the attunement between parent and child, and Neonatal Behavioural Assessment Scale (NBAS) to help parents understand the infant's behavioural communication. Family Peer Supporters provide befriending for mothers who are feeling isolated, support them to access the peer group offer, Nurturing Little Minds, which includes semi-structured groups delivering wellbeing walks, baby massage, personal resilience, and the evidence based structured Triple P Baby programme. On completion of the low to moderate interventions families are supported to access the Family Hub universal group offer. Young Dads under the age of 26 can access direct support through the Family Hubs Young Dad's Project and Peer Support Groups are being established for all dads / male carers with a child under 2 years to access. Strong links have been established between the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health team and Talking Therapies to ensure families are stepped up and stepped down seamlessly.
- 14 A significant offer has also been developed and implemented to [support parents with a child with SEND](#). This has been coproduced with parents including Durham Parent and Carer Panel members.
- 15 Work also continues in relation to co-location of LA practitioners, Midwifery and 0-25 Family Health Service staff. The vast majority of 0-25 Family Health staff (0-6 teams) are co-located in Family Hubs and Midwifery Teams are beginning to co-locate in a small number of Family Hubs and where this is not practically possible the delivery antenatal appointments and antenatal education is being roll out from the Family Hubs.
- 16 Footfall across all Family Hubs has significantly increased and will be reported to the DfE and DHSC and the Prevention and Early Help Partnership on a quarterly basis. Work is on-going to refine the offer from each Family Hub and ensure continued delivery of high-quality services, relevant to each local area. For more information on what is on offer from each Family Hub and the developing Start for Life offer: [Help for families - your virtual Family Hub - Durham County Council](#)
- 17 Work with partners within Prevention and Early Help Partnership has also focussed on promoting and supporting school attendance. The PEHP provides a forum for the Attendance Alliance to work closely with partners including schools to work collaboratively to promote good

school attendance and address barriers to attendance at the earliest opportunity, especially with children at risk of poor school attendance.

Preparing for Adulthood sub-group of the SWP.

- 18 Responsible for:
- (a) Transitions from children's to adult's statutory services
 - (b) CAMHS transitions
- 19 The group delivering this work delivered a presentation to a special [joint meeting of the Adults and Health, and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees](#) in December 2023 setting out the workplan for the group.
- 20 The group is initially looking at transitions for some of our children with the most complex needs who, as a result, are known to more than one service. Initial work is looking at the current offer and understanding how and why this, in too many circumstances, doesn't deliver what our young people need.
- 21 This group will change it's name in 2024/25 to avoid confusion with The Preparing for Adulthood Partnership which is more focussed on the move from education to work.

North East Joint Transport Committee

- 22 Responsible for:
- (a) Network-wide ticketing
 - (b) Improved safety on busses
 - (c) Introduction of capped fares
 - (d) Care Leavers concession
- 23 A £4 all day bus fare has been available to all on any bus service across the North East region from November 2023.
- 24 The majority of north east bus operators have extensive CCTV coverage with fleets fitted with CCTV cameras inside and out. This plays a key role in preventing and reporting crime and anti-social behaviour in the region
- 25 Capped fares have been introduced for all ages with the target being a £2.50 region wide multi-modal cap for children and young people.
- (a) £1 single bus fare for under 22s on any bus service in the region was launched in May 2023.

- (b) £3 all day bus fare for all under 22s on any bus service in the region was launched in September 2023.

26 Free travel for eligible care leavers was launched in January 2024.

County Durham Together Board

27 Responsible for

- (a) Development of a Community Book
- (b) Develop a way to clearly communicate to families what is available in their area to help and support them.

28 The procurement process for 'The Community Book' is underway with the new system scheduled for implementation in April 2025.

29 The Board are working with Family Hubs and the Family Hub Parent Panels to develop health literacy information.

Service Transformation sub-group of the SWP

30 Responsible for

- (a) Delivery of Needs led Neurodiversity Support
- (b) Improved Specialist services including
 - (i) Eating disorders
 - (ii) Paediatric therapies
- (c) Re-procurement of the short break offer

31 In March 2023 the County Durham Care Partnership Executive approved a system-wide programme of work called *Valuing Neurodiversity in County Durham* which has initiated improvements identified by families, children and young people. A presentation was given to the special [joint meeting of the Adults and Health, and Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committees](#) in December 2023 updating on the progress of the work.

32 The Mental health, Learning Disability and Autism Partnership held a Rapid Process Improvement workshop in June 2023 looking at the services available to support families whose children or young people are suffering with an Eating Disorder. This was part of a regional piece of work across the North East and North Cumbria to improve these services. The workshop mapped out the current provision as well as

identifying opportunities and challenges. A number of actions were identified which are being worked through until September 2024.

- 33 A model has been developed to create a more integrated therapeutic way of working between County Durham special schools and our therapy providers. Work has also progressed on a single point of access for children under 5 who require more than one therapy.

Durham Sufficiency Board

- 34 Responsible for
- (a) Expansion of the DCC estate of children's residential homes
- 35 Progress reporting is delivered to the Sufficiency Board regularly. Latest reports show good progress with the majority of the 14 projects underway (new homes, re-purposing existing homes to reflect current need, and refurbishing existing homes) are on track to deliver within agreed timescales. Others have some minor delays but all are due for delivery within 2024.

Safer Durham Partnership

- 36 Responsible for
- (a) Reducing anti-social behaviour
 - (b) Reducing arson and deliberate fires
 - (c) Reducing hate crime and community tension
- 37 The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022 – 25 was agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership in January 2023. This strategy sets out its vision 'Improving lives through tackling anti-social behaviour' and guidance principles on how we will work together to identify those issues that have the most impact on residents and visitors within County Durham.
- 38 A draft anti-social behaviour delivery plan was presented to the Safe Durham Partnership in January 2024, with the final ASB delivery plan presented to the Safe Durham Partnership for agreement in March, following further input from partners including the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February. This will set out how the [Anti-Social Behaviour strategy](#), vision and priorities will be achieved.
- 39 An anti-social behaviour strategic group is in place to provide strategic leadership and direction, co-ordination and oversight for the Safe Durham Partnership's response to anti-social behaviour across County Durham. A weekly tasking group including managers from DCC, Durham Constabulary and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue

takes place to ensure a co-ordinated response to operational ASB issues, which includes work on reducing arson and deliberate fires. Action relating to this has also been incorporated in the anti-social behaviour delivery plan (see above).

- 40 The Hate Crime action group is currently in the process of being revitalised to ensure it is fit for purpose over the coming years. This will include new terms of reference, objectives, delivery plan, performance indicators and refreshed membership.
- 41 The [Safe Durham Partnership Plan](#) 2021-25 is currently under review. This will be renamed the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy 2024-29, and will be a more streamlined document, with fewer priority areas which are easily understandable to everyone. The draft Safe Durham Partnership Strategy 2024-29 will be approved to go out for further consultation by the Safe Durham Partnership in March. Following this it will go out to public consultation for 4 weeks, with the final version being presented to the Safe Durham Partnership in May 2024 for approval.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

The GUICD strategy was co-produced with the children and young people of County Durham.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

During co-production, specific attention was given to ensure all groups were given an equitable opportunity to input into the strategy.

Climate Change

N/a.

Human Rights

N/A.

Crime and Disorder

Some elements of the strategy are delivered by the Safer Durham Partnership.

Staffing

N/A.

Accommodation

N/A.

Risk

N/A.

Procurement

N/A.