

Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016 FINAL DRAFT

Taking steps in the right direction, so our children and young people can **'believe, achieve and succeed'**



Welcome to the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016



Picture drawn at our 'Picture This' event by the age 5 and under group.
by Anthony, Francis, Kai and Jaedan



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Foreword

Since 2006, the Children and Families Trust has been on a journey of learning and has improved many things which matter most to children, young people and families despite a significant reduction in public sector spending in recent years. The publication of our third plan provides an opportunity to look back on what we have accomplished since our last full plan in 2009.

In County Durham the Children and Families Trust has been at the forefront of leading the dramatic and significant change in how we provide front-line early intervention and preventative services with the launch of the One Point Service in September 2011. In January 2012, the Children and Families Trust was rated as 'outstanding' for the quality of the services that it delivers for safeguarding and good for the quality of services it delivers for looked after children.

Whilst our achievements are celebrated, we must look forward. This plan will set out our ambitions for the next four years. It takes account of key policy drivers and other legislative changes and provides details on the areas we need to focus on and what actions we intend to take as a partnership to improve the lives of children, young people and families. However, we must be realistic. The impact of the coalition government's reduction in public sector spending means that we cannot deliver as many things to the same extent as we did before. We need to work together in a different way; work harder and more efficiently; and use our limited resources more effectively in order to make this happen.

One of the key changes in response to this is to focus on a reduced number of priorities than in previous years that tackle the *root causes* of poorer outcomes and not the *effects*.

The Children and Families Trust has also experienced a transformation and a new structure is in place which reflects the changing nature and approach to our work. New locality working arrangements will continue to deliver improved outcomes at a local level whilst building on the achievements gained by the Local Children's Boards.

Children, young people and families have been central in shaping our new plan and we have worked together at every stage in the development of this plan and in identifying our 6 new priorities. We have listened to and taken children's views seriously to what could and should be done to make further improvements to their lives, whilst maintaining a realistic vision of what can be achieved.

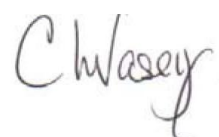
We will continue to put the views of children, young people and families at the heart of our work and by doing so we are confident that our ambitions will be realised. We look forward to you joining us on our journey for the next 4 years.



David Williams
Corporate Director
Children and Young
People's Services



Councillor Claire Vasey
Lead Member
Children and Young
People's Services





Our Key Achievements since 2009



We have achieved many things since our last plan. These include the:

Positive results of Inspections

The announced inspection of safeguarding and services for Looked After Children (LAC) assesses how well the partnership is keeping children safe from harm and delivering better outcomes for looked after children. Overall Ofsted rated County Durham's Children's Services as 'outstanding'. They judged the overall effectiveness of our safeguarding services to be outstanding; our capacity to improve these services is also described as outstanding. The overall effectiveness of our services for looked after children is described as good; and our capacity to improve our looked after children's services is judged as outstanding.

A positive result of the unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment in March 2011 was achieved with no areas identified for priority action.

All Children's Homes are judged good or better.

The outcome of the last four fostering inspections and the last two adoption service inspections received an 'outstanding' grading.

Development of the One Point Service

In September 2011, we launched the One Point Service, bringing together over 750 members of staff across 10 teams under the single line management of the Local Authority. The Service will ensure that all community based universal and targeted services are focused upon delivery of prevention and early intervention services.



Raising of educational attainment

The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*- C GCSE grades, including English and Maths increased from 55.3% (2010/2011) to 59.5% (2011/2012) and represents the 9th consecutive year of above national average improvement in GCSE outcomes.

13.6% of Looked After Children who were in care for at least one year achieved the equivalent of at least 5 A*-C GCSEs, including English and Mathematics, above our target of 12% (2011/12). 52.3% of LAC achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs – an improvement from 44% in the previous year (2010/11).

We have narrowed the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at Key Stage 2 from 23.2% (2010/2011) to 20.9% (2011/2012).

We have narrowed the gap between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people and the rest at Key Stage 2 from 32.8% in 2010/11 to 26.5% in 2011/12.

The Special Educational Needs/Non-Special Educational Needs gap at Key Stage 2 (English and Maths) has narrowed to 45.7% in 2011/12 compared with 49.6% in 2010/11.

Effective safeguarding of children & young people

The percentage of children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral has improved from 26.0% in Quarter 3 2010/11 to 23.4% in Quarter 3 2011/12.

The percentage of children ceasing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan (who had been the subject of a Plan continuously for two years or longer) has improved from 3.7% in Quarter 3 2010/11 to 2.4% in Quarter 3 2011/12.

Creation and implementation of the Think Family Strategy

We have developed the 'Think Family' approach, strategy and action plan involving a range of partner agencies across County Durham. It recognises where families have multiple and complex needs and is delivering against those needs.

Development of the Family Pathfinder Service

The Family Pathfinder Service was established in 2009 as part of our preventative strategy. Three Family Pathfinder teams work across the County with the whole family to prevent children from entering the child protection system or requiring a more specialist high cost intervention. The national evaluation of the Family Pathfinder Service has shown a significant reduction in adverse outcomes for children and families with a significant reduction in risk factors on exit from the service including an 80% reduction in the risk of family violence. This service was also shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award in the Children's Service Category.

Increasing Participation in Education, Employment and Training

In 2011, 91.7% of school leavers engaged in learning (this includes full time education, work based learning or employment with training including apprenticeships).

We have reduced the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) during 2010/11. Performance for the official NEET figure (November-January) was 8.5%.

We have delivered a range of innovative learning and support opportunities, through a European Social Fund (ESF) Youth Participation Project designed to support the progression of young people. 1619 of our most disadvantaged young people completed a programme which facilitated their progression to further education, employment or training.

We have developed the 'Teenagers to Work Scheme' which aims to enhance care leavers' employability skills and give them 'real work' opportunities. In the summer of 2006, there were 10 work placements. In the summer 2011, 58 young people took part in the project.

Launch of the Full Circle and 4Real Service and improvement of emotional wellbeing

The Full Circle Service is a multi-professional children's mental health service launched in November 2009. It supports the emotional wellbeing and mental health of looked after children, children in need and adopted children, post trauma and abuse. Data shows that 88% of children had improved outcomes following intervention by the Full Circle Service.

The 4Real Service is a jointly commissioned multi-agency young person's substance misuse team offering targeted and specialist interventions.

4Real Alcohol Brief Intervention Workers, working with Durham Constabulary, ensure that all relevant young people who are stopped by the police are directed into the service. Programme completion rates were 81% as of October 2011.

We have undertaken the Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) Pathfinder Project to support the development of innovative models of therapeutic and holistic emotional and mental health support for children and young people aged 5-13.

As at the 31st December 2011, 97 schools and other settings achieved Durham Anti-Bullying Accreditation Status. All local authority children's homes are either accredited or working towards it.

Reduced rate of teenage conceptions

The under 18 conception rate in Durham is falling, but more work is required. The latest available data from 2010 shows a conception rate of 43.2 per 1,000 girls aged 15-17, compared with a conception rate of 44.0 during 2009.

Improvement in services for disabled children and their families

We have delivered an unprecedented number of short break hours for families with disabled children, smashing the target set and leading to improved outcomes for families and savings for the local authority.

Since 2008/09 the short breaks strategy has reduced the cost for new external placements by £1.1 million. This work has received national recognition.

Reduction in homelessness

Safeguarding and Specialist Services (SaSS), housing providers and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) have developed and implemented a homelessness protocol which has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of young people who become homeless or have inappropriate accommodation. Prior to the protocol, more than 335 young people presented as homeless (2006/07). This

reduced to 222 in 2010/11, of which 101 young people were returned home.

Increased participation of children, young people and families

We have developed a Participation Strategy which focuses on children, young people and families becoming involved and engaged in all aspects of the work of the Children and Families Trust. Examples of our success includes: 313 organisations having achieved Investing in Children membership and the development of a range of reference groups and forums such as the Making Changes Together Partnership.

Promotion of healthy eating

All primary schools in County Durham have achieved 'Healthy Schools' status. Further examples of work include the delivery of 196 'Cook 4 Life' courses involving 1,240 participants; 50 'Cooking Together' and 17 'Small Steps to Good Nutrition' courses delivered through Children's Centres and other community venues. In addition two 10-week programmes have been developed – 'The Time to Choose' and 'Junior One Life' programmes to help children, young people and parents / carers make healthy lifestyle choices.



Positive activity of young people

The percentage of young people participating in youth work has increased to 11.5% in Quarter 3 2011/12 exceeding the quarterly target of 10%.

From April 2009 to March 2011, all children and young people under 16 years of age could access free swimming lessons. Due to change in government policy and the financial climate, the free swimming has ended. Whilst it was running, the uptake in County Durham was significant.



Reduction in the number of children and young people entering the Youth Justice System

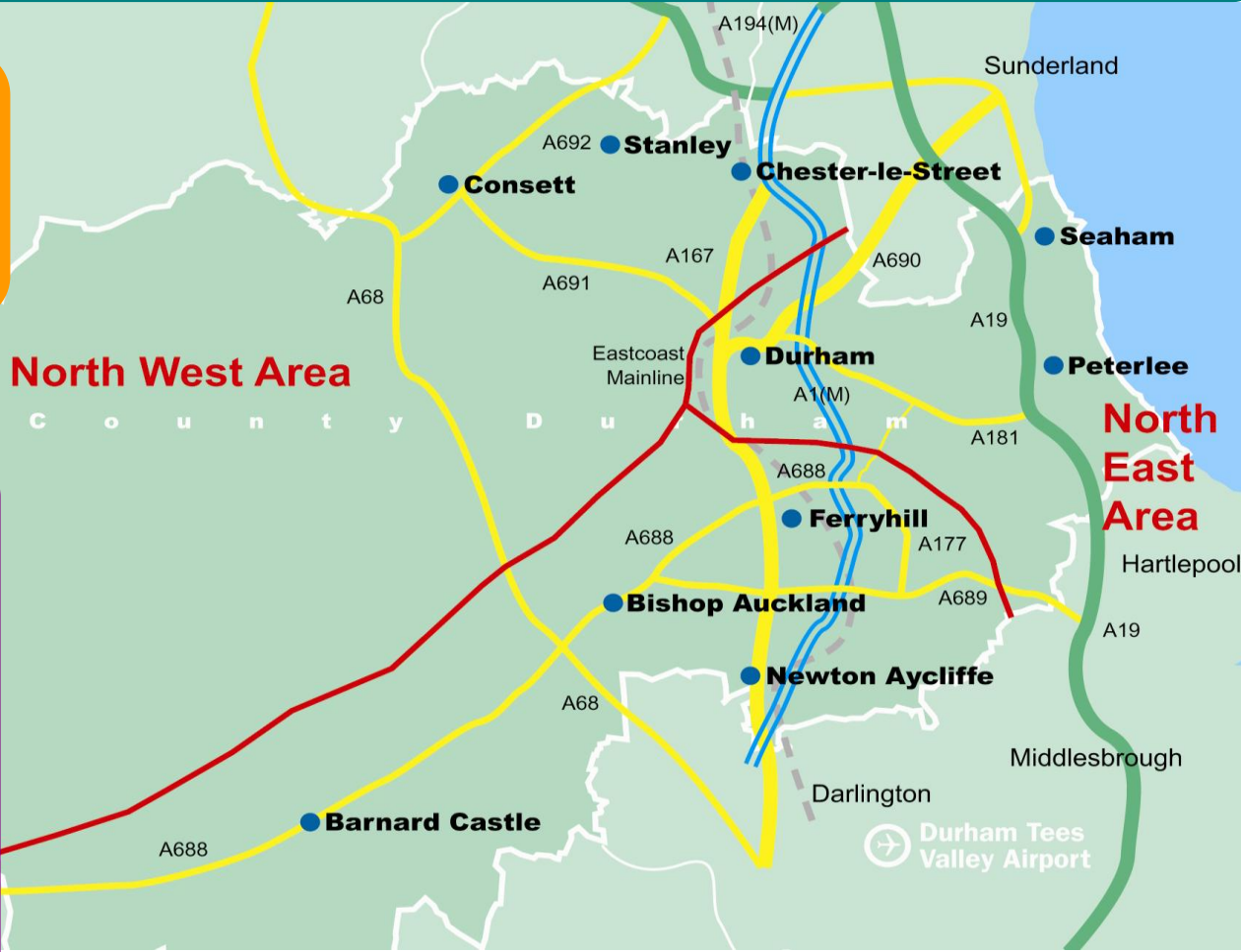
Durham Constabulary and County Durham Youth Offending Service have reduced the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System by 71.4% (2007/08 to 2010/11) using the unique Pre-Reprimand Disposal (PRD) programme. The PRD provides early assessment and specialist intervention to identify and address need at a young person's first contact with the Youth Justice System. The success of the PRD has been recognised by a series of national awards in 2010//11 including a royal visit from HRH The Princess Royal to County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) in September 2011.

The integrated pre-court system (implemented September 2010) builds upon the success of the PRD and ensures assessment and specialist intervention for all young people pre-court. This had a considerable impact on reducing first time entrants and reducing re-offending.

The number of young people reoffending in County Durham and the number of offences committed continue to fall. The reduction in frequency rate per 100 young people who re-offend after 6 months (January to March 2011) shows a 4.4% reduction compared to the same period in 2009 and 15.7% reduction against the same period in 2010.

There has been a particular impact on the number of girls who are first time entrants or who re-offend in comparison to boys. There has been a 79% reduction in female first time entrants and a 68% reduction in boys (2007/08 to 2010/11) over the same period. The rate of re-offending is considerably lower for girls than it is for boys. Early intervention (pre-court) plays a major role in supporting this performance.

Snapshot of County Durham



We have 2369 pupils in our schools with a statement of SEN

Providing specialist support services to children from ethnic minority communities including, the 183 Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) pupils in our schools

13 children's homes and 246 foster carers

Providing education across 284 schools (227 primary; 34 secondary; 10 special; 12 Local Authority maintained nurseries and 1 Pupil Referral Unit)

There are 71,906 children and young people aged 0-17 living in County Durham representing 14.2% of the total area

We provide foster placements and children's homes for 647 looked after children

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and protecting them from neglect and harm including 468 children and young people who are subject to a child protection plan

1.71% of children and young people speak a language other than English

N.B all data correct as of June 2012



Within County Durham we have high aspirations and a clear shared vision for all of our children and young people. By making steps in the right direction, we want them **all** to 'believe, achieve and succeed'. We recognise that in order to achieve our vision, we must continue to work effectively as a partnership.

We must ensure that the sum of our parts is greater than the value of our parts alone.

The statutory requirement to produce a Children and Young People's Plan was revoked in 2010 by the new coalition government. The decision taken to remain as a Children and Families Trust and continue to work to a strategic plan for children, young people and families within County Durham is testament to our commitment to continuous progress.

We have achieved much since our last strategic plan 3 years ago, across the breadth of our work and in our performance. We operate effectively as a partnership which is evidenced through our Ofsted rating of '**Outstanding**' for the services we deliver to safeguard children. However, we also know that progress is not without its challenges. With unprecedented cuts and a change in political direction, we recognise that we must change the way that we deliver and work together in order to continue to progress. We also need to consider and respond to a number of key policy drivers, details of which can be seen in Figure 1 on page 11.

With reducing resources and a pressure to do more with less, we recognise that we must refocus our efforts and concentrate on a fewer number of the *right* priorities in order to reap results and maximise efficiency.

This Plan is deliberately focused on what we need to achieve at a strategic level over the next 4 years. Each priority will be supported by a 'Commissioning Plan' at the next level down which will set out what actions we will take over the same period of time.

Our strategy is two fold

Firstly, we will rationalise our focus to those areas that are root *causes* of poorer outcomes rather than focus on both the *causes* AND *effects* of poorer outcomes. By focusing on the cause this will naturally lead to improvements in the effects. For example, by focusing on raising aspirations, we believe we will have a positive impact on the effects of this, such as rates of teenage pregnancy or substance misuse. We also be conscious of the impact of the wider determinants of health and the work of the Marmot review in influencing and tackling health inequalities.

Secondly, we will mobilise our resources to intervene early. Early intervention is critical to reducing the demand for more specialist services. The needs of vulnerable families will be identified at the earliest opportunity and they will receive the support that they need at a much earlier stage. We will do this through the delivery of our integrated service – One Point. One Point has a clear vision. It will provide a pathway of care for children from birth to 19 and will work with a range of partners and providers to ensure that universal, targeted and specialist provision is delivered to meet need.

Guiding Principles

The delivery of our vision will be based upon guiding principles. These include:

- ✓ Engaging with children, young people and families as equal partners in the delivery of services.
- ✓ Using resources efficiently across all of our priorities. There will be a continued focus on value for money in everything that we do, to ensure maximum efficacy.
- ✓ Working in partnership to maximise our resources, ideas and deliver improved services and outcomes.
- ✓ Valuing equality and diversity and promoting opportunities for the most disadvantaged families.
- ✓ Overcoming obstacles and always striving for the best for our children and young people.

Figure 1: Children, young people and families – Key policy drivers

The key policy drivers outlined below have been pivotal in influencing our strategy and our work:

Health and Social Care Bill

This Bill proposes extensive reorganisation of the structure of the National Health Service, including abolishing NHS Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) and creating Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), partly run by General Practitioners (GPs).

Education Act 2011

The Act is an important step in implementing the Government's education reform programme and helping to create an education system that delivers ever higher standards for all children.

Munro Review

Following the Munro review of child protection services, the Government, together with relevant agencies, professionals and local authorities, are committed to shifting the focus of the child protection system on to the things that matter most: the views and

Academies Act

The Act enables more schools in England to become academies, with greater freedom and flexibilities. The Government expects a significant number of academies to open as a result of the act and for the number to grow each year.

Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act plays a key role in the Government's ambitions to decentralise power away from Whitehall and back into the hands of local councils, communities and individuals to act on local priorities.

Marmot Review

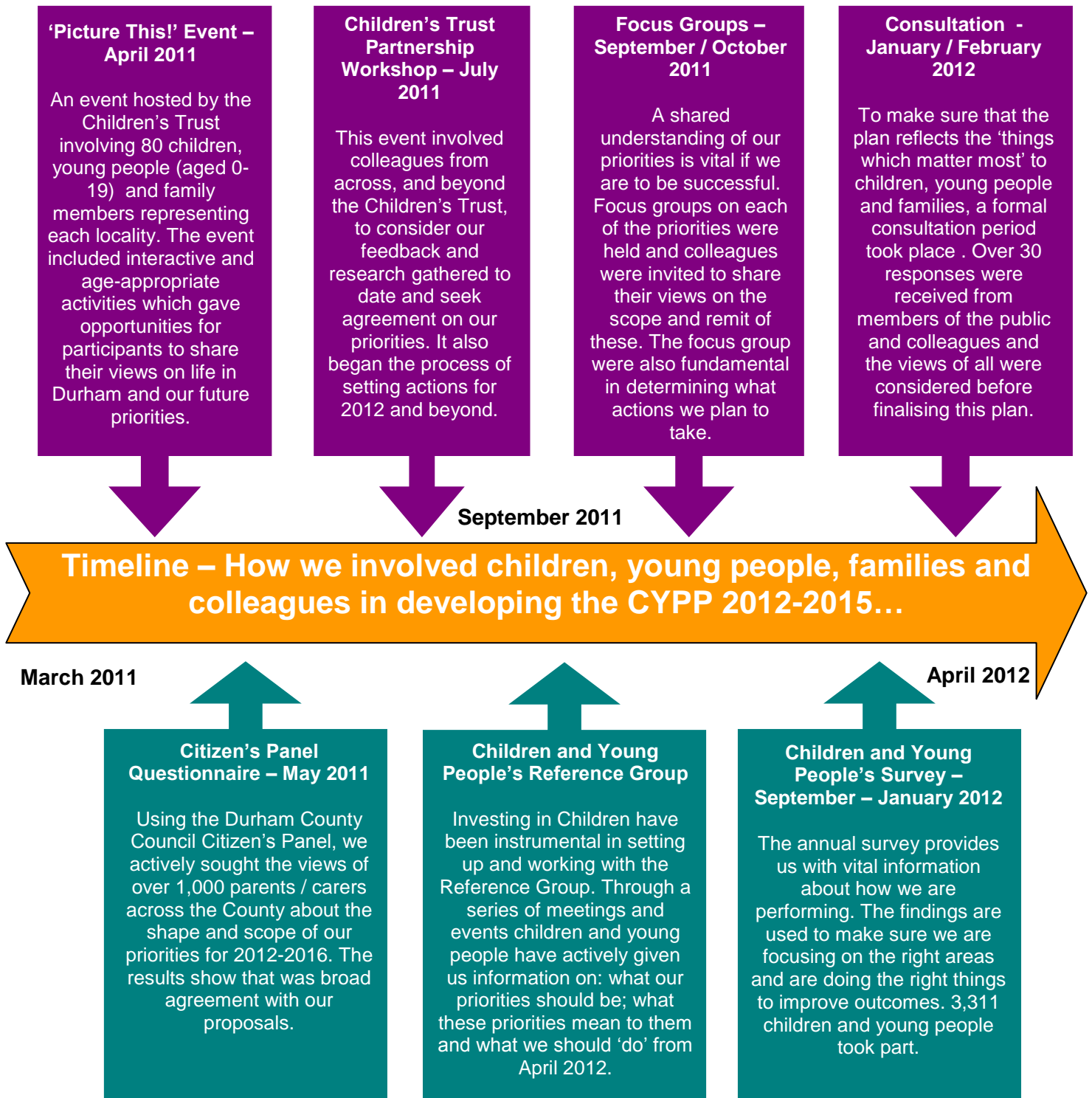
Following this Review, the 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' report proposes a new way to reduce health inequalities in England. It proposes an evidence based strategy to address the social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and which can lead to health inequalities.

Identifying our priorities for 2012 - 2016

Our CYPFP draws on a vast range of evidence including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), performance data, policy drivers, legislation and the ongoing engagement with children, young people, parents, carers and partner agencies (see Appendix 1).

Central to our approach is the participation and engagement of children, young people, families and partners. Figure 2 below shows this in more detail:

Figure 2: Participation and Engagement in the CYPFP 2012-2016

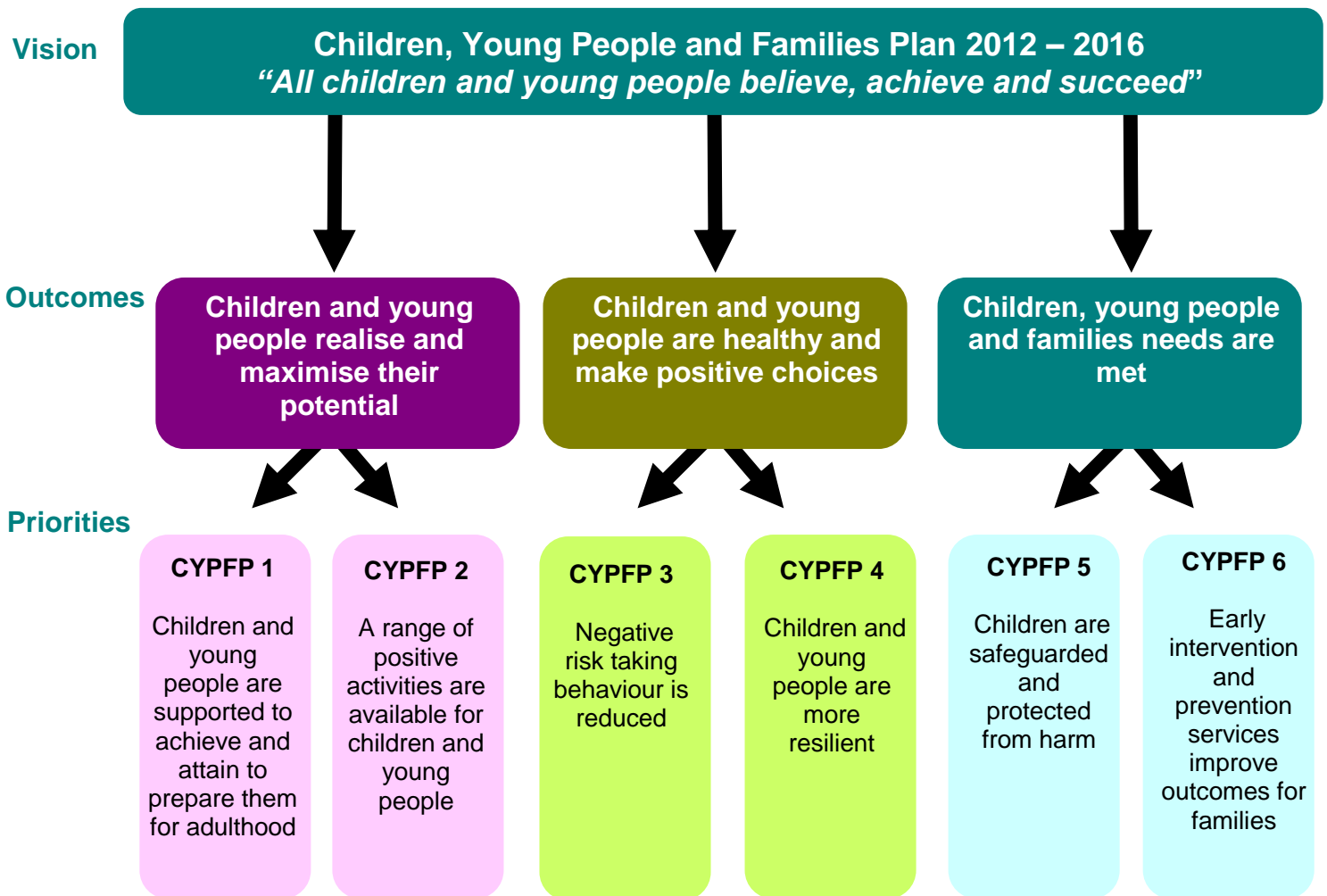


Overview of Outcomes & Priorities for 2012-2016

The outcomes that we want for our children and young people and the priorities we have selected to help us achieve these have been evidenced and developed to ensure maximum impact in a climate of budget reduction. We will focus on the ‘root causes’ (reason) rather than the ‘effects’ (result) of poorer outcomes.

We have identified 3 outcomes that we most want to achieve and 6 priorities to help us achieve these. These can be seen in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: CYPFP 2012-2016 Outcomes and Priorities 2012 – 2016





OUTCOME 1 - Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential



‘This means that children and young people in County Durham.....

..... are supported and encouraged to be the best that they can be no matter what their dreams are. They will be able to thrive in the environment where they live and learn, to achieve their very best’.

We are committed to ensuring that all children and young people have the opportunity to be the best that they can be, including the most vulnerable. To achieve this we need good quality services which are efficient, effective and responsive to need.

We will focus on encouraging children and young people to achieve above and beyond academic qualifications, although we recognise that the achievement of these is vitally important for future outcomes and life choices. We believe supporting a child or young person requires the raising of aspirations, instilling a belief that they can achieve in many different areas of life and enabling them to actively engage in education, employment or training. This will create a platform for a more successful future.

“People need to help us find places to meet and things to do so we can make new friends”.

‘Picture This Event’ - Research with children and young people 2010/11

It’s not just about having places to go and things to do. It’s about the *quality, choice and accessibility of opportunities available to enrich* children and young peoples lives. We know that having a range of activities available can positively impact on a number of positive outcomes for children, such as maintaining a healthy weight, improving educational attainment, improving emotional wellbeing, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving self confidence. A wide variety of stakeholders play a vital role in this area, ranging from schools to uniformed organisations, from voluntary groups to Community Sport Networks.

To achieve this outcome we have identified the following two priorities as key to our success:

CYPFP Priority 1: Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain to prepare them for adulthood.

CYPFP Priority 2: A range of positive activities are available for children and young people.

Priority 1: Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain into adulthood

Our Key Actions for 2012-2016

Action	Lead
Implementation of the Raising of the Participation Age Plan.	Improving Progression Partnership Lead
Deliver the Joint Disability Strategy.	Commissioning Manager, CYPS
Sustain and promote the attainment and achievement of Looked After Children.	Head of Countywide Services, CYPS
Invest in early years to ensure readiness for school.	All partners
Improve educational outcomes for children with special educational needs (SEN) and other vulnerable groups by delivering high quality services.	Head of Countywide Services, CYPS
Young people have access to impartial and independent careers guidance.	Improving Progression Partnership Lead
Young people have access to and benefit from high quality, comprehensive education and training opportunities, including Apprenticeships.	Improving Progression Partnership Lead

How will we measure success?

Measure	Target 2012/13
Percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more A*-C grade GCSEs or equivalent at Key Stage 4	Not set – tba
Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSEs or equivalent including English and Maths	60.4%
Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSE (or equivalent) at KS4 including English and Maths	21.0%
Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers (Key Stage 2 and 4)	19.9 (KS2) 31.9 (KS 4)
Percentage point gap between those known to have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and the rest, gaining Level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2	44.9%
Percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	8.0%
Participation rates at 16 and 17 years old in education, employment or training	93% (16 year olds) 90%(17 year olds)
Percentage of young people aged 16-19 with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in education, employment or training	69.0%
Percentage of young people looked after/in care in education, employment or training	40.0%
Percentage of young people gaining a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	50.1%



Priority 2 - A range of positive activities are available for children and young people



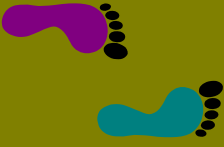
Our Key Actions for 2012- 2016

Action	Lead
Develop and deliver the Places to Go and Things to do Commissioning Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tackling the issue of transport through a collective approach with partners; developing a universal market and communication strategy; and developing a change strategy in order to improve attitudes towards children and young people 	Commissioning Manager, CYPS

How will we measure success?

Measure	Target 2012/13
Children and young people's participation in out-of-school sport	Not set - baseline year
Percentage of young people who have taken part in an activity outside of school in the last 4 weeks	Not set - baseline year





OUTCOME 2 – Children and young people are healthy and make positive choices

‘This means that children and young people in County Durham.....

..... look after themselves and others by making positive decisions and responsible choices about their behaviour. They will take positive risks as part of growing up with support from adults. They will be able to cope with what life throws at them and bounce back from tough times’.

Risk taking is a normal and healthy part of growing up, however, sometimes, risks are taken that are not positive and lead to negative results. Taking risks in a supportive environment is critical to the development of strong and emotionally resilient children and young people.

In County Durham, we know that negative risk taking behaviour can lead to higher teenage conceptions, higher alcohol and drugs use, youth crime and high obesity levels. This places young people at risk of physical or emotional harm and/or poorer outcomes. In order to tackle priorities around teenage pregnancy, youth crime, smoking, obesity and alcohol use, we will focus on a strategy that helps young people make responsible choices about their behaviour,

Children and young people who are resilient will be able to cope with difficult situations, make positive decisions and bounce back from tough times. Good emotional health and wellbeing in children and young people contributes significantly to them developing good resilience.

“If you want to be respected by others the great thing is to respect yourself. Only by that, only by self – respect will you compel others to respect you”.

Fedor Dostoevsky, Russian Novelist

Resilience is important because it is the capacity to face, overcome and be strengthened by or even transformed by the adversities of life.

Our work in this area is aligned to County Durham’s Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (due for completion in October 2012). This strategy will provide the cross-partnership foundations to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families, including supporting our work in reducing risk-taking behaviour and improving resilience amongst children and young people.

To achieve this outcome we have identified the following two priorities as key to our success:

CYPFP Priority 3: Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced.

CYPFP Priority 4: Children and young people are more resilient.



Priority 3: Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced



Our Key Actions for 2012-2016

Action	Lead
Implement Social Norms project in secondary schools in County Durham which considers risk taking behaviour (e.g. alcohol, teenage pregnancy, smoking).	Commissioning Manager, DCC
Work in partnership to reduce re-offending by young people by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing ASSET information to influence provision of universal and targeted services; • improving the quality of exit strategies to reduce re-offending; • implementing and improving CDYOS Offending Behaviour Programmes and evaluating effectiveness; and • increasing the use of restorative approaches. 	County Durham Youth Offending Service
Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing further the integration between the pre and post cohort in CDYOS; • ensuring a case management approach considers all sibling in the family; • increasing access to Positive Futures programmes; and • working with the One Point Service. 	County Durham Youth Offending Service

How will we measure success?

Measure	Target 2012/13
Percentage of children in Reception with height and weight recorded who are obese	9.4%
Percentage of children in Year 6 with height and weight recorded who are obese	21.5%
Under 18 conception rate (Percentage change from 1998 baseline of 54.4 conceptions per 1,000 15-17 year old women)	Not set – targets will be set in line with national strategy by September 2012
First time entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 (per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds)	712 (340 FTEs)
Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	Not set – due to changes in the way re-offending is calculated

Priority 4: Children and young people are more resilient

Our Key Actions for 2012-2016

Action	Lead
Develop and deliver an Emotional Wellbeing strategy and commissioning plan.	PCT Commissioning Manager
Develop and deliver a Resilience commissioning strategy and plan that considers all risk taking behaviour e.g. sexual health/ teenage pregnancy, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse and obesity.	Commissioning Managers, DCC & NHS County Durham

How will we measure success?

Measure	Target 2012/13
Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	15.5%
Percentage of children and young people who report that they make friends easily (Year 6 and Year 9)	5% point increase
Percentage of children and young people who report that they are happy (Year 6 and Year 9)	2% increase
Percentage of children and young people who report that they feel awkward and out of place (Year 6 and Year 9)	5% point increase





OUTCOME 3 - Children, young people and families' needs are met



'This means that children and young people in County Durham.....

.....are kept safe from harm and vulnerable families receive the support that they need at the earliest opportunity. Children will be protected from neglect and grow up in a safe environment'.

Safeguarding and ensuring the welfare of children is about protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of health or development; and ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

We want to ensure that all children and young people are kept safe and feel safe at all times, no matter what their background. Safeguarding is a key priority for the Children and Families Trust and it runs as a main theme throughout this plan. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) continues to provide the Trust with key challenge and oversight in this area.

"There is no duty more important than ensuring that children's welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want, and that they can grow up in peace."

Kofi Annan – former Secretary General of the United Nations

Preventing families from becoming vulnerable and enabling them to maximise their life chances is vitally important. By ensuring that children, young people and their families are given the necessary social and emotional support at the earliest opportunity possible, we will help children and young people to reach their full potential. The complex issues faced by families who are in need of help often cannot be addressed by a single agency but demands a coordinated response, especially those families who have children with additional needs. We will deliver an integrated approach in order to support families to promote positive outcomes.

To achieve this outcome we have identified the following two priorities as key to our success:

CYPFP Priority 5: Children are safeguarded and protected from harm.

CYPFP Priority 6: Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.

Our Key Actions for 2012-2016

Action	Lead
Promote a 'child-centred' focus across and beyond the Children and Families Trust.	All partners
Implement the Working Together Protocol.	All partners
Develop effective working practices with adult mental health services	SASS, DCC
Implement the Munro review of child protection recommendations.	SASS, DCC
Implement the Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Services to Looked After Children action plan.	DCC & Health

How will we measure success?

Measure	Target 2012/13
Percentage of children in need (CiN) referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral	20.0%
Percentage of referrals to children's social care result in assessment of need	63%
Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences relating to Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan where parental substance misuse has been identified as a risk factor	30%
Number of Initial Child Protection Conferences relating to children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan where parental alcohol misuse has been identified as a risk factor	26%
Children subject to family proceedings as a result of parental substance misuse	32%



Priority 6: Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families



Our Key Actions for 2012-2016

Action	Lead
Implement the One Point Operational Plan.	Head of Early Intervention and Partnership Services
Complete an options appraisal on future delivery arrangements for the One Point Service.	Head of Early Intervention and Partnership Services
Address gaps in childcare sufficiency as identified through the childcare sufficiency audit.	Childcare Manager, CYPS, DCC
Undertake a review of the relationship between the Think Family Board and the Children and Families Trust.	Head of Early Intervention and Partnership Services
Ensure all partner agencies have a working knowledge of the Common Assessment Framework / Children in Need interface.	One Point Service & SASS

How will we measure success?

Measure	Target 2012/13
Number of Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs) completed	1,200
Number of pre-CAFs undertaken	Not set – baseline year
Number of service users accessing One Point Services	Not set – baseline year
Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	11.0%
Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	54.1%



Delivering the Outcomes – Our Partnership Arrangements

The County Durham Children and Families Trust is part of a much bigger picture of ambition and delivery in County Durham. Leading on *'Altogether Better for Children and Young People'*, the Children and Families Trust is one of five strategic multi-agency thematic partnerships of the County Durham Partnership (CDP) which aims to deliver an *'Altogether Better Durham'*.

The CDP is made up of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that work together to improve the quality of life for local people. There is a strong track record of working in partnership across County Durham which is evident throughout the CDP framework. The partnership framework is made up of the CDP Board, CDP Forum, five thematic partnerships and 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). This can be seen in figure 4 below. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Board also play an important role in addressing the priorities within this plan.

The Partnership Board meet on a regular basis to drive a common purpose and ambition for the county, influence the use of all partners' resources and ensure a strong focus on the achievement of the county's priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

The delivery mechanism which will realise the ambitions of the Children and Families Trust and therefore the contribution to the work of the CDP and SCS is through the Children, Young People and Families' Plan (CYPFP).

Figure 4: County Durham Partnership Framework, 2011



The Children and Families Trust

The Children and Families Trust has recently undergone a structural review in order to respond to the changing landscape in the way that key services are delivered. Early intervention services are now delivered through three specific areas within the County. Within the areas there are 10 One Point Service 'hubs' and 22 spokes delivering key and 'connected' services.

The governance arrangements of the Children and Families Trust include:

The Children's Executive Board (CEB) x 1

The CEB provides the strategic and senior leadership to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in County Durham and ensures that partnership arrangements are effective. It leads on joint strategic and resource planning and oversees joint commissioning and performance management of the Children's Trust. The CEB is also responsible for managing risk and ensuring a range of control measures are identified and implemented to reduce the potential impact. Councillor Claire Vasey as the lead member for children and young people sit on the CEB and provides elected member direction and support.

Area Management Groups (AMG) x 3

Area Management Groups provide the leadership within each of the three areas to improve outcomes. They ensure that the strategic plan is translated into operational plans for the area and that a multi-agency network of support operates effectively at a local level. The Area Management Groups play a pivotal role in linking strategy and operations via effective planning, performance and commissioning. They also play a critical role in ensuring that the voice of children, young people and families contributes to the decision making process.

Local Delivery Partnerships (LDP) x 10

Local Delivery Partnerships play a key role in ensuring that services are delivered within the locality and that agreed processes and procedures are operating effectively. The groups rely on information and communication between agencies in order that the 'network of support' is working in practice and that appropriate teams are formed around the child and family.



The relationship between the Children and Families Trust and other key partnerships and groups is essential to the success of our work. These include:

Durham Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

The LSCB continues to work directly with the Children's Executive Board to ensure that safeguarding children and young people is prioritised by all represented partners. The LSCB is a statutory partnership that agrees how agencies and services should work together to safeguard children. The LSCB provides effective challenge and scrutiny of the work of the Trust and its partners in safeguarding and protecting children and young people in County Durham through established protocols. The Durham LSCB website (<http://www.durham-lscb.gov.uk>) provides more information on the role of the Board.

Joint Commissioning Board (JCB)

The Joint Commissioning Board has responsibility for coordinating and overseeing commissioning activity across the partner agencies that comprise the Children and Families Trust. It provides a vital link between services so that they work together to maximise commissioning to reap the greatest benefits for children, young people and families. As such, the JCB oversees how resources are pooled and deployed at a strategic level, as well as monitoring and reviewing the Annual Commissioning Plan to ensure that commissioned services are in place and are effective and efficient. The JCB reports directly to the Children's Executive Board.

Community of Interest for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

The Children and Families Trust has established an active Community of Interest (CoI) with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). The Community of Interest represents and supports the collective interests of the VCS. It works towards ensuring that they remain actively engaged with the work of the Trust at all levels. The Community of Interest also plays a vital role in supporting the VCS to ensure outcomes for children, young people and families are improved.

Parents & Young People's Participation Development and Reference Groups

The Children and Families Trust is committed to involving children, young people and parents/carers throughout the breadth of our work. The Participation Groups coordinate our approaches to fostering the rights of children and young people, particularly their right to participate and also the participation of parents/carers in our work. The groups include representatives from main service providers, the Local Delivery Partnerships and children, young people and parents / carers. The groups set the standards and ensure that our practice provides ample and appropriate opportunities for children, young people and parents / carers to participate.

The Reference Groups, which are supported by Investing in Children, are the vehicle to making sure this happens and that the views of children, young people and parents influence the Trust. The Reference Groups have vital links with other wider groups of children, young people and parents / carers to ensure as many as possible can contribute.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

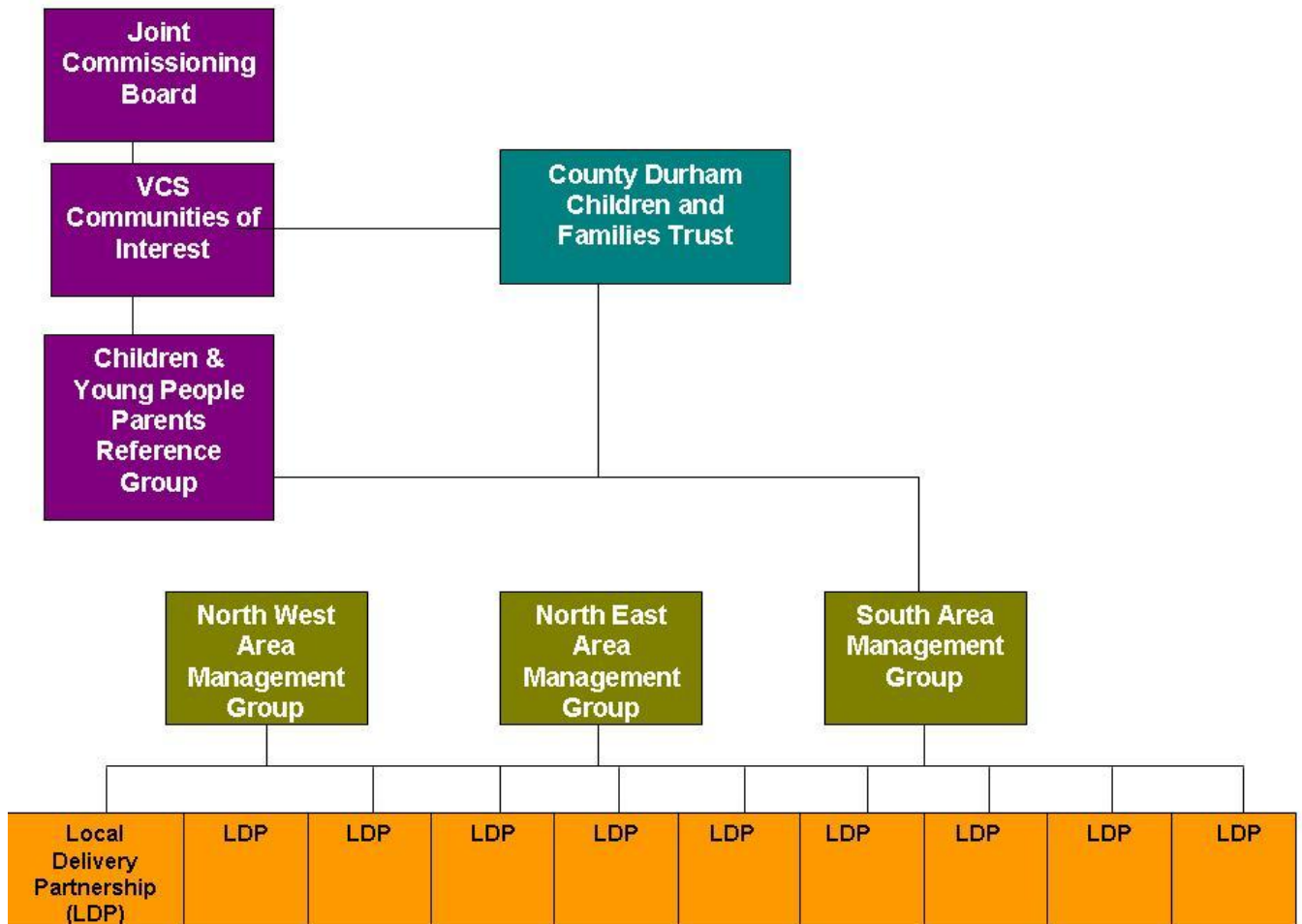
There are two Clinical Commissioning Groups which include General Practitioners (GPs), nurses and other health professionals which have been established to cover the whole of County Durham. These groups are working towards approval to take on the responsibility from the NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) for planning and buying local health services.

Improving Progression Partnership (IPP)

This multi-agency partnership takes the lead in developing a strategic overview of County Durham's education and training priorities relating to participation, achievement and progression of young people. These priorities are informed by analysis, plans and through liaison with area based and thematic groups. This group ensures that there are effective linkages with other partnerships, including the Children's Trust and the County Durham Economic Partnership.

The structure of the Children and Families Trust is shown in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: The Structure of the Children and Families Trust from April 2012



The Children, Young People and Families Plan is deliberately focused on what we need to achieve at a strategic level over the next 4 years. However, each priority will be supported by a 'Commissioning Plan' at the next level down which will set out what we need to achieve over the same period of time but in much more detail. The extensive research and information that we have gathered in the identification and selection of our priorities and high level actions will be used as part of the evidence base that will determine the content of the Commissioning Plans (Appendix 1). At this strategic level, therefore, we will focus on monitoring outcomes.

We will do this by ensuring that our performance monitoring and management approach is robust. We will use the performance management approach already firmly embedded within the partnership to ensure that our performance is monitored and managed and that constructive action is taken quickly to overcome any obstacles. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee also plays a key role in providing scrutiny and challenge and elected members are involved in managing performance and delivery at a local and area level through links with the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs).

We are confident that our plan reflects our strategic direction as a partnership and that we are focusing on the right things that make a difference to the lives of children, young people and families. However, we also acknowledge that it is important to ensure that we are **making progress** and that our strategic areas for focus **remain the right ones**.

How will we do this?

In partnership with children, young people, families and key partners, we will:

On a quarterly basis:

- Monitor and manage performance of the plan through the Children's Executive Board performance scorecard and initiate further work as required e.g. performance clinics;
- Monitor performance and provide independent scrutiny and challenge through the quarterly Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Hold children and young people's reference groups to monitor performance and progress of the plan from a children and young people's perspective. A process for how best we can do this will be agreed with Investing in Children (IIC). The aim of this will be to ensure that young people can monitor our progress against the actions that we have set out and review whether we are making a difference from a young person's perspective.

On an annual basis:

- Undertake a full review of the plan by:
 - holding a stakeholder event, supported by a programme of children and young people's 'Agenda Days' focusing on identify emerging priorities or drivers for change;
 - researching emerging 'Drivers for change' which impact on the work of the Children's Trust and the Children, Young People and Families Plan including performance, national and local policy and strategic and operational issues affecting the Children and Families Trust;
 - undertaking a survey of children and young people; and
 - consulting and engaging with key stakeholders and groups such as the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the formulation of our plan.



Glossary

AAP	Area Action Partnership
AMG	Area Management Group
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CDP	County Durham Partnership
CDYOS	County Durham Youth Offending Service
CEB	Children's Executive Board
COI	Community of Interest
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CYPFP	Children, Young People and Families Plan
CYPS	Children and Young People's Services
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team
DCC	Durham County Council
EET	Education, Employment and Training
EYP	Early Years Practitioner
EYS	Early Years Sector
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GRT	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller
IIC	Investing in Children
IPP	Improving Progression Partnership
JCB	Joint Commissioning Board
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children
LDP	Local Delivery Partnership
LGC	Local Government Chronicle
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NHS	National Health Service
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PRD	Pre-Reprimand Disposal
RPA	Raising of the Participation Age
SASS	Safeguarding and Specialist Services
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SRE	Sexual Health and Relationship Education
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector

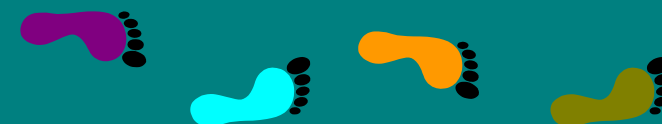
Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of our partners in the development and creation of this plan. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude and show our appreciation to **ALL** the children, young people and their families who took part in consultation events, provided views and helped to shape the content and direction of our new Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016. Your support has been invaluable.

Please be assured that by giving up your time, you have contributed to providing a brighter future for the children, young people and families of County Durham through the creation and subsequent delivery of this plan. You have made sure that it is focused on the things that will make a difference to families' lives by ensuring that we listened to what you had to say.

Together we will ensure that each child and young person in County Durham, by taking steps in the right direction, *'believes, achieves and succeeds'*.





OUTCOME 1 - Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
Priority 1: Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain into adulthood				
<p>Young people told us that ‘school and education’ and ‘employment and jobs’ are highly important issues affecting them and there are concerns about finding a job and having enough money. Specifically, children and young people told us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to increase the range of opportunities to learn new skills. • Tuition fees are a barrier to accessing further education. • It would be beneficial to ‘try-out’ courses and training opportunities before committing to them. 		<p>“Picture This” event / Investing in Children</p>		
<p>Children, young people and families told us about the importance of good information, advice and guidance that is tailored around the specific needs of children and young people.</p>		<p>“Picture This” event / IIC</p>		
<p>There needs to be continued focus on supporting and ‘narrowing the gaps’ which exist between vulnerable groups and the rest. This includes: looked after children; those from deprived areas; Gypsy, Roma and Travellers; and those with Special Educational Needs.</p>			<p>JSNA 2011</p>	<p>Performance Scorecards</p>
<p>Partners need to intervene early and ensure the best start in life for all children and young people, supporting transitions and the key events in the lives of children and young people and raising achievement at age 19 / level 3.</p>		<p>CYPP focus group</p>		
<p>There has been a significant change in careers advice with the introduction of a new National Careers Service which will provide a national helpline and website to provide information. The new, full service will be fully operation by April 2012.</p>	<p>Education Bill</p>			

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
The Special Educational Needs and Disability Green paper puts a focus on early intervention and integrated support, access to better quality vocational and work related learning to allow progress.	SEN and Disability Green paper			
The Education and Skills Act 2008 states ' <i>...make available to young people and relevant young adults for whom they are responsible such services as they consider appropriate to encourage, enable and assist them to remain in education and training</i> '	Education and Skills Act 2008 Section 28			
Statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people who are over compulsory school age but under 19, or are aged 19-25 and subject to a learning difficulty assessment.	Education and Skills Act 2008			
The Raising of the Participation Age means that all young people will continue in education or training to 17 from 2013 and to 18 from 2015. This places greater emphasis on Local Authorities to ensure that vulnerable groups are targeted and supported to ensure that they achieve in line with their peers and continue to engage in education, employment or training once they reach age 16.	Education and Skills Act 2008			
Priority 2: A range of positive activities are available for children and young people				
<p>The 3 main categories acting as barriers to participation in positive activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport - lack of affordable and regular provision ▪ Information and marketing - lack of clear unified marketing strategy ▪ Attitudes - towards children and young people/improving service focus around children and young people 	Joint Commissioning Board report December 2011			

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>'Parks and play areas' and 'places to go and things to do' are very important to children and young people and families. Issues identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unsuitability of parks and play areas (improving equipment and reducing waste); • improving swimming facilities; • gender-specific provision such as football facilities and skate-parks for boys and dancing for girls; • the need for a wider range of facilities and the opportunity to travel and visit other areas, more purpose-built youth centres and facilities that children and young people can call their own; • a wider range of activities available at weekends, during school holidays and during festivals across the year, such as Christmas and Easter. 		<p>'Picture This ' event / Investing in Children Research</p>		
<p>Local residents identified that one of their top priorities included the provision of activities for teenagers. Residents rated the following as issues that are important to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for Teenagers (37%) • Play Facilities for Young Children (14%) • Parks and Open Spaces (13%) 		<p>County Durham Residents Survey 2010</p>		
<p>Transport is a specific issue that prevents children and young people accessing leisure opportunities. The rurality of the county and the cost of transport between towns and villages pose a significant barrier preventing children and young people accessing activities.</p> <p>Children and young people have told us that they'd like to see some services come to them – such as mobile cinemas set up in parks / local venues and using libraries and other venues for reading, writing and study groups specifically for children and young people.</p>		<p>Investing in Children Research</p>		

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>Existing legislation that supports youth work is described in statutory guidance in Section 507B Education Act 1996 (March 2008). This sets out the requirements for local authorities to provide youth work in three areas: positive activities, decision making by young people and 14-19 learning. The duty sets out two forms of activity to improve well-being. The first activity is 'educational leisure-time activities'. The second activity is 'recreational leisure-time activities' which includes sports and informal physical activities as well as a wide range of cultural activities including music, performing and visual arts.</p> <p>The House of Commons Education Committee report (23 June 2011) recommended that the Government announce publicly an intention to retain the statutory duty on local authorities to secure young people's access to sufficient educational and leisure-time activities, taking into account young people's views and to publicise up-to-date information and remind local authorities of this duty.</p>	<p>Education Act 1996 – Statutory Guidance March 2008 / House of Commons Education Committee report</p>			

OUTCOME 2: Children and young people make positive choices

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
Priority 3: Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced				
<p>Research with children, young people and families found the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children aged 0-7 years have told us that they are concerned about young people drinking alcohol. • Children aged 8-12 years told us about concerns they have about children and young people leading a healthy and active lifestyle, as well as use of alcohol and drugs by children and young people. • Teenagers we have spoken with raised the subject of sex education and have told us that accessing free contraception is an issue which concerns them. • Youth crime, anti-social behaviour and the need to feel safe were ranked in the top ten of themes highlighted by children and young people as being important to them. 		“Picture This” event		
<p>Children and young people in County Durham have also told us that contraception services are not well publicised, accessible or welcoming and some young people fear that their right to confidentiality will not be respected. Children and young people have told us that it is difficult to get the right help and advice especially around the effects and consequences and use of drugs and alcohol.</p>		Investing in Children Research		
<p>The issues that affect parents often have a significant and detrimental impact on their children. These issues include: mental ill-health; domestic violence; substance misuse; learning difficulties and disabilities. The links between these factors as a cause of poor outcomes is well established. It is also important to recognise these impacts on children and young people’s risk raking behaviour.</p>	County Durham Think Family Strategy			
<p>The Government’s Reducing Demand Restructuring Supply, Building Recovery national strategy has been introduced to help support young people facing increased risks of developing problems with drugs or alcohol. Vulnerable groups - such as those who are truanting or excluded from school, looked after children (LAC), young offenders and those at risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour, those with mental ill health, or those whose parents misuse drugs or alcohol - need targeted support to prevent drug or alcohol misuse or early intervention when problems first arise.</p>	Reducing Demand, Restructuring Supply, Building Recovery (national strategy)			

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>Alcohol-related hospital admission rates for under-18s in 2009/10 in County Durham was 122 per 100,000, higher than the regional rate of 107.7 per 100,000. County Durham is ranked 12th worst out of 326 local authorities.</p> <p>Research shows that in County Durham higher proportions of children subject to a child protection plan / looked after are as a result of parental alcohol misuse, as well as mental health and domestic violence.</p>			JSNA 2011	
<p>Overweight young people have a 50% chance of being overweight adults and, unless childhood obesity is addressed, this is likely to increase demand on the NHS and Adult Services due to the health problems associated with adult obesity.</p> <p>The link between sustained breastfeeding and deferred weaning (to at least six months) and reduced risk of childhood obesity is increasingly well established. As breastfeeding initiation is lower in County Durham than nationally or regionally, whilst breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks is also lower than for England or the region, the county therefore has a greater risk of childhood obesity.</p>			JSNA 2011	
<p>National Strategies including “Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government strategy for England” (2008) set out the aims for the healthy growth and development of children which promote healthier food choices, building physical activity into lives, creating incentives for better health and personalised advice and support.</p>	Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government strategy for England			
<p>Reducing teenage pregnancy is central to improved outcomes for young men and women. It reduces health inequalities, child poverty and the costs associated with addressing the poor outcomes for young parents and their children. Low aspirations and low self esteem are some of the key risk factors for under-18 conceptions.</p>	‘Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010’			

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>Having children at a young age can be harmful to young women’s health and wellbeing and severely limit education and career prospects and ensuring young people have access to a full range of contraception methods maximises effective contraception use, which impacts positively on both conception and abortion rates. The commissioning process was followed to establish the current need, services provided, best practice and what our commissioning priorities should be in order to continue / accelerate the downward trend in our performance. Our 4 key strands are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Health and Relationship Education (SRE) • Contraception Services • Support to Teenage Parents • Data Intelligence and Communication 			<p>JSNA 2011 / Joint Commissioning Teenage Pregnancy</p>	
<p>The government’s green paper proposes reforms to tackle health and social problems affecting young people and provide targeted local support to help young people into constructive employment and training. The paper signals a move away from heavy-handed prison sentencing to restorative justice approaches. Risk factors, associated with young people offending, include: levels of deprivation and other social issues; a lack of understanding of consequences; impulsiveness; a need for excitement; peer pressure; temper; inappropriate social skills; and substance misuse.</p>	<p>Breaking the Cycle – Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders</p>			
<p>Priority 4: Children and young people are more resilient</p>				
<p>Children and young people have told us about the importance they place on emotional health and wellbeing. They’ve told us that the issues which matter most to them include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friendships and relationships • self - esteem • positive behaviour • bullying • feeling valued and respected 		<p>“Picture This” event / IIC</p>		
<p>Children and young people told us that adults should listen to them more and that it would be beneficial if more members of the Children’s Workforce were trained to help and advise them on a range of complex, and often sensitive, issues.</p>		<p>Investing in Children research</p>		

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>The government aims to provide early intervention and prevention to improve quality of life by focusing on empowering people to lead the life they want with dignity and respect. The strategy aims to expand provision of psychological therapies to children and young people. National Statistics show that prevalence of mental health disorders in children is higher for those:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • living in lone parent families or reconstituted families; • whose parents have no educational qualifications; • living in workless households; • from low income families; • from families in receipt of benefits; and • from families who belong to routine manual groups or live in rented housing or within areas of higher deprivation. 	<p>'No Health without Mental Health' strategy (2011)</p>			
<p>There is a rising prevalence of emotional problems and this is likely to impact on: educational attainment, absences from school, exclusions, friendships, physical health and offending behaviours.</p>			<p>JSNA 2011</p>	
<p>Being valued gives a child or young person a sense of inner worth that allows them to cope with every day life. Respect for themselves and others develops from knowing that they are listened to, knowing their views are considered, feeling they 'belong' and have healthy relationships. All of these factors are inter-linked allowing a child to develop resilience which will give them the courage to face what ever comes their way from childhood through to adulthood.</p>	<p>Hart, A. and Blincow D. with Thomas.H. (2007) Resilient Therapy: Working with children and families. London: Routledge</p>			
<p>Research conducted with secondary schools demonstrated the positive impact of being made to feel valued and respected by including them in the decision making. This in turn made a positive contribution to their feelings of wellbeing. Comments from young people included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We got to voice our opinions on whom we thought would make the best teacher...In the end we got the teachers we chose." • "We have changed the school council structure ...allowing everyone a chance to have their say." • "We can write our ideas and thoughts about the school, and what we want to change". • "School council meetings take place whenever we want...we just ask for one." 		<p>Investing In Children research</p>		

OUTCOME 3: Children, young people and families' needs are met

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
Priority 5: Children are safeguarded and protected from harm				
<p>There are agreed protocols in place between the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Children and Families Trust to ensure effective challenge and scrutiny of the work of the Trust and its partners in safeguarding and protecting children and young people in County Durham. The LSCB poses specific challenges for the Trust concerning: information sharing; use of Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs); impact of parental mental health; sexual exploitation and early intervention.</p>	<p>Role of Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and relationship with the Children and Families Trust</p>			
<p>The Munro review demonstrates the need to improve safeguarding services as well as the need to 'intervene early'. It highlights the importance of a successful and robust interface between integrated, preventative services and safeguarding services as well as refocusing the work of safeguarding services on intervention, not processes that detract from working with families that have complex needs. The repercussions of the review will continue mean that there will some dramatic changes in the child protection system and will in the longer term promote simplicity and improved frontline work with families.</p>	<p>Munro Review of Children Protection</p>			
<p>Our research shows that between 2007/08 and 2010/11 there has been a consistent and substantial increase in safeguarding activity in County Durham. This can be partially explained through the implementation and promotion of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and an increased focus on safeguarding as a result of heightened public and professional awareness stemming from well-documented cases such as 'Baby P'. The demand for safeguarding services at a glance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of initial assessments has increased over the last 4 years from 2,521 to 3,449 in 2010/11, an increase of 36.8% (928). • The number of core assessments has increased over the last 4 years from 633 to 1447 in 2010/11, an increase of 128.6% (814). • The number of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population has increased from 17 in 2005/06 to 44 in 2010/11. • The number of children looked after per 10,000 population has increased from 40 in 2007/08 to 52 in 2010/11. 			<p>JSNA 2011</p>	<p>Performance Scorecards</p>

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>In the last twelve months, there is some evidence to suggest that this increased demand for safeguarding services has levelled off, with small decreases in referrals and the number of children who are subject to a child protection plan remaining consistent with levels in 2009/10. However, increases in the number of children who are in the care of the local authority, that often present with complex needs which require sustained, on-going support will impact upon resources and service delivery.</p>			<p>JSNA 2011</p>	
<p>Research shows that growing up in child poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond, with clear links to safeguarding and specialist services.</p> <p>The County Durham Child Poverty Needs Assessment illustrates that child poverty affects many families in County Durham with pockets of deprivation spread across the County. The issues affecting parents include mental health, substance misuse, learning disability and difficulties and domestic violence are well-documented and the links with neglect, physical abuse and the need for intervention by safeguarding services is well-established. Identifying and addressing these issues which impact of parenting ability and capacity requires a multi-agency and coordinated response. Universal services play a key role in identifying and addressing the issues affecting parenting ability and capacity.</p>	<p>County Durham Child Poverty Strategy / Needs Assessment</p>			
<p>Research shows that children that grow up in poverty can be more vulnerable to maltreatment, particularly neglect and physical abuse. Child neglect is complex and multifaceted and therefore difficult to define. It can range from physical to psychological/emotional neglect, absence of supervision, abandonment and supervisory neglect.</p>	<p>NSPCC research (Poverty and Maltreatment, 2008)</p>			
<p>There is a strong correlation between poverty and neglect with 98% of families whose children at risk of emotional maltreatment or neglect were characterised by the extreme poverty of their material environment – reflected in the fact that 59% lived in over-crowded housing conditions, and with 56% of parents reporting high levels of emotional stress.</p>	<p>(Tuck 2000). Thoburn et al. (2000)</p>			

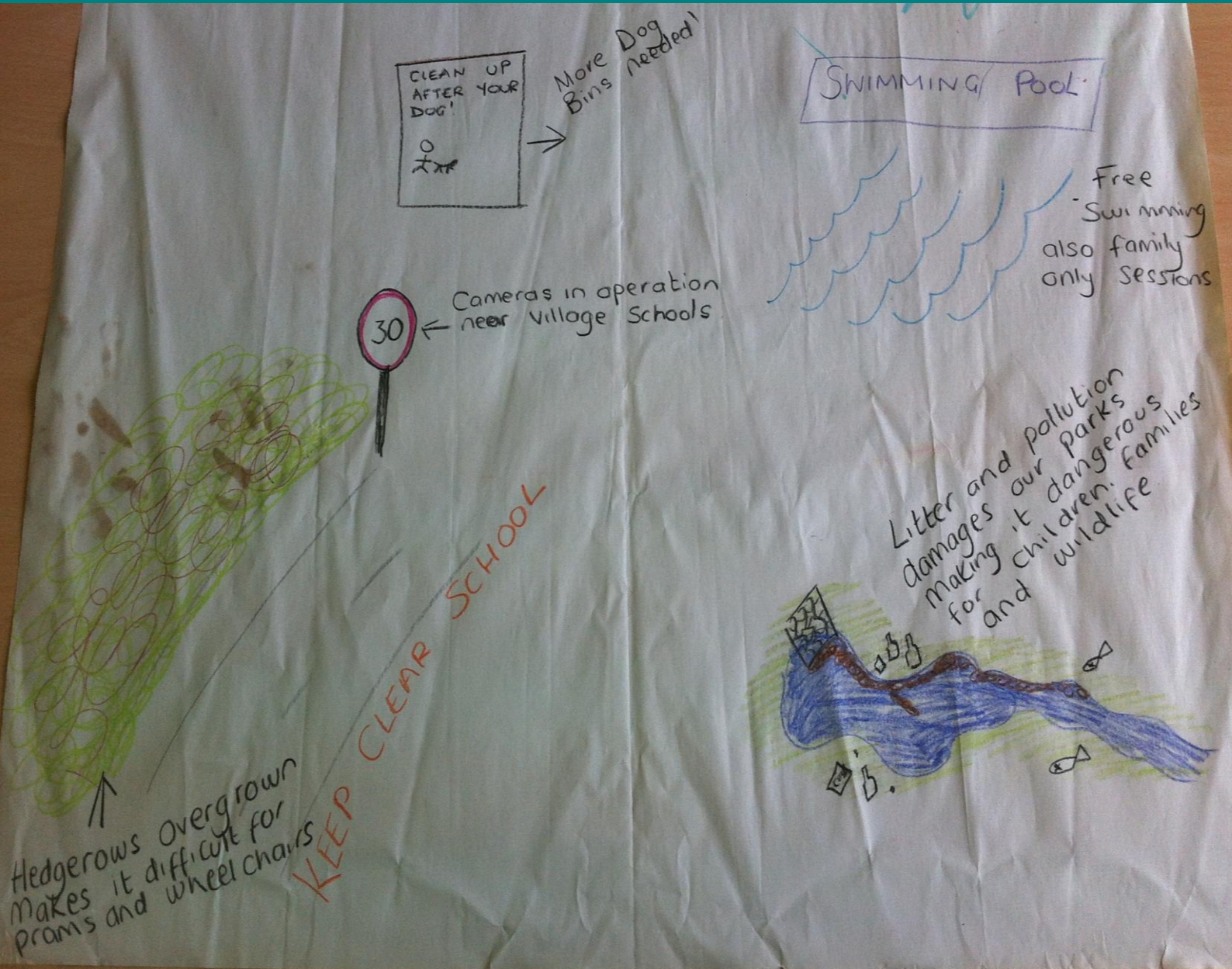
Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>The County Durham 'Think Family' Strategy states that: <i>'Families are the building blocks of our communities. As well as providing for the current generation, families bring up the children who will be the future of County Durham'</i>. The strategy outlines the importance of families in providing the positive nurturing, learning and care needed to enable children to lead healthy and happy lives. Fundamental to this is good parenting which leads to improved attainment, resilience, healthy lifestyles, confidence and feelings of self worth.</p> <p>It is recognised that families that have multiple and complex needs can be at risk of needing specialist services in the future. This Strategy sets out intentions to working across traditional age-related service boundaries to "Think Family". In taking an integrated approach, we will meet needs in a more effective and efficient way – intervening early to prevent the future need to provide safeguarding services.</p>	<p>County Durham Think Family Strategy</p>			

Priority 6: Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families

<p>The Early Intervention: Next Steps, the research and report conducted by Graham Allen MP, tells us that we need to intervene early, to make sure that our children get the best possible start in life. We need to keep supporting them throughout childhood in ways which help them reach their key milestones of social and emotional development. Between birth and the age of 3, neglect, bad parenting and other adverse experiences can have a profound negative effect on children and their brain development. The rationale is simple: many of the costly and damaging social problems in society are created because we are not giving children the right type of support in their earliest years. Early intervention enables every baby, child and young person to acquire the right foundations upon which future success depends.</p>	<p>Allen Review of Early Intervention</p>			
<p>The review of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) concluded that the earliest years in a child's life are absolutely critical, providing the essential foundations for healthy development. If these foundations are not secure, children can experience long-term problems which often present wider social consequences. It is imperative that the support and education provided in pre-school settings is of a high quality. In 2008, the EYFS was introduced with the intention of providing a framework to deliver consistent and high quality environments for all children in pre-school settings, recognising the importance of this period in a child's life. The review shows that outcomes for young children are improving. However, it is not perfect and the Tickell review provides recommendations that are designed to build on and improve the current statutory framework.</p>	<p>Tickell Review of Early Years Foundation Stage</p>			

Why is this issue important to us?	Policy / Research	Consultation	Needs Assessment	Performance
<p>The Marmot review into health inequalities (February 2010) proposes an evidence-based strategy to address the social determinant of health, the conditions people are born, grow, live and work and age and which can lead to health inequalities. The review builds the case to improve health for all and reduce unfair and unjust inequalities.</p>	<p>Marmot Review 'Fair Society, Health Lives'</p>			
<p>The Field review sets out a new national strategy for tackling child poverty and promoting social mobility – the ability to move between one social class to another. In order to tackle the health inequalities and the pockets of poverty which exist across County Durham, our focus and commitment to intervene early and prevent future, costly services is fundamental to achieving these aims.</p>	<p>Field Report of the Independent Review of Poverty and Life Changes</p>			
<p>Recent performance information for child poverty for County Durham shows that 20,945 children under 16 were in poverty which represents an increase of 940 children (4.2 percentage points) from the previous year. This equates to 23.5% of children under 16 in poverty in 2009 compared with 22.7% in 2008.</p>			<p>JSNA 2011</p>	
<p>The green paper aims to develop stronger local strategic planning and commissioning arrangements for local authorities and health services to play a pivotal role in ensuring children and young people with SEN or disabilities receive high quality support which includes day time care, overnight care and educational/recreational activities for disabled children outside their home.</p>	<p>SEN and Disability Green Paper</p>			
<p>The JSNA shows that the number of disabled children and young people is growing due to advances in medicine and technology that prolongs life, whilst the number of children and young people with autism is rising. The JSNA indicates that as severely disabled children and young people receive a statutory service from the Children and Young People's Disability Service, there is likely to be increased demand for such services in the future.</p>			<p>JSNA 2011</p>	
<p>Our approach in County Durham ensures that both parents and children are able to get the support they need, at the right time, to help their children achieve good outcomes. It means making sure that families receive integrated, co-ordinated, multi-agency, solution-focused support. By identifying problems early, all services can work closely together to help prevent a family's needs escalating and requiring more intensive intervention.</p>	<p>County Durham Think Family Strategy</p>			

Further images from the children and young people who participated in our 'Picture This' event.



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