

Cabinet

11 June 2014

Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-2017



Report of Corporate Management Team

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Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2014-17 (attached at Appendix 2).

Background

2. In March 2013, it was agreed that a review of the Children and Families Trust would be undertaken to take into account new policy developments. This included changes to the NHS landscape, Troubled Families Programme, Welfare Reform Act, Children and Families Act and new inspection frameworks and proposed educational reforms.
3. Following this review it was agreed that the name of the Children and Families Trust would be changed to the Children and Families Partnership (CFP) to reflect its role as the thematic partnership of the County Durham Partnership with responsibility for Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
4. To support the revised focus of the CFP, a new Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2014-17 has been developed to support the work of the Partnership.
5. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2012/13 have influenced the development of the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-17.
6. In addition, a number of policy drivers have influenced the development of the Plan. Key messages from the JSNA relating to children and young people and further information on the key policy drivers are provided in Appendix 3.
7. The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-17 has informed the development of the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-30 and is aligned to the "Altogether Better for Children and Young People" section of the Strategy.
8. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the process for developing the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Consultation

9. A robust consultation process has been undertaken in relation to the development of the Children, Young People and Families Plan, with comments from a wide range of stakeholders including children, young people and their families, colleagues from the local authority, Public Health, Head Teachers networks, NHS and the voluntary and community sector.
10. A presentation on the CYPFP was also provided to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that an update on the CYPFP is brought back to the committee in 6 months to monitor progress.
11. The involvement and contribution of children, young people and families has been central throughout the development and shaping of the CYPFP 2014-17. A number of consultation events have taken place which began with four Investing in Children 'Agenda Days' attended by 62 young people, aged 10-16 years.
12. These young people identified a number of issues which were important to them which included:
 - support in schools to achieve GCSEs
 - concerns about alcohol and drugs
 - access to sports centres
 - more things to do in the community
 - concerns about mental health and self-harm
13. Specific consultation has also taken place with Investing in Children groups (including disabled children through the eXtreme group) and with the parents of children with disabilities through the Making Changes Together group.
14. A Children and Young People's Survey was undertaken in January 2014 to gather the views of a sample of primary school children aged 10-11 and secondary school children aged 13-14. Feedback from this survey has been used to inform the CYPFP.
15. Young people also attend each CFP meeting to raise issues that affect them and in December 2013 the Partnership was awarded Investing in Children status to recognise its contribution to improving outcomes for children and young people.

Review of the Children Young People and Families Plan 2014-17

16. The CYPFP outlines the vision of the Partnership, and includes a number of strategic objectives and outcomes to deliver the objectives. These have been aligned with the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

Vision

17. The vision for the CYPFP is '**All children, young people and families believe, achieve and succeed**' to reflect the focus of a "Think Family" approach,

which is a way of thinking and working that encourages staff to consider the whole family when carrying out work with individual children or adults.

Strategic Objectives and Outcomes Framework

18. The Strategic Objectives and Outcomes Framework for the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-17 is provided below:

- **Strategic Objective 1: Children and young people realise and maximise their potential**
 - ❖ Children are supported to achieve and develop during their Early Years
 - ❖ Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during school years to prepare them for adulthood
 - ❖ Young People are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential
 - ❖ Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain

- **Strategic Objective 2: Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life**
 - ❖ Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced
 - ❖ Children and young people are more resilient
 - ❖ A range of positive activities are available for children and young people

- **Strategic Objective 3: A think family approach is embedded in our support to families**
 - ❖ Children are safeguarded and protected from harm
 - ❖ Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families
 - ❖ Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability

Delivery Plan

19. A delivery plan has been developed with actions that will support the delivery of the objectives and outcomes in the Children, Young People and Families Plan. Where appropriate, these actions have been mapped to the Better Care Fund, Clinical Commissioning Group commissioning intentions and the Council Plan.

Recommendations

20. Cabinet is requested to:

- Note the key messages relating to children and young people in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Appendix 3) and receive and endorse the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014/17 (Appendix 2).

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - There are no financial implications.

Staffing - There are no staffing implications.

Risk – There are no risk implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - The CYPFP has engaged with and consulted with children, young people and families across all backgrounds, ages and equality strands. The CYPFP has ensured that the voice of all children and young people is heard, shared and reflected within the plan. An Equality Impact Assessments has been completed and will be available on the DCC website in June 2014.

Accommodation - There are no accommodation implications.

Crime and Disorder – The CYPFP is aligned with and contributes to the current priorities within the Youth Justice Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Human Rights – Human rights have been considered in the production of this plan. Children and young people have been central to the development of this strategic plan and the plan has ensured that their voices are heard.

Consultation – Extensive consultation has been carried out in the development and approval of this plan. Partners, parents, families, children and young people have all been provided an opportunity to shape the direction and the content of this plan at each stage.

Procurement - There are no procurement implications.

Disability Issues – The views and needs of families and children with disabilities have been considered and reflected in the plan and the needs of children with disabilities remains paramount to the work of the Children and Families Partnership.

Legal Implications – There are no legal implications.

Appendix 2

Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-17 attached as a separate document

Appendix 3 – Key Policy Developments and Evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Key Policy developments

- ❖ The government has committed to **extending early years provision for 2 year olds** to around 20% of the least advantaged children from September 2013. In addition, early years providers will be subject to a tougher early years inspection framework which makes it clear that only provision which is good or outstanding is good enough for young children.
- ❖ Educational policy reform will lead to a **new curriculum** being taught in all maintained primary and secondary schools from September 2014, with **changes to GCSE's** in specific subjects for first teaching from September 2015 with changes to other subjects to follow.
- ❖ As part of **raising the age of participation**, from 2013 young people will be required to stay in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, which will increase to their 18th birthday in 2015.
- ❖ The government's "**troubled families**" programme which is known as Stronger Families in County Durham, will be extended to help a further 400,000 households who have financial and social problems.
- ❖ The **Children and Families Act 2014** outlines a number of key policy developments to ensure that fostering and adoption services for children and young people are progressed as quickly as possible. Helping children maintain a permanent, stable environment is high on the government's agenda.

In addition, Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms have meant a radical shift to the way children and young people who previously had a Statement of Educational Needs are dealt with in future with the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans and the requirement of the Council to develop a local offer for services to children and young people with SEND.

- ❖ In June 2013, the Government announced that it would be allocating £3.8 billion to a pooled budget, initially called the Integration Transformation Fund, now called the **Better Care Fund** (BCF). The budget will be deployed locally on health and social care initiatives through pooled budget arrangements from 2015/16. The BCF will support the aim of providing people with the right care, in the right place, at the right time, including a significant emphasis upon care in community settings, with the express aim of reducing admissions and readmissions to secondary care and alleviating pressures on the acute sector. The Better Care Fund includes initiatives which will impact on children and young people.

Evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2013

Analysis of the JSNA 2013 has identified the following key messages in relation to children and young people:

- The proportion of pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage in the 2012/13 Academic Year achieving a good level of development was 42% in County Durham, which is lower than nationally (52%).
- Performance for the 2012/13 Academic Year identifies that in County Durham 63.1% of pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths, which is an increase from 62.5% in the previous year. This is exceeding the national performance of 59.2% and is the 11th year in a row where pass rates in the county have increased.
- At 'A' Level 49.8% of pupils achieved 2 or more A-B's, which was better than the national figure of 45.3%, whilst 98.9% of pupils achieved 2 or more A-E's, which was higher than the national average of 97.9% (data relates to pupils at local authority maintained sixth forms and doesn't include further education colleges) (NCER 'National' dataset).
- In 2013/14, 7.1% of 16 to 18 year olds were not in employment, education or training (NEET). This was better in County Durham than the North East as a whole (7.6%) but was worse than the national average of 5.3%.
- 19.9% of mothers were smoking at the time of delivery compared to 19.7% regionally and 12.7% nationally.
- The number of women who start to breastfeed (58.5%) continues to rise but remains lower than the England average (73.9%).
- The proportion of women who still breastfeed at 6 to 8 weeks has risen from 25.4% in 2008/09 to 28.1% in 2012/13. This remains lower than the England average (47.2%).
- Obesity prevalence in age 10-11 year olds (21.6%) is higher than the England average (19%).
- The under 18 conception rate for January to December 2012 is lower (33.7) than the North East region (35.5) but greater than the England average (27.9 per 1,000).
- Alcohol-related hospital admission rates for children and young people under 18 (81.5 per 100,000) are higher than the regional and national rate (72.2 and 44.9 per 100,000 population) for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13. Durham is ranked 19th worst out of 326 Local Authority Areas.
- Admission rates to hospital due to self-harm for 0-17 year olds in 2011/12 (228 per 100,000) was significantly higher than England (116 per 100,000).

- The rate of children and young people (0-17) in receipt of Disability Living Allowance is higher in County Durham (44.6) than regionally (36.7) and nationally (31.4 per 1000 population).
- County Durham continues to have a lower proportion of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs) per 100,000 population (553) than the North East (721) and its statistical neighbours (607). This is a 23% reduction since 2009/10.
- 61% of young people who offend that received a health assessment (122 of 200) identified mental health issues as a risk for re-offending, with 13.1% (16 of 122) of these identifying it as a serious risk for re-offending.
- Around 10% of children and young people suffer from a classifiable mental disorder requiring intervention.
- Domestic abuse features in over half of all Initial Child Protection conferences and continues to be the most common factor across all localities.
- During the year 2012/13 as in previous years, the majority of children who became subject to a child protection plan were aged under four and unborn – making up 52% of all plans.
- The proportion of children living in poverty in County Durham as at November 2013 is 23.5%. Whilst it is lower than the North East at 24.4%, it continues to be greater than the England average at 18.5%.