

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



2 April 2015

Refresh of the Work Programme for the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with information contained within the Council Plan 2015 – 2018, relevant to the work of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allows the opportunity for members to refresh the Committee Work Programme to reflect the 3 objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan for Altogether Better for Children and Young People.

Background

2. The current Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programmes for 2015 -2016 focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
3. In relation to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the Work Programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on the 27th June 2014, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2014 to reflect changing Government policy and at the request of Members.

Council Plan 2015 – 2018

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which covers a four year period and is updated on an annual basis. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategies (2014-2030) and the Council's own improvement agenda. Attached at Appendix 2 is the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan for members' consideration.

5. Within the Council's Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme, the focus is on the Council's work in tackling a range of issues impacting on the lives of all children, young people and families in County Durham.
6. Children and Young People's Services recognise that the issues which impact upon the lives of children, young people and families are complex and demand a partnership approach. The Council has identified 3 objectives with 9 specific priority outcomes across these objectives which are set out in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan. Following the refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYP &FP), which is the strategic multi-agency plan, the focus is now on the 'causes' of poor outcomes rather than the 'effects'. Below are the relevant objectives and actions for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme:
 - **Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential**
 - C1 – Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years.
 - C2 – Children and Young People are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood.
 - C3 – Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential.
 - C4 – Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain.
 - **Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life**
 - C5 – Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced
 - C6 – Children and Young People are more resilient
 - C7 – A range of positive activities are available for Children and Young People
 - **A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families**
 - C8 – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm.
 - C9 – Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
 - C10 – Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.

7. The Service recognises that circumstances which impact on the lives of children, young people and families are complex and demand a partnership approach. The service will also continue to listen and work with children, young people and families to formulate plans.

Current Work Programme

8. During 2014/15, the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

In Depth Scrutiny Reviews

- Review of Self Harm by Young People –
(Objective: Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5, children and young people are more resilient C6)

Systematic Review

- Support for Children and young People with Mental Health Issues –
(Objective: Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5, children and young people are more resilient C6)
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse among Young People –
(Objective: Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families. Children are safeguarded and protected from harm C8, Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families C9.

Overview Activity

- **Ofsted Single Inspection Framework** – A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability - C10.
- **Local Authority Inspection – School Improvement** - Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years - C1. Children and Young People are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood - C2. Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education,

employment and training to achieve their potential – C3. Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain – C4.

- **Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability - C10.
- **Early Years Strategy** -- Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years - C1.
- **Children’s Centres Consultation** - Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years - C1. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9.
- **Healthy Weight Strategic Framework** - Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5. Children and young people are more resilient C6. A range of positive activities are available for children and young people C7.
- **Impact of Smoking on Children and Young People** - Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5. Children and young people are more resilient C6.
- **Update on School Funding** -- Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years - C1. Children and Young People are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood - C2. Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential – C3. Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain – C4.
- **Wellbeing for Life** -- Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5. Children and young people are more resilient C6. A range of positive activities are available for children and young people C7.
- **Refresh of Children, Young People and Families’ Plan 2015-2018** – All of the objectives and outcomes of Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
- **Refresh of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment & Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2018** -- All of the objectives and outcomes of Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
- **Safeguarding Framework** -- A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability - C10.

- **LSCB Serious Case Review Process** -- A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability - C10.
- **Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms** -- Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years -Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain – C4.
- **Update on Stronger Families** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability - C10.
- **Innovations Programme** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm – C8. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families – C9. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability - C10.
- **Director of Public Health’s Annual Report** - Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5. Children and young people are more resilient C6. A range of positive activities are available for children and young people C7.

Budgetary and performance monitoring

- Quarterly budgetary and performance monitoring for Children and Young People’s Service Group.

*****Areas for consideration in the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

9. Having considered the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan for 2015 – 2018 (pages 21-26 attached at appendix 2) it is suggested that the following action areas could be considered in the update of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme (where they already link to the current work programme is highlighted):
 - Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential -- Work of Improving School Team
 - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life
 - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families Looked after children reduction strategy – this links into the current work programme which has received an overview on the new Innovations Programme.

**Council Plan
Cross Cutting Themes**

10. Below are areas which have a cross cutting issues from other 'Altogether' themes that link into Altogether Better Children and Young People

Altogether	Objective	Outcome	Link to Altogether Better for Children and Young People
Healthier	*Children and Young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life. *this is a shared objective with Altogether Better for Children and Young People.	Reduce childhood obesity H1	A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families C7
		Improved early health intervention services for children and young people H2	Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families C9
	Reduce health inequalities and early deaths	Reduced levels of alcohol and drug related ill health. H4	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5
		Reduced levels of tobacco related ill health H7	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5
	Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population	Reduced self-harm and suicides H14	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced C5 A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families C7
		Increased physical activity and participation in sport and leisure H15	A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families C7
Wealthier	Competitive and Successful people	Increased numbers of people in employment with focus on young people W9	Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their

			potential C3
Greener	Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment	Natural assets are valued and conserved. G4	A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families C7
Altogether Better Council	Working with Communities	Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with ABC 4	Links to all Altogether Better for Children and young People objectives and outcomes.

Next Steps

12. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee work programme for 2015 - 2016, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
13. Members will receive a further report at the next Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25th June, 2015, confirming/agreeing the Committee's work programme for 2015-2016 based on today's discussion and agreement.

Recommendations

14. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme of the Council Plan 2015-2018. Appendix 2 (copy attached)
15. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2015-2016 by discussing and considering those actions identified in Appendix 2.
16. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 25 June 2015, receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2015 - 2016.

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Appendix 1: Implications (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 18th March 2015)

Finance - The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next 3 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing - The Council's strategies are being aligned to achievement of the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Risk - Consideration of risk is a key element in the corporate and service planning framework with both the Council Plan and Service Plans containing sections on risk.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - Individual equality impact assessments have been prepared for each savings proposal within the Council Plan. The cumulative impact of all savings proposals in total has also been presented to Council and will be updated as savings proposals are further developed. In addition a full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions in the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

Accommodation - The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan is aligned to the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Crime and Disorder - The Altogether Safer section of the Council Plan sets out the Council's contributions to tackling crime and disorder

Human Rights – None

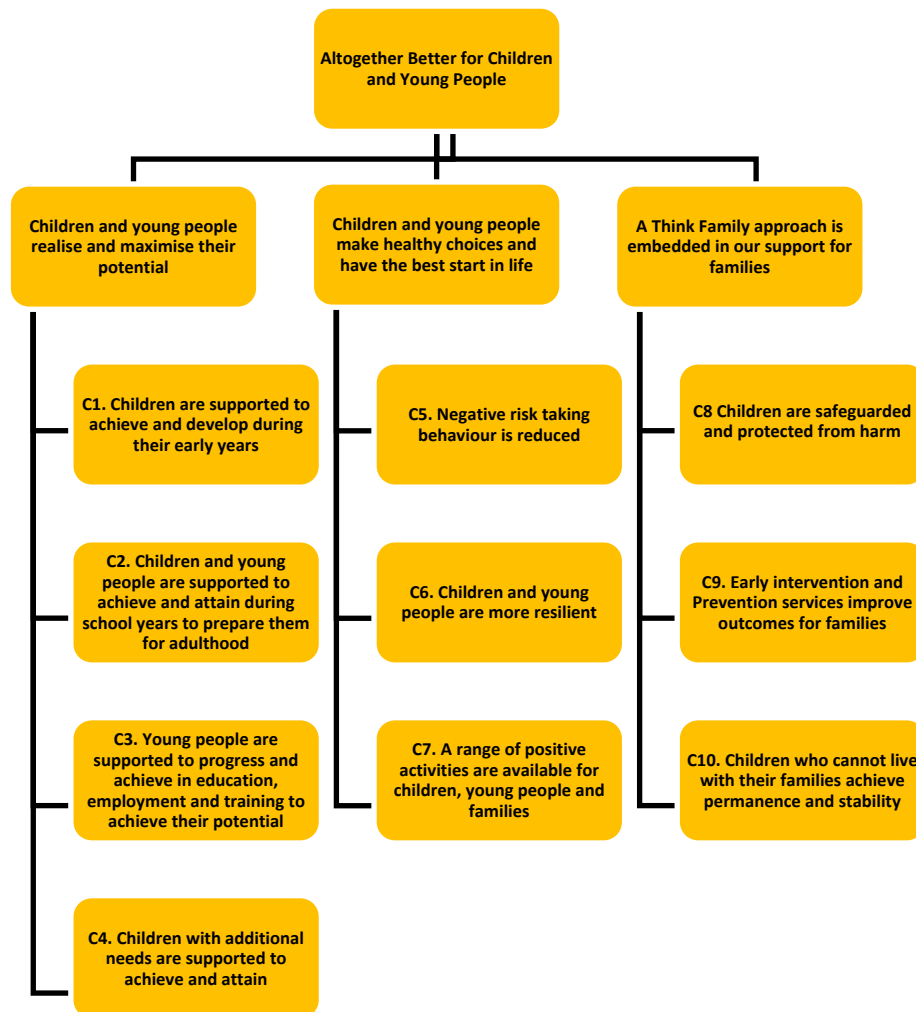
Consultation - Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the interim Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the budget. Results have been taken into account in developing our resourcing decisions.

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

Altogether Better for Children and Young People



Our Vision

We support the overarching, multi-agency strategy for the delivery of priorities for children and young people in County Durham.

Working with the Children and Families Partnership, we aim to ensure that effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve the lives of children, young people and families in the county. We will continue to support children and young people from their early years through their school years and on to employment, training or apprenticeships.

The vision is for all children, young people and families in County Durham to be safe and healthy and to be given the opportunity to believe, achieve and succeed. To help achieve our vision, Altogether Better for Children and Young People has the following high level objectives:

1. Children and young people realise and maximise their potential

We want to ensure that children and young people in County Durham are supported and encouraged to 'believe, achieve and succeed', whatever their aspirations.

It is widely recognised that the early years of a child's life have a powerful influence on the rest of his/her life. We will **implement the Early Years Strategy** to ensure that resources are targeted at families where support is needed. We will create sufficient nursery places for disadvantaged two year olds to ensure readiness for school. Through **restructuring the Children's Centres** which provide a service for children up to five years old in County Durham we will also ensure that a more targeted and effective approach to family support is established, which will provide improved outcomes for children and make services more accessible.

We want to ensure that children and young people are able to thrive in the environment in which they live and learn in order to achieve their very best. **Increasing the participation of young people in education, employment and training** is a key priority for us and will be addressed through the county's 'Believe, Achieve and Succeed' Improving Progression Plan. This demonstrates our commitment to provide opportunities for all groups in society, including care leavers, young people who offend, teenage parents, and Gypsy Roma Traveller communities. We will do this by implementing the reviewed personal advisor service to ensure that there is a clear focus on the effective progression of young people who are not in education, employment or training, and we will work with the Improving Progression Partnership to ensure that clear progression pathways are in place for young people to progress post 16 to Level 3 and encourage additional support to be made available for young people previously eligible for free school meals.

Educational achievement and attainment remains a key priority for us. We will respond to the government's changes in the curriculum, through the provision of **appropriate challenge, intervention and support to assist schools to improve educational attainment** in both primary and secondary schools, to continue to narrow the attainment gap for vulnerable children and young people with those of their peers. We will monitor, challenge and intervene in schools where success rates are not improving fast enough and ensure that effective plans are in place to support those pupils who are not making the expected levels of progress. We will provide additional support to those young people who have behavioural or emotional issues with the aim of improving their school attendance and educational attainment and reducing the need for excluding them from school. This will be done through professionals from the school, One Point and other agencies working together in an innovative way called the **Team Around the School model** which will provide early help and engage young people in fun but challenging and appropriate activities which enable them to explore and manage those feelings and behaviours which are preventing them from engaging positively in school life.

We will aim to meet the needs of children with special educational needs through the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy. This will also result in the **improvement of educational outcomes for children with special educational needs** by implementing Education, Health and Care assessments and providing support. We will continue to develop the local offer which provides information on what services children and young people with special educational needs or a disability and their families can expect from the range of local agencies including education, health and social care. We will provide a youth offer which will be specifically targeted at young people. We will also provide a "you said, we did" page for responding to feedback. An external evaluation of how the council has implemented the Government's reforms of the provision of services for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities will be commissioned

and carried out in 2015. We will develop an accredited course for casework staff and also continue to work on further integration of the service towards providing the full range of provision from 0-25 years and ensure that the transition to adult care is seamless.

We will lead the implementation of the **Youth Employment Initiative programme** for County Durham to tackle youth unemployment in the county. This will provide activities to develop young people's employability skills and tailored pre-employment support, underpinned by work with employers to increase the number of employment opportunities for young people. We will also improve employment of looked after children by creating apprenticeship/training schemes for care leavers.

2. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

Children and young people need the best possible start if they are to be successful and thrive later in life. We want to provide support and promote healthy living from an early age, providing opportunities and choice for young people to participate in a range of sport, leisure and physical activities, helping to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

We will implement statutory changes in relation to the commissioning of **Health Visitors and the Family Nurse Partnership**, as this responsibility is transferred to local authorities from NHS England in October 2015.

We will support children, young people and their families to take part in **positive activities which reduce negative and sexual health risk-taking behaviours**, for example, smoking, drinking alcohol and teenage conceptions. This will aim to encourage children and young people to be more resilient through being able to look after themselves and others by making positive decisions about their behaviour and lifestyle. We will focus particularly on ensuring that vulnerable young people have access to this support. We will provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles for children and young people and contribute towards tackling 'lifestyle conditions'.

Through our **Youth Support Strategy** we will focus on **delivering targeted support to young people vulnerable to poor outcomes**. Working with the voluntary and community sector, we will provide a range of positive activities which will be targeted at those children and young people who are most in need.

Emotional health and wellbeing is crucial in the development of healthy, resilient children and young people. Some children and young people, however, may have mental health needs. In order to address this we will develop and implement the **Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Plan** in partnership with key stakeholders, including NHS services. This will include **working together with partners to reduce incidents of self-harm by young people**. We will provide a range of support to schools to tackle bullying and harassment.

We will also provide support to encourage breastfeeding and work with partners to reduce the number of women who smoke during pregnancy.

3. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families

'Think Family' is a multi-agency approach which seeks to provide coordinated support to those families which have problems and cause problems to the community around them. It requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it. To 'Think Family' is to understand

that children's problems do not sit in isolation from their parents and that parents' problems impact on their children.

The complex issues faced by families who are in need of help often cannot be addressed by a single agency but demand a co-ordinated response, especially for families who have children with additional needs. Through the use of a range of methods to support families, we will work with the most vulnerable families across County Durham to promote positive outcomes. The **implementation of the Early Help Strategy** will allow the delivery of effective early intervention and prevention services to families in County Durham, whilst continuing to provide additional support to protect children and young people who need it. The council propose to deliver a new approach to social work, learning from past initiatives. The intention of this new approach is to meet the needs of children sooner by addressing the root causes of the problems and so reduce the number of families who are re-referred for support. This will be underpinned by a significant programme of workforce development to give our staff new skills and attitudes through training, mentoring and challenge. We will create 10 early help and social work teams across the county to deliver this which will significantly increase the range, access, quality and effectiveness of services for the whole family across all their needs. We also plan to develop alliances with the third sector in all areas of the county to build capacity and sustainable change for families. We will also significantly enhance service user engagement to help improve the relationship between professionals and service users. This improvement work is dependent on a bid to the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme being successful.

We will support our workforce to assertively identify, help and support children, young people and families to stop their needs developing and to enable them to meet positive outcomes. **A single support plan for the whole family** will be provided which will clearly indicate the objectives of the family and the associated responsibilities of the family and practitioners.

The Think Family approach is also embedded in our 'Stronger Families' programme (known nationally as Troubled Families) whereby we ensure that children and young people are kept safe from harm and that vulnerable families receive the support they need. Through implementation of Phase II of this programme, we will be able to offer support to a broader range of families if they meet at least two of the following criteria:-

- Parents and children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Children who need help – either identified as in need or subject to a Child Protection Plan
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion, or young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

We will link in to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, which aims to achieve faster and more consistent responses to concerns about vulnerable children. We will also **evaluate the multi-agency challenge process in collaboration with the Local Safeguarding Children Board** to provide an opportunity for challenges regarding the child protection process to be raised in a timely way, which leads to improved outcomes for children and young people.

We will implement the **Looked After Children Reduction Strategy** to provide effective alternatives to care and create permanent places for children and young people, as well as reduce the number of looked after children reported as missing from care.

We will provide support to young people in their caring role, by reviewing the carer's card to **give young carers access to a wider range of services**. The card offers discounts and concessions at retail and leisure venues throughout County Durham.

We will improve engagement with children and young people and their families by **establishing children, young people and parent forums and electronic surveys**, so that standards within children's social care are met and children and young people are appropriately safeguarded

Summary

Going Well:	Look Out For:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 932 families in County Durham have been 'turned around' through the Stronger Families programme to October 2014; County Durham is in the top 20% nationally for 'turning around' Troubled Families.• There has been a 25% reduction in children and young people not in education, employment or training in 2014/15• In 2013/14, 65% of Durham's pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or the equivalent), compared to 63.8% of pupils nationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The development of a comprehensive Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Plan, which will aim to support children and young people who experience mental health problems.• From 1 October 2015, we will take on commissioning responsibility for public health services for children aged 0-5, enabling a whole system approach to health improvement services and service delivery.

Cause for Concern:

- Less of our looked after children achieved 5 A*-C GCSEs than anticipated.

Did you know?

- Since the First Contact Service was established in April 2014, there has been a 33% reduction in those entering statutory services.
- There has been an 81% fall in first time entrants to the youth justice system since 2007/08 in County Durham.