

# Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

25<sup>th</sup> March 2015



County Durham Children  
and Families Partnership

### **Business Education Board**

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation from the Head of Strategic Programmes and Performance; Regeneration and Economic Development, and the chair of the Business Education Board. It provided an update on the joint working activity with the County Durham Economic Partnership and the Business Education Board with schools and businesses to raise young people's aspirations and the opportunities available to young people and businesses.

The Children and Families Partnership showed support for their 'Get the Buzz' week, which will take place in July 2015 and will focus on career aspirations with a series of events and coordinated promotion, branding and sponsorship.

### **Area Action Partnership (AAP) overview report**

The Children and Families Partnership received a six-month update on the work of AAP's. The AAP Coordinator, who is aligned to the Children and Families Partnership, provided an update on how the AAPs are progressing priorities related to children, young people and families.

The AAPs have allocated over £1 million, with matched investment of £1.15 million, to projects which support children, young people and families in 14/15.

AAP supported projects, which address the objectives in the Children Young People and Families Plan and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy were discussed at the meeting, and included:

- Early Year's Family Learning projects, which will offer a range of interventions to support early years children, parents and professionals in five of the Three Town's AAP area schools. The projects will address the issues some children face when starting nursery and school, including a lack of gross motor skills, delayed speech and language and poor social/emotional development.
- Proposals to deliver a 'Start to Play' programme to children in all nursery and reception classes in the Three Towns area. It will primarily work on the child's physical development, but has been developed to aid the development of Physical and Social Education (PSE), Communication, Language and Literacy, Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy, Creative development and knowledge and understanding of the world. The programme has been designed and written by the Youth Sport Trust to complement and support the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). A coach will deliver the sessions for 12 weeks and mentor the teachers to enable them to continue with the sessions when the coach leaves.
- The Sunderland Foundation of Light is delivering 12 week Personal Development courses to young people of secondary school age at Consett Academy. The

programme focuses on a variety of issues young people face, including sexual health, mental health, substance misuse and confidence building

A variety of methods were used by AAPs to engage with children and young people, gathering their views on the priorities and future work of their AAP, and in the latter part of 2014 all 14 AAPs identified children and young people as a priority for the 2015/16 period.

AAPs are changing the way they monitor performance with 'what's the difference' forms being completed for all AAP funded projects which will demonstrate to the Children and Families Partnership some big headline messages on outcomes of projects.

The next six-month update will be presented to the Children and Families Partnership in September 2015.

### **Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

The Children and Families Partnership received an update outlining details and implications of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act places a general duty on each specified authority who must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Specified authorities are; Local Authorities; Police; Prisons; Probation; Education (Further Education & Higher Education); NHS Trusts/Foundation Trusts; Clinical Commissioning Groups and schools which will commence in law on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

It will be important to deliver a level of awareness-raising, across schools and colleges, that is proportionate to the risks faced across County Durham. Head Teachers have been briefed on the Act through the head teacher briefing sessions, and it is proposed that the model for awareness raising, will be drawn up by Children and Adults Services and shared with The Children and Families Partnership school representatives.

An e-learning package has been developed which will be made available on the Safeguarding Adults Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Durham County Council websites.

Durham County Council will develop a plan for the implementation of the proposals, in order to meet the requirements of the Act and its associated statutory guidance.

Work will take place to ensure Voluntary and Community Sector activities are also aware of the new Act and the resources available.

### **Refresh of Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-18**

The final version of the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-18 was agreed by the Children and Families Partnership.

The plan has been informed by changes in government policy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014 and the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health County Durham.

The views of children, young people and their families have played a key role in developing the refresh of the plan, with children and young people saying the following areas are important to them:

- Delivery of sex education in schools
- Risk taking behaviour including smoking, drinking, drugs and unprotected sex

- Places to go and things to do; access, availability, transport and costs
- Self-harm
- Emotional health and wellbeing/stress

New actions have been incorporated to address some important issues that have been identified, including bullying (and ensuring young people stay safe on line), reducing teenage pregnancies and identifying and supporting young carers.

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-18 Delivery Plan will be developed to take forward the objectives and outcomes in the Children, Young People and Families plan, and will be presented to the partnership in June 2015.

### **Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) annual report**

The Independent Chair of the LSCB presented the annual report to the Children and Families Partnership for information. Members were asked to note the content of the annual report to ensure they remain sighted on the LSCB's effectiveness and interfaces, and to note the range of work that is taking place to safeguard children in County Durham, as well as the continued challenges, developments and achievements in this area of work.

### **Review of Children's Centres in County Durham**

The Head of Children's Services update the Children and Families Partnership on the outcome of the review of Children's Centres. On 18 March 2015, Durham County Council's Cabinet agreed to recommendations on the future of Children's Centre services in County Durham, which was informed by a review of the Children's Centres and a 12 week public consultation.

The changes are designed to make sure outcomes for children during their early years are improved and to ensure families most in need of support receive it. A community delivery model will be used which means services will be delivered closer to where children and families live, from community buildings that families already go to, rather than families having to travel to designated buildings.

### **Children's Social Care Innovation Fund**

The Head of Children's Services informed the Children and Families Partnership that Durham was successful in two bids to the Children's Social Care Innovation Fund.

The first is for £496,000 for a therapeutic support programme at Aycliffe secure centre for children that have been sexually exploited, offering targeted support in helping them deal with trauma and in making the transition from the secure setting into more independent living.

The second is for £3.26 million to deliver on a large scale a new approach to social work and to work with families, building on the learning from past initiatives in Durham and elsewhere. The intention is to identify and meet the needs of children sooner, address the root causes of the problems and so reduce the numbers of families who are re-referred for support.

### **Early Help Strategy**

The Children and Families Partnership endorsed the Early Help Strategy in June 2014. The Head of Children's Services presented an update report highlighting the work that has taken place since then to embed the strategy and the future work needed to fully implement it. Significant progress has been made with early help being recognised as crucial to achieving positive outcomes, and being written into many policies, plans and strategies

Early help is an approach which takes into account the individual needs of the whole family, and shares the vision of the Children and Families Partnership that 'all children, young people and families believe, achieve and succeed'. The following three ambitions underpin the vision:

- We will work collaboratively – Early help will be everyone's business
- Children, young people and families will get the right help at the right time
- We will provide help that we know works

By achieving the ambitions, the following outcomes can be expected:

1. Fewer looked after children
2. Fewer children subject to a child protection plan
3. Fewer re-referrals in to statutory services and services at level 4 and 5 on the continuum of need
4. More children, young people and their families achieving positive outcomes
5. A greater number of families identified early and receiving help through universal, preventative and early help services
6. A greater number of children being ready for school.

### **Oral Health**

The Consultant in Public Health presented a report updating the Children and Families Partnership on national recommendations regarding improving the oral health of the local population; County Durham's current oral health status; what is currently being delivered to improve oral health and consideration of future developments.

Tooth decay is on a sliding scale linked to deprivation, and the percentage difference of children having decay between wards in County Durham was highlighted: 61% in Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland compared to 6% in Chester-le-Street South.

The responsibility for dental services and oral health are dispersed across various organisations, with local organisations having responsibility for different parts of the system. The actions required will be progressed through the development of the County Durham multi-agency oral health strategy which will look at the inequalities and how to address the imbalance.

Evidence shows that fluoridated water areas have better oral health, and the Director of Public Health County Durham will further explore this with neighbouring local authorities.

### **Young People's Issues**

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation from Investing in Children detailing the successful partnership work they have been doing on The Voice Project, which involves work with East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership.

The young people have established a youth forum, with over 40 members from across the AAP area, and have been constituted so they are able to bid for their own funding.

The AAP has top sliced funding from its budget for Investing in Children youth forum, to enable engagement with young people at any time.

The young people have been heavily involved in the grant scheme, and were given the £40,000 to prioritise funding and allocate the money to bids which met the criteria set by them. This involved grant applications containing a supporting statement from young people.

The Children and Families Partnership agreed it was important to share this good practice.