

Cabinet

15 July 2015



Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-2018

Report of Corporate Management Team

**Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children and Adults
Services**

**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 refreshed Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2015-18 (attached at Appendix 2).

Background

2. The refresh of the CYPFP has been informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and a number of policy drivers.
3. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the process for developing the CYPFP.
4. Consultation took place between July 2014 and April 2015 on the refresh of the CYPFP. This has involved children and young people (including young carers), families, voluntary and community sector organisations, NHS partners, local authority colleagues, Education partners, Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Durham Constabulary, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Area Action Partnerships.
5. Investing in Children hosted a number of agenda days to gather young people's views on various topic areas, and The Bridge Young Carers Project undertook consultation with young carers in some of their group sessions to inform the CYPFP.
6. In October 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board hosted an engagement event which included a workshop to look at health issues relating to children and young people. Families from Making Changes Together, a group of parents of disabled children, attended the event and feedback has been used in the refresh of the CYPFP.

7. The issues which young people consider important to them include:
 - 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
8. Children and young people attend each meeting of the Children and Families Partnership to raise issues that affect them. Feedback on the actions taken forward by the Children and Families Partnership is fed back to the children and young people to ensure accountability and transparency. Any health related issues that are raised are fed into the Health and Wellbeing Board for information or action through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
9. Various policy drivers influence the work of the Children and Families Partnership. Policy drivers that have influenced this plan include Early Education and Childcare reforms that have provided free early education and childcare to the 40% least advantaged 2 year olds, the Troubled Families programme, known locally as Stronger Families that supports households who have financial and social problems and child poverty.
10. Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. The proportion of children living in poverty in County Durham continues to be greater than the England average. A poverty steering group is in place, led by the Assistant Chief Executive of DCC, to look at the wider impact of child poverty.
11. The CYPFP will support the child poverty agenda by ensuring that children and young people realise and maximise their potential by implementing the Early Years Strategy and the Team Around the School model so that early help is provided to young people and their families in need of additional support. The CYPFP also aims to give young people the best start in life to ensure that young people are more resilient through the development of a Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan. A Think Family approach will also be adopted to support families, for example through parenting programmes delivered through the One Point Service.

Refresh of the Children Young People and Families Plan 2015-18

12. The vision for the CYPFP has been re-affirmed as: '**All children, young people and families believe, achieve and succeed**'.

Strategic Objectives and Outcomes Framework

13. The Strategic Objectives and Outcomes Framework for the CYPFP is provided below. This also aligns to the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- **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, young people and families

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

Strategic Actions

14. The CYPFP includes a number of Strategic Actions that identify the key areas of work which the Children and Families Partnership will focus on, linked to objectives and outcomes.
15. There are a total of 29 Strategic Actions in the CYPFP. New actions that have been added for 2015-18 are shown in Appendix 3.
16. A hard copy of the CYPFP has been made available in the Members' library. The CYPFP will also be available on the Children and Families Partnership's website, which is part of the County Durham Partnership website.

Delivery Plan

17. More detailed actions outlining the work taking place to achieve the Strategic Actions are included in the CYPFP Delivery Plan which was presented to the Children and Families Partnership on 15th June 2015.
18. The CYPFP is monitored robustly and progress on the performance indicators is reported to the Children and Families Partnership on a quarterly basis with progress against actions from the plan reported on a six monthly basis. This allows partners the opportunity to challenge each other and ensure that services are delivered in a timely and effectively way to achieve good outcomes for children, young people and families. As well as providing performance highlights, the Children and Families Partnership also receives information on areas for improvement.

19. In addition to performance monitoring through the Children and Families Partnership a subset of performance indicators from the CYPFP is reported to the County Durham Partnership and Cabinet under the “Altogether Better for Children and Young People” theme. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are also provided a subset basket of indicators to provide them with oversight of the performance for children and young people.

Recommendations

20. Cabinet is requested to:
 - Receive and endorse the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015-18 (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 CFP has engaged and consulted with children, young people and families, to ensure that their voices are heard, shared and reflected within the CYPFP.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed which considers the impact of the CYPFP on specific groups including gender, age, disability, race/ethnic origin, religion/beliefs and sexual orientation.

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 2015-18 attached as a separate document

Appendix 3 – Children, Young People and Families Plan 2015/18 - New Strategic Actions

School representatives on the Children and Families Partnership highlighted that the transition from primary to secondary school needed to be addressed in the CYPFP:

- **Ensure a seamless transition between primary and secondary phases which promotes optimal emotional resilience and academic progress**

An action in relation to improving education, employment and training opportunities for looked after children and care leavers has been added to ensure this vulnerable group receives adequate support on leaving school:

- **Work in partnership to improve education, employment and training opportunities for looked after children and care leavers**

Consultation with key stakeholders (including young people) identified bullying and harassment as a priority for the Children and Families Partnership:

- **Provide a range of support to schools to tackle bullying and harassment**

The following Strategic Action has been developed by DCC Neighbourhoods Service and will link to the Culture and Sport Strategy that is being developed:

- **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'.**

Think Family is a multi-agency approach that seeks to provide early intervention for families that have problems and cause problems to the community around them. Linked to this work is the Early Help Strategy that will ensure services transform their focus towards effective early intervention and prevention. The following action is also included in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- **Support families using a Think Family approach to address their needs at the earliest opportunity**

Child Sexual Exploitation is a joint issue between the Safe Durham Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Families Partnership. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has created the Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation (Erase) brand to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation. The information around Erase offers parents and carers advice on how to communicate with their children about who they speak to online and offline:

- **Work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation**

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act places a duty on a range of organisations (known as Specified Authorities) to have due regard for the need to prevent people

from being drawn into terrorism. The Local Authority will take a lead role and put in place arrangements to safeguard and support those who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Every school will be required to understand the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism and know how to respond:

- **Put in place arrangements in schools to safeguard and support those who are vulnerable to radicalisation**