

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 October 2015

Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

15 June 2015



County Durham Children
and Families Partnership

School Nursing review

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation on the review of the School Nursing service. A comprehensive review and consultation will end in July 2015. The presentation provided information on the consultation to date.

An update on the service, following implementation will be provided to the Children and Families Partnership in June 2016.

Beyond the Statistics: A study of NEETs in County Durham

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation, following research undertaken by Force 7 on a study of young people in the North East who are NEET. A specific County Durham report was also developed.

The presentation outlined the research questions, the methodology used which includes an evidence review, qualitative review and survey, and the headline findings which indicate that 40% of those who took part in the survey have suffered from stress, anxiety or depression and almost one in ten have taken drugs since becoming NEET.

The findings outline barriers preventing getting into work, education or training and the extra support young people indicated they would like.

The Children and Families Partnership agreed that this research could be used to inform discussions if County Durham are successful in future European funding bids. Further updates will be provided to the Partnership.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was presented to the Children and Families Partnership for comment.

The vision of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is *"To change the drinking culture in County Durham to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities while ensuring that adults who choose to drink alcohol are able to enjoy it responsibly"*.

The strategy is underpinned by six draft key objectives relating to the County Durham Partnership's Altogether Themes:

- *Altogether Safer.* Objective 1: To reduce the harm caused to communities by tackling alcohol related crime and disorder and vulnerability.
- *Altogether Healthier.* Objective 2: To improve health inequalities and reduce early deaths in County Durham by reducing alcohol consumption across the population.

- *Altogether Better for Children and Young People.* Objective 3: To build resilience and develop a culture where young people choose not to drink alcohol and reduce the negative impact alcohol has on the lives of children, young people and their families.
- *Altogether Wealthier.* Objective 4: To increase the number of competitive and successful people in the County Durham workforce by reducing the negative impact that alcohol has on work attendance and productivity, and Objective 5: To expand the night time economy offer through the promotion of responsible drinking practices and through the development and promotion of alcohol free alternatives.
- *Altogether Greener.* Objective 6: To reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on the physical environment in County Durham.

Comments from the Partnership are to be provided to members of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Partnership in relation to the wording of objective 3.

Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing update

The Children and Families Partnership received an update on the CAMHS 1 year interim strategy and the development of the Children and Young People’s Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan. The latter takes account of the recent Department of Health policy document ‘Future in Mind, 2015’ which promotes children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.

The CAMHS 1 year interim strategy’s Action Plan was presented to partners, which sets out the detail of the strategy and the work taking place across County Durham.

The Children and Families Partnership will receive the draft Children and Young People’s Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience in September 2015 as part of the formal consultation process.

Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2015/18 – Delivery Plan

The CYPFP 2015/18 was agreed by the Children and Families Partnership in March 2015.

The Delivery Plan will ensure that the CYPFP is implemented and performance managed to ensure the Children and Families Partnership is transparent in demonstrating the work taking place to achieve the strategic actions in the CYPFP and outlining what is still left to do.

Performance indicators in the Delivery Plan will be reported quarterly with updates against actions presented to the Children and Families Partnership on a six monthly basis.

Children and Families Partnership Governance Review

The Children and Families Partnership received an update on the annual review of the governance of the Children and Families Partnership and agreed the recommendations relating to the membership, terms of reference, governance structure and communications plan.

Educational Attainment/Standards 2014-15

Partners received a report summarising how Durham County Council’s Education service area provides support and intervention to ensure the best educational outcomes for children and young people across the County. The report highlighted that County Durham attainment levels are positive when compared to national averages.

The Children and Families Partnership agreed that moving forward work should be undertaken to promote County Durham as a high performing County in terms of school educational attainment and subsequent skills levels and promote this to residents, employers and businesses.

Young People's Issues

The Children and Families Partnership received two prestigious awards for their work with children and young people:

- **Young Carers Charter for County Durham**

The Children and Families Partnership have worked in collaboration with The Bridge, part of Family Action to sign up to the County Durham Young Carers Charter, and were successful in achieving charter status.

The Children and Families Partnership believes that young carers are young people first and carers second, that they have the same rights as all other children and young people and should have access to the same facilities, services and support that is available to other young people across County Durham.

- **Renewal of Investing in Children Membership Award**

The Children and Families Partnership have worked with Investing in Children on the successful renewal of the Investing in Children Membership Award.

The award recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice, and the Children and Families Partnership have been able to demonstrate a commitment to dialogue with young people that leads to change. This is an ongoing process, where young people are seen as partners with a valid contribution to make to the design and delivery of services.