

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 January 2016

Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

21 September 2015



**County Durham Children
and Families Partnership**

Self-Harm Amongst Young People

Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee presented the key messages and recommendations of a recent review of self-harm amongst young people, which was undertaken as a snapshot between September 2014 to December 2014 to address concerns about the number of young people in County Durham who self-harm, especially those who do not come into contact with any support services.

The objective of the review was to raise awareness and understanding of self-harm by young people, to the young people and adults involved in their lives, and to investigate how early intervention and support services can be increased.

A working group was established to lead the work. The review followed five key lines of inquiry, and gathered evidence from key parties, which included Public Health, Children and Adult Services, and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The review summarises the conclusions, and makes seven recommendations which include internet safety, information for parents/carers, and updating school policies.

The Children and Families Partnership identified that the relevant recommendations from the report have fed into the Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience, which also considers self-harm.

Business and Education Board

The Children and Families Partnership received an update on 'Get the Buzz' week, following the soft launch in July 2015. 'Get the Buzz' is the brand name adopted by the Business and Education Board to promote business and education linked activities in County Durham. The event focused on career aspirations with a series of promotional events, roadshows PR campaigns, sponsorship and work with schools. A total of 3363 pupils were engaged in the activities, and over 15 employers were involved. The Business and Education Board is sourcing future activity funding to continue this work.

It was agreed that the Business Education Board will become a regular feature on the Children and Families Partnership agenda, to provide updates on employability and skills and to ensure the work dovetails with young people's issues.

Children and Young People Survey (Student Voice) 2015

The Children and Families Partnership received the key findings from the Student Voice survey. Of the 32 Secondary Schools in County Durham, 25 participated in the survey with responses received from 8148 students.

The Partnership will develop an action plan to look at how this valuable information can be shared wider with relevant partners, to ensure the findings are fed into strategies and service reviews where appropriate, ensuring young people's voices are included.

Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 - Consultation

The National Care Leavers Strategy was launched in October 2013, with a one year on progress update launched in October 2014, setting clear expectations for Local Authorities' treatment of care leavers.

In order to meet these expectations a three year Care Leavers Strategy has been produced, along with an action plan which outlines how the priorities in the strategy will be delivered.

The strategy reflects a whole system integrated approach to support care leavers, providing a framework for the council, elected members, officers and partners to fulfil their duties and responsibilities as corporate parents.

The vision of the strategy is that '*All care leavers are in appropriate accommodation, feel supported and are able to maximise their potential*'.

The Partnership will consider the draft strategy and provide any feedback and comments within the timescales.

Suicide and Self-harm update

The Director of Public Health County Durham updated the Partnership on the services being provided and the actions being progressed by partners and Clinical Commissioning Groups against the outcome in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to reduce self-harm and suicide. These include:

- Talking Changes, which is a self-help and talking therapies service designed to help people deal with common mental health problems.
- Mindfulness programmes
- Urgent access to bereavement support services
- Adopting the principles within the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, ensuring timely and supportive crisis care.
- Ensuring there are effective care pathways for those with dual needs from police custody suites and courts.

The actions being progressed in County Durham to prevent suicide and self-harm have been agreed through the Mental Health Partnership Board, which is a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing board.

Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan 2015/18 Consultation

The Children and Families Partnership received the County Durham Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan as part of the formal consultation process.

The Department of Health and NHS England published the 'Future in Mind Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing' which makes a number of proposals the government wishes to see by 2020. These include: tackling stigma and improving attitudes to mental illness; introducing more access and waiting time standards for services; establishing 'one stop shop' support services in the community and improving access for children and young people who are particularly vulnerable. The County Durham Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience will incorporate the requirements of Future in Mind.

The final County Durham Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for agreement on 3rd November 2015, following the consultation period. The Plan will then be presented to the Children and Families Partnership in December 2015 for endorsement.

Transfer of 0-5 Commissioning responsibilities for Health Visitors and Family Nurse Partnership

The Director of Public Health County Durham provided an update on the transfer of 0-5 commissioning responsibilities for Health Visitors and Family Nurse Partnership. From October 2015 local authorities will be responsible for commissioning the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme, service specifications are in place ready for the transfer.

Notable changes for the Children and Families Partnership are:

- The transition from the Family Nurse Partnership programme to a vulnerable parent pathway, which will be available to pregnant teenagers should they require intensive intervention.
- The inclusion of primary mental health nurses embedded within the 5 -19 public health school nurse specification as part of integrated working
- That the public health grant is to be subject to in-year cuts

This report will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting in September 2015.

County Durham Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Partnership received an update on progress made since the introduction of the MASH in March 2015, which includes a specialist Child Sexual Exploitation team (ERASE) being located within MASH.

The MASH is co-located with the First Contact Service and the Police Central Referral Unit and is managed by the manager of First Contact. Any call to First Contact is assessed and if deemed necessary, is referred to MASH. The MASH is developing well with clear plans in place to continue its development.

Stronger Families

The Head of Children's Services provided an update as at the end of May 2015, highlighting that the Stronger Families Programme was successful in 'turning around' the lives of 1320 families in County Durham, equating to 100% of the target by March 2015.

For Phase 2 of the programme there is a very clear need to shift focus onto ensuring families can achieve significant and sustained change.

Phase 2 will mainstream the Stronger Families programme into services. The programme will be delivered over a 5 year time period and Durham will have 4,330 families to work with within this period. As part of being an 'early starter' programme, Durham identified and started work with an additional 650 families before March 2015. The Children and Families Partnership support the planned actions to be taken forward in Phase 2 of the programme.

County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) Youth Justice Plan 2015/2017

The Children and Families Partnership received the Youth Justice Plan 2015-17 for information.

It is the statutory duty of each Local Authority to formulate and implement a plan, key requirements of the plan are prescribed by the Youth Justice Board. The plan outlines how CDYOS will:

- Reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Reduce re-offending by young people
- Reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people

The plan was approved by CDYOS Management Board in June 2015, and Cabinet and full Council in July 2015, before being submitted to the Youth Justice Board at the end of July 2015. The plan will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and a copy will be placed in the House of Commons library.

Children Young People and Families Plan 2016-19

The Children and Families Partnership reaffirmed the following three objectives in the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-19, as those which will remain a priority for the 2016-17 refresh:

1. Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
2. Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life
3. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families.

Partners are mindful that changes may need to be made to the outcomes, or additional outcomes may need to be added following the range of planned engagement activities as part of the refresh process of the Children, Young People and Families Plan.

Children and Families Area Action Partnership links

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

The update focused on areas of good practice which have gone on to be rolled out in other AAP areas, including HAGGRID which is an alternative education programme with a focus on horticulture, agriculture, conservation and the environment.

The next AAP six-month update will be presented to the Children and Families Partnership in March 2016.

Young People's Issues

Young People, supported by Investing in Children attended the meeting to provide an update on the StreetGames Volunteering Programme for which Investing in Children is a host organisation.

StreetGames is a national charity aimed at bringing sports to the doorsteps of young people in disadvantaged communities. The programme is delivered in partnership with County Durham Sports.

Discussions took place around the need to join similar projects up across County Durham with Public Health and Neighbourhood Services.