

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 February 2016

Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

14 December 2015



County Durham Children
and Families Partnership

Poverty Action Plan for County Durham

As part of its consultation process, the Poverty Action Plan for County Durham was presented to the Children and Families Partnership for comment. Particularly noted were the issues relevant to Child Poverty in County Durham which is above the England average.

Altogether Active – A Physical Activity Framework for County Durham

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation on the Physical Activity Framework, following its consultation launch at the Health and Wellbeing Board 'Big Tent' engagement event in November 2015. It was agreed that the framework needs to contain simple messages, outline what is different from the previous approach and include the voice of individuals.

The Children and Families Partnership were invited to provide feedback on the draft framework. It is anticipated that the updated framework will be complete by mid-February 2016.

Teenage Pregnancy Rapid Health Needs Assessment 2015

Reducing teenage pregnancies continues to be a top priority at both national and local levels. For many teenagers, bringing up a child often results in poor outcomes for both the mother and child.

Public Health have worked with key partners to undertake a health needs assessment (HNA) to ensure the needs of young people within County Durham are better understood. It was noted that benchmarking will take place with other local authorities to understand what works effectively to reduce the figures.

Based on the HNA key findings, there are 13 key HNA recommendations for action, which are collated into the following key themes, and will enable the development of a multi-agency teenage pregnancy action plan to deliver against the national strategy:

- Strategic Partnership Development
- Prevention: including resilience, sex and relationship education and universal services
- Supporting pregnant teenagers and teenage parents

- Targeted support
- Sexual health services: including contraception and emergency oral hormonal contraception
- Data Improvement

The multi-agency action plan will be presented to the Children and Families Partnership at a future meeting.

Believe, Achieve and Succeed: Increasing the Participation of Young People in Learning Plan 2015-18

The revised 'Improving Progression Partnership Plan: Believe, Achieve and Succeed – Increasing the Participation of Young People in Learning 2015-18' was approved by the Children and Families Partnership.

The revised plan contains the following three strategic objectives, along with a number of actions:

- Ensure effective identification, engagement and tracking of young people to support progression;
- Provide high quality Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance that promotes the full range of education and training options available to young people and reflects the local labour market
- Target support to young people in vulnerable groups that are over represented in the NEET cohort.

The Children and Families Partnership will continue to receive further updates in relation to the implementation of the plan.

Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2015 -2018

The Children Act places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient accommodation to meet the needs for Looked After Children. The Sufficiency Strategy acts as a mechanism to help the council plan for the current and future needs of Looked After Children, young people and care leavers in County Durham. It outlines the accommodation and services available to Looked After Children, and covers a three year period from April 2015 to March 2018.

Elective Home Education (EHE)

The Partnership received an update on the development of the local authorities' role in relation to elective home education. An EHE working group has been established to take this work forward and will report back to the Children & Families Partnership.

Reducing re-offending by young people in County Durham

County Durham Youth Offending Service provided an update to the Children and Families Partnership on County Durham Youth Offending Service's work to reduce re-offending by children and young people in County Durham.

The update included performance in relation to the three national outcome measures for youth offending services: reducing first time entrants, use of custody and reoffending; outcomes, impact, and key developments for 2015/16.

An update on the Speech, Language and Communication Needs strategy will be provided to the Children and Families Partnership in March 2016, along with examples of the Speech, Language and Communication Needs tools available.

Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2016-19

The Children and Families Partnership were presented with a draft of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) 2016-19 for comment.

The CYPFP has been refreshed for 2016-19 to ensure it remains fit for purpose, continues to meet the needs of children and young people and is aligned to the relevant plans and strategies.

The 2016-19 refresh includes updates on policy information, consultation and evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Community Safety Strategic Assessment.

Consultations have taken place with key partners and organisations to inform the refresh of the CYPFP for 2016-19, specifically with young people, young carers, partner organisations and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The final version of CYPFP 2016-19 will be presented to the Children and Families Partnership for agreement, including performance indicators and targets at its meeting in March 2016.

Young people's issues – Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) consultation feedback

Young People, supported by Investing in Children attended the meeting to provide feedback from their consultation/agenda days as part of the refresh of the CYPFP and JHWS.

The issues raised included:

- Access to quality education and advice regarding sexual health
- Support for young people and families around risk taking behaviour including drinking, drugs and unprotected sex
- Prevalence of self-harm in young people
- Emotional health and wellbeing/stress of young people
- Develop opportunities for Peer Support networks
- Provide opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities
- Better promotion of services available to children, young people and families