

# Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



1 April 2016

## Refresh of the Work Programme for the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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### Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

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#### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with information contained within the Council Plan 2016 – 2019, relevant to the work of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This allows the opportunity for members to refresh the Committee Work Programme to reflect the 3 objectives and subsequent outcomes identified within the Council Plan for Altogether Better for Children and Young People.

#### Background

2. The current Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2015 -2016 focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
3. In relation to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the Work Programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2015/16 to reflect changing Government policy and at the request of Members.

#### Council Plan 2016 – 2019

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which covers a four year period and is updated on an annual basis. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategies (2014-2030) and the Council's own improvement agenda. Attached at Appendix 2 is the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan for members' consideration.

5. This year it is proposed that the existing three year Council Plan is updated and rolled forward a year, with a more fundamental review to take place next year, in line with a refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
6. Within the Council's Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme, the focus is on the Council's work in tackling a range of issues impacting on the lives of all children, young people and families in County Durham.
7. Children and Young People's Services recognise that the issues which impact upon the lives of children, young people and families are complex and demand a partnership approach. The Council has identified 3 objectives with 9 specific priority outcomes across these objectives which are set out in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan. Following the refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYP &FP), which is the strategic multi-agency plan, the focus is now on the 'causes' of poor outcomes rather than the 'effects'. Below are the relevant objectives and actions for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme:
  - **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 their school years to prepare 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.
  - **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
  - **A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families**
    - Children are safeguarded and protected from harm.

- Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
  - Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.
8. The Service recognises that circumstances which impact on the lives of children, young people and families are complex and demand a partnership approach. The service will also continue to listen and work with children, young people and families to formulate plans.

### **Current Work Programme**

9. During 2015/16, the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

#### **In Depth Scrutiny Reviews**

- Review of Take up of Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger – *(Objective: Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood. Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life.)*

#### **Systematic Review**

- Self-Harm by Young People – *(Objective: Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life.)*

#### **Overview Activity**

- **Not in Education, Employment or Training** – Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential.
- **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy** – Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
- **Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 13/14-** A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families.
- **0-5 Health Visitors and Family Nurse Partnership and 5-19 School Nursing Service-** 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. Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
- **Care Leavers Strategy** - Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential. Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential. A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to

families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.

- **Review of Home to School Transport Policy** – Children and young people realise and maximise their potential - Children and Young People are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare 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.
- **Help and support to children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders** – Children and young people realise and maximise their potential - children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain. 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.
- **Fixed Play Strategy** – Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life – a range of positive activities for children, young people and families.
- **Welfare Reform and Poverty Issues** – A think family approach is embedded in our support to families. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
- **Young Carers** – Children and young people realise and maximise their potential – children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood; Children and young people make healthy choices in life and have the best start to life – Children and young people are more resilient. A think family approach is embedded in our support to families – Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
- **Educational Attainment** - 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 their school years to prepare 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.
- **Impact of Smoking on Children and Young People** - Children and young people make health choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced. Children and young people are more resilient.
- **Wellbeing for Life** -- Children and young people make health choices and has 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 and young people.
- **Refresh of Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2016-2019** – All of the objectives and outcomes of Altogether Better for Children and Young People.

- **Refresh of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment & Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019** -- All of the objectives and outcomes of Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
- **Local Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 14/15**- A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.
- **CAMHS Crisis Care Pathway** – 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.
- **Children's Services Update** - All of the objectives and outcomes of Altogether Better for Children and Young People.
- **Review of Youth Support Consultation** – Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life. Negative risk taking is reduced. Children and young people are more resilient. A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families.
- **Update on Stronger Families** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.

### **Budgetary and performance monitoring**

- Quarterly budgetary and performance monitoring for Children and Young People's Service Group.

### **\*\*\*Areas for consideration in the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

10. Having considered the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan for 2016 – 2019 ( pages 14-18 attached at appendix 2) it is suggested that the following action areas could be considered in the update of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme (where they already link to the current work programme is highlighted):

#### **Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential**

- **Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during school years to prepare them for adulthood**  
Implement 'Team Around the School' model so that early help is provided to young people and families in need of additional support.

#### **Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life**

- **Children and young people become more resilient**  
Enable children and young people to cope better with difficult situations by developing parental support network, a child bereavement service and a peer support programme in schools.

**Council Plan  
Cross Cutting Themes**

11. Below are areas which have a cross cutting issues from other 'Altogether' themes that link into Altogether Better Children and Young People

<b>Altogether</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Link to Altogether Better for Children and Young People</b>	<b>OSC</b>
Healthier	Children and Young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life.  *this is a shared objective with Altogether Better for Children and Young People.	Reduced childhood obesity	Children and young people are more resilient.	Adults Wellbeing and Healthier
		Improved early health intervention services for Children and Young People	Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families	
	Reduce health inequalities and early deaths	Reduced levels of alcohol and drug ill health	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced	
		Reduced levels of tobacco related ill health	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced	
	Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population	Reduced self-harm and suicides	Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families	
		Increased physical activity and	A range of positive activities are available for	

		participation in sport and leisure.	children, young people and families.	
Safer	Protect vulnerable people from harm	Safeguarding children and adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm	Children are safeguarded and protected from harm	Safer and Stronger Communities
Wealthier	Competitive and Successful people	Increased numbers of people employment and training	Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential	Economy and Enterprise
Greener	Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment	Natural assets are valued and conserved.	A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families	Environment and Sustainable Communities
Altogether Better Council	Working with Communities	Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with	Links to all Altogether Better for Children and young People objectives and outcomes.	Corporate Issues

### Next Steps

12. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee work programme for 2016 - 2017, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
13. Members will receive a further report at the next Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 July, 2016, confirming/agreeing the Committee's work programme for 2016-2017 based on today's discussion and agreement.

### Recommendations

14. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Altogether Better for

Children and Young People priority theme of the Council Plan 2016-2019. Appendix 2 (copy attached)

15. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2016-2017 by discussing and considering those actions identified in Appendix 2.
16. That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 1 July 2016, receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2016 - 2017.

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**Appendix 1: Implications** (The following implications are taken directly from the report to Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016)

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**Finance** - The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next three years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

**Staffing** - The Council's strategies are being aligned to achievement of the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

**Risk** - Consideration of risk is undertaken in the preparation of the Council Plan and Service Plans.

**Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty** - A full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions underpinning the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

**Accommodation** - The council's Accommodation programme is a key corporate programme contained within the Council Plan.

**Crime and disorder** - The Altogether Safer section of the Council Plan sets out the Council's contributions to tackling crime and disorder.

**Human rights** – None

**Consultation** - Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the council's budget.

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** - Accessibility issues are considered in the design of our planning document.

**Legal Implications**- None

## Appendix 2