

Cabinet

11 May 2016



Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-2019

Report of Corporate Management Team

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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) 2016-19 (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. Engagement has taken place with children and young people including young carers and their families, voluntary and community sector organisations, NHS partners, local authority colleagues, Education partners, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Durham Constabulary, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Area Action Partnerships.
5. A Student Voice survey was undertaken in 25 out of 32 secondary schools in the County, with responses received from over 8,000 students; results from the survey have also informed the CYPFP.
6. The Health and Wellbeing Board hosted an engagement event in November 2015, which was attended by over 260 people. This included a workshop on the Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan for County Durham 2015-2020. Feedback from this event has been taken into account in the refresh of the CYPFP.
7. As in previous years, Investing in Children has undertaken a number of engagement events with children and young people to consult on the strategic objectives in the CYPFP. This has included children with disabilities and children in care.

8. In addition, views were sought on health priorities through North Durham CCG's 'Try it Out' Young People's Patient Congress and with young carers through the 'Family Action Young Carers Group'.
9. The issues which young people consider important to them include:
 - 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
10. 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.
11. Various policy drivers influence the work of the Children and Families Partnership. Policy drivers that have influenced this plan include the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme.
12. Durham was successful in two bids to the Department for Education; the first was for a therapeutic support programme at Aycliffe Secure centre for children who have been sexually exploited, the second was to deliver a large scale new approach to social work and to work with families. The new approach will be known as 'Families First', with ten new teams being created within One Point hubs across the County.
13. 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 Action Steering group is in place, led by the Assistant Chief Executive of DCC, to look at the wider impact of poverty.
14. 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 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 2016-19

15. 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

16. 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

17. 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.
18. A number of new actions have been agreed with relevant leads as part of the planning process for the development of the CYPFP, these are shown in Appendix 3.
19. A hard copy of the CYPFP will be 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

20. More detailed actions outlining the work taking place to achieve the Strategic Actions are included in the CYPFP Delivery Plan which will be presented to the Children and Families Partnership in June 2016 for agreement.
21. 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. The Partnership will include further qualitative indicators in the performance framework from 2016, which will add value to the numerical targets and trends currently presented.
22. 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

23. Cabinet is requested to:
 - Receive and endorse the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-19 (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 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 2016-19

Attached as a separate document.

Appendix 3: Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-19 - New Strategic Actions

Strategic Objective 1: Children and young people realise and maximise their potential

Outcome: Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during school years to prepare them for adulthood

The Student Voice survey raised a number of issues for schools and supporting services including the behaviour of pupils in lessons and low level disruption in the classroom. This strategic action has been developed to support schools in relation to the behaviour of pupils and the risk of exclusion. This also reflects feedback from young people and partners in relation to exclusion from school contributing to an increase in the likelihood of young people undertaking risk taking behaviours including youth offending.

- **Establish Behaviour Partnership Panels to support schools to consider alternative provision for pupils at risk of permanent exclusion**

The following action has been added to reflect a more holistic approach to the support young people receive at school by ensuring they develop appropriate life skills and a broader education to support decision making. This also reflects feedback from young people in relation to receiving more education and support regarding the risks relating to sexual relationships and identifying unsafe relationships, an understanding in schools around mental health and being equipped with life skills to prepare for more independent living.

- **Deliver a core offer to mainstream schools regarding physical and mental health improvement as part of the curriculum, to include topics such as relationships and sexual health, mental health, life skills and preparing for more independent living, to help children achieve and succeed**

Strategic Objective 2: Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

Outcome: Negative risk-taking behaviour is reduced

The following action has been added to reflect the work that is taking place with the County Durham Youth Offending Services in identifying speech language and communication needs of young people who offend.

- **Improve how we communicate with young people who offend through the provision of direct Specialist Speech and Language Therapy**

The following actions have been added to reflect the two key objectives in the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015 – 20 aligned to Altogether Better for Children and Young People.

- **Support young people to manage their risk taking behaviours by building resilience and creating a culture that encourages young people to choose not to drink**
- **Reduce the negative impact alcohol has on the lives of children, young people and their families through parental alcohol use**

Outcome: Children and young people are more resilient

Feedback from young people was strong in relation to identifying peer support as a priority. Those who have experienced peer support were positive about its benefits for dealing with difficult situations and the benefit of being able to talk to young people who have had similar experiences.

- **Develop opportunities for Peer Support networks so young people who have overcome barriers can be trained to help other young people who are struggling in similar situations**

Outcome: A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families

As part of the work taking place to review youth support provision the following action has been included. This is also supported by feedback from young people in relation to engaging in more positive activities.

- **Consider a targeted youth support delivery model to support young people with additional needs to achieve outcomes**

Feedback from young people highlighted that young people wanted to engage in more positive activities which also included training and development opportunities and life skills. Young people also said that there should be more positive activities for young people to engage in on a weekend so they do not get 'bored' or pressured into taking risks. Young people also highlighted that they wanted activities to take place where they live.

- **Work in partnership to provide more opportunities for children and young people to engage in positive activities (including weekends and evenings) in their local area**

Strategic Objective 3: A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families

Outcome: Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families

The following action has been added to reflect the work taking place through the Children's Services Innovation Programme which has developed new approaches to support children, young people and families to improve outcomes.

- **Implement the Children's Social Care Innovation Project through the creation of ten Families First teams across the county**

A key element of the Children's Services Innovation Programme is the development of a strong Community and Voluntary Sector Alliance which builds on existing networks and relationships, and enables families to access additional support from their local communities. The relationship with local voluntary and community organisations will provide long-term and sustainable help and support for children, young people and families in the county who need it.

- **Develop effective alliances with the Voluntary and Community Sector and improve engagement in multi-agency family plans and support, through closer links with the Families First and One Point teams**

Outcome: Children are safeguarded and protected from harm

Launched in March 2015, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) consists of a multi-disciplinary team which works together to screen, gather, analyse and share information relating to concerns about children in County Durham who may be at risk of harm, or who need support services. The following action reflects the partnership work that is taking place through the MASH to safeguard children.

- **Work with partners in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to reduce the number of children subject to subsequent child protection plans through proactive interventions when children are at risk of significant harm**