

Children, Young People and Families Plan

2016/2019

Altogether better
for **children** and
young people

County Durham Children
and Families Partnership



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Foreword

The Children and Families Partnership works to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve the lives of children, young people and families in County Durham which includes targeting resources at those that are most in need. The Partnership produces the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYPFP), which is the single overarching, multi-agency plan for the delivery of priorities for children, young people and families in County Durham.

The Early Help and Neglect Strategy remains key to the work of the Children and Families Partnership, and partners will work together to offer early help to families to empower them and their communities using the minimum necessary statutory intervention.

Through the continued transformation of Children's Services, the Innovations Programme has developed new approaches to support children, young people and families and improve outcomes through Families First Teams, based in communities.

The Partnership will continue to work with schools and education providers to reduce the attainment gap between vulnerable children and their peers.

Ensuring children are safeguarded and protected from harm is fundamental to the Children and Families Partnership and we will work closely with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board to ensure children are safeguarded and protected from harm.

By working in this way, it is anticipated the numbers of children who need to be looked after and those with a protection plan will decrease, and the number of families receiving help at an earlier level will increase.

We recognise the need to listen to the views of children and young people, so that we can embed 'the voice of the child' within our plans, and continue to work collectively to make improvements.

There is a strong commitment from the Children and Families Partnership to improve the lives of the children and young people of County Durham to ensure that the vision is met so that:

'All children, young people and families believe, achieve and succeed'



Rachael Shimmin
Chair
Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services



Anna Lynch
Vice Chair
Director of Public Health County Durham



Councillor Ossie Johnson
Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services

Background

The CYPFP is the single overarching multi-agency plan for the delivery of priorities for children and young people in County Durham. It has been refreshed for 2016-19 to ensure it is fit for purpose and continues to meet the needs of children and young people.

It has been informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the [Annual Report of the Director of Public Health County Durham](#).

Demographics

Between 2001 and 2014, the 0-17 population in County Durham has fallen by 5.9% which is a smaller fall than the North East region of 7.5%. The national trend is reversed and saw an increase in the 0-17 population of 3.5% over the same period. By 2030, the number of children and young people aged 0-17 is projected to increase by 4.7% (from 2014), reversing some of the declining trends seen prior to 2011.

Between 2001 and 2014, due to the increase in birth rate, the 0-4 age group in County Durham increased by 10.5%. As a result of the increase in the birth rate, it is expected that there will be approximately 1,700 more primary aged

pupils by 2024/25 than there were in 2014/15.

Children and young people in County Durham are impacted by a range of physical and mental wellbeing issues. Children in County Durham have worse than average levels of unhealthy weight. In 2014/15, 23% of children aged 4-5 years and 36.6% of children aged 10-11 years were classified as overweight or obese, compared to the England averages of 21.9% and 33.2% respectively.

More children (168.4) aged 0-14 were admitted to emergency hospital care than the England average (112.2) for unintentional and deliberate injuries in 2013/14. This trend is replicated for young people aged 15-24, with the numbers admitted higher in County Durham (201.7) than the average rate for England (136.7). In addition in 2013/14, admission rates to hospital due to self-harm for 10-24 year olds (523.5 per 100,000) were higher than the England average (412.1 per 100,000).

A number of children and young people continue to participate in risky behaviour. In 2013 teenage conception rates (30.5 per 1,000) were greater than the England average (23.3)

and the North East region (30.2). Under 18s alcohol related hospital admissions (69.9 per 100,000) were also higher than the regional (65.8) and national (40.1) rates in 2013/14.

Child Poverty

Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. Children who are unable to enjoy leisure activities with their peers may find their education suffers, making it difficult for them to achieve their full potential and get the qualifications needed to sustain a well-paid job.

This will impact on a child's development as children from low income families are often excluded from extra curricula activities, e.g. school trips. This in turn limits their potential to earn the money needed to support their own families in later life and so a cycle of poverty is created.

The latest release of the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure shows the gap between County Durham and England continues to widen. In 2007, 22.8 percent of County Durham children aged under 16 were in families receiving less than 60 percent of median national income. This was only slightly higher than the national rate of

22.4 percent. However, latest data from 2013 indicates the absolute gap to have grown to 3.9% (County Durham 22.5 percent, England 18.6 percent). If the level of child poverty in the County had followed national trends since 2007, there would have been over 2,100 fewer children in poverty in 2013.

It is essential a strong partnership approach is taken to address poverty, working across sectors and with partner organisations, to understand impacts and to support individuals and communities affected by welfare reform and related poverty issues.

A Poverty Action Steering Group (PASG) is in place, led by the Assistant Chief Executive of Durham County Council, which co-ordinates the delivery of a range of new and existing policy work. This seeks to achieve a much broader understanding of the issues affecting residents, resulting from continuing changes to welfare and other issues which mean that residents can experience poverty. Building on this understanding, the Group will seek to identify actions to support residents and help address identified inequalities. The PASG has developed a Poverty Action Plan which outlines the vision as:

“To work together to reduce and prevent poverty as far as possible across County Durham”

To achieve this vision, the plan has three objectives and five themes which include child poverty, under which identified actions will be coordinated.

Many of the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) have identified welfare reform as one of their key priorities and have supported various projects in their areas, focusing on the issues which are particularly relevant to each local community. For example, Derwent Valley AAP Apprenticeship Project, led by the council’s Employability Team, is creating additional apprenticeship opportunities for young people in the area by providing a wage subsidy to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The Partnership’s investment, matched by funding from the National Apprenticeship Service, will focus on employers which have not previously recruited an apprentice, or have not recruited an apprentice in the previous year, to encourage businesses to offer opportunities for young people in the area. This is supported by the Government’s drive to introduce apprenticeship standards.

To help co-ordinate and develop capacity to provide welfare and poverty advice in the County, the Council has worked with partners to support the Advice in County Durham Partnership. The partnership seeks to bring together statutory, community and voluntary sector organisations under a ‘no wrong door’ approach, to improve the co-ordination of advice services and ensure agencies work together to support the needs of our communities.

National and Local Policy Context

Various policy drivers influence the work of the Children and Families Partnership. A list of recent policies that have influenced the development of this plan is attached at Appendix 2.

Inspections

A number of inspections cover services provided for children and young people. A list of inspections is attached at Appendix 3.



Engagement

Numerous engagement events have taken place with children and young people to help inform and shape this refreshed plan to ensure it helps meet their needs. This includes engaging events through Investing in Children (IIC) reference groups and with young carers through The Bridge Young Carers Service.

IIC is a Community Interest Company that works alongside children and young people, and adults who provide services for them, to create a range of effective ways in which they can exercise their right to have a say, often resulting in improvements in the service themselves.

IIC has hosted a number of 'Agenda Days' which are adult free discussions,

facilitated by young people for young people. They are used to gather young people's views on various topic areas, including emotional health and wellbeing, diabetes, children with disabilities and local community groups.

The Bridge Young Carers Service provides a service to young carers across County Durham, supporting young people who have challenging caring roles with a family focused approach. The aim is to enable young carers to aspire to, and achieve their full potential.

The Bridge has undertaken consultation with over 150 young carers and their families as part of a circus themed Family Fun Day.

North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group had three "Try it Out" days to engage with young people on their health priorities.

The Children and Families Partnership undertook a Student Voice survey in secondary schools in County Durham between January and March 2015. Of the 32 secondary schools, 25 participated in the survey with responses received from over 8,000 students.

The Children and Families Partnership has developed an action plan to ensure this valuable information is shared with relevant partners, to ensure the findings are fed into strategies and service reviews where appropriate, ensuring young people's voices are included.

The Student Voice survey findings indicate that:

- Over 10% of students identified themselves as a Young Carer, which reinforces the importance of the Young Carers Charter and the need for schools to safely identify and support young carers in their school.
- 31.4% of students stated they have been bullied. The Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience includes an anti-stigma campaign as an action. Public Health and Education are also working closely on the resilience programme including work with schools to tackle bullying.
- Only 2.6% of children identified that they eat most of their fruit and vegetables at school,

compared to over 70% at home. The Healthy Weight Alliance, who aim to reduce prevalence of obesity and increase engagement in health programmes, will progress work with students based on the findings of this survey.

- Just over one third of children in and out of School do not participate in physical activity other than School PE. The development of the 'Altogether Active' Physical Activity Framework for County Durham provides an opportunity to encourage children, young people and families to become more physically active.
- Over 50% of children responded 'Yes' to the question: 'Do you find that you are often near people who are smoking?'. The Tobacco Control Action Plan has been refreshed for 2015/16 and includes a specific theme of reducing exposure to second hand smoke.

- In relation to alcohol consumption, 13.7% of students responded they drink alcohol 'during the week', 'most weekends', 'every weekend' or 'every day'. By Year 11, this increases to 23.3%. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy includes a focus on the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme and includes specific actions for Lifeline, the Drug and Alcohol Service, who are commissioned to support schools in tackling drug and alcohol issues.

Consultation has also taken place through partner organisations and with the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and their feedback has been incorporated into the plan.

The Health and Wellbeing Board hosted a Big Tent Engagement Event in November 2015. This is a public event and includes stakeholders such as service users, patients, GPs, carers, voluntary and community sector as well as professionals from partner agencies and elected members and was attended by over 260 people.

A number of workshops relating to health, social care and the wider wellbeing approach took place and included children and young people's mental health, emotional wellbeing and resilience, physical activity and carers, which included young carers.

As part of the Big Tent Event, Making Changes Together, a group which brings parents of children with additional needs together, attended and provided their experiences and suggestions on how to meet the needs of their children.

Feedback from this event has been taken into account in the refresh of the CYPFP for 2016-19.

Young people attend each meeting of the Children and Families Partnership to raise issues that affect them and to provide a representative voice for their peers. It is important we feed back our actions to young people to ensure accountability and transparency. This is a commitment from the Children and Families Partnership.

Any health related issues are also fed into the Health and Wellbeing Board for information or action through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Key messages from Young People

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.
- Peer Support networks opportunities should be developed.
- Opportunities for young people to engage in positive activities should be provided.
- Better promotion of services available to children, young people and families.

Vision

The vision for the Children, Young People and Families Plan is:

'All children, young people and families believe, achieve and succeed'

To achieve this vision, three Strategic Objectives have been agreed by the Children and Families Partnership, along with ten strategic outcomes.

Objectives and Outcomes

The Children and Families Partnership agreed three key objectives in September 2015. A number of outcomes have been developed to provide focus and reflect the work of the Children and Families Partnership.

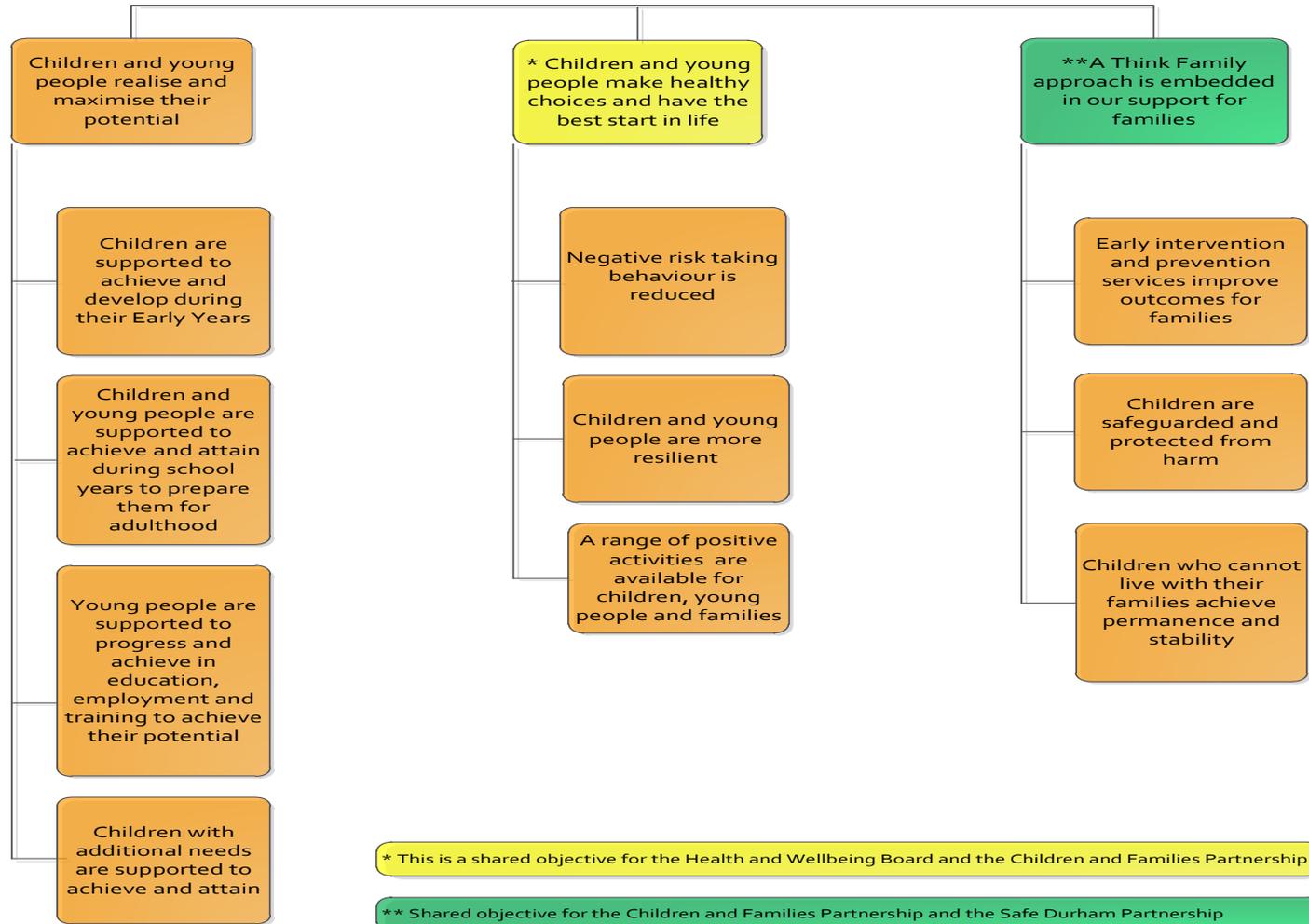
A chart showing the Objectives and Outcomes of the Children, Young People and Families Plan is illustrated on the next page.

Delivery Plan

A delivery plan will be developed to take forward the objectives and outcomes in the CYPFP.

The delivery plan will list the actions we will take to achieve the objectives and outcomes. It will detail what we will do and when we will do it, and progress against the delivery plan will be monitored by the Children and Families Partnership. Regular performance updates will be presented to partners at the Children and Families Partnership meetings to ensure accountability and transparency.

Objectives and outcomes for the Children Young People and Families Plan



County Durham Partnership Priorities

The County Durham Partnership (CDP) is the overarching partnership for County Durham and is supported by five thematic partnerships, one of which is the Children and Families Partnership.



Each of these has a specific focus, as outlined below along with their strategic objectives:

The Economic Partnership

Aims to make County Durham a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit whilst enabling our residents and businesses to achieve their potential:

- Thriving Durham City.

- Vibrant and successful towns.
- Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities.
- Competitive and successful people.
- A top location for business.

The Health and Wellbeing Board

Promotes integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of improving the health and wellbeing of the people in the area:

- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
- Reduce health inequalities and early deaths.
- Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions.
- Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population.
- Protect vulnerable people from harm.
- Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need.

The Safe Durham Partnership

Tackles crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other

behaviour adversely affecting the environment and seeks to reduce re-offending:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Protect vulnerable people from harm.
- Reduce re-offending.
- Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction.
- Embed the Think Family approach.
- Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism.
- Implement measures to promote a safe environment.

The Environment Partnership

Aims to transform and sustain the environment within County Durham, maximising partnership arrangements to support the economy and the wellbeing of local communities:

- Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment.
- Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment.
- Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change.

The CDP's over-arching strategic document, the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) provides particular focus on the following cross thematic areas of focus:

- Job creation
- Mental wellbeing
- Think Family
- Volunteering
- Inequalities
- Alcohol

Work has taken place to highlight how a broader perspective to these key issues can add value to existing work programmes to ensure the work of the County Durham Partnership makes a real difference to facilitate change in the longer term to improve outcomes for local people.

Through this work significant changes have taken place, for example the 'County Durham Volunteering', brand has been introduced, facilitated by Durham Community Action, on behalf of the CDP. This work covers the new Volunteer Passport and Kitemark, developed to support volunteers and organisations taking on volunteers to ensure they are supported and have a positive experience.

Shared Objectives and Issues

The CYPFP objective 'Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life' is shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board and is therefore also included in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

Some health issues which relate to children, young people and families, such as childhood obesity, breastfeeding and smoking in pregnancy are included in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and will be led by the Health and Wellbeing Board with support from the Children and Families Partnership. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has six strategic objectives and covers both children and adult health and social care needs. The JHWS can be accessed at: www.durham.gov.uk/jhws

Issues such as teenage conceptions will be dealt with jointly by the Children and Families Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Children and Families Partnership priority 'A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families' is shared with the Safe Durham Partnership.

Issues such as bullying, which include ensuring young people stay safe online,

will be addressed jointly by the Safe Durham Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children and Families Partnership.

The following cross thematic areas of focus will be dealt with jointly by the Children and Families Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safe Durham Partnership:

- Mental Health
- Harm caused by drugs
- Harm caused by alcohol
- Self-harm and suicide

Please see pages 19-23 of this plan for further details.

Commitments of the Children and Families Partnership

Investing in Children Membership Award

The Children and Families Partnership achieved the Investing in Children Membership Award, which gives national recognition for good practice and active inclusion of children and young people in dialogue and change.

The Partnership will strive to renew this membership annually.

Young Carers Charter

The Children and Families Partnership gained the Young Carers Charter accreditation by pledging to support young carers and recognising young carers are young people first and carers second.

Mental Health Champion

The Vice-Chair of the Children and Families Partnership is a nominated mental health champion, whose role includes promoting wellbeing and initiating and supporting action on public mental health.



A young person from IIC and young carers from The Bridge presenting the awards to Rachael Shimmin, Chair of the CFP

Membership of the Partnership

The Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services is Chair of the Children and Families Partnership and the Director of Public Health County Durham is Vice-Chair. Two-way communication links have been developed to ensure effective partnership working between stakeholders.

A list of organisations represented on the Children and Families Partnership are highlighted at Appendix 1.

Strong Partnership Working

A key element of the Children's Services Innovation Programme is the development of a strong Community and Voluntary Sector Alliance (VCA) which builds on existing networks and relationships, and enables families to access additional support from their local communities. Three voluntary sector alliance co-ordinators will support the Family First Teams to develop this relationship with local voluntary and community organisations, providing long-term and sustainable help and support for children, young people and families in the County who need it. The Family First Teams include social workers, family support workers and other specialist staff who work alongside staff in the One Point Service and are based at One Point Hubs to ensure wherever possible children and young people have the best chances in life.

Partnership working between the One Point Service and the Improving Progression Partnership, along with schools, further education providers, training providers and employers, has led to the lowest ever level of young people who are Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET). We will continue to strive to reduce this number.

Work has taken place to ensure there is an enhanced interface between Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) and the Children and Families Partnership.

Representatives from the local authority, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) are working together to ensure projects delivered at a local level reflect the priorities identified in the Children Young People and Families Plan and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Opportunities for partners to work together and utilise the wide range of consultation with children and young people that is taking place across the County has been developed to ensure that there is:

- better use of resources across partners organisations.
- a streamlined engagement processes.
- less duplication in relation to ensuring that young people are not overwhelmed with consultation requests.
- consultation that is reflective of the views of young people across the board.



Durham County Council has commissioned the Wellbeing for Life Service, funding ten posts within the One Point service supporting children aged 5 -13 years and their parents, helping them cope with the challenges of family life. Children, young people and their families are supported to improve health, wellbeing and resilience with a range of group activities and individual interventions including the Strengthening Families programme. Attending the seven week programme helps families identify what they are doing well and supports the development of new skills, which will help them build stronger bonds and relationships; building confidence, respecting differences and providing opportunities to reflect on behaviour and consequences.

Close working with Durham Constabulary is evident in a number of key areas.

A dedicated multi-agency Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation (ERASE) Team was launched in August 2015 and includes a Detective Sergeant and two Police Community Support Officers and Childrens Services staff. Focusing on early identification of young people at risk and suspected offenders to prevent further missing / absent episodes and further improve our response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

A CSE Disruption Toolkit has been developed, allowing practitioners to highlight to the police risk factor behaviour around potential perpetrators. This has included 'Intervene to Protect a Child' (IPC) training - a new and proactive training tactic to identify and disrupt offenders and widening CSE training and awareness to those services not traditionally associated with safeguarding such as voluntary training for taxi drivers.

Partners have also created the 'ERASE' brand (Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation) to tackle child sexual exploitation. This includes the launch of a dedicated website www.eraseabuse.org launched in January 2016 and offers parents and carers advice on sexual exploitation both on-line and off-line.

Through work with Area Action Partnerships (AAP), we continue to raising awareness of CSE and how to report concerns or intelligence of CSE.



The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) launched in March 2015 and consists of a multi-disciplinary team which works together as part of the First Contact Service 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 MASH Team is made up of a MASH Co-ordinator, a Detective Sergeant and Detective Constable, Social Workers and a School Attendance Enforcement Officer (from Children's Services), a Senior Safeguarding Nurse and a Harbour Domestic Abuse Service Coordinator.

Single points of contact are in place for children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), assessment

and intervention and the substance misuse service.

Analysis of Child Sexual Exploitation prevalence across County Durham has been undertaken by Durham Constabulary on behalf of the Missing and Exploited Group (a sub group of the LSCB) to ensure an effective joint agency response to CSE.

By sharing knowledge, partners are developing greater customer insight into which people need most help, the issues they face, where they are located and how we can reach them to offer advice, help and support.

CONTEST, the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy, aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom, and its interests overseas, from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

There is a clear structure in place that supports the delivery of the CONTEST Strategy which provides oversight of a multi-agency agenda and performance measures.

A Multi-agency group is in place under the Safe Durham Partnership and there is representation from all the key sectors to understand the risk of

radicalisation and their obligation to ensure terrorist ideologies, and those that promote them, do not go uncontested.

The PREVENT strand of CONTEST is concerned with preventing people being drawn into terrorism. In February 2015, the government introduced the Counter Terrorism and Security Act which places PREVENT on a statutory footing.

The Act places a general duty on each specified authority who must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Specified Authorities include Local Authorities, Police, Prisons, Probation, Community Rehabilitation Companies, Schools and Colleges, Universities and NHS Foundation Trusts.

All specified authorities across County Durham are working together to ensure their staff have a good understanding of how to recognise those who may be vulnerable, or subject, to radicalisation and know how to respond.

Strategic Objective 1

Children and young people realise and maximise their potential

Why this remains a priority

It is widely recognised that the early years of a child's life have a powerful influence on the rest of their lives. This will be addressed by the Children and Families Partnership (CFP) through the Early Years Strategy.

Increasing the number of young people in education, employment and training is a key priority for the CFP. In order to achieve this outcome, the Partnership is committed to providing more opportunities for all young people including looked after young people, care leavers, young people who are supervised by the Youth Offending Service, teenage parents, young carers and gypsy roma travellers. This will be addressed through the Improving Progression Partnership's plan:

'Believe, Achieve and Succeed'.

“Young People need more opportunities to get a job”
Source: IIC reference group

In addition, the needs of children with special educational needs are reflected in the priorities of the Children and Families Partnership through the implementation of a Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy.

“Young people are trained up to support other young people in school around exam times”
Source: IIC reference group

The evidence

- In 2014/15, 6.7% of 16 to 18 year olds were not in employment, education or training (NEET). This was better in County Durham than the North East as a whole (7%) but was higher than the national average of 4.7%.
- In 2015, 71.1% of pupils in Durham achieved at least 3 A levels (A-E) compared to 79.3% nationally. 40.9% of students taking vocational subjects achieved 3 substantial qualifications compared to 47.4% nationally

Achievements

Some of our achievements are detailed below:

The Early Years and Neglect Strategy 2015 was agreed which sets out our partnership approach to provide early help to combat neglect and its causes in County Durham. All partners will identify need early and offer support to children and their families that will make a positive difference to their lives. It updates the Early Help Strategy 2014 and makes clear the direct link to neglect and hidden harm (alcohol and substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental illness).

The Local Offer has been published on the Families Information Services website, providing information on the range of services available to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), as well as useful guidance for children, young people, parents and carers and professionals.

One comment left on the website states that “The Local Offer has lots of useful information on it”.



Team Around the School (TAS) is an initiative developed by the One Point Service in partnership with a number of secondary schools. It adopts a Think Family approach providing early help to improve young people's engagement in their education and to reduce the number of exclusions and the rate of persistent non-attendance. All secondary schools in the County have been offered TAS.

The challenges ahead

Further work is required to improve early years provision in County Durham by targeting those most in need. The implementation of the Community Delivery Model, which brings services closer to where children and families live and also makes better use of community buildings (for example, schools, libraries, community centres and leisure centres) will ensure the delivery of the full Children's Centre Core Purpose across a range of venues improving accessibility for children and families.

Education Development Services will respond to the government's changes in the curriculum to continue to narrow the attainment gap for looked after children and those on free school meals with those of their peers.

The Improving Progression Partnership and the Looked After Children Strategic Partnership will ensure provision is available for all 16-18 year olds so they are able to participate in education, employment or training, including vulnerable groups. This will be achieved through the delivery of the Believe, Achieve Succeed: Increasing

the Participation of Young People in Learning' plan, to increase participation in learning and reduce the number of young people who are NEET.

Case Studies - Teen Parent Course

Attending the teen parents group has helped H to improve her confidence. H is a bright and capable young lady and is looking at a career in midwifery; she has made enquiries about a science access course at her local college. H is an inspiration to others; she is motivated to pursue her career, despite being a young mum, and is very focussed on how she will shape her future.

Strategic Actions and Performance Indicators

The strategic actions state how we are going to work together to achieve the objectives and outcomes. The performance indicators are used to check actions are delivering improved outcomes.

Outcome 1: Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years

- Provide support to families to help children achieve a good level of development in readiness for school.

Outcome 1: Performance indicators

- Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth.
- Percentage of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) achieving a Good Level of Development.
- Gap between achievement of a good level of development of children eligible for free school meals and the rest at EYFS.

- Percentage of aged 0-2 years in the top 30% IMD registered with a Children's Centre and having sustained contact.
- Percentage of Children's Centres achieving a good or better inspection outcome.
- Child development at 2-2 ½ years.
- The achievement gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFS Profile and the rest.

Outcome 2: Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during school years to prepare them for adulthood

- Improve achievement in all phases of education by raising standards and narrow gaps in performance between pupil groups.
- Apply the Team Around the School model, so that early help is provided to young people and their families in need of additional support.
- Ensure a seamless transition between primary and secondary

phases which promotes optimal emotional resilience and academic progress.

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

Outcome 2: Performance Indicators

- Percentage of pupils making at least three levels of progress between KS2 and KS4 in English.
- Percentage of pupils making at least three levels of progress between KS2 and KS4 in Maths.
- Primary school persistent absence rate.
- Secondary school persistent absence rate.
- Number of permanent exclusions.
- Attainment 8 at Key Stage 4 (definition to be confirmed by DFE).

Outcome 3: Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential

- Deliver the 'Believe Achieve and Succeed: Increasing the participation of young people in learning' and reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) or 'Not Known'.
- Lead the implementation of the "Durham Works" Youth Employment Initiative programme to address youth unemployment in the County.
- Target support to young people in vulnerable groups that are over represented in the not in education, employment or training (NEET) cohort.

Outcome 3: Performance indicators

- Percentage of pupils on Level 3 programmes in community secondary schools achieving 2 A levels at Grade A*-E or equivalent.
- Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- Percentage of 16-18 year olds whose status in relation to Education, Employment or Training (EET) is 'Not Known'
- Percentage of young people gaining a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19
- Percentage of young people gaining a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19

Outcome 4: Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain

- Deliver the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy 2014-2018 and support schools to improve outcomes relating to achievement, independence and preparation for adulthood.
- Sustain and promote the attainment and achievement of Looked after Children.

Outcome 4: Performance indicators

- New national LAC education attainment performance indicators from 2016/17 to be confirmed including measures on Looked After Children, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Pupil Premium GAP and educational progression

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

Why this remains a priority

This is a shared priority with the Health and Wellbeing Board. The objective is aimed at ensuring young people reduce negative risk-taking behaviours including drinking, drugs and unprotected sex. It also aims to support children and young people to achieve optimum mental health and wellbeing and make them more resilient.

As a shared objective actions relating to childhood obesity, breastfeeding, smoking in pregnancy and alcohol and drugs are included in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and will be led by the Health and Wellbeing Board with support from the Children and Families Partnership. Details of these actions can be found in the JHWS which can be accessed at: www.durham.gov.uk/jhws.

“There should be information about emotional support and teen pregnancy”

Source: IIC reference group

This objective also addresses feedback from young people that they would like more opportunities to engage in positive activities in their local area.

A review of youth support commenced in 2015 and proposals have been developed for consultation which will lead the development of a Strategy for Youth Support and the delivery of a targeted youth support service. This will aim to deliver improved outcomes for young people aged 13 – 19 years in County Durham and is subject to consultation.

“There needs to be safe places for young people to hang out”

Source: IIC reference group

The evidence

- In 2013/14, admission rates to hospital due to self harm for 10-24 year olds (523.5 per 100,000) were higher than the England average (412.1 per 100,000).
- In 2013/14, alcohol-related hospital admission rates for under 18s (69.9 per 100,000) were higher than the regional (65.8) and national (40.1) rates.
- The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system continues to fall. In the period April to December 2015 the number fell to 106, from 157 in the same period in 2014.
- In June 2015, the Children’s Health (CHIMAT) profiles suggest that hospital admissions for a mental health (0-17) condition is a similar rate in Durham (88.8 per 100,000) to the England average (87.2).
- The latest under 18 conception data shows that the rate in County Durham has reduced from 33.8 per 1,000 in 2013 to 30.5 during October 2013 to September 2014. There has been a sustained downward trend since monitoring commenced in 1998.



A two year 'Teen parent pathway' project commenced in October 2014 to address inequalities and provide support to overcome the additional barriers to education and employment they face.

A suicide and attempted suicide alert process has been implemented for young people at risk of suicide or self-harm.

County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) has implemented an innovative Speech, Language and Communication Needs Strategy to address the number of young people in the youth justice system who have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

The service won a Butler Trust Award for their outstanding contribution to the management and support of young people with communication difficulties. The Butler Trust Annual Awards celebrate outstanding dedication, skill and creativity by people working in prisons, probation and youth justice settings across the UK. The Awards are presented each year by HRH The Princess Royal.

The service wanted to ensure early identification of any needs, as well as making their screening processes communication friendly. A speech and language therapist has been seconded to the service and staff have learnt how to identify warning signs of SLCN and how to refer for support. The service has also redeveloped its process for assessing young people which is now more interactive, helping to reveal any SLCN the young person might have. This means that more young people were referred for speech and language

therapy in a three month period than over the previous 10 years.

Additionally CDYOS gave evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Speech and Language Difficulties on 19 October 2015. The CDYOS presentation showcased the progress and key learning from the Service's Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Strategy, which commenced in March 2014.

The challenges ahead

We aim to continue to reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system and custody levels for young people by reviewing strategies and implementing new ways of working.

Work will be undertaken to address risk-taking behaviour by young people e.g. smoking, alcohol use, and sexual health.

Emotional wellbeing of children and young people is a key area to address, and the Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan for County Durham 2015-2020 will take work forward this work including universal and targeted support.

The Plan will consider self-harm amongst young people as well as promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention, improving access to effective support, care for the most vulnerable, accountability and transparency and developing the workforce.

Children who are bullied are more likely to suffer from low self-esteem which can have a significant impact on academic attainment. The Children and Families Partnership is committed to supporting schools to address this issue.

A national review of the Youth Justice System is underway, looking at evidence, current practice and governance arrangements in preventing youth crime and rehabilitating young people who offend and exploring how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider partner services for children and young people. The results of the review will be reported in summer 2016.

Case study – One Point

L was keen to avoid taking part in undesirable activities on a Friday evening and was looking for more worthwhile things to do. She felt like she had not really done much with her life to that point and was keen to make changes.

L came to One Point to get support on where to go and what to do with her life.

L started to volunteer at a local Youth Club to keep her busy and was a natural with the young people, offering a friendly face and was excellent in the kitchen and in the tuck shop.

L always had good fun with the group and during group work. She grew in confidence and sought support when required.

L has applied for numerous jobs, and with support and additional qualifications she is expected to secure employment.

Strategic Actions and Performance Indicators

Outcome 5: Negative risk-taking behaviour is reduced

- Improve how we communicate with young people who offend through the provision of direct Specialist Speech and Language Therapy.
- Target our resources at those young people committing the most offences and put victims, including young victims, and restorative justice at the heart of everything we do, to reduce re-offending.
- Support the reduction of teenage pregnancies (under 18 conceptions) in County Durham by delivering interventions that are in line with evidence and best practice.
- 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 5: Performance Indicators

- Under 16 conception rate per 1000 girls aged 13-15 years.
- Under 18 conception rate per 1000 15-17 year old women (number).
- First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds).
- Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period.
- Percentage of children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese.
- Percentage of children aged 10-11 classified as overweight or obese.
- Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18's (per 100,000 under 18 years population).
- Percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery.
- Percentage of exits from young person's treatment which are care planned (alcohol & drugs).

Outcome 6: Children and young people are more resilient

- Work together to reduce rates of self-harm by young people.
- Support children, young people to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing by transforming the quality and availability of services from early help through to specialist provision, delivered within communities, closer to home, targeted to the most vulnerable ensuring fewer children and young people require specialist mental health services.
- Ensure health, social care and third sector organisations work together to identify and support young carers.
- Provide a range of support to schools to tackle bullying and harassment.
- 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 6: Performance indicators

- Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children (Strengths & Difficulties questionnaire).
- Number of schools accredited with Young Carers Charter for schools.
- Young people aged 10-24 years admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000 population aged 10-24 years).
- Percentage of CAMHS patients who have attended a first appointment within 9 weeks of their external referral date.

Outcome 7: A range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families

- Provide a wide range of physical activity opportunities across County Durham to support more active lifestyles for children and young people through the development of the 'Altogether Active' physical activity framework for County Durham
- Consider a targeted youth support delivery model to support young people with additional needs to achieve outcomes.
- 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.

Outcome 7: Performance indicators

- Percentage of children regularly taking part in activities and clubs at school / not at school.
- Percentage of children who would like to attend activities and clubs outside of school.



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

Why this remains a priority

Think Family is a multi-agency approach that seeks to provide early help for families that have problems and cause problems to the community around them.



Partners across County Durham, including Durham Constabulary, are committed to tackling the complex needs of families that persist between generations through the Stronger Families Programme (known nationally as Troubled Families) which is designed to work with families facing multiple and complex challenges. A Single Lead Professional/Key Worker is assigned and a 'team around the family' is put in place to coordinate the support to achieve a range of positive and sustainable outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Phase 1 of the Stronger Families Programme (2012-2015) was successful in 'turning around' the lives of 1,320 families across County Durham. This success has been recognised by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The 5-year Phase 2 Programme will work with and aim to turn around a total of 4,330 families in County Durham by 2020. It will target families who have:

- Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Children who have not been attending school regularly.
- Children who need help (for example those that don't take up the early years entitlement).
- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness.
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse.
- Parents and children with a range of health problems.

This objective is also aimed at ensuring that children are safeguarded and protected from harm and that early intervention and prevention services are in place which is in line with the Transformation of Children's Care. It also aims to address the adoption reforms outlined in the Children and Families Act to ensure that more children can benefit more quickly from being adopted into a loving home.

"I have always refused support in the past as I was scared about what would happen. I wish I had stopped burying my head in the sand earlier as the Stronger Families support has really helped my family"

Source: Stronger Families service user

The evidence

- Phase one of the Stronger Families programme 'turned around' 1,320 families against the national measure of poor school attendance, unemployment, youth crime and adult anti-social behaviour, alongside a wide range of local criteria such as health, housing and domestic abuse.
- Latest data (December 2015) shows that 21.2% of Children in Need referrals occurred within 12 months of the previous referral. This is an improvement from last year and is lower than the 2014/15 national average of 24.0%.
- The percentage of Looked After Children (LAC) with three or more placements as at December 2015 is 5.6%, which is an improvement from 5.7% from September 2014 and is better than the national and regional averages.
- Over 81% of children looked after for 12 months or more as at December 2015 had a dental check and the required number of health assessments.
- There has been an increase in the number of early help assessments completed by the One Point Service, with 3,964 completed in

the period April – December 2015 compared to 2,304 in the same period last year.

- The rate of children with a Child Protection Plan continues to decrease (34.7 as at 31st December 2015) and is much lower than the latest national (42.9) and regional (59.5) averages as of 31st March 2015.

Achievements

Some of our achievements are detailed below:

County Durham was successful in achieving the targets in phase one of the Troubled Families programme (known in County Durham as Stronger Families), and as such were invited to be one of the 50 Early Starters programme, to inform the design and development of the expanded Phase 2 Troubled Families programme ready for national implementation from April 2015.

Early Help has started to be recognised in everyday practice as crucial to achieving positive outcomes for children and their families, and is now written into many policies, plans and strategies across the County Durham Partnership.

There has been an increasing trend in the number of children adopted since 2010/11.

Durham was successful in securing two bids:

- £3.26 million from the Children's Social Care Innovation Fund to identify and meet the needs of children sooner, to address the root causes of problems to reduce the number of families who are re-referred for support.
- £496,000 for a therapeutic support programme at Aycliffe Secure Centre for children that have been sexually exploited. The programme offers targeted support in helping them deal with trauma and in making the transition from the secure setting into more independent living.



The challenges ahead

Phase two of the Stronger Families programme will be delivered over a 5 year time period, with a target of 'turning around' 4,330 in County Durham.

The newly created Families First Teams need to:

- Provide a coordinated approach to integrated early help and effective intervention.
- Develop and consolidate voluntary sector alliances to build community capacity and sustainable change for families.
- Promote enhanced service user engagement to change the relationship between service user and professional.
- Maintain the momentum of intensive workforce development programmes to support children and their families.
- Recruit to vacant posts.
- Manage caseload pressures.

The transition between children and adults services and the development of a countywide team to ensure the experience of children and their carers is positive and seamless is also required.

Case study

B is part of a family supported under the Stronger Families Programme. B suffers from severe dyslexia and felt very uncomfortable in groups. This was a barrier to him gaining the qualifications that he needed to get him back into employment. B had a job offer but was unable to take it, due to a lack of qualifications.

The family's Lead Professional helped identify and arrange for a volunteer to support B to undertake an e-learning course (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme qualification, plus Health and Safety for construction). B was very anxious and extremely intimidated before accessing the course.

The volunteer spent time allaying B's fears and concerns and reassured him that he would be supported each step of the way.

B passed both qualifications and is now in full time employment.

Strategic Actions and Performance Indicators

Outcome 8: Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families

- Implement the Children's Social Care Innovation Project through the creation of ten Families First Teams across the County.
- Deliver an integrated 0-19 model to include universal mandated services plus targeted services for vulnerable groups.
- 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 8: Performance indicators

- Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 2).
- Percentage of Children in Need (CIN) referrals occurring within 12 months of previous referral.
- Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a subsequent time.
- Number of Early Help Assessments completed by One Point Service.

Thank you very much for all your help and support over the last 10 months. We are so unbelievably happy and A has now made our family complete. Thank you for going that extra mile” Source: Adopters

Outcome 9: Children are safeguarded and protected from harm

- Work with partners to help families facing multiple and complex challenges, ensuring that children are safeguarded and protected from harm and that early intervention and prevention services are in place to support Phase 2 of the Stronger Families Programme in County Durham.
- 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.
- Protect children from harm from breathing second hand smoke.
- Work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Implement the government's new statutory requirements in relation specified authorities for preventing people being drawn into terrorism.

Outcome 9: Performance indicators

- Rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population.
- Percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for two years or more.
- Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.
- The number of children who are reported missing.
- The number of referrals received where Child Sexual Exploitation is identified as an issue.
- Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (rate per 10,000 aged 0-14 years).
- Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in young people (rate per 10,000 aged 15-24 years).

Outcome 10: Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability

- Develop a range of effective alternatives to care and create permanent places for children and young people in the County.
- Continue to reduce the costs of Looked After Children.

Outcome 10: Performance indicators

- Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population.
- The number of children adopted as a percentage of those children leaving care.



Appendix 1 – Organisations represented on the Children and Families Partnership

The following organisations are represented on the Children and Families Partnership (NB this is not an exhaustive list):

- Durham County Council, Children and Adults Services
- Durham County Council, Public Health
- Durham County Council, Regeneration & Economic Development
- Durham County Council, Neighbourhoods
- Durham County Council, Portfolio Holder and Cabinet Support for Children and Young People's Services
- North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys, NHS Foundation Trust (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Durham Constabulary
- Durham Association for Primary Head Teachers
- Durham Association of Secondary Head Teachers
- Durham Association of Special Schools Head Teachers
- Durham College Principals Group
- Voluntary & Community Sector
- Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- NHS England, Cumbria and North East Sub-Regional Team

Appendix 2 - National and Local Policy Context

Children and young people realise and maximise their potential

Early Education and Childcare (September 2013)

The government committed to extending early years provision for 2 year-olds to around 20% of the least advantaged children from September 2013.

From September 2014 this was further extended to the 40% least advantaged 2 year-olds. Local authorities received £755 million of government funding to further increase the number of children eligible for free early education and childcare. This enables local authorities to focus on identifying and supporting disadvantaged children to take up their early education place. Free early education and childcare places can be accessed through maintained nursery schools, children's centres and private day nurseries.

Childcare Bill (May 2015)

To help hard-working families with the costs of childcare and support parents in work, the government is giving families where all parents are working, an entitlement up to 30 hours a week of free childcare for their 3 and 4 year-olds for 38 weeks of the year (equivalent of the school year). The Bill also requires local authorities publish information about the provision of childcare in the local authority area and other services or facilities which might be of benefit to parents or prospective parents, or children or young persons in their area.

Autumn Statement (November 2015)

From 2019-20, the government will spend over £6 billion a year supporting parents with their childcare costs. This includes doubling the free childcare entitlement from 15 hours to 30 hours a week for working families with three and four year olds from September 2017, worth up to £5,000 per child. The 30 hours free childcare offer for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds has been extended to help families maintain childcare arrangements and support the transition back to work at the end of their parental leave or period of ill health.

To help families with their childcare costs the government plans to introduce Tax-Free Childcare from early 2017, providing up to £2,000 a year per child meaning that a family with two children can begin to claim childcare support worth up to £40,000 through free hours and Tax-Free Childcare by the time both children are at school.

The government has also undertaken a review of the cost of childcare provision, and from 2017-18 will invest £300 million to increase the average hourly rate childcare providers receive and at least £50 million of capital funding to create additional places in nurseries. This will be delivered alongside the introduction of a national early years funding formula and other reforms, to ensure funding is fairly allocated.



GCSE and A Level Reform (April 2014)

The government has reformed GCSE's and A levels to ensure they better prepare students for further and higher education and employment.

The national curriculum contains the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects, at all key stages (except key stage 4 science which is to be phased in from September 2016). All maintained schools in England started teaching these programmes of study from September 2014, with the following exceptions:

- In the 2014 to 2015 academic year, pupils in years 2 and 6 should be taught the pre-2014 programmes of study in English, mathematics and science. These pupils will sit the current key stage 1 and 2 tests respectively, and new tests will be available from 2016.
- Key stage 4 programmes of study for English and mathematics should be taught in year 11 from September 2016.

The new AS and A levels will be linear qualifications ensuring students develop the skills and knowledge needed for progression to undergraduate study.

New A levels subjects taught from September 2015 include art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, English language, English literature, English language and literature, history, physics, psychology, and sociology. New A level subjects to be taught from September 2016 include dance, design and technology, drama, music, physical education, and religious studies.

New primary school tests (March 2014)

New tougher primary school tests in Maths and English will come into force from 2016, ensuring no child leaves primary school without being able to read or write and without a solid grounding in maths. This will provide a solid foundation for secondary school so that all children can master the skills needed for the workplace or further education. All topics in the curriculum will be tested as part of the new assessments and the complicated system of levels will be scrapped and instead pupils will

be given 'a scaled score' showing how they compare to the expected standard for their year.

Raising Participation Age (March 2013)

Young people are required to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday.

Apprenticeship Reforms: progress report (March 2015)

The report provides an update on the reform of the apprenticeship programme and encourages employers to employ an apprentice and to consider becoming part of a trailblazer group to develop a new standard. This standard will set out what the knowledge, skills and behaviours apprentices will have on completing their apprenticeship.



Children and Families Act 2014

The government has radically reformed the Special Educational Needs system so that it extends from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parent's greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

From 1 September 2014 local authorities had to publish a 'local offer' which ensures that parents and young people have access to a single source of coherent and complete information to manage their choices with regard to services.

Old statements are now replaced with a new birth-to-25 education, health and care plan, offering families personal budgets and improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families, particularly requiring local authorities and wider health partners to work together. The Act also reforms the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and foster care:

- Children in Care: every council is required to have a 'virtual school head' to champion the education of children in the authority's care

- Adoption Reform: will ensure children can benefit more quickly from being adopted into a loving home.
- Family Justice: delays will be removed, ensuring that children's best interests are at the heart of decision making.
- Statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters.
- Foster care: local authorities are legally obliged to support every young person who wants to stay in foster care until their 21st birthday.

To protect children and young people from the dangers of secondhand smoke, on 1st October, 2015, new regulations were introduced prohibiting smoking in private vehicles with anyone under the age of 18.

Care Act 2014

- The Care Act places new duties on local authorities to assess young people in advance of their 18th birthday, if they are likely to have ongoing needs for care and support.
- The Act also requires local authorities to continue children's services until an adult needs or carer's assessment has taken place, and a decision has been reached about the young person's

care and support. This ensures there is no gap in provision of care and support when people move from children's to adult social care.

- Under the Act, local authorities are required to look at family circumstances when assessing an adult's need for care, which means, for example, making sure that the position of a young carer within a family would not be overlooked. The Act also makes it clear that a local authority may combine an assessment of a young carer with the needs assessment of the adult he/she cares for.



Education and Adoption Bill (May 2015)

Designed to raise standards and turn around failing schools the main element of the Bill includes:

- speeding up the process of turning schools into academies.
- new rules which make clear that, in the future, every single school rated 'inadequate' by Ofsted will be turned into an academy.
- plans to tackle coasting schools by putting them on a notice to improve.
- giving the Secretary of State new powers to direct a number of local authorities to have adoption functions carried out on their behalf in order to create regional adoption agencies.

Regional Adoption Agencies Programme (June 2015)

In June 2015 the Department of Education set out proposals to move to regional adoptions agencies to help speed up matching and markedly improve the life chances of neglected and damaged children; improve adopter recruitment and adoption support; and reduce costs. By the end of Parliament, the Government want to see all local authorities being part of regional

agencies and want to accelerate the pace of change to ensure those children, for whom adoption is the right path, are given the best chance of finding a loving, forever family as quickly as possible.

Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life

Serious Crime Act 2015

To better protect all children from harm, the Serious Crime Act 2015 clarifies the offence of child cruelty, in section 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, to make it explicit that the offence covers cruelty which causes psychological harm.

Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015

The Criminal Justice and Courts Act introduces two new criminal offences of willful neglect or ill-treatment in health and social care following recommendations made by Robert Francis QC in relation to the public inquiry into care at Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust.

Review of the Youth Justice System (September 2015)

A national review of the Youth Justice System is to be undertaken. The review will look at evidence, current practice and governance arrangements in preventing youth crime and rehabilitating young people who offend and explore how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider partner services for children and young people. The results of the review will be reported in summer 2016.

Future in Mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing (March 2015)

'Future in mind – promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing' 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 report also calls for a step change in the way care is delivered moving away

from a tiered model towards one built around the needs of children, young people and their families. A Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Plan for County Durham (2015-2020) has been developed to take the work forward.

A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families

Care Leavers Strategy (October 2013)

This sets out, in one place, the steps the government is taking to support care leavers to live independently once they have left their placement. It includes a wide range of commitments from government to improve the help and support available to young people leaving care across all areas of life.

Children who run away or go missing from home or care (January 2014)

Statutory guidance setting out the steps Local Safeguarding Children Boards, local authorities and their partners should take to stop children going missing and to protect those who do.

Troubled Families (July 2013)

The government's national 'troubled families' programme (known in County Durham as Stronger Families) has been extended to help a further 400,000 households who have financial and social problems. In August 2014 the government announced a further expansion of the programme with work to begin in 2014 in 51 of the best performing areas (including Durham), ahead of the national 5 year programme which commenced in 2015.

An additional £200m has been made available in 2015/16 (over 5 years) to help "high risk" families address challenges of worklessness, anti-social behaviour and truancy. As well as expanding from working with school-age children to those under 5, the wider programme will also have a particular focus on improving poor health.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015)

This sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

Female genital mutilation (FGM): guidelines (July 2014)

To help increase the number of reports of FGM, from 31st October 2015, regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales have a mandatory requirement to report visually confirmed or verbally disclosed cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) in girls under the age of 18 to the Police.

Children's Social Care Innovation Programme (February 2015)

The Children's Social Care Innovation programme seeks to support the development, testing and sharing of effective ways of supporting children who need help from children's social care services. Durham was successful in two bids to the Department for Education for Children's Social Care Innovation Programme. The first was for £496,000, a therapeutic support programme at Aycliffe secure centre opened in May 2015 for children who have been sexually exploited. This offers targeted support in helping young people deal with trauma and in making the transition from the secure setting into more independent living.

The second successful bid was for £3.26 million to deliver a large scale new approach to social work and to work with families. The ten new 'Families First' Teams within One Point hubs will deliver a new approach to social work and to families so that the needs of children are met sooner, and to identify the root causes of problems so that change can be made and sustained.

The first three Teams were launched in September 2015 and are operational in Chester-le-Street, Peterlee and Seaham. The Teams include social workers, One Point and Pathfinder staff along with other specialist staff to provide joined up early help services and to build strong professional relationships to improve outcomes for children and families. The remaining seven Teams were launched in February 2016.

Child Protection Taskforce (June 2015)

A new Taskforce has been established to drive forward fundamental reforms to transform child protection.

The Taskforce will focus on transforming social work and children's services, improving inspection and tackling child

sexual exploitation. It will join the 10 other implementation taskforces, including the [digital taskforce](#), already established across government to monitor and drive delivery of the government's cross-cutting priorities.

The Taskforce's terms of reference are to drive improvements in the protection of vulnerable children by extending and accelerating reforms to the quality of children's social work practice and leadership; promoting innovative models of delivery; and overhauling the way that police, social services and other agencies work together locally.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

This places a duty on a range of 'Specified Authorities' that must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Local Authority has taken a lead role in putting in place arrangements to safeguard and support those who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Every school will be deemed a specified authority and will be required to understand the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism and know how to respond.

Counter Extremism Strategy (October 2015)

On 20th October 2015 the Government published its Counter-Extremism Strategy, which builds upon the new 'Prevent' duty, and is aimed at countering all forms of extremism: violent and non-violent. The purpose of the Strategy is to improve understanding of the causes and impacts of extremism and do more to counter the extremist ideology, build partnerships with those opposed to extremism, disrupt extremists and build more cohesive communities.

Appendix 3 - Inspections

Inspections

The following inspections cover services provided for children and young people.

Inspecting local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement: framework (November 2014)

This framework constitutes the basis for the inspections of local authority arrangements for supporting improvement in schools and in the education of children and young people, from November 2014, under section 135 and section 136(1) (b) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The aim of these inspections is to assist local authorities in their duty to promote high standards and fulfilment of potential so that all children and young people benefit from at least a good education.

Inspection of children's homes (March 2014)

This framework contributes to improving standards in children's homes across the country and puts the experiences of the most vulnerable children at the heart of how homes are regulated and assessed came into effect in April, 2015.

Inspection of early years initial teacher training (January 2015)

To help raise standards in nurseries and early years settings, from April 2015, Ofsted inspect early years initial teacher training providers which provide training for those working with children up to five years of age.

Single Inspection Framework for child protection and services for looked after children (June 2014)

The Single Inspection Framework (SIF) for Children's Services covers children in need of help and protection, services for looked after children and care leavers and the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The inspection framework judges the overall effectiveness of services including a number of key judgement areas.

Common inspection framework: education, skills and early years (August 2014)

From September 2015 the common inspection framework (CIF) aligns inspection across all of the different education remits Ofsted inspects. It applies to registered early years settings, maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools and further education and skills providers.

The CIF provides consistency and comparability in Ofsted's inspection of all education provision, which was previously inspected under several different frameworks.

Joint targeted area inspections (July 2015)

Under Section 20 of the Children Act 2004 Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) are to be introduced from Autumn 2015 by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. Each of the inspectorates will continue their single agency programmes of inspections of child protection and/or safeguarding.

The inspections will specifically examine how well local authorities, health, police and probation services work together in a particular area to safeguard children. The new inspections aim to shine a light on both good and poor practice, identifying examples from which others can learn and helping local agencies to improve.

Children's Centre Inspections (July 2015)

The Minister for Childcare and Education announced in July 2015 a consultation on the future of children's centres. This included a discussion of what accountability framework is needed to best demonstrate their effect. In light of this, the Department for Education (DfE) has agreed with Ofsted to pause the children's centre inspection cycle, pending the outcome of the consultation.

SEND Inspection

The Department for Education (DfE) has asked Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to inspect local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling their responsibilities for disabled children and young people who have special needs. Unannounced inspections, involving visits and discussions with a range of health, education and social care providers will start from May 2016 and focus on:

- How effectively the local area identifies children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs.
- How effectively the local area meets the needs and improves the

outcomes of children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs.

Children, Young People and Families Plan – Glossary	
Terminology	Description
Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy/ AHRs	Durham Council's Strategy to change the drinking culture in County Durham. It aims to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities whilst also ensuring that adults who choose to drink alcohol are able to enjoy it responsibly.
Altogether Active Framework	The overarching framework for County Durham Partnership to increase physical activity for all people living in County Durham over a five year period (2016-2021).
Area Action Partnerships/AAP	These Partnerships have been set up to give people in County Durham a greater choice and voice in local affairs. The partnerships allow people to have a say on services, and give organisations the chance to speak directly with local communities. By working in partnership we help ensure that the services of a range of organisations - including the county and town and parish councils, police, fire, health, and voluntary organisations - are directed to meet the needs of local communities and focus their actions and spending on issues important to these local communities.
County Durham Partnership/CDP	The overarching partnership for County Durham, made up of key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that work together to improve the quality of life for the people within County Durham.
County Durham Youth Offending Services/CDYOS	The service works with young people and partner agencies to prevent re-offending.
Children and Families Partnership /CFP	County Durham Children and Families Partnership is made up of key partners across County Durham and has a strategic responsibility for delivering better outcomes for children, young people and their families in County Durham.
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services/CAMHS	These services help children and young people with their mental health and well-being and are usually provided by a multi-disciplinary team of mental health professionals.
Children and Adults Services/CAS	Children and Adults Services bring together a number of council functions which contribute to the County Durham Partnership vision of Altogether Better Durham, and leads on three of the Council's priority themes: Altogether Healthier, Altogether Better for Children and Young People and Altogether Safer.
Children in Need/CIN	Children in need are defined in law as children who are aged under 18 and:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development. • Need local authority services to prevent significant or further harm to health or development. • Are disabled.
CHIMAT	Child and Maternal Health Profiles

Clinical Commissioning Groups/CCG	Groups of GPs and other health care professionals who have the responsibility for commissioning health and care services in their area, in partnership with local authorities and local communities.
Children, Young People and Families Plan /CYPFP	The single overarching, multi-agency plan for the delivery of priorities for children and young people in County Durham.
DAPH	Durham Association of Primary Schools represents the clusters of schools across the Authority. It meets on a monthly basis and the issues that are discussed revolve around the issues that schools are facing, nationally and locally.
DASH	Durham Association of Secondary Heads is a group of schools and academies in County Durham, DASH believe there should be professional collaboration. The professional practice aspires to be collaborative and equitable, whilst developing, promoting and sharing good practice.
DSSHA	Durham Special Schools Head teachers Association aims to share ideas experience and practice in order to promote and improve the delivery of special education; promote links and cooperation between member schools; provide mutual support and professional help between members and to communicate with the local authority on common issues.
DCPG	Durham College Principals Group includes the four County Durham colleges, and the North East Director from the Association of Colleges. It meets termly and discusses issues pertinent to the further education and skills sector.
Durham County Council/DCC	Local Authority which performs all council functions in the County Durham area.
Early Years Foundation Stage/ EYFS	The Early Year's Foundation Stage sets the statutory standards that all early years providers must meet. This includes all maintained schools, non-maintained schools, independent schools and all providers on the Early Years Register.
Education Health and Care Plan/EHCP	Education Health and Care Plans were introduced across England and Wales during 2014. The Plans themselves originate from the Children & Families Act, replacing old SEN statements with new birth-to-25 education, health and care plan, requiring local authorities and wider health partners to work together.
Early Years Pupil Premium/ EYPP	Children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours a week of funded early education for 38 weeks of the year. The EYPP will complement the entitlement by providing nurseries, schools and other providers of government-funded early education with an additional £300 a year for each eligible child accessing the full 570 hours with the aim of improving the quality of education that these children receive.
First Time Entrants	First Time Entrants to the criminal justice system are classified as offenders, (aged 10 – 17) resident in England and Wales, who received their first reprimand, warning, caution or conviction, based on data recorded on the Police National Computer.
Free School Meals/FSM	A free school meal is a school meal provided to a child or young person during a school break and paid for by government.

General Certificate of Secondary Education/GCSE	This is an academic qualification awarded in a specified subject, generally taken in a number of subjects by students aged 14-16 in secondary education in the UK.
Health and Wellbeing Board/HWB	Statutory forum of key leaders from health and social care working together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities.
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy/JHWS	A legal requirement to ensure that CCG's and the local authority work together through the Health and Wellbeing Board and agree the services that should be prioritised within the strategy.
Key Stage/ KS1, KS2, KS3, KS4	Key Stage is a stage of the state education system in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland setting the educational knowledge expected of students at various ages. Key stage 1-4 are as follows: KS1, school years 1-2, ages 5-7 KS2, school years 3-6, ages 7-11 KS3, school years 7-9, ages 11-14 KS4, school years 10-11, ages 14-16
Local Safeguarding Children Board/LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Boards were established by the Children Act 2004 which gives a statutory responsibility to each locality to have this mechanism in place. LSCBs are now the key system in every locality of the country for organisations to come together to agree on how they will cooperate with one another to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
Looked After Children/LAC	Children in public care, who are placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub/MASH	The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) gather and share information relating to referrals about children in County Durham who may be at risk of harm, or who need support services. This makes sure that all of the key information about a child and their family is available ensuring the most suitable support possible.
Not in Employment, Education or Training/ NEET	A young person up to the age of 25 who is "Not in Education, Employment, or Training".
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills An independent and impartial organisation who inspect and regulate services which care for children and young people, those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.
One Point Service	A service which combines council staff with the NHS and provides a variety of free advice and support and a range of activities for children, young people and families. One Point is made up of a number of services who can provide support with a range of issues such as parenting skills, school attendance, activities for young people and progression into education and employment. Their Personal Advisors are trained and qualified to deal with concerns and support parents and children.

Safe Durham Partnership/SDP	The Government requires specific organisations to work together to reduce crime in their local area. In County Durham this partnership is called the Safe Durham Partnership.
Sustainable Community Strategy/ SCS	Vision for the local area and umbrella strategy for all the other strategies devised for the area.
SEN / SEND	Special Educational Needs / Special Educational Needs and Disability Children who have needs or disabilities that affects their ability to learn. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural/social (e.g. difficulty making friends). • Reading and writing (e.g. dyslexia). • Understanding things. • Concentrating (e.g. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). • Physical needs or impairments.
Specified Authorities	Specified Authorities include Local Authorities, Police, Prisons, Probation, Community Rehabilitation Companies, Schools and Colleges, Universities and NHS Foundation Trusts.
Stronger Families Programme	A programme available to the families of County Durham who may need support with any problems or difficulties they may be having. Depending on the nature of the problem, this could include people from housing, health visitors, school or nurseries, probation, drug or alcohol services and a whole range of support services available through the community and voluntary sector.
Think Family Approach	Think Family is an approach that requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it. It encourages a broader view of need than that normally adopted. To 'Think Family' is to understand that children's problems do not sit in isolation from their parents, and that parents' problems impact on their children. This approach ensures that all family members are able to get the support they need, at the right time, to help their children achieve good outcomes. The 'Think Family' approach is intrinsically linked to our Stronger Families Programme.
Wellbeing for Life	Wellbeing for Life is a service commissioned by Durham County Council and delivered by the following five partners who have years of knowledge and experience of working and supporting local people across County Durham: County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; County Durham Culture and Sport; Pioneering Care Partnership; Leisureworks; Durham Community Action. Wellbeing for Life provides services that can support people to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Children, Young People and Families Plan

2016/2019

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