

**Children & Young People's
Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**



7 April 2017

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

**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of Report

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

Background

- 2 The current Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2016 -2017 focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
- 3 In relation to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the Work Programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on the 25th June 2015, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2016/17 to reflect changing Government policy and at the request of Members.

Council Plan 2016 – 2019

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

Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan for members' consideration.

- 5 Within the Council's Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme, the focus is on the Council's work in tackling a range of issues affecting the lives of all children, young people and families in County Durham.
- 6 Children and Young People's Services recognise that the issues that impact upon the lives of children, young people and families are complex and demand a partnership approach. The Council has identified three objectives with ten specific priority outcomes across these objectives, which are set out in the Children, Young People and Families' Plan. Following the refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan (CYP &FP), which is the strategic multi-agency plan, the focus is now on the 'causes' of poor outcomes rather than the 'effects'. Below are the relevant objectives and actions for the Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme:

a) Children and Young People realise and maximise their potential

- Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years.
- Children and Young People are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood.
- Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential.
- Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain.

b) 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

c) A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families

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

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

Current Work Programme

- 8 During 2016/17, the Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

In Depth Scrutiny Reviews

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

Systematic Review

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

Overview Activity

- (c) **Concessionary Travel Arrangements for Disabled Residents and their Carers** - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life.
- (d) **Innovations Programme Update** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families - Children are safeguarded and protected from harm. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability
- (e) **ERASE** - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life, Negative risk taking behaviours is reduced. Children are safeguarded and protected from harm.
- (f) **Youth Support Review Consultation** - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life, a range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families.

- (g) **Stronger Families Programme** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.
- (h) **County Durham Teenage Pregnancy** - Children and Young People make healthy choices and have the best start in life - Negative risk taking behaviour is reduced.
- (i) **School Funding** – Children and young people realise and maximise their potential.
- (j) **Children’s Services Update** – Children and young people realise and maximise their potential; Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life; A think family approach is imbedded in our support for families.
- (k) **Child Obesity in County Durham** – Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life – negative risk taking behaviours is reduced, children and young people are more resilient and a range of positive activities are available for children, young people and families.
- (l) **Young Carers** - Children and young people realise and maximise their potential – children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood; Children and young people make healthy choices in life and have the best start to life – Children and young people are more resilient. A think family approach is embedded in our support to families – Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
- (m) **Educational Attainment of Looked After Children** – Children and young people maximise their potential - children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood; Children and young people make healthy choices in life and have the best start to life – Children and young people are more resilient. A think family approach is embedded in our support to families – Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families.
- (n) **Education Services Update** - Children and young people maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years; children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood; young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential; children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain.

- (o) **Role of the Social Worker** - A Think Family approach is embedded in our support to families – Children are safeguarded and protected from harm. Early intervention and prevention services improve outcomes for families. Children who cannot live with their families achieve permanence and stability.
- (p) **School Funding Update** - Children and young people realise and maximise their potential.
- (q) **Management of Exclusions** - Children and young people maximise their potential. Children are supported to achieve and develop during their early years. Children and young people are supported to achieve and attain during their school years to prepare for adulthood. Young people are supported to progress and achieve in education, employment and training to achieve their potential. Children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain.
- (r) **Children’s Services Update** - Children and young people realise and maximise their potential; Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life; A think family approach is imbedded in our support for families.
- (s) **Progress in implementing of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy** - Children and young people maximise their potential - children with additional needs are supported to achieve and attain.
- (t) **One Point Services Update** - Children and young people realise and maximise their potential; Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life; A think family approach is imbedded in our support for families.

Budgetary and performance monitoring

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

*****Areas for consideration in the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 9 Having considered the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan for 2016 – 2019 (pages 14-18 attached at appendix 2), it is suggested that the following action areas could be considered in the update of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme:

- **A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families**
Role of the Social Worker

**Council Plan
Cross Cutting Themes**

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

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

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

Next Steps

- 12 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee work programme for 2017 - 2018, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraph 8 above.
- 13 Members will receive a further report at the next Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2017, confirming/agreeing the Committee's work programme for 2017-2018 based on today's discussion and agreement.

Recommendations

- 14 That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in Altogether Better for Children and Young People priority theme of the Council Plan 2016-2019. Appendix 2 (copy attached).

- 15 That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2017-2018 by discussing and considering those actions identified in Appendix 2.
- 16 That the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 4 July 2017, receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2017 - 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Human rights – None

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

Procurement – None

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

Legal Implications- None