

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 September 2017

Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

16 June 2017



Altogether better
for **children and
young people**

**County Durham Children
and Families Partnership**

Child Poverty Update

Poverty can affect every area of a child's development - social, educational, health and personal. Living in a poor household can reduce children's expectations of their lives and lead to a cycle where poverty is repeated from generation to generation. As adults, they are more likely to suffer ill health, be unemployed or homeless, and become involved in offending, drug and alcohol abuse, and abusive relationships.

A Child Poverty Working Group has been established as a sub group of the Children and Families Partnership, to develop and implement a coherent and coordinated strategic approach to address the cause and impact of poverty on children, young people and families across County Durham.

The Child Poverty Working Group has membership from across Durham County Council Services and partner organisations

The working group have agreed the Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition of poverty, '*When a person's resources are well below their minimum needs, including the need to take part in society*'. This definition describes not only monetary and resource poverty but also poverty of opportunity.

The group, supported by Deborah Harrison, North East Child Poverty Commission has formulated an approach to Child Poverty in County Durham in which the following three key strands have emerged:

- a. **Language and values associated with child poverty:** this will focus on our attitudes and beliefs towards poverty and will involve the development of a shared language and a media strategy;
- b. **Poverty Management in communities linked to early help:** this will focus on understanding County Durham's child poverty cohort, developing and implementing targeted, accessible support to families. This strand will also focus on the learning and development needs of frontline staff across the partnership to ensure they are confident to provide access to support to address poverty;

- c. **Economic- inclusive growth approach:** this will focus on the CFP influence on the economic partnership and secondary school sector to ensure major economic developments in County Durham are seen as key opportunities to provide local young people and adults with routes into jobs and apprenticeships, to reduce poverty.

The Child Poverty Working Group will develop an action plan using the identified three strands. The next three meetings will focus on each key strand and will develop key actions and performance measures.

Terms of Reference have been agreed for the Child Poverty Working Group.

Healthy Child Programme Board

The Healthy Child Programme Board (HCPB) is a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The work of the HCPB will not duplicate that of the Children and Families Partnership, but will bring added value.

The HCPB has been established to bring a small multi-disciplinary strategic group around one table to discuss close collaborative working to improve the health and social care offer to children and young people aged 0 - 19 years (24 year for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)).

In County Durham there are some stark inequalities where the gap must be reduced both to the England average and also within County Durham inequalities. Reducing health inequalities and delivering towards improved health and social outcomes for children and young people will be the primary goals of the HCPB.

Whilst the public health, educational and social outcomes are yet to be finalised by the HCPB, key areas of focus will be on antenatal outcomes such as smoking at time of delivery, under 18 conception rates, breastfeeding and earlier identification of neglect.

Moving into early years and school age there will be a drive to consider how improved collaborative working would increase the earlier identification, therapeutic offer and management of children with SEND.

Working across the health and social care system it is anticipated that improved collaborative working would greatly increase the public's mental health by developing a seamless offer at the point of contact.

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge

Following the success of the 2016 Takeover Challenge, The Children and Families Partnership will be championing this initiative for 2017.

Partner organisations are being asked to consider ways in which they can involve children and young people in decision making throughout the year, as well as part of the 2017 Takeover which will officially launch on 24th November, and let Jayne.watson@durham.gov.uk know of their plans. Support is available if partners are unsure of how they can take part.

Further information is available at [children's commissioner takeover-challenge](#)

County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) Health Needs Assessment (HNA)

Children and young people who are in contact with the youth justice system are generally a socially excluded population, with significant complex health needs. Research has demonstrated that the health outcomes for young people who offend are poor, associated with poorer physical, emotional and socio-economic wellbeing.

To ensure CDYOS are able to provide a clear commitment to improve outcomes for young people the CDYOS Management Board commissioned the HNA in early 2016 to identify the needs of young people supervised by CDYOS to inform future commissioning intentions. Work was jointly led by CDYOS and Public Health.

A new co-commissioned model of health provision in CDYOS for 2017/19 has been developed based on findings and recommendations in the HNA, and was approved by CDYOS Management Board in February 2017.