

Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 July 2018

Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

6 March 2018



County Durham Children
and Families Partnership

Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Local Transformation Plan

Following initial discussions at the CFP meeting in January 2018, Gill O'Neill, Consultant in Public Health led further discussions at the March 2018 meeting to consult on the refresh of the Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Local Transformation Plan (CYP LTP) for 2018/19. Representatives from Success North East and Investing in Children supported these discussions.

The CYP LTP reflects the vision and principles of the national 'Future in Mind' strategy and the 5-year forward view for mental health. It enables partners and stakeholders to see the progress being made.

The CYP LTP has a real ambition to develop the workforce so that everyone working with children, young people and their families is ambitious for them to achieve appropriate goals.

The vision for County Durham is that:

'We want Children, Young People and their Families in County Durham to be supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing. Every child and young person will have access to early help in supporting their emotional and mental health needs. We want to develop children and young people's resilience and coping strategies. We will transform the quality and availability of our services from early help through to specialist provision. Local services will be locally delivered within communities, closer to home, targeted to the most vulnerable ensuring fewer children and young people require specialist mental health services.'

The following 12 ambitions are to be realised by 2020 to achieve this vision:

1. Every young person in County Durham has access to a graduated and timely response to emotional health issues, ranging from maintaining a healthy mind to acute crisis.
2. County Durham has a joined up system for early help that operates based on the THRIVE approach and harnesses the capacity of the third sector.
3. All County Durham educational settings are better equipped to support the emotional health of their populations working within the getting advice and getting help quadrants of the THRIVE approach.
4. Access to getting more help and risk support is available through local settings including primary, acute and specialist care, and that this is timely, and based on clear pathways of care linked to different types of need.
5. We will have one single point of access.
6. Coordinated robust risk support is available for the most vulnerable between partners including youth justice.
7. By 2020/21, in-patient stays for children and young people will only take place where clinically appropriate, and will have the minimum possible length of stay, and will be as close to home as possible and be commissioned on a 'place-basis'
8. Everyone in contact with children and young people feels equipped to actively support their mental health and wellbeing.
9. Well informed commissioners with comprehensive intelligence about needs and provision who strive to co-produce with children, young people and their families leading to innovative, creative and responsive support across a range of services from primary to inpatient and secure settings.
10. Support services to seek the views of our most vulnerable.
11. Maximise opportunities to capture feedback, incorporate this into discussions and work to improve quality.
12. Perinatal mental health service supporting the needs of our population to ensure timely assessment, early intervention and appropriate referral into specialist services when required.

Successes to date include:

- Delivery of Youth Aware Mental Health (YAM) to year 9 students in mainstream schools, which was showcased to the Children's Commissioner for England when she visited Durham in September 2017.
- A flexible and responsive service 24/7, 365 days a year for children and young people experiencing a mental health crisis.
- Bereavement support service provision.
- Enhanced community eating disorder service for children and young people.
- Rollercoaster Parent support project.
- Durham is a Local Government Association peer learning site, with mental health as a prevention at scale priority

- Establishment of the Young Adult Support Café (YASC) and peer mentoring programme in schools.
- Development of SPACE for mental health support for children, young people and families.

Engagement will continue until July 2018, with the refreshed CYP LTP being completed for submission to NHS England in October 2018.

Area Action Partnership (AAP) update

Sandy Denney, Area Action Partnership Coordinator provided an update on the work taking place across the county, which is supported by Area Action Partnerships, to address the three priorities of the Children and Families Partnership:

- Reducing Child Poverty
- Building Resilience
- Best Start in Life

The Children and Families Partnership were requested to let the AAPs know of any specific emerging issues, which AAP task groups should be aware of when developing their initiatives for 2018/19.

Members were also asked to be mindful of the media that AAPs have access to, and to suggest any proposals for the utilisation of these channels.

For information on any of the projects, please contact Jayne.watson@durham.gov.uk

You can find out more about the work of AAP's [here](#)

Special Educational Needs, and Disability (SEND) Local Area Inspection

Phil Hodgson, Head of Education, Durham County Council provided an update on the recent Ofsted SEND Local Area Inspection, which measured how effectively the SEND reforms, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014, have been implemented.

The inspectors spoke to children and young people with SEND, parents & carers, the local authority, National Health Service (NHS) and Public Health officers. They visited a range of providers, spoke to leaders, staff and governors about the implementation of the reforms and reviewed a range of performance information and data.

The findings from the inspection saw strengths in the following areas:

- Identifying children's needs
- Providing high quality services for vulnerable young people
- Preparing care leavers for adulthood
- Making sure children feel safe and well cared for

The findings from the inspection highlighted a number of areas for development, including:

- Improving leadership and governance across the local area

- Improving access to some services
- Engaging young people and their families in the co-production of SEND provisions
- Response to the reforms has been too slow
- The view of the local area's effectiveness is inaccurate
- Long waiting times to access services or receive treatment, with variable experiences
- Strategic coproduction of the written statement is necessary to secure the required improvements. Work on the written statement has already begun.

As a result of the findings, a written statement of action is required. The local authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups are jointly responsible for submitting the written statement, and work on this has already begun.

The Children and Families Partnership acknowledged that the inspection was hard work, and the outcome disappointing – but felt that it was positive to see SEND receiving this push to ensure outcomes are improved for children and young people with SEND across the county.

The Partnership were informed that feedback will be shared through a number of mechanisms, including service user groups, head teacher forums, Durham County Council website, Clinical Commissioning Group websites as well as being hosted on the Ofsted website.