

County Durham

Draft Children and Young People's Strategy

2018/19 - 2020/21



Purpose

This is a strategy for all children and young people and their families in County Durham.

The aim of this plan is to provide focus and clarity on the priorities for improving services and life opportunities for children and young people. The document considers what life is currently like for children and young people in County Durham, based on feedback from children and young people and analysis of their needs. It sets out where we want to be in three years and what actions we will undertake to achieve this. For the public it provides a summary of the importance of services and support for children and young people, who are the future of our county, and what they can expect from local services.

For those responsible for delivering services, any future work programmes should contribute to achieving the aims set out in this strategy. It can therefore be used as an aid in deciding what to do and of equal importance, what not to do. Members, officers and partners will find this document of practical use in evaluating whether to participate in new national initiatives and funding bids and help select the work programmes that we need to do. The strategy is therefore a living document that is designed to be used regularly.

National Policy

There is a huge amount of national legislative and policy change affecting children's services which have informed this strategy. Key policy areas are:

- The strengthened ***Working together to Safeguard Children*** guidance published in July 2018 aims to improve partnership working to protect children and young people. It sets new legal requirements for the police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to make joint decisions to meet the needs of local children and families.
- The independent review, ***Foster care in England***, published in February 2018, sets out six priority areas for the government's vision for a better care system, driven by children's needs and views.
- The government's ***Childhood Obesity: a plan for action, Part 1 and 2***, published in June 2018, aims to reduce England's childhood obesity within the next 10 years. Their goal is to half childhood obesity and reduce the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030.
- ***Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a green paper***, published in December 2017, proposes measures to improve mental health support for children and young people through earlier intervention and prevention, especially in schools and colleges.
- The government is also consulting on draft regulations and statutory guidance relating to ***Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education*** which includes teaching children about physical and good mental health, online safety and healthy relationships.
- The ***Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper***, published in May 2018, considers developing children's digital literacy and the safety of young people's use of online dating websites and applications.
- ***The Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone***, published in August 2018, sets out how the government will work with and for civil society in the long-

term to create a country that works for everyone, including a review of the statutory duty placed on local authorities to provide appropriate local youth services.

- Ofsted's new ***Inspection of Local Authorities (ILACS) Framework*** changes the way local authorities are inspected depending on previous judgement and places a stronger emphasis on partnership working within front-line services to improve children and young people's lives.
- There is also a new inspection framework for youth offending and a new education inspection framework expected in early in the New Year.

Vision for Children and Young People in County Durham

County Durham is changing. Throughout the last few years, the County Durham Partnership have had an unwavering focus on economic regeneration, in order to make Durham a better place to live and work, investing in local businesses, people and skills. The result of this focus is that the economy of the county has a stronger and more balanced mix of employment opportunities for residents, including industry, manufacturing, service sector, public sector and self-employment.

The County Durham Partnership also have a longstanding commitment to make life better for children and young people in the county, and this is a strategic priority for all partners. We now want to renew and strengthen our focus on improving life for our children and young people, by improving the access they and their families have to these economic opportunities, as well as improving children's health, education, safety, and transitions into adulthood.

Aims

Our ambition is that County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy and achieving their potential. To achieve this, we have developed four key aims:

1. All children and young people have a safe childhood
2. Children and Young People enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing
3. Young people can access good quality education, training and local employment
4. Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Aim 1

All children and young people have a safe childhood.

We will provide a range of services for children, young people and families to help ensure they achieve this aim. We will focus on preventative measures through our early help and intervention services and will ensure that all children in need of help and protection are protected from harm. For those needing our statutory support services we will ensure that our social work practice is of a high standard. We will be an excellent corporate parent to the children and young people within the Council's care and for those leaving the care system. We will work with education, youth support and other networks to ensure good services are available to all our children, young people and their families.

Aim 2

Children and Young People enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing.

Better outcomes for children cannot be achieved through health and social care service improvement in isolation. How children live, learn and play are all key drivers of healthy development. Parenting is critical to a child's development and evidence shows children who are exposed to adverse events such as domestic abuse or alcohol misuse can be affected negatively, both physically and mentally, throughout their adolescence and into adult life. Education, housing, community connections, employment and poverty all determine whether a child will be more likely to thrive and achieve their optimum potential in life. We will work to ensure our children enjoy the best start in life and have good health and wellbeing, offering help when required. For our more vulnerable children and families we will provide a more targeted offer of support to reduce inequalities in outcomes. Children and young people will be supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing

Aim 3

Young people can access good quality local education, training and employment.

We will focus on improving the educational attainment of our children and young people at least to a level where we are the best in the North East. We also need to ensure that young people have the right skills and are prepared for work and we need to work together to ensure that there are sufficient employment and training opportunities available. We will offer additional support for children who are vulnerable or who have additional needs.

Aim 4

Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

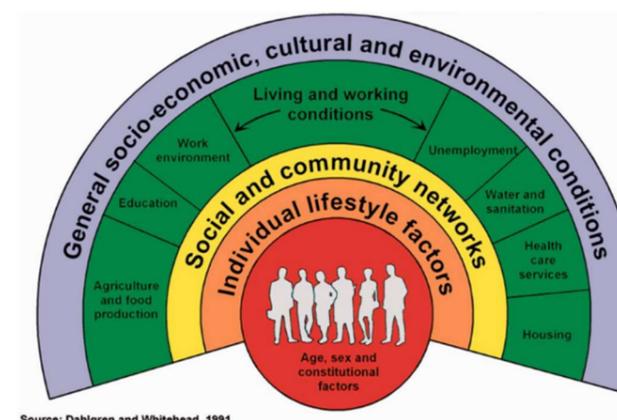
We aim to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have high quality support which meets their needs. Children, young people and their families will be involved in the design and plans for these services, with their voice being listened to and where possible acted upon. It is important that we are able to support these children and young people to secure meaningful employment which enables and prepares them to live independently into adult life.

Promoting Equality of Opportunity

In developing this strategy we recognise that income poverty is the most important driver of outcomes for children and young people. **Our ambitions are underpinned by an unrelenting cross-partnership focus on tackling the impact of poverty and disadvantage on all residents, including children, young people and their families.** We have formed a Child Poverty Working Group, which aims to develop and implement a single coherent and coordinated approach to addressing and mitigating child poverty across County Durham. The objectives of the group are being delivered through three key strands, namely; language and values associated with child poverty; poverty management in the community linked to early help; and an economic - inclusive growth approach.

Health and wellbeing inequalities

We understand that economic factors, alongside environmental and social inequalities can determine children, young people's and their families risk of getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or their access to effective treatments. We have based our improvement plans on this understanding of the relationship between individuals and families, their environment and health (see diagram below). Individuals are placed at the centre and surrounding them are the various layers of influences on health – such as individual lifestyle factors, community influences, living and working conditions, and more general social conditions. This context is essential as the ability to achieve changes in outcomes is dependent on the wider influences of health.



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

Listening to our children, young people, families and local communities to improve services

We recognise that we have responsibilities to ensure that all of our children and young people are included within the opportunities that this vision will provide. We aim to **listen** to our children, young people and families, and continually review and **learn** from them, leading a programme of service improvement to better meet their needs.

We are passionate about understanding individual needs and improving the life chances and wellbeing for children, young people and families who need extra support and care, including:

- Young carers
- Disabled children
- Children in poverty
- Families affected by substance misuse, mental health and domestic violence
- Children with special educational needs
- Children in care
- Care leavers
- Children subject to a care plan or child protection plan
- Children and families who are economically disadvantaged
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- Children with mental health problems
- Young people who offend

We want to ensure that all children and their families are fully able to take advantage of the opportunities we are creating for better employment and prosperity. This will mean better safeguarding, and a passionate commitment to ensuring that children have safe, loving and stable home environments, with any risks dealt with quickly and effectively.

We will work more closely with families, schools, colleges and employers to ensure our children have a good start in life, good education and develop the skills to access good quality employment. We will work with employers to ensure that there are routes for young people into the new jobs that are on offer.

We are also ambitious to improve the health of our children and young people. Our children and families have a challenging legacy in terms of higher than average levels of deprivation in the county, in particular key health measures such as childhood obesity, smoking and teenage pregnancies are not as good as we would like. Our vision is that all of our children have the opportunity to live healthy lives, and have the right environment for this to be achieved with optimum access to effective and advice which meet their needs.

As our economic prospects improve, people of the county, its businesses and public sector bodies are looking forward. In looking to our future as a county, we are placing our children and young people at the heart of our thinking.

Opportunities for children, young people and families to get involved:

- Investing in Children (Children in Care Council)
- Making Changes Together
- Student Voice Survey
- Bridge Young Carer's service
- Care Leavers Forum
- DISC
- Young Durham Facebook
- LAC Young people's service
- AAP's

We have adopted a charter approach to listening to and acting upon the views and experiences of children and their families. The following charters are commitments of the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Disabled Children's Charter
- Young Carers Charter
- SEND Promise

Investing in Children Engagement

Engagement has taken place with a number of children and young people aged 4 to 22 within County Durham through two Investing in Children agenda days. Children and Young People from different groups within Investing in Children, including young people with SEND, Children in Care, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) and different areas across County Durham have had the opportunity to have their voice heard and views listened to. This engagement enables us to evaluate children and young people's perceptions of current issues within education, health, special needs/disabilities and emotional wellbeing.

Key findings from the Investing in Children Agenda day tell us that:

- Children and young people feel they need more support when leaving school to get into further education, training or employment. With a specific emphasis being placed upon more support needed for students who experience mental health difficulties.
- Young people reported that they would benefit from receiving more life skills at school
- Bullying appears to be apparent across the age groups. Children and young people reported that more needs to be done within school policies to ensure this is dealt with properly.
- Children and young people reported a lack of financial resources which negatively impacts on experiences in and out of school and therefore impacts on overall health and wellbeing
- The need to feel safer at home, school and in the community with consistent stability from parents, guardians and teachers was highlighted for all children and young people including those looked after.
- Children and young people felt that parental drug and alcohol misuse had negative impacts on overall health and wellbeing

Student Voice Survey 'You Said'

As part of the Children and Families Partnership, a Student Voice survey (an online questionnaire) took place in both primary and secondary schools in County Durham between January and April 2017. Of the 204 primary schools 97 participated (3,719 students) and 20 of the 33 secondary schools (5,640 students). In total, more than a third of all eligible students in County Durham participated in the engagement. The survey is planned to be completed again in 2019.

The Student Voice Survey indicates that:

- 53% of secondary school students feel that they are achieving expected progress in Reading, Writing and Numeracy
- 1,481 primary school pupils and 1,418 secondary school pupils who participated said that they had been bullied at their current school
- In primary school bullying is more prevalent in above average FSM schools and FSM eligible pupils in secondary school are more likely to have been bullied
- The vast majority of both primary and secondary pupils reported that they feel safe. Feelings of safety are reported lowest at break time (primary) and around school when not in lessons (secondary)
- 2.6% of primary pupils reported never feeling safe when outside of school compared to 6% of secondary pupils
- The survey found that only 52.2% of Year 11 pupils knew how to get an apprenticeship
- A higher percentage of boys (in both primary and secondary) reported to consuming one or more energy drinks per day
- Only 37.1% of boys and 31.2% of girls in primary and 25.5% of boys and 17.7% of girls in secondary reported to being physically active for at least 60 minutes on all 7 days
- In primary schools with above average FSM, significantly fewer pupils eat their 5-a-day (54.0% compared to 62.6%). FSM eligibility is also associated with less engagement with clubs outside of school.

'We did'

Some of the immediate actions we have taken to respond to things children, young people and families have said are set out below. Key elements from the engagement have informed the priorities of this strategy.

You said: *bullying is more prevalent in above average FSM schools and FSM eligible pupils are more likely to be bullied*

We did: *The Child Poverty Working Group (CPWG), in partnership with Education Durham, have developed a 'cut the cost of the school day' training programme which aims to reduce the stigma associated with living in poverty, increase opportunities for pupils living in poverty to access educational opportunities in school and extracurricular and challenge staff perceptions of poverty and deprivation. The training programme will be rolled out to both primary and secondary schools over the next three academic years (with a number of schools already signed up).*

You said: 1,481 primary school pupils and 1,418 secondary school pupils said that they had been bullied at their current school

We did: *The CYP Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience group have agreed the roll out of the Durham Resilience programme to 25 schools per year and to deliver the YAM (Youth Aware of Mental Health) programme in 10 schools in 17/18 and 20 schools in 18/19. Providing emotional wellbeing and resilience nurses to build capacity and upskill staff and school nurses is also a key priority of the 0-19 programme.*

You said: pupils aren't engaging in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day

We did: *Public Health, education, culture and sport along with other partners have developed the 'Active 30' programme to encourage schools to get pupils more active by pledging to achieve 10, 20 or 30 minutes of exercise per day. Schools will be given tools that will encourage leaders in the educational sector to embed physical activity right across the agenda. This is being rolled out to schools during the 18/19 academic year (with a number of schools already signed up).*

You said: 47.8% of Year 11 pupils did not know how to get an apprenticeship

We did: *promote careers education information and guidance information resources to increase awareness of all post-16 options (including apprenticeships)*

Where we are now

Children and young people in County Durham

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England

49.7 per 10,000 children. **Higher** in County Durham than England but lower than the North East.



Almost **500** children subject of a child protection plan

Around **21,000** children living in poverty

20.9%. This is **significantly higher** than England, but **lower** than the North East.

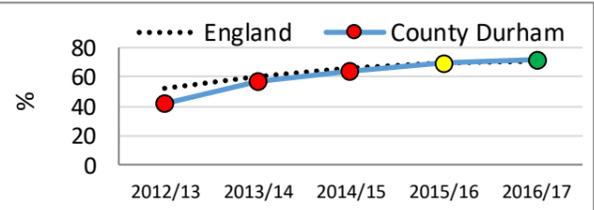


Around **3,500** children in need

408.5 per 10,000 children. **Significantly higher** than England (330/10,000) but lower than the North East (451.6/10,000).

One Point report an additional **2,500** children & young people who do not meet the statutory threshold

Now significantly better than England

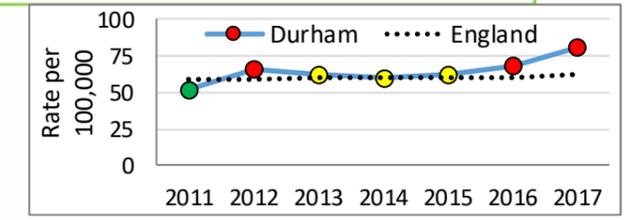


72% of children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception

100,500 children aged 0-17

Around **800** looked after children

81 per 10,000. This rate is rising, showing an increase of over 50% since 2011, and is **significantly higher** than England but lower than the North East.



That's around **10,000** children in County Durham.

10% of children have a diagnosable mental health disorder

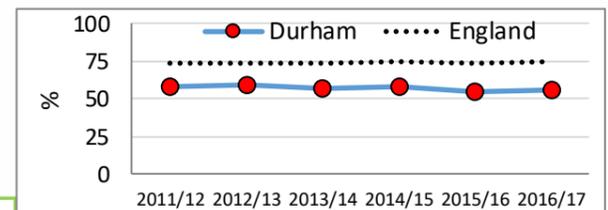
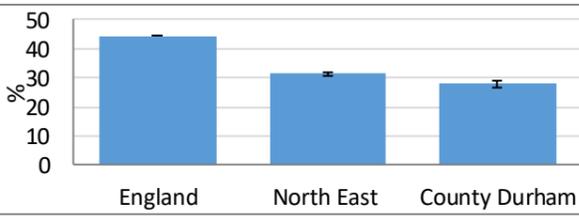
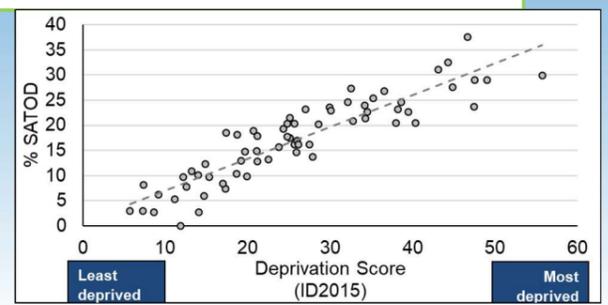
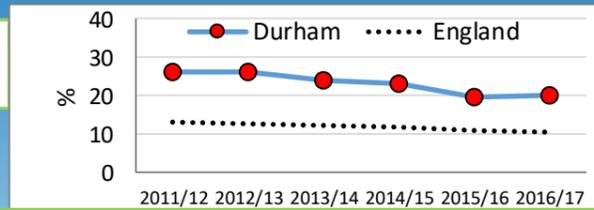
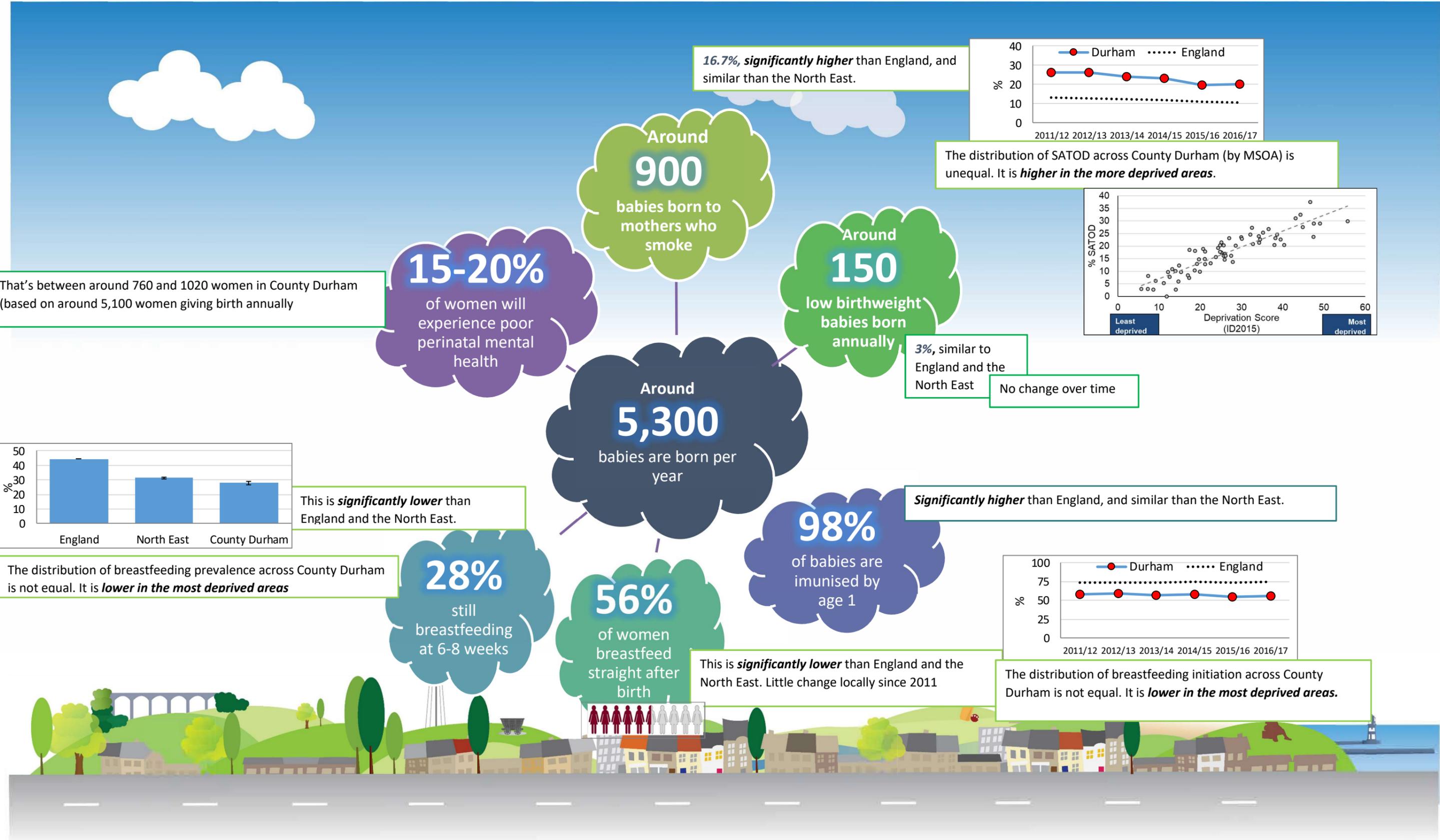
Around **10,200** young people with SEND at school

14.5% of all school pupils. This is now **not significantly different from England.**



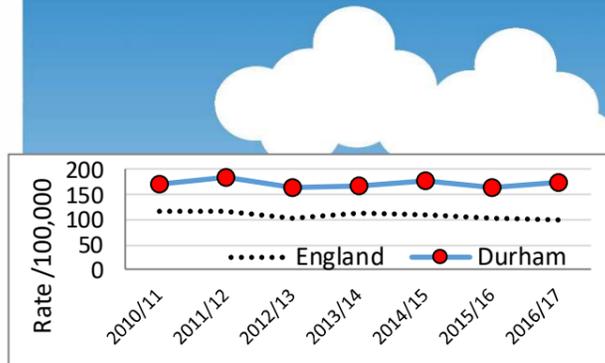
Pre and post birth

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England



Early Years and Primary School

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England

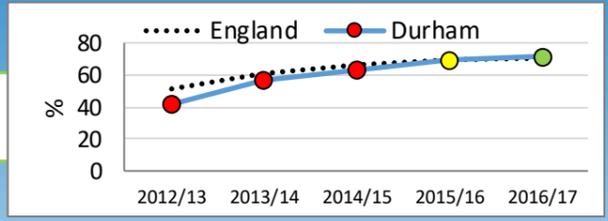


171.3/100,000. Significantly higher than England. Little change over time locally, compared to a slow reduction seen nationally.

Nearly **1,500** hospital admissions caused by injuries in children (0-14 years)

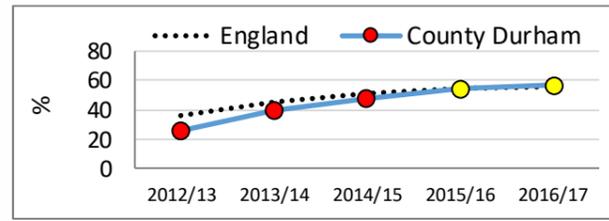
72% achieve a good level of development at end of Reception

This has been rising over time, now **significantly higher** than England.



57% FSM status achieving good level of development at the end of Reception

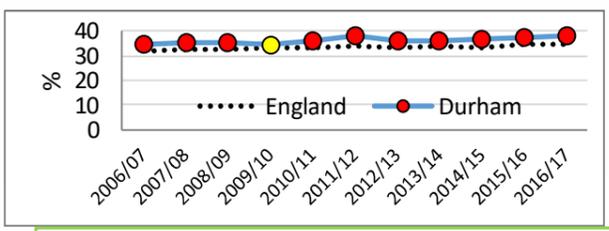
Similar to England and the North East. Locally the proportion has more than doubled over time, faster than the national improvement.



33,447 aged 0-5
35,394 aged 6-11

38% of children aged 10-11 are overweight

That's over **2,000** year 6 children in County Durham. This has been rising over time, now **significantly higher** than England.

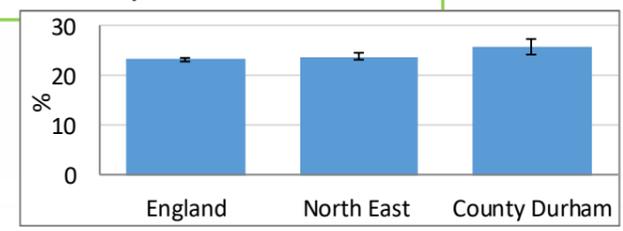


The distribution of excess weight and obesity across County Durham is not equal. It is **higher in the more deprived areas**

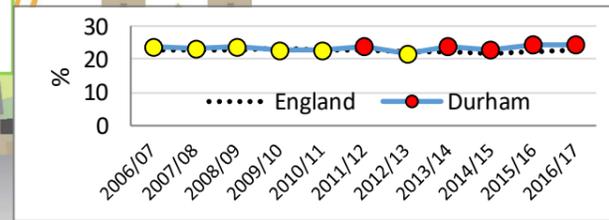
Around **1,400** children aged 5-6 overweight or obese

26% of 5 year olds have decayed, filled or missing teeth (DMFT)

The distribution of DMFT across County Durham is not equal. It is **higher in the more deprived areas**



24.1%. This has been rising over time, now **significantly higher** than England.

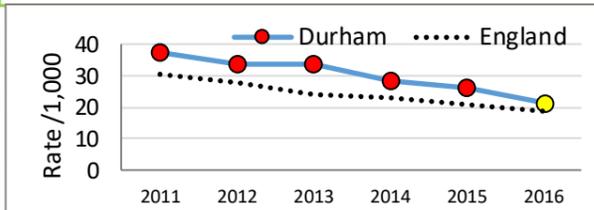


This is **significantly higher** than England.

Secondary school and transitions

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England

22 per 1,000 teenage conceptions in 2016, the lowest since the 1998 benchmark. A decreasing trend locally and nationally. The rate is now **not significantly different to England**



173
teenage conceptions (2016)

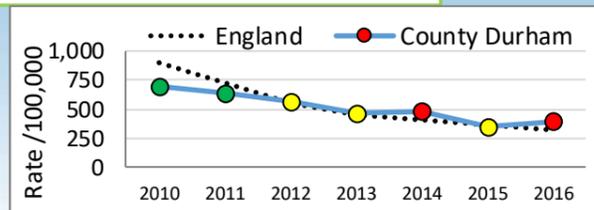
58%
young people gain 5 good GCSEs

This has been rising over time, not **significantly different** to England or the North East.

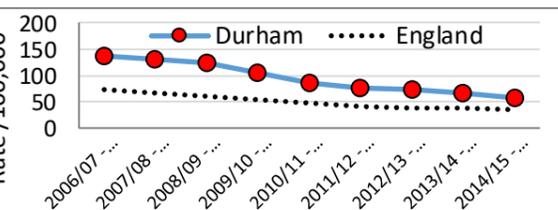


Around **168**
first-time young offenders

391 per 100,000. That's around 600 young people aged 16-17. The proportion is **not significantly different** to England or the North East



56.2 per 100,000. Decreasing trend locally and nationally. **Significantly higher** in County Durham than England



196
under 18s admitted to hospital for alcohol specific conditions

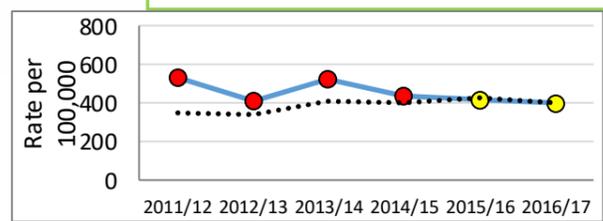
26,231 aged 12-16
11,561 aged 17-18

Over **8,400**
A&E attendances (15-17 years)

495 per 100,000. Now **statistically significantly higher** than England and the North East.



401 per 100,000. Decreasing trend locally and the rate is now **not significantly different** to England



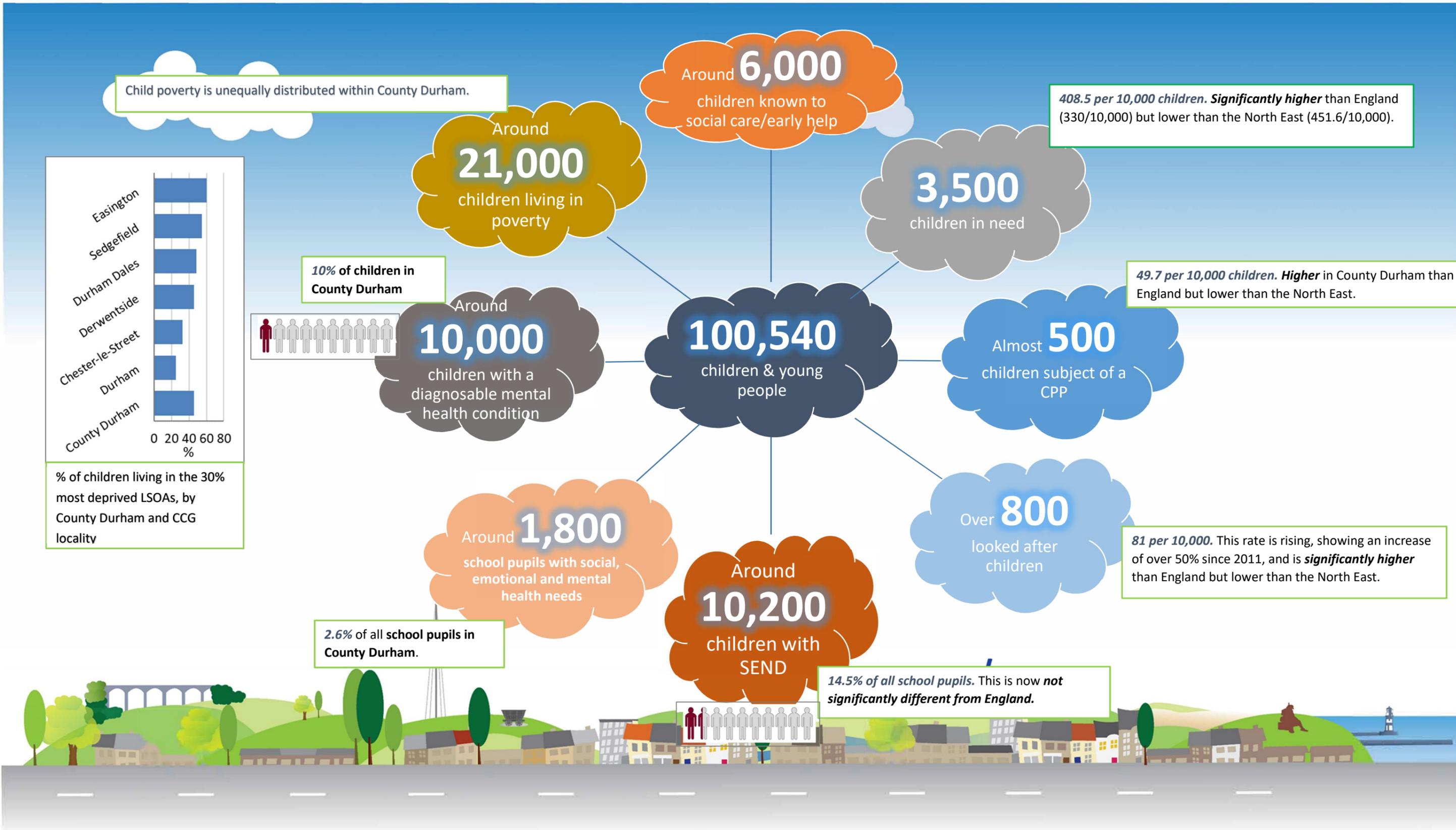
216
hospital admissions a year as a result of self-harm

Around **6%**
16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training

That's around **600 young people aged 16-17**. The proportion is **not significantly different** to England or the North East.



Vulnerability: The scale of the challenge



Measuring inequalities within County Durham

County Durham there is inequality from pre-birth, throughout childhood and adolescence

In the more deprived areas of County Durham:

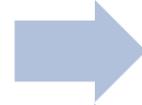
Life expectancy at birth is shorter



7.7 yrs shorter for males

7.1 yrs shorter for females

Fewer mothers breastfeed for longer



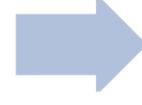
The gap at 6-8 weeks is almost 100%

More mothers are smokers when they have their baby



4 out of 5 areas with the highest prevalence are in the most deprived decile

More children have excess weight



A 20% gap for children aged 4-5 and 10-11

Implications for improving life in County Durham

Pre and post birth

- Reduce the number of mothers who smoke
- Increase breastfeeding
- Increase services for perinatal mental health

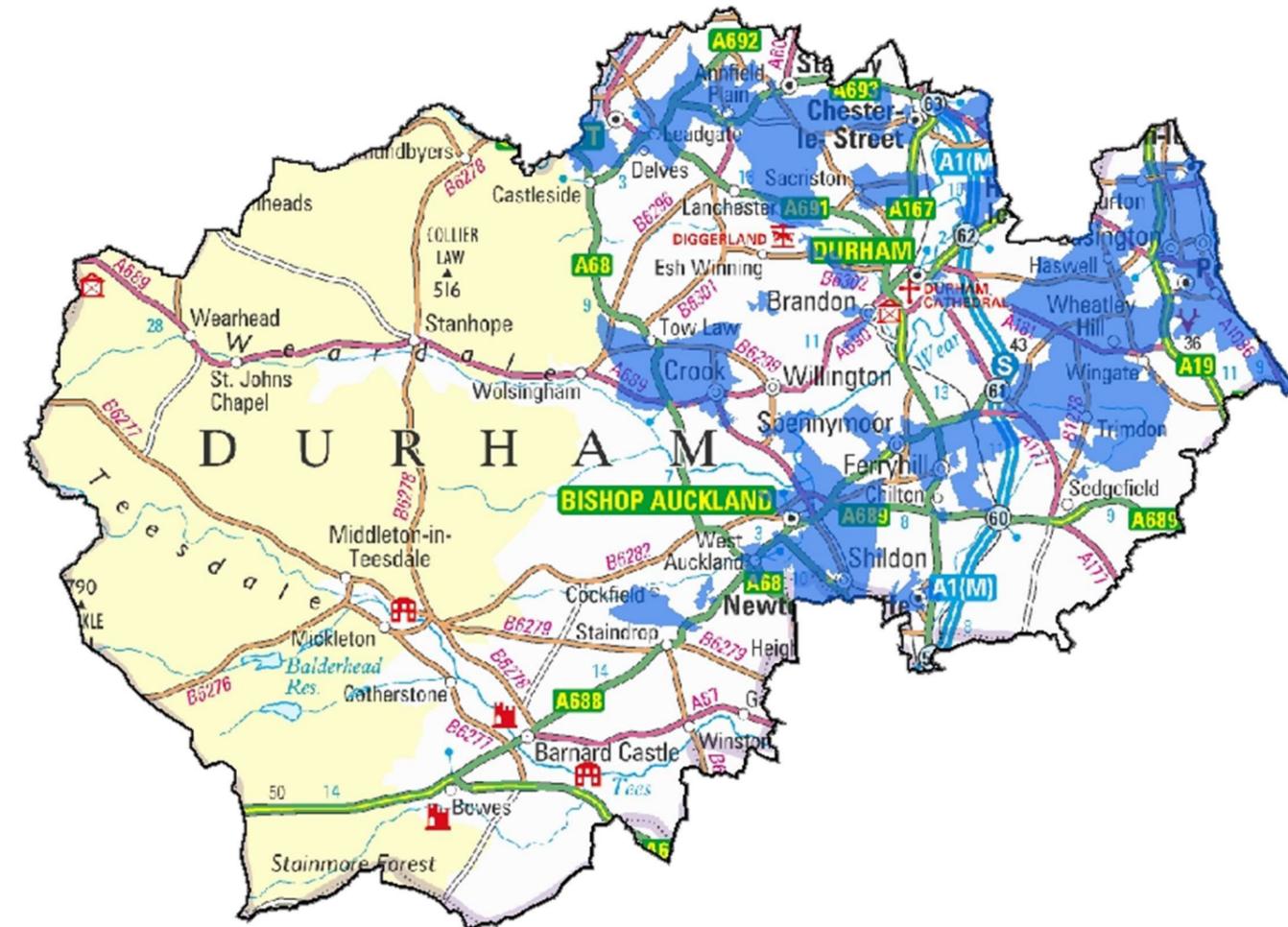
Early years and primary school

- Increase attainment levels for all children
- Improve mental health
- Improve dental health
- Reduce the number of hospital admissions for unintentional injuries
- Reduce the number of children who are overweight or obese

Secondary school and Transitions

- Improve educational attainment
- Look at A&E attendances
- Reduce hospital admissions for alcohol related attendances
- Reduce hospital admissions as a result of self-harm
- Improve mental health and wellbeing
- Continue to reduce teenage conceptions

Map showing 30% most deprived MSOAs nationally in County Durham



30% most deprived MSOAs

Current Model

What are services for children?

Local services for all children and young people include:

- Schools and nurseries
- Sports and leisure activities and facilities
- Libraries
- Arts and cultural activities
- Green spaces
- Transport
- Communities
- Health care
- Social care and specialist services for those needing extra support

How are service provided?

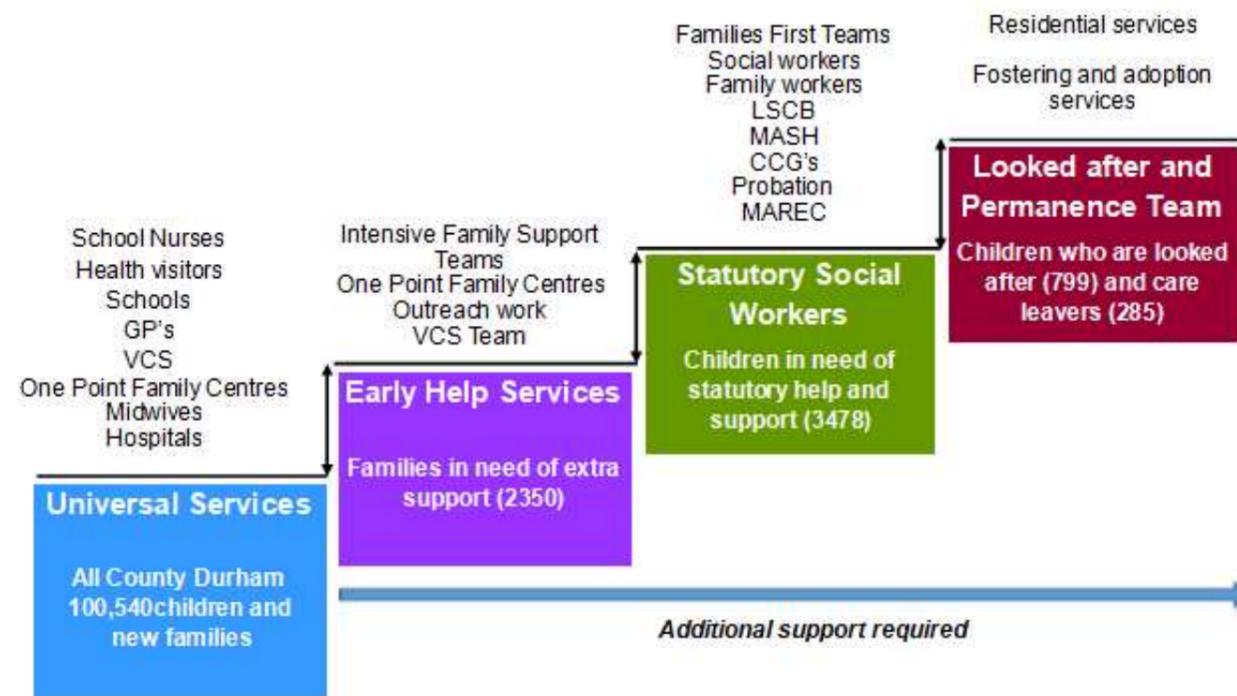
Our services cover all 100,540 children and young people aged 0 to 19 in the county with extra services for those with additional needs across health, education and social care.

Where there is a child safeguarding issue all partners work together within the model for services for children, outlined below, to deliver services to protect children and young people.

Future Health and social care integration

With the intention to create an integrated health and social care plan for County Durham there is the opportunity to look at how money and resources are best managed in a collaborative way to reduce duplication and maximise the effectiveness and quality of service offer.

Model: Services for Children (for full details of services see appendix 2, figures as at July 2018)

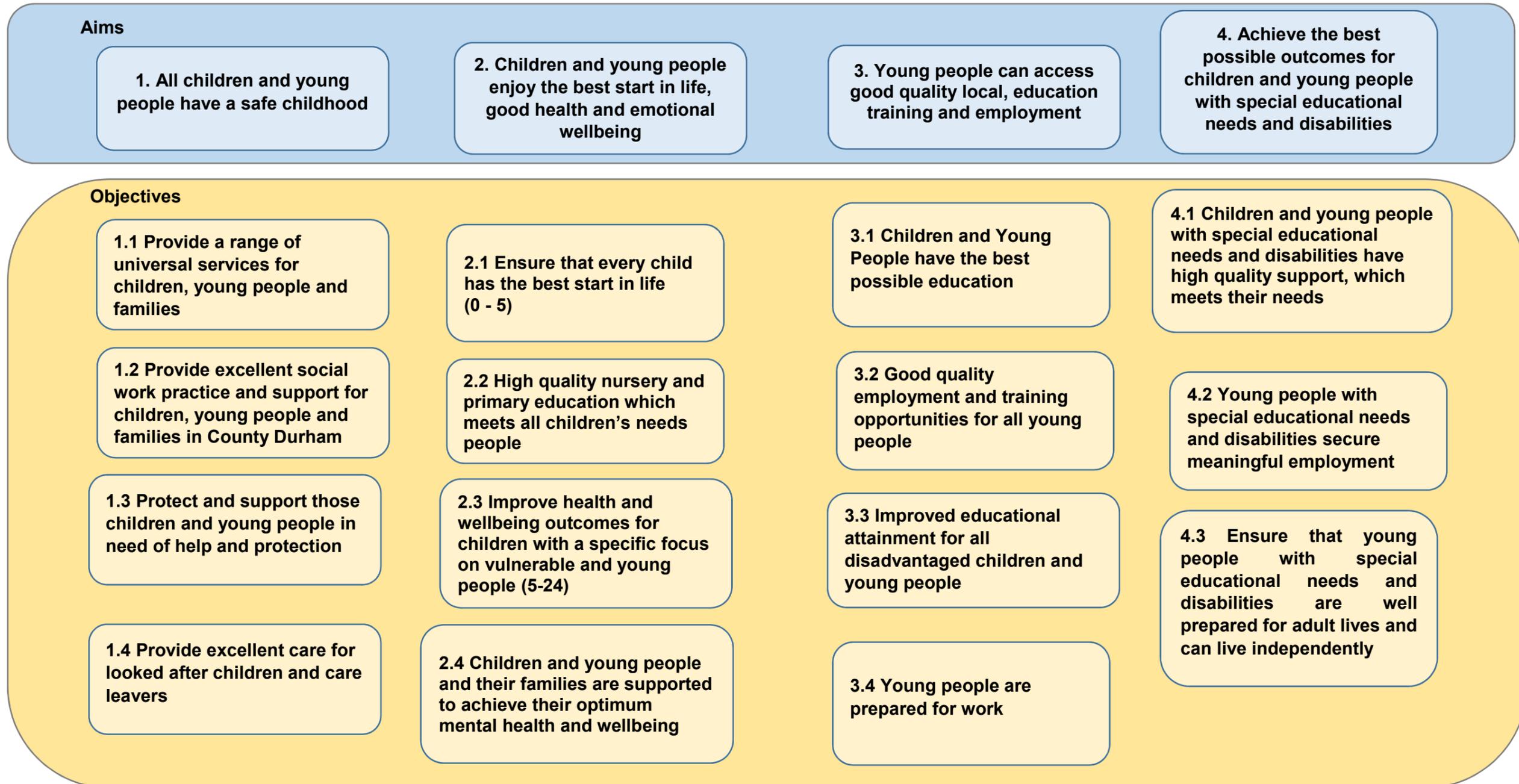


Other specialist support including:
 Domestic Violence
 Drugs and Alcohol
 Mental Health
 Learning Disability
 Youth Offending Services
 SEND Local Offer

Key
 VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector
 LSCB – Local Safeguarding Children Board
 MASH – Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
 CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
 MAREC -

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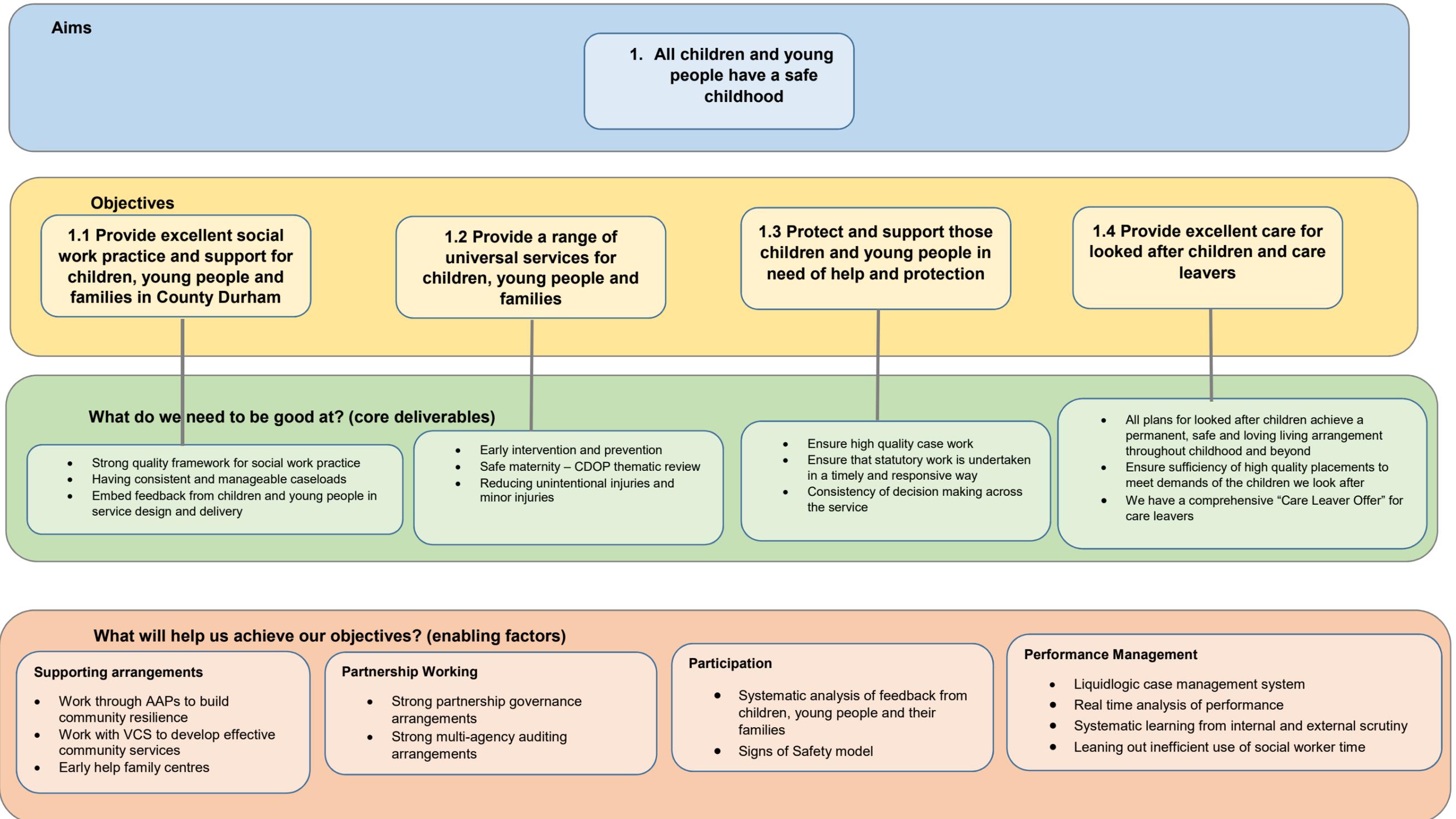
Vision: County Durham will be the best area in the North East for children and young people to grow up in and be a place where all children are healthy, happy and achieving their potential



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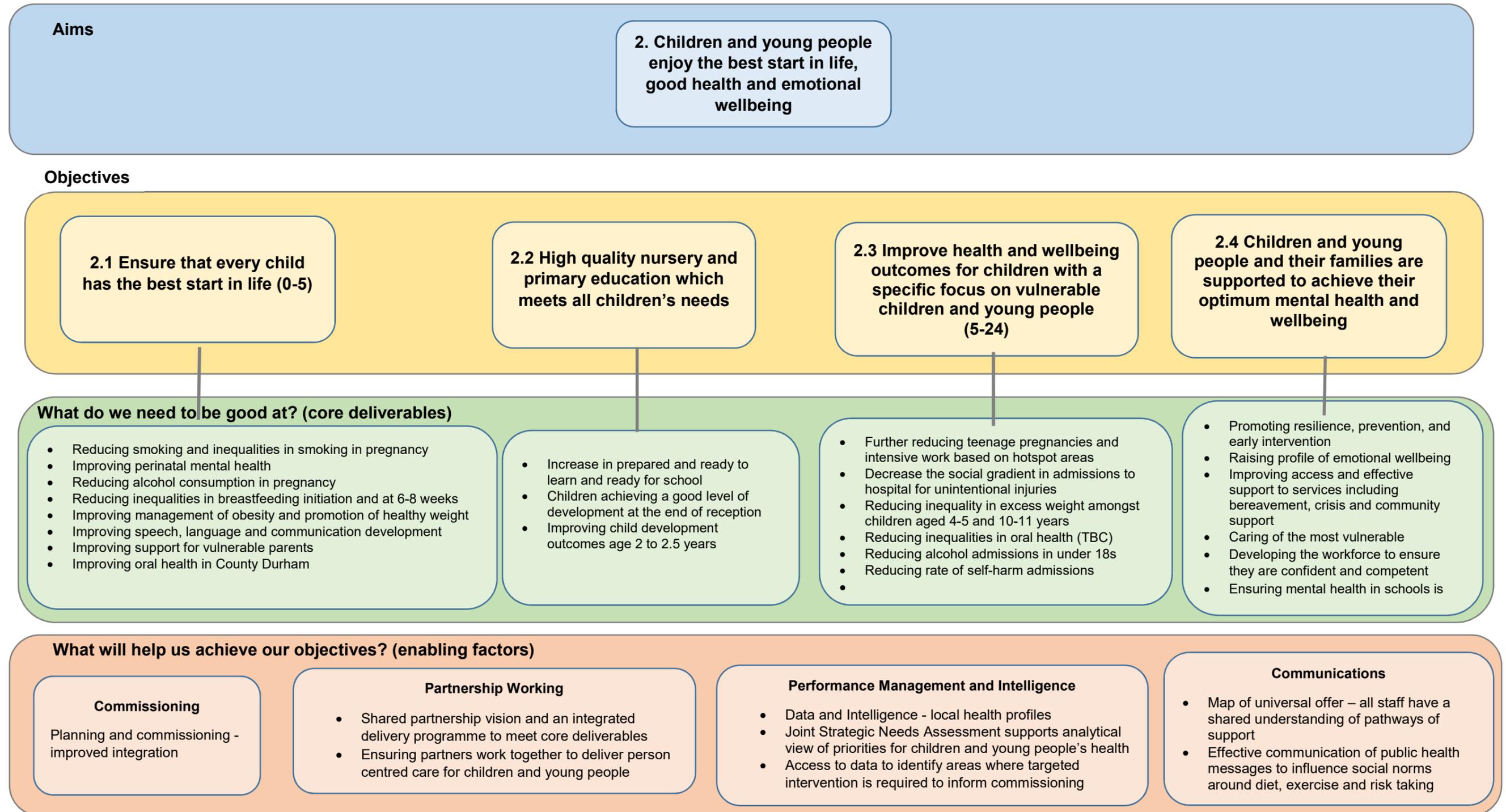
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This element of the strategy fully reflects the Ofsted annual conversation self-assessment action plan



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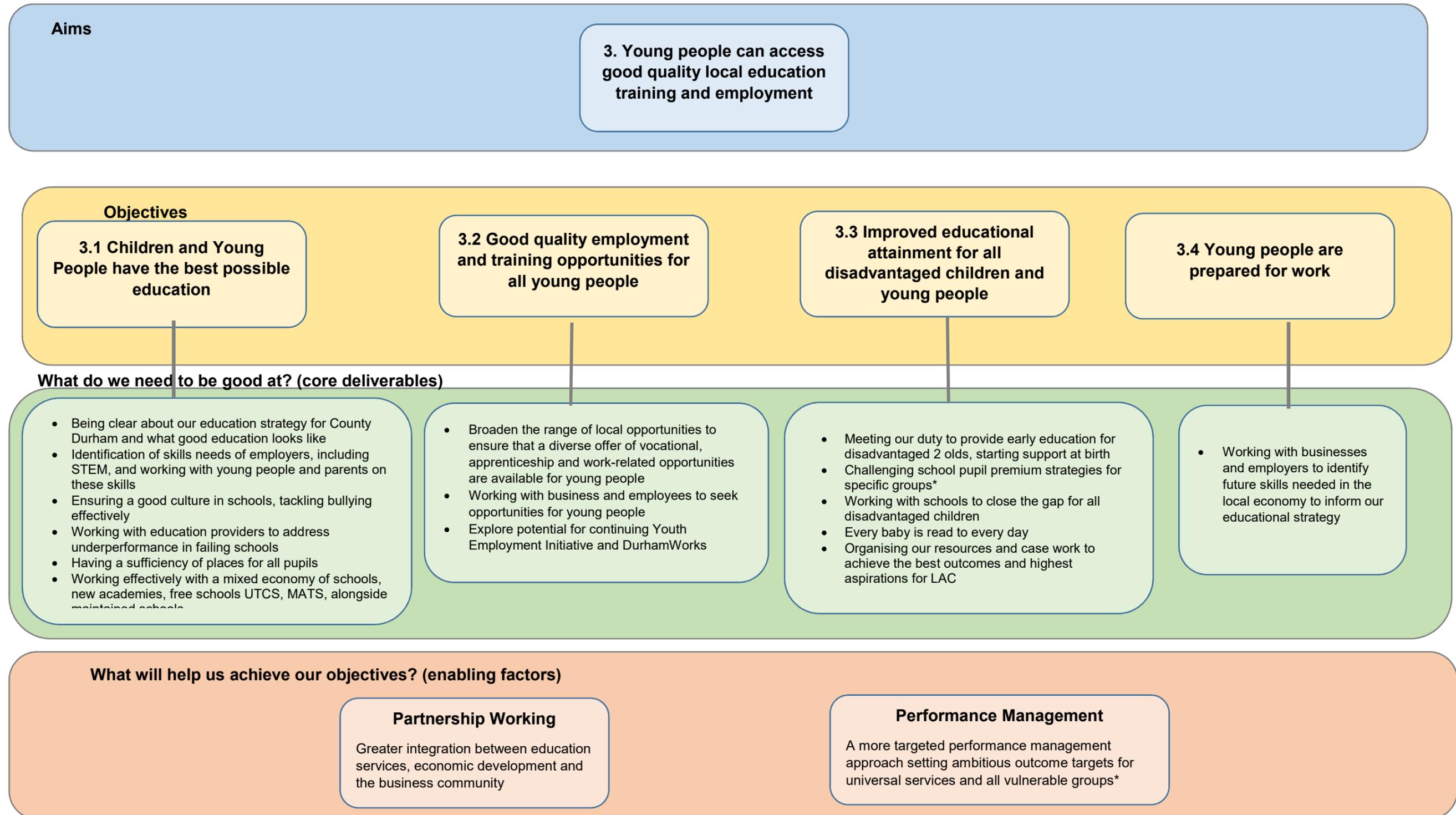
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*Vulnerable children and families include looked after children and care leavers, children on a child protection plan, young carers, children and young people being supervised by the youth offending service and children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

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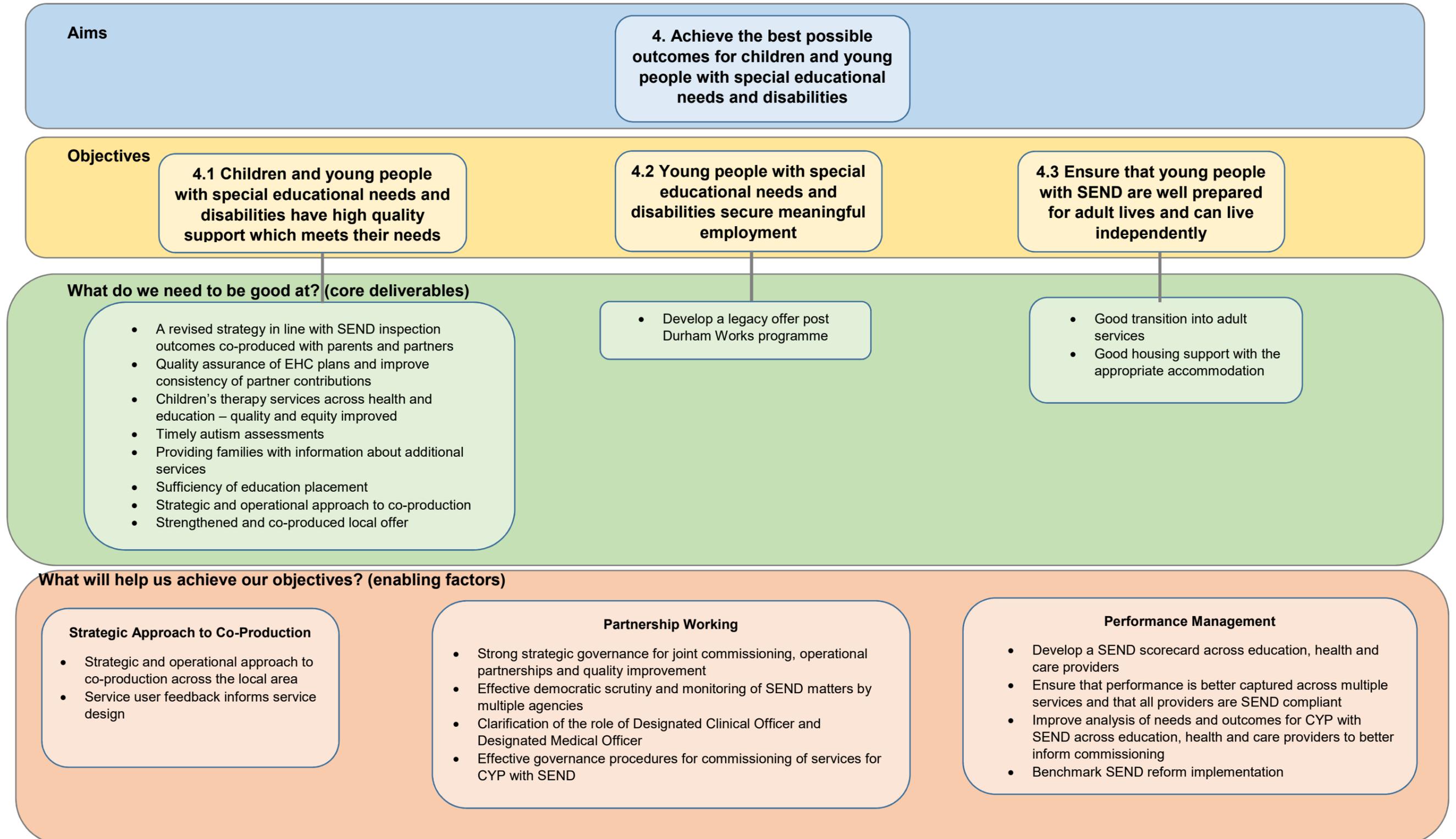
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Vision: County Durham will be the best area in the North East for children and young people to grow up in and be a place where all children are healthy, happy and achieving their potential

The left-most objective fully reflects the draft written statement of action from the SEND inspection.



Delivery Framework

There is a delivery framework underpinning the strategic aims and objectives which includes detailed action plans and programmes for improvement as follows:

- **Aim 1: All children and young people have a safe childhood:** From January 2018, a new universal inspection framework was introduced by Ofsted. The ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) focuses on how a local area provides services to help care and protection of children and young people. A 12 month plan to improve the quality of social work practice in Durham has been developed as the service prepare for inspection under the ILACS framework. The eighteen actions in this plan are being monitored through a Quality improvement Board and the Integrated Steering Group for Children.
- **Aim 2: Children and young people enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing:** This outcome will be monitored by three programmes namely; Health Child programme, Local Transformation Plan for Mental Health and Best Start in Life programme. Detailed action plans are currently being drafted.
- **Aim 3: Young people can access good quality education, training and employment opportunities:** Plans to monitor this outcome are under development. Outcomes from DurhamWorks (a partnership project to support young people who are not in education, employment or training) can be measured and plans for Education are currently under review.
- **Aim 4: Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs (send) and disabilities:** The SEND written statement of action, written in response to the area wide inspection of these services undertaken in 2017, is monitored through the SEND Quality Improvement Board and the Integrated Steering Group for Children.

Monitoring and Review

Each delivery framework will be monitored through the governance framework described above using a range of performance indicators and actions (each of the sub groups are responsible for the delivery of their action plans). The delivery framework will be subject to an annual refresh to ensure that actions and measures are current. The strategy itself will be subject to a fundamental review every three years where the outcomes and objectives are revisited and the strategy will be rewritten to ensure that it is current and reflects the strategic environment.

Scrutiny of Progress

Working together to safeguard children requires us to have multiagency assurance arrangements to judge the effectiveness of how we safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the county. Our scrutiny arrangements cover all local safeguarding partners and comprise:

- The local safeguarding children's board (LSCB) which oversees partnership safeguarding
- A programme of multi-agency and single agency audits
- Feedback from children, young people and families
- Partner feedback
- Review and analysis of performance
- Political oversight through the council's cabinet
- Independent scrutiny through the children and young people's overview and scrutiny committee
- Corporate parenting panel
- Peer support and challenge through the sector lead improvement and partners in practice programmes
- Continuing monitoring and learning from external inspection

How will we measure success?

We aim to bring the whole resources of local public services and the voluntary sector to work with children and families to improve the life chances of our children and young people. Our aspiration is for County Durham to be a great place for children and young people to grow up in

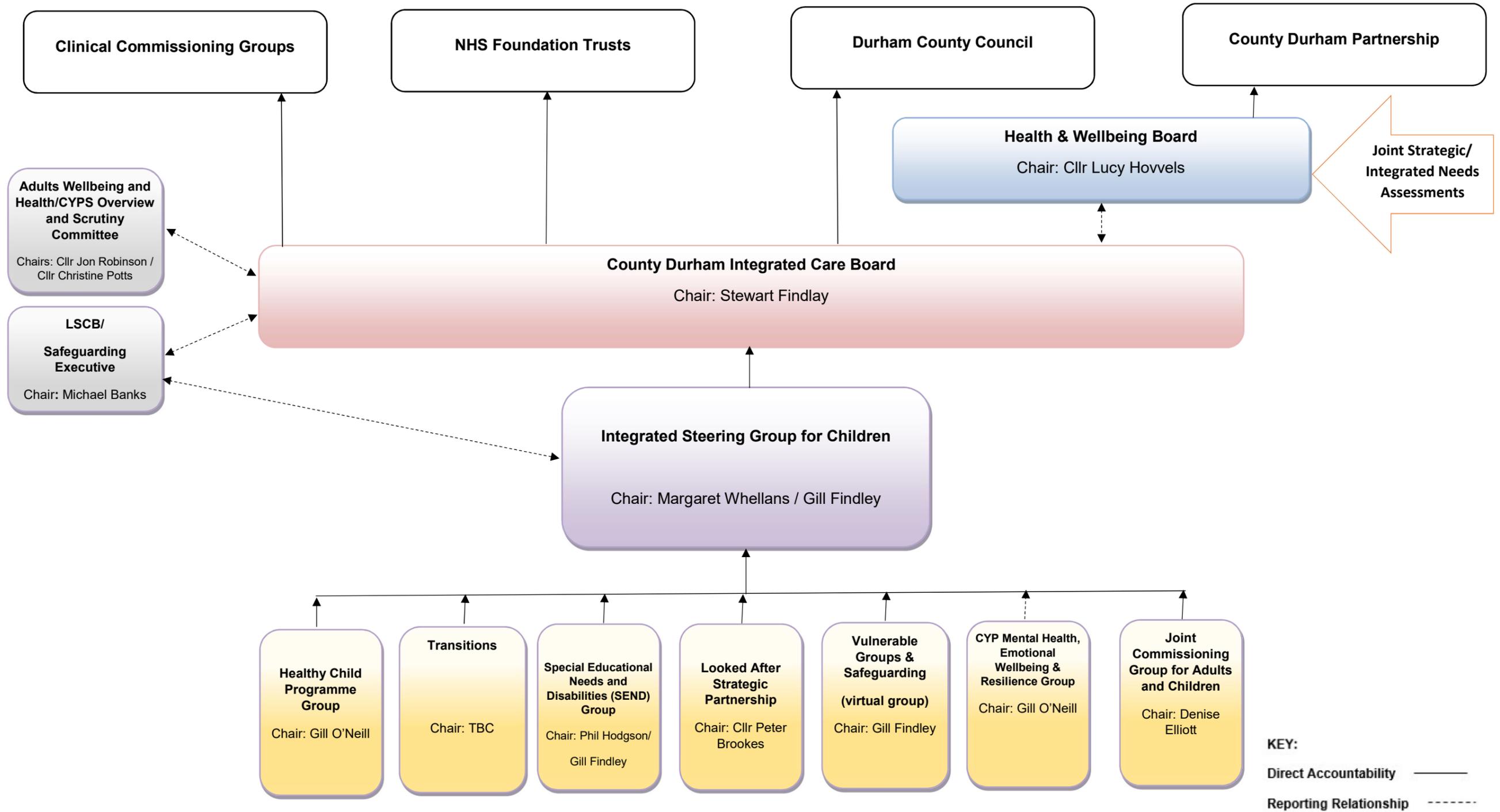
By 2020 we want to see:

- ✓ Reduced impact of poverty on children and young people's lives
- ✓ More children and young people from County Durham accessing apprenticeships and higher education opportunities
- ✓ More County Durham young people obtaining high quality jobs
- ✓ Fewer children and young people in need of high level safeguarding interventions, through early help
- ✓ Our more vulnerable children and young people living safe and healthy lives, achieving well and making successful transitions to adulthood.
- ✓ Reduced teenage pregnancies
- ✓ Reduced levels of childhood obesity
- ✓ Reduced impacts of youth offending on young people's lives

Examples of key performance indicators supporting these ambitions include:

- Percentage of all school pupils eligible and claiming for Free School Meals
- Percentage of 16-17 year olds in an apprenticeship
- Percentage of children who are NEET
- Rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population
- Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18
- Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation/EET
- Gap between the average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the average Attainment 8 score of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (at KS4)
- Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who have had the required number of health assessments
- % mothers smoking at time of delivery
- Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks and initiation

INTEGRATED CARE BOARD JOINT WORKING ARRANGEMENTS STRUCTURE - CYP



Appendix 2

Model: Services for Children - description of teams

County Durham model

Children's services are designed to meet need across the continuum from universal services, early help to safeguarding and looked after services. The model brings together brings together early help (One Point) teams alongside statutory social work (Families First) teams, co-located in ten One Point hubs and other buildings. It also aims to improve links with schools and GP practices in each locality and strengthen work with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) through the newly established team working with the VCS to create self-sustaining communities, help families to access additional VCS provision and empower families and communities to achieve positive outcomes. The recent extension to the early help offer aims to provide a seamless service including practical hands on help for those dealing with poverty and debt, and support to find the training and employment they need.

Universal Services

These are wider health, education and advice services available to all. A number of services are provided at the One Point Family centres. Key family services are

- Nursery and school provision
- Health visitors, universal early child health and wellbeing checks
- GP and primary care services
- Education

One Point Early Help Service

The One Point early help service provides a variety of free advice and support and a range of activities for children, young people and families, working alongside the NHS. Their integrated team 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. Early Help services will develop and deliver effective early support and help using a 'think family' model to families who are experiencing a range of multiple and complex needs.

One Point Family centres

There are 15 One Point Family centres across the county that provide services for 0-19 year olds, including best start in life and early help. They were formerly children's centres and continue to act as Registered Children's Centres (subject to Ofsted Inspections) although the council do not operate the nurseries within the centres. The numbers of centres have been streamlined to provide services that are targeted to those who live in deprived communities or who are vulnerable. Services are delivered in conjunction with partners including health visitors, school nurses and VCS and include: support for learning, health and wellbeing life skills, family and relationships. A key role is to identify and provide additional support to children and families at risk of poor outcomes aimed at reducing inequalities. Previously the centres primarily offered level two support but as they now offer level three and four support, the level two support has narrowed and is undertaken in partnership with the VCS.

One Point Service: Intensive Family Support Teams

There are seven Intensive Family Support Teams, which are part of the One Point service and are closely aligned with the Families First Teams, with each team supporting two Families First Teams. The Intensive Family Support Teams support families with complex needs, working with children and families to try and prevent them from entering the statutory services.

Families' First teams

There are 14 Locality Based Families First (statutory social work) teams grouped into four localities across the county and co-located in the One Point Hubs. These include social workers, family support workers, co-ordinators and managers and provide services from early help to safeguarding and looked after services. In particular they link to services including pre-birth, edge of care, First contact/MASH, 0-13 disabilities, supervised contact, and social work academy.

Looked After Children Services

We offer residential services for children and young people, providing support and care for young people who cannot live at home or who require a short break away from family or carers. There are nine children's homes in County Durham and offer a range of different services.

We provide support to children and foster parents who are part of the fostering process and. We also provide support to care leaver (young person who has previously been in care).