

# Children & Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 September 2018

## Summary of Minutes from Children and Families Partnership

19 June 2018



County Durham Children  
and Families Partnership

### 1 Children and Young People's Strategy

It is proposed that a new Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) be developed for County Durham.

Rationale for the CYPS includes:

- There have been significant changes in context for children's delivery nationally and in Durham, including Health and Social Care integration, the Children and Social work Act 2017, OFSTED inspection of social care, Inspection of partner services for SEND and a new Public Health structure
- The current CYPFP is due for renewal in April 2019.

The proposed vision statement for the new CYPS is:

*"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".*

It is proposed that the new CYPS will have the following four key aims, with subsequent objectives:

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

To ensure delivery on the new CYPS, it is proposed that the aims will be underpinned by the following principles:

- Participation of children, young people and families in service development and design
- 'Think Family' approach with a focus on vulnerability
- Good transitions into adulthood

- Tackling the effects of inequality
- Regular performance review, challenge and learning, including learning from serious case reviews and serious incidents
- Support for young people with SEND

A number of consultation events are planned over the coming weeks.

## **2 Stronger Families**

The County Durham Stronger Families Programme will run until May 2020, with a target to 'turn around' 4360 families.

To future proof the Stronger Families work, a 'think family' approach is being mainstreamed into all areas of our work, which should enable us to continue to turn around families, when funding ceases.

At March 2018, the Stronger Families Programme had exceeded its planned target of 3,367, with 5,641 families attached to the programme.

The most prevalent reason why families are not 'turned around' continues to be failing to achieve an outcome in the worklessness and financial exclusion theme. Work is continuing to address this through the VCS Alliance programme and the Child Poverty Working Group.

Actions to date include the development and delivery of 'Smarter Budgeting' training and 'Routes out of Poverty' workshops for frontline staff to increase their knowledge and uptake of help available to families facing financial exclusion including debt management, promotion of credit unions and Welfare Assistance.

The Stronger Families programme continues to drive the service transformation required to ensure children and families with a range of complex needs receive coordinated, effective, whole family support to enable families to achieve significant and sustained change – and County Durham is currently ranked 37th nationally out of 141 Local authorities .

## **3 Co-commissioned model of health provision in County Durham Youth Offending Service**

The County Durham Youth Offending Service (CD YOS) recognises the particular health needs of young people who offend, and has a clear commitment to improve their health and wellbeing outcomes.

In 2016, the CD YOS commissioned a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) of young people who offend, with findings and recommendations from the HNA being agreed by the CD YOS Management Board in February 2017. This included the identification of a particular skill mix within the CD YOS health provision, outlined below, to meet the complex needs of young people involved with the service, which allows a much improved, targeted service for these young people:

- Speech and Language Therapist
- Specialist Children's Public Health Nurse

- Drug and Alcohol Staff
- Emotional Wellbeing Support Workers
- Liaison and Diversion Link Workers
- Consultant Psychologist
- Assistant Psychologist

The CD YOS co-commissioned model has been put forward for the Health Services Journal Award.

#### 4 **Student Voice Survey**

The Student Voice Survey was first undertaken in 2015 with secondary schools only. In 2017 the survey included both secondary and primary schools. The findings of the two Student Voice Surveys have been shared with the Children and Families Partnership.

Work is taking place to develop the Student Voice surveys for 2019 for both primary and secondary schools, and to ascertain interest in the number of schools across the County who wish to participate. Consideration is being given as to how Special schools can be involved in the surveys.

Strategic actions that the findings have prompted include:

- Substantial work being undertaken by the Education Department in partnership with head teachers in schools where progress has been below expectations. This was in response to the feedback in the 2017 survey indicating an apparent decline in the confidence that young people of secondary school age in particular felt about their own progress. The 2019 survey will assess changes in student perceptions linked to the different approaches to teaching and learning that have taken place in response.
- A matter of significant concern from the 2017 Survey was the apparent high prevalence of bullying in our primary and secondary schools. In response all Education Development Partners, who support school leadership in over 95% of Durham's schools and academies, have included reference to the Survey findings, particularly the section covering perceptions of bullying, in their termly spring visit. In the case of schools receiving only one visit per year due to being judged to be 'outstanding' by Ofsted, this reference will form part of the conversation with school leaders. School leaders are well-sighted on the findings of the Survey, and have in the most part been challenged to consider actions related to bullying.
- More detailed analysis was initiated by the Education Department on the back of findings relating to the use of technology by primary age pupils as the figures seemed high. The analysis revealed that in comparison to nationally available data, the reported findings in Durham were in fact lower than average. For the 2019 survey, wherever possible wider benchmark data will be sought against all responses, so that thresholds are understood in advance of the returns being submitted.

- The Education department is working with Public Health to develop a quality health framework for school, which will build upon action points raised from the 2017 Survey relating to healthy lifestyles providing practical guidance to schools about changes to practice and awareness raising with parents and children. This will build on the successful approaches adopted to reducing the cost of the school day, which was part of the Council's response to the poverty agenda.

The Children and Families Partnership will continue to be sighted on the development of the surveys, and will receive feedback from the survey results.

## 5 Smoking at time of delivery (SATOD)

Smoking at time of delivery is of particular concern in County Durham, and ranges from 13.7% of mothers SATOD in North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Area to 21% of mothers SATOD in Durham, Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG area.

This makes DDES CCG's SATOD rates the second highest CCG in the North East, and sixth highest CCG in England.

The Children and Families Partnership received a presentation on SATOD from the Public Health Intelligence Specialist, outlining the particular risks to babies associated with SATOD, the notable difference between CCG areas, and the links between SATOD and deprivation.

The presentation alluded to the evidence based [BabyClear Initiative](#) commissioned by Fresh, to reduce maternal smoking. A range of work is also taking place within County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) maternity services to tackle SATOD. Feedback to CDDFT from those who are SATOD have indicated that hard hitting messages to encourage more quitters are effective.

## 6 Decades Project

Young people and workers from Investing in Children attended the Children and Families Partnership meeting to showcase the Decades Project. The young people talked about the range of work and research they have been involved in about women's heritage in the North East through the decades, and asked '*What is being done to maximise young women's aspirations in County Durham?*'

Members of the Children and Families Partnership shared their stories and experiences, and those of the young people they work with.

It was agreed to link the young people from Investing in Children Decades Project with an Aspirations event planned for later in the year. Research has been carried out by the Institute of Local Governance of Durham University and findings will be presented at the event.

**If you require further details on any of the information contained in the Summary Minutes, please email [cfp@durham.gov.uk](mailto:cfp@durham.gov.uk) or call 03000 268 371**