

**Cabinet**

**17 October 2018**

**Draft Children and Young People's  
Strategy**



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**Report of Corporate Management Team**

**Margaret Whellans, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's  
Service**

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

**Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and Young  
People's Services**

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**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the draft Children and Young People's Strategy 2018/19 - 2020/21 (attached as Appendix 2) for comment.

**Background**

- 2 The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-2019 is due for renewal in April 2019 and there have been significant changes in the context for delivery nationally and in Durham in relation to children and young people.
- 3 There have been some significant achievements for children and young people including the transformation of One Point children's centres, which offered services for 0-5 year olds have become 'family centres' with services for 0-19 year olds and aim to provide a seamless service including practical help for those dealing with poverty and debt, and support to find the training and employment they need. It also includes the development of a Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance, to better coordinate the support in an area, make sure that people know what is available to them and help them to access it.
- 4 For the first time, young people who are looked after by Durham County Council, have helped to write the 2017-18 Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report. The young people from the County Durham Children in Care Council (CICC) have influenced the content, writing style and design of the annual report, to ensure it is easy to read and understand.
- 5 However, evidence shows we are not where we need to be on performance of children and young people's services and inspection judgements for children's social care and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services show a need for improvement, 39% of secondary schools require improvement, GCSE attainment is worse than nationally for the first time in 10 years and youth unemployment worse than the national average.
- 6 The draft Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) 2018/19 - 2020/21 is a partnership strategy for all children and young people and their families in County Durham. The aim of this strategy is to provide focus and clarity on the priorities for improving services and life opportunities for children and young people.

- 7 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.

### **Vision, aims and objectives**

- 8 Stage one of the consultation which looked at the proposed vision, aims and objectives, took place throughout May, June and July. This gave children and young people, management teams, Integrated Steering Group for Children (ISGC), partnerships (including the Children and Families Partnership and the Corporate Parenting Panel) and Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed vision, aims and objectives of the strategy.
- 9 The draft vision for the CYPS is:
- “County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for County Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy and achieving their potential”.*
- 10 The draft aims of the CYPS are as follows:
- a. All children and young people have a safe childhood
  - b. Children and young people enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing
  - c. Young people can access good quality education, training and local employment
  - d. Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

### **Consultation**

- 11 Engagement took 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 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.
- 12 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.
- 13 The issues which young people consider important to them include:
- a. 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.
  - b. Young people reported that they would benefit from receiving more life skills at school

- c. 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.
  - d. 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
  - e. 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.
  - f. Children and young people felt that parental drug and alcohol misuse had negative impacts on overall health and wellbeing
- 14 Stage two of the consultation is currently taking place and will give partners and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy before final sign off of the CYPS by the Children and Families Partnership.
- 15 Stage two of the consultation has so far included management teams, CCG Executive Group, Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and has been sent to the County Durham Partnership, thematic partnerships and AAP coordinators to share with their Boards for comment by 22nd October 2019.
- 16 An Equality Impact Assessment screening tool has been completed as part of the process for developing the CYPS and is attached to this report at Appendix 3. A full Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken and will be attached to the final Cabinet report on 16th January 2019.
- 17 It has been agreed that this strategy will be a blueprint for other partnership strategies which are due for review from April 2019, including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Safer Durham Partnership Plan.

### Next steps

- 18 Cabinet are requested to note the following key dates for the development of the CYPS 2018/19 - 2020/21.
- a. Local Safeguarding Children Board – **12<sup>th</sup> October 2018**
  - b. Integrated Care Board – **19<sup>th</sup> October 2018**
  - c. Meetings with partner representatives – **During October 2018**
  - d. Final version of CYPS will be actively sign up to and agreed by members of the Children and Families Partnership – **November 2018**
  - e. Cabinet receives final version of CYPS to ensure continued delivery and support for our young people – **16<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### Recommendations and reasons

19 Cabinet is requested to:

- a. Receive the draft Children and Young People's Strategy and comment accordingly (Appendix 2).

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## Appendix 1: Implications

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**Finance** – Resources will need to be agreed and will guide resource decisions and priorities.

**Staffing** – Resources will need to be agreed and will guide resource decisions and priorities.

**Risk** – A clear strategy framework is vital to ensure improvement in Children’s services across the County.

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – An Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken as part of the process for developing the CYPS.

**Accommodation** - None

**Crime and Disorder** – “All children and young people have a safe childhood” is a key aim of the CYPS and the Safe Durham Partnership are included in the consultation.

**Human Rights** – None

**Consultation** - Extensive consultation is being carried out in the development of this plan which is outlined in the report. Partners and children and young people have all been provided an opportunity to shape the direction and the content of this plan.

**Procurement** – None

**Disability Issues** – See Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty. The draft strategy includes the aim of “Achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities”

**Legal Implications** – The CYPS ensures it will incorporate the legal requirements pertaining to Children’s services.

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## **Appendix 2: Draft Children and Young People's Strategy**

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Attached as a separate document.

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### **Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment screening tool**

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Attached as a separate document.