

Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	Transformation and Partnerships, PACE
Lead Officer	Jayne Watson
Title	Senior Partnership Officer
MTFP Reference (if relevant)	
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	19 th January 2019
Start Date	10 th September 2018
Review Date	

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

The Children and Young People's Strategy (CYPS) is a strategy for children, young people and their families across County Durham.

The CYPS will give focus and clarity around the priorities for improving services and life opportunities for children and young people.

Based on feedback from children and young people, the CYPS looks at the current situation, and outlines where we want to be in three years, what actions we will take to get there and what service users can expect.

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

A link to the draft CYPS can be accessed [HERE](#)

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Children, young people and families in County Durham.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	N	Y
Disability	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N	Y
Race (ethnicity)	N	Y
Religion or Belief	N	?
Sex (gender)	N	Y
Sexual orientation	N	Y
Transgender	N	Y

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

No adverse impact is anticipated – The Strategy aims to reduce the impact of inequality for all children by focusing on their safety, wellbeing and access to opportunity.

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The statutory requirement to produce a Children's strategy was revoked by the government in 2010. Our commitment to develop the CYPS is testament to the continuous progress to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in County Durham. The strategy aims to improve outcomes for all children, young people and families but will be of particular benefit for vulnerable groups for example those with a special educational needs and/or disability, mental health provision, also disadvantaged groups for example gender gap in sports participation, lower participation rates of young women in certain careers etc.

The engagement and consultation activity around the development of the CYPS will help to promote a better understanding of the respective groups, and will help identify and address the needs of specific groups of people within the county.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

There is a range of national legislative and policy change affecting children's services, which have informed the CYPS.

Key policy areas are:

- The strengthened Working together to Safeguard Children guidance published in July 2018, which 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.

Engagement has also taken place with the following on the CYPS

- Investing in Children x two agenda days
 - Key findings are included in the CYPS
- Student Voice Survey
 - Key findings are included in the CYPS
- GRT families have been approached to participate in the consultation

Additional engagement on CYPS has been sought from:

- Integrated Steering Group for children 31st May
- AHS Management Team 7th June
- Children and Families Partnership 19th June
- CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2nd July
- Health and Wellbeing Board 4th July
- Business Durham (TBC)
- TAP Management Team 14th August
- AHS Management Team 16th August
- Extended Management Team (TBC)
- Integrated Steering Group for children 20th August
- CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10th September
- Health and Wellbeing Board (by email)
- Children and Families Partnership 20th September
- Public consultation to 21st September

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Yes – to be updated accordingly
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Senior partnerships officer	Date: 27.09.18
Service equality representative sign off: Equalities team leader	Date: 27.09.18

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at equalities@durham.gov.uk