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**DRAFT DARLINGTON'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN 2011-2014**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Cyndi Hughes,  
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consult members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014.

**Summary**

2. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the single, overarching plan for all services, which directly affect children and young people in Darlington. It demonstrates how the local authority and all relevant partners will integrate provision to improve well-being across all five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes and focuses on specific challenges and priorities. Whilst the statutory regulations for producing a CYPP have been revoked Darlington Children's Trust Board agreed at their September 2010 board meeting to proceed with a new CYPP for the period 2011-2014.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended to seek the views of members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee about the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 attached in **Appendix 1** as part of the consultation process.

**Reasons**

4. The recommendations are supported as the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 is part of the Council's policy framework

**Murray Rose  
Director of People**

**Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Crime and disorder implications have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan. This area is a key outcome for SCS and the CYPP has responded to this by ensuring it is a CYPP priority.
Health and Well Being	Health and Well Being implications have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan. This area is a key outcome for SCS and the CYPP has responded to this by ensuring it is a CYPP priority
Carbon Impact	This is not an executive decision
Diversity	Outlined in paragraph 22
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	The Children and Young People's Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. The policy represents a change to the current Plan.
Key Decision	The decision has been included within the Forward Plan as a matter of good practice.
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Outlined in paragraph 8
Efficiency	Development of the Plan has considered the challenges of efficiency savings in light of significant reductions in grant funding.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

5. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the single, overarching plan for all services, which directly affect children and young people in Darlington. It demonstrates how the local authority and all relevant partners will integrate provision to improve well-being across all five Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes and focus on specific challenges and priorities. Whilst the statutory regulations for producing a CYPP have been revoked Darlington Children's Trust Board agreed at their September 2010 board meeting to proceed with a new CYPP for the period 2011-2014.
  6. The Children and Young People's Plan drives forward the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. The proposed CYPP priorities for 2011-2014 respond to the outcomes that were agreed by LSP in the Autumn of 2010, specifically for Children and Young People and for Adults for raising aspirations to respond to the work strand in the Aspiring Darlington delivery plan: *Supporting aspiration, lifelong learning and personal development*
  7. The current Children and Young People's Plan needs to be refreshed for July 2011. The Children and Young People's Plan is one of the documents that Inspectors will access and scrutinise when Darlington's Ofsted led Announced Inspection is undertaken. In particular HM Inspectors will review the priorities outlined in the Children and Young People Plan. In previous Announced Inspections at other authorities current plans have been accessed and draft plans can be requested if these are under development.
  8. The CYPP commissioning priorities outlined in the draft Children and Young People's Plan below have been developed after considering the Single Needs Assessment and consultation information with parents, children and young people that has been made available by partners and that has been undertaken in preparation for the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan:-
    - (a) The proposed CYPP priorities respond to revised government policy
    - (b) The proposed CYPP priorities respond to the outcomes agreed by the LSP that need to be achieved for children, young people and families in Darlington
    - (c) Feedback from parents and children and young people- to date 380 young people have been involved in focus group work considering the proposed priorities, 120 young people participated in focus groups in Feb 2010 to review the previous CYPP and this information has shaped the proposed priorities and 140 children under 10 years submitted artwork to the Children's Trust to share what makes them happy
    - (d) A reflection of the need to target reduced resources and capacity of partners in areas that by adopting a multi agency approach Darlington Children's Trust can make progress towards tackling these issues together
    - (e) Stakeholder consultation that took place between February and April 2011.
  9. In developing the plan the following process has been implemented:-
    - (a) Agreed the scope of the Plan
    - (b) Refresh the vision of Darlington Children's Trust
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- (c) Undertake a needs analysis for children, young people and families in Darlington to identify appropriate priorities
- (d) Assessing the progress Darlington has made during the lifetime of the previous Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011
- (e) Appraise the options and predict their effects
- (f) Select preferred commissioning priorities and decide these priorities after extensive consultation with key stakeholders, parents and children and young people
- (g) Deliver the agreed strategy (CYPP Action Plan)

### **Outcome of Consultation**

10. In order to ensure that the new Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 was informed by young people a consultation and action project was developed led by eVOLution and the local authority.
11. From January to April 2011 comprehensive consultation was carried out with a variety of children and young people across the town. Contact was made with schools, youth clubs and youth projects across the borough and an interactive workshop based session plan was developed and delivered in settings in order to find out the views and opinions of the young people.
12. In total thus far 380 children and young people have participated in these consultation workshops. This is part of an ongoing engagement process designed to continually involve children and young people and will be ongoing throughout 2011/12. A Young Person's task and finish group formed to map out a forward plan for the consultation project. The young people decided that there were three key areas that would enable the project to progress and meet the aims.
13. 372 of the 380 young people that were contacted during the consultation process had a Facebook profile. The steering group decided that a Facebook fan page should be developed in order to communicate the CYPP to other young people across the borough. The steering group decided that the name for both the fan page and the project should be 'The Blueprint', with the strap line '**Our Generation, Our Future, Our Plan**'.
14. Young people also decided that a *young person friendly* flyer should be developed in addition to Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014, detailing the views and opinions of young people and this should include comments from the Member of Youth Parliament, Ben Million. They decided that the format of the flyer should be both paper based and electronic and should be included on the Facebook fan page and be sent to schools, colleges, projects and organisations in order to promote the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014. This is outlined in Appendix 3.
15. To publicise the excellent work that the young people involved in the process have undertaken over the past 6 months, the steering group decided to develop a short film, detailing the views and opinions of Darlington's young people. The film will sit on 'The Blueprint' Facebook page and will be available as a publicity and training tool. Darlington rE-view Digital Media Youth Work team agreed to film, photograph and take audio podcast recordings in a number of the sessions with the children and young people.

16. Stakeholder consultation was undertaken with partners between December and January 2011 on the needs assessment that informed the development of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 priorities. Further stakeholder consultation took place between February and April 2011 around the commissioning priorities that would be included within the new Plan.
17. A number of focus groups were arranged to consult parents/carers specifically about the Children and Young People's Plan commissioning priorities. 48 parents were consulted in the week beginning 17/01/11. This included six Parents representing an Ethnic Minority group at McNay Street, two Parents whose children have a disability that attend Harewood House, ten fathers that access the Fathers Group at McNay Street, four Parents that have accessed Evidence based Parent Programmes attended a consultation session in the Town Hall, five Parents from Redhall Children Centre accessing health immunisation sessions, four Parents from the Coleridge Children's Centre, seven Parents were consulted through Dodmire Children's Centre and ten Parents were consulted through 1:1 home visits. Parents were consulted in a range of venues these included Children Centre's, the Town Hall, one to one sessions and family homes.
18. During February and March 2011 a number of key stakeholders were consulted about the proposed Children and Young People's Plan commissioning priorities. Children's Trust Board members supported this consultation process by either ensuring their organisations views were sought about the priorities. In addition to this Children's Trust Partnership Manager met with key stakeholders and all Children's Trust partnership groups considered the priorities in detail. The list of stakeholder activity is too long to capture fully in this report but in the list below highlights some key stakeholders who were involved in this process below:-
  - (a) Darlington Borough Council Children's Services Senior Leadership Team
  - (b) LSP Executive Group
  - (c) Durham Police Authority
  - (d) Durham Constabulary
  - (e) Third Sector- via Aspiring Darlington Network & Provider Forum meetings
  - (f) General Practitioners
  - (g) Youth Offending Service- the whole team considered the CYPP priorities
  - (h) All Children's Services Managers at DBC were asked to consider the priorities in their team meetings
  - (i) Darlington Association of Governors-
  - (j) Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board
  - (k) Job Centre Plus
  - (l) Schools- this consultation happened in a variety of ways such as through the Schools Joint Strategic Consultative Group and in some cases Senior Leadership Teams considered these in their own Schools for example Carmel & Longfield submitted their feedback in this way.
19. This consultation process has resulted in amendments to the Plan, commissioning priorities and new areas to include within the Plan. During the consultation process the majority of stakeholders agreed that the Children and Young People's Plan priorities were the right priorities for Darlington. It was also identified during the consultation process that an emphasis on Adult Learning and Family Learning and young people not in employment,

education and training should be included as a priority in the Children and Young People's Plan.

20. During a recent peer challenge visit in July 2011 that the local authority participated in to prepare the authority for an imminent Announced Inspection, the draft Children and Young People's Plan was examined in some depth by the peer challenge team. Recommendations from the peer challenge team were made about the draft CYPP such as highlighting national policy changes and how this has impacted on the development of the draft CYPP and these changes have now been reflected in the draft CYPP that scrutiny committee members are now being asked to consider.
21. Statutory impact assessments have also been undertaken. The equality impact assessment for the Children and Young People's Plan has been completed, the high number of consultation events with Children and Young People informed the EIA as did the stakeholder consultation events and parent consultation workshops. The EIA is available to access if required. The conclusion from the EIA is that the CYPP priorities aim to address inequality and narrow the gap within the community. The high level priorities address the core areas for improving outcomes for all children, young people and their families; whilst emphasising the importance of improving outcomes for children and young people in vulnerable groups.
22. A disability impact assessment has been undertaken. This is type two disability impact assessment. This is available in **Appendix 4**. These sessions took place in July, August and October 2011 and included DAD's young leaders group, 7 young people from Heathfield Primary School and a open public event held at the Dolphin Centre on the 25th October 2011. Delivering a session at a primary school ensured that views from younger children and teenagers have been considered as part of the impact assessment. In March 2011 DAD young leaders group were also involved in an engagement session about the CYPP priorities and this engagement session was attended by approximately 10 young people. This engagement session was followed up with an impact session with DAD Young leaders group delivered on 17th August 2011. On the 25th October 2011 an open public impact session/event was held and whilst it was aimed at young people, parents and carers were also invited to attend this event. The public were made aware of this through press releases in the local media, information available on the DBC website, promoting this through PPS, FIS, CLICK, Darlington College facebook pages. Letters were sent to DDIGITS, DAD, DAD Young Leaders and CDCD to inform key stakeholders about this event and ask organisation to promote this event to their members in some cases such as DAD this was also advertised on their websites too. Parent Partnership Service and FIS service also sent information about this event to contacts within their services and it was also promoted through partners that work within the Children's Trust.
23. The draft plan was also available on the DBC online discussion forum for public to access to comment on this draft plan between 26th September 2011 and the 1st November 2011 at the following link: <http://darlingtonbc.websitetoolbox.com/?forum=206834> The public were made aware of this through press releases in the local media, information available on the DBC website, promoting this through PPS, FIS, CLICK facebook pages. Letters were sent to DDIGITS, DAD, DAD Young Leaders and CDCD to inform key stakeholders about this consultation.

24. A copy of the draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 is in **Appendix 1** and the associated action plan is detailed in **Appendix 2**. The Plan will set the new commissioning priorities for children and young people for 2011-2014. Darlington Children's Trust evidences what has changed following participation of children and young people through 'What's Changed Logs' examples of these are outlined in **Appendix 3**.