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**EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION - UPDATE**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide members of Scrutiny with an update on the current work of Early Intervention Services, as requested by the Review Group of the Children and Young People (CYP) Scrutiny.

**Summary**

2. The Sustainable Community Strategy One Darlington Perfectly Placed; the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 and the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy set out the principals for delivering Early Intervention Services within the Borough, based on a three locality model.
3. The National Drivers for this work is embedded in the Graham Allen report Early Intervention: the Next Steps (Graham Allen MP), the foundation Years (Frank Field MP). The Early Years: Foundation for life, health and Learning Dame Clare Tickell.
4. CYP Scrutiny held a Review Group to examine the work and acknowledging it was newly established, requested an update to assess whether the service was effective.
5. This overview report and tabled case studies illustrate the changes in service delivery and their impact on outcomes.

**Recommendation**

6. It is recommended that:-
  - a) The report be noted;
  - b) The impact on outcomes for young people be noted.

**Murray Rose, Director of People**

## Background Papers

Early Intervention: The Next Steps Graham Allen

The Foundation Years Frank Field

The Early Years Foundations for Life, Health and Learning Dame Clare Tickell

Yvonne Coates: Extension 2713

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues for crime and disorder arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	Improving the life chances of citizens.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues for carbon impact arising from this report.
Diversity	No specific issues arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All wards in the borough are affected.
Groups Affected	All families, young people and children within the borough.
Budget and Policy Framework	This method of working requires on going financial commitment.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	To improve the life chances of people within the borough.
Efficiency	

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

7. The key principals which underpin the Early Intervention work within the borough are:
  - (a) A Think Family Approach.
  - (b) All Practitioners acknowledge, understand and respect the diverse nature of family life.
  - (c) Ensure families are not lost between services.
  - (d) Intervene earlier and work with family strengths in a solution focused work.
  - (e) Services will be aligned through a single line management structure and geographically based.
  - (f) The service will be outcome focused for families.
  
8. The service is currently managed in a single line management structure, under which sits aligned teams of Foundation Trust Staff and Borough Council Staff. They are based on a three geographical split within the borough
  - (a) Area 1 Hummersknott Academy, Carmel College and Darlington School of Maths and Science, associated feeder schools and community.
  - (b) Area 2 Longfield Academy, Education Village and the Phoenix Centre, associated feeder schools and community.
  - (c) Area 3 St Aidan's Academy, Hurworth School, associated feeder schools and community.
  
9. Staff Teams are made up of the following job roles:
  - (a) School Nursing
  - (b) Health Visiting
  - (c) Personal Advisors (previously Connexions)
  - (d) Early Years Workers
  - (e) Family Support Workers
  - (f) Youth Workers
  - (g) Children Centre Staff
  
10. Their work involves close working relationships with a number of other key partners such as schools, GPs, police and social care.
  
11. The role of the teams is to increase the early identification of children and family with additional needs that require support using a common assessment tool (CAF). A key focus is on:
  - (a) reducing the numbers of families who need support from specialist services and the associated costs to the public purse;
  - (b) ensuring families receive a coordinated approach to working with families;
  - (c) improving information sharing and multi disciplinary approaches to families.

## **Current Position**

12. All teams are now geographically based within the three areas, staff teams are developing new ways of working, increasing skills in family work and traditional job demarcations are being eroded. The joint performance framework developed in conjunction with health partners is being monitored and improved.
13. The Common Assessment Tool has been revised in conjunction with partners and over 600 individual workers from 42 agencies from both the statutory and voluntary sector will have accessed training by December 2012.
14. The number of assessments completed are increasing with a target of a 50% increase by March 2013 (this is on target) to ensure families are receiving a service based on an assessed need.
15. Registrations in Children Centres have increased by almost 65% and the recent Ofsted for Skerne Park Children Centre highlighted the seamless service for families in the area as outstanding.
16. Young people's participation and access to services remains high. The teams are developing local responses to local needs; i.e. the opening of a multi disciplinary young provision on an evening on Firthmoor estate staffed by youth workers, personal advisors and health staff which has led to a decrease in Anti Social Behaviour, as well as an increase in individual one to one work with families.

## **Area of Focus 2012/2013**

17. To work with Commissioners from Health and the Borough Council to further develop the specifications of the service for 2013/2014.
18. To continue to develop the skills of individual workers to be confident in whole family problem solving.
19. To further develop the area model to include social workers who would work with families whose children are on the edge of care.