

---

**STRATEGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES 2009-2012**

---

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Chris McEwan,  
Children & Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children's Services**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Cabinet approval for the strategy for development of young people's services in Darlington.

**Summary**

2. This strategy (attached at **Appendix A**) outlines the universal and targeted support which a range of agencies will provide to help improve outcomes for young people aged 11-19 years in Darlington.
3. The strategy supports the delivery of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed and supports the 5 key priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan.

**Recommendation**

4. Members are asked to approve the Strategy.

**Reason**

5. To allow young people's services in the Borough to be developed and improved.

**Murray Rose,  
Director of Children's Services**

**Background Papers**

Aiming High Implementation Plan  
Youth Taskforce Action Plan  
PSA 14 delivery Plan  
Youth Crime Action Plan

Gill Walker: Extension 2878

S17 Crime and Disorder	The implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact on Crime and Disorder and will contribute to the Youth Crime Action Plan
Health and Well Being	The implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact on Health & Well-being and will contribute to the implementation of the CAMHS Strategy, Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan and the Young People's Drug & Alcohol action plan.
Sustainability	There are no specific sustainability issues contained within this report.
Diversity	The Strategy will specifically seek to engage the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups in the delivery and design of services.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Children and young people
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the Council's policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a Key Decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Strategy will contribute to all themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. This strategy builds on existing good practice and will deliver integrated services to improve early intervention, prevention and targeted support.
7. A key theme throughout is one of empowering young people and places them at the centre of our services, policies and governance.
8. This strategy is for all young people aged 11-19 in Darlington. It will ensure that strong universal services including ‘places to go and things to do’ are available to young people, and that information and support is available where and when they need it in order to help them through what is an exciting but often challenging time of their lives. This will offer a broad framework whilst ensuring that appropriate activities and opportunities are developed for different phases of teenage years.
9. The strategy fulfils the national statutory requirement of services for young people and capturing the local context based on a range of data and information about young people in the Borough.
10. The strategy also recommends how we will work in partnership with others and commission services from Third sector providers.

### Resources

11. The actions identified in the strategy will be implemented incrementally over the three year period. Funding for the strategy includes core budget, area based grants, and specific grants. The full implementation of the action plan is subject to the continuing availability of the grants. In Section 10 of the strategy the actions identified all have a statutory basis and in each case the origin of the action is referenced. Some of the nationally determined actions have an implementation plan longer than three years. The actions will be implemented in accordance with the strategic priorities set out in One Darlington, Perfectly Placed, the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People’s Plan.
12. The implementation of the action plan will be monitored through a basket of indicators which include quantitative and qualitative measures. These will include the specific national targets against which grants are allocated. Performance will be reviewed through the Children’s Trust Board as well as through departmental procedures, given that many of the actions involve a range of partners.

### Outcome of Consultation

13. The draft strategy has been widely consulted upon through the ‘Click Stakeholder’ group and through other partner and delivery groups. The report has also been to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, which invited Darlington’s Youth MP to comment upon the draft strategy. Following consultation, the draft strategy was endorsed by the Children’s Trust Board on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, with a recommendation that the strategy be brought to Cabinet for approval.