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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Children and Young People Portfolio.

**Children and Young People's Collective**

2. The Collective met on 26 January 2015 and focussed on the work of the 'Troubled Families' team and how the learning from this could be used in other services.

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

3. The Corporate Parenting Panel met on 13 January 2015. The theme was "Quality and Effectiveness of Services for Looked After Children". Reports were received from a range of services and members of the Darlo Care Crew (Children in Care Council) spoke of their own experiences.
4. The next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel will take place on 31 March 2015, when the theme will be 'Looked After Children Moving into Adulthood'.

**Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)**

5. The Board met on 14 January 2015. Dr Mike Lavender (Consultant Public Health, Durham) and Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) for Durham and Darlington, gave a presentation on the themes identified via the child death review process.
6. The CDOP is a sub-committee of both Durham and Darlington's Safeguarding Children Boards. It is responsible for reviewing the available information on all child deaths and making a decision about whether or not the death was preventable.
7. 29 children living in County Durham and six children living in Darlington died between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. During this time period there were five CDOP's in which 33 cases were reviewed.
8. At each meeting the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths presents the circumstances of each death to the multi-agency panel. The case is reviewed in detail and recommendations/actions logged for monitoring purposes.

9. To maintain a close link between the CDOP and the LSCB, the Business Manager, a member of the CDOP, will update at every meeting.
10. Further details regarding the process are available on the LSCB web-site [www.darlington.gov.uk/lscb](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/lscb)
11. As part of the work arranged for Safer Internet Day (10th February), Ron Hogg visited two local schools, Hurworth and Carmel. With support of the Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Network the LSCB has launched a poster competition for Primary and Secondary aged children, for young people to design a poster that depicts safer internet use. The winning entries will be used as part of a wider communications campaign.
12. The LSCB and partners planned a Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day on 18 March 2015. The campaign was launched by the National Working Group (NWG), a charity that supports organisations in working with Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The campaign this year encourages people to write on their hands how they intend to support CSE. Work has already started with professional groups and within schools, images will then be shared via social media to help raise awareness on the matter.
13. A presentation was given at the pre-Council Policy Briefing (29 January) on Child Sexual Exploitation, updating Members on the issues within Darlington and highlighting the specific pieces of work that are being undertaken.

### **School Forum**

14. The Forum met on 13 January 2015 to consider current spend and the review of resource bases. The meeting also agreed to payments for two year, three year and four year old children, to providers (the finance is part of Dedicated School Grant).

### **Education**

15. St Bede's Academy was inspected by Ofsted on 27 January 2015. The report identified that the school was a good school with outstanding behaviour and safety. Leadership is a key strength. The report has been published.
16. Wendy Aitken has taken on the role of Head Teacher for Cockerton CE Primary School on 9 February in addition to her existing role as Head Teacher of High Coniscliffe CE Primary School. Miss Aitken will divide her time between the two schools with additional leadership and management support in both schools from existing staff.

### **Chair and Link Governor Briefing**

17. This briefing was held on 14 January 2014 and is held in the second week of each new term and provides an opportunity to update Chairs and Link Governors on new policies, regulations and Local Authority updates to be cascaded to Governing Bodies meetings throughout the term. This term's briefing included reports on Childcare Sufficiency Review, Fraud Risk in Schools and updated Health and Safety

policies for maintained schools. Updates were also provided on school place planning, Governance reforms, Governing Body reconstitutions and governor training courses.

### **Darlington School Governor Meeting**

18. On 2 February, 2015 I chaired a meeting for all Governors, which is held each term. This term updates were provided by Local Authority Officers and included the Parent/Carer Forum, Darlington Partnership, SEND and the Joint Headteacher's meeting. The meeting then moved to issues raised by Governors and an interesting discussion took place regarding teacher and teaching assistant workload.

### **Locality Teams**

19. The Locality Teams continue to develop local based services. Social work professionals are based in the locality and there is currently only one vacancy within these teams, a much improved position compared to ten months ago. A positively received 'Darlington Offer' and support for newly qualified workers is in place to assist in the retention of social work staff.
20. Ongoing work is being undertaken with health colleagues to explore the use of integrated health and education checks at two to two and half-years, which will involve the family and child only having to have the check on one occasion.

### **Child Protection**

21. On 30 January 2015, 108 children were subject to a child protection plan in respect of 42 families. 62 per cent of children on a plan were as a result of Neglect, 33 per cent as a result of Emotional harm, 5 per cent due to Physical abuse and none as a result of Sexual abuse.
22. When collating information relating to risk factors, domestic abuse continues to remain the predominant risk factor.
23. From April 2014 until the end of January 2015, 146 children have been removed from a plan, as they were no longer considered to be at risk of significant harm.

### **Looked After Children**

24. On 31 January 2015, there were 217 children Looked After by Darlington Borough Council. This is the same number of children who were Looked After on 31 December 2014.

Within the total number, 12 were in pre-adoptive placements (5.52 per cent of Looked After Children (LAC) population):-

31 were in family and friends placements – deemed looked after;

71 were aged 5 years and under (32 per cent of LAC population);

17 were aged 17 years (7.8 per cent of LAC population). Eight of those were in internal foster placements resulting in 47 per cent of 17 year old LAC being in internal foster placements;

four were placed with parents; and

79 were with internal approved foster carers.

### **Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Stakeholder event**

25. The annual Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Stakeholder event was held on 20 January 2015, at Teesside University, Darlington. Representation included teenage parents and staff from the Local Authority, NHS, secondary education, the Clinical Commissioning Group, the voluntary sector and Teesside University. It was a well-attended event and reference was made to the young person's sexual health clinic. The Sex and Relationships Education quality mark has also been developed in Darlington with pilots now underway in three schools.
26. Two teenage parents provided an update on the success of the 'Veg Patch' peer project at the Coleridge Centre, Dodmire and McNay Street, which focuses on healthy eating and skills development.
27. Stakeholders discussed Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health priorities for 2015-2017, which have been considered by the steering group. A SWOT analysis was undertaken on 0-19 Children's services gathering feedback on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This will inform the 0-19 review in preparation for 0-5 commissioning responsibility transferring to the Local Authority in October 2015.

### **Meetings**

28. Since the last meeting of Council, I have:
  - (a) Attended a briefing on Child Sexual Exploitation and actions being taken in Darlington and County Durham to protect vulnerable young people;
  - (b) Attended a meeting to discuss a possible "Darlington Schools Challenge";
  - (c) Attended a briefing on the "Beyond Care Report";
  - (d) Addressed a celebration at Carmel College to mark Miss Regan's OBE;
  - (e) Attended the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee;
  - (f) Attended the Executive and Board meetings of the Darlington Partnership;
  - (g) Chaired the Special Agreed Syllabus Conference organised by SACRE;
  - (h) Met with the Director of Public Health;
  - (i) Met with Darlington Healthwatch to discuss engagement work with young people;
  - (j) Attended a Board Meeting of Darlington College;
  - (k) Took part in a discussion with police, business leaders, voluntary sector representatives, health partners and council officers on shared work initiatives;
  - (l) Visited St. Augustine's Academy to celebrate World Book Day;

- (m) Visited St. Aidan's Academy;
- (n) Took part in interviewing for the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board;
- (o) Attended the Schools Forum;
- (p) Opened the Darlington Learning and Skills Centre;
- (q) Attended the Local Safeguarding Children's Board meetings;
- (r) Attended the opening of the new DfE building, Bishopgate House; and
- (s) Attended weekly briefings with the Director of Children, Families and Learning and Children's Services officers.

**Councillor Cyndi Hughes**  
**Children and Young People Portfolio**