

Darlington
Children & Young
People's Plan

2008 - 2011

DRAFT

An Inclusive Approach:

Darlington has a diverse community and we are committed to serving every member of the community to the best of our ability.

The Children & Young People's Plan 2008 -2011 is a partnership document that has had regard to equality and diversity issues that may impact on any members of our community for any reason, but particularly because of their age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, religion or belief. A copy of the Equalities Impact Assessment is available from Janet Walke, room 217, Town Hall, Darlington DL1 5QT; telephone [01325] 388949 or e-mail: janet.walke@darlington.gov.uk

If English is not your first language and you would like more information about this document, or if you require information in large print, Braille or on tape please contact the Policy & Performance team on 01325 388949.

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Introduction

This is Darlington's second Children and Young People's Plan. The first, produced in 2006 and strongly linked to the area's first Local Area Agreement, has led to measurable and sustained improvements in reducing truancy and exclusions, raising standards and narrowing the gap in attainment between some vulnerable groups and the rest of the community. It also helped to make Darlington a healthier and safer place for young people to grow up in, and one where more young people than before were able to achieve their potential. These achievements stemmed from the funding provided by the Local Area Agreement and through the commitment of all partners to work together.

The first Children and Young People's Plan completed its lifespan in 2008 and the Local Authority has a duty to work with partners to bring forward a second plan. A Children and Young People's Plan is a statement of what all partners want to achieve for children and young people, what their immediate priorities are, how they are going to achieve them and how the actions will be paid for. The Plan is based on what we are told by our community, what we have learnt from our previous actions and what we know works best from research evidence.

Darlington has a very strong tradition of partnership working across agencies and this has undoubtedly contributed to the success of the first Children and Young People's Plan. This, our second Plan, will also benefit from the strong partnerships that have been forged. Darlington Partnership, our local strategic partnership, has produced and secured universal agreement for a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), **One Darlington: Perfectly Placed**, which has established the framework for the funding, the activity and the leadership required to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The SCS has a vision *"of a community that respects its unique heritage and retains the borough's character, friendliness and quality of life. At the same time we want to make the most of our potential for greater prosperity, and open up aspiration and opportunity for everybody. Across the town, the villages and the countryside we want to build a genuinely sustainable, cohesive and caring borough-wide community"*

The first part of the title of the SCS '**One Darlington**' refers to building inclusion and opportunity for all, to narrowing the gaps that exist across the Borough in prosperity, educational attainment, health and life expectancy, and access to jobs, services and facilities – all of which impact on the life chances of our children and young people. '**One Darlington**' is also about a sense of belonging to a community where shared values of respect, caring and commitment to others are reinforced.

Darlington is '**Perfectly Placed**' in terms of its location and can make the most of its opportunities to attract business investment and increase employment and wage levels. It is through this priority that we can improve the employment and training opportunities available to our young people. We can also exploit these opportunities to add to the existing excellent leisure and cultural facilities.

The **One Darlington** priority has many strands, including:

- Tackling deprivation wherever it exists, narrowing the gaps in life chances across the Borough, and focusing on reducing inequality for the most deprived and disadvantaged
- Making sure that groups of people who may be at risk of discrimination or disadvantage are included, with equality of opportunity and access to services
- Protecting vulnerable people, ranging from individual victims of domestic violence to whole groups or communities at risk of abuse and violence
- Valuing each person for who they are
- Encouraging volunteering
- Regarding the happiness, fulfilment and well-being of individuals as a legitimate concern for the community as a whole, and doing what is possible to support individuals to enjoy their lives and achieve wholeness and mental well-being.

Tackling deprivation to 'narrow the gaps in outcomes' and promoting social inclusion will be dominant issues for the Council, NHS, Police and other partners for many years to come.

There are five themes for organising and delivering improvements through the SCS. These were developed through extensive consultation. The themes are:

- Prosperous Darlington – focused on creating a vibrant economy and prosperity for all, recognising the quality of life that makes Darlington perfectly placed
- Aspiring Darlington – enabling people to develop and achieve their aspirations, and to maximise their potential
- Healthy Darlington – improving health and well-being for everybody, irrespective of social, economic and environmental constraints
- Greener Darlington – ensuring an attractive and 'liveable' local environment, and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges
- Safer Darlington – creating a safer and more cohesive Darlington.

Each theme is structured in the same way, carrying the **One Darlington** and **Perfectly Placed** priorities forward into long-term outcomes and a series of 'strands' that provide a framework for future action planning.

The five themes are closely aligned to the priorities for improvements in outcomes for children and young people identified by Every Child Matters and which still form the basis for our action planning.

These are:

- **Promote positive health and well being** (Healthy Darlington)
- **Ensure the safety of children and young people** (Safer Darlington)
- **Enable children and young people to aspire, to have fun and maximise their full potential through learning** (Aspiring Darlington)
- **Enable children and young people to contribute to their community and environment** (Greener Darlington)
- **Ensure children and young people are prepared for and prosper in adult life** (Prosperous Darlington)

We believe that each of these priorities will have more likelihood of being achieved if all of our services focus on:

- **early intervention and preventative work**
- **provision of high quality, accessible information advice and guidance, and**
- **designing schemes that specifically improve outcomes for vulnerable groups**

Darlington aims to improve the outcomes for all our children, young people, their families and carers.

Partners are committed to improving universal and Tier 1 services to children, young people and their families, however this Plan recognises the need to ensure that those who have additional needs, will receive specific services to ensure they are able to enjoy their childhood years and achieve their full potential. This group will include:

- Young People who involve themselves in risk taking behaviours (e.g. offending; substance misuse; inappropriate sexual activity)
- Children and young people living in families where their needs cannot be fully met for a variety of reasons (e.g. complex disabilities; young carers; where parental lifestyle choices result in neglect/poverty)

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Delivering the Children and Young People’s Plan

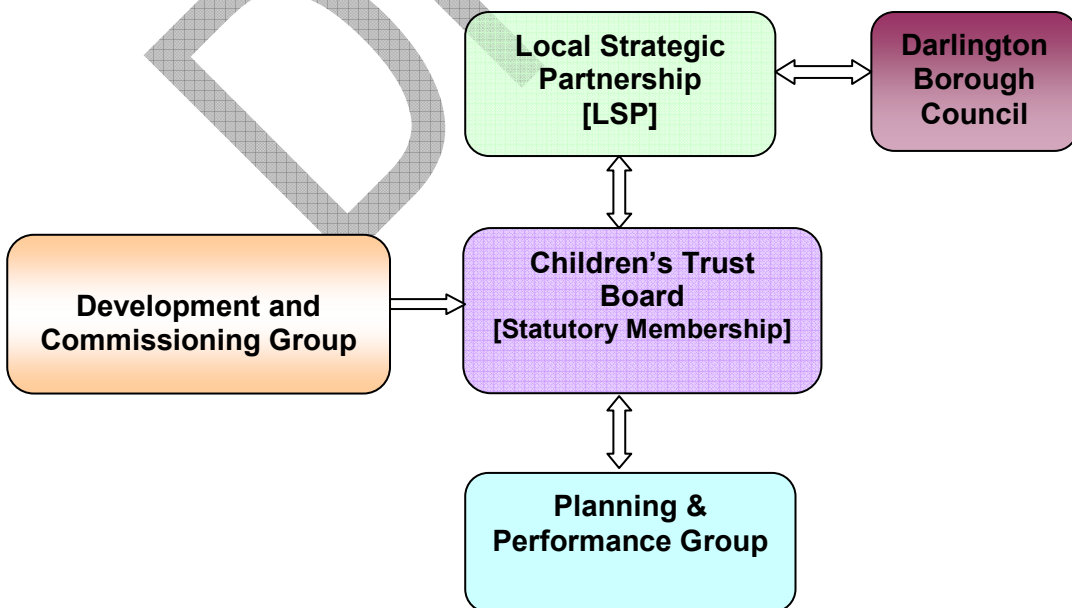
The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the principle vehicle for delivery, over the next 3 years, of the long term vision set out in the SCS. The LAA is a formal agreement with Government based on enhanced performance in delivering on a range of outcomes. The SCS theme of Aspiring Darlington in particular, and parts of other themes, has been allocated a pooled budget of approximately £3m each year to deliver the LAA outcomes. The Children’s Trust will manage this resource on behalf of the Darlington Partnership. In addition, the LAA legislation places a duty to co-operate in delivering the agreed outcomes on a wide range of public bodies. Each partner agency will contribute a proportion of their core business funding to meeting the outcomes agreed in this Plan, in addition to the pooled budget.

The Children’s Trust is the statutory body responsible for co-ordinating the actions of all agencies contributing to the improvement of outcomes for children and young people. The Children’s Trust provides strategic leadership in children’s services and over the lifetime of this Plan will become a mainstream activity for all statutory partners. We will be able to judge the success of this shift in focus by the acceleration in the rate of improvement for vulnerable groups, by securing the active engagement of all partners and by giving more control over service design and delivery to user groups.

The Children’s Trust published its vision for children and young people in 2007. We are continuing to pursue this vision.

Darlington’s children are its future. We want to help children achieve their potential and enjoy life as active participating citizens free from poverty, ignorance, neglect, crime, harm, abuse and distress. We will achieve this by delivering effective, high quality and integrated services.

The Children’s Trust has the following management structure:



The Children's Trust Board now has a single sub-group (the Performance and Planning Group) whose membership comprises operational managers from partner agencies. A small Development and Commissioning Group manages the business of the Children's Trust Board and the Performance and Planning Group, and co-ordinates commissioning work on behalf of the Children's Trust.

A range of Standing Groups and Task and Finish Groups have been established to develop and drive forward responses to priorities identified by the Trust and to monitor the impact of the Children and Young People's Plan. The structure of groups makes use of a range of existing groups, including themed groups of the Local Strategic Partnership and the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that work is not unnecessarily duplicated.

The Children's Trust will lead in the continued transformation of services for children, young people and their families through the implementation of this Plan and its suite of supporting strategies as detailed in Section 4c, page 20.

Why we have a Children and Young People's Plan

The Children's Act of 2004 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to produce a Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP). The CYPP is the key document which covers, in one place, all services for families, children and young people aged 0-19 and those aged up to 25 who have a disability, within the context of a single strategic and overarching vision for the area.

The CYPP is the vehicle through which Children's Trust partners deliver national and local priorities, either by identifying actions and resources or by signposting to other plans and strategies.

Implementing our vision for children, young people and their families in Darlington

Our children and young people are overwhelmingly healthy, community minded, positive about schooling and engaged in sports and arts activities. This is true nationally and this is true in Darlington. Every survey, every enquiry and every consultation confirms that this is the case. Parents bring up children, not the state and most parents do so very effectively. However, it is recognised that successful outcomes do not occur universally. Well-respected international evidence, such as the UNICEF Report on children's well-being concludes that children and young people in other countries are happier, healthier and achieve more than their peers in the United Kingdom. Young people do receive negative media coverage at times and this concerns the vast majority of them. Young people are exposed to inappropriate language, images and attitudes, often marketed by adults. These factors serve to put young people under pressure as they develop. Some families struggle to provide the security and opportunities that children need and so more children and young people need the support of our services now than might have been the case before.

For all services working with children and young people there are a series of principles which underpin their work and which provide the sense of optimism required to know that everyone can contribute to making improvements. These are:

- giving every child and young person **the best start in life**
- providing **a champion for every child**
- ensuring that every child or young person **attends education and positive activities**, and
- ensuring there is **a job or place for every school and college leaver**

Our vision will be supported through the planning and delivery of effective, high quality services. In doing so we will drive forward and pay particular attention to the following three areas:

Integration of services – different agencies are increasingly delivering services, so that families receive them in a seamless way. They also share common tools such as the Common Assessment Framework, the Integrated Children's System and ContactPoint.

Arrangements made to safeguard and promote welfare - Darlington Safeguarding Children Board is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations will co-operate to safeguard children. The Board ensures arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Darlington, and for ensuring that this is done effectively.

Arrangements for early intervention and preventative action – Developing early intervention and preventative services is one of our priorities and fundamental to improving outcomes for children and young people. Preventative working supported by early identification of need and intervention at a local setting is a key element of our Locality Strategy.

Listening ~ who and how we consulted and what you told us

Darlington schools took part in the national Tellus 2 survey of primary and secondary school pupils in the summer of 2007. The results of the survey show that Darlington's young people are as healthy as the national average but that they are more likely to drink alcohol than young people elsewhere. We are pleased that the survey showed that fewer young people in Darlington use drugs when compared to elsewhere. Information, advice and guidance around health issues are rated well by our young people and more children in Darlington (40%) than nationally (36%) think that the help they get to plan their future is good.

The biggest worries our young people face are the fear of bullying (30%) and the pressure of school work (34%). When they are worried, young people in Darlington are less likely than others to talk to an adult.

It is worrying that children in Darlington feel less safe in the home than children elsewhere and that they suffer higher levels of bullying in the community or in school but they tell us that we are getting better at tackling bullying.

Young people in Darlington are more likely than their peers to help or care for elderly relatives and neighbours. They are unhappy with the provision of public transport, they want more places to hang out and they don't like seeing lots of young people out on the streets.

In schools, children want better buildings, better toilets, computers, time and space for play, more say in what happens and less exclusively academic activities.

National evidence is very clear about one issue in particular. Well-founded research shows that 70% of children and young people want there to be a good relationship between their parents but only 33% of adults think that this is important for their children's well-being. As a result, parents can underestimate the impact the quality of their relationships can have on their children. What children and young people say are the most important things to them are as follows – love, support, care, fun, kindness, respect and trust. This Plan, therefore, is just as much about what adults need to do as it is about what children and young people should do.

Consultation on the Plan commenced in December 2007. The Tier 3 Group (a consultative group of young people) fed back comments on our existing priorities and was asked of their continued relevance. The first of two joint briefing sessions for Children's Services and Children's NHS managers was also held in December 2007 at which senior and operational managers were given the opportunity to review priorities and suggest actions to deliver improvement. A CYPP Reference Group was established by the Children's Trust in January 2008 consisting of representatives of the various partner organisations who are responsible for delivering services to children and their families. The remit of this group was to complete an analysis of need, develop the CYPP and feedback to, and receive comments from, the various partners who the members represented.

Children and young people were widely consulted through the Council of School Councils which shared and commented on the proposed new priorities. A borough wide

'Click' event for children and young people was held in April 2008 which, among other activities, gave children and young people the chance to complete a questionnaire on the proposed priorities for the CYPP.

There was once, again, a successful and competitive election for the Member of the UK Youth Parliament. Partners in the Children's Trust and the CYPP will support Emily Christer, and her deputies in achieving their manifesto commitments wherever possible. The manifesto commitments are:

- *Create a 'café' in the town centre*

Not only would this be a place where you could go and relax, play snooker, watch TV or surf the internet it would also be a place where you could seek confidential information on sex, relationships, health and school among many things. I would hope to even develop the area so that people could go and take part in workshops for example DJ-ing, film-making and Duke of Edinburgh.

- *Create a radio station*

Run by young people for young people. Accessible to everyone in Darlington this would be a way of informing people of local events, a chance for people from all over the town to speak to one another, an opportunity for you the listener to become part of the schedule and receive media training.

- *Bringing down the cost of facilities*

Certain places in Darlington are raising their prices to such a degree that young people cannot afford to use them, I believe this is wrong and should not be allowed – I would hope to implement a scheme which would allow you to use these places for much less; whether it is at the cinema, on the buses or at the Dolphin Centre.

- *Promoting Positivity*

You just have to glance at a newspaper or internet article to see a young people being shown as unruly, antisocial hoodies, why should the minority give us a bad name?

Working alongside the Northern Echo & the rE-view project I would like to see much more of the local press reporting on the positive things that we as young people are achieving whether it be in sports, performing arts, education or charity work.

It is so unfair that young people are judged purely on how the media portrays the negativity of some.

- *Advertising of events*

With so many young people claiming there is nothing to do I would like to put in place so much more advertising so that that is not the case. Using the CLICK – a new database of all the events in Darlington & my new radio station you will never have to be bored ever again. It's not fair that a few

people are aware of all the activities when there's such a wide array of things to do everyone should be entitled to attend and enjoy =D!!

The wider community was consulted through large scale and systematic Talking Together events open to all of the public and other events connected with the review of the new Sustainable Community Strategy for Darlington. The outcomes of our most recent Community Survey were included. The Town Crier, a copy of which goes to all 43,000 households in the borough, ran an article on the CYPP, its proposed priorities and gave readers the opportunity to comment on them.

A variety of groups including the Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Network, Health Improvement and Social Inclusion Group, Secondary Heads, Primary Heads, Local Strategic Partnership Board, Schools Forum, Schools Admission Forum and the Local Safeguarding Children Board contributed to both the proposed priorities and the draft plan.

The outcomes from this consultation have informed the Plan's priorities and are addressed through the action plans outlined in the accompanying document **CYPP Part 2 - A Summary of Planned Actions**.

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Learning ~ Impact and Improvement: progress and learning from previous plan priorities

The original Children and Young People's Plan, published in 2006, identified 7 priorities. A further 2 priorities were added in 2007 as a result of an analysis of outcome data. Progress against these priorities has been reported on a regular basis through the Children's Trust Board and this has facilitated learning and reflection across all partners.

The following paragraphs describe progress against priorities and outlines key areas of learning.

Priority: Promoting positive sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancy.

Progress:

The latest figures (2006) show that Darlington has achieved a reduction of 20% in its teenage pregnancy rate since the base line of 1998 [England average reduction 13%].

Learning:

Strengthening of local intelligence through the completion of an annual self-assessment and shared intelligence at the quarterly Teenage Pregnancy Board meetings has made the service more responsive and helped prioritise where funding is allocated.

Priority: Improving the provision of information advice and guidance (IAG)

Progress:

We have joined the Connexions Service and Youth Service to give a seamless service for young people. The numbers of young people becoming unemployed on leaving school or college has reduced although there are still too many who drop out of provision at age 17.

An online directory of learning opportunities has been established, covering all provision for 14-19 year olds. A further, linked web-site provides information about all sporting, leisure and recreational opportunities.

Learning:

Young people want knowledgeable adults: Effective IAG services for young people are the responsibility of all agencies and require a collaborative approach to planning, delivery and further development.

We have appointed an Advisor to the 14-19 Team to lead on IAG developments to ensure provision meets the needs of young people and families and is integrated with other strategies e.g. locality working, parenting, 14-19 learning and NEET reduction.

Priority: Improving the stability of children's placements

Progress: Stability of Placement Monitoring Meetings are held monthly. This has enabled the identification of early indications of placement instability. When instability of placements is identified, placement planning meetings are arranged and a bespoke programme of work is agreed to promote stability.

In continuing to closely monitor placements we have been able to identify early the changes in the needs of children and their carers and have then been able to respond in a timely manner in order to ensure that any support required is provided.

Learning

Regular monitoring and timely interventions with a programme of work designed and agreed specifically for the needs of the individual child and their carers.

Priority: Reducing absence and exclusions from schools

Progress:

The Attendance Strategy has been reviewed. Attendance across Darlington schools has improved through the interventions by the Education Welfare Officers (EWO), mentoring, use of legal sanctions, case conferences and improved curriculum offers in schools.

Spring Term 2007 absence figures shows that Darlington has moved from being the 16th worst authority out of 150 in the autumn term to being the 49th best in the spring term. Initial absence information for 2006 / 2007 shows that compared to 2005/2006, 28 primary schools had improved attendance. Primary attendance showed an overall improvement of 1%. In Secondary schools, 6 schools improved their attendance compared to the previous year (using autumn and spring term data) showing an overall Secondary improvement of 1.2%. Combined figures indicate an absence of 6.95% - this is in line with the DCSF target of 6.98%.

Exclusions have dropped significantly since the introduction of the six-day rule at the beginning of the 2007 academic year and the introduction of the Early Intervention Strategy agreed and funded by the Schools' Forum.

Learning:

The Attendance Network continues to inform best practice and a new Behaviour Strategy will be published May 2008. The Behaviour Team has been re-configured to include an Inclusion Officer to work with children and young people at risk of exclusion and an additional worker has been appointed. The Secondary Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme will be extended across all schools. The new Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) is prioritising work with all schools on early intervention to prevent exclusion.

Priority: Improving academic progress for all children and young people

Key Stage 1

Results in Darlington in 2007 for Level 2+ in all assessed Key Stage 1 components are: Speaking and Listening 82.9%, Writing 77.3%, Reading 81.8%, Mathematics 88.2% and Science 88.2%. With the exception of Level 2+ Science, which showed an increase of 0.8%, results show a slight decline as schools now use teacher assessment to determine individual pupil levels at the end of Key Stage 1, as opposed to a one off test.

Key Stage 2

At the end of Key Stage 2 primary schools in Darlington have in general consolidated and in some cases improved upon their good performance of 2006. At Level 4+ performance in English and Reading is within 0.9% of national averages whilst that in Science is 2% above, in Maths it is 3% above and in Writing 4% above national figures.

At Level 5 our pupils have exceeded the national average in all five measured areas. The improvement in English at Level 5, which has increased by 15.9% to 37.2% since 2005, is worthy of particular note.

Key Stage 3

At the end of Key Stage 3 results in Darlington have improved significantly at Level 5+ in English (up 7.2%), Reading (up 10.3%) and Writing (up 5.9%). The Writing result is of particular note as the national average dropped by 3% in 2007.

Small gains at Level 6+ in all areas of English were also recorded. In Maths the 3.5% gain made in 2006 at Level 5+ was consolidated against a worsening national picture whilst in Science Darlington's score at Level 5+ increased by 1.7% to 72%.

In ICT we recorded a 0.2% rise at Level 5+ and a 5.6% rise at level 6+ so placing all the Borough's scores above or in line with national averages for Key Stage 3 with the exception of Writing which despite rising by over 10% on our 2006 result is still 1% below the national average.

Key Stage 4

Darlington's GCSE results in 2007 at 5 A* - C are 60%, which is an increase of 1.6% on 2006. We are the second best performer in the North East with a score of 45.9% students obtaining 5A* - C (including English and Maths). There are strong results from a number of schools across the borough in all Key Stages.

Post -16

Darlington's A Level results dropped slightly in 2007 from an average point score per student of 774.8 in 2006 to 769.2 in 2007; however this still exceeds the national average of 731.2. The overall FE success rate (achievement x retention) for 16-18 year-olds is still high at 83.8% against a national average of 77.3%. Work-based learning provision framework achievement rates continue to improve and are currently at 62% for advanced apprentices and 58% for apprentices.

Learning:

Darlington School Improvement partners will continue to work with all schools to improve performance. High performing schools will continue to share best practice with other schools in the Borough through close partnership working e.g. Carmel RC College and Branksome, Hurworth and Haughton resulting in improved outcomes for all children and young people. The further development of the School Condition Document will continue to assist in delivering real improvements across all phases.

Priority: Improving opportunities for the 14-19 age group

Progress:

A new 14-19 Strategy has been agreed by the Children's Trust to enable the 14-19 Trust to move onto the next stage of development. Darlington will deliver 4 Diplomas from September 2009 (IT, Creative and Media, Engineering and Hospitality and Catering). Through the NEET Reduction Partnership £640,000 of ESF funding has been secured to commission tailored learning packages for young people. The Skills + programme has been designed to address the needs of disaffected students and has been particularly successful in securing progression to post-16 education. An electronic area-wide 14-19 Prospectus has been developed to show all courses available to 14-19 year olds in the area.

We will contribute towards the Learning and Skills Council's national target of 85% of young people achieving a Level 2 qualification and 56% of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by 2013.

We will support the LSC in growing the number of apprenticeship places in line with the Leitch Implementation Plan and the World Class Apprenticeships review. The 14-19 Trust will continue its development at an accelerated rate and in preparation for the transfer of the Learning and Skills Council funding for 16-19 learning to the local authority in 2010.

Learning:

- Consolidate closer working relationships between the 14-19 team and colleagues in School Improvement and Development service.
- Ensure arrangements for the delivery of Diplomas 2009 are robust and that comprehensive Information, Advice and Guidance is available to all children and young people.
- Further develop employer engagement across the Borough and Tees Valley.

Priority: Empowering children and young people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services

Progress:

The number of young people who are involved and participating in a sustained and ongoing manner in the Tier 3 Group (the group designed to give young people a voice in decision making processes and access to decision making bodies) has exceeded its target figure for 2007/08 of 30 by 6.

The number of groups who operate at Tier 2 of the Youth Participation Strategy also exceeded expectations by 20% with 24 groups at the end of 2007/08, 4 above target.

Learning:

Information is now being collected from young people in Tiers 2 and 3 to find out if they feel that their participation has made a difference. This will give young people the opportunity to determine if their participation in decision making processes is having an impact on service design and delivery. The 'What's Changed' tool is being developed as part of ongoing work - there seems little point in enabling young people to have an active voice in decision making if this voice is not making a difference and/or young people cannot demonstrate a discernible difference.

Priority: Narrowing the gap and improving outcomes for vulnerable groups

Progress:

The Council and its partners have a strong emphasis on targeting hard to reach groups including the Traveller Community. We have reduced the number of teen pregnancies and provide positive learning and training opportunities for teen parents. Our Youth Offending services have achieved impressive rates of reduction in the rate of re-offending of children and young people who have received a custodial sentence in the past.

Looked after children have a high take-up of dental and health checks and perform well in terms of the educational attendance and attainment. In educational terms good progress is made by children identified with a SEN compared with the rest of the cohort.

Children and young people from BME communities perform at a similar level to their peers.

Children living in the 10% most deprived communities have improved their educational attainment levels at a faster rate than their peers since 2005. The contextual value added scores for these pupils moving from primary to secondary school has improved by 44 points compared to a 19 point increase for other pupils. The percentage of pupils in the most deprived areas gaining 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C over the same period has increased by 6.8% compared to a 2.4% increase for other pupils. Darlington College has reported a 27% increase in student numbers from the deprived communities since opening on its new site.

Learning:

The development of locality teams, the delegation of funding to schools for extended services and the support for community coherence and resilience all can make significant contributions to raising aspirations amongst communities with less experience of educational success than others.

Our participation in the Narrowing the Gap Strategy will focus our work activity on improving the outcomes for our most vulnerable children and young people and those at risk of not achieving the five outcomes. In particular we know that:

- All children need a champion (a trusted adult) who takes an interest in their care and learning.
- Parents need to be encouraged and supported as the primary carer and champion for their child.
- Services for children, young people and their families need to work holistically to offer continuity and to provide support at critical times of transition in a child's life.
- Children succeed best when they feel physically and emotionally secure, are stimulated and engaged, resilient and able to communicate.
- Locally based provision must be founded on a comprehensive understanding of need.
- We require a well trained workforce with integrated services and teams speaking the same language with common values able to identify need and deploy preventative services early.
- Information about children and young people needs to be shared and that data is collected, analysed, owned and understood on a collective basis

Progress against specified statutory activities

Diversity and Parental Choice

The Authority welcomes diversity in education and supports and encourages a range of provision to meet the needs of pupils and their parents. Darlington has a rich mix of infant, junior, primary and secondary schools covering the full spectrum of Local Authority maintained, Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided, Foundation Trust and Academy. As part of their own management arrangements some schools have chosen to federate across Governing Bodies.

Darlington is keen to promote parental choice in planning for and securing the provision of school places and will do this as a pathfinder authority for the Primary Capital Programme. The Authority is experiencing a high demand for school places, particularly in the primary school sector as a result of inward migration.

Positive Activities for Children and Young People

The development of the Youth Offer began in April 2007 and engaged with over 800 young people with the following objectives:

- Understand what young people like to do and where they like to do it!
- Produce a big list of all the activities happening in Darlington for young people, regardless of who makes it happen!
- Make sure that all young people in Darlington know about this list and how to access the activities!
- Involve young people in helping us do all of the above!

This has led to the recruitment of young people to help develop the Youth Offer concept and this has entailed meetings throughout the year and developmental work including developing the Offer's new name 'Click for everything to do' and developing the logo.

The current focus of work is to develop an exciting and effective website listing everything for young people to do in Darlington (www.clicktodo.co.uk) The Click website will allow every provider in Darlington to register, create and update their own mini-website. It will contain pages for providers' information, news, transport routes, a calendar for events and regular activities, opportunities to up-load photos and questionnaires to rate activities and a forum for young people to discuss issues affecting them such as transport, cost of activities and location of activities.

To raise anticipation for the Click website and to celebrate the achievements of the young people's and stakeholder's groups 'Click in the Park' took place in April 2008. Darlington's South Park was transformed for the event and achieved its aim of bringing 42 providers of activity and over 300 young people together through a series workshops and promotional stalls.

Learning

Stakeholders need to continue to develop quality standards and ensure the website is responsive to the needs of young people. The young people's group will need to continue and focus on the sustained promotion of the website and develop ideas around becoming 'mystery shoppers' in order to access the quality and appropriateness of services activities.

Childcare Sufficiency

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities from April 2008 to secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to take up, or remain in, work; or to undertake education or training.

Darlington completed its first childcare sufficiency assessment in November 2007. This involved consultation on a wide range of issues with parents and prospective parents as follows:

- current usage of childcare provision
- ideal care arrangements
- preferred location of care
- preferred timing and levels of flexibility required
- barriers to accessing care; and
- price sensitivity

More in depth follow up work was also carried out with teenage parents and parents of children with a disability who find childcare comparatively more difficult to access.

Learning

The assessment identified two main areas of unmet demand as follows:

- out of school provision (including holiday places) for school age children, particularly those over 8 years; and
- more inclusive provision for all age ranges (up to the age of 17 years for those children with a disability).

The assessment has also showed that parents identified the following as the main barriers to accessing childcare places:

- lack of service flexibility;
- the cost of childcare, particularly holiday play schemes; and
- lack of up-to-date information about available childcare, particularly for older children.

To address these barriers and other issues, a Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan has been developed, which identifies a number of universal actions including: -

- Increasing the number of sustainable, good quality, inclusive school-age child care places to achieve sufficiency
- Review location of vacancies/waiting lists in existing provision in school-age children
- Ensure existing providers offer new services and new providers are sustainable
- Ensure parental consultation and involvement and other interested stakeholders
- Increase confidence/information levels of parents of disabled children and young people

Provision of information - Children's Service Directory

The Children and Young People's Directory was launched on 17th March 2008. The directory provides comprehensive and up to date information on local organisations, services and events relating to children and young people, their parents and carers, as well as the practitioners that support them.

The database was launched with 325 organisations and 1,300 services registered on it, in a variety of service areas covering Health, Children's Services, Leisure Services, Voluntary and Private and Independent sectors. The directory is available in website format at <http://darlington.childrensservicedirectory.org.uk> but can also be accessed using a free phone telephone number (0800 917 2121), e-mail (CIS@darlington.gov.uk) or drop-in facilities at the Town Hall.

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Leading: Where next for children's services?

In 2006 the National Foundation for Educational Research and the Education Management Information Exchange published their report on the challenges facing the new Children's Services arrangements. The report looked at best practice across the country. It makes clear that the Children Act 2004 set out an agenda for 10 years of change to ensure that services were better organised, more responsive and better integrated so that more services were delivered in a preventative way. The report concluded with a list of recommendations. These included tackling some issues which lent themselves to an integrated approach, such as teenage pregnancy and support for looked after children, moving resources to priority areas, improving consultation with young people, providing better information, advice and guidance, developing multi-agency teams and delivering locality based services.

In December 2007 the government's first Children's Plan described an agenda for change until 2020. It is increasingly becoming clear that such a fundamental programme of reform as the one embarked on for all services for children and young people is one that is the most ambitious change programme for decades. It is also quite clear that the change agenda will only be successful if all relevant practitioners in all relevant agencies are given the tools and the training to improve outcomes.

One Darlington: Perfectly Placed outlines the local change programme to 2020 and beyond. There is recognition that fundamental change will take time. However, there is a pressure to deliver effectively and not to lose time and resources through untried, untested and misplaced activity. UNICEF published an extensive report into child poverty and demonstrated that children in the UK were rated as the most unhappy and unhealthy in a survey of 21 developed countries.

The Children's Commissioner for England, Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green, commenting on the report, stated that we have some young people *"who are unhappy, unhealthy, engaging in risky behaviour, who have poor relationships with their family and their peers, who have low expectations and don't feel safe."*

The Children's Plan was not simply a response to the UNICEF report, but it did acknowledge many of the concerns raised in the report. It noted that *"parents say they sometimes find it hard to cope with a rapidly changing world. More mothers as well as fathers are pursuing rewarding careers, but can find it hard to balance work and family life. Parents regret that their children do not play independently outside as they did when they were young, but worry about safety if their children go outside alone. Families are more aware of how to pursue healthy lifestyles but too much time spent in front of video games or the television and fatty foods mean that child obesity is on the rise. And when this generation of children and young people leave education, they will need higher skills to succeed in employment. Moreover, some children and young people, often from disadvantaged backgrounds, are still underachieving...And too many children and young people suffer unhappy childhoods because of disadvantage or problems that are not addressed, or tackled too late."*

The Children's Plan highlighted a strategy which has been put in place to ensure that every local authority area can access the evidenced based actions that lead to improved outcomes. The strategy, funded by the DCSF and the Local Government

Association, is entitled 'Narrowing the gap' and is led by a former Director of Children's Services, Christine Davies. The aim of this strategy is to encourage local authority-led improvement programmes and capacity building. Darlington Children's Trust joined the 'Narrowing the gap' programme at the end of 2007. For the duration of this Children and Young People's Plan, partners will work to implement locally the strategies shown to be most successful at improving outcomes. In particular, partners recognise that the protective factors in the lives of children and young people include educational attainment, social and emotional skills and positive parenting and that all of these can be influenced by our actions. In addition, partners are committed to the notion that children have a right to be a child and to enjoy childhood for what it is as well as seeing it as a stage in development.

As a result of the developing knowledge about what works to improve outcomes the Children's Trust has put in place a series of resourced strategies which will deliver improved outcomes. These are summarised below.

Parenting Strategy

Parents, not government or local authorities bring up children. However, parents can sometimes feel overwhelmed and need extra help, support, advice and information in order to bring up their children. The Children's Trust has adopted an **Effective Parenting Strategy** which will ensure that all parents have access to the support they need, when they need it and where they need it, so that they can nurture and support their children. The Strategy pursues 5 key objectives:

- Actively pursuing parental engagement including speaking to hard to reach and hard to help parents
- Developing a co-ordinated framework for service delivery
- Refocusing provision on preventative rather than remedial interventions
- Developing multi-agency working/training, and,
- Providing quality assurance to parenting support services

What this means over the next 3 years is that Darlington's Children's Trust will: -

- Introduce parent support advisers
- Develop a Parents' Charter setting out responsibilities across all agencies providing services to parents and carers
- Develop a Parenting Practitioner Forum and a Darlington Quality Standard for work with parents and carers

Locality Strategy

For every child and family to have access to the services they need when they need them specialist and targeted services require closer integration with universal services and settings. Early intervention and preventative work is supported through closer co-operation and joint working between organisations and professionals. In Darlington the Children's Trust has adopted a **Strategy for Locality Working** which seeks to develop stronger systems of prevention and early intervention. The strategy adopts a geographical /cluster model based on the location of our Children's Centres and school clusters to deliver a range of targeted and universal services for children, young people and their families.

The strategy extends current good practice of the co-location of services in and around Children's Centres and extends this to embrace services for 0-19+ years. For each of our 5 geographical areas or localities, locality working will be established, bringing together a range of professionals within an integrated delivery structure. The Locality Teams will work with communities to plan and deliver a universal offer of services building on those already defined for Extended Services and Children's Centres. These will be supplemented by additional services appropriate to need identified through Locality Profiles and local consultation.

Our approach to locality working will embrace the implementation of Targeted Youth Support across the whole 0-19+ years age spectrum by offering children and young people at risk of poor outcomes an integrated package of support.

What this means over the next 3 years is that Darlington's Children's Trust will:

- Define a core offer of universal services and identify those aspects of targeted services which will be delivered on a locality basis
- Consolidate 5 locality teams, with integrated management and budgets

Common Assessment Framework and Integrated Processes

For integrated working to be a success it must be supported by integrated processes. In particular, all staff, and particularly those located and working in multi-disciplinary teams, requires a common understanding of need with clearly defined and understood thresholds for service delivery. They need to speak a common language and to share information freely within the context of strategically agreed information sharing protocols.

The Darlington Children's Trust has a clear leadership role in supporting activities designed to build confidence, to empower practitioners and to foster trust and professional understanding. The Children's Trust has adopted a **Handbook to Support Practitioners in using the Common Assessment Framework** which includes defined thresholds for access to services. The handbook defines how through 'Team around the Child' meetings practitioners from different agencies or areas will agree the right package of support for each child and family. Training on the Common Assessment Framework and supporting processes including the role of the lead practitioner, information sharing and Contact Point (a quick way for people working with children to find out who else is working with the same child) will continue to be rolled out at an accelerated rate by the Children's Trust.

What this means over the next 3 years is that Darlington's Children's Trust will:

- Review Information Sharing Protocols to ensure early identification of need
- Accelerate and broaden the training and take-up of training from all our partners
- Increase earlier interventions with children and young people through use of common integrated processes including Contact Point

Getting the right services through intelligent commissioning

The Children's Trust has a key role to play in allocating resources including LAA/Area Based Grant in such a way that maximum gain is achieved. It can only achieve this,

and so achieve the targets set through this plan, if it becomes an effective commissioning body. Commissioning is developing an overall picture of children's needs within the area and developing services through public, private, voluntary and community providers to respond to those needs. The Children's Trust has adopted a **Commissioning Strategy** and will lead in the implementation of a commissioning process which will encompass all strategic partners.

What this means over the next 3 years is Darlington's Children's Trust will:

- Publish a statement of Children's Trust Commissioning Intentions
- Identify specific opportunities and models for integrated working and the pooling of budgets and resources in their widest sense
- Develop a process through which Commissioning intentions will be prioritised and developed

Workforce Development Strategy

The Children's Trust will lead in the development of the skills, knowledge and leadership of our workforce. The Trust has adopted and will continue to implement its' **Workforce Development Strategy** which has the following priorities:

- Closer integration of services
- Recruitment
- Staff retention and development
- Strengthening leadership, management and supervision

What this means over the next 3 years is that Darlington's Children's Trust will:

- Ensure that we have accurate data to inform workforce planning and workforce development
- Develop a recruitment and retention strategy and policy which will ensure an effective response to service specific workforce challenges
- Introduce a common induction programme for the children's workforce
- Develop a shared framework for Continuing Professional Development
- Support leaders and managers through a local and regional development programme in partnership with local higher education providers
- Develop an integrated workforce using common processes such as Common Assessment, ContactPoint, lead practitioner, information sharing and IISam (the Improving information Sharing Management Programme) which will provide guidance and technology to support children's services to improve their management and use of information

Engagement with Schools

Schools have a key role to play in the delivery of the CYPP and are becoming increasingly engaged with the Children's Trust. The Local Authority has adopted a **Protocol for Engagement with Schools** which establishes the criteria for the local authority when taking swift and decisive action to prevent schools from failing and to reverse this failure quickly when it happens. The Children's Trust will take collective ownership of the Protocol and for challenging and supporting schools that are under-performing.

What this means over the next 3 years is that Darlington Children's Trust will:

- Engage more partners and resources to support schools requiring intensive and targeted support and engagement

Young People as service planners and not just service users

The Children's Trust has adopted a **Consultation and Engagement Strategy**. Its vision is to enable children and young people to be active decision-makers in the design, delivery, management and /or evaluation of service provision. The vision is underpinned by 3 supporting objectives:

- Create a common, agreed and shared understanding of key concepts regarding the terminology and language surrounding the active involvement and participation of children and young people
- Develop agency/departmental specific plans to ensure that all Children's Trust partners are committed to involving and engaging with children and young people.
- Develop a high level body of children and young people which can influence and inform key strategic decisions

What this means over the next 3 years is that Darlington's Children's Trust will:

- Adopt and implement the Hear by Rights standards by all Children's Trust partners and complete and rollout a participation Charter Mark
- Further develop the Tier 3 group and formalise the Council of Primary School Councils
- Establish a clearing house for proposed consultation exercises with children, young people and their families
- Establish processes to manage information and ensure feedback is considered
- Conduct a common annual survey of children and young people in the Borough

A Strategy for Children with a Disability in Darlington

A new strategy for disabled children is currently under development. It will ensure the delivery of a 'core offer' for disabled children, their families and carers:

- **Information:** Disabled children and their families will be able to access appropriate information at every stage of a child's life.
- **Transparency:** Levels of support for disabled children and their parents will be determined on a fair, understandable and transparent basis.
- **Participation:** Disabled children and young people and their families will be routinely involved and supported in making informed choices about their treatment, care and support and in shaping services.
- **Assessment:** Disabled children and young people will receive child-centred, multi-agency co-ordinated services from the point of referral through identification and assessment to delivery.
- **Feedback:** Disabled children want staff to listen to them, ask them for their ideas, take notice of what they say and give them choices.

Disabled children and young people, their parents and carers want the same out of life as the rest of the community. It is unsurprising therefore that local dialogue has revealed that their priorities for improvement are the same as those expressed by the wider able community. These are:

- Greater opportunities for parental involvement and young peoples' participation
- More accessible information and better opportunities for networking
- Clearer assessment processes and approaches to person-centred planning
- A focus on transitions throughout the child's life i.e. not just transition into adulthood but from home to school, primary to secondary school, school to college or employment and into young adulthood
- More accessible and affordable child-care including: nurseries, child-minders, after school clubs and holiday play-schemes that can provide for the needs of children with a disability
- More opportunities for accessible leisure, sports and social opportunities
- Better family support (including information exchange) for all members of the family, such as: babysitting, short breaks, holiday provision, befriending and advocacy

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Priorities 2008-2011 - Planned Activity

At the start of this Plan we said that we want all children and young people to enjoy happy, healthy and safe childhoods and to be prepared for adult life. Too often we focus on the problems of a few rather than the success of the many and so we want a society where children and young people feel valued and in which their achievements are recognised and celebrated. We want to build on the ambitions set out in Every Child Matters.

In the introduction to the Plan we identified our 5 priorities which were aligned to both the Sustainable Community Strategy and to Every Child Matters. These resulted from a comprehensive needs assessment which is available at www.darlington.gov.uk/dar_public/documents/Education/CYPP/Full%20Needs%20Analysis.pdf For each priority a summary of planned activity for 2008-2011 has been developed (Appendix 1 *Summary of Planned Activity*).

Priority – Promote positive health and well-being

Actions:

- Promote healthy schools
- Tackle obesity in children and young people
- Tackle health inequalities, targeting binge drinking particularly in young women, drug, alcohol misuse and smoking
- Improve oral health
- Reduce teenage pregnancy and promote positive sexual health
- Promote positive mental health and emotional well-being
- Improve uptake of ante-natal and post-natal services

Priority – Ensure the safety of children and young people

Actions:

- Enhance our approach to accident prevention and road safety
- Ensure the stability and safety of looked after children
- Help children, young people and adults to develop positive relationships and not to bully
- Reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and repeat abuse
- Reassure young people and improve perceptions of anti-social behaviour

Priority – Enable children and young people to aspire, to have fun and maximise their full potential through learning

Actions:

- Ensure all children receive high quality teaching and learning, improving academic progress and reducing the disparity in performance between schools, phases and vulnerable groups
- Reduce absence including persistent absence
- Reduce exclusion rates
- Improve transition across all settings, phases and services especially for vulnerable groups
- Ensure the sufficiency of high quality child care
- Provide high quality learning environments
- Improve opportunities for play and play provision
- Extend opportunities and access to cultural, sports and formal/informal youth activities
- Maximise leisure opportunities for children and young people with additional needs
- Improve provision for disabled children, their families and carers across ECM outcomes

Priority – Enable children and young people to contribute to their community and environment

Actions:

- Improve and promote opportunities for volunteering
- Increase engagement of children, young people their families and carers in design and delivery of services, including the improvement of parenting skills
- Reduce offending
- Reduce levels and improve perceptions of anti social behaviour
- Support the manifesto commitments of the UK Youth Parliament Member for Darlington

Priority - Ensure children and young people are prepared for and prosper in adult life

Actions:

- Reduce the proportion of children living in poverty
- Accelerate progress with all aspects of the implementation of the 14- 19 strategy
- Enhance people's skills in relation to the job market, by tackling the disparities in employment prospects and economic opportunities across Darlington
- Support aspirations through life-long learning and opportunities for personal development

Service Management and Resources

Performance Management

Good performance management is key to the successful delivery of our priorities. Performance management matters to everyone who wants to see local communities better served. It is used to ensure that services are improving and are more efficient. Performance management is about good management, ensuring that our community, organisations and partnership goals are achieved.

The complex demands of delivering services through partnership also mean that the Local Authority and its partners have adapted their approach to performance management to reflect the contributions of all of the partner agencies, while continuing to demonstrate progress towards agreed targets and priorities.

The CYPP is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the plan–do–review–revise cycle of performance management. The Plan is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Children's Trust to ensure that progress is being made against priorities. A Data and Performance Group has been established to review our progress against priorities and the performance indicators and targets set out in Appendix 2.

How we co-ordinate and deploy resources

The current Medium Term Financial Plan for Darlington Borough Council 2008/09 to 2011/12, is aligned to the Central Government Comprehensive Spending Review period, and therefore includes indicative allocations of resources to services. From 2008/09, over the following three years spending on Children's Services is planned to increase by £6.956m or 10%.

Darlington's first Local Area Agreement funding has a pooled budget of £8.4m over the period 2006-2009 and is a combination of new and existing aligned funding. This funding is delivering the improved outcomes identified in the first LAA and supported by the first Children and Young People's Plan. This activity will continue until March 2009.

A second LAA is being developed for the period 2008-2011. Approximately £3m will be made available each year through the Area Based Grant to deliver priorities identified in the second LAA. Services are using all funding streams to look at ways of improving the quality of life and outcomes for children and young people. For example, employing additional staff to take forward developments in localities, ensuring that local services are provided for local people. The LAA enables us to invest in the transition to this way of working while ensuring existing services remain at full capacity.

The voluntary sector in Darlington makes a major contribution to the community and the economy of the town and has an aggregate annual income of c£20m. It is estimated that 22% or £4.4m of this funding is used by a number of different groups to serve the needs of children and young people.

There continues to be sustained capital investment in services for children and young people within Darlington. Since 2003 ten schools (including the Pupil Referral Unit) have moved into new premises in the borough, with funding secured for a further four

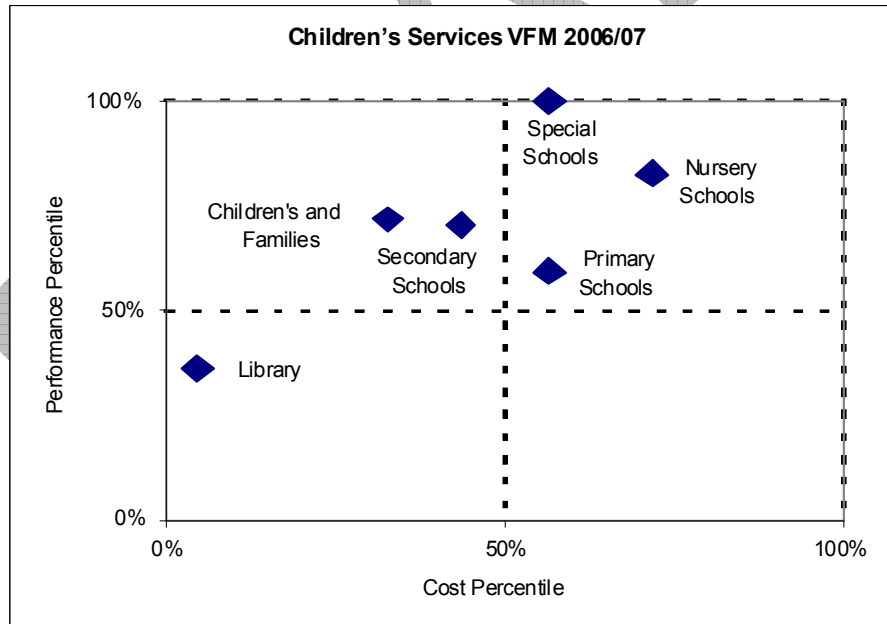
replacement schools/major refurbishment schemes. This means that 35% of the Borough's schools, with over 5,500 pupils being taught in brand new 21st century accommodation.

The Authority aims to continue its strategic investment in capital development by embracing the two leading Government agendas – Building Schools for the Future and the Primary Capital Programme. Darlington has already been selected as a Pathfinder for the Primary Capital Programme, with detailed designs being progressed for a £6.5m project to replace North Road Primary School with a state of the art, sustainable facility fit for the future.

The Authority has always joined up capital funding streams wherever possible and to take this even further forward we are submitting an application to be one of a small number of pathfinder Authorities, to test the feasibility of delivering of capital programmes in a more joined-up way on behalf of Children's Trust partners. This has the potential to further integrate capital programmes relating to services for children, young people and families, and where possible, co-locate services.

Improved outcomes are achieved by using resources in the most efficient way.

Performance on cost indicators is extremely good. Providing value for money (VFM) is a core value for the Children's Services Department of the Local Authority. Comparative data published by the Audit Commission showing cost and performance has been used to indicate value for money across the Department's 'front line' services.



The schools position shows above average performance in all phases around average or below average cost. The higher cost of nursery schools is a reflection of the small number rather than of anything else. The Children's and Families indicator, which includes children's social care services, demonstrates high performance and low cost compared to other local authorities. The service has maintained this high level of performance since 2006/07 and it is anticipated that this will continue.

Investment in Universal Provision and Early Intervention.

Wherever possible resources are being moved to deliver earlier intervention and prevention. From April 2008, £1.2 million has been moved directly under the control of schools to allow them to deliver services to meet the special and additional needs of pupils without needing to go through lengthy or bureaucratic processes. Other examples of funding earlier intervention or of smarter targeting of resources include a Specialist Support Team, Safer Schools Partnerships, Intensive family learning project, Family Intervention Project and mainstreaming effective health support.

Specific performance measures have been developed for each of the schemes within the existing LAA and this model will be sustained. This information will be used to determine, at the earliest opportunity, whether the scheme is having the required impact and will inform future plans for increasing the scale of the project or adopting an alternative course of action. An example of this is the small scale intensive family learning project which impacts upon a small number of families – unique objectives and milestones are set for each family at the start and progress is monitored against these.

The principle of the Darlington Borough Council approach has been adopted to support the Children's Trust financial planning framework. The providers of services for children and young people will increasingly work together to plan long-term resources strategies and commission services. The Children and Young People's plan has a key role to play in setting out the Trust's resource requirements and in providing a link to service and budget strategies across agencies.

The Children's Trust has adopted a Commissioning Strategy which will underpin further the deployment of resources for children and young people across all services. The development of the Children's Trust is a crucial vehicle in moving towards pooling budgets and closer integration of services. We have a variety of joint funding and integrated working models, which involve the pooling of financial and/or human resources to support priority areas as detailed below. Each of these will be included in the first phase of the new commissioning arrangements.

- Community and Mental Health Service
- Children's Fund
- SEN Disability
- Integrated teams working out of Children's Centres
- External placements for children
- Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Youth Offending Service
- Substance Misuse
- 14-19 Trust
- Disabled Children
- Extended Schools
- Other funding in the Area Based Grant

Agencies have always worked together through robust partnerships arrangements to deliver services to children and young people in Darlington and further development of an integrated approach to service delivery remains a priority. Opportunities for future working between the local authority and the health services lie in the following areas:

- Moving to more joint commission for the best services for Darlington
- Developing a close public health partnership for the town
- Moving local health services provision into the Children's Trust in Darlington

Established posts can lead the change agenda. The Integrated Services Manager for disabled children will further the integration of service delivery. The Joint Commissioning Manager post, funded between the Local Authority and the PCT has been established to co-ordinate commissioning across the Children's Trust.

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Equalities and Diversity

In Darlington, valuing equality and diversity is a key element of all strategic planning and service delivery. The Children's Trust as a partnership of organisations has embedded these values to ensure the best possible outcomes for all children, young people and their families. The first Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009 identified vulnerable groups, following a comprehensive needs analysis, which mirrored the groups identified within the Council's Social Inclusion Strategy – All Together Now.

The Local Strategic Partnership adopted the methodology of the Council in relation to equalities and diversity and the Children's Trust will further develop this across the partnership.

The Council's overall strategic approach is rooted in the Corporate Equalities Plan which includes the published Race, Gender and Disability Equality Schemes. Currently assessed at Level 3 of the Local Government Equalities Standard, the Council is currently carrying out a review of all its equalities activities to achieve Level 4 of the Local Government Equalities Standard by March 2009. The work corporately, feeds into each department and the various partnerships including the Children's Trust, ensuring that equality and diversity is consistently applied across all strategic planning and service delivery.

Support is offered to all schools to ensure that they are compliant with Disability, Race and Gender Equality Schemes and the new Duty to Promote Community Cohesion (Sept 07).

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced a new duty on all maintained schools in England to promote community cohesion and on Ofsted to report on the contributions made in this area. Our schools already work in ways that promote community cohesion and it is important in ensuring our successful drive to achieve improved outcomes for the most vulnerable and hard to reach groups in the Borough.

The promotion of community cohesion in Darlington runs throughout all organisations and at all levels. The Sustainable Community Strategy priority of **One Darlington** clearly embeds these principles to fulfil the themes of Prosperous, Aspiring, Healthy, Greener and Safer Darlington.

Equalities Impact Assessments for the Children's Services Departmental Plan and the 4 Service Plans in 2008 have identified some common themes and key actions which will be taken forward by each division of Children's Services and monitored in line with the quarterly performance management arrangements. These actions support the CYPP Priorities and the improvement of outcomes for vulnerable groups will be reported to the Children's Trust under the existing monitoring and reporting arrangements

Appendix 1

BE HEALTHY					
PI Description & Reference Number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 38 Drug related (Class A) offending rate					For introduction in 2009/10
NI 39 Rate of hospital admission per 100,000 for alcohol related harm					Health Information not yet available
NI 50 Emotional health and well-being - children and young people user perception	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) Services	14 (2007/08)	16	16	16	Health
NI 52 Percentage of pupils who have school lunches	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 53 Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	37% (2006/07)	37.2%	43.7%	50.2%	Health
NI 54 Parents' experience of Services for disabled children and the 'core offer'					New indicator for introduction in 2009/10
NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year	10.71% (2006/07)	11.6%	11.0%	10.4%	Health
NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6	21% (2006/07)	21.8%	21.0%	20.3%	Health

PI Description & Reference Number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 57 Percentage of 5-16 year olds participating in at least 2 hours per week of high quality PE and sport at school and the percentage of 5-19 year olds participating in at least 3 further hours per week of sporting opportunities	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	For introduction 2009/10 DBC
NI 58 Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New Indicator
NI 112 Under 18 conception rate	-20%	-37.5%	46.2%	-55%	Health
NI 113 Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 115 Reduce the proportion of young people frequently using illicit drugs or volatile substances	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 126 Early access to women for maternity Services	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 127 Self reported experience of social care users					New indicator For introduction 2009/10
LAA indicator					

STAY SAFE

PI description & reference number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	23	21.4	20.7	20.0	DBC
NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence					For introduction 2009/10
NI 34 Domestic violence		Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	CDRP
NI 41 Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	32	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	CDRP
NI 42 Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	43	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Health
NI 48 Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	Base data calculation n/a	-14.20%	-16.66%	0.00%	DBC
NI 59 Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	68.5 (2007/08)	65%	68%	70%	Children's Services
NI 60 Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	79.6% (2007/08)	86.0%	87.0%	88.0%	Children's Services
NI 61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	66.6 (2007/08)	68%	70%	72%	Children's Services
NI 62 Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	11.9 (2007/08)	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	Children's Services
NI 63 Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placements	51.9% (2007/08)	55%	60	65	Children's Services

PI description & reference number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 64 Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	0% (2007/08)	0%	0%	0%	Children's Services
NI 65 Percentage of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time	9.2% (2007/08)	9.0%	8.0%	7.0%	Children's Services
NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescale	100% (2007/08)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Children's Services
NI 67 Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100% (2007/08)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Children's Services
NI 68 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	33.8%	35%	36.5%	38%	Children's Services
NI 69 Percentage of children who have experienced bullying	33%	32%	31%	30%	New indicator
NI 70 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 71 Children who have run away from home / care overnight					For introduction 2009/10
NI 111 Reduce the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17	211	254	244	232	Children's Services
LAA indicator					

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

PI description & reference number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 72 Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	52.6% (summer 2007)	62.5	54	55	Children's Services
NI 73 Proportion of pupils achieving level 4 or above in both English and Maths at each of Key Stage 2 and 3	72.7% (summer 2007)	76	78	79	Children's Services
NI 74 Proportion of pupils achieving level 5 or above in both English and Maths at each of Key Stage 2 and 3	68.7% (summer 2007)	78	79	80	Children's Services
NI 75 Proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and Maths	46.1% (summer 2007)	50.2	58.7	59.2	Children's Services
NI 76 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and maths at KS2 (Floor)	9 (summer 2007)	7	5	5	Children's Services
NI 77 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above in both English and Maths at KS3 (Floor)	0	0	0	0	Children's Services
NI 78 Number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A* - C GCSEs and equivalent including GCSE in English and Maths (Floor)	3 (summer 2007)	0	0	0	Children's Services
NI 81 Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19-	29%	28%	27%	26%	New indicator

PI description & reference number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 82 Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	49.0%	53.0%	56.0%	60.0%	LSC
NI 83 Achievement at Level 5 or above in Science at Key Stage 3	73.6% (summer 2007)	78	83	84	Children's Services
NI 84 Achievement of 2 or more A* - C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalent	39.1% (summer 2007)	40	41	42	Children's Services
NI 86 Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	75%	83%	83%	83%	Children's Services
NI 87 Secondary school persistent absence rate	8.1%	7.5	6.8	5.0	Children's Services
NI 88 Percentage of schools providing access to extended Services	24	32	39	40	Children's Services
NI 89 Reduction in number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time taken to come out of the category	0	0	0	0	Children's Services
NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	37.7%	39	34	33	Children's Services
NI 93 Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	87.8% (summer 2007)	90	87	89	Children's Services
NI 94 Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	78.5 (summer 2007)	80	83	84	Children's Services
NI 95 Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	21.6% (summer 2007)	39	37	40	Children's Services

PI description & reference number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 96 Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3	51.9% (summer 2007)	70	69	71	Children's Services
NI 97 Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	50.2% (summer 2007)	69	66.5	67	Children's Services
NI 98 Proportion of pupils progressing by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4	26.1% (summer 2007)	34	39.5	40	Children's Services
NI 99 Looked after children reaching Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	25 (summer 2007)	33.3	60	50	Children's Services
NI 100 Looked after children reaching Level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2	37.5% (summer 2007)	33.3	60	75	Children's Services
NI 101 Looked after children reaching 5 A* - C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 including English and maths -	0 (summer 2007)	0	0	33.3	Children's Services
NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 and 4	KS2 36.7 KS4 36.5 (summer 2007)	33	30	27	Children's Services
NI 103 SEN statements issued within 26 weeks	90	96	96	96	Children's Services
NI 104 The SEN / non SEN gap - achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold	57.2% (summer 2007)	57.1	57	56.9	Children's Services
NI 105 The SEN / non SEN gap - achieving 5 A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths	50.3 (summer 2007)	48.4	48.3	48.2	Children's Services

PI description & reference number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 106 Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 107 Key Stage 2 attainment for Black and Minority Ethnic groups		Cannot set target as cohort too small	Cannot set target as cohort too small	Cannot set target as cohort too small	New indicator
NI 108 Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and Minority Ethnic Groups		Cannot set target as cohort too small	Cannot set target as cohort too small	Cannot set target as cohort too small	New indicator
NI 109 Delivery of Sure Start Children Centres	5 (2006/07)	6	6	6	Children's Services
NI 114 Rate of permanent exclusions from school	0.31	0.12	0.12	0.11	Children's Services
NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
LAA Statutory target					

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

PI Description & Reference Number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 19 Rate of proven reoffending by young offenders	Revised collection methodology	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Children's Services
NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour by the local council police		Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	
NI 24 Satisfaction with the way police and local council deal with anti-social behaviour					For introduction 2009/10
NI 25 Satisfaction of different groups about the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour					For introduction 2009/10
NI 27 Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 43 Young people within the youth justice system receiving a conviction in court are sentenced to custody	2.2% (2006/07)	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	Children's Services
NI 44 Ethnic composition of offenders in Youth Justice System disposals	n/a	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	Children's Services
NI 45 Young offenders engaged in suitable education, training or employment	64.7% (2006/07)	70.0%	75.0%	80.0%	Children's Services

PI Description & Reference Number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 46 Young offenders' access to suitable accommodation	100% (2006/07)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	Children's Services
NI 79 Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19	68.9% (2006/07)	76.2%	78.0%	79.7%	LSC
NI 80 Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19	41.5% (2006/07)	46.1%	47.6%	49.1%	LSC
NI 85 Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics, Chemistry and Maths)	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 90 Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas					New indicator Diplomas to be introduced Sept 2009
NI 91 participation of 17 year-olds in education or training	76% 2005/06	78.9%	79.8%	80.8%	LSC
NI 110 More participation in Positive Activities	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 149 Adults in contact with secondary Mental Health Services in settled accommodation	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 150 Adults in contact with secondary mental health Services in employment	New PI	Baseline to be set in 2008/09	Target to be set in 2009	Target to be set in 2009	New indicator
NI 174 Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers		Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	LSC awaiting targets
LAA indicator					

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

PI Description & Reference Number	Most recent end-of-year outturn	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target	Partnership / Agency responsible for outturn delivery
NI 22 Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area		Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Biennial Place Survey
NI 23 Perceptions that people in their area treat one another with respect and dignity		Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Biennial Place Survey
NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty	20.7%	17.5%	15.8%	14.0%	New indicator
NI 117 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)	6.8% (2006/07)	6.4%	6.2%	5.7%	Children's Services
NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation	70% (2007/08)	72%	75%	77%	Children's Services
NI 148 Care leavers in employment, education or training	60% (2007/08)	60%	60%	62%	Children's Services
NI 156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation		Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Target not yet set	Housing Awaiting targets
NI 198 Children travelling to school - mode of transport usually used	24.2% (2007/08)	24.00%	23.75%	23.50%	DBC
LAA indicator					

Darlington Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

A	
A&E	Accident & Emergency
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Agenda 21	This relates to the process of drawing up and implementing local sustainable development plans
Aim Higher	This DCSF campaign encourages young people to think about the benefits and opportunities of higher education, especially those from families with no tradition of higher education.
APA	Annual Performance and Assessment carried out annual by Ofsted to assess the specific contribution of local authorities' education and social care functions to improve outcomes for children and young people.
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
ASBO	Anti-social behaviour order
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
Asperger's Syndrome	A form of autism
B	
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
C	
CAF	Common Assessment Framework – a new standardised approach to assessing children's needs for services more accurately and speedily. It is a key component in the Every Child Matters programme, playing an important part in early intervention.
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Children's Centres	These are places where children under 5 years of age and their families can receive seamless and integrated services/information, and access help from multi-disciplinary teams
Children's Trust	A strategic partnership of agencies involved in the commissioning and delivery of services for children and young people in Darlington
CIS	Children's Information Service
Connexions	Front line support service which provides integrated careers and education advice, guidance and information to young people aged 13 to 19.
ContactPoint	A basic online directory, available to authorised staff that need it to do their jobs. It is a key part of the Every Child Matters programme to improve outcomes for children.
CP	Child Protection
CPA	Corporate Performance Assessment
CPR	Child Protection Register
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
CSCI	Commission for Social Care Inspection

C	
CYP	Children and young people
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
D	
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team
DAD	Darlington Association on Disability
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DH	Department of Health
Direct Payments	These relate to the system where individuals are given money to choose and pay for their own social care. Statutory regulations make it a duty for local councils to make direct payments to people who are eligible and who want them; this includes families with disabled children.
E	
EAL	English as an additional language
ECM	Every Child Matters - this is the approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. It is focused around 5 outcomes – be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.
EET	Education, employment and training
EIP	Early Intervention Programme
EP	Educational Psychologist
Evolution	The new name for Darlington Council for Voluntary Service – a major third sector organisation working with statutory agencies and voluntary organisations in Darlington.
Exclusion	Banning a pupil from school by the Head, either temporarily or permanently, on disciplinary grounds.
Extended School	A school that provides a range of activities and services, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.
F	
Family Help	A local charity which works with the victims of domestic abuse.
FE	Further Education
G	
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GNVQ	General National Vocational Qualification
GONE	Government Office for the North East
GSCC	General Social Care Council
H	
HA	Health Authority
HE	Higher Education
Healthy Schools	A national programme for schools to meet targets in several areas of health education including exercise, diet and health
HR	Human Resources
HSA	Healthy Schools Award

I	
IAG	Information, Advice and Guidance
ICS	Integrated Children's System – framework developed under the Children Act 2004 for working with children and families, supported by technology designed to handle a large amount of information on individual children which will support assessment, planning, intervention and review.
IMD	Index of multiple deprivation
ISA	Information, sharing and assessment
J	
JAR	Joint Area Review – an overarching multi disciplinary inspection of services for children, young people and their families in an area, not restricted to council services.
K	
Key Stages	These relate to each of the four stages of pupils' progress in acquiring knowledge and skills as set out in the National Curriculum. Pupils are tested at the end of each key stage.
KS1	Key Stage 1 – the majority of pupils are aged 5 to 7
KS2	Key Stage 2 – the majority of pupils are aged 8 to 11
KS3	Key Stage 3 – the majority of pupils are aged 12 to 14
KS4	Key Stage 4 – the majority of pupils are aged 15 to 16
KS 5	Key Stage 5 – the majority of pupils are aged 16 to 18
L	
LAA	Local Area Agreement – new arrangements between Government and local authorities to simplify central funding, help join up local services more effectively, allowing flexible use of resources and devolved decision making to meet local need.
LAC	Looked After Children – children who are looked after by a local authority.
LDD	Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities
Lead Practitioner	The person who is designated to co-ordinate services around each child's needs so that children, young people and their families obtain integrated support.
Locality	An identified geographical area of the Borough
Locality Profile	Document containing information about a particular locality including socio-economic statistics which gives a picture of the local community and its needs
Locality Team	A multi agency team based within a locality providing multi-disciplinary services addressing local need
LPSA	Local Public Service Agreement
LSC	Learning and Skills Council – responsible for funding and planning education and training for over-16 year olds
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
M	
MAT	Multi Agency Teams
MTFP	Medium Term Financial Plan
MYP	Member of the Youth Parliament

N	
Narrowing the Gap	The 'gap' relates the difference between outcomes for specified groups e.g. those children and young people living in the 10% most deprived wards in Darlington and for all children and young people.
NEET	This means young person who is ' Not in Education or Employment and Training'
NHS	National Health Service
NI	National Indicator – 198 national indicators have been introduced by Government to assess local authorities' performance and performance with partners. These are reported to central Government.
NSF	National Standards Framework for children, young people and maternity services, this relates to children's health and social services, and the interface of those services with education.
NYAS	National Youth Advocacy Service – this is a children's charity offering socio-legal advocacy services to children, young people, parents, carers and professionals
O	
Ofsted	The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
P	
PAF	Performance Assessment Framework
Parenting Orders	These are given to parents/carers of young people who offend
PCT	Primary Care Trust – this is a local free-standing NHS body, responsible for planning, providing and commissioning health services for the local population
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PESS	Physical Education and School Sport
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit now known as the Phoenix Centre
PSA	Public Service Agreement
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education - This includes everything schools do to promote pupils' good health and well-being, and is backed by the Healthy Schools Standard
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
R	
S	
SEAL	Social and emotional aspects of learning
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SHA	Strategic Health Authority
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SOA	Super Output Area
SRE	Sex and Relationships Education
SSLP	Sure Start Local Programmes
SSP	Safer Schools Partnership – a scheme being piloted at the Eastbourne Church of England Academy.

T	
Team around the child	This is a model of service provision in which a range of different practitioners come together to help and support an individual child or family.
Tier 3	Overarching group of young people representing young people's groups to contribute to consultation and decision making within the local authority
TPU	Teenage Pregnancy Unit
U/V	
W/X	
Y/Z	
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team
Youth Service	This Service provides activities for young people across Darlington aged 11-25 with a target age group of 13-19.
YPS	Youth Participation Strategy

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