
OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

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

Corporate Parenting Panel

2. The Panel met on 29 November 2016. Presentations were given by Foundations and YMCA focusing upon accommodation available for care leavers and details of the support packages to enable care leavers to experience semi-independent living before moving onto their own tenancies. Members of the Panel found the presentations informative and the discussion that followed was interesting and raised a number of questions about how these services could be accessed.
3. Reports presented included:
 - (a) Six month update on performance of the Adoption Service and quarterly performance of the Fostering Service; and
 - (b) Annual report of the Virtual School Head, highlighting education achievement for looked after children in Darlington
4. The Designated Nurse for Safeguarding presented a report on the performance relating to the completion of Initial and Review Health Assessments. Members of the Panel found the information useful in understanding the joint approach by Health and Children's Social Care in implementing a robust Action Plan to improve performance in this key indicator.
5. The young people from the Darlo Care Crew provided details of the activities of the group since the last meeting.
6. The Director of Children and Adults gave an update on the Children's Services Improvement journey to date, highlighting the Improvement Plan that is accessible via the Council's website.

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

7. The Board met on 23 November 2016 and received a presentation from Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service¹ (CAFCASS) on the impact of their work as they shared the annual quality accounts. They also described a 'strengths

¹ Cafcass is a non-departmental public body in England set up to promote the welfare of children and families involved in family court.

based model' which is proving successful and CAF/CASS has agreed to share this with partners.

8. The Board received a verbal update from the Local Authority on progress to date on the Children's Services Improvement Plan, the Ofsted monitoring visit and the DfE visit on 30 November 2016.
9. A thematic report was received from the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) on the common factors which may have impacted on the child's death. The report recommended that the learning from the review be better promoted and disseminated across the region and for Health and Wellbeing Boards to consider the learning points identified within the report when planning obstetric and paediatric services. This will be presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 31 January 2017.
10. The Board approved the Multi-agency Information Sharing Protocol to strengthen information sharing across its partners in Darlington. It was further requested that the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB) and Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB) Information Sharing Protocols are combined to ensure there is one consistent approach across both partnerships.
11. The Board agreed to adopt the new multi-agency risk matrix for child sexual exploitation. The risk matrix has been developed based on best practice, it has been piloted locally and it was seen by the Ofsted inspector in July 2016 who noted the tool provided the rationale and analysis of the risk to the child/young person.
12. A comprehensive report was received by the Clinical Commissioning Group, Designated Nurse with the lead for Looked After Children on Initial Health Assessments. The report has provided the Board with a good understanding of the issues and how these will be resolved across the Local Authority and the Health provider. The monitoring of this work has been delegated to the Quality Assurance and Performance Management Subgroup with responsibility to keep the Board up to date and sighted if performance dips/spikes via the bi-monthly reports to the Board.
13. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Annual Report and the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Reports for 2015/2016 were received and noted by Board.

New Early Years Funding Formula and Maintained Nurseries

14. The response to the Early Years Funding consultation was issued by the Government on 1 December 2016. The initial reaction is that the funding model looks a little more positive for nursery schools on two fronts:
 - (a) The lump sum increases from the initial £80,844 to £111,738 for each nursery school (currently both nurseries receive a lump sum of £126,869 each). The gap between current lump sum and new formula lump sum is £15,131.

- (b) The period the lump sum will be payable has been extended for the term of this government – to 2019/ 20.

The Early Years Inclusion Fund

15. This has become a requirement and this fund is currently distributed using Special Educational Needs and Disability one plans.
16. Due to the increase in hours from 15 to 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds, the Early Years Inclusion Fund will need to increase to cater for additional hours and the Early Years Inclusion Fund will be given to eligible children for up to 30 hours.
17. The hourly rate for the two nursery schools under the new formula is approximately £4.06 per child per hour, which is about a 38p increase child per hour.
18. The figures will be shared with two nursery schools and this will give them the basis for modelling their budgets in the medium and long term.

The Regional Schools Commissioner

19. Regional schools commissioners (RSCs) act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and are accountable to the [National Schools Commissioner](#).
20. RSCs work closely with a number of partners, including leaders from the education sector, Ofsted, local authorities and local dioceses.
21. RSCs main responsibilities include:
 - (a) taking action where academies and free schools are underperforming, intervening in academies where governance is inadequate
 - (b) deciding on applications from local authority maintained schools to convert to academy status
 - (c) improving underperforming maintained schools by providing them with support from a strong sponsor
 - (d) encouraging and deciding on applications from sponsors to operate in a region
 - (e) taking action to improve poorly performing sponsors advising on proposals for new free schools
 - (f) advising on whether to cancel, defer or enter into funding agreements with free school projects
 - (g) deciding on applications to make [significant changes to academies and free schools](#)
22. The Education Act 2016 introduced new consistent provisions for action to be in academies that are causing concern, those being academies that are either failing or coasting. The Regional Schools Commissioner has the power to intervene in failing academies on behalf of the Secretary of State.
23. The Schools Causing Concern Guidance published in March 2016 provides further details on the powers of intervention of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

24. The Director of Children and Adults Services met with the RSC recently, to establish the protocol for working together on school and education issues in Darlington. There will be quarterly meetings between the two teams, to ensure an effective communication in relation to education and school improvement in Darlington.

Locality Teams

25. The inaugural Darlington Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) conference was held on the 24 November at Darlington Rugby Stadium. Local authority staff, education colleagues and partners gathered to share their best practice on teaching students PSHE. There were 81 professionals from 24 schools and other partners and it was considered by all to be an excellent and informative day.
26. Workshops were delivered by the RESH co-ordinator, Catherine Shaw, the YMCA, Mind, staff from the Council's Early Help Service. Speakers included myself, Gill Reeves Harrogate and District Foundation Trust Jess Halliday (Member of Youth Parliament), Jane Kochanowski (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Kirstie Sutherland Manager from Children and Adults service, Miriam Davidson (Director of Public Health) and Steve Nyakatawa (Interim Head of Education).
27. The highlight of the event was the awards ceremony, with awards presented by Jenny Chapman MP, who delivered a key note speech promising to support PSHE at the national level for statutory status. The award winners were Red Hall Primary School for best setting and Laura Monkman from Springfield Academy was PSHE Teacher of the Year.
28. Schools can work now towards a PSHE Quality Mark and the following schools have been accredited with the award this year: St George's Church of England Academy, Springfield Academy, Red Hall Primary and Hurworth School.

Children's Commissioning and Contracts

29. Place planning development work is underway in relation to the 30 Hours Childcare Offer for eligible 3 and 4 year olds which will be available from September 2017. The secure childcare provider eligibility checker has been developed and is currently being tested. The local authority will start to market the offer to parents from Spring 2017.
30. Work is well underway to develop a new Looked After Children's Commissioning Strategy, which will focus on sufficiency of a range of care provision, including foster care and residential care, to appropriately meet the needs of children in our care.

Darlington Children and Young People Plan (CYPP)

31. The current Darlington CYPP was written for the period ending March 2017. Work is now underway to produce the new Plan, for 2017-2020. Engagement events have commenced, with further events being undertaken with partners, children and young people, families, schools and other stakeholders, before the final Plan is launched in 2017. This is a partnership plan that relates to children and young people across Darlington as a Borough, of which the Council is the lead agency responsible for its production.

Meetings

32. Since the last meeting of Council, I have:

- (a) Met with the National Schools Commissioner David Carter during his visit to Darlington;
- (b) Took part in the Darlington Walk for Peace;
- (c) Participated in the DfE review meeting; Attended the LSCB development day;
- (d) Attended two CYP Plan consultation events;
- (e) Took part in the mental health poster competition judging;
- (f) Met with Nick Lindsay, Deputy Head, Hurworth School;
- (g) Attended the Darlington Partnership Executive Meeting;
- (h) Spent an afternoon at HM Prison Deerbolt (Young Offenders);
- (i) Attended a Year 11 presentation evening;
- (j) Chaired the LEA Governor appointments panel on 9 December 2016;
- (k) Attended the opening session of a Lead member Health and Wellbeing Conference in York;
- (l) Took part in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge;
- (m) Met with the Safeguarding Board Chair, Simon Hart;
- (n) Took part in Licensing training (safeguarding);
- (o) Attended the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 January;
- (p) Attended the Darlington Partnership Board;
- (q) Attended Schools Forum;
- (r) Attended a Citizenship ceremony in Darlington;
- (s) Held weekly Briefings with Director of Children's Services and other officers; and
- (t) Attended the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Councillor Cyndi Hughes
Children and Young People Portfolio