
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.

School Term Dates 2018/19 and 2019/2020

2. The school term date arrangements have been agreed for Darlington's maintained schools for the academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and were published at the end of July 2017.
3. A consultation exercise with 42 schools in Darlington as well as with their relevant Governing Bodies and officers from Local Authorities across the North East and Yorkshire regions was carried out and completed on 19 May 2017.
4. The majority of Academies and Voluntary Aided schools in Darlington have continued to follow the local authority published dates despite having the freedom to set their own dates.

The Children's Trust

5. The Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board incorporates the role of the Children's Trust. The membership has been reviewed, particularly to strengthen education representation. The Post 16 year's representative is the Deputy Principal, Darlington College. Primary schools are represented by the Headteacher of Skerne Park Academy and Secondary schools by the Headteacher of Haughton Academy.
6. This further builds on work undertaken to ensure a more co-ordinated approach across the two Safeguarding Boards and the Community Safety Partnership.

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

7. The Board met on 4 July 2017 and the following resignations were received: Lay Member and Primary Head Representative (Neil Parker). Nick Blackburn will be the Primary Head Representative from September 2017.
8. The Board received a report on the multi-agency workforce including strengths, with assurance given that where workforce pressures were identified and understood, there were mitigating factors and proactive arrangements in place across Health, Police and the Local Authority.

9. The Board received a presentation from Detective Superintendent, Victoria Fuller, on the multi-agency work and its impact in respect of children missing from home, education and elective home education (EHE) children that had not been seen by a professional within 18 months of being EHE. The work analysed 'return home' information to understand factors of why children and young people go missing, including targeting residential homes. A small cohort was identified to be at risk and joint working with statutory agencies was able to progress safety work for the identified children and young people.
10. The Board also received a verbal update on multi-agency work to support children and young people living with neglect. This work has been coordinated by the Council through its partners completing a self-evaluation and the assessment identified that there is not a multi-agency neglect strategy and this will be developed by the partners.

Early Help

11. The Early Remodelling is now complete and the future of Children Centre delivery was submitted to Cabinet on 12 September 2017. Staff are in place and working to the new targeted model which has resulted in an increase in the number of assessments being undertaken and families accessing services at an earlier stage.

Child Protection/Looked After Children Statistics

12. 98 per cent of our Care Leavers are in accommodation. The service area continues to ensure the number of young people Not in Employment or Education continues to decrease by proactive use of our links with external partners.
13. Our Looked After Children numbers remain consistent.

Children's Commissioning and Contracts

14. As of mid-July 2017 it is estimated that from September 2017 there will be around 890 30 Hours places available in the Borough with private day nurseries, pre-schools, nursery schools and units, child minders and out of school clubs.
15. The Department for Education's estimate of the number of three and four year old children who will be eligible is 820. The supply of places and usage is being monitored to ensure a sufficiency of high quality places which provide choice and diversity for working parents.

Meetings

16. Since the last meeting of Council, I have:
 - (a) Attended various end of term celebrations and activities;
 - (b) Attended briefings with the Director of Children's and Adult Services;
 - (c) Visited Eldon Street Children's Home for their summer fundraising tea;
 - (d) Been interviewed by an LGA research team in relation to public health issues;

- (e) Attended the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee;
- (f) Attended the Darlington Partnership Executive;
- (g) Attended the Children's Services Improvement Board;
- (h) Attended Dementia Friend Training;
- (i) Attended the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- (j) Attended a meeting of the North East Child Poverty Commission (a body to which this Council sends me as a Member); and
- (k) Held my first-ever Young Person's Surgery at the Dolphin Centre.

Councillor Cyndi Hughes
Children and Young People Portfolio