

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Monday, 2 September 2019

**PRESENT** – Councillors Bartch (Chair), Mrs Culley, Ali, C L B Hughes, Lister, Lucas, Preston, Renton and Snedker

**STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – None

**NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees** – Glenis Harrison

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors L Hughes and Bell, Tim Fisher and John Armitage

**ABSENT** – Councillors Malcolm Frank, Carly Spence, Maura Regan, Nick Lindsay and Janet Woodcock

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillors Crudass

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Jane Kochanowski (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

### **CYP47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

### **CYP48 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JULY 2019**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 1 July 2019.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 1 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

### **CYP49 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW 2019**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members and partners with an overview of a range of health promoting activities in relation to children and young people, including local need and outlining plans to address the issues.

The submitted report included as appendices the Darlington Children and Young People's Profile 2019; the Healthy Lifestyle Survey 2018; the Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Action Plan 2017-22; and the Oral Health Plan 2017-22.

In relation to the Darlington Child Health Profile 2019, this profile provides a snap shot of child health in Darlington set out in 32 indicators grouped into five broad domains and enables comparisons over time and against regional and England averages. It was reported that 12 out of the 32 indicators for Darlington were not significantly different when compared to England, three were significantly better and 11 significantly worse. For those indicators significantly worse it was reported that many

of these were largely related to comparatively high number of children admitted to hospital in Darlington for a number of different reasons.

It was also reported that since the last profile in 2018 there had been an improvement in the number of children recorded as obese aged 10-11 years now statistically similar to the England average. Immunisation rates in Darlington were also good with coverage for two year olds in Darlington being above the recommended coverage rate of 90 per cent and overall 88.8 per cent of all children aged five years and under in Darlington were up to date with immunisations.

With regard to the Healthy Lifestyles Survey 2018, this is a further method of understanding local need that gathers and analysis information from children and young people in Darlington schools. It uses an online survey to find out about their attitudes and behaviours across a range of health related topics. It was reported that the majority of young people have positive emotional attitudes, and feel happy in their lives and have strong social networks with friends and family, however a third of all pupils reported that they did not have someone to confide in. The collective access to the different data sets provide an insight when designing local plans.

The Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan 2017-2022 sets out a whole system approach to tackling childhood obesity and reducing inequalities by recognising the complex relationships between the social, economic and physical environment coupled with individual factors that underpin the development of obesity. It was reported that the official launch of the plan and workshop session was planned for 24 September 2019 when all key stakeholders and partners would be invited to take part in shaping the key action plan that will set out how the objectives will be taken forward.

The Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan complements the Oral Health Plan 2017-2022 by working to reduce sugar intake as a high sugar diet is a significant risk factor in dental decay and obesity. It was reported that a supervised tooth brushing pilot has been commissioned which targets children in nursery and reception class and to date ten schools and seven nurseries have participated in this programme.

Members acknowledged that the rate of immunisations was good for two year olds but asked what actions were being taken to further increase this and the Public Health Principal advised Members that NHS England were responsible for the commissioning of this service and Officers were working alongside NHS England and the general practitioners to increase this percentage, and in particular targeting hard to reach groups.

Members questioned what actions had been taken in relation to the 11 indicators that were significantly worse than the England average and the Public Health Principal outlined actions in relation to children in care; substance and alcohol misuse; licensing of venues selling alcohol aimed at restricting supply; stop smoking service for smoking in pregnancy and support for those caring for children up to two years old; and the work stream with the Clinical Commissioning Group investigating the underlying causes of hospital admissions for children under 15 years.

Members noted that hospital admissions for mental health conditions had reduced but still expressed their concern at the lack of services for young people with mental

health issues and referred to the closure of West Lane Hospital, Middlesbrough and requested further information on what alternative care has been found for these young; and also discussed the number of primary aged pupils that felt stressed due to the levels of homework that primary children receive.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Members champion positive public health messages in relation to children, young people and families and continue to focus on improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities for children and young people in Darlington.

## **CYP50 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

The Director of Children and Adults Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to set out the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual report for 2018/19.

The submitted report provided Members with an overview of the work of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service in relation to Looked After Children, and an overview of the performance of the unit.

The submitted report also provided information on the role of the IRO's and statutory and non-statutory functions that the service is responsible for; detailed staffing levels and caseloads; provided statistical information relating to the number of Looked After Children and number and timeliness of Looked After Reviews; the number of children subject to Child Protection Plans and timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences; the Quality Assurance function; and the next steps for 2019/20, to include the appointment of an IRO Manager and completion of Annual Foster Carer Reviews.

Members acknowledged the progress to date that had been made in relation to the service and also the work that was being developed with the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

**RESOLVED** – That the annual report be noted.

## **CYP51 DESIGNATED OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT**

The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to present the Designated Officer Annual Report 2018/19 and to provide Members with an update on the progress and performance of the Designated Officer between April 2018 and March 2019 and to highlight the required actions for April 2019 to March 2020.

The submitted report outlined the function of the Designated Officer in line with national guidance and all organisations working with children in Darlington are required to have policies and procedures in place outlining what their organisation should do in the event that an allegation is made against an employee or volunteer who has contact with children. These policies and procedures are in line with Darlington Safeguarding Partnership procedures.

Members questions related to the aftercare support for those individuals who had

been accused; the location of the Designated Officer role; and the increase of referrals over the past four years and the possible reasons for this increase.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the contents of the report and work undertaken during 2018/19 and the priorities for 2019/20 be noted.

(b) That the annual report be agreed.

(c) That the report be publicised on the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership website.

## **CYP52 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an update on the current work programme for this Scrutiny Committee.

The work programme has been reviewed and revised for the Municipal Year 2019/20 based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee; and has been linked to performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework to provide robust and accurate data for Members to use when considering topics and the work they wish to undertake.

**RESOLVED** – That the current status of the work programme be noted.