



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am

Monday, 27 February 2023

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington. DL1 5QT

Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.

1. Introductions/ Attendance at Meeting
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 19 December and the Special meeting held on 9 January 2023 (Pages 3 - 10)
4. Childcare Sufficiency Review 2022/23 –
Report of the Group Director of People
(Pages 11 - 26)
5. Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2021-22 and the Child Protection
Conference Chair Annual Report 2021/22 –
Report of the Assistant Director of Children’s Services
(Pages 27 - 46)
6. The Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan 2023-2028 –
Report of the Assistant Director Commissioning Performance and Transformation
(Pages 47 - 58)
7. Work Programme –
Report of the Group Director of Operations
(Pages 59 - 72)

8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting
9. Questions



Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Friday, 17 February 2023

Town Hall
Darlington.

Membership

Councillors Ali, Bell, Crudass, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, Lucas, Preston, Snedker, Sowerby and Willis

Statutory Co-optees

Carly Stonier

Non Statutory Co-optees

Maura Regan, Tim Fisher, Janet Woodcock, John Armitage and Sally Hudson

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 December 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Crudass (Chair), Ali, C L B Hughes and Willis

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – Sally Hudson

APOLOGIES – Councillors L Hughes, Lucas and Snedker; Carly Stonier, John Armitage

ABSENT – Councillors Bell, Preston, Sowerby; Maura Regan, Tim Fisher and Janet Woodcock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Ann Baxter, Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion), Chris Bell (Assistant Director of Children's Services) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

CYP23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2022

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31 October 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 31 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

CYP25 DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Group Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to consider and comment on the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2021/22.

It was reported that Local Safeguarding Partnerships are required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnerships achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area.

The Annual Report summarised and reflected on the work of the Partnership over the period 2021/22, drawing upon a range of data and information, to outline the progress made and to illustrate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements across Darlington; and highlighted that the Covid-19 Pandemic had continued to pose a significant challenge throughout the year ensuring children, young people and vulnerable adults were safeguarded.

Ann Baxter, Independent Chair of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership attended the meeting to outline the Annual Report and answer Members questions thereon.

A Member questioned the current scrutiny arrangements following the revised Partnership Governance arrangements and the subsequent exclusion of schools and external bodies and how the new arrangements were working. Ann expressed some concern over the changes to the legislation regarding the exclusion of education but advised that during the pandemic arrangements had been strengthened with schools and there had been improved engagement with the education sectors, however felt that there had been some loss of voice from the wider partners.

Ann advised Members that the Children's MASH Operational Group focused on a number of key themes being seen through the Children's Front Door and that engagement was one of the areas highlighted for the multi agency group meetings. It was also proposed that an elected member from this Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend the multi-agency meeting.

The Independent Chair also advised Members that she had attended Primary and Secondary Heads meetings to address any concerns, however did acknowledged that over this reporting period, and as a consequence of covid, direct contact with young people had been missed.

The 11-19 Partnership representative confirmed that education colleagues were satisfied with the front door service, however also felt that education should be a statutory partner as some of the most vulnerable young people were in schools.

Discussed also ensued on the Gypsy Roma Travelling (GRT) Community and Members sought reassurance that the voices of the traveller families were being heard, especially in relation to education. Ann confirmed that the Elective Home Education (EHE) advisor worked closely with the GRT Education Service and that this was also an area of focus for the multi agency group.

The Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion advised that Darlington was one of a few local authorities that maintained a GRT Education Service and that 50 per cent of EHE were from the GRT community.

RESOLVED – That the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report for 2021/22 be noted.

CYP26 OFSTED INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES (ILACS)

The Assistant Director of Children's Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to update Members on the Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) in Darlington.

It was reported that between 10 and 21 October 2022 a full inspection of Children's Services in Darlington was completed by Ofsted and was the first inspection of this kind since 2018 when services were found to Require Improvement.

The inspection led to an overall grading for the service, as well as specific gradings for Help and Protection, Services to Children in Care and Care Leavers and for Leadership and Management.

It was reported that Good ratings were received for the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families, the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection and overall effectiveness; and an Outstanding rating for the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers.

Discussion ensued on the report and Members agreed that it was an excellent report recognising the strengths and improvement across all areas within Children's Services and acknowledged the hard work since the last inspection to achieve the Good rating overall.

The Assistant Director of Children's Services advised Members that timeliness of assessments and workforce stability and recruitment were priorities going forward and acknowledged Scrutiny feedback which continues to hold the service to account and help drive improvement.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the ILASC report and observations of the Ofsted Inspectors be noted.

CYP27 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 2022/2023

The Assistant Director of Children's Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with an update on performance against key performance indicators.

The submitted report provided Quarter2 (Q2) (July to September 2022) performance information in line with an indicator set agreed by the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group and subsequently by each individual Scrutiny Committee.

The submitted report also highlighted where Children and Young People were performing well and where there was a need to improve. It was also outlined that where indicators are reported annually, quarterly updates will not be available.

It was highlighted that 84.4 per cent of referrals were screened and completed within 1 day during Q2 and although below the target of 90 per cent, this was a continuing improvement when compared with previous quarters; 15.3 per cent of the children referred during Q2 had been re-referred to Children's Social Care within 12 months of a previous referral, which was below the threshold of 18 per cent and an improvement on the same period last year; 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 100 per cent of Children in Care (CiC) had an allocated social worker; 100 per cent of children with a Child Protection (CP) plan, and 98.9 per cent of Children in Care (CiC) had their reviews completed within timescale; no child ceased to be subject to a CP plan during Q2 who had been subject to the plan for two or more years, positively reducing the cumulative performance measure to below the target of 5 per cent to 4.7 per cent; as of September 2022, no child open to CP had been on their plan for more than 18 months; and no child became subject to a CP plan for a second or subsequent time within two years of the previous plan ending during Q2 positivity reducing the cumulative performance measure lower to 8.1 per cent.

It was reported that 286 Children were in care at the end of September 2022, 13 of which were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children compared to 273 children, excluding UASC, in care at the end of September 2022, an increase from 266 at the end of September 2021 but a decrease from 302 at the end of September 2020; 24.2 per cent of the children ceasing to be in care did so due to being adopted, 42.3 per cent had a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) / Child Arrangement Order (CAO) granted to a relative and 12.1 per cent returned home to their parent; 72.4 per cent of children due a review health assessment and 40.7 per cent of Children in Care that were due a dental check assessment by September 2022 had had one completed; the percentage of children who had refused their medical checks had positively decreased throughout the year, with 5.7 per cent refusing their health review and 1.9 per cent refusing their dental review.

In relation to Care Leavers it was reported that 19.6 per cent of our care Leavers, aged 19-21 and 19.6 per cent of our care leavers, aged 22-25, years were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) which was positivity below target of 30 per cent; 98.2 per cent of care leavers aged 19-21 and 96.1 per cent aged 22-25, were in suitable accommodation; and 58.9 per cent of our care leavers, aged 19-21 and 68.6 per cent of our care leavers, aged 22-25 were in training or employment as of September 2022, and 21.4 per cent of those aged 19-21 were engaging in education, 10.7 per cent in studies beyond A level with 11.8 per cent of those aged 22-25 years also engaging in education; and 7.8 per cent were in studies beyond A level.

Areas highlighted for improvement were in relation to Children and Families Assessments, 68.1 per cent of assessments had been completed within timescale in Q2, however there had been a reduction in the timeliness of the written aspect of the assessments, although there was an increase in the number of assessments required compared to previous quarters; 87.2 per cent of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held within 15 working days from the strategy meeting / section 47 being initiated, excluding transfer-in conferences, during Q2 2022/23. Although we are below the internal target of 95%, this is an improvement on the timeliness seen in Q1 2022/23 (75.0 per cent) and Q2 2021/22 (78.8 per cent) both of which saw less conferences being held during the quarter; 62.2 per cent of children received a statutory CP visit within 10 working days during Q2 which was negatively below the internal target of 90 per cent; and 85.2 per cent of statutory CiC visits were completed within timescale during Q2 which was negatively below the internal target of 90 per cent.

It was also highlighted that 11.9 per cent of Children in Care, as of September 2022 had had three or more placements within the previous 12 months, which was negatively above our internal target (10 per cent); 63.3 per cent of Children in Care aged under 16 (who have been looked after for at least 2.5 years) had been in their current placement continuously for at least two years as of September 2022, which was negatively below our internal target (68 per cent); and 11.1 per cent of Children in Care had needed to be placed 20 or more miles away from home as of September 2022 which was negatively above the target of 10 per cent, but all placements had been confirmed by team managers to be appropriate for the child enabling them to have the best support either with family links or specialised care.

Discussion ensued on the concerns around placement stability and the availability of long term placements; and Members discussed the challenges anticipated as a consequence of the cost of living crisis and Christmas and that more families will be in need of help in the new year.

The Assistant Director of Children's Services referred to the ongoing issue of recruitment and retention of Foster Carers and advised Members of discussions ongoing for a regional approach to fostering and recruitment. He also advised Members of a review of Children's residential services which was to be reported on at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the performance information reported for quarter 2 be noted.

CYP28 THE REFRESHED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2023-2028

The Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated) for consideration by this Scrutiny Committee on the proposals for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023-28.

RESOLVED – That this item be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 27 February 2023.

CYP29 WORK PROGRAMME

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 9 January 2023

PRESENT – Councillors Crudass (Chair), C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson and Snedker

STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTees – None

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ali, Preston and Willis; Carly Stonier, John Armitage and Sally Hudson

ABSENT – Councillors Bell, Lucas, Sowerby; Maura Regan, Tim Fisher and Janet Woodcock

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Chris Bell (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Tony Murphy (Assistant Director Education and Inclusion), Brett Nielsen (Assistant Director Resources) and Allison Hill (Democratic Officer)

CYP30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

CYP31 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 - 2026/27

The Assistant Director - Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 to 2026/27, which had been agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 December 2022, as a basis for consultation.

The submitted report referred Members to a briefing held on 14 December 2022, which had been offered to all Members, on the background and the overall proposals contained within the MTFP 2023/24 to 2026/27, and requested that Members of this Scrutiny Committee now consider those services and finances specifically within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee to enable a response to be formulated to Cabinet as part of the consultation exercise.

The Assistant Director of Resources provided an update on the Local Government financial settlement, which had been received on 19 December 2022, subsequent to the approval of the draft MTFP by Cabinet, and advised on the impact this settlement had on the assumptions made within that approved draft MTFP.

Members examined the Revenue Estimates for 2023/24 in Appendix 1 and the budget pressures and savings outlined in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, noting in particular the increased demand on the Strengthening Families Team, the increased in the number of Looked After Children and the increased number of Children and Families requiring support; and referred to the review commissioned by Central Government in respect of the challenges facing Children's Social Care and the expected response to the expected pressures nationwide.

Members expressed particular concern that there was no provision within the budget for

increased demand for Children and Families requiring support for the years 24/25 and beyond and feared for long term financial implications if there was no future investment for children and young people. The Assistant Director of Children's Services advised this Scrutiny Committee that the projections were based on the increase to the numbers last year and the anticipation that these numbers will level out over the coming years.

It was also noted that the investment of services for Social Care for both Children's and Adults Services was the most significant split of investment, accounting for nearly two thirds of the overall budget.

Members also discussed adoption and placements and the budget costs in relation to Adoption Tees Valley, the Regional Adoption Agency this authority is mandated too and questioned if there was equability across the authorities.

Members referred to the capital provision of £1.124 m for the replacement roof at Whinfield School and the wider issue of academisation and referred to the separate school condition funding budget paid direct to academies by the Department for Education and the government's full academisation of all schools and questioned the Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion on the significant work required to the roof and plans towards future discussions with schools on the implementation of the Education White Paper.

Members also examined the provision within the wider budget for discretionary services and whether these services were being provided at the expense of core services within Children's Services which are under continued pressure and will continue to do so with the cost of living, working wage and child poverty challenges ahead.

RESOLVED – That the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee be advised, following consideration, the following is this Scrutiny's views on the draft MTFP 2023/24 to 2026/27:

(a) That the proposals contained within MTFP 2023/24 to 2026/27, in relation to those services and finances which are specifically within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, be agreed.

(b) That this Scrutiny Committee agree that all future discretionary spending should improve the lives of children and families and recommend that Cabinet considers the impact on Children's Social Care when making any discretionary spending decisions.

(c) That the Chair, in consultation with the Lead Scrutiny Officers supporting this Scrutiny Committee, be given authority to agree the Minutes of this Scrutiny Committee, to enable the Minutes to be considered at a Special Meeting of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on 19 January 2023.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 FEBRUARY 2022**

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW 2022-23

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the findings of the 2022-23 Childcare Sufficiency Review.

Summary

2. The Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, June 2018 requires local authorities to 'secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children'. In carrying out this requirement local authorities should 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make this report available and accessible to parents'.
3. The childcare market in Darlington is made up of private day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders, out of school clubs, nursery schools and nursery units. Before March 2020, Darlington's childcare market was fairly stable and the parental take-up rate of the various entitlements was predictable. However, since the pandemic the picture has become more complex and less predictable. Cases of unmet demand are gathered using various methods: from providers through the monthly attendance returns, by analysing parental enquiries via the Families' Information Service, via the unmet demand list and from any parental complaints to the local authority. Using the most up-to-date census data, the total supply of pre-school places (FTE) in the borough in Spring 2022 was 2,476 and the demand for pre-school places (number of children) was 1,719. There is no overall lack of childcare sufficiency in the borough.
4. Typically, childcare providers draw of funding from two sources: Early Years Entitlement places for 2 to 4 year olds which are funded by the local authority (from funding provided by the Department for Education) and places across the whole age range which are paid for by parents. By the Summer 2021 term take-up of Early Years Entitlement places was back to pre-pandemic levels, however, this take-up has since declined. By the Autumn 2022 term, 1,431 children were accessing an Early Years Entitlement place: this figure compares with 1,587 children accessing a place in Autumn 2019 and 1,696 in Autumn 2021.
5. Anecdotal feedback from the childcare sector is that registered holiday provision (not run by schools) is experiencing a decline in take-up. It is unclear yet whether hybrid working is affecting take-up. There has been a slight increase in the number of school registered out of school and breakfast clubs. The number of registered childminders has declined by 19%

since Autumn 2021. From Spring 2022, some private day nurseries have reported an increase in demand for baby places. There was a drop in the take-up rate for 2 year olds accessing an Early Years Entitlement place in the Summer 2022 term and a decline in children accessing a Universal Entitlement place in Autumn 2022. One school has introduced Early Years Entitlement places for 2 year olds.

6. By the Autumn 2022, regarding the supply side, there have been no reports of substantial rent rises but some providers are reporting that as the cost of food, consumables and staffing costs rise they have increased their fees marginally. On the demand side, there have been no reports from parents of substantial increases in childcare charges. The sector is facing recruitment and retention issues, nationally and locally. Of the 13 day nurseries and pre-schools in the borough that have received a funding audit from Spring 2022, 2 providers have reported having to limit numbers of children attending their setting due to staff shortages. Providers are encouraged to sign-post parents to the Families' Information Service so that alternative provision can be sourced although parents/carers can, if they wish, remain on the provider waiting list until a vacancy is available. Providers report that staff are leaving to go to better paid jobs with less responsibility in sectors such as retail. The Early Years Team attended the Darlington Jobs Fair in Autumn 2022 to promote childcare as a career and promote Early Years Entitlements and will be attending in February 2023. Links have been made with the secondary schools' Careers Leads and Teesside University.
7. The local authority has continued to work with the sector through the Early Years Education Strategy Group. Support has continued to be provided to the childcare sector via: regular guidance up-dates, virtual and face to face network meetings, public health provider briefings, monthly drop in sessions with public health, a group for early years leads in schools, virtual inclusion panels and individualised support around transitions, setting link officers and an Early Years newsletter.
8. Additionally, a childcare sufficiency task group meets regularly which includes colleagues from Economic Growth, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), Darlington Association on Disability (DAD), Jobcentre Plus, Learning & Skills, Darlington Families' Information Service and Children's Centres. The continued uncertainties created by the pandemic and current market forces make childcare demand and business sustainability more difficult to predict. Work is on-going to promote assistance with the cost of childcare, such as Tax Free Childcare and the Early Years Entitlements.
9. In Autumn 2022, a parental childcare survey was released asking parents/carers who are currently using registered childcare provision in Darlington questions about the cost of childcare and the use of Tax Free Childcare. 78% of respondents said that they used childcare to enable them to work. 36% of parents said that they paid for all of the childcare they use themselves and 26% of respondents said they accessed Tax Free Childcare. When asked whether they expect their childcare costs to rise over the next 6 months, 40% said that they did expect costs to rise and 37% of respondents replied that they did not know. When parents were asked how much of their family income they spent on childcare, compared to the situation in Autumn 2021, 38% said they spent a larger proportion of their income on childcare. Parents were asked what the reason(s) were for the proportion of their family income they spend on childcare changing since Autumn 2021 and 30% reported that their childcare fees have increased.

10. Additionally, a mini survey about holiday childcare was disseminated to parents/carers at Beaumont Hill Academy. Parents were asked whether they used any form of childcare or registered activities during the summer holidays; 22% of respondents said that they do and 78% said that they do not. Those parents who do use childcare tend to use DASH, the Darlington Association on Disability (D.A.D.) playscheme. Parents were asked if they have heard of schemes to support with childcare costs, such as Tax Free Childcare or the Universal Credit Childcare Offer. 62% of respondents said that they had not and 38% of respondents said that they had. Work is on-going to promote assistance with the cost of childcare, such as Tax Free Childcare.
11. Indicators show that there has been sufficient overall capacity to meet demand throughout the period of this review, nevertheless, any unmet demand will need to be continually monitored to ensure that parents are able to access training and work in the coming months and years.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that members note for information the findings of the 2022-23 Childcare Sufficiency Review.

James Stroyan
Group Director of People

Background Papers

The following papers were used in this report:

- (i) 2022-23 Childcare Sufficiency Review
- (ii) 2022 Parental Childcare Survey

Nicola Davies : Extension 6010

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report is about the 2022-23 Childcare Sufficiency Review and will not impinge on the duty on the authority to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough.
Health and Wellbeing	Good quality early education and childcare for children from birth to 14 years old and 18 years old for those young people with a disability, will assist in improving the health and wellbeing of Darlington's 0 to 14/18 population and assists working families.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no carbon impact or climate change implications in this report.
Diversity	There are no specific proposals within the report that impact on diversity issues. All providers must meet their duties under the Equality Act 2010 when delivering education and childcare.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	All children aged 0 to 14 years/18 years for those young people with a disability will benefit from being able to access high quality, education and childcare in the Borough.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is a key decision as it affects all wards in the Borough.
Urgent Decision	A delay in the information being reported to elected Council Members will delay the report becoming available to parents as required by the Department for Education's Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, June 2018.
Council Plan	Access to high quality, affordable and reliable education and childcare will improve the quality of life and the health and wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough and will also enable their parents to access or maintain training or work opportunities.
Efficiency	There are no specific proposals within the report that impact on efficiency.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Access to good quality early education and childcare places in the borough improves the life chances of 2 to 4 year olds who are Looked After Children or who have left care and also, provides support to families.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Post-pandemic

1. By the Summer 2021 term 2 to 4 year olds take-up of Early Years Entitlements places was back to pre-pandemic levels. The overall number of pre-school children in provision had risen from 263 at the end of the Summer 2020 term to 1,117 by the end of December 2021.
2. Anecdotal feedback from the childcare sector is that post-pandemic, registered holiday provision (not run by schools) is experiencing a decline in take-up to the extent that one club has closed and other clubs are reporting having to offer fewer days to remain financially viable. It is unclear yet whether hybrid working is affecting take-up. There has been a slight increase in the number of school registered out of school and breakfast clubs. The number of registered childminders has declined by 19% since Autumn 2021. From Spring 2022, some private day nurseries have reported an increase in demand for baby places. There also appears to have been a drop in the take-up rate for 2 year olds accessing an Early Years Entitlements place in the Summer 2022 term and a decline in children accessing a Universal Entitlement place in Autumn 2022. One school has introduced Early Years Entitlement places for 2 year olds.
3. By the Autumn 2022, some providers are reporting that as the cost of food, consumables and staffing costs increases they have increased their fees marginally. On the demand side, there have been no reports from parents of substantial increases in childcare charges. The sector is facing recruitment and retention issues, nationally and locally. A small number of providers have reported having to limit numbers of children attending their setting due to staff shortages and one provider would like to extend the business to meet demand but is restrained by the possibility of not attracting sufficient staff. Providers report that staff are leaving to go to better paid jobs with less responsibility in sectors, such as retail and office work.

Support for Providers

4. The Early Years Education Strategy Group has continued to meet termly and is consulted regarding local issues. Support for the sector has continued over the last year with termly Private and Voluntary Provider and Childminder Network briefings which include regular updates from the Education Safeguarding Officer. The Early Years Leads meeting for schools continues to meet termly. Schools and providers have been able to access a monthly drop-in session with Darlington's Public Health Team. Providers also have a dedicated Early Years in box. Knowledgeable and experienced officers provide individual and bespoke support on a wide range of areas including quality improvement, funding and sustainability. A half termly Early Years newsletter is also produced. Officers meet with the regional DfE representative every 6 weeks and attend regional DfE events where issues regarding the local childcare sector are reported back to the DfE.
5. Targeted work to support transitions has continued to be undertaken by the Inclusion Team which has facilitated input by a range of professionals, including headteachers and health professionals. The Early Years Inclusion Panel meets termly, awarding funding for children with emerging and significant Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Funding and Sustainability Support for Providers

6. During Summer 2022, local authorities were informed by the Department for Education, that nationally, there are around 800,000 families who are eligible to receive Tax Free Childcare but have not yet applied for it. Tax Free Childcare enables working families, including the self-employed, to claim up to 20% of their childcare costs from the government (up to £2,000 per child per year or up to £4,000 per child per year for a child with a disability). Childcare costs can be claimed for children aged 0-11 years or up to 16 years for young people with a disability where families are not in receipt of Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers. Childcare must be accessed via Ofsted registered providers and childminders who have activated their Tax Free Childcare accounts. The Early Years Team has produced Tax Free Childcare fliers, distributed via schools, childcare providers and other interested stakeholders to parents. The fliers have also been distributed via the business e-newsletter to local businesses. Information about Tax Free Childcare has been included in 'One Darlington', on the Council and Housing Facebook pages and has been linked to the Council's money advice pages. Information has also been in the Early Years Autumn '22 newsletter, in the School Bulletin, in the Council staff briefing and has been discussed at provider network meetings, the Autumn SENCO Network and at a meeting with First Stop, Darlington. Attendance at a JobCentre Plus Job Coach team meeting, to discuss the Early Years Entitlements and help with the cost of childcare is planned. Officers will also continue to share information about the Early Years Entitlements, including a recording produced for professionals, with interested stakeholders.
7. In Summer 2022 the Early Years Team undertook Hemsalls Business Map training which supports the childcare sector to monitor the health and sustainability of their business and adapt in an agile, timely manner, to meet any changing demand. During the training plan cycle this training and toolkit will be cascaded to providers. Providers regularly receive DfE up-dates from the local authority which may assist their business sustainability. These up-dates can range from DfE extensions to funded places eligibility criteria to up-dates on the Energy Bill Relief Scheme, explaining the discounts on wholesale gas and electricity prices for non-domestic customers.

Provider Training

8. Settings have been supported by the Early Years Team through regular virtual and in person briefings for all group settings and evening sessions for childminders. Regular virtual drop-in sessions with Public Health have been offered with the option of sending a question via the Early Years Team if providers are unable to attend.
9. A nationally recognised Early Years consultant has continued to support the local early years sector in understanding and implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage reforms, this has taken the form of virtual training and online surgeries. Good practice meetings have continued to run which provide an opportunity for private settings and schools to come together and share good practice both virtually and face to face.
10. The government is providing a package of workforce training and qualifications for the early years sector to address the impact of the pandemic on the youngest and most disadvantaged children called the Early Years Education Recovery Programme. The local authority has accessed part of this package called 'Experts and Mentors' and were part of

the pilot phase. In mid-autumn the pilot finished and the next phase has now started with 3 private day nurseries and 2 pre-schools from Darlington receiving support.

11. The local authority was also part of the Early Years Professional Development Programme (EYPDP) funded by the Department for Education. The local authority was selected to be part of phase 2 of this support, whereby practitioners were able to access an online course with a focus on Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and early maths. 10 practitioners from 6 settings took part in phase 2 of EYPDP and the programme is now entering the 3rd phase, which will see a national rollout. The local authority supports with promoting the programme and liaising with the delivery partner.
12. Providers are also able to choose from a training offer which includes Oral Health, Physical Development training from Tees Valley Sport, Child Development for babies and 2- to 3-year-olds, training on the 0 to 5 Education, Health and Care Plan process and starting out in Early Years Foundation Stage. Training for practitioners regarding English as an Additional Language is being developed and settings are made aware of Early Education training. Details of the Early Years Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Award has been shared with the sector and practitioners are also able to benefit from the Early Bird and Early Bird Plus Programmes for families who have a child with an Autism Spectrum Condition. Settings also have the opportunity to take part in the Basket of Opportunities (BOO) programme which is an early intervention programme whereby settings invite parents to participate, with a focus on raising awareness of supporting children's development at home.
13. During Summer 2022 the Early Years Team undertook Hemsalls Business Map training which supports the childcare sector to monitor the health and sustainability of their business and adapt in an agile, timely manner, to meet any changing demand. During the training plan cycle this training and toolkit will be cascaded to providers. Additionally, the local authority is introducing a Liquid Logic software package to assist with the termly collection of early years headcount data and making provider payments. Providers will be supported through this software introduction in early 2024.

Early Years Entitlements take-up

14. In Autumn 2020 the DfE re-started the collection of national data for the funded 2 year olds termly take-up score cards. In the Autumn 2020 term 55% of Darlington's eligible 2 year olds were accessing an Early Years Entitlements 2 year old place. By Autumn 2021 this take-up figure had increased to 80% and by the Spring 2022 was back to pre-pandemic take-up levels at 86%. In Summer 2022 the take-up rate dipped to 78% (the national average was 72%) but by Autumn 2022 it was 89%. The availability of Early Years Entitlement places is advertised via health visitors, Children's Centres, Jobcentre Plus, Learning and Skills, in the 'One Darlington' magazine and on local authority, Housing and Health Facebook pages. In addition, an Early Years Entitlements webinar has been produced by the team for professionals and officers have attended social care team meetings, to present and answer questions about the funded entitlements. Finally, an Early Years Entitlements webinar for parents/carers has been produced.
15. Looking at actual take up, the number of children accessing Early Years Entitlement places in the Autumn 2022 term was: 319 funded 2-year-olds; 523 3- and 4-year-olds accessing

Universal Entitlement; and 589 3- and 4- year-olds accessing the Extended Entitlement; a total of 1,431 funded children. Please see **Table 1**.

16. Table 1 shows that the difference between the number of 2 to 4 year olds accessing an Early Years Entitlements place between Autumn 2019 and Autumn 2021 was 109 additional children. However, when Autumn 2019 data is compared with Autumn 2022 data, there are 156 less children accessing an Early Years Entitlements place in Autumn 2022. When comparing Autumn 2019 with Autumn 2022, looking at the private and voluntary sector providers, there was a decrease of 130 funded children. Take-up has increased in pre-schools only. However, there has been a decrease of 121 children in private day nurseries, 32 in out of school clubs and 3 with childminders. When comparing Autumn 2019 data to that of Autumn 2022, with regard to nursery schools and units, there has been an increase of 46 funded 2-year-olds, a decrease of 126 funded 3- and 4-year-olds accessing the Universal Entitlement and an additional 54 children accessing the 30 Hours Extended Entitlement. In Autumn 2022, the total number of funded children in the private and voluntary sector is at 86% of the take-up in Autumn 2019 and the number of funded children in the school sector is at 96% of the take-up in Autumn 2019.

Table 1 – Autumn 2019, Autumn 2021 and Autumn 2022 Early Years Entitlements take-up

	Autumn 2019				Autumn 2021				Autumn 2022			
	Funded Places for 2 Year-Olds	15 Hours for 3- & 4-Year-Olds	30 Hours Childcare for 3- & 4-Year-Olds	Termly Totals	Funded Places for 2-Year-Olds	15 Hours for 3- & 4-Year-Olds	30 Hours Childcare for 3- & 4-Year-Olds	Termly Totals	Funded Places for 2-Year-Olds	15 Hours for 3- & 4-Year-Olds	30 Hours Childcare for 3- & 4-Year-Olds	Termly Totals
Private Day Nurseries	232	189	324	745	215	164	278	657	180	138	306	624
Pre-Schools	27	49	66	142	32	60	85	177	34	57	77	168
Out of School Clubs	-	-	32	32	-	-	11	11	-	-	-	-
Child minders	11	4	28	43	13	4	28	45	8	9	23	40
Private & Voluntary Sector Totals	270	242	450	962	260	228	402	890	222	204	406	832
Nursery Schools	21	80	32	133	46	94	44	184	33	74	38	145
Nursery Units	30	365	97	492	48	441	133	622	64	245	145	454
School Totals	51	445	129	625	94	535	177	806	97	319	183	599
Childcare Market Totals	321	687	579	1,587	354	763	579	1,696	319	523	589	1,431

Unmet Childcare Demand in 2022

17. Across Darlington, there is a mixed supply of holiday and out of school provision. As well as full day care services and childminders who offer this service, there are a small number of standalone organisations, including Darlington Association on Disability's holiday playschemes, DASH, which caters solely for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Cases of unmet demand are gathered using various methods: from providers through the monthly attendance returns, by analysing parental enquiries via the Families' Information Service, via the unmet demand list and from any parental complaints to the local authority. The Families' Information Service received 64 childcare related enquiries between April 2022 to December 2022. There have been no recorded cases of parental unmet demand.
18. Attendance during the Summer 2022 holidays was surveyed. Out of 37 registered childminders who are active during the holidays, 22 returned the survey and out of 11 group settings who offer holiday care, 4 returned. Across the sector, occupancy was as follows: 173 4-8 year olds, 31 9-11 year olds, 1 12-14 year old and 0 15-18 year olds with a disability. In total, 205 children and young people accessed holiday childcare, compared with 229 in Summer 2021. Unmet demand was recorded as zero amongst the childminders. 2 group settings stated that over 4 days demand was so low, the provision of care was financially unviable.
19. Attendance during the Autumn 2022 half term was also surveyed. Of the providers who offer holiday childcare, 26 childminders and 7 group settings submitted returns. Across the sector, occupancy was as follows: 68 4-8 year olds, 12 9-11 year olds, 0 12-14 year olds and 0 15-18 year olds with a disability. In total, 80 children and young people accessed holiday childcare. There were no reports of unmet demand. 4 childminders reported closing during this holiday as they had had no requests for holiday care. 1 group setting explained that due to low demand on Thursday and Friday, it became financially unviable for them to stay open so they closed. Demand for holiday care needs to continue to be monitored.
20. The Local Authority has established a childcare sufficiency task group which meets regularly and monitors childcare demand and supply, as well as the health of the local childcare sector. In addition to officers, the group includes representation from the Darlington Families' Information Service, SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service), Darlington Association on Disability, Jobcentre Plus, Children's Centres, Economic Growth and Learning & Skills. The group cross references with the Early Years Education Strategy Group.

Provider profileTable 2 - The number of settings in Darlington pre-March 2020, November 2020, November 2021 and November 2022

	Pre-March 2020	November 2020	November 2021	November 2022
Nursery schools	2	2	2	2
Nursery units	17	17	17	17
Private & Voluntary	34	31	31	32
Childminders	80	71	63	51

Table 2 shows that between March and November 2020 three nurseries in Darlington permanently closed. In each case all children were successfully accommodated in other childcare settings. Two of these nurseries were owned by providers who had more than one setting and had places available at their other sites located in Darlington. In late December 2022, one private day nursery closed as a result of the owner's health issues. The business consisted of two nurseries and most children were relocated to the other nursery. During the last year 12 childminders have de-registered. Of those who have provided a reason for leaving childcare, 3 childminders have retired and 7 have left to work in other sectors of the economy. These de-registrations are not concentrated in any particular geographical area of the borough. 3 prospective childminders are currently undergoing training. The Rydal Academy has introduced funded places for 2 year olds in its nursery unit.

The views of parents

21. During early September to early November 2022, an on-line parental survey was carried out via providers, schools, Jobcentre Plus contacts, Darlington library, health visitors, Children's Centres, the Parent Carer Forum, Darlington Association on Disability, the Local Authority staff bulletin, the Local Authority business e-newsletter and various other parental social media groups. The survey was aimed at parents who are currently using registered childcare provision in Darlington and asked questions about the cost of childcare and use of Tax Free Childcare. The return rate was high at 157 responses.
22. When asked which type of childcare provider(s) parents used: 34% said they used a standalone nursery school, 23% used a childminder, 22% a registered breakfast and/or after school club, 18% a private day nursery, 13% a pre-school, 8% a registered holiday club and 7% used a nursery unit attached to a primary school. When asked what the age was of the child(ren) accessing childcare: 44% of children were aged 3 to 4 years, 43% were 1 to 2 years old, 23% were 5 to 8 years old, 12% were 9 to 11 years old, 5% were babies aged under 1 and 1% were 12 to 14 years old. There were no responses relating to young people aged 15 to 17 years with special educational needs and disabilities.
23. Parents/carers were asked to tell us the reason(s) why they use childcare. 78% of parents used childcare to enable them to work; 53% said they use childcare to enable their children

to access opportunities to develop and grow; 43% said childcare is used to enable their children to get ready to go in to school; 42% to enable their children to make friends; 8% to give them a break from caring and 7% of parents used childcare to enable them to access training opportunities. Parents were also asked when they use childcare: 58% of parents used childcare during term-time only, 40% during term-time and school holidays and 2% used childcare only during school holidays.

24. Parents were then asked how they pay for childcare. 36% of parents paid for all of the childcare they use themselves; 21% had a 2, 3 or 4 year old child who accessed 15 funded hours a week only; 6% had a 2, 3 or 4 year old child who accessed 15 funded hours a week and additional hours paid for by parents; 18% had a 3 or 4 year old child who accessed 30 funded hours a week only, and 10% had a 3 or 4 year old who accessed 30 funded hours a week and additional hours paid for by parents. 26% of respondents said they accessed Tax Free Childcare. 6% used Childcare Vouchers and 5% of parents said that they accessed an employer support/childcare scheme. Parents were asked whether they expect their childcare costs to rise over the next 6 months. 40% of respondents said that they did expect costs to rise and 23% said that they did not. 37% of respondents replied that they did not know.
25. Parents were asked how much of their family income they spent on childcare, compared to the situation in Autumn 2021. 38% said they spent a larger proportion of their income on childcare. 14% said this was a smaller proportion; 17% said they spent about the same proportion on childcare and 31% said that they did not pay for childcare as they only accessed funded places. Parents were asked what the reason(s) were for the proportion of their family income they spend on childcare changing since Autumn 2021. 30% of parents reported that their childcare fees have increased; 16% said that they are now working more hours and so need to access more childcare and 12% said that they have more children accessing childcare. 10% said that their family income had decreased; 6% said that they are working less hours; 6% said that they are now using family and/or friends as informal childcare; 5% said that they have less children accessing childcare; 3% said that their childcare fees have decreased and 2% said that they have had an increase in family income.
26. Parents were asked whether they thought their childcare provider may have to make changes to current arrangements for users in the next 6 months. 11% of respondents said yes; 16% said no; and 73% said that they did not know. Parents were asked whether the increase in the cost of living would result in changes in access to childcare. 70% of parents said that they did not think there would be a change in the amount of childcare they use; 14% said that they would use less childcare a week; 14% said that they would use family and/or friends as informal childcare; and 6% said that they would stop using childcare altogether.
27. Parents were asked whether they had heard of Tax Free Childcare. 69% said that they had and 31% said that they had not heard of it. Parents were asked how they heard of Tax Free Childcare. 68% said by word of mouth from parents, family members or friends; 33% said that their childcare provider had told them about it; 4% had found out about it on social media and 2% had heard about it on T.V. or the radio. The source of information which was mentioned most in the narrative was the Government website 'Childcare Choices'. Parents were asked whether their childcare provider had informed them of Tax Free Childcare when they registered. 74% said that they had and 26% said that they had not.

28. Parents were asked if they had accessed Tax Free Childcare (TFC). 63% said that they had and 37% said that they had not. 89% of parents were currently accessing TFC and 11% had accessed TFC in the past. Respondents were asked what information they thought parents needed to know about TFC to help them to decide whether to apply. 81% said that what the potential financial benefits are was important; 76% said that information on how to apply would help. 68% of respondents said that information on who can apply would help; 58% said that it would be helpful to know which childcare providers were registered on the scheme and 52% said that it would help to know the age range of eligible children.
29. Parents were asked how easy it was to sign up to the TFC scheme. 45% said that it was easy to sign up; 27% said that it was very easy; 23% said that it was neither easy nor difficult; 5% said that it was difficult to sign up; and no respondents said that it was very difficult. When asked whether they would recommend the TFC scheme, 100% of parents/carers said that they would.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

30. In the Autumn 2022 term, local authority officers met with senior leaders from Beaumont Hill Academy. The school runs a weekly parents/carers group and they had been sent a mini survey about holiday childcare to consider and discuss at the group. The purpose of the meeting was to gather survey feedback from the group via school staff. Parents were asked whether they used any form of childcare or registered activities during the summer holidays. Those parents who do use childcare tend to use DASH, the Darlington Association on Disability (D.A.D.) playscheme. During the Summer 2022 holidays, 85 children and young people resident in Darlington attended the DASH schemes. Feedback from D.A.D. via the Childcare Sufficiency group is that, like the rest of the childcare sector, they are experiencing some difficulties with recruitment.
31. Following the meeting the mini survey questions were distributed online to all parents/carers at Beaumont Hill Academy. There were 27 returns. Parents/carers were asked if they use holiday childcare or registered activities during the school holidays: 22% said that they do and 78% said that they do not. Parents were asked if they access the D.A.D. playscheme DASH: 15% said that they do and 85% said that they do not. Parents were asked if they have accessed any other type of childcare provisions, other than DASH: 4% said that they had and 96% said that they had not. Parents who accessed childcare generally were asked whether they did this because they work: 13% said that they did use childcare because they work and 87% said they used childcare for other reasons. Parents were asked if they have heard of schemes to support with childcare costs, such as, Tax Free Childcare or the Universal Credit Childcare Offer: 62% of respondents said that they had not and 38% of respondents said that they had.

Provider feedback

32. In October 2021 a Childcare Recruitment and Retention survey of local providers was undertaken and 59% of returning providers stated they were experiencing issues with recruitment and retention. As a result, a discussion about recruitment and retention is included within provider funding audits.

33. During 2022 early years funding audits have taken place with 13 of the 27 day nurseries and pre-schools in the borough. When managers are asked whether they have any difficulties affecting their business, the overwhelming response is that of recruitment and retention. Of the 13 settings audited, 9 are private or community association day nurseries and 4 are pre-schools. All of the audited day nurseries commented that they are experiencing problems in recruiting appropriately qualified and experienced staff and only 2 said that retention of staff is not an issue. Anecdotal evidence from settings is that there is insufficient interest from appropriately qualified and experienced applicants. One setting has had to restrict numbers due to recruitment problems. One manager explained that they have a number of staff who are approaching retirement age and that they recently lost 3 younger members of staff to office and retail work because the hours are more flexible, there is less responsibility, better pay and some employers are able to offer a 'Golden Hello' payment.
34. Of the audited pre-schools, 2 managers explained that recruitment had been difficult but none of the audited pre-schools were experiencing retention issues. Both pre-schools who were experiencing recruitment issues had taken creative approaches and decided to 'grow their own' and employ apprentices, some of them mature.
35. During 2022 D.A.D. have experienced some challenges when recruiting Play Workers for their holiday play scheme for disabled children. D.A.D. has explained that the lack of suitably qualified applicants is an issue.
36. In October 2022, the Early Years Team attended the Darlington Jobs Fair to promote childcare as a career and also to ensure people are aware that if they need childcare to enable them to work, there is help available with childcare costs, such as Families' Tax Credit. The team was approached by a number of people, including older people looking for a change of career and people who have newly settled in Darlington. Information was also available about supported internships for students with Education, Health and Care Plans via the Project Choice Team at NHS Health Education England. Placements are for 2 to 3 days a week and last up to 12 weeks. There is no obligation on a childcare setting to make the placement permanent but if they wish to do so, the setting can submit a funding support application. This information has been shared with Darlington's childcare providers.
37. Links are being made with Careers Leads based in the borough's secondary schools. Links are also being formed with Teesside University who run a module enabling students to find out more about the world of work and future career paths. The team will be attending, amongst others, a Careers Fair at Carmel School in March 2023 to promote childcare as a career. The team will also have a stall at the Darlington Jobs Fair in February 2023 where local childcare vacancies will be advertised.
38. Recruitment and retention issues can have an effect on a provider's ability to operate at full capacity and may go on to affect childcare sufficiency in the borough if the situation deteriorates further. Some settings report that the pandemic has impacted on work experience and volunteering opportunities, for example, sometimes parents volunteer to work in a setting and then find that they enjoy it and decide to go into childcare. To address this, the Early Years Team has been compiling a list of providers that would be happy to provide work experience.

39. From Autumn 2022, as part of the early years funding audits, providers are being asked whether increasing costs are affecting their business and also whether their charges will need to increase significantly to cover the increased costs of running a business in the current climate. During the Autumn '22 term, regarding the supply side, there have been no reports of substantial rent rises but some providers are reporting that as the cost of food, consumables and staffing costs rise they have increased their fees marginally. On the demand side, there have been no reports from parents of substantial increases in childcare charges.

Local Employer feedback

40. Previous employer surveys have investigated the use of family friendly employment practices and explored the extent to which childcare supply meets the needs of businesses. They have reported that the number of businesses frequently experiencing problems due to childcare issues is relatively low; however, many found childcare was an occasional problem.

Additional information

41. Table 3 shows that in recent years the number of birth registrations in Darlington has declined. This may have market implications for providers.

42.

Table 3 - The number of births registered in Darlington

Year of Birth (Sep-Aug)	Number of Births
2009/10	1,359
2010/11	1,324
2011/12	1,336
2012/13	1,284
2013/14	1,220
2014/15	1,231
2015/16	1,187
2016/17	1,107
2017/18	1,138
2018/19	1,048
2019/20	1,026
2020/21	1,061
2021/22	1,038

Source: 2009/10 – 2019/20 - Office for National Statistics (ONS), Birth Registrations
 Source: 2020/21 onwards - NHS Primary Care Registration Data (data is more appropriate for use as it is available earlier than ONS data and is released as academic year rather than calendar year data).

Outcome of Consultation

43. The LA intends to continue to monitor and evaluate the local market position, paying particular attention to staff recruitment and retention issues and childcare business sustainability.

Conclusion

44. Indicators have shown that there continues to be sufficient capacity to meet demand. However, the pandemic has impacted on the financial stability of some settings. Our consultation with parents demonstrates the need for local childcare to be affordable and flexible to meet existing or new working patterns. It is not entirely clear yet, whether working patterns will permanently change as a result of the pandemic and if so, how they will change. Nationally, data from the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) showed that of trading businesses, when asked in Summer 2021 whether they saw homeworking continuing, 24% said they intend to use increased homeworking as a permanent business model going forward and 28% were unsure. Businesses in the Information and Communication industry were most likely to intend to increase homeworking in the future (49%) (Source: ONS, 'Business and individual attitudes towards the future of homeworking, UK: April to May 2021').

How will this work in Darlington?

45. 2022 Childcare Sufficiency findings will be presented to the childcare market and to schools in late Spring 2023, to enable them to develop services to meet any changing childcare demand. Market flexibility to meet changing parental demand will be key to sector resilience.
46. The priorities for the Local Authority continue to be to:
- (a) Provide parents with up-to-date information about financial assistance towards childcare costs, including any available tax credits,
 - (b) Work with settings and other interested stakeholders to continually improve the quality of care and make settings/activities more inclusive,
 - (c) Assist childcare providers by providing information on matters relating to funding and sustainability.

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY
27 FEBRUARY 2023**

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING UNIT

INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The Annual Independent Reviewing Officer report is produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit (CSU). The report includes an overview of the work by of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service. In Darlington the service provides independent reviewing and functions in relation to both:
 - (a) Children who are Look After, and
 - (b) Children who are the subject of Child Protection Conferences and / or multi-agency Child Protection Plans.

Summary

2. The report provides an overview of performance, activity, and areas for development.
3. Part 1 is the Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2021/22. The production of this report is a requirement under the statutory guidance. This covers the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer which is a defined role that relates to Children Looked After. This statutory function is set out in the IRO Handbook (2010), and links to the revised Care Planning Regulations and Guidance (2011).
4. Part 2 is the Child Protection Conference Chair Annual Report 2021/22. This covers the role of the conference chair in relation to children who are in need of safeguarding. The statutory requirements are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018), which stipulates that the chair of a Child Protection Conference needs to be accountable to the Director of Children's Services, and should be a professional, independent of operational and / or line management responsibilities for the case.
5. For the period April 2021 – March 2022, due to the ongoing Covid-19 formal meetings, which in previous years would have been face to face, have been conducted using virtual platforms. This applies to all Child Protection Conferences, Child Looked After Review, and most of the contact with children, young people, and their families.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Members note the content of this annual report.

Chris Bell
Assistant Director Children's Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

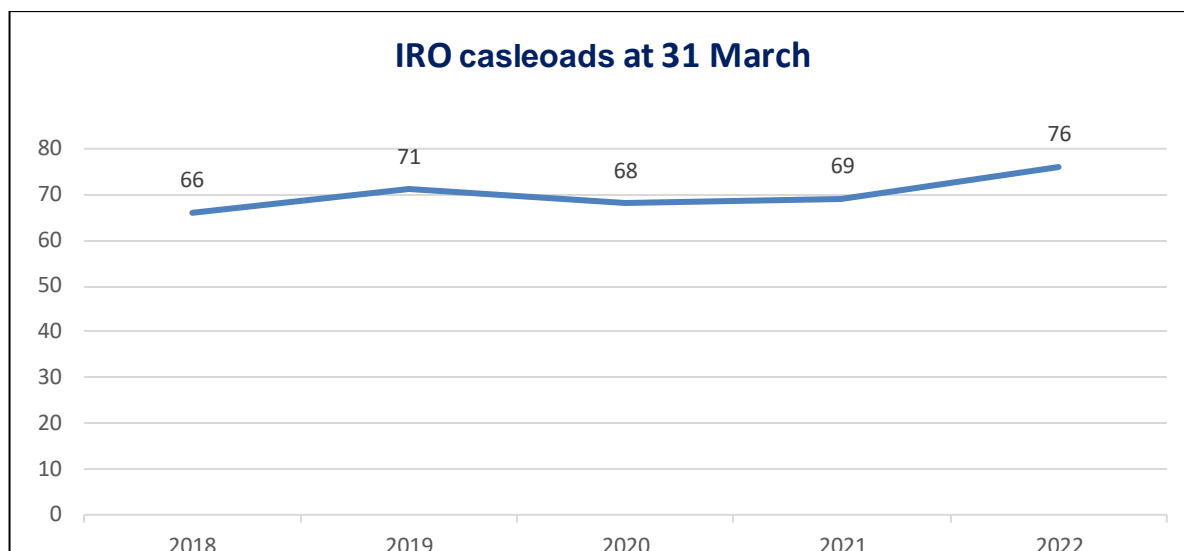
Section 17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The changes set out in this report contribute to the Council Plan in particular by maximising the potential of our young people and supporting the most vulnerable in the borough.
Efficiency	This report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report will assist in advising on matters that impact on Looked After Children.

MAIN REPORT

7. The Independent Reviewing Officers are committed to achieving the best outcomes for children and young people in Darlington who are looked after and those subject to Child Protection Plans.
8. The service is responsible for the following statutory functions:
 - (a) Initial Child Protection Conferences
 - (b) Child Protection Review Conferences
 - (c) Child Looked After Reviews
 - (d) Annual Foster Carer Reviews
 - (e) Adoption Reviews
 - (f) Disruption Meetings
 - (g) Reviews of Children placed in Secure Accommodation
9. In Darlington, Independent Reviewing Officers undertake a range of non-statutory functions including, providing advice and guidance, child protection training and are members of formal panels.

Staffing Levels and Caseloads

10. Responsibility for the operational management, performance and development of the Service lies with the Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Independent Review, who reports to the Head of Practice, Children and Adult Services.
11. During 2021-22 the team has been carrying a 0.6 (FTE) vacancy. The remainder of the substantive posts are permanent appointments. At 31 March 2022 there were 4.6 (FTE) Independent Reviewing Officer in post, the 0.6 (FTE) vacancy and an additional 0.4 (FTE) contracted post to undertake Annual Foster Carer Reviews.
12. The statutory guidance in the IRO Handbook (2010) recommends that caseloads for Independent Reviewing Officer need to be between 50 and 70 LAC children.
13. Annual Foster Carer Reviews continue to be undertaken by a part-time contracted Reviewing Officer to ensure independence and avoid any conflict of interest.
14. Over the last 12 months, the size of caseloads for Independent Reviewing Officers in Darlington has risen from an average of 69 children to 76 children. This is currently higher than the level set in the statutory guidance.



15. This figure does not include the additional tasks undertaken by Independent Reviewing Officers.
16. When caseloads are manageable it allows Independent Reviewing Officers to have sufficient time to provide a quality service to each Child Looked After including meeting with the child before the review to ensure that their views are clearly understood, consulting with Social Workers following significant changes, monitoring drift and where appropriate, ensuring that a challenge is made.
17. There is a statutory requirement in the IRO Handbook to ensure sufficient administrative support to Independent Reviewing Officers in relation to Looked After Reviews. Current responsibilities include the administering and producing a record of Child Protection Conferences as well as the administrative function in relation to Children Looked After. Regular meetings are held with the Business Support Team leader to agree how the team can best support the Independent Reviewing Officers / Child Protection Conference Chairs.

Management and Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance

18. To ensure that the effectiveness of the Unit and ability to provide a key Quality Assurance function, it is essential that the Independent Review Team have the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding.
19. The quality and effectiveness of the Children's Safeguarding Unit is ensured through:
 - (a) Workload Allocation
 - (b) Supervision and annual Personal Development Review (PDR)
 - (c) Team Meetings
 - (d) Audit / Direct Observations of practice
 - (e) Training and Development
 - (f) Annual registration and accreditation through Social Work England

Workload Allocation

20. All Children Looked After and / or children subject to Child Protection Plans are allocated a designated Independent Reviewing Officer with the intention that where possible the allocation will remain consistent, until the child is no longer Looked After or subject to a Child Protection Plan.
21. The team have had a part-time vacancy since June 2020. The position was advertised three times unsuccessfully. Higher salaries are offered in the region, so it has been difficult to attract suitable candidates. Over the year 2021-22 agency cover and staff working additional hours have been necessary to cover the vacancy.
22. Allocations are monitored regularly and form part of the discussion in monthly supervision sessions.

Training and Development

23. Individual training requirements for Independent Reviewing Officers are identified through supervision and annual appraisals.
24. This year the Independent Reviewing Officer development session (April 2021) was on how we can utilise the restorative approach that is part of the Leeds Strengthening Families Programme.
25. Bespoke Independent Reviewing Officer Training was commissioned regionally and delivered by Edge Hill University. The majority of Independent Reviewing Officers completed this in March 2022.
26. Outside of this Independent Reviewing Officers complete training in line with corporate requirements (i.e., mandatory Academy 10 Training modules).

Registration and accreditation

27. As the National Assessment Accreditation System (NAAS) for Social Workers was put on hold due to Covid, none of the Independent Reviewing Officers have completed the accreditation this year. Two team members completed the NAAS prior to the pandemic. The NAAS has now been discontinued.
28. All Independent Reviewing Officers are registered with Social Work England and have completed the required annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and evidenced this as part of their continued registration as Social Work practitioners.

Next steps for 2022/23

29. The following are scheduled for action in 2022/23:
 - (a) To develop a hybrid model for Child Protection Conferences that allow for agency representatives to contribute virtually while allowing Social Workers and families to attend the meeting with the Child protection Conference Chair.

- (b) To increase the number of children who attend their actual Child Looked After Review as opposed to sending their views to the meeting.
- (c) To increase the uptake of advocacy services for children & young people who are the subject of Child Protection Conferences.
- (d) Ensuring the Independent Reviewing Officer footprint continues to be a focus for Independent Reviewing Officers. This needs to be evident on the child's electronic record and through Independent Reviewing Officer disputes.

Intentionally

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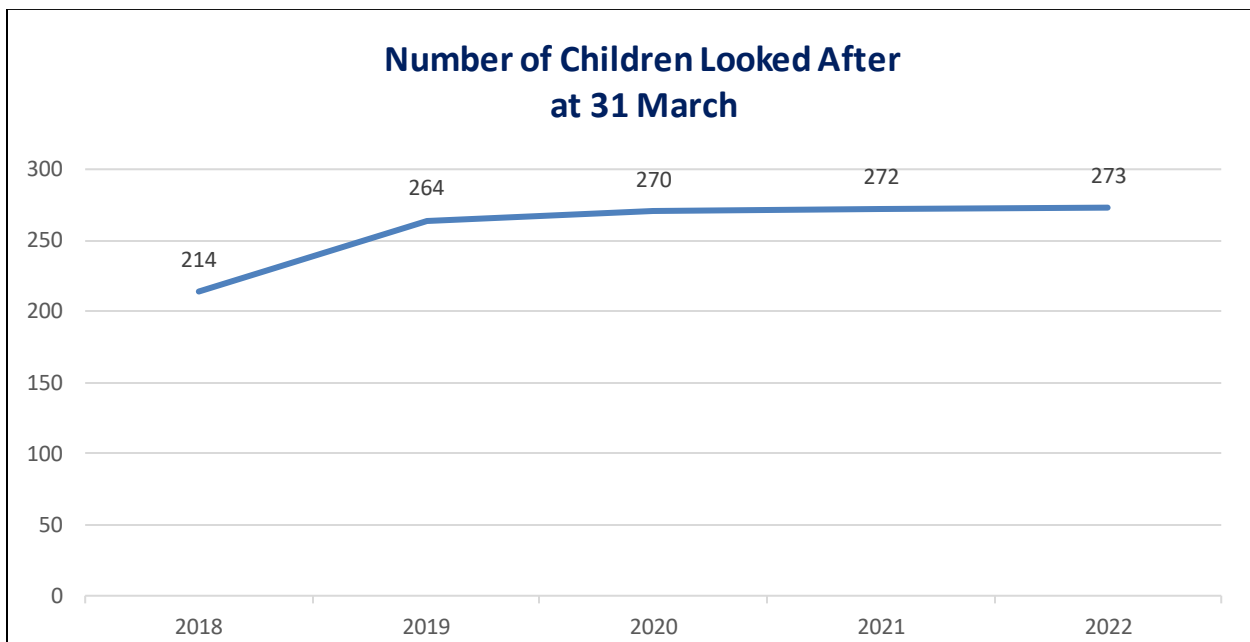
Page

Part 1: INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

1. The Independent Review Officer (IRO) has a statutory responsibility / role in relation to Children Looked After. This is set out within the statutory framework of the IRO Handbook (2010) which is linked to the revised Care Planning Regulations and Guidance (2011). The responsibility of the Independent Reviewing Officer changed from the management of the Review process to a wider overview of the child’s case including regular monitoring and follow-up between Reviews. The Independent Reviewing Officer has a key role in relation to the improvement of Care Planning for Children Looked After (CLA) and for challenging drift and delay.

Children Looked After

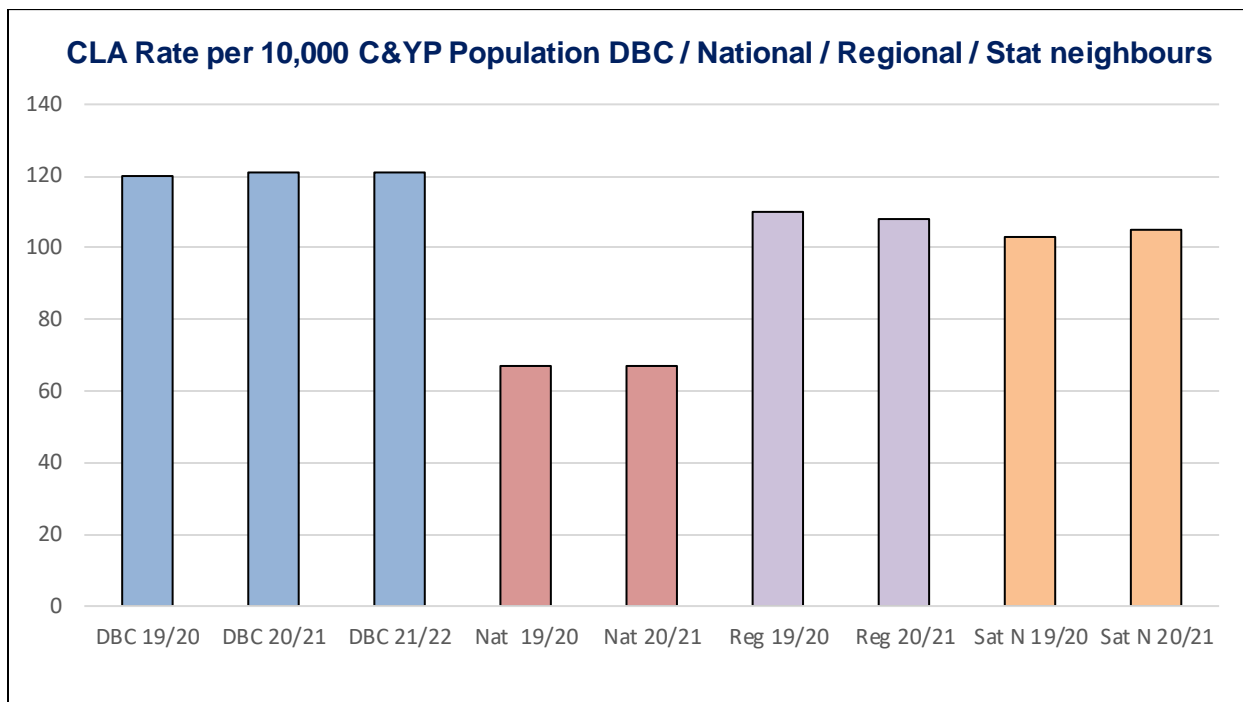
2. At the end of March 2022 there were 273 Children Looked After in Darlington, a similar position to the previous year (272).
3. The chart below shows the end of year number of Children Looked After over the last 5 years.



4. The rate of Looked After Children in Darlington has remained high; there was a significant increase during 2018, since then, the position is not necessarily as stable as it appears; the number went above 300 during the period August - November 2020, however this reduced and stabilised in 2021-22.

Children Looked After rate per 10,000

5. The table below is expressed as the rate per 10,000, which allows benchmarking with other councils (the most recent published data on National (England) and comparator groups of Regional (north-east) authorities and statistical neighbours.



6. At the end of March 2022, 273 children were looked after by Darlington a rate of 121 per 10,000 which is the same rate as 2020/21.
7. Darlington continues to have a significantly higher rate of Children Looked After than the national average but is more in line with Regional and Statistical Neighbours. It should be noted the most recent published data is as of 31 March 2021 and there has been a national increase in Children Looked After over the year. The comparator figures for 31 March 2022 will be published in the autumn.

Child Looked After Demographics

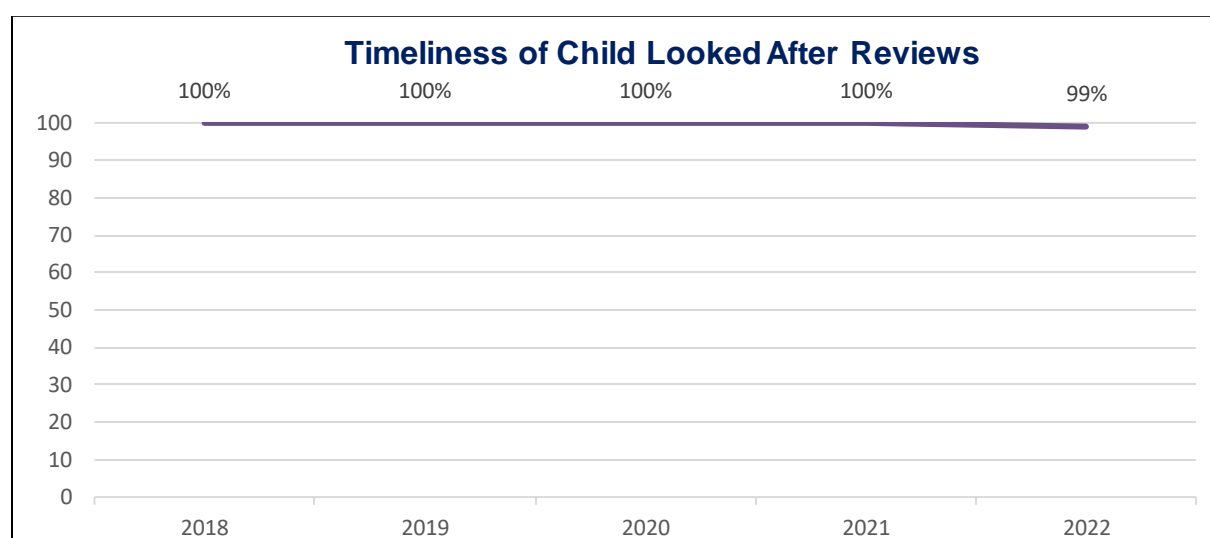
Age of Children Looked After (as of 31 March)	2018	2019	2020		2021		2022	
Under 1	5%	8%	15	6%	11	4%	25	9%
1-4	15%	16%	51	19%	56	21%	53	19%
5-9	26%	26%	71	26%	68	25%	63	23%
10-15	35%	39%	100	37%	100	37%	100	37%
16-17	18%	12%	33	12%	37	14%	32	12%
Total	214	264	270		272		273	

8. The age profile of Darlington's Looked After population has remained stable over the last 4 years. The largest proportion of Children Looked After in Darlington continue to be between 10 and 15 years old which matches to the distribution nationally.

Ethnicity of Children Looked After (as of 31 March)	2018	2019	2020		2021		2022	
White	92%	91%	244	90%	250	92%	249	91%
Mixed	4%	5%	12	4%	10	4%	14	5%
Asian or Asian British	3%	3%	9	3%	7	3%	6	2%
Black or Black British	1%	1%	5	2%	4	2%	1	<1%
Other	0%	0%	0	0%	1	<1%	3	1%
Total	214	264	270		272		273	

9. The ethnic population of Children Looked After in Darlington has remained stable over the previous 4 years. This is predictable due to the continued, comparative, lack of ethnic diversity within the Darlington population, when compared to the national position.

Looked After Reviews and Timescales



10. The above chart shows that during 2020-21 performance in relation to the percentage of Children’s reviews which were completed within statutory timescales was 99%, almost matching the performance of recent years.

Children’s participation and contact with Independent Reviewing Officer

11. Participation is based on one of the following methods of participation:
- (a) Attending their Review and speaking on their own behalf,
 - (b) Attending their review but having another person speak for them,
 - (c) Not attending the review but providing their views in a written form or through another facilitative medium, and /or
 - (d) Not attending the review but briefing an advocate to represent their views.
12. Children’s participation in their Looked After Review looks at those children over the age of 4 years who participate in their statutory review through attending or other form of

contribution (via advocate, written submission etc.). At the end of this reporting year, 747 individual Looked After Reviews were held, which is lower than last year at 784.

C&YP Participation in Reviews (over the age of 4 years)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Participated	88%	90%	96%	94%	93%

13. The aim will be to increase the proportion of children and young people over the age of 4 that attend their review meeting, and to reduce the number of meetings where there are no views expressed.
14. When a child becomes looked After, their Independent Reviewing Officer will contact them, if aged 4 or over, and arrange to meet them prior to their Child Looked After Review. During the Covid period, most of these contacts were virtual.
15. The IRO Handbook recommends the Independent Reviewing Officer meets with the child / young person within their placement, prior to their meeting or as part of the review process. Despite the increase in Independent Reviewing Officer caseloads over the last year, this contact with young people between reviews has been maintained.
16. Independent Reviewing Officers currently record on the Liquid Logic case management system when they visit, have a Microsoft Teams, telephone, text conversation, or other form communication, with a child or young person.

Permanence Planning and Adoption

17. At the second Child Looked After Review scheduled within 4 months of a child or young person becoming looked after, the Permanence Plan should be agreed. The Independent Reviewing Officer will then actively monitor the care planning process to minimize any drift or delay. In 2020/21, all children had their permanency plan discussed at their 4-month review.
18. Additional Children Looked After Reviews are required when the decision is taken that a child is to be adopted. When a child becomes the subject of a Placement Order an Adoption Review is required. For children moving into an adoption placement, additional reviews are held within 28 days and at 3 months regardless of when the last looked after review was held. It is therefore possible for individual children to have up to four Looked After Reviews within a twelve-month period.

Dispute Resolution Process

19. One of the key functions of the Independent Reviewing Officer is to resolve problems arising out of the Care Planning process. The Dispute Resolution process reinforces the authority of the Independent Reviewing Officer and their accountability for decisions made at reviews. Independent Reviewing Officers will refer to the process when they feel that it is appropriate to follow up on recommendations that have not been actioned or where the implementation of a Care Plan is delayed. Independent Reviewing Officers will in the first instance use informal negotiation to resolve issues, and only where this is not successful will a formal challenge be made by instigating the Dispute Resolution Process.

20. There continues to be good evidence of the 'IRO footprint' in children's records. They appropriately challenge Social Workers and Team Managers to help progress plans and reduce delay for children. Evidence of Independent Reviewing Officer involvement in cases is checked via audits, dip sampling and through regular case supervision.

Foster Carer Reviews

21. Local Authorities are required by Regulation 29 (The Fostering Services Regulations 2001) to review the approval of foster carers at least once a year. The additional part-time contracted Reviewing Officer has been retained. Ofsted during their re-inspection commented that it was good practice to have someone other than an Independent Reviewing Officer undertaking this role due to possible conflicts of interest.
22. All Darlington Borough Foster Carers and Connected Carers should receive an annual review.
23. In the year (2021-22); 86% of Annual Foster Carer Reviews were completed. Where annual reviews were not completed in the year this was due to either the Carer or Social Worker availability due to Covid or where the Social Worker had changed. All outstanding reviews have now been completed.
24. All recommendations made were for Foster Carer re-approval, no recommendations were in relation to de-registration. If there had been any significant changes to circumstances, or concerns raised at the Annual Review, these would be referred to the Children's Placement Service Panel.

Annual Foster Carer Reviews (as of 31 March)	2020/21	201/22
Number of Foster Carers	51	55
Number of Connected Carers	19	20
Total number of carers	70	75
Percentage completed in year	95%	86%

Secure Reviews

25. In the year, one young person was subject to a Secure Accommodation Order that required a Secure Accommodation Review.

Observations of Independent Reviewing Officer

26. To ensure that quality of practice each year a programme of direct observations of Independent Reviewing Officers of Looked After Reviews is undertaken by the line manager. This is statutory requirement.
27. Findings:
- (a) There is evidence that mid-term reviews are taking place and that there is meaningful contact with young people prior to their Child Looked After Review meeting.

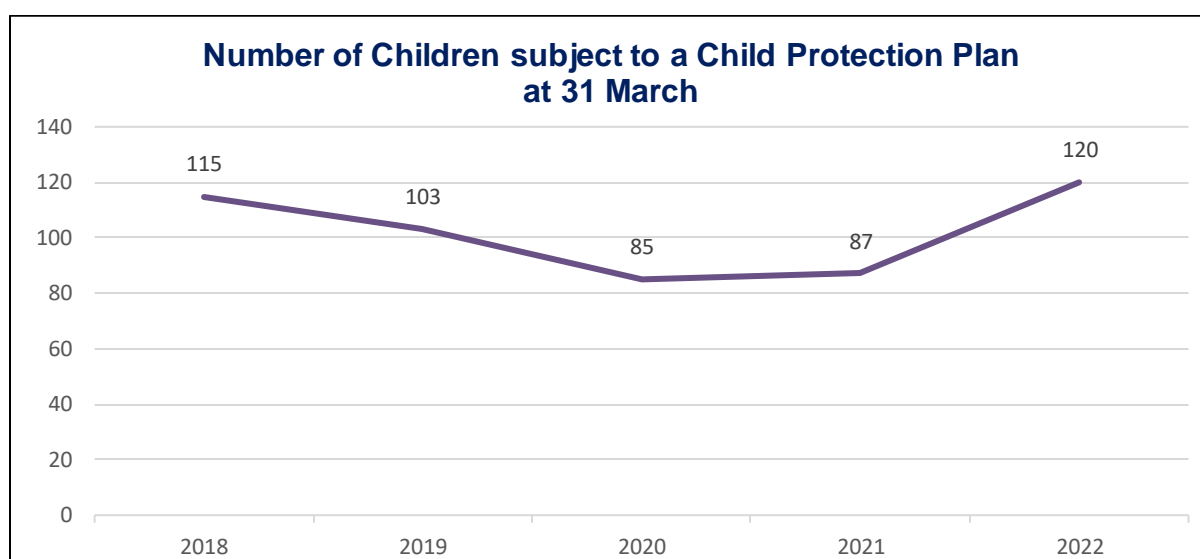
- (b) During the Covid period, Independent Reviewing Officers have on occasions arranged to meet young people outside to discuss their placement and upcoming reviews.
- (c) During the Covid period, Independent Reviewing Officers have used technology to ensure that they maintained a relationship with young people.
- (d) Independent Reviewing Officers chairing Child Looked After Reviews have a good understanding of the child's circumstances and the plan for the child.
- (e) Independent Reviewing Officer recording of what has been discussed with the child / Young person prior to the Child's Looked After Review was not always evident in a case note on the electronic record.
- (f) Where age appropriate the young people involved attend and contribute well to their review meetings. When they do attend, they feel able to contribute and to raise their own issues.

Part 2: CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

1. The statutory requirements for individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children are set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children, A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (July 2018).
2. Working Together stipulates that the chair of a Child Protection Conference needs to be accountable to the Director of Children's Services, and should be a professional, independent of operational and / or line management responsibilities for the case. In Darlington this function is undertaken by Independent Reviewing Officers.

Number of Children subject to Child Protection Plans

3. The chart below shows the number of Children subject to Child Protection Plans (CPP) over the last 5 years.



4. The total number of children with a Child Protection Plan on 31 March 2022 was 120; a rate of 53.3 per 10,000 children under the age of 18 years. This is higher than the figure position at the end of March 2021, when the figure stood at 87 (a rate of 38.8 per 10,000).
5. Although this is higher than last year, it remains below our statistical neighbours (55.8) and north-east regional local authorities (67.2), but higher than the National average of 31 March 2021. In the year nationally the rate has reduced (42.8 to 41.4). Published benchmark data for 2021/2 will be available later in the year.

Child Protection by Category

6. At the end March 2022, 120 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan. Nationally the most recent published data is for March 2021. In the tables below please note that the percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Of the 120 children:

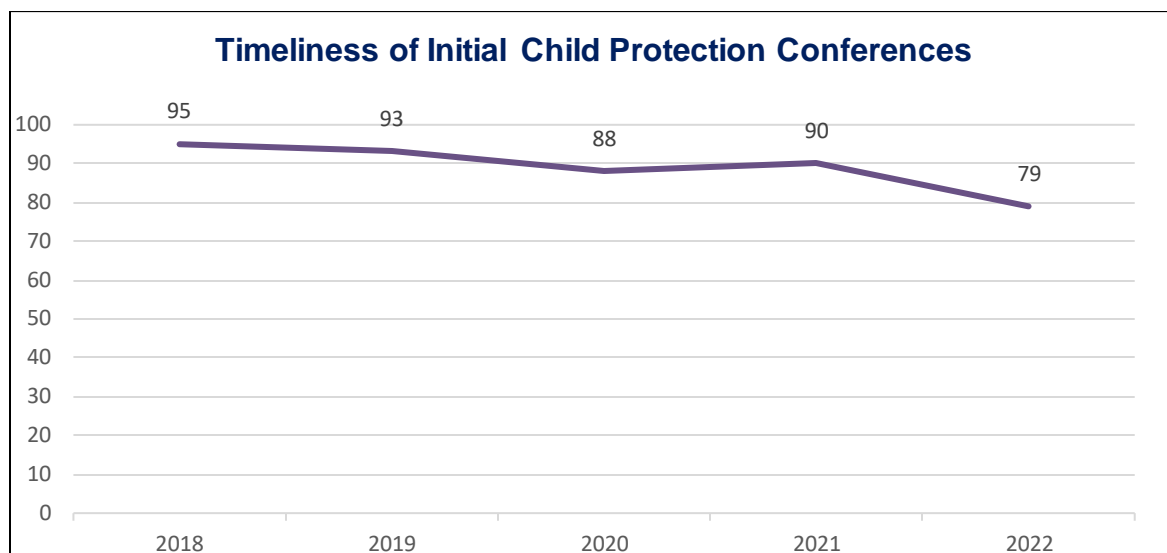
Category of Abuse	DBC 2021	National 2021	DBC 2022
Neglect	36%	47%	47%
Physical	26%	6%	21%
Sexual	1%	4%	9%
Emotional	37%	40%	23%
Multiple		2%	
Total	87		120

7. The proportion of Children subject to Child Protection Plan where the risk is Neglect or Emotional Abuse remains broadly in line with the national position in that they remain the highest categories. Due to the size of the population in the borough, locally percentages relating to categories can be impacted by one or two families either becoming, to or ceasing to be subject to a child Protection Plan.
8. On the 31 March 2021 there were 87 children subject to Child Protection Plans; over the 12 months to 31 March 2022 this had increased to 120 children. 121 Children had Plans removed and 154 new Plans were made.

CP Plan Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New CP Plan	138	180	155	117	154
CP Plan ceased	94	192	173	115	121
Change	+44	-12	-18	+2	+33

9. The table above shows overall activity in relation to Child Protection Plans (numbers becoming subject to or ceasing).
10. Over the year, 89 Initial Child Protection Conferences or Transfer Conferences (where a child who is subject to a protection plan in another local authority moves to Darlington) were held [combined total of 178 children]. In addition, 146 Child Protection Review Conferences were held [for 263 children].
11. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 78 Initial Child Protection Conferences [133 children] or and 124 Child Protection Review Conferences [250 children].
12. In the year, the proportion of children subject to Initial Child Protection Conferences who were not made subject to a Child Protection Plan was 13.5%, this is between the figures for the previous two years; [11.9% & 16.6%]. Although it is appropriate for some children to be considered at an Initial Child Protection Conference where no Child Protection Plan is made, it is important that children and families are not subjected to this process unnecessarily.
13. In Darlington at the end of March there were three children with a disability who were subject to a Child Protection Plan, a small increase from the previous year. This information is not currently part of the nationally published data, so no comparison is available.

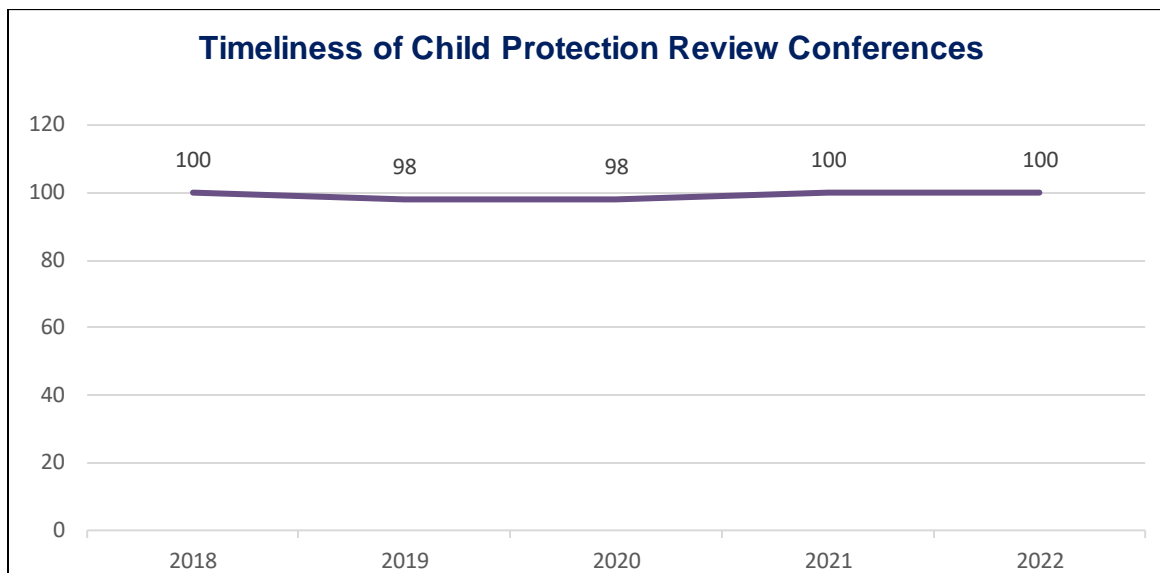
Timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conferences



14. The chart above tracks the Initial Child Protection Conferences held within the year and records the percentage that are held within 15 working days of the multi-agency Strategy Meeting that agreed the section 47 enquiry.
15. For the year to 31 March 2022, 138 (79%) of children were subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference (this excludes transfer conferences) held within 15 working days of the Strategy Meeting. Although performance this year has dropped it remains in line with the region [80%] and is better than the national benchmark [71%].
16. Thirty-five children from fifteen families had meetings delayed for the following reasons:
 - (a) Delay in the conference being requested
 - (b) ICPC booked, cancelled then rearranged; new date was out of timescale.
17. In each case an interim plan was in place to ensure that the children were safeguarded.

Timeliness of Child Protection Review Conferences

18. The Working Together guidance requires that the first review should be within 3 months of the Initial Child Protection Conference and thereafter at intervals of no more than 6 months.



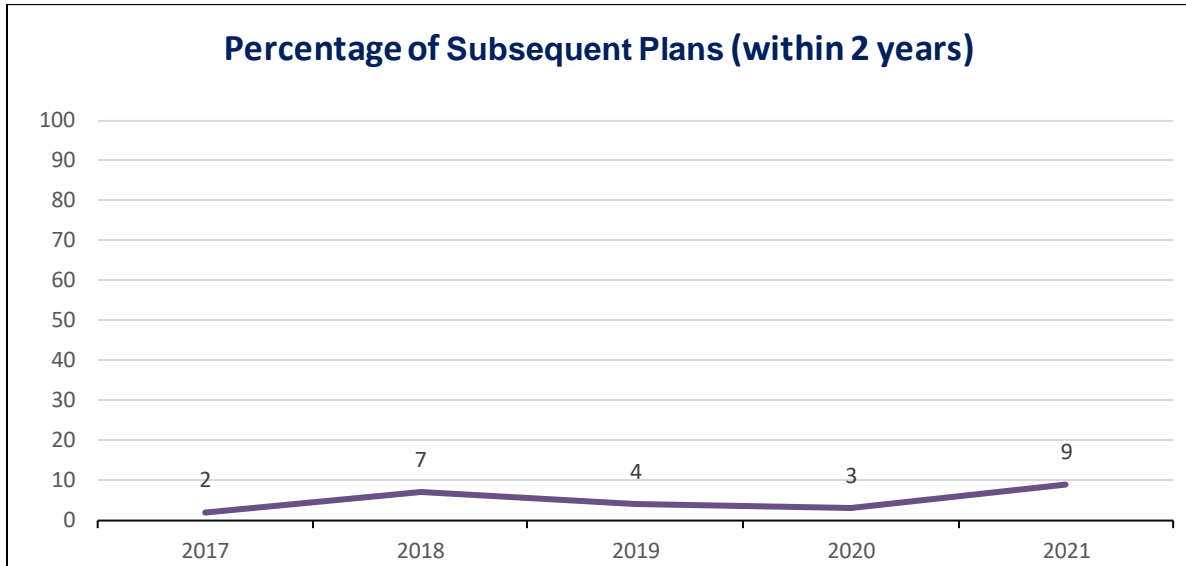
19. The above chart tracks the percentage of Child Protection cases which were reviewed within statutory timescales in the year. Good performance for this indicator is typified by a higher percentage, ideally 100%. In recent years this has been an area of excellent performance.
20. For the year to 31 March 2022, 100% of children had their Child Protection Review Conferences within timescales. Again, performance in this area remains higher than Regional [91%], National [93%] and statistical neighbours [92%] (most recent published data).

Child Protection Review Conferences within timescales	2020/2021			2020/22
	Darlington	North-East	England	Darlington
	100%	91%	93%	100%

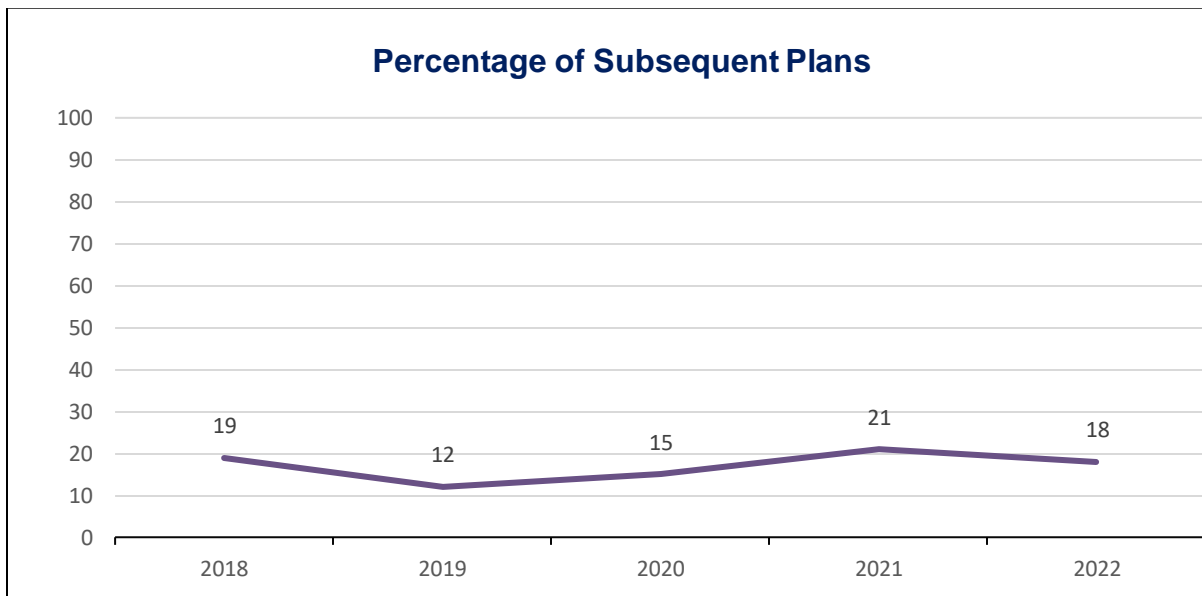
21. Published benchmark data for 2021/22 will be available later in the year.

Second or Subsequent Plans

22. The chart below shows the percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plans for a second or subsequent time (within 24 months).

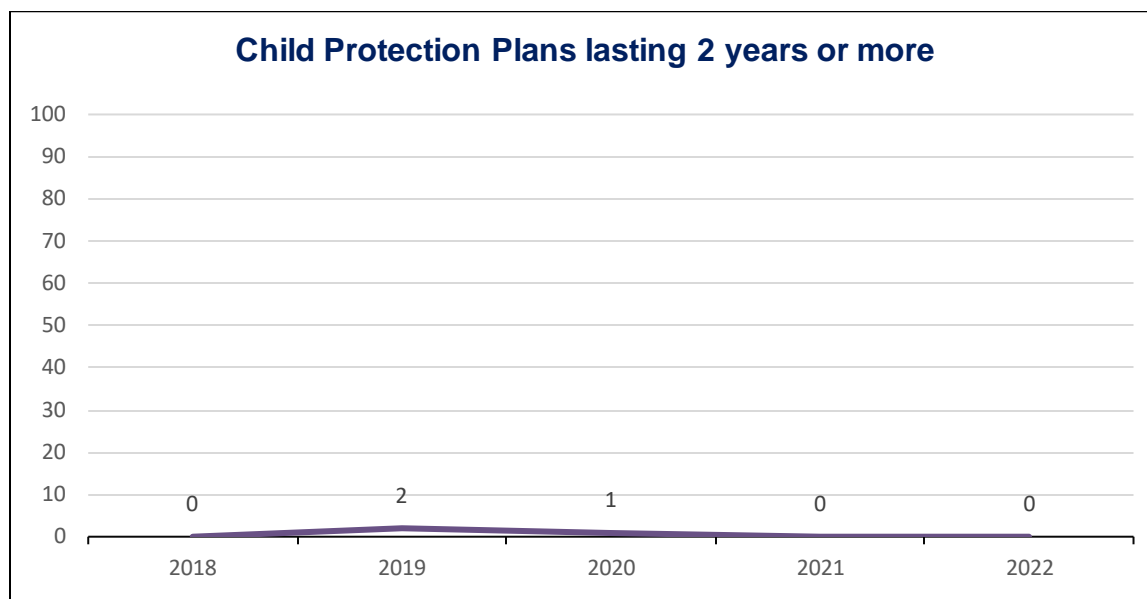


23. This indicator is a proxy for the level and quality of service a child receives. Its purpose is to monitor whether Children's Social Care Services devise and implement a Child Protection Plan which leads to lasting improvement in a child's safety and overall well-being. Good performance for this indicator is typified by a lower figure. However, it is acknowledged that a second or subsequent Child Protection Plan will sometimes be necessary to deal with adverse changes to the child's circumstances.



24. National benchmarked data is based on a second or subsequent plan being agreed at any time after a previous plan. Our rate for 2021-22 was 18%, a slight decrease over the year and it remains roughly in line with the National average of 22%, regional average 21% and statistical neighbours 23% (most recent published data).

Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more



25. The above chart tracks the number of children who had been the subject of a Child Protection Plan continuously for two years or longer against the number of children ceasing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan during the year, expressed as percentage.
26. This indicator reflects the underlying principle that professionals should be working towards specified outcomes which, if implemented effectively, should lead to most children not needing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan for longer than two years. It is however recognised that some children will need Child Protection Plans for longer. Good performance is therefore typified by a lower percentage.
27. The percentage of children ceasing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan who had been the subject of a Child Protection Plan continuously for two years or longer was 0% during the year to 31 March 2022.
28. The percentage of Child Protection Plans ceasing where the plan had lasted more than 2 years in Darlington [0%] is currently below the regional average [1%] and national [2%] and statistical neighbours average [4%] at 31 March 2021. Published benchmark data for 2021/2022 will be available later in the year.

Family attendance at Conference

29. In the year parental involvement was 94% for Initial Child Protection Conferences and of 92% for Child Protection Review Conferences. Generally, the rate for Child Protection Reviews tends to be lower by a few percentage points. This is in-line with the rate in recent years.

Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
ICPCs attended by parent	95%	94%	92%	92%	94%
CPRCs attended by parent	91%	91%	89%	95%	92%

30. Over the year to 31 March 2022, no family members with parental responsibility were excluded from attending child protection conferences.

31. A draft Child Protection Plan is produced at the end of the Initial Child Protection Conference. The plan is therefore available to professionals and family members at the first Core Group which is held within 10 working days of the Initial Child Protection Conference.

32. The Unit is committed to promoting independent advocacy for children and young people. The Council has a contract with the National Youth Advocacy Service which provides an independent and confidential service. If the young person is not in attendance the Independent Reviewing Officer should ensure that there is an agreed action for the Core Group regarding how the advocacy role will be communicated to the child or young-person.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 FEBRUARY 2023**

THE REFRESHED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2023 -2028

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report asks Scrutiny to consider the proposals for the refreshed Children and Young People’s Plan 2023 – 2028. Although no longer a statutory requirement, the production of a Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) as a strategic plan for delivering outcomes for children and young people and the setting of priorities for the medium term, and as such is considered to be best practice.

Summary

2. The CYPP is one of the identified delivery plans within the Council Plan and identifies what key actions will be taken to deliver the agreed priority of “ensuring that every child in Darlington has the best start in life so that our children and young people can grow and flourish.”
3. The CYPP forms a part of the Council’s Policy Framework and must therefore be approved by Council.
4. Engagement activity with a wide range of stakeholders, including children and young people has been used to develop the refreshed Plan. Consultation feedback on the draft ambitions and priority actions will be used to inform the final refreshed CYPP 2023 - 2027 Plan which will be launched in Spring 2023.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Scrutiny consider the proposed approach to refreshing the CYPP.

Christine Shields
Assistant Director Commissioning Performance and Transformation

Background Papers

6. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This plan will support measures to reduce crime and disorder amongst young people
Health and Wellbeing	This report supports the strategy to improve the health and well-being of children and young people
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Children and Young People
Budget and Policy Framework	N/A
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This report contributes to the priorities agreed by the Council
Efficiency	This report supports the efficient use of partner resources through shared priorities
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

7. Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a CYPP, it is considered good practice to produce a strategic document across partner organisations as there is still a statutory duty for partner agencies to co-operate to support and safeguard children. Regulatory bodies, such as Ofsted also routinely comment on the existence or otherwise of a strategic plan.
8. Development of the refreshed Plan has taken place with input from a wide range of stakeholders including children and young people; young carers; health; police; the voluntary sector, and schools.
9. The Plan is being produced at a time of significant austerity in public finances and will need to be delivered within existing resources, maximising partnership working to deliver the refreshed Plan, and use every opportunity, where possible, to attract additional funding.
10. The refreshed CYPP will be a five-year plan and will be reviewed each year to ensure the key actions being addressed are based on evidence of where the greatest need is and where the biggest impact can be made.
11. Progress against the refreshed CYPP will be managed through the Health and Well Being Board.
12. The refreshed CYPP and its priorities is being extensively consulted on using direct face to face consultation within local schools and the College and with the Darlington Youth Partnership and the Youth MP. Engagement of key partners has also taken place through a multi-agency Steering Group.
13. Following consultation the approach being proposed for the refreshed CYPP is to outline the revised ambitions and priorities for Darlington using short videos/blogs and a poster rather than a lengthy document.
14. Appendix 1 highlights some of the feedback from young people as part of: Make Your Mark; Junior Member of Youth Parliament elections; the Health & Well-being Focus Group held at Polham Hall school and consultation held during Holiday Activity Fund activity sessions.
15. Information has been sent out to schools in their October bulletin and has also been emailed directly to teachers leading on School Council activity (see Appendix 2). Several schools have already responded, and others have invited the Participation Team to meet their school council to discuss their ideas around the 3 themes. Appendix 3 shows photos taken at a session recently held at Redhall school.
16. A Council of School Council meeting will take place towards the end of November which will focus on the refreshed CYPP.
17. To ensure every young person has the opportunity to voice their opinion there has been activity on our Social Media platforms encouraging children and young people to share their views. Emails have gone out to the Consultation & Engagement Network and direct emails

have also been sent to various community and voluntary sector groups such as uniformed organisations, as well as church and support groups.

18. Amy Edwards, Darlington's Junior Member of Youth Parliament, and her Deputy Ella Wallace have created videos on what makes them Glad, Mad & Sad about living in Darlington. Ella's video was posted to social media sites on 20 October. To date it has had 1.2k views and has a reach of 2.9k. There are 6 comments on the original post, with 2 sharing their glad, sad, and mad ideas. The post has been shared 11 times and had a total of 20 comments and 41 reactions. Amy's video was shared on 9th of November, and figures will be reported in due course.
19. All videos that are collected as part of this ongoing work will be compiled into a full-length video. This will be hosted on YouTube and will be posted on Darlington Borough Council and partners websites. It will also be used on our social media channels to promote the refreshed CYPP, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (depending on the length of the video).
20. The poster will also be featured on the website and in social media, and will be sent across to local nurseries, schools, colleges, and our partners. We would recommend that they either print them out for use in their spaces or newsletters or be hosted digitally on their websites.
21. The refreshed CYPP will be completed and launched in Spring 2023

Appendix 1 - Children & Young People's Consultation

MYM (Feb 2022) – 7 secondary schools/3477 votes

- Health & Well-being – access to MH support and food poverty
- Environment – Climate Change & Plastic Pollution
- Education & Learning – Improved Climate education, free uni and better MH support

JMYP (March 2022) – 12 primary school/1241 votes across year 4, 5 & 6

- Free outdoor activities to help keep children fit and healthy
- School to plant more trees – cleaner air
- Children to help choose new school staff
- Road Safety – stricter speed limits around school
- Bullying – blanket policy across all schools
- Environment – recycling mandatory across all schools & environmental education as part of PSHE

Well-being Focus Group at Polam Hall (July 2022)– School Council Reps

I feel healthy when?

- Good nutrition and feel positive and happy - school improving balanced diet by demonstrating & improving understanding of good nutrition – practical examples
- Good mood and feel more motivated
- Sleep and good breakfast
- Sport & exercise
- Good environment and positive attitude
- Reading leads to good mental health – variety of books difference between school & reading for pleasure
- When I feel motivated – which happens when I have been outdoors and taken part in exercise – see a big improvement since covid

Describe Health and Wellbeing in 3 words?

- Happy, safe, growth
- Mood, mental, physical
- Self-care, environment, people
- Safety, happiness, relationships with friends & family
- Peace of mind (effects the way you learn – school help but its out responsibility took a hit through covid, but schools did what they could)
- Comfortable, secure, kind
- Calm, family, life

What are the main issues affecting young people in your area?

- Mental wellbeing – not seen as important as physical wellbeing – anxiety/scared to come back to school
- Social anxiety – pressure of coming back and what people might say
- Isolation – shock to the system to be back at school/leaving family members
- What kids can access at the shops – unhealthy food
- Self-confidence – living on social media and pressure to live perfect lives

- Eating things that aren't good for you and being shamed for it
- Generalisation/stereotypes – grown-ups' expectations of what they think young people will do and the worries of young people spreading covid 'super spreaders'

What are some of the solutions?

- CHAM's waiting lists to long – 6mths to 2 yrs. – groups sessions might help and free up time for those in need of more support on an individual basis
- Not enough places to go and do positive activities – for example community centres – this leads to issues when young people play out without supervision – parent classes to help those with issues live in a calmer environment
- Shops – target local smaller shops and ask them to do better – not sell unhealthy things to children
- Violence and aggression – seen in the media
- Social media makes young people mature quickly – seeing things a lot earlier than younger generations

What do you wish people in power knew?

- Don't generalise – not everything works for everyone – there is not enough research happening
- Set some rules – adults educated around how to treat and talk to young people
- Stereotyping young people does not help – makes MH worse
- Peer to peer support
- Get down with the young people!
- Don't have experience of growing up now – we are people not numbers and stats
- Understand that economics and things important but so is mental health

How accessible are Health and Wellbeing services for young people?

- Often find support is marketed to adults or not in a way to attract young people's attention – often underestimate our intelligence
- What about using pop-ups or adverts and directly target young people
- Accessibility for young people to access MH support is very slim – needs to be a wider range of support (discussed I Thrive model)
- Accessibility to support on the internet is great but how do we know we are accessing the right support
- Discussed Kooth – what's its usage? Felt it was a good balance but not for everyone

HAF Sessions (Summer 2022)

Firthmoor – 6-10 years old

What's good?

- Soft play – DC & roarsome, rof59, planet leisure, jump 360
- Game World
- Dolphin Centre – all the activities it offers
- Feel safe in local area/ parents & HAF club makes me feel safe
- Events in town over summer – beach party and magic
- HAF sessions – spending time with friends, making new friends, learning new skills
- Parks – South Park, Preston Park
- Shopping in town
- After school clubs

- Hippodrome
- MUGA to play football in
- Railway Museum
- No worries – at school I have people to talk too

Want to see more of?

- More activities – outdoor water park like at Chester-Le-Street, bug hunting club, jewellery making classes
- More shows & activities at Firthmoor Community Centre
- Plant more trees
- Trip
- School – only 3 days a week!
- Schools keeping up with technology
- Better school lunches
- More spaces to learn new sports & make new friends – more HAF clubs
- More bins and bins that make compact & compost

Mount Pleasant – 7- to 10-year-olds (Dave Draws map of Darlington)

What's good?

- Nice places to walk – fields and along the river
- Dolphin Centre – all activities
- Head of Steam
- Theatre
- Brick train
- South Park – lots of space
- Cockerton Park
- Planet Leisure
- 'It's my home town'
- Library and holiday activities

More of?

- Activities on the river!
- Cut the grass in the parks
- Plant more trees
- Sometimes I don't feel safe down the alleys near me as there are gangs of older young people

Corporation Road Primary – 7- to 10-year-olds

What's good?

- All the activities & events in the town centre
- Soft plays
- Dolphin Centre
- Shopping
- Eating out – white horse pub, Starbucks & Costa
- Library – reading challenge
- Outdoor ambitions activities in parks
- Head of Steam

- Gymnastics Club
- After school clubs
- Hangout and play at Springfield Park and North Park - feel safe but sometimes the teenagers make it a bit scary
- Play out after school with friends and I feel safe
- I ride my bike to friends' houses and we hang out and listen to music

More of?

- More clubs – after school activities like those we've enjoyed at HAF
- Littering campaigns
- Plant more trees
- Stop pollution of our local areas

How do you feel?

- Bullying can happen anywhere, and it can cause worries
- 'I have a lot of stress in my life, so I draw a lot to help relax
- Feel relaxed about my SAT's – looking forward to them being over so I can go on a residential
- Stop bullying – there should be no more fighting

Dolphin Centre – 10 to 14 years olds from Carmel and Rydal

What's good?

- Darlington is quiet
- People take care of you
- These HAF activities – apart from dance and no swimming this time!
- Town Centre
- Dolphin Centre
- Library – need more books in different languages/enjoyed activities in holiday for example Harry Potter
- Head of Steam
- Schools are really good

What's not so good?

- Bullying – not dealt with when reported
- Vaping should be stopped
- More swimming in schools
- Tackling the litter issues in local areas
- Worry about the environment
- Pedestrian safety – not enough zebra crossings
- Paths and roads need fixing as not safe when riding our bikes/ more bike paths
- More bike trails – ramps not just in skate park areas
- Bus stops with cover for people waiting – often go to school wet!
- Sporting events & activities for everyone– now in secondary schools activities are very selective – non-competitive opportunities
- Bands in the parks
- Treasure hunts

Dolphin Centre – 7 to 11 years old – Wyvern, Reid Street, Mount Pleasant, Holy family, Winfield

What's good?

- Dolphin Centre
- HAF activities
- People are nice
- Shops in the town centre
- Parks – Cockerton, West Park, Preston, South Park, Denes
- Head of Steam
- Activities – football, gymnastics, dance

What could be better?

- Everyone learn sign-language
- Better sized houses
- Ban drugs and smoking
- Tackle littering, more recycling, stop vandalism
- Improve roads and paths – stop us tripping over
- Pedestrian safety - more zebra crossings and better placement of them
- Bike riding safety
- Healthy food in schools
- More clubs like this (HAF)/ give us chance to have taster sessions of lots of different sports & activities
- Bus stops and buses being late

Worries

- Cost of living crisis – worries for my parents now and me when I am older
- More and better jobs
- Like to play out but sometimes don't because of gangs of teenagers

Appendix 2

Email to schools

What makes you happy? Children and Young People’s Plan – attachment 3

- *Darlington Borough Council is in the process of refreshing the Children and Young People’s Plan. The aim of the plan is to understand the needs of children and young people and ensure we are able to provide the best support possible to everyone aged 0–25-year-old living in Darlington.*
- *A copy of the current plan can be found [here](#) and as you will see, it is rather long! We are hoping to make this plan much simpler and children and young people friendly.*
- *To help us ensure we are doing our very best, we would love to hear from your pupils! We simply want them to tell us, what makes them GLAD, MAD & SAD about growing up in Darlington.*
- *They can draw a picture using the template below, take some photos or make a short video however they want to respond. Their responses will be used to help ensure we are providing our children and young people with what they need and please note they may be used in future marketing so parental consent might be required.*
- *If your School Council would like us to come in and talk to them about this then please get in touch with joanne.shutt@darlington.gov.uk by Wednesday, 30th November. We’ll be more than happy to come along, have a good discussion and help with recording their thoughts either via a short video or simply making some notes.*

**Living in Darlington -
What makes you...**

Glad?
.....

Sad?
.....

Mad?
.....

Darlington Borough Council with partners such as the Police, Health and voluntary sector are looking to refresh our Children and Young People’s Plan.

The aim of the Plan is to help us make Darlington the best possible town to grow up in.

If you go to school or college in Darlington can you help us make sure we are looking at the things most important to you!

Draw or write what makes you glad, sad and mad about living in Darlington in the spaces provided overleaf

When you’re done, fill in the information below:

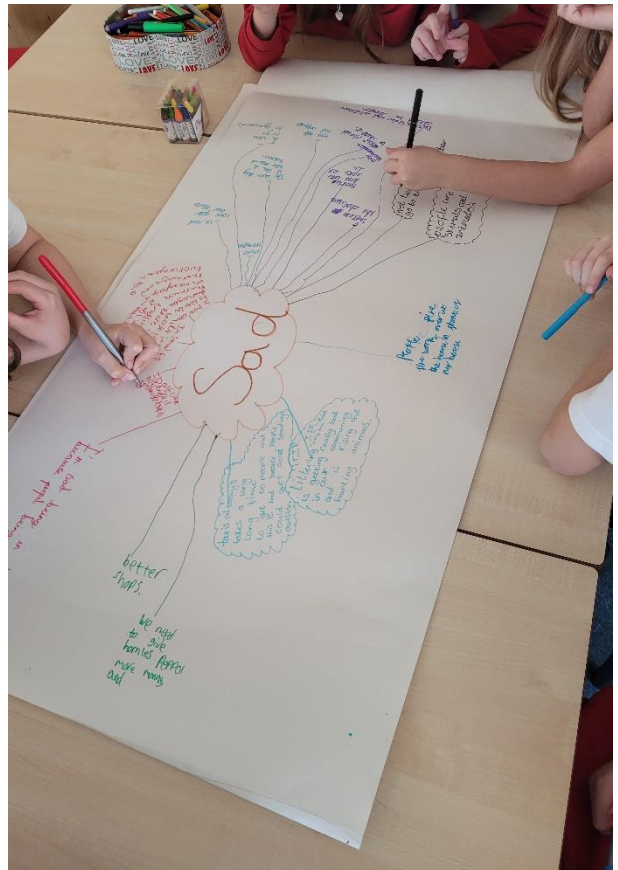
Name

Age

School

.....

Appendix 3



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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
27 FEBRUARY 2023**

WORK PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2022/23 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

Summary

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the 2022/23 Municipal Year which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee in the last Municipal Year.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure. (**Appendix 2**)

Recommendations

4. Members are requested to note the work programme and consider any additional items which they may wish to include.

**Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Allison Hill

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
6. The Council Plan sets the vision and strategic direction for the Council through to May 2023, with its overarching focus being ‘Delivering Success for Darlington’ .
7. In approving the Council Plan, Members have agreed to the vision for Darlington which is a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate, where the economy continues to grow, where people are happy and proud of the borough and where everyone has the opportunity to maximise their potential.
8. The vision for the Children and Young People portfolio is :

‘a borough where young people get the best start in life, can maximise their potential and are safe’

to maximise the potential of our young people by working with partners to maximise educational achievement; working to remove barriers to young people reaching their potential and working at a Tees Valley level to match jobs with skills and training.

Forward Plan and Additional Items

9. Any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a quad of aims. **Appendix 2**
10. A copy of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Performance Management and Regulation	Q3 June 2023 Q4 21 Aug Q1 23 Oct Q3 Jan 2024	Sharon Raine	Agreed set of indicators	To receive quarterly monitoring reports and undertake any further detailed work into particular outcomes if necessary
Refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan	27 February 2023	Christine Shields		To consider proposals for a refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan
2022/23 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	27 February 2023	Tony Murphy/Nicola Davies		Annual Report
Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2021/22	27 February 2023	Martin Graham	CSC201	To examine the Annual Report of the Independent Reviewing Officer produced by the Children's Safeguarding Unit.
SEND Written Statement of Action	19 June 2023	Tony Murphy		To continue to update scrutiny committee on the implementation and progress of the SEND Written Statement of Action developed following the Ofsted/CQC Inspection on the provision of Special Educational Needs (SEND) support in Darlington.

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Children's Residential Services	19 June 2023	Christine Shields		To update Members on the review of Residential Assurance due to be completed in March 2023
Local Designated Officer Annual Report	21 August 2023	James Stroyan/ Marian Garland		To examine the Annual Report and assure Members that allegations made against staff who work with children are reported and how they are actioned
Children and Young People Public Health Overview and Childhood Healthy Weight Plan	21 August 2023	Ken Ross	PBH 009 PBH 013c PBH 016 PBH 018 PBH 020 PBH 021 PBH 054	Annual Monitoring
Children's Services Self-Assessment - Overview	23 October 2023	Chris Bell		To provide Scrutiny with the Annual Self-Assessment for Children's Services so that constructive 'critical friend' challenge takes place to drive improvement in public services
Learning and Skills Service Annual Report	23 October 2023	Paul Richardson		Annual Report to demonstrate challenge
Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2021/22	23 October 2023	Vicky Davidson-Boyd, Service Manager, Adoption Tees Valley		Annual monitoring
Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	8 January 2024	Ann Baxter, Independent Chair		Annual monitoring

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role

JOINT WORKING

Cross Party Autism Working Group	Final Report of the Autism Provision Review Group to Health and Housing Scrutiny on 14 April 2021. Recommendation to establish a Joint Working Group - ongoing	Christine Shields		To progress the key themes of training and awareness, support, diagnosis and employment, as identified by the Joint Autism Review Group.
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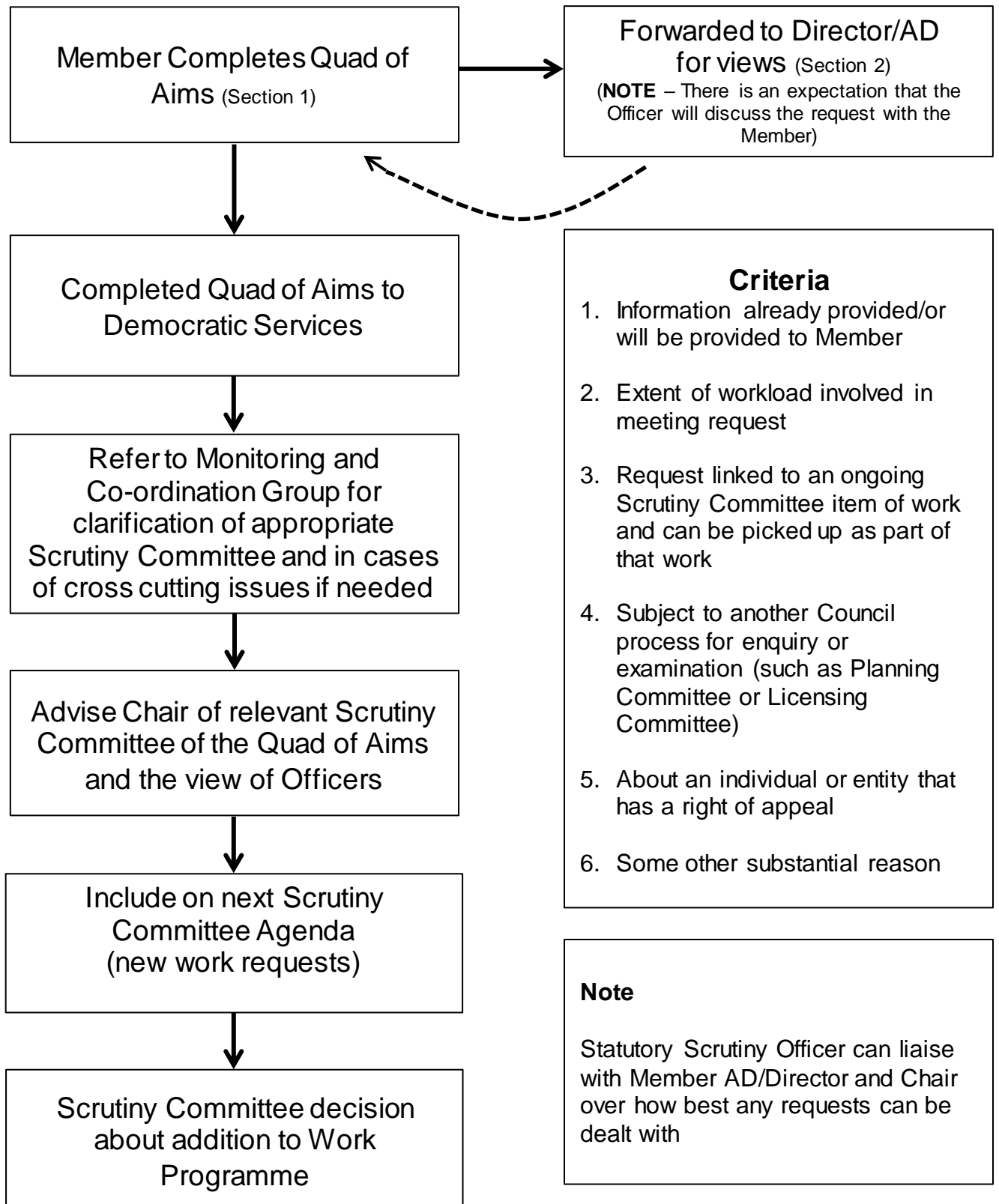
MEMBER BRIEFINGS

Topic	Timescale	Lead Officer	Link to PMF (metrics)	Scrutiny's Role
Tees Valley Combined Authority Education and Skills – Role and Funding	4 February 2022	Shona Duncan, Head of Employment, Education and Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority		Joint presentation to CYP and Economy and Resources Scrutiny to receive specific information on the funding allocation as it relates to this authority and where the spend (adult education up to 28 years) is being focused.
Meet with Young People (Council or Schools Councils/Youth Partnership)	22 February 2022	Joanne Shutt		

ARCHIVED ITEMS

Topic	When considered	Lead Officer	Scrutiny's Role
Accessibility Strategy	21 February 2022	Tony Murphy/ Eleanor Marshall	Progress to date in respect of the review of the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Accessibility Strategy 2017-2020
Vulnerable Pupil Panel	25 April 2022	Tony Murphy/Calvin Kipling	To examine the mechanics of the vulnerable pupil panel and to learn about the process and what the scale of the attendance challenge is
Missing and Exploited Young People	27 June 2022	Alison Poulter	To provide Scrutiny with an update following concerns over the increase in numbers of missing
Childcare Sufficiency Task and Finish Review Final Report	31 October 2022	Tony Murphy/Helen Ellison	To report the findings and recommendations of the Group
Outcomes of the recent Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services	19 December 2022	Chris Bell	To provide Members with an update on the outcomes of the recent Ofsted Inspection
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27	Special 9 January 2023	Elizabeth Davison	To consider the MTFP and scrutinise those areas within the remit of this Committee

PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

NOTE – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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Signed Councillor

Date

SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)

	Criteria
1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes No If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services)	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so?	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff?	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that?	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway?	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal?	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme?	

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PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Signed **Position** **Date**

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PLEASE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

**FORWARD PLAN
FOR THE PERIOD: 1 FEBRUARY 2023 - 30 JUNE 2023**

Title	Decision Maker and Date	Page
Calendar of Council and Committee Meetings 2023/24	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Housing Revenue Account - Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Land at Blackwell – Proposed Development and Parkland Restoration	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	7
Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	8
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Report 2023/24	Council 16 Feb 2023 Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	10
Revenue Budget Monitoring - Quarter 3	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	11
Schools Admissions 2024/25	Cabinet 7 Feb 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Equality Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Housing Services Allocations Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	14
Housing Services Damp and Mould Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	15

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
FORWARD PLAN**

Housing Services Low Cost Home Ownership Policy	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Local Transport Plan	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	17
Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Schedule of Transactions - March 2023	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	19
Whinfield Primary School Roof Replacement	Cabinet 7 Mar 2023	20
Annual Procurement Plan	Cabinet 25 Apr 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Introduction of a Civil (Financial) Penalty Policy and Enforcement Protocol – Electrical Safety Standards	Cabinet 4 Apr 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Introduction of the Use of Civil Penalty Notices under the Housing and Planning Act 2016	Cabinet 4 Apr 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Schedule of Transactions - April 2023	Cabinet 25 Apr 2023	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Deferred Items		
Darlington Capital Strategy including Capital Programme	Council	25
Final Version of Supplementary Planning Policy (SPD) Design Code - Skertingham Garden Village	Council Cabinet	Error! Bookmark not defined.