
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2017- 2022 – PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides an update to the Children and Young People Scrutiny on the progress to date against the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan 2017-22.

Summary

2. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is one of the identified delivery plans within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and identifies what key actions will be taken to deliver the agreed SCS priority of the best start in life for every child.

Recommendation

- (a) It is recommended that Scrutiny note the report.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults Services

Background Papers

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

Christine Shields: Extension 5819

S17 Crime and Disorder	N/A
Health and Well Being	Children's social care is central to well-being
Carbon Impact	None
Diversity	If significant changes are required an EIA will be undertaken
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Children and young people
Budget and Policy Framework	MTFP
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Aligned
Efficiency	New ways of delivering support and care of the capacity to generate efficiency
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report impacts on all children and young people including looked after children or care leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Summary

4. The CYPP 2017-22 was adopted by Council on 29th September 2017 and since being adopted a professionally designed version of the plan has been produced and published.
5. The front and back cover of the plan was designed by Jonathan Raiseborough, a young person with autism who is an award-winning artist who created a series of stunning illustrations for Darlington's new Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP).
6. The plan was officially launched via a photoshoot on the 16th March at Longfield School and a celebration event was also held on 11th April 2018. 147 children and young people attended the event.
7. The following agencies were present on the day of the event;
 - (a) **YMCA** – provided an information stall on the services and activities they provide with the main focus being around their new initiative in which they are working with young people to develop and provide youth venues and activities around Darlington.
 - (b) **DISC** – provided an information stall on their Young Carer project.
 - (c) **Switch** – provided information on alcohol and drug awareness.
 - (d) **Darlington Youth Partnership** – the newly elected member of Youth Parliament was present to promote the Darlington Youth Parliament, his manifesto and encouraged families to share any views on growing up in Darlington.

- (e) **Darlington College** – promoted college courses and provided the astronaut origami and helped children create their own cloud slime.
- (f) **Library** – provided an information stall on the activities and services provided at Crown Street and Cockerton Library. Children could also colour in and create a rabbit head band and were asked to draw round their hands in coloured paper, cut the hand out and attached it to a giant rainbow using the CYPP initials to form the rainbow.
- (g) **Scouts** – provided information on the scout movement in Darlington, how to get involved and what activities children and young people can experience as a scout.

8. In addition a number of local activity providers delivered the following activities:

- (a) Inclusion Archery, table tennis, boxercise, Cool Kids Yoga, BigLittleGigs.
- (b) Giana mandalas, Scrap Studio Arts.

Multi-Agency Steering Group (MASG)

9. Chaired by the Assistant Director for Commissioning, Performance and Transformation a multi-agency steering group (MASG) has been established to bring together key partners to ensure effective monitoring and delivery of the Children’s and Young People’s Plan, and to encourage and strengthen links between the plan and professional bodies. The delivery of the plan is not just the responsibility of the Local Authority but is partnership approach, owned by all stakeholders from a range of statutory agencies. This Group currently meets on a quarterly basis.

Delivery of the plan

10. The plan contains the following priority actions for the next five years:

- (a) Increase breastfeeding rates and reduce the incidence of smoking at the time of delivery.
- (b) Reduce obesity levels.
- (c) Improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young.
- (d) Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty
- (e) Improve school attendance and attainment.
- (f) Increase the number of young people in work, education or training.
- (g) Strengthen families to reduce the need for statutory intervention

11. As this is a five year plan, it was agreed by the MASG to have a year one focus on two of the priority actions and an action plan was developed. An update on progress is detailed below.

Priority 3: Improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people

12. A delivery plan has been developed for this priority, the lead for this is a member of staff from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and a member of the MASG. Progress against the delivery plan is currently on track and is summarised below:
13. Darlington has participated in the Anna Freud School Link Programme which brings mental health leads from schools together with clinicians from specialist mental health services to work on joint solutions for improving the mental health of children and young people. A number of workshops have been held which were successful and improved relationships between the two partners and resulted in a comprehensive action plan to for continued improvement being developed.
14. There continues to be a strong social media campaign utilising posters and literature designed by young people from Darlington.
15. The results from the Healthy Lifestyle survey showed that the young people of Darlington generally feel happy. There is a small minority who do not have the protective factors; supportive family, safe environment, peer support, who report to be less happy. Improvement action plans are in place where necessary.
16. Darlington CCG is eligible to apply for the Trailblazer funding which is the government's response to the Green paper on supporting the mental health needs of children in schools. We are working as a multi-agency partnership to pull this bid together, submission date is 17th September 2018.
17. Initial discussions have been held with Workforce development to move towards a multi-agency training approach for mental health & wellbeing. This will ensure that all front line staff from a number of agencies receive training in identifying needs in children.
18. From September, plans are in place to develop, in partnership with schools, a bespoke webpage for schools and colleges to access with mental health links and guidance. A pilot will begin with CAMHS and Early Help in a small number of schools and Darlington are participating in the Anna Freud school link programme for the second time.

Priority 6: Increase the number of young people in work, education or training

19. Youth unemployment was selected as a priority for the CYPP Multi-Agency group following an analysis of data which placed Darlington in the top 10 local authority areas for the rate of 18 to 24 year olds unemployment claimants

20. Analysis was subsequently undertaken by the Policy Team to uncover the underlying reasons for this seemingly poor performance. This showed that Darlington is a net exporter of young people between the ages of 18 to 24 largely due to the fact there is not a university in the borough and once this was accounted for, Darlington is largely in line with the regional average for the proportion of young people who are unemployed.
21. The analysis also showed that there is a consistent cohort of approximately 500 young people claiming unemployment benefits, with around 40 per cent of this cohort claiming for longer than six months.
22. The underlying reasons for long-term unemployment of young people are complex, and often the result of issues experienced during childhood, such as growing up in households with generational unemployment, poor attainment at school and living in communities which feel disconnected from the local economy.
23. In light of these findings, it was agreed by the Multi Agency Steering Group that the priority of youth unemployment should be replaced by child poverty, which is often the root cause of many poor health and social outcomes and is projected to increase significantly over the next few years, both nationally and within Darlington.

Year Two Priorities

24. The priority actions for year two will be:

- (a) **Priority action 4** – Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty (as mentioned in 13 above) and continue into year two with the
- (b) **Priority action 3** – Improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people.

Scorecard

25. A scorecard has been developed which contains a number of key performance indicators to measure delivery of the priority actions as detailed in the plan. The scorecard is attached at **Appendix One**.
26. Attached at **Appendix Two** is a summary of performance against each indicator within the scorecard. Overall when comparing performance against the last available data, 18 indicators have improved from the previously recorded data, 3 have remained the same and 20 have seen a reduction in performance. For 8 of the indicators 2017/18 data is the only data available therefore comparison with previous years is not possible. It should be noted that in most cases the performance indicators are outcome based and therefore not in direct control of those delivering services, many also require long term intervention in order to measure impact. On this basis it is not expected that the delivery plans will have a significant impact on these indicators within this first year of the plan, therefore these will be monitored over the five year period of the plan. Quarterly performance management is therefore focussed on the delivery plans against the priority actions and ensuring that they are progressing as expected.

