

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
19 DECEMBER 2022**

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**THE REFRESHED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES PLAN 2023 -2028**

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**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joanne.shutt@darlington.gov.uk) by Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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

