

**COUNCIL  
26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Children and Young People Public Health Overview 2019**

2. Members received a report of the Director of Public Health to provide an overview of the range of health promoting activities in relation to children and young people and tools available for the surveillance of child health.
3. The Darlington Child Health Profile 2019 provides a snap shot of child health enabling comparisons over time and against regional and England averages.
4. It was reported that 15 indicators for Darlington were either better or similar compared to England. For those indicators significantly worse it was reported that these were related to the comparatively high number of children admitted to hospital in Darlington for a number of different reasons.
5. We noted the closure of West Lane Hospital, Middlesbrough and requested further information on the alternative care provided for young people.
6. We were encouraged to note that since the last profile in 2018 there had been an improvement in the number of children recorded as obese aged 10-11 years which was now statistically similar to the England average. Immunisation rates in Darlington were also good with coverage for two year olds in Darlington being above the recommended coverage rate of 90 per cent. We were keen to learn what actions were in place to further increase the rate of immunisations, especially with the hard to reach groups.
7. The Healthy Lifestyles Survey 2018, is an online survey within schools. The results are fed back to the schools to help dispel negative perceptions amongst the young people and assist the schools in setting their action plans. We were pleased to learn that the majority of young people have positive emotional attitudes, feel happy in their lives and have strong social networks with friends and family.
8. The Darlington Childhood Healthy Weight Plan 2017-2022 sets out a whole system approach to tackling childhood obesity and reducing inequalities. The official launch of the plan and workshop session was held on 24 September 2019 when all key stakeholders and partners were invited to take part in shaping the key action plan that will set out how the objectives are to be taken forward.
9. As part of the Oral Health Plan, a two-year supervised tooth brushing pilot has been commissioned to target children in nursery and reception class. To date ten schools and seven nurseries have participated in the programme.

### **Independent Reviewing Officer Annual Report 2018/19**

10. We received the annual report of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) for 2018/19 which included an overview of the work of the IRO service in relation to Looked After Children; an overview of the performance of the unit, including detailed statistical information in relation to Looked After Children, timeliness of Looked After Reviews and Children Protection Activity; and the next steps for 2019/20.
11. We acknowledged the progress that had been made with the service and were encouraged by the developing work with the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

### **Designated Officer Annual Report 2018/19**

12. We received the annual report of the Designated Officer which included an update on the progress and performance of the Designated Officer between April 2018 and March 2019 and highlighted the required actions for April 2019 to March 2020.
13. All organisations working with children in Darlington are required to have policies and procedures in place outlining what their organisation should do in the event that an allegation is made against an employee or volunteer who has contact with children. These policies and procedures are in line with Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Procedures.

### **Work Programme**

14. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

**Councillor Jamie Bartch**  
**Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**