

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY
16 DECEMBER 2019**

ITEM NO.

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 (CYPP) 2017-2022.

Summary

2. The 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

3. 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 5851

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

Summary

4. The CYPP 2017-2022 was adopted by Council on 29th September 2017.
5. The plan covers a period of five years from 2017-2022, and this report provides an update on progress made to date on delivery of the agreed priority actions.

Delivery of the plan

6. The plan contains the following priority actions for the next five years:
 - (a) Priority 1. Increase breastfeeding rates and reduce the incidence of smoking at the time of delivery
 - (b) Priority 2. Reduce obesity levels
 - (c) Priority 3. Improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people
 - (d) Priority 4. Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty
 - (e) Priority 5. Improve school attendance and attainment
 - (f) Priority 6. Increase the number of young people in work, education or training
 - (g) Priority 7. Strengthen families to reduce the need for statutory intervention
7. As this is a five-year plan, it was agreed by the Multi Agency Steering Group (MASG) to have a year one focus on two of the priority actions. Moving into year two of the five year delivery plan, it was agreed by the MASG to continue with the focus on improving the mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people (priority three) that priority six (youth unemployment) should be replaced by child poverty (priority four), as this 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 updates

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

Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have purchased 'Kooth', – an online counselling and support tool for Children & Young People aged 11-19. This is currently being rolled out by Tees, Esk & Wear Valley (TEWV). TEWV have also launched an online Recovery College for Children Young People, which provides self-help resources for children, parents and teachers.

Work has been undertaken to support the mental health needs of Children Leaving Care, and a Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner works with these children one day a week offering outcome focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) interventions.

Darlington has participated in the Anna Freud School Link programme, enabling the majority of schools to improve their understanding and working relationship with Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The principles of the Anna Freud Programme have also been used in a workshop for GP's to improve their knowledge and pathways for appropriate referrals into CAMHS.

Significant work has been undertaken with Darlington schools, to understand what services they purchase to support pupils' mental health and wellbeing. We have worked with 11 schools to look at joint commissioning opportunities and are in the process of implementing a pilot service whereby schools will have an allocated Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner working into their school for a designated period of time per week. This enables schools to better support children and young people and will enable commissioners to measure outcomes more effectively.

9. Priority action 4 – Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty

A comprehensive bid was submitted for Department for Education (DfE) Holiday Activities and Food funding to develop and deliver a borough-wide offer for low income children and families over the summer holidays. Unfortunately, the number of awards from this fund was extremely limited and Darlington was not successful.

An alternative, more targeted programme for children and families in need was therefore delivered which ensured participants were able to enjoy a variety of enriching activities and nutritious food.

Alongside this work, a number of other initiatives aiming to address family poverty are underway including the benefits take up campaign #DarloMillions which, after an extraordinarily successful first year of maximising residents' incomes by £1.5m, has been continued for another year.

Work is also continuing with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to address the root causes of child poverty by maximising the impact of the council and other local anchor institutions spend locally, for example by increasing the number of good quality employment opportunities in Darlington.

Multi-Agency Steering Group

10. Chaired by the Assistant Director for Commissioning, Performance and Transformation a MASG has been established to bring together key partners to ensure effective monitoring and delivery of the Children 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 a partnership approach, owned by all stakeholders from a range of statutory agencies. This Group currently meets on a quarterly basis.

Communication/participation update

11. The communications team continue to work with children's services on any communications activities deemed necessary in relation to specific elements of the CYPP, or on other projects that may link to the CYPP – e.g. the Fairer Richer Darlington strategy.
12. The Darlington Youth Parliament (DYP) and the Youth MP do and can use social media to promote the CYPP, for example the campaign for better Mental Health Services, free school breakfasts, and publishing positive messages.