

**COUNCIL**  
**26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)**

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**OVERVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under the Children and Young People Portfolio.

**The Children's Trust**

2. The Darlington Health and Wellbeing Board met on 26 March 2020. The agenda included the Darlington NHS Clinical Commissioning (CCG) Group Annual Accounts report and an update on the Integrated Care System. The Board reviewed the Health and Wellbeing priorities and re-confirmed a work plan for the next three meetings. The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2020 will have a focus on children and starting well to maximise their potential

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

3. The formal Panel met on 18 February 2020 and the following reports/presentations were received and discussed:
  - The Looked After Children Annual Health Report
  - Therapeutic Social Work Service for Children in Care
  - The Promises Tree action plan and measures of success – (Corporate Parenting commitment to our children and young people in care)

**Darlington Safeguarding Partnership**

4. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group met on 13 January 2020 where a number of areas specific to children were discussed.
5. The CCG is undertaking a review of inpatient bed provision for children in the local area. The CCG do not anticipate reopening West Lane Hospital ahead of the completion of this review.
6. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) 2018/19 Annual Report has been published. The joint Darlington/Durham panel reviewed 39 deaths in the year, with modifiable factors being identified in four of the deaths. Key issues and learning were highlighted across a number of areas, which will be taken forward throughout the relevant organisations.

**Education**

7. The Schools Forum met on 14 January and agreed the School Funding Formula, Growth Fund and central budgets for schools and early years for 2020/21.
8. St Aidan's Church of England Academy was recently inspected and achieved a Good rating. The school's previous grading was Requires Improvement. Inspectors

recognised the 'unswerving commitment' of leaders, governors and staff during the inspection.

9. Heathfield School was also recently inspected and achieved a Good rating. The school's previous grading was Requires Improvement. Inspectors found that leaders have "transformed the school since the previous inspection." The inspection recognised that pupils achieve well and are happy and feel safe in school.
10. Heighington Church of England School has also been inspected in this period and achieved an Ofsted grading of Good. Inspectors found that a recently instigated curriculum review "is bringing about rapid improvements" and that arrangements for safeguarding are effective.
11. Borough Road Nursery School, which is an LA maintained provision, was recently inspected by Ofsted and has achieved a Good grading. The nursery was previously graded as Requires Improvement. Inspectors found the nursery "has been transformed since the last inspection" and noted "school leaders and staff have created a family-friendly atmosphere. This a place where precious moments are captured and built on." Inspectors particularly praised the teaching of phonics at the school.

### **Locality Teams**

12. At the end of February, Early Help Services were working with 384 children aged 0-18, from a total of 166 Families. During January, 14 targeted groups were delivered each week including parenting, Being Me self-esteem and confidence for teenagers, as well as pre and post birth baby programmes.
13. The Box staff have delivered internet safety, Cyber Squad to 571 pupils, in addition to a further 171 sessions that have been delivered from The Box with 73 pieces of direct work being completed with children open to Social Care and Early help Services.

### **Child Protection/Looked After Children Statistics/Care Leavers**

14. As at the end of February there were:
  - 373 children in need
  - 89 children subject to child protection plans
  - 267 children in care
  - 36 eligible care leavers (children in care aged 16 – 17yrs)
  - 8 relevant care leavers (children who have left care aged 16 – 17yrs)
  - 68 former relevant care leavers (young person who is over 18yrs)
  - 16 former relevant care leavers over the age of 21

### **Children's Commissioning and Contracts**

15. Over the last quarter, contract monitoring has been undertaken with private residential homes operating in Darlington. Out of the eight private residential homes, seven homes are Ofsted graded Good or Outstanding and one home is currently Requires Improvement (RI). The home graded RI is due to be inspected

imminently. Officers from the Council have been monitoring progress against the home's Ofsted Improvement Plan, of which all actions are complete.

16. No matters of contractual compliance were identified and positive outcomes for children and young people were evidenced around self-development and holistic wellbeing.
17. The new Community Short Breaks contract for children and young people with Special Educational needs and disabilities (SEND) went live on 1 February 2020. Plans are being progressed for an engagement session with the 3 providers appointed onto this Contract (DAD, Barnardos and Daisy Chain) and the Parent/Carer forum to raise awareness of the new service provision as well as the broader support available in the community. The contract will be reopened in May 2020 to allow new providers to join the contractual arrangements and have periodic openings in the future

**Councillor Jon Clarke**  
**Children and Young People Portfolio**