County Durham
Children and Young People’s Strategy
2019 - 2022
Purpose
This is a partnership strategy for all children and young people from pre-birth up to the age of 25 (for those young people with special educational needs and disabilities) and their families in County Durham.

The aim of this strategy is to provide focus and clarity on the priorities for improving services and life opportunities for children and young people. The document considers what life is currently like for children and young people in County Durham, based on feedback from children and young people and analysis of their needs. It sets out where we want to be in three years and what actions we will undertake to achieve this. For the public it provides a summary of the importance of services and support for children and young people, who are the future of our county, and what they can expect from local services.

This strategy has been prepared jointly by all public services and voluntary and community services including the Council, local health services and the police who work together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families through the Children and Families Partnership.

For those responsible for delivering services, any future work programmes should contribute to achieving the aims set out in this strategy. It can therefore be used as an aid in deciding what to do and of equal importance, what not to do. Members, officers and partners will find this document of practical use in evaluating whether to participate in new national initiatives and funding bids and help select the work programmes that we need to do. The strategy is therefore a living document that is designed to be used regularly.

National Policy
There is a huge amount of national legislative and policy change affecting children’s services which have informed this strategy. Key policy areas are:

- The strengthened Working together to Safeguard Children guidance published in July 2018 aims to improve partnership working to protect children and young people. It sets new legal requirements for the police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to make joint decisions to meet the welfare and safeguarding needs of local children and families.
- The independent review, Foster care in England, published in February 2018, sets out six priority areas for the government’s vision for a better care system, driven by children’s needs and views.
- The government’s Childhood Obesity: a plan for action, Part 1 and 2, published in June 2018, aims to reduce England’s childhood obesity within the next 10 years. Their goal is to halve childhood obesity and reduce the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030.
- Transforming children and young people’s mental health provision: a green paper, published in December 2017, proposes measures to improve mental health (MH) support for children and young people through earlier intervention and prevention, especially in schools and colleges.
- The government is also consulting on draft regulations and statutory guidance relating to Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education which includes teaching children about physical and good mental health, online safety and healthy relationships.
- The Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper, published in May 2018, considers developing children’s digital literacy and the safety of young people’s use of online dating websites and applications.
- The Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone, published in August 2018, sets out how the government will work with and for civil society in the long-term to create a country that works for everyone, including a review of the statutory duty placed on local authorities to provide appropriate local youth services.
- Investment is part of an £800m package of measures in its social mobility action plan, called Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential, aimed at boosting the life chances of disadvantaged young people. The £50m early years investment aims to provide better access for children to highly qualified early years staff in areas of high deprivation and will be focused on closing the “word gap” in the early years; tackling these development gaps at the earliest opportunity, particularly focused on key early language and literacy skills so that all children can begin school ready to thrive.
- Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers published in October 2018 sets out the requirements and expectations of schools to develop and improve their careers provision.
- Child health in 2030 in England: comparisons with other wealthy countries published in October 2018 by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health which looked at key children’s health outcomes and compared them with other wealthy European and Western countries. It found that England has poorer health outcomes and that there were marked inequalities which are likely to widen over the next decade which are worsening more quickly amongst the most deprived section of the population.
- Ofsted’s Inspecting Local Authorities Children’s Services (ILACS) Framework changes the way local authorities are inspected depending on previous judgement and places a stronger emphasis on partnership working within front-line services to improve children and young people’s lives.
- The Children and Families Act 2014 addresses the needs of children and young people up to the age of 25, including those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Reforms include a single coordinated birth to 25 Educational, Health and Care (EHC) Plan for these children and young people whilst in education; improving cooperation and collaboration between all the services that support individual and families, particularly local authorities, education providers and health services; and the introduction of the ‘Local Offer’ including centralised information, advice and guidance.
- The Local Area SEND Inspection Framework is a joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission providing an independent external evaluation of how well a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in order to support their development.
- Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation’s (HMIPs) inspection of Youth Offending Services reports on the effectiveness of work with adults and children and young people who have offended focussing on the quality of services provided.
- Ofsted’s Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) is applied to a number of settings including secure children’s homes, using the same judgement structure with the emphasis being on the progress of children central to the inspection of the care and education and the welfare of children and young people.
- Consultation on a new Education Inspection Framework is expected to be released in early 2019 with implementation from September 2019.
- The Troubled families programme ensures that children, young people and families receive effective early help and have ‘whole family’ ‘outcome focussed’ support. A
Vision for Children and Young People in County Durham

The County Durham Partnership sets out the long term vision for County Durham. The economic ambition underpinning the vision for Durham is to shape a County Durham where people want to live, work, study, invest and visit and enable our residents and businesses to achieve their full economic potential. Success will require us to capitalise on untapped potential to provide growth and resulting in narrowing the productivity and employment gap between the county, the region and the UK. An increasingly more balanced economy will not only benefit our businesses, communities and residents financially, but will help to enable social mobility, improve community cohesion, reduce social exclusion, reduce job-related health problems, and improve quality of life across the county.

The County Durham Partnership also have a longstanding commitment to make life better for children and young people in the county, and this is a strategic priority for all partners. We want to renew and strengthen our focus on improving life for our children and young people, by improving the access they and their families have to these economic opportunities, as well as improving children’s health, education, safety, and transitions into adulthood.

We recognise that children and young people benefit from remaining with their families and play and active role in their communities giving children the security, stability and love through their childhood and beyond to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes. Where this is not possible we will ensure that permanence is the long-term plan for a child’s upbringing and provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and their families, ranging from family support through to adoption.

Vision and Aims

Our vision is that County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential. To achieve this, we have developed four key aims:

1. All children and young people have a safe childhood
2. Children and Young People enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing
3. Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood
4. Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) achieve the best possible outcomes

Aim 1
All children and young people have a safe childhood.
We will provide a range of services for children, young people and families to help ensure they achieve this aim. We will focus on preventative measures through our early help and intervention services and will ensure that all children in need of help and protection are protected from harm. We will ensure that young people are protected from crime and those who get into trouble are supported by a range of services, including the youth offending service.

For those needing our statutory support services we will ensure that our social work practice is of a high standard. We will be an excellent corporate parent to the children and young people within the Council’s care and for those leaving the care system. We will work with education, youth support and other networks to ensure good services are available to all our children, young people and their families.

Aim 2
Children and Young People enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing.
Better outcomes for children cannot be achieved through health and social care service improvement in isolation. How children live, learn and play are all key drivers of healthy development. Parenting is critical to a child’s development and evidence shows children who are exposed to adverse events such as domestic abuse or alcohol misuse can be affected negatively, both physically and mentally, throughout their adolescence and into adult life. Education, housing, community connections, employment and poverty all determine whether a child will be more likely to thrive and achieve their optimum potential in life. We will work to ensure our children enjoy the best start in life and have good health and wellbeing, offering help when required. For our more vulnerable children and families we will provide a more targeted offer of support to reduce inequalities in outcomes. Children and young people will be supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing.

Aim 3
Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood.
We will focus on improving the educational attainment of our children and young people. We also need to ensure that young people have the right skills and are prepared for work and we need to work together to ensure children develop a love of learning in addition to ensuring that there are sufficient employment and training opportunities available. We will also ensure that young people have the opportunity and support to progress in education, employment and training on leaving school through our DurhamWorks programme.

Aim 4
Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes.
We aim to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have high quality support which meets their needs. Children, young people and their families will be involved in the design and plans for these services, with their voice being listened to and where possible acted upon. It is important that we are able to support these children and young people to secure meaningful employment which enables and prepares them to live independently into adult life.
Promoting Equality of Opportunity

In developing this strategy, we recognise that poverty is the most important driver of outcomes for children and young people. Our ambitions are underpinned by an unrelenting cross-partnership focus on tackling the impact of poverty and disadvantage on all residents, including children, young people and their families. We have formed a Child Poverty Working Group, which aims to develop and implement a single coherent and coordinated approach to addressing and mitigating child poverty across County Durham. The objectives of the group are being delivered through three key strands, namely: language and values associated with child poverty; poverty management in the community linked to early help; and an economic inclusive growth approach.

Health and wellbeing inequalities

We understand that economic factors, alongside environmental and social inequalities can determine children, young people and their families’ risk of getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or their access to effective treatments. We have based our improvement plans on this understanding of the relationship between individuals and families, their environment and health (see diagram below). Individuals are placed at the centre and surrounding them are the various layers of influences on health – such as individual lifestyle factors, community influences, living and working conditions, and more general social conditions. This context is essential as the ability to achieve changes in outcomes is dependent on the wider influences of health.

Listening to our children, young people, families and local communities to improve services

We recognise that we have responsibilities to ensure that all of our children, young people and their families are included within the opportunities that this vision will provide. We aim to listen to our children, young people and families, and continually review and learn from them, leading a programme of service improvement to better meet their needs.

We are passionate about understanding individual needs and improving the life chances and wellbeing for children, young people and families who need extra support and care, including:

- Young carers
- Disabled children
- Children in poverty
- Families affected by substance misuse, mental health and domestic violence
- Children with special educational needs
- Children in care
- Care leavers
- Children subject to a care plan or child protection plan
- Children and families who are economically disadvantaged
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Children with mental health needs
- Young people who offend
- Young victims of crime including those who have been sexually abused
- Children with a parent with learning difficulties

We want to ensure that all children and their families are fully able to take advantage of the opportunities we are creating for better employment and prosperity. This will mean better safeguarding, and a passionate commitment to ensuring that children have safe, loving and stable home environments, with any risks dealt with quickly and effectively.

We will work more closely with families, schools, colleges and employers to ensure our children have a good start in life, good education and develop the skills to access good quality employment. We will work with employers to ensure that there are routes for young people into the new jobs that are on offer.

We are also ambitious to improve the health of our children and young people. Our children and families have a challenging legacy in terms of higher than average levels of deprivation in the county, in particular key health measures such as childhood obesity, smoking and teenage pregnancies are not as good as we would like. Our vision is that all of our children have the opportunity to live healthy lives and have the right environment for this to be achieved with optimum access to effective and advice which meet their needs.

1 The Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition of poverty has been utilised of ‘When a person’s resources are well below their minimum needs, including the need to take part in society’.
As our economic prospects improve, people of the county, its businesses and public sector bodies are looking forward. In looking to our future as a county, we are placing our children and young people at the heart of our thinking.

A participation and engagement strategy is being developed to further strengthen how partners listen to our vulnerable children and young people and their families so that their ‘voice’ is heard and acted upon.

Opportunities for children, young people and families to get involved (an explanation of these opportunities is found in Appendix 1):

- Investing in Children (including the eXtreme group and Children in Care Council)
- Making Changes Together
- Student Voice Survey
- Bridge Young Carer’s service
- Care Leavers Forum
- Humankind
- Durham Children and Young People’s Network on Facebook
- Looked After Children Young People’s Service
- Area Action Partnerships (AAP’s)
- CCG engagement
- Mini police, volunteer police cadets and police apprentices

We have adopted a charter approach to listening to and acting upon the views and experiences of children and their families. The following charters are commitments of the Children and Families Partnership:

- Investing in Children Membership Award™
- Young Carer’s Charter
- SEND Promise

Investing in Children Dialogue

Dialogue has taken place with a number of children and young people aged 4 to 22 within County Durham through two Investing in Children agenda days. Children and Young People from different groups within Investing in Children, including young people with SEND, Children in Care, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) and different areas across County Durham have had the opportunity to have their voice heard and views listened to. This enables us to evaluate children and young people’s perceptions of current issues within education, health, special needs/disabilities and emotional wellbeing.

Key findings from the Investing in Children Agenda day tell us that:

- Children and young people feel they need more support when leaving school to get into further education, training or employment. With a specific emphasis being placed upon more support needed for students who experience mental health difficulties.
- Young people reported that they would benefit from receiving more life skills at school.
- Bullying appears to be apparent across the age groups. Children and young people reported that more needs to be done within school policies to ensure this is dealt with properly.
- Children and young people reported a lack of financial resources which negatively impacts on experiences in and out of school and therefore impacts on overall health and wellbeing.
- The need to feel safer at home, school and in the community with consistent stability from parents, guardians and teachers was highlighted for all children and young people including those looked after.
- Children and young people felt that parental drug and alcohol misuse had negative impacts on overall health and wellbeing.

Student Voice Survey ‘You Said’

As part of the Children and Families Partnership, a Student Voice survey (an online questionnaire) took place in both primary and secondary schools in County Durham between January and April 2017. Of the 204 primary schools 97 participated (3,719 students) and 20 of the 33 secondary schools (5,640 students). In total, more than a third of all eligible students in County Durham participated in the engagement. The survey is planned to be completed again in 2019.

The Student Voice Survey indicates that:

- 53% of secondary school students feel that they are achieving expected progress in Reading, Writing and Numeracy
- 1,481 primary school pupils and 1,418 secondary school pupils who participated said that they had been bullied at their current school
- In primary school bullying is more prevalent in above average Free School Meals (FSM) schools and Free School Meals eligible pupils in secondary school are more likely to have been bullied
- The vast majority of both primary and secondary pupils reported that they feel safe. Feelings of safety are reported lowest at break time (primary) and around school when not in lessons (secondary)
- The survey found that only 52.2% of Year 11 pupils knew how to get an apprenticeship
- A higher percentage of boys (in both primary and secondary) reported to consuming one or more energy drinks per day
- Only 37.1% of boys and 31.2% of girls in primary and 25.5% of boys and 17.7% of girls in secondary reported to being physically active for at least 60 minutes on all 7 days
- In primary schools with above average FSM, significantly fewer pupils eat their 5-a-day (54.0% compared to 62.6%). FSM eligibility is also associated with less engagement with clubs outside of school.

‘We did’

Some of the immediate actions we have taken to respond to things children, young people and families have said are set out below. Key elements from the engagement have informed the priorities of this strategy.
You said: bullying is more prevalent in above average FSM schools and FSM eligible pupils are more likely to be bullied

We did: The Child Poverty Working Group (CPWG), in partnership with Education Durham, have developed a ‘cut the cost of the school day’ training programme which aims to reduce the stigma associated with living in poverty, increase opportunities for pupils living in poverty to access educational opportunities in school and extracurricular and challenge staff and pupil perceptions of poverty and deprivation. The training programme will be rolled out to both primary and secondary schools over the next three academic years (with a number of schools already signed up).

You said: 1,481 primary school pupils and 1,418 secondary school pupils said that they had been bullied at their current school

We did: The Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience group have agreed the roll out of the Durham Resilience programme to 25 schools per year and to deliver the YAM (Youth Aware of Mental Health) programme in 10 schools in 2017/18 and 20 schools in 2018/19. Providing emotional wellbeing and resilience nurses to build capacity and upskill staff and school nurses is also a key priority of the 0-19 programme.

You said: pupils aren’t engaging in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day

We did: Public Health, education, culture and sport along with other partners have developed the ‘Active 30’ programme to encourage schools to get pupils more active by pledging to achieve 10, 20 or 30 minutes of exercise per day. Schools will be given tools that will encourage leaders in the educational sector to embed physical activity right across the agenda. This is being rolled out to schools during the 2018/19 academic year (with a number of schools already signed up).

You said: 47.8% of Year 11 pupils did not know how to get an apprenticeship

We did: promote careers education information and guidance information resources to increase awareness of all post-16 options (including apprenticeships)
Where we are now

Children and young people in County Durham

- **21,000** children living in poverty
- **Around 3,500** children in need
- **Around 800** looked after children
- **100,500** children aged 0-17
- **Almost 500** children subject of a child protection plan
- **10%** of children have a diagnosable mental health disorder
- **14.5%** of all school pupils. This is not statistically significantly different from England or the North East.
- **10,400** young people with SEN at school (state funded)
- **49.7 per 10,000 children.** Higher in County Durham than England but lower than the North East. Unequally distributed within County Durham.
- **408.5 per 10,000 children.** Statistically significantly higher than England (330/10,000) but lower than the North East (451.6/10,000).
- **81 per 10,000.** This rate is rising, showing an increase of over 50% since 2011, and is statistically significantly higher than England but statistically significantly lower than the North East.
- **20.9%.** This is statistically significantly higher than England, but lower than the North East. Unequally distributed within County Durham.
- **72%** of children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception
- **That’s around 10,000 children in County Durham.**

One Point report an additional **2,500** children & young people who do not meet the statutory threshold

Now statistically significantly better than England
8 babies are born per year

Around 5,300 babies are born per year

15-20% of women will experience poor mental health

That’s between around 760 and 1020 women in County Durham (based on around 5,100 women giving birth annually)

16.7%, statistically significantly higher than England, and similar than the North East.

Around 900 babies born to mothers who smoke

3%, similar to England and the North East

Around 150 low birthweight babies born annually

98% of babies are immunised by age 1

56% of women breastfeed straight after birth

This is statistically significantly lower than England and the North East.

28% still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks

That’s between around 760 and 1020 women in County Durham (based on around 5,100 women giving birth annually)

The distribution of breastfeeding prevalence across County Durham is not equal. It is lower in the most deprived areas


The distribution of SATOD across County Durham (by MSOA) is unequal. It is higher in the more deprived areas.

The distribution of breastfeeding initiation across County Durham is not equal. It is lower in the most deprived areas.

No change over time

This is statistically significantly lower than England and the North East.

Statistically significantly higher than England, and similar than the North East.

0 10 20 30 40

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England North East County Durham

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Early Years and Primary School

- Nearly 1,500 hospital admissions caused by injuries in children (0-14 years)
- 33,447 aged 0-5
- 35,394 aged 6-11
- 72% achieve a good level of development at the end of Reception
- 38% of children aged 4-5 overweight
- 57% FSM status achieving good level of development at the end of Reception
- 26% of 5 year olds have decayed, filled or missing teeth (DMFT)
- Statistically significantly higher than England
- That’s over 2,000 year 6 children in County Durham. This has been rising over time, now statistically significantly higher than England.
- 31.7/100,000. Statistically significantly higher than England. Little change over time locally, compared to a slow reduction seen nationally.
- The distribution of DMFT across County Durham is not equal. It is higher in the more deprived areas.
- The distribution of excess weight and obesity across County Durham is not equal. It is higher in the more deprived areas.

- KS2 students meeting expected standards in reading, writing and maths
- 59%
- This has been rising over time, now statistically significantly higher than England.
- Not statistically significantly different to England of the North East.
- Locally the proportion has more than doubled over time, faster than the national improvement.
- 24.1% of children aged 10-11 are overweight
- Statistically significantly worse than England
- Statistically significantly better than England
- Not significantly different to England
- County Durham
- 171.3/100,000. Statistically significantly higher than England. Little change over time locally, compared to a slow reduction seen nationally.
22 per 1,000 teenage conceptions in 2016, the lowest since the 1998 benchmark. A decreasing trend locally and nationally. The rate is now not statistically significantly different to England.

56.2 per 100,000. Decreasing trend locally and nationally. Statistically significantly higher in County Durham than England.

58% young people gain 5 good GCSEs.

173 teenage conceptions (2016). This has been rising over time, not statistically significantly different to England or the North East.

294 per 100,000. This is not statistically significantly different to England or the North East, and has been reducing over time.

196 under 18s admitted to hospital for alcohol specific conditions. 401 per 100,000. Decreasing trend locally and the rate is now not statistically significantly different to England.

216 hospital admissions a year as a result of self-harm.

8,400 A&E attendances (15-17 years).

130 first time entrants to the Youth Justice system. Around 6% 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training. That’s around 600 young people aged 16-17. Not statistically significantly different to England or the North East.

26,231 aged 12-16.

11,561 aged 17-18. Around 130 first time entrants to the Youth Justice system.

58% young people gain 5 good GCSEs.
Vulnerability: The scale of the challenge

- Around 100,540 children & young people
  - Approximately 2,500 children and their families receiving support from the Early Help Service
  - 408.5 per 10,000 children, statistically significantly higher than England (330/10,000) but lower than the North East (451.6/10,000).
  - 58% of children in need in County Durham were identified as living or having lived with domestic abuse

- Around 21,000 children living in poverty
  - Around 49.7 per 10,000 children, higher in County Durham than England but lower than the North East.

- Around 10,000 children known to social care/early help
  - Of which 3,500 are children in need
  - And almost 500 are subject of a CPP

- Around 1,600 pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs
  - 14.5% of all school pupils. This is now not statistically significantly different from England.

- Around 10,400 children with SEN (state school)
  - Around 81 per 10,000. This rate is rising, showing an increase of over 50% since 2011, and is statistically significantly higher than England but lower than the North East.

- Around 12,000 under 16s have having lived with domestic abuse at some stage
  - And over 800 are looked after

- Child poverty is unequally distributed within County Durham.

- 10% of children in County Durham

- 2.6% of all school pupils in County Durham.

- Around 2,500 CYP living with a parent reporting symptoms of anxiety or depression

- Around 580 children in need in County Durham who were identified as living or having lived with domestic abuse

- Around 1,000 children with a diagnosable mental health condition

- Around 12,000 children with a diagnosable mental health condition

- Around 2,500 children with a diagnosable mental health condition

- Over 800 children living in poverty

- Over 800 children are living in poverty

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Measuring inequalities within County Durham

Within County Durham there is a social gradient to many health and wellbeing outcomes across the lifecourse, from pre-birth, throughout childhood and adolescence.

**In the more deprived areas of County Durham we know that:**

- **Life expectancy is shorter**
  - 7.7 years shorter for men
  - 7.1 years shorter for women

- **Healthy life expectancy is shorter**
  - 13.8 years shorter for men
  - 14.5 years shorter for women

- **Fewer mothers breastfeed for longer**
  - The gap between most and least deprived at 6-8 weeks
  - 100%

- **More mothers are smokers when they have their baby**
  - 4 out of 5 areas with the highest prevalence

- **More children have excess weight**
  - Gap between most and least deprived for 4-5 and 10-11 year olds
  - 20%

**Implications for improving life in County Durham**

**Pre and post birth**
- Reduce the number of mothers who smoke
- Increase breastfeeding
- Increase services for perinatal mental health

**Early years and primary school**
- Increase attainment levels for all children
- Improve mental health
- Improve dental health
- Reduce the number of hospital admissions for unintentional injuries
- Reduce the number of children who are overweight or obese

**Secondary school and Transitions**
- Improve educational attainment
- Look at A&E attendances
- Reduce hospital admissions for alcohol related attendances
- Reduce hospital admissions as a result of self-harm
- Improve mental health and wellbeing
- Continue to reduce teenage conceptions
- Reducing offending by young people

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County Durham Children and Young People's Strategy

Vision: County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.

Aims

1. All children and young people have a safe childhood
2. Children and young people enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing
3. Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood
4. Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes

Objectives

1.1 Provide a range of universal services for children, young people and families
1.2 Protect and support those children and young people in need of help and protection
1.3 Provide excellent social work practice and support for children, young people and families in County Durham
1.4 Provide excellent care for looked after children and care leavers
1.5 Provide support for young people who have offended or been victims of crime
2.1 Ensure that every child has the best start in life (0 - 5)
2.2 High quality nursery and primary education which meets all children's needs
2.3 Improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children with a specific focus on vulnerable young people (5-24)
2.4 Children and young people and their families are supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing
3.1 Children and Young People have the best possible education
3.2 Improved educational attainment for all disadvantaged children and young people
3.3 Support young people to gain qualifications, skills and experience to progress into sustained employment
4.1 Provide better coordinated services for children and young people with SEND across the local area
4.2 Children and young people with SEND have high quality support which meets their needs
4.3 Ensure that young people with SEND are well prepared for adult lives and can live independently

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1.2 Protect and support those children and young people in need of help and protection
1.3 Provide excellent social work practice and support for children, young people and families in County Durham
1.4 Provide excellent care for looked after children and care leavers
1.5 Provide support for young people who have offended or been victims of crime
2. Ensure that every child has the best start in life (0 - 5)
3. Improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children with a specific focus on vulnerable young people (5-24)
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County Durham Children and Young People’s Strategy

Vision: County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.

Aim

1. All children and young people have a safe childhood

Objectives

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What do we need to be good at? (Core deliverables)

- Welcoming environments that are accessible to all children, young people and families
- Early intervention and prevention
- Implementing better births to ensure safe maternity
- Reducing unintentional injuries and minor injuries throughout childhood
- Ensuring high quality case work
- Ensuring that statutory work is undertaken in a timely and responsive way
- Consistency of decision making across front line staff in all agencies
- Support children within families who have lived experience of domestic abuse or parental substance misuse
- Providing effective early help to children and families
- Strong quality framework for social work practice
- Having consistent and manageable caseloads
- Embed feedback from children and young people in service design and delivery
- All plans for looked after children achieve a permanent, safe and loving living arrangement throughout childhood and beyond
- Ensure sufficiency of high quality placements to meet demands of the children we look after
- We have a comprehensive “Care Leaver Offer” for care leavers
- Intervene early to prevent problems from escalating
- Prevent reoffending by supporting and challenging behaviour
- Believe and support victims of crime
- Divert first time offenders away from the criminal justice system
- Identify children at risk of adverse childhood experiences

What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling factors)

Partnership Working
- Strong partnership governance arrangements
- Strong multi-agency auditing arrangements
- A Think family approach for families with multiple issues
- A new Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) structure
- Work through Area Action Partnership (AAPs) to build community resilience
- Work with the Voluntary and Community sector (VCS) to develop effective community services
- Early help family centres

Supporting arrangements
- Liquidlogic case management system
- Real time analysis of performance
- Systematic multiagency learning from internal and external scrutiny
- Learning out inefficient use of social worker time
- Strong quality frameworks to ensure children are kept safe
- Good quality outcome data from all agencies
- Data sharing among partners

Participation
- Systematic analysis of feedback from children, young people and their families
- Signs of Safety model

Performance Management
- Systematic multiagency learning from internal and external scrutiny
- Liquidlogic case management system
- Real time analysis of performance
- Systematic multiagency learning from internal and external scrutiny
- Learning out inefficient use of social worker time
- Strong quality frameworks to ensure children are kept safe
- Good quality outcome data from all agencies
- Data sharing among partners
County Durham Children and Young People’s Strategy

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**Aim**

2. Children and young people enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing

**Objectives**

2.1 Ensure that every child has the best start in life (0-5)

2.2 High quality nursery and primary education which meets all children’s needs

2.3 Improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children with a specific focus on vulnerable children and young people* (5-24)

2.4 Children and young people and their families are supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing

**What do we need to be good at? (Core deliverables)**

2.1 Ensure that every child has the best start in life (0-5)

- Identify perinatal mental health issues during the antenatal period
- Support women to achieve a smoke free pregnancy
- Support more women to breastfeed and continue to breastfeed their babies
- Improve birth outcomes and encourage healthy diet and lifestyle
- Improve babies and young children’s communication and language skills
- Improve support for vulnerable parents
- Improve children’s oral health across County Durham
- Good access to high quality maternity care
- Support healthy bonding between parents and their babies and young children
- Families are encouraged to read to their babies and children every day

2.2 High quality nursery and primary education which meets all children’s needs

- Increase the number of children who are ready to learn in school
- All children achieving a good level of development at the end of reception
- Improving child development outcomes age 2 to 2.5 years

2.3 Improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children with a specific focus on vulnerable children and young people* (5-24)

- Further reducing teenage pregnancies and intensive work based on hotspot areas
- Reducing inequality in excess weight amongst children aged 4-5 and 10-11 years
- Reduce the health inequalities in oral health across County Durham
- Reducing alcohol admissions in under 18s
- Reducing rate of self-harm admissions
- Good access to high quality paediatric care

2.4 Children and young people and their families are supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing

- Roll out Youth Aware Mental health (YAM) to all year 9 pupils
- Embed bereavement support as a mainstream offer
- Roll out intensive home treatment including community support
- Understand the MH needs of vulnerable populations and provide targeted support
- Reduce the rate of self-harm through better identification
- Improve transition for children and young people from child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) into appropriate adult/community support
- Reduce hospital admissions into specialist MH provision & improve early intervention

**What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling factors)**

**Commissioning**

- Planning and commissioning - improved integration through the Joint Commissioning Group

**Partnership Working**

- Integrated delivery programme across key partners to meet core deliverables
- Ensuring partners work together to deliver person centred support for children and young people through a shared strategy and delivery to front line practice
- A Think family approach for families with multiple issues

**Performance Management and Intelligence**

- Data and Intelligence - local health profiles
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment supports analytical view of priorities for children and young people’s health
- Access to data to identify areas where targeted intervention is required to inform commissioning decisions
- Multi-agency audits to test person centred care for children and young people is a reality at the front line

**Communications**

- Map the mental health offer so all staff have a shared understanding of pathways of support
- Effective information sharing across partners

*Vulnerable children and young people include looked after children and care leavers, children on a child protection plan, young carers, children and young people being supervised by the youth offending service, children and young people being home educated and children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities*
# County Durham Children and Young People’s Strategy

**Vision:** County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.

## Aim

3. Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood

## Objectives

**3.1 Children and Young People have the best possible education**

- Broaden the range of educational opportunities available to meet the needs of those students with additional challenges
- Identification of skills needs of employers, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and working with young people and parents on these skills
- Ensuring a good culture in schools, tackling bullying effectively
- Working with education providers to address underperformance in all schools and settings
- Having a sufficiency of places for all pupils
- Promoting an inclusion ethos to minimise exclusions

**3.2 Improved educational attainment for all vulnerable children and young people**

- Meeting our duty to provide early education for disadvantaged 2 olds, starting support at birth
- Challenging school pupil premium strategies for specific groups
- Working with schools to close the gap for all disadvantaged children including vulnerable groups
- Organising our resources and case work to achieve the best outcomes and highest aspirations for Looked After Children
- An inclusive environment providing the most appropriate educational offer to suit needs

**3.3 Support young people to gain qualifications, skills and experience to progress into sustained employment**

- Enabling young people to access high quality Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance that promotes the full range of education and training options and promotes realistic ambitions
- Promoting the delivery of work related opportunities for young people whilst in school to inform future pathways
- Supporting vulnerable young people to access personal and social development opportunities to further develop life skills
- Ensuring every young person has an offer of a place in education, employment or training when leaving school
- Supporting vulnerable young people to make a successful transition from school into further learning opportunities
- Supporting every young person (aged 16-24) who is not participating to access education, employment or training, prioritising vulnerable groups through DurhamWorks
- Broadening the range of learning and skills provision to ensure opportunities are available for all young people across the county
- Work with employers to create additional apprenticeship and employment opportunities
- Providing additional support to widen participation in higher education amongst vulnerable young people

## What do we need to be good at? (Core deliverables)

- Vulnerable children and young people include looked after children and care leavers, children on a child protection plan, young carers, children and young people being supervised by the youth offending service, children and young people being home educated and children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

## What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling factors)

### Partnership Working
- Working with businesses, employers and universities to identify future skills needed in the local economy to inform the education and training curriculum in the county and careers guidance
- A Think family approach for families with multiple issues

### Communication
- Maximising all forms of communication, including social media, to engage with young people

### Performance Management
- A more targeted performance management approach setting ambitious outcome targets for universal services and all vulnerable groups

### Resources Management
- Making sure that schools are in the right places
- Ensure that every school has a Head teacher that is quality assured
- Maximise opportunities to attract additional funding to pursue our objectives
County Durham Children and Young People’s Strategy

**Vision**
County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.

### Aims

#### 4. Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes

#### Objectives

- **4.1** Provide better coordinated services for children and young people with SEND across the local area
- **4.2** Children and young people with SEND have high quality support which meets their needs
- **4.3** Ensure that young people with SEND are well prepared for adult lives and can live independently

### What do we need to be good at? (Core deliverables)

- Embed and maintain a joint commissioning cycle that improves access to integrated support in Education Health and Care
- Provide families with information about Local Area Services through improvements to the Local Offer and its communication
- Ensure ‘High Priority Indicators’ capture relevant data and key performance info across Education, Health and Social Care
- Improved engagement with children and young people, parents and carers to inform policy and service quality
- Co-production of an updated SEND Strategy (2019-2022) which is regularly reviewed

- Develop a shared vision for inclusion education of young people with SEND that raises the confidence of providers and parents
- Improve the access to social activities achieving greater opportunities for social inclusion of young people with complex needs
- Develop the current Enhanced Mainstream Provision in schools to support young people where there identified gaps in provision
- Create new Enhanced Mainstream Provision to specifically support young people with autism in KS3
- Ensure the workforce is well equipped to effectively support children and young people with SEND
- Improved Education Health and Care opportunities for Children and Young People and their families on the autism spectrum
- Ensure a greater sufficiency of education places and use of SEND provision in County Durham

### What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling factors)

#### Strategic Leadership and Governance

- Strategic and operational approach to co-production across the local area
- Service user feedback informs service design
- Regularly updated needs assessment for children with SEND

#### Partnership Working

- Strong strategic governance for joint commissioning, operational partnerships and quality improvement
- A Think family approach for families with multiple issues
- Effective democratic scrutiny and monitoring of SEND matters by multiple agencies
- Effective governance procedures for commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND

#### Partnership Performance Management

- A SEND scorecard across education, health and care providers
- Ensure that performance is better captured across multiple services and that all providers are SEND compliant
- Improve analysis of needs and outcomes for CYP with SEND across education, health and care providers to better inform commissioning
- Benchmark SEND reform implementation
How will we measure success?

We aim to bring the whole resources of local public services and the voluntary sector to work with children and families to improve the life chances of our children and young people. Our aspiration is for County Durham to be a great place for children and young people to grow up in.

Delivery Framework

There is a delivery framework underpinning the strategic aims and objectives which includes detailed action plans and programmes for improvement as follows:

- **Aim 1: All children and young people have a safe childhood:** A 12-month plan to improve our social work and support services has been developed. The eighteen actions in this plan are being monitored through a Quality Improvement Board and the Integrated Steering Group for Children. This plan takes into account the ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services) framework which is produced by Ofsted and focuses on how a local area provides services to help care and protection of children and young people.

- **Aim 2: Children and young people enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing:** This outcome will be measured by three programmes namely; Healthy Child Programme Group, Children and Young People’s Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Local Transformation Plan (CYP MH LTP) and Best Start in Life programme. Detailed action plans will support this work.

- **Aim 3: Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood:** This outcome will be measured through our Strategy for Schools and associated plans and through our shared partnership Participation Plan. In addition, progress towards the achievement of DurhamWorks targets is reviewed by the DurhamWorks Strategic Group on a quarterly basis.

- **Aim 4: Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes:** The SEND written statement of action, written in response to the area wide inspection of these services undertaken late 2017, is monitored through the SEND Quality Improvement Board and the Integrated Steering Group for Children. This work will be taken forward through the new SEND strategy and accompanying action plan.

Monitoring and Review

Each delivery framework will be monitored through the governance framework at Appendix 3 and below using a range of performance indicators and actions (each of the sub groups will have a delivery plans and be responsible for the delivery of those plans). The delivery framework will be subject to an annual refresh to ensure that actions and measures are current. The strategy itself will be subject to a fundamental review every three year where the outcomes and objectives are revisited and the strategy will be rewritten to ensure that it is current and reflects the strategic environment.

Scrutiny of Progress

Working together to safeguard children requires us to have multiagency assurance arrangements to judge the effectiveness of how we safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in the county. Our scrutiny arrangements cover all local safeguarding partners and comprise:

- The local safeguarding children’s board (LSCB) which oversees partnership safeguarding
- A programme of multi-agency and single agency audits
- Feedback from children, young people and families
- Partner feedback
- Review and analysis of performance
- Political oversight through the council’s cabinet
- Independent scrutiny through the children and young people’s overview and scrutiny committee
- Corporate parenting panel
- Peer support and challenge through the sector lead improvement and partners in practice programmes
- Continuing monitoring and learning from external inspection, serious case reviews

By 2022 we want to see:

- Reduced impact of poverty on children and young people’s lives
- More children and young people from County Durham accessing apprenticeships and higher education opportunities including those from vulnerable group e.g. those with SEND
- More County Durham young people obtaining high quality jobs
- Fewer children and young people in need of high level safeguarding interventions, through early help
- Our more vulnerable children and young people living safe and healthy lives, achieving well and making successful transitions to adulthood.
- Improved learning opportunities through an inclusive education system
- Reduced teenage pregnancies
- Reduced levels of childhood obesity
- Reduced impacts of youth offending on young people’s lives

Examples of key performance indicators supporting these ambitions include:

- Percentage of all school pupils eligible and claiming for Free School Meals
- Percentage of 16-17 year olds in an apprenticeship
- Percentage of children who are Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)
- Rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population
- Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18
- Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation/EET
- Gap between the average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the average Attainment 8 score of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (at KS4)
- Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who have had the required number of health assessments
- % mothers smoking at time of delivery
- Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks and initiation
- Prevalence of First Entrants to Criminal Justice System aged under 18
- Reduce numbers of children with SEND educated out of county
- Lower exclusion rates of young people particularly those who are vulnerable
Appendix 1: Opportunities for children, young people and families to get involved

Investing in Children (IIC)

- IIC promote the rights of children and young people. They provide research and participation services to organisations that work with children and young people and share their commitment to their human rights. They support a range of groups including:
  - Disabled young people from County Durham called the eXtreme group, who engage with commissioners, service providers and parents/carers to develop and improve services for children with SEND across the county.
  - Children in Care Council (CICC) for County Durham. CICC work with Durham County Council to raise the issues of children and young people and make changes to improve services for anyone living in care across the County. All children and young people that are looked after in County Durham are automatically members of the CICC (Children in Care Council) and can take part in discussions and issues raised.

Making Changes Together

- Making Changes Together is a parent/carers forum. A group of parent carers who work with professionals to influence and improve services to children and young people (0-25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities in County Durham.

Student Voice Survey

- The Student Voice Survey, which takes place every two years, is the result of engagement with Primary and Secondary school children across the County, giving children the opportunity to inform decision makers about how they live their lives. It is designed to provide schools with an evidence base to use in their OFSTED ‘Self Evaluation form’, and to provide the Children and Families Partnership with a robust data set which can be used to inform service planning and policy.

Bridge Young Carers service

- The Bridge Young Carers service support children, young people and their families who have a challenging caring responsibility. They work in local communities to ensure that children and their families benefit from all the local services available to them.

Care Leavers Forum

- The Care Leavers Forum provides an opportunity for care leavers to meet to discuss issues which are important to them. The Forum provides space for them to look at areas of their lives which could be improved by making changes to the services they receive.

Humankind

- Humankind delivers a mix of services to help people in crisis with areas of their lives such as housing, education, employment, training, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, young people and families, and clinical support.

Durham Children and Young People’s Network on Facebook

- Provides an interactive social networking service for children and young people with a special educational need or disability, up to the age of 25 in County Durham.

Looked After Children young people’s service

- The service is for children in public care, who are placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.

Area Action Partnerships (AAP’s)

- There are 14 AAP’s in place across County Durham to give people a greater choice and voice in local affairs. The AAP’s allow people to have a say on services and give organisations the chance to speak directly with local communities. By working in partnership, we help ensure that the services of a range of organisations - including the county and town and parish councils, police, fire, health, and voluntary organisations - are directed to meet the needs of local communities and focus their actions and spending on issues important to these local communities.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) engagement

- This is engagement with groups of GPs and other health care professionals who have the responsibility for commissioning health and care services in their area, in partnership with local authorities and local communities.

Mini police, volunteer police cadets and police apprentices

- The mini police scheme provides an interactive volunteering opportunity for 9 to 11-year-old children. The Mini Police support the force priorities, through participation in community engagement events. The junior police cadets, for children aged 11 to 13, bridges the gap between the Mini Police and the Intermediates, enabling children to stay on as a police volunteer from nine to 18.
Appendix 2 - Services for Children in County Durham

There are a vast range of services provided across the County by public services, the private and voluntary sector. The aim of this section is not to list them all but provide an overview.

Local services for all children and young people include:

- Schools and nurseries
- Sports and leisure activities and facilities
- Libraries
- Arts and cultural activities
- Green spaces
- Transport
- Communities
- Police
- Health care
  - Primary Health care
  - Specialist Health care including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and hospitals
  - Social care and specialist services for those needing extra support

How are services provided?

Our services cover all children and young people in the county with extra services for those with additional needs across health, education and social care.

Where there is a child safeguarding issue all partners work together within the model for services for children, outlined below, to deliver services to protect children and young people.

Future Health and social care integration

With the intention to create an integrated health and social care plan for County Durham there is the opportunity to look at how money and resources are best managed in a collaborative way to reduce duplication and maximise the effectiveness and quality of service offer.

Key

- **One Point Family Centres** provides a variety of free advice and support and a range of activities from children and their families.
- **Families First Teams** are multiagency locality-based teams providing a range of services from early help to safeguarding
- **MARAC** provides a mechanism for partners (including social workers, health and police) to work together to ensure children are safe.
- **MAPPA** are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders.

* Figures as at July 2018
With thanks to the following partner organisations