

## CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### **Membership**

Cllr Bell, Elliott, Francis (Vice-Chairman), Hunt, Jackson, F. Miller, O'Neil, Scullion, P. Smith (Chairman), Stewart, M. Turton and Tye

Coopted Members – Mrs A Blakey, Ms R Elliott and Mr S Williamson

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	Report of the Chief Executive of Together for Children and the Council's Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Transformation (copy attached)	

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E. WAUGH,  
Head of Law and Governance,  
Civic Centre,  
SUNDERLAND.

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

**At a meeting of the CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2017 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Smith in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Bell, Francis, Hunt, Jackson, F. Miller, O'Neil, Stewart and Tye together with Ms. A. Blakey, Ms. R. Elliott and Mr. S. Williamson

Councillor Farthing – Lead Members for Children's Services Portfolio

**Also in attendance:-**

Mr. Alex Hopkins, Executive Director of Children's Services  
Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
Ms. Karen Davison, Head of Early Years Help  
Ms. Vanya Ellis, Complaints and Feedback Manager – Children's  
Ms. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Head of Law and Governance  
Mr. Leon Hussain, Youth Almighty Project  
Ms. Bella Johnston, Sunderland Youth Parliament  
Ms. Joanne Laverick, Pennywell Youth Project  
Mr. Simon Marshall, Director of Education  
Ms. Ruth Oxley, Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project  
Mr. Ryan Parker, Youth Almighty Project  
Mr. Liam Richie, Sunderland Youth Parliament  
Mr. Alan Rowan, Business Relationships and Governance Manager  
Mr. Steve Ryland, Bluewatch  
Ms. Janette Sherratt, Senior Commissioning Manager (Children's) Sunderland CCG  
Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer  
Mr. Daniel Storey, Youth Almighty Project

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Scullion and N. Wright

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 and the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017**

Subject to Ms. R. Elliott's apologies being removed from the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 as she was also recorded in the attendance, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February and of the last ordinary meeting of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

#### **Item 4 – Youth Offer Update**

Following advice from the City Solicitor, Councillor Smith made an open declaration in the above item as she had been involved in decisions made when in her prior position as Cabinet Member responsible for the Children's Services portfolio and left the room during consideration of the item at the juncture set out within the minute.

Councillor Tye made an open declaration in the above item as reference was made to an organisation that he had used to support.

#### **Item 6 – School Admission Arrangements 2018**

Ms. Blakey and Mr. Williamson made open declarations in the above item as the Headteachers of St Benet's RC Primary School and Northern Saints Primary School, respectively and advised that should discussions refer to their schools directly then they would leave the meeting to allow discussions to continue.

Councillor Bell made an open declaration in the item as a Governor of Northern Saints Primary School.

### **Youth Offer Update**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on Sunderland's youth offer for children and young people and the future provision of the service.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Members were reminded that at their meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 the Committee had received a report on the youth offer for the city and the work that would be undertaken in 2017/18 following the cessation of the commissioned funding to the voluntary sector and the XL provision from 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. Members of the Committee had requested that Councillor Farthing, Portfolio holder for Children's Services, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide further information on the background to the decision and the future provision of the service. Councillor Farthing was in attendance alongside, Ms. Karen Davison, Head of Early Years Help to answer Members questions.

Ms. Davison took Members through the report, providing an update to Members advising that since their last meeting, to partially mitigate for the reduction in funding a sum of £100,000 would be available to the voluntary and community sector to support activities and that this could be accessed by going through the normal process of applying for funding from the Area Committee but that it was intended that this funding should be used for new and innovative projects.

Mr. Williamson referred to the timeline of events for the cessation of funding as there had been disparities between the information provided to Members by Officers and that received from those within the voluntary organisations. Councillor Farthing advised that organisations had been commissioned to undertake the youth offer on behalf of the Council for a three year period and that this had been extended for a further two years to end 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. The difficulty faced by the Council was that they were not aware of final settlement figures from government until late in the year and once received it was more severe than expected. Continued financial pressures and the requirement to make significant savings resulted in the position whereby the XL provisions and the provider contract would cease as of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. Voluntary organisations received formal notification of this in December, 2016. Following the consultation on the budget which outlined the reduction in youth funding, the Leader of the Council put pressure on the Treasurer to find additional funding and the sum of £100,000 had been allocated to partially mitigate this reduction in funding.

In relation to the funding being for new and innovative projects, Ms. Davison advised that the understanding was that the funding would be applied for through the Area Committee process and not to be used for projects that were already on-going but for new initiatives and that it should not be used for a continuation of a project or to pay salaries.

Councillor Hunt referred to the issue around the physical assets as raised at the last meeting and Councillor Farthing advised that they had an itinerary of items currently owned and that she would be happy to have this shared with Members and the voluntary organisations. Discussions needed to be undertaken in more detail with the current providers, offering them the opportunity to look at the equipment and discuss in more detail how larger pieces of equipment may be used for the wider good of communities. The Committee were advised that the Council were not looking for monetary return on the equipment but that the Council would hold no liability and would have no responsibility for any repairs or maintenance of the equipment.

In relation to any youth projects that were directly at threat of closure or where any providers had advised that they would now be unsustainable, Ms. Davison advised that they were working with providers and to date she was not aware of any that had advised that they were to definitely close. They were working with providers to direct them towards alternative funding streams and having spoken with young people they had found that some were not aware of other youth services and provisions that were also available within the city.

Councillor Tye referred to the extraordinary meeting of the Committee that had been held and the comments made by Mr. Hopkins whereby he implied that Officers take no responsibility for the city having no youth work or provision. He commented that this was not Councillor's understanding as Officers put together the reports which were considered by Members and Councillors felt misled as to the information provided to them then and what was now in the public domain. Conversations with Councillor Farthing had implied that the decisions taken around youth provision in the city were not undertaken whilst she was in her role as Lead Member for the Children's Services Portfolio and sought clarification as to when and by whom the decisions were made.

At this juncture, Councillor Smith sought advice from the City Solicitor who advised that as the Committee were looking to consider matters which may have been made during the time she held the position of Lead Members for Children's Services that she should consider declaring an interest. Councillor Smith made an open declaration in the item and left the meeting during consideration of the remainder of the item and Councillor Francis took the chair.

Councillor Farthing responded, advising that she could not answer in all honesty who the decisions had fallen to but that the budget considerations would have been discussed with her predecessor but they would have been adversely affected by not having had a Director of Children's Services at the time but that she did recall questions being made at a meeting when they had been shown the severity of the cuts and the effects they would have. She advised that consultations had been carried out and responses taken consideration of but that the budget had to be managed to allow the Council to try to offer services on a much smaller amount of funding.

The austerity measures placed on local government by central government were challenging and looking into the future would continue to be made and the Council were in a position where difficult decisions had to be made. At this time it was most important to continue to address any safeguarding issues and it had to remain a number one priority for the Council and the costs related to this had to be tackled, such as the recruitment and retention of more social workers; these areas were being addressed but were not complete and would be on-going issues for Children's Services.

In closing, Councillor Farthing advised that the Council would continue to face difficult decisions given the austerity measures that were to come and that because of the cuts in funding that had been made the Council could not continue to provide all of the services that they had in the past or that they wanted to continue to.

Councillor Tye accepted the severity of the pressures that were being put on to local authorities by government but stated that it was 'our' gift as to how the allocations of funding were made around Children's Services and suggested that short term savings in removing funding from the local authority to partner agencies would only see rises in various issues around the city. He referred to another meeting he had attended whereby public health had advised that the removal of funding was to see the shop in the city centre closed which was one of the biggest providers of the C-Card in the voluntary sector. The removal of funding; and therefore services; within youth services would have far greater consequences on the city than the approximate £400,000 that was needed to continue with the provision.

Councillor Farthing advised that unfortunately difficult decisions had had to be made and discussions had been held with the newly formed Children's Company and as there was not enough funding to provide all of the services then it would be even more difficult to look to find a further £400,000 funding to continue to provide the commissioned youth services and XL provision. She completely understood where Members of the Committee were coming from but the funding was not available and there were other youth provision and services available around the city that were not commissioned through local authority funding and would continue. Councillor Farthing also referred to alternative funding streams that were available and other ways in which the voluntary sector could look to continue to offer youth provision

through other ways of funding. Discussions were held with the voluntary organisations as to how to access alternative funding streams through the set up consortium and they were also looking at other ways of providing youth services, through those provided by the uniformed services for example.

Councillor Tye referred to the provision of youth activities by the uniformed groups, such as Scouts, Brownies, Cadets, etc. and commented that there were sometimes substantial costs associated with taking part in these activities, meaning a proportion of society would never be able to access this provision. He had been made aware that one service were charging £15 per head, per session once you incorporated the cost of uniform and equipment, etc and this would see the provision completely inaccessible to a lot of deprived communities. Councillor Francis asked if detail of the group that charged this could be provided to him outside of the meeting as he worked with a number of the uniformed groups and was not aware of any charges of this amount.

Councillors Tye and Hunt also raised concerns around the use of the voluntary sector to pick up provision in the areas where the reduction of youth services through commissioned provision were as they felt it was totally unachievable to rely upon those groups. Councillor Hunt commented that the voluntary sector needed support to be able to provide youth work and the work that they undertook to nurture and engage with young people in the city was priceless but they needed an infrastructure in place to support them to be able to continue to do this.

Councillor Bell commented that everyone knew why the Council were in the position they were due to the sever cuts in central funding and that area budgets had already been cropped in the past to help to provide youth provision on an area basis. He commented that he could foresee that in some areas of the city the loss of the commissioned youth services could see mayhem ensue and stated that in the past some youth providers had offered great services for young people in their area but that some provision had been questionable and could have been improved upon.

Mr. Williamson sought clarity around the issue of the removal of the youth offer as there were very mixed messages being provided from Officers and Councillors and in the midst of this the young people of the city were asking what they had done wrong to have all of the provision taken from them. He referred to two examples whereby conflicting information had been given; namely, the Children's Commissioner had advised them that youth services would not be touched and that this was clearly not the case; and also the cost of the youth provision in the city, Officers had quoted £1,000,000, the initial budget consultation had it at around £450,000 and then they had heard from the voluntary sector a figure of £700,000. He asked if the Lead Member would accept that those mixed messages made it difficult for the voluntary sector and Councillors to plan and make decisions upon.

Councillor Farthing commented that it was her understanding, as it had been before she was in the Lead Member position, that providers had been informed of the two year extension to the contract with a view to it ending March, 2017. She personally had spoken with the provider in her area who were made aware in April, 2016 that they needed to diversify their income streams and looked to become less solely reliant upon the Council for funding. She had sounded out other Members and departments of the Council and she understood that overtures had been made to the Leader of the Council and it had been thought that would be some level of reduced remuneration still available for the youth services offer. Unfortunately the settlement

figure that the local authority had been made aware of in December, 2016 had been considerably worse than that expected and the proposals discussed had to be revisited. Councillor Farthing advised that she had not been party to those discussions at that time but that she had been informed was what had happened and as far as she was informed Officers had continued to have regular conversations around this with the commissioned providers.

Mr. Williamson advised that at the last meeting this was not the case and the Committee were advised that conversations were not held to that level of detail. One of the providers had advised that they had been informed that there may be a percentage reduction in funding, but not outright, and the Commissioner had advised that youth provision would not be touched, and yet it was. With the mixed messages on the reductions to be made in funding, he could see how it could breed resentment.

Mr. Williamson referred to a previous meeting of the Committee, where experts in Mental Health had commented that the removal of youth services in the city would have a detrimental effect on the mental health of young people and yet Central Government were asking local authorities to make mental health in young people a priority. The decision to remove funding for the youth offer in the city was going to have much further reaching consequences in relation to mental health and crime, anti-social behaviour, etc and asked the Lead Member if she could accept that there would be a potential for increases in these areas?

Councillor Farthing accepted that the youth offer provided support to young people in the city and she had been very involved with the services and was a great advocate for the services they had provided. She commented that there may be some providers who were not able to continue to run in the same way as they had before without the Council funding but there had been no evidence of this as yet.

The XL villages had undertaken great outreach work around the city and the loss of that provision could have an adverse effect in some areas but services would have to look to be more targeted than ever. She commented that they were at the point now where the severe cuts to funding that had been made over previous year was really starting to have an effect on the services the Council could provide and although the decisions made were very difficult to make, there was no alternative.

The Council had previously been an employer of 10,000 people and it was expected that this would continue to reduce until it was only 1,000 by 2021. Education providers had diminishing resources whilst costs continue to rise and the Council were at a point where it was really difficult to continue to deliver the level of services they had in the past on the reduced funding they had and she was under no illusion that the loss of services may have an adverse effect.

Ms. Ruth Oxley, SNYP, spoke to the Committee on behalf of the commissioned youth providers and asked for assurances that the youth providers could continue to use the IYSS system, currently held by the Council, and also sought clarity on what the future would hold for continued support and access to these systems and was informed by Ms. Davison that there was no problem in the first instance in providers continuing to access the system. She would need to have further discussions as to how long this provision would be available for and what it would look like in the future but it would not be a case of the service would stop being accessible from the end of contract, i.e 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.



Members, having fully considered the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- the update on the Youth Offer be received and noted and a further update on the position be received by the Committee in three months time;
- clarification be sought to the long term access to the IYSS system and shared with the Committee and youth providers; and
- information around the cost for the storage of and/or disposal of physical assets; including a list of available assets which may be available for youth providers; be provided to the Committee and Youth Providers.

### **Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformational Plan Progress Update**

The Senior Joint Commissioning Manager, Sunderland CCG, submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a progress update on the implementation of the Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Transformational Plan 2015-2020 and set out the 2016-2018 priorities,

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Jeanette Sherratt, presented the report advising the Committee of the background to the report and taking them through the implementation of the Sunderland Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Transformational Plan 2015-2020, informing Members of the progress and achievements made to date and the priorities for the forthcoming year.

In response to a comment from Councillor Miller around an article published by the British Psychological Society on CAMHS and concerns around the short term costs associated with hitting targets, Ms. Sherratt advised that there were certain targets around developing specific services available but that the issue was around maintaining the wider picture of what was available. She advised that some groups of children, for example, those diagnosed with attention deficit disorders did not respond well to some services that were offered and it was about managing the support available so that the workforce was right to meet demands put upon it and that they should only engage those families with therapies that were fit for them and that they wanted to partake in.

Ms. Sherratt went on to advise that with the CAMHS service they already looked to provide services to young people in the environment they preferred and that the issue in the future would be what the service offer would look like and where they were based so that they could look to more innovative ways of how to better provide a wide range of shared services.

In relation to a further question from Councillor Miller around the issuing of cinema passes and other activities to young people from the youth offending services, Ms. Sherratt advised that this was not a service that the CCG commissioned and that they must be provided through one of the other partner agencies. The CCG supported the youth offending service in Sunderland and a practitioner visits the service to give advice in term of the mental health services but they were not

involved in the scheme the Councillor as referring to so should could not advise further as to how it was run.

Councillor Jackson commented that she was very interested in the systemic approach to dealing with mental health in young people and asked how well staff were prepared and resourced in the area. Ms. Sherratt advised that training was provided and on-going for staff and that there were a number of members of staff who had received basic level training in the systemic approach but that there were members of staff who had received training on the approach at a significant level within CAHMS and Northumberland Tyne and Wear Children and Young People's Service.

Mr. Williamson referred to value for money of the CAMHS service and asked when delivering the transformational plan, how they could judge whether the service was offering good value for money and delivering services and if not, how quick the service could respond and was informed that there was further work to be done to set out robust KPI's within the transformational plan so that they could look at measures to score against and how it could be demonstrated that targets were being met. Ms. Sherratt advised that outcome measures were set and performance could be compared against other CAHMS services nationally to see how well the service was performing in relation to how much spend there was.

Mr. Williamson commented that as previously discussed they had seen the reduction of youth services funding in the Council's budget this year and that it could be that the same happened with CAMHS funding in future years so it was important that the service could absolutely demonstrate the impact and the quality of the services being provided.

Mr. Williamson spoke in relation to schools and the fact that they were facing a large number of budgetary cuts, in the region of 10-12% up to 2020, and commented that parts of the plan related to work being carried out within the school environment and asked who would be looking to ensure this could be provided when schools would be cutting specific roles which they could no longer look to fund, such as family workers, mental health worker, etc. He went on to ask if the plan was adequately prepared for the changes that were imminent as he would not want to get to the point where the plan doesn't hit performance targets because of external cuts that were being made in partner agencies.

Ms. Sherratt commented that these were issues of concern but that schools would look to manage their budgets and that they could look to provide the minimum requirements or more as they saw fit within the resources they had.

Mr. Marshall, Director of Education, advised that there was a lot of good practice in dealing with mental health issues with young people within the schools in the city and it was about how these practices could be shared around the city. It was about driving from the forefront and getting schools to best recognise and understand the needs of their pupils and responding more effectively for the children and their families and thinking of more creative ways of how to best spend their resources so that the reductions in funding did not automatically mean a reduction in services. The earlier the intervention then the more savings it would create on services that may need to get involved if an issue is not picked up and dealt with. The key was early identification of need and intervention to stop issues in young people progressing.

Members having fully considered the report, and having no further questions or comments, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress of the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformational Plan and priorities for 2017-2018 be received and noted.

### **School Admission Arrangements 2018**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which attached for Members consideration a report on the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2018-2019 and proposed amendments to the published admissions numbers for the same academic year, as considered by Cabinet at their meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alan Rowan, Business Relationships and Governance Manager, presented the report advising that Cabinet at their meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 had approved the following in relation to the 2018-2019 academic year:-

- the admission policy and procedures associated with the co-ordinated scheme of admissions;
- details of the oversubscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools; and
- published admissions numbers (PANs).

Ms. Blakey referred to requests from parents of summer born children seeking deferral of their child's admission to primary schools and advised that she had received three applications this year so far and she had concerns over whether parents had thought their requests through as in the future children may need to jump a year should any changes be made to policies by government. Mr. Rowan commented that he would like to think that any change would see central government honour a policy for those children that would be affected by a change but that there was no guarantee that this would be the case.

There being no further comments or questions for Mr. Rowan, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report on the school admission arrangements 2018 be received and noted.

### **Overview of Progress Against the Learning and Improvement Plan for Priority 7**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an overview of progress made against priority seven within the Learning and Improvement Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alex Hopkins, Executive Director of Children's Services presented the report (copy circulated) advising that notable progress had been made against priority 7 and that services and outcomes for children and young people were continuing to improve because of the effective management and governance systems that had put in place. Members of the Committee were informed that whilst much progress had been made since the 2015 inspection there was more to do to ensure that the service continued to learn, improve and make the required process.

Mr. Hopkins advised that the full Learning and Improvement Plan was attached to the report for Members information.

Councillor Smith referred to the case file audit report and the conclusion that overall the majority of audits completed had required improvement or been inadequate and asked if this was the result that had been expected or better or worse than predicted and Mr. Hopkins advised that they had expect to see variability within the results which they had. He advised that the audit findings reflected a variability of practice within the service, ranging from 3 of the 142 audits completed within the period being outstanding to 31 inadequate. The action plan had been updated to address themes identified in that period and to drive forward the improvements identified through the audit process.

In relation to supervision, Mr. Hopkins advised that supervision was being undertaken but that the recording of it was still variable and that this needed to continue to improve. Some supervision practices were very good, whereas other areas were not paying as much attention to it as necessary and this was one of the issues they were looking into to understand why this was the case and how to improve it.

Councillor Smith asked how long it was expected to allow change and improvements to be made as it did not appear to be improving quick enough and was informed that where it was identified that there was an issue, managers were given the opportunity to improve using techniques and training available to them and if, having accessed them, improvements were still not made then alternative action would be investigated.

Councillor Smith advised that she looked forward to further audit reports continuing to be submitted to this Committee to allow them to continue to monitor the improvements within services.

Members having fully considered the report, and having no further questions or comments, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the progress made against priority seven of the Learning and Improvement Plan be received and noted.

### **Complaints and Feedback – Children's Services Issues**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information regarding complaints and feedback received by the Council in relation to Children's Services issues.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Head of Law and Governance, took Members through the report advising that Members had asked to be provided with more regular reports to ensure that the most current monitoring information was available to them. The report was therefore an extract about Children's Services complaints taken from the joint quarterly report submitted to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee in February, 2017 and was supplemented with further detail in response to the comments of Members and covers the quarter period of October – December, 2016.

Ms. Hood introduced Ms. Vanya Ellis, to the Committee who had recently taken up the post of Complaints and Feedback Manager – Children's and would be attending future meetings of the Committee to present this report.

Councillor Tye referred to the costs incurred by the commissioning of independent investigating officer and independent persons at stage 2 complaints, there had been four stage 2 complaints during October – December with a cost for investigations of £29,398.88, and asked if it was not easier for the Council to settle complaints at stage 1 if savings could be made. Ms Hood advised that there was not a direct correlation between the live complaints during October – December and the costs incurred during the same timeframe as the costs related to all on-going complaints at that level and not just those progressing. She went on to advise that resolutions were made at stage 1 where it was felt necessary and Mr. Hopkins advised that sometimes you would never be able to successfully remedy a complaint at stage 1 as the complainant would want that independent person involvement.

Councillor Tye went on to ask if all costs were included within the figures set out in the report and Ms. Hood advised that it was simply the costs outlaid for the independent review and did not include costs incurred by the Council such as Officer time, etc.

There being no further comments or questions for Ms. Hood, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report on complaints and feedback in relation to Children's Services issues be received and noted.

### **Draft Annual Report**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which asked the Committee to approve the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny annual report 2016/17 that would be presented to a future meeting of Council.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report advising that, as in previous years, the annual report would be a single combined report of all four scrutiny committees and outline the development in the scrutiny function and provide snapshots of the outcomes achieved during the last 12 months.

Members having fully considered the report, and having no further questions or comments, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee report for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17 be approved.

### **Annual Work Programme**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out for Members attention the current work programme for the 2016/17 municipal year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

There being no further comments or questions for Mr. Diamond, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the information contained within the work programme be received and noted.

### **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 21 February, 2017.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) P. SMITH,  
Chairman.

**SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (2017-2022)**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN AND THE COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PARTNERSHIPS AND TRANSFORMATION**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Scrutiny Committee of the Children's Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Plan which covers the period 2017-2022. This report includes:
- a) An overview of the Children's Strategic Partnership, its vision and priorities for children and young people
  - b) How the plan was developed, including the engagement of children, young people and partners
  - c) How the plan will be delivered and impact measured.

**2. BACKGROUND TO THE CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

- 2.1 In 2010 the Coalition Government revoked the statutory duty for local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and to prepare Children and Young People's Plans.
- 2.2 In Sunderland the Children's Trust continued to meet until May 2014 and had at that time refreshed its Children and Young People's Plan. Unfortunately, the Trust then became dormant until it was re-launched as the Children's Strategic Partnership in early 2016. The Partnership has new members from all organisations who have a significant role in either commissioning or delivering services for children and young people.

**3. SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 Membership of the Children's Strategic Partnership is as follows:
- Sunderland City Council – Children's Service Portfolio Lead
  - Sunderland City Council – Deputy Children's Service Portfolio Lead
  - Together for Children – Chief Executive
  - Together for Children - Director of Education Services
  - Together for Children – Director of Early Help
  - Sunderland City Council - Public Health: Children and Young People Lead
  - Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Board – Chair
  - Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group - Chief Executive
  - Northumbria Police – Chief Superintendent, South Area Command
  - City Hospitals and South Tyneside NHSFT - Divisional General Manager, City Hospitals Sunderland
  - Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust – Group Nurse Director, Specialist Care

- Sunderland City College - Assistant Principal Student and Customer Experience
- Primary School Representative
- Secondary School Representative.

3.2 Additional to this, the council provides policy and governance support to the partnership, and Together for Children provide performance and quality assurance support and ensure the voice of children and young people in the work of the partnership.

3.3 The terms of reference for the Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership set out its purpose as follows:

- Provide strong and effective leadership
- Support effective partnership work and take action to ensure that children and young people in Sunderland are supported to achieve their potential
- Set the strategic agenda for children and young people in Sunderland and seek to influence the strategic commissioning intentions of partners
- Monitor the effectiveness and impact of services for children and young people
- Using local intelligence, identify areas for improvement which require input from across the partnership and which add real value to the outcomes of children and young people
- Co-produce improvement plans on areas identified
- Influence strategic partnerships in the setting and reviewing of priorities
- Oversee the work of key multi-agency partnerships for children and young people.

3.4 The Children's Strategic Partnership will strive to ensure that all children and young people:

- are safe from harm
- do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for employment and for life
- are able to choose healthy lifestyles
- are happy and have fun growing up
- have a voice and are able to influence decisions that affect them.

3.5 It is important that the Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership does not duplicate the work of existing strategic partnerships, but complements their work and provides advisory support on issues relating to children and young people. These are the Health and Wellbeing Board, Economic Leadership Board, Education Leadership Board and the Sunderland Safer Partnership. The Children's Strategic Partnership will also adopt the same relationship with the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board.

3.6 The Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership has a specific role in:

- Ensuring that the needs of children and young people, particularly vulnerable groups, are reflected in the priorities and plans of these Boards
- Providing the mechanism by which these Boards can take forward work in relation to children and young people
- Advising these Boards on emerging issues for children and young people in Sunderland
- Informing the Boards of the progress in relation to the key priorities identified for children and young people in Sunderland.

#### **4. SUNDERLAND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (2017-2022)**

4.1 In September 2016 members of the Children's Strategic Partnership came together for a workshop. Colleagues were asked whether the current Children and Young People's Plan (2010-2025) vision was fit for purpose. The consensus was that it should be revised in to



something more succinct. They considered key issues affecting children and young people and explored: what was working well; things that we needed to do more of; things that we needed to stop. They then prioritised the areas they felt were most important.

- 4.2 This workshop and further engagement with all members of the Children's Strategic Partnership, as well as engagement with the Children and Young People's Advisory Network (see section 5 of this report) has informed the current Children and Young People's Plan priorities for 2017-2022.
- 4.3 The vision of the Children's Strategic Partnership is "**Working together for children, young people and families**". The partnership listened to the views of children and young people who didn't like the proposed vision, and amended it accordingly.
- 4.4 To achieve the vision the partners will provide the support necessary to tackle inequalities in education and health and wellbeing, and ensure the safety of all children and young people.
- 4.5 The partnership has selected six priorities which it believes are a powerful starting point, providing a way to improve outcomes for all children, young people and their families and to tackle the complex issues affecting the most vulnerable. They are:
1. All children, young people and families who are vulnerable and need help are **identified and supported as early as possible**
  2. All children have the **best start in life**
  3. All children and young people enjoy **good health and wellbeing**
  4. All children and young people do well at all levels of **learning** and have **ambition** and the **skills for life**
  5. All children and young people are kept **safe from harm**.
  6. All children, young people and their families will have a **voice and influence**

The Children and Young People's Advisory Network has considered the priorities and agree these are the right ones for us to focus on.

- 4.6 The principles that underpin the partnership's approach are:
- Voice and influence of children, young people and their families
  - Efficient and intelligence-led services
  - Early identification, intervention and prevention
  - Narrowing the gap
  - Strong and inspiring leadership and a skilled and stable workforce.
- 4.7 Each of the six priorities is considered in detail in the plan, this includes:
- Explaining why the priority is a priority
  - Supporting data presented in a simple format
  - The actions the partnership will take to achieve this
  - The indicators the partnership will monitor to measure impact
  - Links to supporting plans and strategies.

## 5. THE VOICE AND INFLUENCE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 5.1 Listening to and respecting the views of children and young people is one of the leading principles underpinning our approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

5.2 There is a lot of good work happening around the city to engage with young people and ensure they have a means to participate and have their views heard. The Children and Young People's Advisory Network have been engaged in the development of the plan and partners will engage all relevant groups of children and young people in the delivery of their priority actions. This includes the following groups:

- Sunderland Youth Parliament
- Change Council (Looked After Children)
- Children and Young People's Advisory Network
- Sunderland Young Inspectors
- City Equals (disabled children and young people)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT)+ Forum/ Support Group
- EYE Group (Mental Health) - NTW.

5.3 The Children's Strategic Partnership is keen to develop its approach and further strengthen the voice of children, young people and families in service development and in decisions that affect them. They hope to empower people across the city to influence decisions and to participate in family, community and social life. To do this the partnership is currently exploring how to enhance the capacity of the participation and engagement role within Together for Children.

## 6. DELIVERING THE PLAN AND MEASURING IMPACT

6.1 The actions identified to achieve the vision and priorities described in the plan will be delivered through existing work programmes and strategies, or through newly founded task and finish groups. An action plan has been developed which identifies lead officers for each of the priorities and actions. Those lead officers are responsible for reporting progress to the Children's Strategic Partnership through a bi-monthly performance programme which is set out below. Whilst lead officers are identified, it is important that they are not solely responsible for delivering the improvements. This CYPP is a partnership plan and it will only be successful if there is joint working to provide partnership solutions to the issues identified.

6.2 Whilst the plan covers the period 2017-22 it is anticipated that the actions will be achieved in the first two years. Therefore, the action plan will be reviewed annually to assess the impact on the lives of children, young people and families, and new actions will be developed accordingly.

6.3 Where there are particular concerns or improvement actions are found to have little impact, partners will challenge one another to take decisive action. Where positive impacts are identified, partners will explore how to extend this good practice to other areas of work.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 This report seeks to ensure that the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee has an understanding of the Children's Strategic Partnership's Children and Young People's Plan which covers the period 2017-2022.

7.2 It is **recommended** that Scrutiny notes the report and receive a progress update following the partnership's annual review of the plan in 2018.

# SUNDERLAND

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2017-2022

Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership



# SUNDERLAND CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP





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# 1. INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to present our Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for 2017-22. It is the first strategic plan of our recently established Children's Strategic Partnership in Sunderland.

Whilst there have been a series of CYPPs in Sunderland led by the former Children's Trust, this new plan reflects the aspirations of our new partnership, and is informed by the current and anticipated needs of children, young people and families in our city.

The plan covers:

- All children and young people aged 0-19 years and their families<sup>1</sup>
- Those over 19 years receiving services, including those leaving care
- Those aged between 19 and 25 years with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Since the Ofsted inspection of our services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers in May-June 2015, those partners delivering services for children, young people and families have been galvanized into action, to make Sunderland a great place to raise a family. There have been many recent improvements, particularly around strengthened leadership, improved partnership working, a new quality assurance framework and the workforce in the city now feel more positive about the journey we are on. There is still much to be done and most certainly we will face challenges on this journey, but there are also some exciting times ahead.

From April 2017, many of the services for children and young people which were delivered by the council have now moved to a new company, Together for Children. Sunderland is one of the first local authorities to move to this type of service delivery, which is designed to drive improvements across all services for children and young people, and provide the council with assurance around the delivery of its statutory responsibilities. This move provides a real opportunity for Together for Children to work more proactively with partners, to develop relationships with individual agencies and to influence improvements across the city to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

We must review our early help services across the city, agree a shared understanding of what we mean by early help and develop a coherent and coordinated offer which provides targeted, early help interventions that are effective at preventing the escalation of children and families' needs. We need all partners to sign up to the offer and commit to its development and delivery at an appropriate level.

A great deal of work has been undertaken regarding the recruitment of social workers. However, much more needs to be done around the recruitment and retention not only of high quality social workers, but also in other professions particularly teaching and health professionals in the city. As we move forward, our desire is to have a more integrated approach to workforce development across agencies, and to develop innovative ways to recruit to essential and difficult to fill posts. We want to foster an approach which is aimed at early identification and early intervention to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and families and ensure early access to support services from relevant agencies.

Sunderland has always had a strong culture of participation and engagement of children and young people in specific activities. However this needs to be more widespread if we are to fulfill the city's ambition to be an 'all age friendly city', making Sunderland a liveable place for all. In doing so we must ensure the voice of children and young people is consistently listened to when we design and evaluate services, as well as when we are working with them to meet their individual wishes, aspirations and needs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Children's Strategic Partnership recognises the diversity of families and therefore defines families in the most inclusive sense, including the traditional family of two parents and their child/ren; same-sex families; single parent families; adoptive and foster families; children living with step-parents; joint-custody families where children live with parents who are separated or divorced; children living with a relative, such as a grandparent; extended families living in more than one household; and people of no relation who are living in the same household and who consider themselves a family.

We want Sunderland to be a fantastic place for children and young people to live, to learn and to go on to achieve successful and fulfilled lives. For families who need support along the way, we want them to benefit from outstanding services which increase their resilience and independence, and make possible new ways of addressing some of the most challenging problems that children, young people and families face.

We will deliver this by providing the leadership, systems and tools to enable the children's workforce to be confident, competent and well equipped to support families and help them to bring about positive change, making a real difference to children and young people's lives now, and for their future.

The Children's Strategic Partnership has a key role in driving forward service improvements and changing children's lives for the better. We embrace the ethos of true partnership working and recognise that we can do much more for children, young people and families by working together.

This CYPP describes how these improvements will happen by tackling underlying issues that affect children, young people and their families. This plan is about prevention; promoting a culture of early rather than late intervention, finding new ways to give children a better start in life, enabling every child and young person to develop social and emotional capability and improving the lives of all children and young people in our city, especially those who are most vulnerable. This includes, but is not limited to, looked after children, children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, young carers, children from black and minority ethnic communities and those from low income families.

It sets out the ambitions we have for children, young people and families and how we can achieve those ambitions by working together.



## 2. SUNDERLAND KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

### Demographics

- In 2015, 277,150 people lived in Sunderland. There were 57,630 children and young people aged 0-18 years, of which 29,629 were boys and 28,001 girls
- 24,384 children lived in areas classed in the 20% most deprived in the country, 12,332 in the 10% most deprived areas and 3,127 in the 3% most deprived areas
- In 2015 there were 2,889 babies born in Sunderland. The birth rate fell in the five years from 2011 from a high of 3,250

### Health and wellbeing

- The infant mortality rate during 2012-14 was 3.6 per 1,000 births
- In 2015/16, 24.2% of reception pupils were obese or overweight (of which 11.4% were in the obese category) and 39.7% pupils in year 6 were obese or overweight (of which 24.2% in Year 6 were in the obese category)
- There were 34.6 conceptions per 1,000 young women aged 15-17 in 2015 and 8.5 conceptions per 1,000 young women aged 13-15
- 4% of 5-15 years olds have an emotional disorder. This rises to 9% for 16-17 year olds

### Community safety and safeguarding

- 606 per 100,000 young people aged 10-17 years were first time entrants to the criminal justice system in 2015/16
- 37% of young offenders aged 10-17 years reoffend during the period 2013/14

In January 2017, there were:

- 2767 open social work cases,
- 633 children with a Child In Need plan,
- 426 children subject to a child protection plan, and
- 525 looked after children

### School demographics and attainment

- In primary schools 8% of pupils are from a black and minority ethnic background with 7% in secondary
- In 2016, 5.7% of pupils in primary schools have English as an additional language and 4.7% in secondary
- 23% of pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (aged 5 to 16)
- 31% of pupils are eligible for the pupil premium (aged 5 to 16)
- 2.5% of children have a statement of special educational need (SEN) or an Education Health and Care Plan. 13% children are classified as having SEN without a statement or plan (aged 5 to 16)
- As at December 2016, 79% of our children attend learning settings which are rated by Ofsted as Good or better

- 68% of all pupils achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception in 2016, compared to:
  - 60% of looked after children
  - 33% of children with special educational needs (with or without a statement of SEN/EHC Plan)
  - 52% of children eligible for free school meals
- 61% of all pupils achieved expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths by the end of primary school in 2016, compared to:
  - 30% of looked after children
  - 26% of pupils with special educational needs (with or without a statement of SEN/EHC Plan)
  - 44% of pupils eligible for free school meals
- 59% of all pupils achieved A\*-C Grades in English and Maths in 2016 (as part of the English Baccalaureate), compared to:
  - 11% of looked after children
  - 21% of pupils with special educational needs (with or without a statement of SEN/EHC Plan)
  - 39% of pupils eligible for free school meals
- In 2016, the attainment gap for those eligible for free school meals and others is 20% in EYFS; 21% at Key Stage 2 and 25% at GCSE (A\*-C in English and Maths)
- In 2015/16, persistent absence in the primary sector was 8.7% and 15% in secondary
- In 2015/16, 0.04% of pupils were permanently excluded in the primary sector and 0.19% in secondary. Fixed term exclusions were at 0.48% and 3.52% respectively
- In 2016, 4% of young people were NEET and the status of a further 4% of young people was unknown

# 3. VISION, PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

## Our vision is “Working together for children, young people and families.”

The principles that underpin our approach to achieving this vision are:

### Voice and influence of children, young people and their families

- We will place children and families at the heart of everything we do
- We will involve, respect, hear and respond to the voice of children, young people, their families and communities to influence the design and evaluation of services
- We will guarantee children's rights to essential services
- We will empower children and young people to participate in family, community and social life

### Efficient and intelligence-led services

- We will improve the commissioning of services, eliminate duplication, align resources to achieve the best value for money, simplify processes and evaluate outcomes to ensure services are as effective as they can possibly be
- We will use data and intelligence to identify priority issues and to monitor the impact of services
- We will regularly review the effectiveness of our interventions to ensure that they are up-to-date and based on evidence of what works

### Early identification, intervention and prevention

- We will work closely with all service providers to identify all children, young people and families who are vulnerable and need help, and intervene at the earliest possible stage to tackle problems before they escalate
- We will ensure there is support for children and young people across all key transitions

### Narrowing the gap

- We will know where the gaps in outcomes exist for all children and young people
- We will focus on narrowing inequality gaps for all vulnerable children and young people, including looked after children, children with special educational needs and/or disabilities, children from black and minority ethnic communities and those from low income families

### Strong and inspiring leadership and a skilled and stable workforce

- We will build a restorative, child-focused and family-centred approach to working with children, young people and their families
- We will provide effective leadership and management to attract and support a skilled workforce
- We will have a relentless focus on continuous improvement of services and outcomes
- We will continue to build trusted working relationships and shared learning across services for children and young people

- We will engage other strategic partnerships where we believe they can help to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families

Our six priorities have been selected because we believe they are a powerful starting point, providing a way to improve outcomes for all children and their families and to tackle the complex issues affecting the most vulnerable. They are:

1. All children, young people and families who need help are identified and supported as early as possible
2. All children have the best start in life
3. All children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing
4. All children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have ambition and the skills for life
5. All children and young people are kept safe from harm
6. All children, young people and their families will have a voice and influence

The Children and Young People's Advisory Network have considered the priorities and agree these are the right ones for us to focus on.

# PRIORITY 1

## **All children, young people and families who need help are identified and supported as early as possible**

### **Why is this a priority?**

All families face challenges, difficult situations or crises from time to time. The majority of families in our city have the coping mechanisms needed to respond to their challenges positively.

However, a significant number need support to manage and cope with the challenges life throws at them. It is important that these families are supported to prevent their situation spiraling to a point where they require costly and more intensive services and safeguarding interventions. It is equally important to build resilience in families so that they are able to support themselves and no longer require even low-level interventions.

Sunderland must develop an Early Help offer to identify and support families in the city as early as possible before problems arise to enable them to make good responses to future events.

We must recognise our role in strengthening family resilience and shift our focus to deal with the underlying causes rather than the symptoms of a family's problems. We must develop trusting relationships with families and a whole-family approach to support, building on existing strengths, harnessing the expertise of wider family members and utilising community resources. For example, in setting up pathways of support for a child with neurodevelopment difficulties such as autism, it is essential that practitioners are sensitive to the emotional wellbeing of the wider family in dealing with and managing the child's disability.

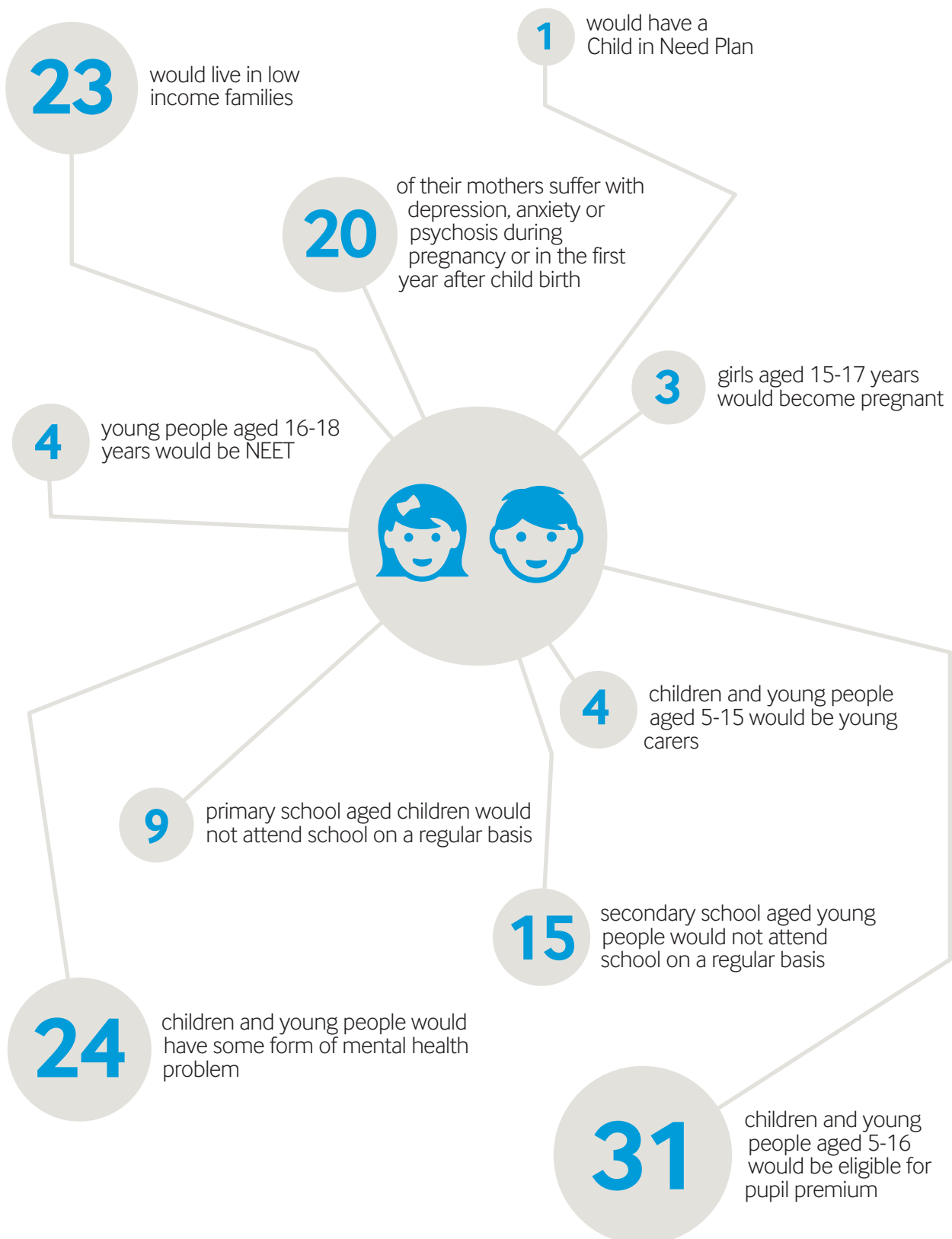
We must have a shared vision about our approach to early help and how we all work together to improve outcomes for families, and this vision must be understood by our collective workforce. All agencies working with families have a responsibility to deliver early help services: early help should never be someone else's problem and for families needing help 'no further action' is never an outcome.

We need our universal services, including schools and colleges, to identify those children, young people and families who need support, and for those services to make the earliest offer of help. For the most vulnerable children, young people and families or those with the most complex needs, we all need to work together to deliver excellent pathways of support.

We want every family to develop an intergenerational cycle of positive parenting, relationships and behaviour, where they have the resources and capabilities to provide a supportive and enriching environment for their children to grow up and flourish in.

We believe that a strong early help offer will make the biggest difference to turning the lives around of families who are struggling and we are committed to developing the best offer we can. We will know that our early help approach has been successful when we see a positive shift in all outcomes for children, young people and families. For example, improved school attendance, reduced numbers of NEETs, better childhood health, narrowing the gap in all outcomes for vulnerable groups and reduced numbers escalating up the tiers of need and requiring safeguarding interventions. Similarly, we should see a shift in family-related outcomes, for example increased identification and support to young carers, or increased collaboration between adult mental health and children's services where there is poor parental mental health.

# IF SUNDERLAND WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 CHILDREN...



**The actions we will take to achieve improvements in this area are:**

- Develop an Early Help Strategy
- Design and implement a multi-agency Early Help assessment, planning and review toolkit, (See, plan, do review) as well as clear routes by which early help can be accessed and “wrapped” around a family
- Develop a comprehensive performance framework to measure and monitor the impact of the early help offer
- Ensure all partners understand and can fully commit to the delivery of multi-agency early help
- Combine our early help and Troubled Families programme offers to deliver one programme to all vulnerable families

**We will measure the impact of our actions by monitoring the following indicators:**

- Total number of early help plans
- % of early help cases that were closed with two or more successful outcomes

These indicators will be collected as a minimum, and a comprehensive dataset will be developed alongside the Early Help Strategy and Assessment, Planning and Review Toolkit.

**Supporting plans and strategies:**

Sunderland Early Help Strategy – to be developed

Sunderland Early Help assessment, planning and review toolkit

Sunderland Neglect Toolkit – to be developed

Sunderland Threshold guidance







# PRIORITY 2

## All children have the best start in life

### Why is this a priority?

What happens during pregnancy and the first two years of life has a lasting impact on the health, wellbeing and attainment of a child. From conception and through the early years the foundations of human development are laid, impacting physically, emotionally and intellectually. We need to make sure that prevention and health improvement are recognised as being essential to giving every child the best start in life. This means building knowledge about pre-conceptual care, supporting good maternal physical and mental health and providing positive early experiences, including supporting good attachment and sensitive parenting, ensuring a child has a loving, secure and reliable relationship with a parent or carer and providing access to high quality early education. By achieving this we will ensure our children have the most positive early experiences which will support good health, social and cognitive development, language development, readiness to learn, emotional wellbeing and resilience.

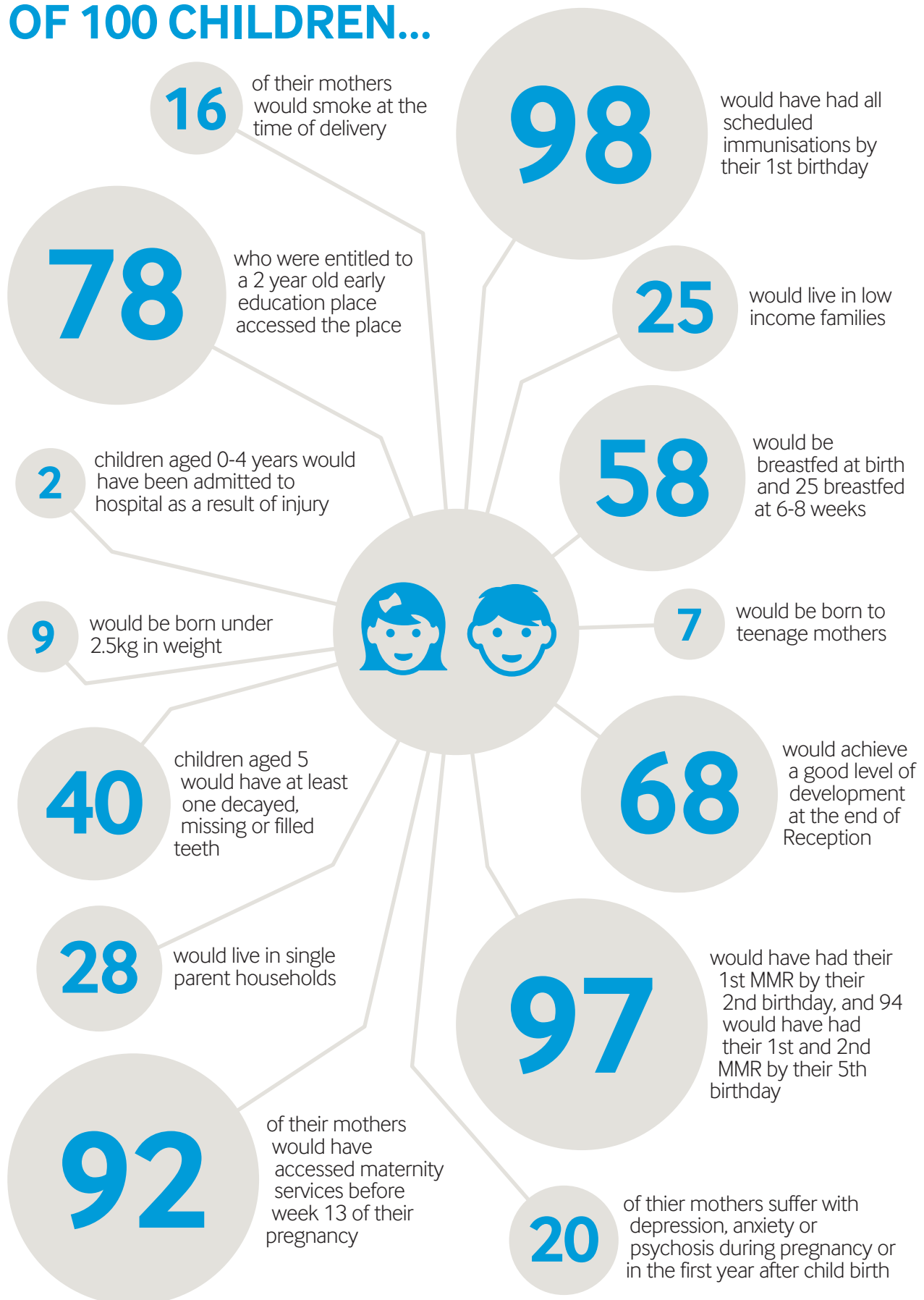
By giving children the best start in life, they are more likely to be happy, secure, healthy and experience positive outcomes in later life. We know that for those who start from a position of disadvantage compared to their peers, the inequality gaps widen throughout their lives.

It is essential therefore that we focus our efforts to reduce health inequalities and improve life chances for all children and families by supporting the transition to parenthood and throughout the early life of the child where needed. This must begin by providing an effective universal offer through maternity and health visiting services, supported by more specialist services as appropriate, including services to support parental mental health.

Pregnancy and the birth of a baby provide a real window of opportunity where parents can be especially receptive to offers of advice and support. We must use this opportunity to support parents to create the conditions where stress is reduced, positive bonds and attachments with their babies are formed and language and communications skills develop.

We will develop an effective working environment so that practitioners can have the right conversations, in the right place and at the right time with families.

## IF SUNDERLAND WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 CHILDREN...



**The actions we will take to achieve improvements in this area are:**

- Ensure the commissioning and delivery of universal services embed prevention and health improvement outcomes, including the promotion of healthy behaviours such as smoking cessation, breast feeding and healthy eating
- Research parenting programmes and commission the most effective programmes for the city
- Deliver the behaviour change pilot to increase the take up of early education places for disadvantaged two year olds
- Facilitate universal access to Healthy Start vitamins
- Work with the Adults Partnership Board to develop a joint approach to supporting families with dependent children where there is parental vulnerability, including poor mental health

**We will measure the impact of our actions by monitoring the following indicators:**

- Women's smoking status at time of delivery
- Maternal mental health
- Breastfeeding initiation rates
- Breast feeding at 6-8 weeks after birth
- Teenage parents
- Hospital admissions due to injuries in children aged 0-4 years
- A&E attendances for children aged 0-4 years
- Reception class children who are overweight or obese
- Children with one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth
- Take up of early education place for disadvantaged 2-year olds
- Children in low income families
- Children achieving a good level of development

**Supporting plans and strategies:**

Public Health England High Impact Areas

Health Matters: giving every child the best start in life

Sunderland Health & Wellbeing Strategy





# PRIORITY 3

## All children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing

### Why is this a priority?

In order to thrive, children and young people need to have good health and well-being – by this we mean physically healthy, happy, have secure social relationships both at home and school, are emotionally resilient and able to cope with adverse circumstances.

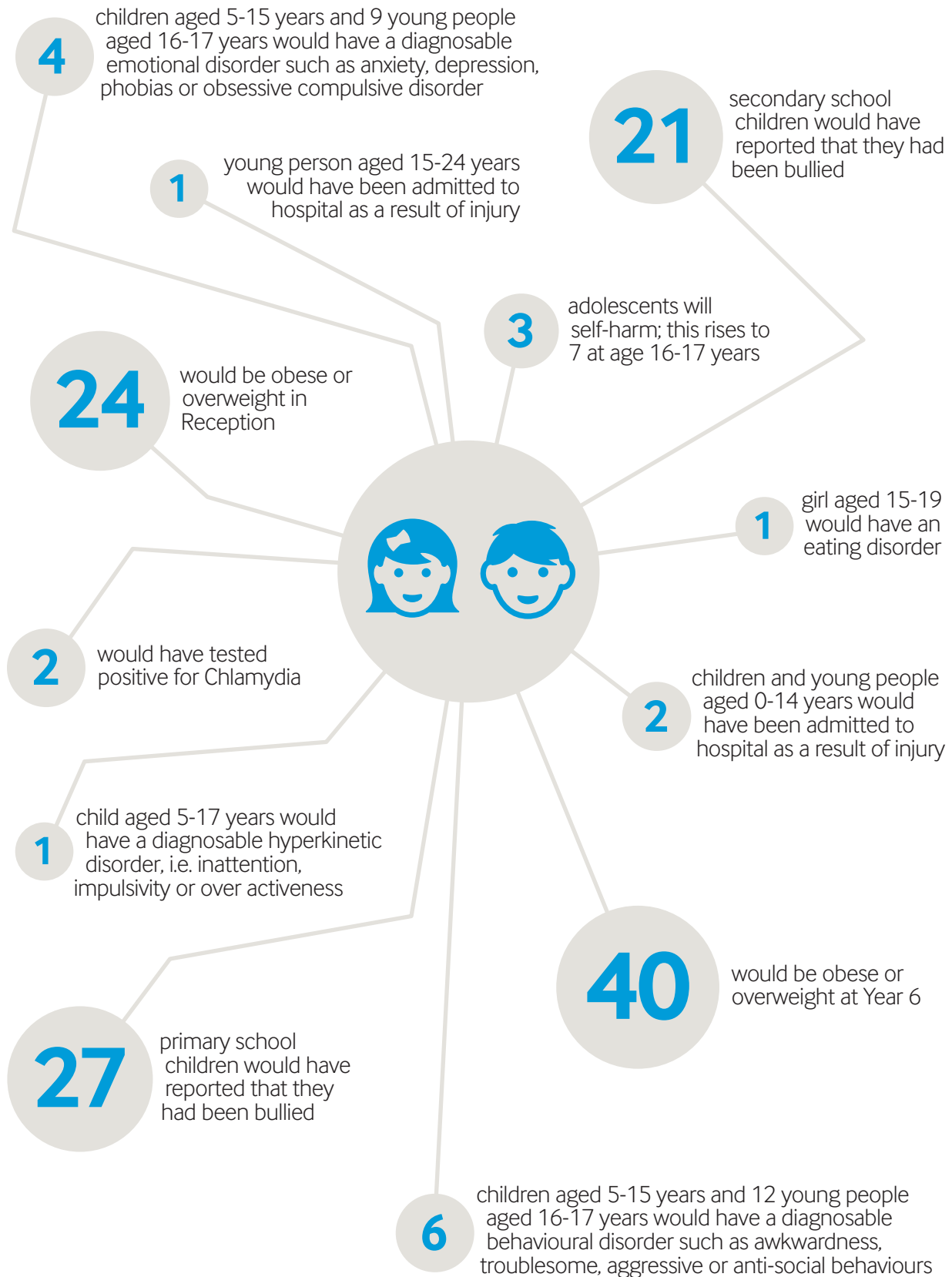
We firmly believe that one of the greatest investments we can make is to support families to have positive relationships and behaviours, particularly in early childhood, to ensure our children and young people are healthy, happy and emotionally resilient throughout their lives.

We will build on the positive work that we undertake with families in a child's early years to ensure good physical and mental health and wellbeing throughout childhood and into adulthood. For all age groups we will have good universal services that encourage healthy eating, exercise and positive lifestyles and activities.

Emotional resilience is fundamental to positive life outcomes. Young people who are happy and emotionally resilient are able to play an active part in their communities and make positive choices, particularly in adolescence and early adulthood when they are faced with opportunities to engage in a range of risk taking behaviours. Sunderland performs poorly in many measures of adolescent resilience, with teenage pregnancy and teenage mother rates, alcohol and substance misuse, youth offending and self-harm all too high. We also need to engage with our young people to develop our understanding of what it means for them to be happy.

In a 2015 national survey of head teachers, two-thirds named the mental health of pupils as their top concern (The Key 2015). We know that over half of mental ill-health in adult life (excluding dementia) starts by the age of 14 and seventy-five per cent by age 18. Therefore we need to be certain that our services for supporting children and young people presenting with mental health issues are first class. This must begin with our universal services – midwives, health visitors and GPs – providing effective support to parents and carers with poor mental health. Schools also need to be able to quickly identify children and young people presenting with mental health issues and be confident in supporting them and their families. For children, young people and families whose needs are more complex, we need to ensure there is a consistent, systematic approach to the support that they receive.

# IF SUNDERLAND WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 CHILDREN...



**The actions we will take to achieve improvements in this area are:**

- Ensure 0-19 commissioned services reflect the health needs of children and young people in the city
- Commission a piece of work to understand how happy children and young people are in Sunderland and act upon the findings
- Improve the Sex & Relationships Education offer in the city
- Improve the offer for substance misuse services for young people in the city
- Develop a thorough understanding of our current emotional wellbeing services, including the demand for these services, and deliver the change needed

**We will measure the impact of our actions by monitoring the following indicators:**

- Children and young people with a diagnosable mental health condition will access evidence based treatment
- Number of referrals to Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Number of referrals to in-patient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Children and young people accessing 24/7 crisis resolution and liaison mental health services
- Hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions
- Hospital admissions due to substance misuse
- Prevalence of smoking at age 15
- Young people diagnosed with Chlamydia
- Under 18 conception rates
- Reception class children who are obese or overweight
- Year 6 children who are obese or overweight
- Children aged 5 with one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth
- 15 year olds physically active for at least one hour per day seven days a week
- 15 year olds with a mean daily sedentary time in the last week over 7 hours per day

**Supporting plans and strategies:**

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Sunderland CAMHS Transformational Plan





# PRIORITY 4

## **All children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have ambition and the skills for life**

### **Why is this a priority?**

Children's attainment can determine their opportunities for the rest of their lives. Young people who do not achieve good educational qualifications have significantly diminished opportunities compared to those who do. Our ambition is that all children and young people attain the very best results which will give them the best opportunities to take an active part in the economy and achieve their personal aspirations.

We will complement the work of the Economic and Education Leadership Boards which want everyone to have the skills, attributes, qualifications and experiences that enable them to realise their full potential, placing children and young people at the heart of a strong economy. We will support schools to improve and raise pupil attainment across the city by focusing our attention on supporting children and young people to access school and the curriculum.

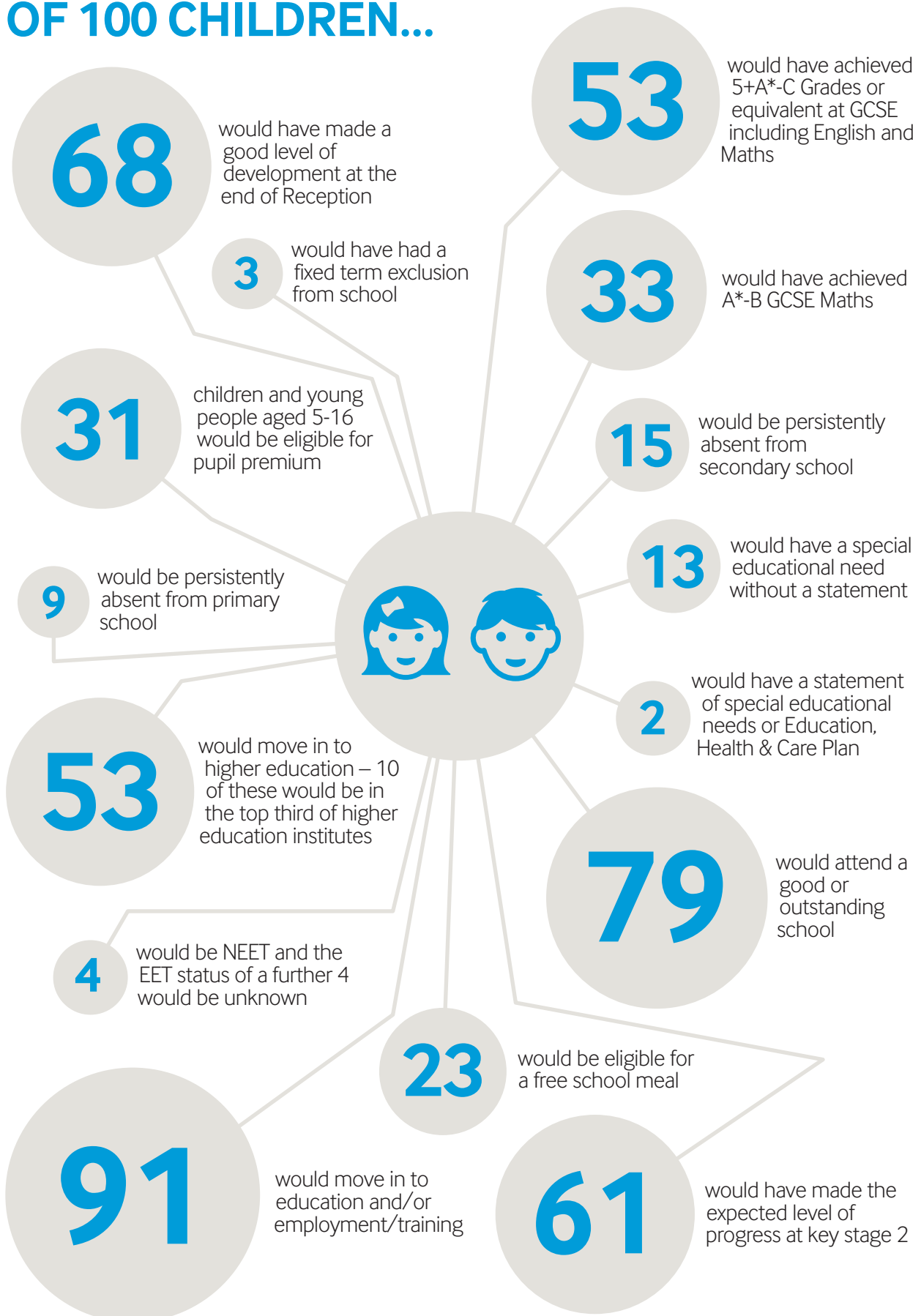
School persistent absence rates in the city are too high and the equation is quite simple: if a child or young person is not attending school or other formal education setting, they cannot hope to achieve the qualifications required for a prosperous future. However, we recognise that by focusing on children with poor attendance we will often find more complex issues within the family such as child or parental mental health or learning difficulties, alcohol or substance misuse, domestic violence and caring responsibilities, to name a few. It is essential therefore that we have effective links to the early help offer to respond to these issues and holistically support individual families' needs.

We need children to be ready for learning at every stage and are supported to make the most of education and training made available to them. However, we know that children and young people can be affected when transitioning from one education establishment to another, and so we must ensure that there are effective mechanisms in place to support this.

We know that many young people disengage from education at around age 14 – in between key stages 3 and 4. We must identify the trigger points to prevent this from happening and apply early intervention processes when it does.

Our more vulnerable children and young people need more support to access the curriculum, particularly children and young people who are looked after, have special educational needs and those from low income families. It is important we look to address these inequalities and narrow the attainment gap by making best use of pupil premium and other resources we have available.

## IF SUNDERLAND WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 CHILDREN...



**The actions we will take to achieve improvements in this area are:**

- Develop a Positive Transitions Programme for all schools and settings to ensure children are supported at key transitions in their education
- Conduct a piece of research to understand why young people, particularly those between Key Stages 3 and 4, disengage from education and act on the findings
- Learn from those schools that make the best use of Pupil Premium and roll out best practice across the city
- Review the role of the Virtual School and its impact in narrowing gaps in performance for looked after children

**We will measure the impact of our actions by monitoring the following indicators:**

- Pupils in reception achieving a Good Level of Development
- Pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 attaining Level 4+ in GCSE English and Maths
- Students in Key Stage 5 achieving A\*-A grades at A-level or equivalent
- Students in Key Stage 5 achieving A\*-E grades at A-level or equivalent
- % of permanent exclusions of school population
- % of fixed term exclusions of school population
- % of pupils persistently absent in primary school
- % of pupils persistently absent in secondary school
- % of young people who have reached statutory school aged (Academic year 12-13) who are in employment, education or training
- Young people leaving Key Stage 5 who have moved onto a Higher Education Institute
- Young people leaving Key Stage 5 who have moved onto a top third Higher Education Institute

NB. We will analyse this data for all pupils and where the data is available, we will also analyse it by gender, ethnicity, free school meals eligibility, looked after children, children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to understand where inequalities exist and where the gap needs to be narrowed. We will also monitor multiple protected and non-protected characteristics, i.e. gender and free school meals eligibility, gender and different ethnicities, etc.

**Supporting plans and strategies:**

Sunderland Education Strategy – Get Ready



# PRIORITY 5

## All children and young people are kept safe from harm

### Why is this a priority?

There is nothing more important than keeping children safe from abuse and harm. Notwithstanding the immediate emotional effects of abuse and neglect, such as isolation, fear and an inability to trust, the long term impact can be equally damaging. The life chances of children in need or in need of protection and those in the care system are way below their peers. They often suffer from poor health and wellbeing with a significant number having poor mental health. They often do not achieve well at school or move in to further and higher education. Many become NEET, involved in crime or alcohol and substance misuse. Into adulthood, those in the social care system often experience low self-esteem, depression, and relationship difficulties. It is essential we prevent this from happening.

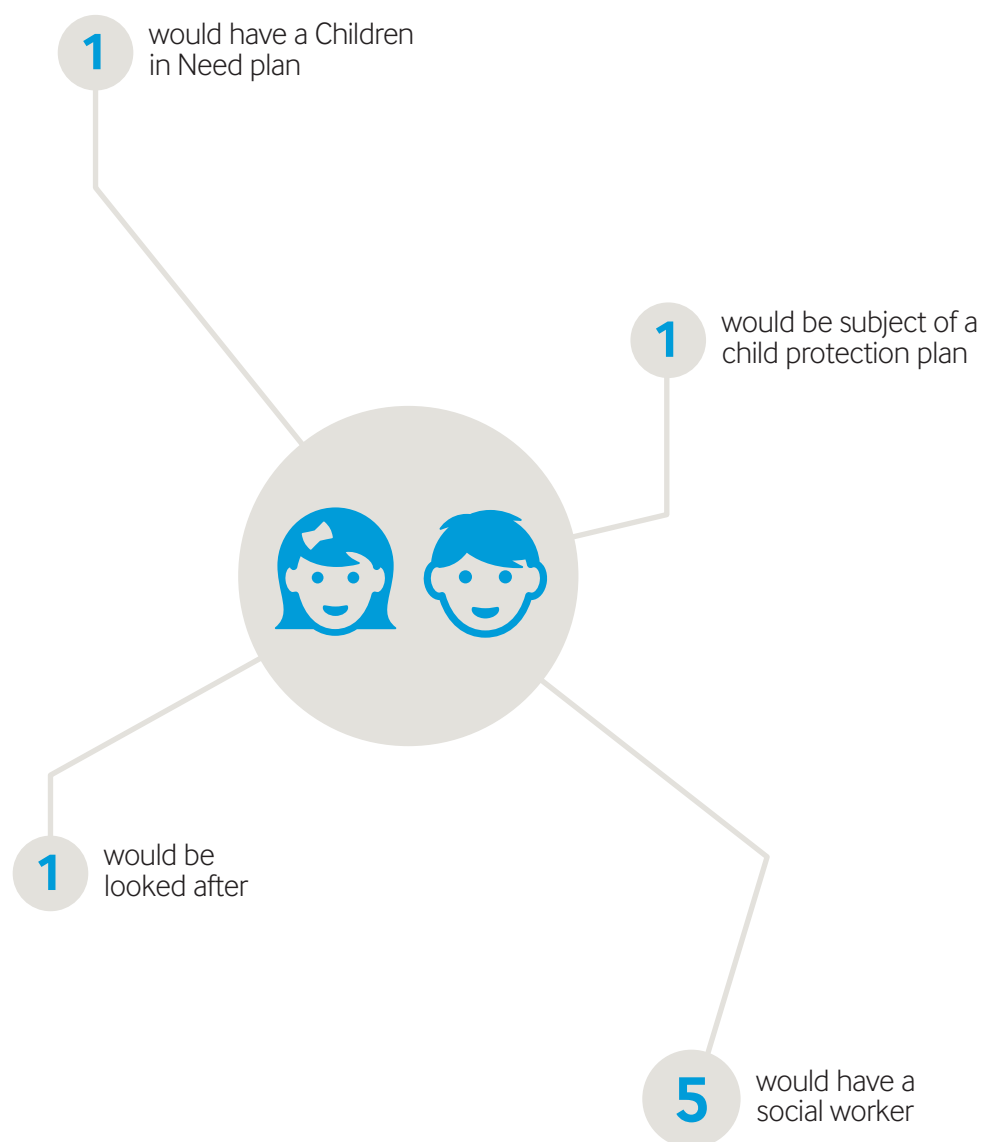
The Children's Strategic Partnership recognises the role of the local authority, Together for Children and the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board in reducing the number of children and young people who are in the social care system. To that end we would not want to duplicate their work, however we feel there is some complementary preventative work we can engage in to support families and prevent them from reaching crisis point.

The majority of child protection cases in the city are as a result of neglect. We therefore need to identify the signs of neglect at an earlier stage and support families who need help. We will work with the Safeguarding Children Board to link the Threshold Model for safeguarding and the SSCB's responsibilities around promotion of welfare with the early help offer, and roll out training for practitioners so that they are confident when to escalate a case to children's social care. Having a coherent and coordinated early help offer in the city will help us to support families at an earlier stage, providing them with the coping mechanisms needed and prevent children from entering the social care system.

In addition, there are a disproportionate number of cases in the children's social care system where there is domestic violence in the family. We will work with the Safer Sunderland Partnership to support children who are affected by domestic violence and raise awareness of its impact on children's lives.

There are a number of areas being highlighted nationally, which we need to address locally. These include the sexual exploitation of children and young people, the Prevent agenda to minimise the risk of young people becoming radicalised and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We will work across partnerships to develop suitable approaches and raise awareness of those issues and ensure that we have a coherent response for practitioners and services where they find evidence of these in our communities.

# IF SUNDERLAND WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 CHILDREN...





**The actions we will take to achieve improvements in this area are:**

- Revise, review, refresh and develop the Threshold Model with the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board to include improved understanding of neglect and early help
- Work with the Safer Sunderland Partnership, Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Board to develop a coherent approach to support children affected by domestic violence
- Engaging with the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and the Safer Sunderland Partnership, develop approaches to address vulnerable children including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), risk taking behaviour, Female Genital Mutilation and preventing radicalisation

**We will measure the impact of our actions by monitoring the following indicators ...**

- Rate of children in need per 10k of the population
- Rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10k of the population
- Rate of Looked After Children (LAC) per 10k of the population
- Rate of referrals per 10k
- Percentage of all referrals with the outcome of No Further Action (NFA)
- Percentage of children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time
- Number of LAC missing

**Supporting plans and strategies:**

Sunderland Threshold Guidance

Operation Encompass

Northumbria Operation Sanctuary



# PRIORITY 6

## All children, young people and their families have a voice and influence

### Why is this a priority?

Listening to and respecting the views of children, young people and families is one of the leading principles underpinning our approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

There is a lot of good work happening around the city to engage with young people and ensure they have a means to participate and have their views heard. This includes the following groups:

- Sunderland Youth Parliament
- Change Council (Looked After Children)
- Children and Young People's Advisory Network
- Sunderland Young Inspectors
- City Equals (disabled children and young people)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT)+ Forum/ Support Group
- EYE Group (Mental Health) - NTW

Young people also get involved in 'Make Your Mark' and 'State of the City Debate'.

However, we now need to develop our approach and further strengthen the voice of children, young people and families in service development and in decisions that affect them. We hope to empower people across the city to influence decisions and to participate in family, community and social life.

### The actions we will take to achieve improvements in this area are:

- Build partnership capacity to increase participation, voice and influence of children and young people in service design and delivery and decisions that affect them
- Expand the breadth of children and young people who participate and influence service design and delivery to include primary school children, seldom heard voices and all vulnerable groups, for example young offenders, looked after children, young carers, those living in poverty and any children and young people that feel disenfranchised by society
- Establish a virtual network of officers to engage with more children and young people to ensure their voice is more representative of the population
- Commission a piece of research to understand how children and young people want to participate in play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities
- Commission a piece of research to understand what it's like to be a young person growing up in the city and design solutions to issues with young people
- Work with the Adults Partnership Board to progress Sunderland's commitment to be an All Age Friendly city





## 4. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Children's Strategic Partnership will work with other strategic partnerships providing advisory support as well as monitoring and assurance on issues relating to children and young people. These partnerships are the Health and Wellbeing Board, Economic Leadership Board, Education Leadership Board, the Sunderland Safer Partnership and the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board. Appendix A sets out how the priorities of each of those partnerships and other agencies complement each other in working towards achieving the same goals for children, young people and their families.

The Sunderland Children's Strategic Partnership will engage with these individual partnerships to:

- Ensure the needs of children and young people, particularly vulnerable groups, are reflected in their priorities and plans
- Provide the mechanism by which they can take forward work in relation to children and young people
- Advise on emerging issues for children and young people in Sunderland
- Provide progress updates in relation to the key priorities identified for children and young people in Sunderland

The Partnership will also support and oversee the work of key multi-agency partnerships for children and young people.

A diagram showing the relationship between the Children's Strategic Partnership and other partnerships is included at Appendix B.







## 5. DELIVERING THE PLAN AND MEASURING IMPACT

The actions identified to achieve the vision and priorities described in this plan will be delivered through existing work programmes and strategies, or through newly founded task and finish groups. Progress on actions will be reported to the Children's Strategic Partnership through a bi-monthly performance programme which is set out below.

This CYPP covers the period 2017-22, however we anticipate that the actions will be achieved in the first one or two years. Therefore, the action plan will be reviewed annually to assess the impact on the lives of children, young people and families, and new actions will be developed accordingly.

Where there are particular concerns or our improvement actions are found to have little impact, we will challenge each other to take decisive action. Where positive impacts are identified, we will explore how we can extend this good practice to other areas of work.

Our 'Plan on a Page' summarising our vision, principles, priorities and actions can be found at Appendix C.

### Performance monitoring programme 2017/18

CSP Meeting	Priority area
April 2017	Early Help
June 2017	Best Start & Voice of children and young people
September 2017	Health & Wellbeing including CAMHS
November 2017	Education (provisional data for 2016/17) & Early Help
December 2017	Safeguarding
February 2018	Full plan review in preparation for 2018/19

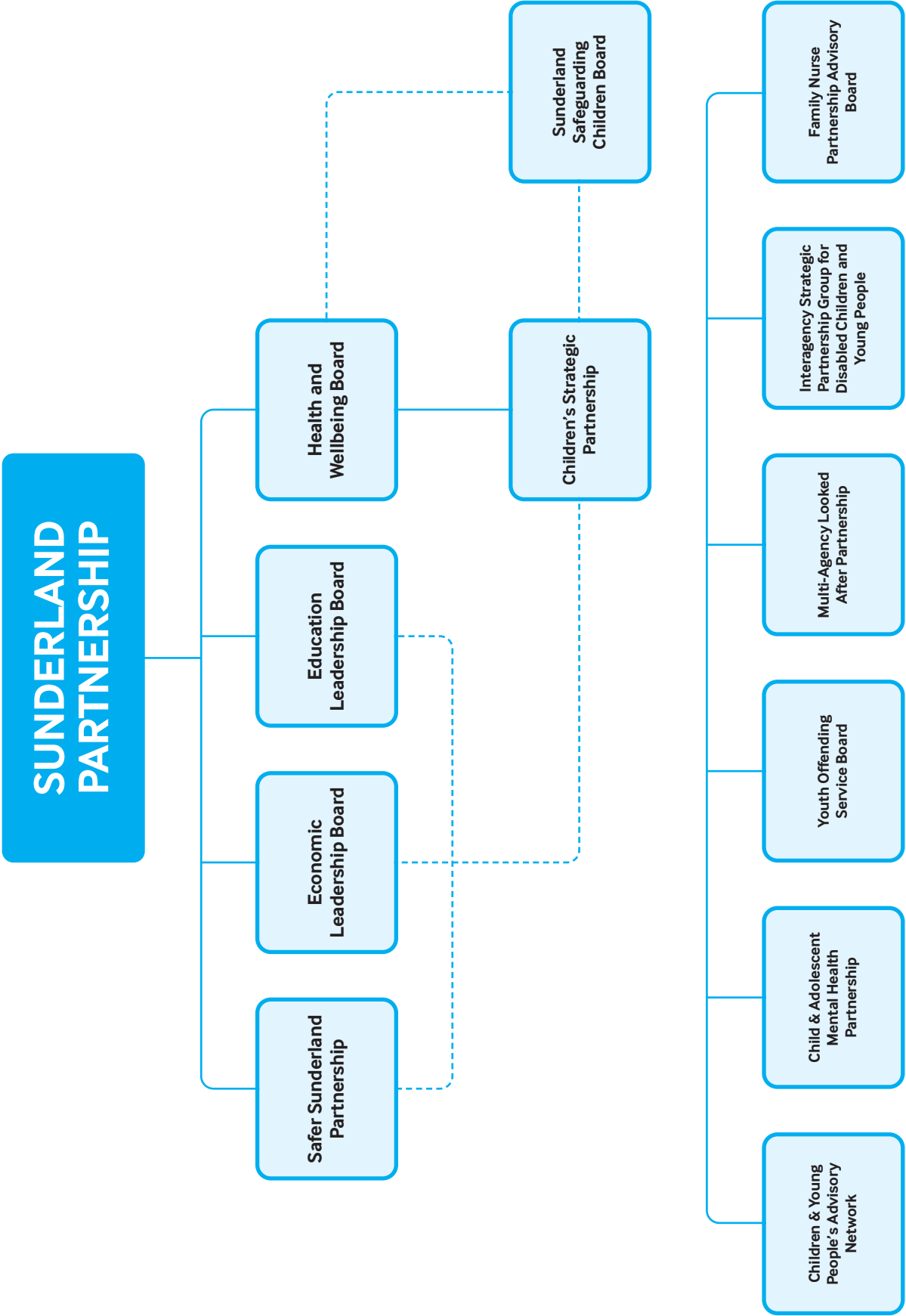
Dates for performance reporting beyond 2017/18 will be agreed in line with the reviewed action plan and resulting new priorities, as appropriate.

# APPENDIX A

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS - PRIORITIES

	Children's Strategic Partnership	Health & Wellbeing Board	Safer Sunderland Partnership	Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board	Education Leadership Board	Economic Leadership Board	Adults Partnership Board
All children, young people and families that need help are identified and supported as early as possible	✓		✓	✓			✓
All children have the best start in life	✓	✓			✓		
All children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing	✓	✓	✓				
All children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have ambition and the skills for life	✓				✓	✓	
All children and young people are kept safe from harm	✓		✓	✓			
All children, young people and their families have a voice and influence	✓						✓

# APPENDIX B



# APPENDIX C

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN ON A PAGE

Our 5 year plan: 2017/18 to 2021/22						
Vision	Working together for children, young people and families					
Priorities	All children, young people and families who need help are identified and supported as early as possible	All children have the best start in life	All children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing	All children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have ambition and the skills for life	All children and young people are kept safe from harm	All children, young people and their families have a voice and influence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an Early Help Strategy</li> <li>Design and implement a multi-agency Early Help assessment, planning and review toolkit</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive performance framework</li> <li>Ensure all partners understand and can fully commit to the delivery of multi-agency early help</li> <li>Combine Early Help and Troubled Families into one offer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure universal services embed prevention and health improvement outcomes</li> <li>Research parenting programmes and commission the most effective</li> <li>Deliver the behaviour change pilot to increase the take up of the 2-year old offer</li> <li>Facilitate universal access to Healthy Start vitamins</li> <li>Work with the Adults Partnership Board to support families where there is parental vulnerability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure services reflect the health needs of children and young people</li> <li>Understand how happy children and young people are in Sunderland and act upon the findings</li> <li>Improve the Sex and Relationships Education offer in the city</li> <li>Improve the offer for substance misuse services for young people in the city</li> <li>Develop our understanding of emotional wellbeing services and deliver the change needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Positive Transitions Programme to support children at key transitions</li> <li>Understand why young people disengage from education and act on the findings</li> <li>Learn from schools that make the best use of Pupil Premium and roll out best practice across the city</li> <li>Review the role of the Virtual School and its impact in narrowing gaps in performance for looked after children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise the Threshold Model</li> <li>Develop a coherent approach to supporting children affected by domestic violence</li> <li>Develop approaches to address vulnerable children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build partnership capacity to increase the voice of children and young people</li> <li>Expand the breadth of children and young people who participate</li> <li>Establish a virtual network of officers to engage with more children and young people</li> <li>Understand how children want to participate in play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities</li> <li>Understand what it's like to be a young person growing up in the city and design solutions to issues</li> <li>Progress Sunderland's commitment to be an All Age Friendly city</li> </ul>
Principles	Voice and influence of children, young people and their families	Place children and families at the heart of everything we do Involve children, young people, their families and communities in the design and evaluation of services Guarantee children's rights to essential services Empower children and young people to participate in family, community and social life				
	Intelligence led services	Improve the commissioning of services, eliminate duplication, achieve the best value for money, simplify processes and evaluate outcomes Use data and intelligence to identify priorities and monitor the impact of services Review the effectiveness of our interventions				
	Early identification and prevention	Identify all children, young people and families who need help and intervene early Ensure there is support for children and young people across all key transitions				
	Narrowing the gap	Know where the gaps in outcomes exist for all children and young people Focus on narrowing inequality gaps for all vulnerable children and young people				
	Strong and inspiring leadership	Build a restorative, child-focused and family-centred approach to working with children, young people and their families Attract and support a skilled workforce Focus on continuous improvement Build trusted working relationships and shared learning across services for children and young people Work with other strategic partnerships to improve outcomes				







# CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY 27 JUNE 2017 COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 To be most effective, the work programme should provide a basis and framework for the work of the Committee, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that emerge during the course of the year. The work programme is therefore intended to be a working document that the Committee can develop and refer to throughout the year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 The remit of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee covers the following:-  
  
*To review and scrutinise any matter relating to the service performance and commissioning for children, young people and their families including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Family Support and Children's Social Care, Corporate Parenting, Educational Attainment and Skills, Relationship with Schools and Youth Services.*
- 2.5 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review (where necessary). In accordance with the recent independent review of the scrutiny function there will be an increasing emphasis on accountability and performance management in the composition of the work programme for the year ahead.
- 2.6 The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the Sunderland Strategy and Corporate

Plan, reflect issues highlighted following external assessments and issues raised during the Annual Scrutiny Debate.

### **3. Draft Work Programme 2017/18**

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the issues it wishes to consider for the year ahead. A draft Committee Work Programme based on some of the key issues facing the Council and raised during the Scrutiny Workshop held on 3 May is attached marked Appendix 1. This will hopefully provide a useful framework for developing the work programme for the year.
- 3.2 A key theme for the year will be to continue to monitor progress in relation to the work of Together for Children and regular performance monitoring reports have been included in the work programme.
- 3.3 The Committee will also continue to have representation from young people at its meetings in order to obtain their views and may wish to hold further meetings to meet and speak with social work staff in order to obtain feedback on the operation and development of the service.
- 3.4 During the year the Committee will also have the opportunity to review service performance and will be provided with regular reports on complaints relating to Children's Services issues.

### **4. Recommendations**

That the Scrutiny Committee consider and agrees a draft Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18 and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year;

### **5. Background Papers**

None

### **Contact**

Jim Diamond Scrutiny Officer  
Tel 561 1396  
James.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18**

<b>REASON FOR INCLUSION</b>	<b>27 JUNE 17</b>	<b>13 JULY 17</b>	<b>7 SEPTEMBER 17</b>	<b>5 OCTOBER 17</b>	<b>2 NOVEMBER 17</b>	<b>30 NOVEMBER 17</b>	<b>4 JANUARY 18</b>	<b>1 FEBRUARY 18</b>	<b>1 MARCH 18</b>	<b>12 APRIL 18</b>
<b>Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	Children and Young People's Partnership Plan (Jane Hibberd)				Youth Justice Plan (Sharon Clutton-Dowell)					
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>	Remit and Work Programme of Committee (Jim Diamond)	Youth Offer  Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) –Annual Report (Gavin Taylor)  Pupil Place Planning (Alan Rowan)	Independent Review Officer (IRO) – Annual Report (Gavin Taylor)  Early Years Funding (David May)	Apprenticeships Role of FE College - 16-19 yrs Training and Skills  Preparing for work – role of business sector in schools (Stephanie Rose)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Sheila Lough)	School Non-Attendance/Fixed Penalty Notices (Elaine Matterson)  School Exclusions  Levels of Attendance in Schools (Simon Marshall)	Safeguarding Board Annual Report (Independent Chair)  Early Help Strategy (Karen Davison)	Educational Attainment Schools Results (Simon Marshall)	Suicide and Self Harm, children & young people – Progress Report (Gillian Gibson/Lorraine Hughes)  Special Educational Needs/Services Provided for Autistic Children (Simon Marshall)	Scrutiny Annual Report (JD)  University Technical Colleges(Alan Rowan)
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Alex Hopkins)  Children's Services Complaints (Rhiannon Hood))	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Alex Hopkins)		Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Alex Hopkins)	Children's Services Complaints (Rhiannon Hood))				Children's Services Complaints (Rhiannon Hood)
<b>Consultation / Awareness Raising</b>	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 17-18

Items to Programme:

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS**

#### **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

##### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

##### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

##### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

##### **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Cabinet Agenda

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Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
0191 561 1396  
James.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

28 day notice  
Notice issued 23 May 2017

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions (including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting:-

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
160728/94	To approve the disposal of premises within the Athenaeum Buildings, Fawcett Street, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 22 March 2017 to 31 July 2017.	N	Not Applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
161013/121	To approve the revised Housing Allocations Policy for the Local Authority	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report Updated Policies	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:Committees@sunderland.gov.uk">Committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
161020/123	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:Committees@sunderland.gov.uk">Committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
161020/124	To agree to consult on the draft Sunderland Local Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Plan	Cabinet	Y	During the period 19 July to 30 September 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:Committees@sunderland.gov.uk">Committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170123/161	International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) – To approve the appointment of a development partner	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:Committees@sunderland.gov.uk">Committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>



Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
170207/164	To procure a Building Operator for offices at the former Vaux site.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017	The report will be in two parts	The Part II report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The remainder of the information will be included in a report to the public part of the meeting.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170207/165	To seek approval to procure a contractor for the refurbishment of 28-32 Fawcett Street offices	Cabinet	Y	During the period 22 March to 31 July 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
170213/168	To seek approval for a proposed extension to the factory unit at Unit 11 Mercantile Road, Rainton Bridge Industrial Estate, Houghton le Spring	Cabinet	Y	During the period 22 March to 30 June 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170227/175	To consider the freehold acquisition of a property to provide children's services accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 26 April to 31 July 2017.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
170302/178	To procure a contractor and to agree the construction of a road within the former Littlewoods site at Commercial Road	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170328/182	To approve the proposed Minster Quarter Access Road project to be funded by the £1.5m Capital Programme allocation for 2017/18  To authorise the Chief operating Officer (Place), in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for City Services to approve detailed designs and budgets, to undertake the procurement of a contractor to deliver the Minster Quarter Access Road as set out in the report; and to subsequently award the proposed contract to the successful bidder.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170410/183	To agree the disposal of Land at Former Houghton Colliery, Newbottle Street, Houghton le Spring	Cabinet	Y	19 July 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170418/184	To approve an outline business case for Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor Phase 3.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170419/185	To agree the disposal of Plot 1 Commercial Road, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report and Plan identifying interests to be acquired	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170419/186	To agree the disposal of Plot 2 Commercial Road, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report and Plan identifying interests to be disposed of.	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170424/187	To approve the Capital Programme Outturn 2016-2017 and First Capital Review 2017-2018 (including Treasury Management)	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170424/188	To approve the Revenue Budget Outturn for 2016-2017 and First Revenue Review 2017-2018	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170425/189	To agree to procure a developer for the redevelopment of Site D, Sheepfolds Industrial Estate and the disposal of land at Sheepfolds Industrial Estate.	Cabinet	Y	19 July 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170425/190	To increase expenditure for the continuation of the Culvert Inspections Programme 2016/17.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report NF004 Culvert Inspections - Expenditure Increase (17-04-25).doc	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170427/191	To approve a variation of the Vaux Phase one Development Agreement to include the delivery of the Vaux Promontory (The Launch) and the Vaux Building One fit out.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>



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170428/192	To approve the implementation of a locally administered business rates relief scheme	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017	N	Not Applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170428/193	To approve a loan to an organisation in support of the delivery of the Council's policy to bring back empty homes into use	Cabinet	Y	During the period 21 June to 31 July 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170428/194	To approve the disposal of the former Gillbridge Police Station	Cabinet	N	21 June 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170505/195	To approve the Stadium Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the purposes of public consultation and as a material consideration in assessing planning applications, pending its finalisation following public consultation.	Cabinet	Y	19 July 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report  Stadium Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170511/196	To approve the awarding of a contract to Northumbrian Roads Ltd for 12 months via the North East Purchasing Organisation Regional Framework.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170515/197	Approval of processes required to establish new Local Authority Commissioned Special Free School on the former Bishop Harland CE VA Primary School site.	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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170522/198	To procure telephony infrastructure including: fixed, mobile and wide area network telephony	Cabinet	Y	21 June 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
170522/199	To re-allocate unused Section 106 receipts to Sunderland Homes Ltd in respect of purchase and refurbishment of empty homes in Hetton Downs as part of area regeneration and a pilot study into empty homes investment.	Cabinet	Y	19 July 2017	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Business plan and Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**Note;** Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Governance Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to [committees@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk)

Who will decide;

Cabinet; Councillor Paul Watson - Leader; Councillor Henry Trueman – Deputy Leader; Councillor Mel Speding – Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children's Services; Councillor Graeme Miller – Health, Housing and Adult Services; Councillor John Kelly – Public Health, Wellness and Culture; Councillor Michael Mordey – City Services; Councillor Cecilia Gofton – Responsive Services and Customer Care

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes made by the Leader will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh

Head of Law and Governance **23 May 2017**