

# FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, 6 December 2018 at 1.30 pm in the Bridges Room - Civic Centre

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From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

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Item	Business
1	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
2	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> (Pages 3 - 6)  The Committee is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 November 2018
3	<b>The Council Plan - Six Monthly Assessment and Performance Delivery 2018-19</b> (Pages 7 - 28)  Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning
4	<b>OSC Review of Obesity (across the life course) - Evidence Gathering</b> (Pages 29 - 32)  Report of the Director of Public Health
5	<b>Provision of School Meals - Universal Credit</b> (Pages 33 - 44)  Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning
6	<b>Tackling the Toxic Trio - Case Study</b> (Pages 45 - 48)  Report of the Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning
7	<b>Work Programme</b> (Pages 49 - 52)  Joint report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Corporate Services and Governance

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Tel: 0191 433 2149, Date: Wednesday, 28 November 2018

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## GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 6 November 2018

**PRESENT:** Councillor B Oliphant (Chair)  
Councillor(s): M Hall, B Clelland, S Craig, L Kirton,  
K McCartney, S Ronchetti, C Davison, D Bradford, P Craig,  
M Ord, C McHugh and R Oxberry

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Maveen Pereira, Cheryl Lain and Jill Burrell

#### **F80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Buckley, Caffrey, McMaster, Mullen and Weatherley.

#### **F81 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 October 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **F82 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SERVICES**

The Committee received a report and presentation to provide an update on the delivery of Children, Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Gateshead.

An overview of the case for change was provided noting that the new model for service delivery assumes a conversion rate into treatment of 80% with the capacity required at "Getting Help" to be developed.

It was noted that current investment into the service is £7.4m (which included a £180k contribution from the local authority). Additionally, it was highlighted that there is a high level of referral and re-referrals to other services, long waiting times and too few completing therapy.

From the presentation the Committee were advised that there is significant evidence to support the need for change. A summary of prevalence among the 0-18 population in Newcastle and Gateshead was provided via a diagram illustrating that around 69k of the population are 'coping' through to just 69 able to manage risk.

It was noted that just under 1 in 10 children aged 5 to 16 will have some form of poor mental health with the most prevalent condition being emotional disorders. From the presentation an overview of the Gateshead Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS) was also provided noting that about a quarter of year 10 girls have high self-esteem compared with more than half of year 8 boys. It was further noted that

families are the most popular source of support for both boys and girls but 1 in 10 said they didn't know if they had an adult they could trust.

The Committee were provided with a chart of Gateshead CCG CYPS referrals from April 2017 to September 2018, CYPS waiting times for the same period and EWT referrals. An overview of waiting times for this period was also provided showing an increase in days of referral to treatment.

From the report a summary of Gateshead Kooth was provided. The Committee were advised that Kooth is an online counselling and emotional wellbeing platform for children and young people. It was noted that there have been 246 registrations since Kooth was launched with an average of 300 logins per month from Gateshead.

From the presentation the Committee were provided with information regarding the proposed changes to services. An overview of the Whole Systems Model was provided and illustrated via a chart within the report and presentation. The Committee were also provided with an overview of third sector service providers including Kalmer Counselling Services and Barnardo's. The Committee were also provided with information on the THRIVE based service model illustrating the 'prevention and promotion' model and the 'thriving' model.

It was noted from the presentation that the way forward is for a single point of access for front door advice with assessment and treatment from the right service when it is needed. The Committee were advised that the single point of access model will ensure a better experience for referrers and provide timely interventions for children. It was also noted that having a single point of access will ensure a smoother journey for young people and their families and reduce waiting times.

It was acknowledged that not all things can change overnight but that progress has been made in developing the new transformation model. It was further noted that feedback from children, young people and their families has resulted in services being challenged to strengthen delivery upstream working towards an early intervention model.

The Committee were advised that the new model will cluster mental and emotional support for young people into four groupings:

- Signposting, self-management and one-off intervention
- Goal focused, evidence informed, and outcome focussed intervention
- Extensive treatment and;
- Risk Management and crisis response

An overview of local initiatives was also provided highlighting the work being done at Whickham School and others in addition to other web-based resources. Additional information was also provided on CYPS pathways noting the three pathways for assessment, intervention and treatment that can be followed by patients.

From the presentation the Committee were provided with details of the challenges that can be encountered in the rollout of services; these included multi-agency working, increasing awareness about children's mental health, ensuring pathways

are clear and managing demand for service users.

The Committee were then provided with information from the presentation on the mobilisation and implementation plan needed to provide the level of detail and assurance that would be expected within a response to an IITT. It was noted the plan should include a variety of potential sections including governance, specifications and engagement and communications.

A question was asked regarding pathways to services and the reduction of inpatient admissions. It was noted that due to improved triage, children and young people are being referred to the most appropriate service quicker than before.

It was highlighted that at a previous meeting information on the single point of access had been presented. It was noted that at the previous meeting the estimated figures presented were lower than the numbers being presented at this meeting. It was noted that there have been more referrals received than was previously estimated due to increased awareness of the new services. It was also noted that there are two main referral groups which are GP's and education providers.

A query was raised regarding the increase in waiting times despite the new single point of access. It was stated that the increase is a result of new systems and processes being bedded in and that the figure is expected to decrease as time goes by. It was also noted that some services are still recruiting or restricting to better meet the needs of patients. It was highlighted that the figures seen between January 2019 and March 2019 will be the truest reflection of how successful the new service is working.

It was asked whether figures for Looked After Children were being collated to track the journey of those children and young people. It was noted that LAC are tracked and monitored from being referred to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate support whilst working with any relevant partner agency/local authority.

A discussion took place on patient tracking – it was stated that this is done on a weekly basis and tracking has shown that the figures for patients awaiting an initial appointment have decreased. It was further stated that many urgent referrals are seen the same day, quicker than the 72hr target. It was highlighted that there are increasing numbers for urgent referrals being received.

The Committee were advised that those awaiting an appointment are able to use services such as Kooth to bridge the gap before being assessed. A concern was raised noting that online services may not be appropriate for all, especially those who require face to face support. This was acknowledged noting that if a child or young person is seen to be in urgent need of support via an online platform then this information will be fed up to a higher tier so that interventions and support can be provided quicker.

Representatives from Gateshead Schools were present and provided their views and experiences of online services. The headteacher of Whickham School advised that the self-help tools available on apps/online can be beneficial. The Committee were advised that the top three issues being discussed via the online tools were

relationships, depression and suicide. It was further noted that Wickham School have an in-house Councillor to support pupils.

A representative of Gateshead primary schools noted concern on the emotional development of children as a result of a lack positive interaction with their parents. It was noted that delays in emotional intelligence can be identified as a mental health issue when the real problem lies with attachment and social skills.

A comment was also made that third sector providers often struggle to meet the needs of children and young people in Counselling due to there being a limit of 6 sessions per patient. Further comment was made stating that it is too soon to say whether the new model presented will be a success – it was further noted that the report and presentation provided an optimistic view but not enough detail.

It was asked whether a child or young person being seen for self-harming would be refused access to service. It was noted that this would not be the case and that work would need to be done to identify the reasons the child or young person is self-harming. It was further noted that self-harming is not a 'stand-alone' mental health issue and is often a symptomatic response for something much deeper.

It was agreed that at a future meeting further detail will be provided on the services Strategic Plan in addition to details of the system complaints procedures.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee received the report and agreed to receive further updates on the CAMHS transformation programme at a future meeting.

### **F83 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received the Work Programme report which sets out the provisional programme for the Committee for the year 2018/19.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The Committee noted the contents of the Work Programme report and appendix.

**Chair.....**

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives –  
six month assessment of performance and delivery 2018/19

**REPORT OF:** Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and  
Learning

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## SUMMARY

This report provides the six month update of performance and delivery for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018 in relation to the Council's Thrive agenda for the indicators and activity linked to children and young people.

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### Background

1. The report forms part of the Council's performance management framework and gives an overview of progress for the priorities appropriate to the remit of the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. The Council's new strategic approach Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives, was approved by Cabinet in March 2018 to ensure the Council continues to get the best outcomes for local people and remains a viable and sustainable organisation into the future.

### Delivery and Performance

3. Our current strategic indicators have been reviewed to ensure they continue to be appropriate in measuring performance in respect of the Thrive agenda. We propose to further review and refinement of our strategic indicators, which will be implemented for the 2019/20 performance reporting cycle.
4. This report provides a performance overview linked to the 29 strategic indicators for children and families which currently fall under the three pledges of "*Put people and families at the heart of everything we do*", "*Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance*" and "*Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead*".
5. All 29 indicators are listed in section C of the report. Section 3.1 of this report provides an overview of performance highlighted in section C and sets out to summarise if trends have improved or declined since the previous report for indicators where in year updates are available (26). Performance, achievements, challenges and actions are provided for activity undertaken by the group under each of the of the relevant pledge.
6. Section B provides an update on actions from the previous performance report.

### Recommendation

7. Members are asked to receive this report for information and consider:
  - i. whether the activities undertaken during April 2018 to September 2018 are achieving the desired outcomes in making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives,
  - ii. any areas they feel they require more detail about or feel require further scrutiny;

- iii. the format of future reports and the inclusion / removal of any indicators e.g. the addition of domestic abuse, mental health, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.

**Contact: Jon Gaines**

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## Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Children and Families – Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives – six month assessment of performance and delivery 2018/19

December 2018

Portfolio:	Children and Young People
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Gary Hayley
OSC Chair:	Councillor Bernadette Oliphant
Lead Officer:	Caroline O'Neill, Strategic Director CWL
Support Officer:	Jon Gaines, Service Manager Quality Assurance

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 We know that over 50% of people and families in Gateshead are either managing or just coping and over 30% are in need or in vulnerable situations. We want to change those statistics and aim to make Gateshead a place where everyone thrives<sup>1</sup>. *“Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives”* is the new council approach aiming to narrow the gap of inequality across Gateshead resulting in more people living longer and leading healthier and happier lives.
- 1.2 As a group Care, Wellbeing and Learning within its primary focus of direct work with and commissioning of services to support the residents of Gateshead is critically placed to support the Thrive agenda. Our work spans the 5 Thrive pledges, of:
- 1 *Put people and families at the heart of everything we do*
  - 2 *Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance*
  - 3 *Support our communities to support themselves and each other*
  - 4 *Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough*
  - 5 *Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead*
- 1.3 Our current strategic indicators have been reviewed to ensure they continue to be appropriate in measuring performance in respect of the Thrive agenda. We propose further review and refinement of our strategic indicators, which will be implemented for the 2019/20 performance reporting cycle.
- 1.4 For services covered by children and families, 29 overarching strategic indicators are currently identified and monitored to support the group in understanding its performance linked to achieving the council aim of narrowing the gap of inequality across Gateshead and supporting its residents to thrive.
- 1.5 This report provides a performance overview linked to the 29 strategic indicators for children and families which currently fall under the three pledges of *“Put people and families at the heart of everything we do”*, *“Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance”* and *“Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead”*.
- 1.6 Section A provides an overview of performance linked to the indicators identified as falling under each pledge, along with any achievements or challenges. The

section summarises if performance has improved or declined since the same period in the previous year.

1.7 Section B of the report updates on specific actions identified from the previous report, while Section C provides a performance dashboard with individual performance details for the 29 indicators identified, grouped by the relevant pledge.

## 2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to receive this report for information and consider:

- (i) whether the activities undertaken during April 2018 to September 2018 are achieving the desired outcomes in making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives,
- (ii) any areas they feel they require more detail about or feel require further scrutiny;
- (iii) the format of future reports and the inclusion / removal of any indicators e.g. the addition of domestic abuse, mental health, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.

## Section A

### 3.0 Performance Overview

3.1 The chart below summarises the overall position and trend in performance compared to the same period last year for the 29 indicators included in Section C, grouped under the relevant pledge. More specific detail for individual indicators is provided in Section C. Overall the performance has improved in 15 out of the 29 indicators (52%) we have an updated position for.

**Chart 1: Summary of direction of travel for indicators in section C**



## 3.2 Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do

- 3.3 We have identified 11 strategic indicators linked to the pledge of ***Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do***. In the latest period we have demonstrated improvements for 6 indicators, 2 have remained the same and performance has declined for 3.

### Performance

- 3.4 Improvements have been noted in the educational attainment of children and those achieving a good level of development by the age of 5. We have seen an increase in the attainment of expected standards for Reading, Writing and Mathematics for Key Stage 1. We have also seen an improvement in children reaching the expected standard at Key Stage 2. The number of eligible 2-year olds accessing their free early learning place has also increased.
- 3.4 Performance has declined for Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores for pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 compared to the same period last year, but it is worth noting that these are provisional figures and may yet change.
- 3.5 There has been a decrease in the number of children offered a place at their preferred primary school, which can be attributed to a greater number of oversubscribed primary schools, having an impact on first preference allocations.
- 3.6 Performance has remained the same in relation to the percentage of children offered a place at their preferred secondary school (88%), the same level compared to the same period last year, however the closure announcement of Thomas Hepburn has seen a slight decrease in performance compared to the 2017 intake (90%). The percentage of Gateshead schools rated as Outstanding by Ofsted remains at 38% for all schools.

### Achievements, Challenges and Actions

- 3.7 Permanent exclusions for the 17/18 academic year have continued to decline with a recorded 32% reduction overall compared to the previous period. We will continue to work with schools to implement the 'Behaviour Action Plan'; to impact on permanent exclusions and the Team Around the School pilot will also be used to improve outcomes in this area.
- 3.8 We have enhanced pre-diagnosis support for parents of children showing challenging behaviour by introducing a parent/carer support pathway for those with a child undergoing assessment for ADHD and/or autism. Early Help have facilitated joint 'welcome' sessions with parents before offering a targeted group intervention on strategies to manage challenging behaviour from children and young people.
- 3.9 We are ambitious for our children and young people, and our planning work aims to promote their aspirations and future goals. Over the coming months we will be working collaboratively with partners and other local authorities to further develop

our practice to drive further improvements evidencing outcome focussed planning and improving plans for children and families.

- 3.10 We are looking to embed the *'This is Me'* tool for identifying and recording the voice of the child in casework, including the use of the on-line version of this resource across all areas of practice where appropriate.
- 3.10 And we review and develop services using strong proven evidence base of what works with families, such as revising the current offer of group parenting programmes for promotion in 2019/20 with an emphasis on those with a higher, proven evidence-base.

### 3.11 Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance

- 3.12 As a council and group we must focus help on those families who are vulnerable and just coping, in order to support them to manage and Thrive. We have identified 11 strategic indicators linked to the pledge of ***Tackling inequality so people have a fair chance***. In the latest period we have demonstrated improvements for 5 indicators in this pledge, 1 indicator has remained the performance has declined for declined in 5.

#### Performance

- 3.13 Improvements in performance have been noted with the gap between attainment 8 and progress 8 scores for disadvantaged pupils / peers at KS4 reducing. The progress 8 scores for children with Special Educational Needs have improved. Excess weight in 10/11-year olds has declined, and we have seen a reduction in the % of children in low income families (fewer children in poverty) at the same time as more families engaging in the Troubled Families Programme.
- 3.15 For children receiving free school meals, the progress 8 scores have remained the same as the previous reporting period, which is below the national and regional averages.
- 3.14 However performance has declined in progress 8 score for children who were looked after children at the end of Key Stage 4, decreasing compared to the summer 2016 results, as has the score for those young people with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). The progress scores for these young people is below the national equivalent but above the north east average. There has also been a small rise in the progress gap in Gateshead for disadvantaged pupils/peers at KS4. This gap is larger than the national gap (-0.52).
- 3.16 We have seen an increase in the percentage of all 16-18-year olds not in education, training or employment (NEET), which is greater than the same period last year. The overall value of 13.5% (compared to 11.7%) is made up of 5.3% confirmed NEET and 8.2% not known. The NEET and Not Known position always worsens during the school holidays, however it is expected that these proportions will improve when the next data submission to DfE is completed.
- 3.17 The % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery (14.5%) has increased compared to the same period last year (13.2%) and we have seen the first increase in excess weight in 4 to 5-year olds in 3 years. Despite this increase

Gateshead remain significantly better than the North East (25%). Gateshead also has the 4th lowest prevalence of excess weight when compared to our nearest neighbour comparator group.

### **Achievements, Challenges and Actions**

- 3.18 We have successfully introduced new Practice Standards for Early Help and new guidance published on what 'good' looks like for CAF assessments and support plans, to improve the quality of practice and subsequently outcomes in this areas. A monthly report is provided to managers for use in supervision, to ensure that assessments and Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings occur within timescales to ensure cases are progressing in a timely manner for the benefit of families.
- 3.19 The Early Help service has completed supervision training for managers and a staff evaluation of their supervision experience has been conducted. We have undertaken 41 full case audits in 2018 and shared feedback with practitioners, proposing clear actions for improvement with timescales. This learning aids improving our work with families, in order to improve outcomes.
- 3.20 We are improving our timeliness for the completion of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP), which means families will benefit from receiving support earlier. For the calendar year 2017, 89% of were completed within 20 weeks. For the period January 2018 to June 2018, performance stands at 99% - showing a considerable improvement.
- 3.21 While EHCP plans are being completed in a more timely manner, over the next six months a review of the quality of EHCPs will be undertaken commence with the aim of ensuring that outcomes are SMART and reflect the need to better prepare children and young people for adulthood.
- 3.22 We are working to embed the Enhanced Case Management (ECM) model and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research into every day practice in the Youth Offending Team. The development will aim to acknowledge and consider young people's diverse needs in relation to trauma, in order to ensure our interventions are effective in supporting young people to change.
- 3.23 The Children Social Care casework audit process has been redesigned and monthly audits along with themed audits are now completed, in line with the expectations of Ofsted. To date, 78 audits have been completed across the service and the findings have been collated and corresponding action taken. This learning aids improving our work with vulnerable groups and develops practice to improve outcomes for the families we work with.
- 3.24 We are committed to continuously improving our service delivery offer to care leavers and have restructured the LAC and Young People Service to achieve this. Under the new structure a dedicated team manager has a focus on developing practice for care leavers, linking performance measures to outcomes for young people. This will ensure staff understand the link between meeting key performance indicators and how they link to outcomes for care leavers, which will influence and shape practice.

3.25 We have reflected in our self-evaluation for our upcoming Ofsted inspection a strength in our service is how we have developed service innovation at the edge of care, focussing on older young people. The service provides wrap around intensive support for families in crisis ensuring support is available at times when families need it, working in the community at evenings and weekends in line with family need. We are already seeing the positive impact of this model in maintaining young people safely with their families, with one family commenting:

*'You have helped me get my life back on track when before you were involved I felt like a failure. I just could not see the light at the end of the tunnel but I can now'*

3.26 In addition we have expanded our team of personal advisors to increase capacity, improve consistency of practice and to support our growing cohort of care leavers.

3.27 We continue to focus on improving the quality of our pathway plans for care leavers, making all plans outcome focused, smart and consistently demonstrate the young person's wishes and aspirations. And we are working with other local authorities to assess and develop our practice in this area.

### **3.28 Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead**

3.29 As a council to improve the lives of the residents of Gateshead we must work together as a council, but also with our partners and others to do so. We have identified 7 strategic indicators linked to the pledge of **Work together to fight for a better Gateshead**. In the latest period we have demonstrated improvements for 4 indicators and for 3 performance has declined.

#### **Performance**

3.30 Improvements in performance have been noted where we are working closely with partners in the youth justice system. The number of First Time Entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-18 is decreasing, as is the custody rates for the same age group. Work with Public Health Colleagues is also seeing an improvement (reduction) in the number of hospital admissions for self-harm for 10 to 24 year olds.

3.31 We are working closely with partners through our SAILS panel (supported accommodation independent living scheme) ensures our children and care leavers have somewhere suitable to live. Of the 146 care leavers at the end of the period 96% were in suitable accommodation. While this is a slight reduction to last period, performance remains good and we know that those who were not in suitable accommodation, 3 were in custody, 2 were sectioned under the mental health act and 1 refuses any contact. In addition, our EET panel chaired by the Service Director for Children and Families seeks to ensure positive outcomes for young people in education, training and employment. 57% of care leavers were in some form of Employment, Education and Training in the current period, the highest the figure has been.

- 3.32 However performance has declined with the demand for statutory child protection services increasing. The number of children subject to a child protection plan (CPP) was 326 (81.9 per 10k) at the end of September, an increase of 10.5% since March 2018. Working with partners through the LSCB a new 15-month Designated Child Protection review has been introduced to help scrutinise any plans lasting for longer than 15 months, which will help to prevent drift and delay and ensure children are not remaining at risk for indefinite periods through increased monitoring and escalation processes.
- 3.33 Support for young carers through the young carers assessment service has decreased for the 6 months of April to September 2018, compared to the same period last year.

### **Achievements, Challenges and Actions**

- 3.34 Early Help have merged the workforce to create a 'Targeted Family Support' function (August 2018) with an increased case capacity to work with up to 1000 children and their families. Monthly performance clinics have now been introduced across Early Help to ensure key performance data is analysed and shared across the service, and target areas of quality assurance work to improve practice areas.
- 3.35 'Practice Improvement' sessions were delivered to staff during September 2018 and we have commissioned external training on chronologies, emotional resilience, relationship conflict and parenting interventions.
- 3.36 Working with Education colleagues we have completed the pilot phase of the Team Around the School (TAS) model in Whickham School. Evaluation of outcomes has been completed and recommendations are being considered for wider rollout, if successful.
- 3.37 Early Help joined colleagues from children social care, police and health in the new Integrated Referral and Assessment Team (IRAT) from May 2018 and have taken 298 referrals (children) between May and September 2018. This joined up working supports more effective triage of timely support for families alongside police and duty social work responses. Early Help have also created a new, designated duty team (September 2018) to handle direct referrals into the service and to give greater consistency on eligibility and service thresholds, again improving better consistency of service to families and our professional partners.
- 3.38 The Domestic Abuse Team was established from 1 August 2018 following a review of previous Domestic Abuse service within the Local Authority. The outcome of the review was to bring together Domestic Abuse workers from across the council into a cohesive team working with medium and high victims of domestic abuse. The team comprises of nine individuals, making up 7 FTE posts with the final staff member joining the team early October. The team works in collaboration with partners to addresses the Community Safety Board strategic priority on Domestic Abuse.

- 3.39 Work will be undertaken to consider how the Domestic Abuse team can work more effectively with partner agencies to deliver the best possible outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse in Gateshead. This will align delivery with relevant organisations to avoid duplication and maximise the impact of available resources.
- 3.40 To further improve multi-agency working representatives from the Domestic Abuse Team attend the daily Integrated Referral and Assessment Team (IRAT) triage meetings. This allows real-time sharing of information relating to incidents raising concerns regarding child welfare, including all relevant domestic related incidents to ensure a timely response to residents.
- 3.41 The team also provide direct one to one support to residents, along with the nationally recognised '*Freedom Programme*' and locally developed '*Surviving Trauma and Abuse: Recovering Together (START)*' groupwork sessions. These programmes aim to help those who have experienced domestic abuse recognise the tactics employed by perpetrators, the impact of abuse and how the brain responds, and to provide them with information about the support available to them now and in the future.
- 3.42 Dame Vera Baird QC – Police and Crime Commissioner has written to the North East Regional Local Authorities including Gateshead, to request support with the development of the original Operation Encompass and would like to implement 'Domestic Abuse: A Whole System Approach'. The proposal consists of 3 elements. Offering PHSE inputs for children across key stages 1-4, taking a whole school approach and offering schools an educational programme for all staff within the school. This will give staff the tools to spot signs of domestic abuse and be better equipped to support and signpost children for better help. It will also provide schools with dedicated school safeguarding liaison staff, funded by the project and employed by Northumbria Police.
- 3.43 There has been significant focus on Child Protection (CP) and Children in Need (CIN) plans with a new planning framework and associated guidance rolled out to improve the quality and consistency of planning. We are working collaboratively with other regional local authorities to evaluate and continue to develop our practice in this area.
- 3.44 A supervision policy which incorporates reflective case discussion has recently been introduced and regular groups are held to interrogate data on issues causing drift and delay in relation to child protection planning, in order that we can address issues with our partners where appropriate.
- 3.45 We work closely with all partners to ensure key multi-agency child protection meetings are held in a timely manner, and well attended by partners. If partners didn't engage and we needed to re-schedule this would impact on our performance. However, 96% of Initial Child Protection Conferences are held within 15 working days and 100% of our CP reviews are held in timescale, both of which are strong when compared with comparator authorities.
- 3.46 As a service we audited 22 children on repeat CP Plans in June 2018, as a result processes and procedures were reviewed, and measures taken to mitigate against repeat CP Plans including changes to the procedure for discontinuing CP plans at

the 4 month review and ensuring consistency of IROs when a family comes back to ICPC to avoid 'starting again', which is better for our partners and families.

- 3.47 Social Workers work to clear standards of practice. The service has recently updated these practice standards, which have been developed collaboratively through sharing of learning with other local authorities. They will improve the consistency of practice for our families.
- 3.48 We are working on peer mentoring, housing pathway with a range of options for young people, Improved employment, education and training offer from both within the council and from partners. An event with local businesses, stakeholders and partners is planned to raise awareness of and to improve our local care leavers offer.

## Section B: Update on actions from previous report

Action	Thrive pledge	Service Area	Update
Embed the Early Help model and continue to develop evidence-based interventions.	Tackle Inequality	Early Help	<p>The Early Help model has now been in existence for 12 months. Data for first 11 months shows that 1915 referrals (children) were made to the new service from 15 categories of referral agency. Current caseloads stand at 1124 children. Investment in evidence-based interventions can be demonstrated through Gateshead acting as the lead 'Referral Gateway' LA for the DWP Reducing Parental Conflict Programme to pilot new interventions to improve family stability alongside 9 other regional LA areas.</p> <p>Workforce development has included further investment in Incredible Years, AIM 2, Respect Young People's Programme (Gateshead hosted the National RYPP Conference on 25/9/2018), How to Argue Better, Early Words and Family Links Nurture.</p>
<p>The work of the SEND Team is being reviewed to ensure that statutory duties in relation to the assessment of children with EHCPs are completed in a timely manner and to respond to the increased number of EHCPs.</p> <p>This has included a review of the Children with Disabilities Social Work. Implementation is expected to be fully completed over the next six months.</p>	Tackle Inequality	Early Help	<p>A review of the SEND Service has been completed and staffing appointments have been made to enhance the support available to meet statutory deadlines for EHCPs.</p> <p>As part of our work across the group to reconfigure our CiN offer, we are undertaking a review of Children with Disabilities team, to ensure a seamless support offer and achieve the best possible outcomes for this vulnerable group.</p>
Business support workflow and electronic case recording is being developed to meet the needs of the new Rapid Response and Child with Complex Needs teams. Performance monitoring is being developed with a cost benefit tool to evidence savings to the local authority. This performance monitoring framework will be finalised and implemented	Tackle Inequality	Children and Families	<p>A cost benefit tool was developed and to establish a baseline for financial savings recognised from the implementation of the team.</p> <p>We identified a cohort of young people (excluding disabled children) who became LAC from 1 January 2016 – 18 April 2018 who were aged between 10 and 17 years at the time they became LAC. Using this cohort and tracking their journey and cost to the local authority a unit cost for placement costs avoided was established. Using this baseline offset against cost of the service, the current saving for the first six months of delivery is £281,607, with the potential that if all the current young people being/have been worked with don't come into care, the annual saving will be £757,999.</p> <p>The savings target for 2018/19 is £670,000, which means the projected savings based on the current caseload have exceeded the target</p>

Action	Thrive pledge	Service Area	Update
<p>A new Regulation 44 recording system and process has been created, tested and is going live from April 2018 for children's registered homes this will be reviewed to ensure the recording and monitoring system is used correctly and reports can go to managers regarding activity. Regulation 44 are reports from independent people commissioned by the registered provider to visit and report on quality of children's homes.</p>	Tackle Inequality	Commissioning	<p>The regulation 44 recording system is now live and has all children's residential homes data has been included to present and back dated to January 2018. The Contract Management Officers are following up any concerns and ensuring providers are taking any action needed in response to the outcome of the report. This new system has been reported into the Children and Families Performance Clinic (chaired by the service director) and further work is to be carried out to agree a more prescriptive framework to determine what information needs to be reported, who to and how frequently.</p>
<p>Alternative Education Offer – SEND and Post 16. The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to provide alternative education to those children not able to access main stream education or excluded from school, the same obligation is applicable for post 16 young people. Currently there is a mix of arrangements, these will be reviewed to formalise the contractual arrangements and encourage new providers to the local market.</p>	Tackle Inequality	Commissioning	<p>The procurement will not proceed at present as it has been agreed by Group Management Team in Care Wellbeing and Learning as a low priority for 2018/19. This however this will be revisited with the refresh of the work programme taking place in January 2019.</p>
<p>Plan integration into a new 'front door' IRAT arrangement with children's services and police in 2018 and will become co-located with 0-19 Public Health services from summer 2018.</p>	Working Together	Children and Families	<p>The new Integrated Referral and Assessment Team (IRAT) model was introduced in May 2018. Early Help attend this new triage system daily and have received 298 referrals (children) for the period of May - September 2018. Sections of the Public Health workforce are now co-located at the Civic Centre and link with the IRAT.</p>
<p>Start the Team around the School (TAS) pilot from March 2018 and conclude an evaluation exercise which will inform plans to upscale the model across more secondary schools.</p>	Working Together	Early Help	<p>The pilot phase of the Team Around the School model has been completed and an evaluation exercise has been completed. Recommendations included the increased roll-out of the TAS model and a paper was considered by GMT in October 2018, to determine the next steps.</p>

Action	Thrive pledge	Service Area	Update
<p>Following a successful open procurement process and pending Cabinet ratification, all four services of the accommodation model for young people will commence with effect from 1 July 2018. This model will be monitored and reviewed to ensure the providers are working within the framework and improving outcomes for the young people.</p>	<p>Working Together</p>	<p>Children and Families</p>	<p>Following a review of supported accommodation for young people and care leavers a new service model has been developed and commissioned. The new model which has taken effect includes a Direct Access and Assessment unit, Shared Living &amp; Semi-Independent living service with linked floating support, Supported Lodgings and Taster Flats with floating support provided by the Gateshead Housing Company.</p>

## Section C: Performance Overview

(Performance is measured against the position at same time last year - April 17 to September 18)

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
<b>PF1</b> - Increase the % of Gateshead schools rated Outstanding	People and families	Steve Horne	40%	-	<b>38%</b> (2017/18)	<b>No Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change on the performance from the 6-month report</li> <li>38% is the figure at 15th October 2018, for all schools.</li> </ul>
<b>PF2</b> - Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred primary school	People and families	Steve Horne	97%	-	<b>92.7%</b> (2018 intake)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on the previous 6-month report</li> <li>Data shows that 92.7% of primary pupils were offered their 1<sup>st</sup> preference which is a decrease on last year, however we had a greater number of oversubscribed primary schools which will impact on 1<sup>st</sup> preference allocations</li> </ul>
<b>PF3</b> - Maximise the % of children offered a place at their preferred secondary school	People and families	Steve Horne	95%	-	<b>88%</b> (Sep 2018)	<b>No change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change on the performance from the 6-month report</li> <li>This is first preference data for Gateshead and as we could not offer THCA as a 1<sup>st</sup> preference due to the closure announcement our performance has been impacted on</li> <li>Due to the pending closure of THCA by the Minister of Education most Gateshead secondary schools have exceeded their planned admissions numbers this year</li> <li>National data is not published till later in the year, so we have nothing to compare directly to, however this is usually around 83% so we are above national average.</li> </ul>
<b>PF4</b> - Educational Attainment: Increase the % of children achieving a good level of development at age 5	People and families	Steve Horne	Awaiting Government guidance on future of this indicator		<b>70.1%</b> (Provisional 2017/18)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicator has improved on the performance from the previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is lower than the provisional National figure of 71.6%</li> </ul>
<b>PF5</b> - Reading - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1	People and families	Steve Horne	90%	-	<b>78%</b> (provisional, Summer 2018 outcomes)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is the provisional 17/18 academic year figure.</li> <li>This is higher than the national average of 75%</li> <li>This figure is for summer 2018 outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>PF6</b> - Writing - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1	People and families	Steve Horne	84%	-	<b>71.6%</b> (provisional, Summer 2018 outcomes)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is the provisional 17/18 academic year figure.</li> <li>This is higher than the national average of 70%</li> <li>This figure is for summer 2018 outcomes</li> </ul>

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
<b>PF7</b> - Maths - Increase the % of children attaining expected standard at the end of KS1	People and families	Steve Horne	90%	-	<b>77%</b> (provisional, Summer 2018 outcomes)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is the provisional 17/18 academic year figures.</li> <li>This is higher than the national average of 76%.</li> <li>This figure is for summer 2018 outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>PF8</b> - Increase the % of children attaining the “expected standard” at the end of KS2	People and families	Steve Horne	85%	-	<b>70%</b> (provisional, Summer 2018 outcomes)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is the provisional 17/18 academic year figure for combined reading writing and maths.</li> <li>This is above the England average of 64%</li> <li>This figure is for summer 2018 outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>PF9</b> - Raise Attainment 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4	People and families	Steve Horne	50	-	<b>46.0</b> (Summer 2018 outcomes)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is an early provisional figure taken from the DfE statistical release on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Figures may well change.</li> <li>The England average rose (by 0.1), to 46.5, so this is lower than the national average.</li> </ul>
<b>PF10</b> - Raise progress 8 – scores of pupils at the end of KS4	People and families	Steve Horne	-0.03	-	<b>-0.25</b> (Summer 2018 outcomes)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>This is an early provisional figure taken from the DfE statistical release on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Figures may well change.</li> <li>It is below the national figure of -0.02 and the regional average of -0.23.</li> </ul>
<b>T11 - Attainment Gap:</b> Reduce the gap between Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores of disadvantaged pupils/disadvantaged peers at KS4	Tackle inequality	Steve Horne	To be reviewed following 1st publication of data		<b>-14.4</b> (2016/17 Summer 2017)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>Figures for summer 2018 have not yet been released. Comments and figures here are from summer 2017.</li> <li>There has been a small decrease in the Attainment gap in Gateshead.</li> <li>We are larger than the national gap of -12.8.</li> </ul>
<b>T12 - Progress 8 Gap:</b> Reduce the gap between Attainment 8 and Progress 8 scores of disadvantaged pupils/disadvantaged peers at KS4	Tackle inequality	Steve Horne	To be reviewed following 1st publication of data		<b>-0.72</b> (2016/17 Summer 2017)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>Figures for summer 2018 have not yet been released. Comments and figures here are from summer 2017.</li> <li>There has been a small rise in the Progress gap in Gateshead.</li> <li>This gap is larger than the national gap of -0.52.</li> </ul>

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
<b>TI3</b> - Attainment of vulnerable children. Raise progress 8 scores of Looked after Children at the end of KS4	Tackle inequality	Steve Horne	0	-	<b>-1.46</b> (March 2018 Provisional)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>Figures for summer 2018 have not yet been released. Comments and figures here are from summer 2017.</li> <li>This is a provisional figure on 13th March 2018.</li> <li>There are 34 young people who make up this cohort.</li> <li>This figure is for summer 2017 outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>TI4</b> - Raise the Progress 8 scores of vulnerable children - children on Free School Meals	Tackle inequality	Steve Horne	0	-	<b>-0.72</b> (Summer 2017 outcomes)	<b>No change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change on the 6-month report</li> <li>It is below the national figure of -0.48, and the NE region average of -0.67.</li> </ul>
<b>TI5</b> - Raise the Progress 8 scores of vulnerable children - children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) Page 23	Tackle inequality	Steve Horne	0	-	<b>-0.19</b> (SEN Support Summer 2017 Outcomes) <b>-1.28</b> (Statement or Care plan) (Summer 2017 Outcomes)	<b>Improved</b>  <b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SEN Support:</b></li> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>Figures for summer 2018 have not yet been released. Comments and figures here are from summer 2017.</li> <li>The progress score for young people on SEN Support is above the national equivalent of -0.43 and the NE regional average of -0.48.</li> <li><b>Statement or care plan:</b></li> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>The progress scores for young people with an EHCP is below the national equivalent of -10.4 but above the NE regional average of -1.33.</li> </ul>
<b>TI6</b> - Reduce NEET rate (% not in education, training or employment as a proportion of 16-18 year olds)	Tackle inequality	Val Hall	4.8%	-	Overall <b>13.5%</b> (31/08/2018)  NEET <b>5.3%</b>  Not Known <b>8.3%</b>	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on the previous 6-month report</li> <li>The data supplied is the position as at 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2018.</li> <li>The NEET and Not Known position always worsens during the school holidays.</li> <li>We are at present in the middle of inputting the current activity and status data for 16 and 17-year olds based in Gateshead.</li> <li>The reports submitted to the DfE at the end of this month should provide a much more accurate representation of the NEET and Not Known percentages. This data should be available latest by 2<sup>nd</sup> of November.</li> </ul>
<b>PF11</b> - The number of eligible 2 year olds accessing their free early learning place)	People and families	Val Hall	To be agree	85%	<b>82%</b> (Summer term 2018)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>The figure given is for take-up in the summer term 2018, the figure for this term will be available in mid-November.</li> </ul>

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
			ed				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national take-up rate is 72% of those eligible, and Gateshead has the 5th highest take-up in the region.</li> <li>We continue to review the way we engage with eligible families who have not taken-up their entitlement, including using limited Children's Centre resource to target priority areas.</li> </ul>
<b>T17 - Work with families– National Troubled Families Programme - Number of families engaged by Families Gateshead</b> Page 24	Tackle inequality	Val Hall	1930 families		<b>1861 families</b> (30/09/2018)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved from previous 6-month report.</li> <li>To date, PBR has been claimed for 746 families under phase 2. The payment recognises where families have made significant and sustained progress against areas of identified need or who have gained employment.</li> <li>To date we have claimed for 614 families who have made significant and sustained progress and 132 families have gained employment.</li> <li>In terms of national targets for 2020, up to 30th September 2018 Gateshead has achieved 39% of the overall payment by results target. Currently Gateshead have 61 families who have been identified as part of Phase 1 of the Troubled Families Programme and are still open to a service within the Local Authority.</li> </ul>
<b>WT1 - Support for young carers</b>	Working together	Val Hall	85	-	<b>43 referrals</b> (April 18 – Sep 18)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on the previous 6-month report</li> </ul>
<b>WT2 - First Time Entrants into youth justice system aged 10-17 (12 month lag PNC Rate per 100,000 of Population 10-17 yr. olds Rolling 12 Month)</b>	Working together	Val Hall	398 per 100k (70 FTE)	-	<b>53 per 100k</b> (9 FTE) (Jul 18 – Sep 18)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There has been a total of 9 FTE (First Time Entrants) during the latest period (<b>July 2018 to Sept 2018</b>). This is calculated as a rate of 53 as the YJB (Youth Justice Board) represents this target (per 100,000 of the 10-17 population). There has been a 36% decrease when compared to the previous quarter, in which there were 14 FTE reported. This was a 59% reduction from the same period this time last year in which there were 17 FTE reported.</li> <li>YJB published data obtained through PNC (Police National Computer) for 12 months (<b>Apr 2017 to Mar 2018</b>) reports 77 FTE's which is a rate of 452 (per 100,000 of 10-17 population). This is a 2.3% increase year-on-year. This is higher than the Northumbria PCC area average for this</li> </ul>

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
							period (450), and higher than the National average (276). FTE data obtained through the Gateshead YOTs Case Management System reports 56 FTE for the same period therefore a discrepancy of 21 was identified, Gateshead YOT are working with the police to identify the reason for this discrepancy.
<b>WT3</b> - Custody – Use of custody rate per 1000 of 10-17 years population	Working together	Val Hall	Maintain low number of young people		<b>0.0 per 1k</b> (0 custodial sentences) (Jul18 – Sep 18)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved from previous 6-month report.</li> <li>There have been no custodial sentences during this period.</li> <li>The latest YJB published data for <b>Jul 17</b> to <b>Jun 18</b> shows the 12-month rate of Custody for Gateshead at 0.0, this represents 0 custodial sentences in the 12-month period. This is below the Northumbria PCC regional average for this period (0.22), and below the National average (0.34).</li> </ul>
<b>TI8</b> - % of mothers smoking at the time of delivery (Rate of smoking at time of delivery)	Tackle inequality	Alice Wiseman	9.9%	-	14.5% (2016/17)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report</li> <li>2017/18 data is not available at this time and may not be till November 2018 at the earliest.</li> <li>Gateshead is significantly worse than the England average and is lower but not significantly lower than the North East average.</li> <li>This is the first increase in this indicator since 2011/12.</li> </ul>
<b>TI9</b> - Reduce Excess weight 4-5 year olds - excess weight =obese/overweight	Tackle inequality	Alice Wiseman	18.1 %	-	22.5% (2017/18)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report</li> <li>This is the first increase in excess weight for 4-5 year olds in the last 3 years of data</li> <li>Despite increase Gateshead is still significantly better than the North East (25.0%) and is worse but not significantly worse than the England average of 22.4%.</li> <li>Gateshead had the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest prevalence of excess weight amongst the 16 CIPFA (nearest neighbour) LA's.</li> <li>All 3 of the North East LA's in Gateshead's CIPFA group had a higher prevalence of excess weight.</li> <li>Nationally Gateshead had the 77<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence of excess weight of the 150 published English upper tier local authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>TI10</b> - Reduce excess weight 10-11 yr. olds (excess weight =Obese/overweight)	Tackle inequality	Alice Wiseman	25%	-	36.8% (2017/18)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report</li> <li>Excess weight for 10-11 year olds has decreased for the first time in 2 years of data</li> <li>Despite the decrease Gateshead is still significantly worse</li> </ul>

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
							<p>than the England average of 34.3% and is better but not significantly better than the North East (37.5%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gateshead had the 8<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence of excess weight amongst the 16 CIPFA (nearest neighbour) LA's.</li> <li>Nationally Gateshead had the 55<sup>th</sup> highest prevalence of excess weight of the 150 published English upper tier local authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>WT4</b> - Hospital admissions for self-harm rate per 100,000 (aged 10-24 years)	Working together	Alice Wiseman	Reduce	Reduce	422.7 per 100k (2016/17)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rate per 100,000 for self-harm admissions has improved on the previous 6-month report</li> <li>Gateshead is lower but not significantly lower than the North East rate and is higher but not significantly higher than the England rate.</li> <li>This is Gateshead's lowest rate per 100,000 since the data was first available (2011/12).</li> <li>2017/18 update due March 2019 for this indicator.</li> </ul>
<b>WT11</b> - Reduce the % of children in low income families (children in poverty)	Tackle inequality	Alice Wiseman	19.0 %	-	19.4% (2015 period)	Improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has improved on previous 6-month report</li> <li>Showing a decrease in the % of children in low income families.</li> <li>Gateshead is still significantly worse than the England rate, but due to the reduction for the 2015 period we are now significantly better than the North East rate.</li> <li>Next update currently not known could be February 2019</li> </ul>
<b>WT5</b> - Numbers of children subject to a child protection plan	Working Together	Elaine Devaney	54 per 10k	58 per 10k	<b>81.9 per 10k</b> (Sep 2018)	Declined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>At the end of September 2018, there were 326 children placed on a child protection plan (81.9 per 10k). Since March 2018, this means there has been a 10.5% increase in the number of children on child protection plans.</li> <li>In the last 12 months, 361 CP plans have started, compared to 354 (2017-2018) and 397 (2016-2017, but over the same period less plans have been ending (309 - last 12 months, 370 - 2017-2018, 354 2016-2017). A new 15-month CP review has been introduced to help scrutinise any plans lasting for longer than 15 months, which may help to identify cases which need to be ended.</li> </ul>

Indicator	Thrive pledge	Service Director Lead	Target		Most Recent Performance	Direction of Travel	Comments and Actions
			2020	17/18			
<b>WT6</b> - Ensure young people leaving care and homeless are supported to have a safe place to live, appropriate and sustainable accommodation	Working Together	Elaine Devaney	100%	100%	<b>96%</b> (Apr 18 – Sep 18)	<b>Declined</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance has declined on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>• Of the 146 care leavers that are currently allocated, 140 (96%) were judged to be in suitable accommodation.</li> <li>• 3 Young people are in custody</li> <li>• 2 Young people are in hospital sectioned under the mental health act;</li> <li>• 1 Young person lives out of the area, refuses contact with us and has no fixed abode.</li> </ul>
<b>WT7</b> - Ensure young people leaving care are supported to be in education, employment, apprenticeships and training	Working Together	Elaine Devaney	71%	71%	<b>57%</b> (Apr 18 – Sep 18)	<b>Improved</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance has improved on previous 6-month report.</li> <li>• Of the 146 care leavers that are currently allocated, 83 (57%) are in some form of Employment, Education and Training. Recent trends indicate improving outcomes in this area.</li> </ul>

<sup>i</sup> Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives website: <https://intranet.gateshead.gov.uk/article/5407/Our-pledges>

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**TITLE OF REPORT:**        **Review of healthy weight (across the life course)  
Scoping Report**

**REPORT OF:**                **Director of Public Health**

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## SUMMARY

This report gives details of the evidence gathering session that will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The views of the Committee are being sought on the evidence presented and the future plans outlined.

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### Background

Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have agreed that the focus of its review in 2018-9 will be healthy weight across the life course.

The review will help the Committee to consider and understand the complexity of the agenda. The causes of obesity are indeed complex and it is important to strive for a balanced perspective about the roles of the individual and the environment and influences, to which they are exposed. There is no simple solution and an approach that involves action at an individual, environmental and societal level needs to be explored further.

### Purpose of this session

The scoping report agreed by OSC on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 described the complexity of the obesity agenda and that

- The evidence base suggests that in order to tackle obesity effectively we need an approach that involves the whole system.

- Consideration of factors influencing the healthy weight agenda that can be tackled by joint working across working a number of areas need to be part of the solution, the local authority is uniquely positioned to take this forward.
- Successfully tackling obesity is a long term, large scale commitment. The current prevalence of obesity in the population has been at least 30 years in the making. This will take time to reverse and it is reported that it will at least 30 years before reductions in the associated diseases are seen.
- The evidence is very clear that policies aimed solely at individuals will be inadequate and will not be sufficient to reverse this trend. Significant effective action to prevent obesity at a population level is required.
- Identifying opportunities to disrupt the current system, which involves identifying the most likely and productive areas of activity in the local system where Gateshead Council and its partners can take action.

This second evidence gathering session will hear a presentation of twenty minutes from:

- Beverly Oliver, Health and Wellbeing Programme Lead. Public Health England
- Emma Gibson, Programme Lead in Public Health, Gateshead Council

**The presentation from our Public Health England speaker will outline-**

-The national context and provide an update of key actions from the recently published 'second chapter of the childhood obesity plan' (including a focus on sugar reductions, advertising and promotion and energy drinks etc.). To outline the implications of the plan for local authority areas, including high impact areas for focus.

-An update from a national perspective on the learning that is emerging from the whole system LA pilot sites. What emergent learning can be transferred from local practices and tried and tested methods as part of the pilot? What can Gateshead

take forward from this approach? The next steps of this programme of work will be detailed.

-An outline of new and emergent work at a national level to inform future practice in Gateshead.

**The presentation from the Programme Lead at Gateshead Council will outline-**

-An update of actions and progress in terms of the healthy weight agenda in Gateshead.

-The implications for Gateshead in terms of the national perspective.

**Issues to Consider**

When considering the evidence outlined above the Committee may wish to consider the following:

- Childhood Obesity: a plan for action chapter 2 outlines the actions the Government will take towards its goal of halving childhood obesity and reducing the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030. The plan aims to be ambitious in the actions outlined.
- The whole systems approach to obesity was introduced to help local authorities deliver co-ordinated actions involving partners across the system. This is an emerging programme of work and is being led by the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) to develop the programme

**For children in particular:**

- Obesity rates are highest for children from the most deprived areas. Children aged 5 and from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to be obese compared to their most well-off counterparts and by the age of 11 they are three times as likely.
- In the UK, one in 10 children start school obese, this is enough to fill London's Olympic Stadium four times over.

- Of those children who are obese at preschool age, research suggests that between 26% and 41% will go on to be obese in adulthood.
- Studies have also shown that a child with at least one obese parent is more likely to be obese themselves in adulthood.
- By the time children reach Year 6, Gateshead has one of the highest rates of excess weight levels in the North East (36.8%). This compares to a national rate of 32.3% and a regional rate of 27.5%.
- The Year 6 for children obesity prevalence, this is highest in London (23.15), North East (22.8%) and the West Midlands (22.5%).

### **Recommendation**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree:

- The approach and content as set out in this report and presentation.

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**Contact: Alice Wiseman Ext: 2777**



**TITLE OF REPORT:** Discretionary School Meals - Universal Credit

**REPORT OF:** Steve Horne

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### **Summary**

To provide information on the process in place for schools to claim funding to provide a discretionary school meal following the roll out of Universal Credit in Gateshead. Schools Forum agreed that Dedicated Schools Grant reserves could be used for this purpose whilst reserves are available.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1. Universal Credit is a national benefit which will replace Income Support, Income related Jobseekers Allowance, Income based Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. People in Gateshead may currently claim Universal Credit, but generally only if they are a single person.

### **2. Background**

2.1. From mid October 2017 Universal Credit in Gateshead was expanded to include anyone making a new claim to any of the benefits referred to above. This includes families with children and lone parents.

2.2. Anyone applying will need to sign a claimant commitment. For those not working, or only working part time, they may be expected to spend up to 35 hours a week doing "work requirements" i.e. looking for work/training. If a person does not fulfil these commitments they will be subject to a sanction.

2.3. Universal Credit is paid monthly in arrears and directly to the majority of claimants. In general, there is a delay of between 6 and 8 weeks before someone will receive a payment, although there is the ability to apply for an advance payment (a partial payment).

- 2.4. At present, anyone in receipt of Universal Credit is entitled to free school meal (FSM), this includes people who would formally have only applied for Working Tax Credit, or both Child and Working Tax Credit and who are not presently eligible for FSM. Therefore, there is likely to be an increase in the number of pupils who may be eligible for FSM.
- 2.5. Department for Education (DfE) have advised that anyone who has applied for a benefit but not yet been awarded it, is NOT eligible for FSM. This applies to Universal Credit claimants even where they may be waiting for 6 to 8 weeks for their entitlement to be confirmed.
- 2.6. Due to the hardship the rollout of Universal Credit can cause some families officers on the direction of Schools Forum have developed a process and procedure to fund schools to provide a Discretionary School Meal (DSM) for those children of households that have applied for Universal Credit, but not yet been awarded.
- 2.7. Forum approved the use of DSG reserves to fund DSM at £2.55 per meal taken during the 8 week period or until the household is either awarded or denied Universal Credit. The process is attached (appendix 1).

# Discretionary School Meals

## - Universal Credit -

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4. Recording and Funding	4
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## 1. Overview

This procedural guidance is for **new Universal Credit claims only** as Free School Meals cannot be awarded until entitlement to Universal Credit has been confirmed at the end of the first assessment period – this can mean a delay of around 6 weeks. In these instances a Discretionary School Meal can be awarded by the school.

If a parent is already receiving Universal Credit they should make an application for Free School Meals from the Local Authority's Benefits department.

Applications for Free School Meals are available online at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>. The application form should then be returned to the Benefits department.

Any reference to parent in this guidance also covers guardians or a person who has legal responsibility for the child. It does not include foster carers

## 2. Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit

### 2.1 Who can claim a Discretionary School Meal?

The child's parents can make a claim for Discretionary School Meals.

Discretionary School Meals are for children who are not yet eligible for a Free School Meal, when a child's parent has claimed Universal Credit, but a decision on their award has not been made. A Discretionary School Meal will be granted for an initial period of 8 weeks or until the child's parents are eligible to claim Free School Meals (whichever time period is the shortest).

### 2.2 Is an application needed by the parent to enable the school to award Discretionary School Meals?

An application will not be required by the parent. You the school, will only need confirmation that the child's parent has made a claim for Universal Credit. However an **application for statutory Free School Meals must be submitted straight away** to allow the Benefits department to check when Universal Credit is awarded.

### 2.3 How will the school become aware that a Discretionary School Meal can be awarded?

There are two ways, you the school, could become aware that a child is entitled to Discretionary School Meals. The first is via the Local Authority's Benefit department, where the parent has applied for Benefit and the second is that, you the school, have become aware of it. This could be because you have been approached by the child's parent or you may notice that the child is not being provided with school lunch.

If the **Local Authority has become aware** that a parent has claimed Universal Credit, you the school, will be sent a proforma by email from the Benefit department. This proforma will detail the parent and child's name, date of birth, address and the date that they have made the claim for Universal Credit. You the school, will be able to identify these by the email subject heading 'Discretionary School Meal – Universal Credit Decision'.

If you the **school, become aware** before the Local Authority's Benefits department, you will need to complete a proforma and send it to the Benefits department, with the email subject heading 'Discretionary School Meal – Universal Credit - Decision. This will allow the Benefits department to keep checking on a daily basis to see if or when Universal Credit has been awarded. Once Universal Credit has been awarded, you the school, will be notified by email via the Local Authority. You must also tell the parent to complete a statutory Free School

Meals application form. Having this will allow the Benefit department to continually check to see when their parents eligibility to Universal Credit is confirmed.

### **2.3(b) Completing and Sending the proforma to the Local Authority?**

You the school should complete all the relevant fields on the proforma. This proforma then needs to be emailed to the Benefits department with the following details:-

Proforma is 'Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – FSM Eligibility'.

Email address is CSBenefitsFSM@Gateshead.Gov.UK

Subject Field should have the following text **only** 'Discretionary School Meal – Universal Credit FSM Eligibility'.

### **2.4 When can Discretionary School Meals be paid from?**

As long as the parent makes the claim for a Discretionary School Meal within one month from the date they have submitted their claim for Universal Credit, the child can be awarded a Discretionary School Meal from the date the parent has claimed Universal Credit – this can be a mid-week date.

The following should be noted:-

- if a parent has already **paid** for their child's school meals for any period since they applied for Universal Credit, the parent will not receive a refund. Discretionary School Meal's will start from the first day a meal has not been paid for.
- if a parent is in **arrears** with their child's school meals payment, then Discretionary School Meals can be awarded to reduce the arrears from the date the parent has claimed Universal Credit.

### **2.4(b) What happens when a person has made a claim for a Discretionary School Meal after 1 month?**

Discretionary School Meals can only be claimed for a maximum of one month in arrears irrespective of the date of the application for Universal Credit. See 4 for a further explanation.

### **2.5 How long should Discretionary School Meals be paid for?**

Discretionary School Meals will be awarded for a maximum of 8 weeks. There are exceptional circumstances which could allow a Discretionary School Meals to be awarded for a longer period, such as if a person's Universal Credit has not been determined because they are waiting for a second property to be valued. However if you the school, would like to award a Discretionary School Meal beyond 8 weeks, this is the schools decision and the amount will not be subsidised by Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserves.

There are instances where a Discretionary School Meal will be awarded for less than 8 weeks. This is where a Discretionary School Meal has not started from the date the parent has applied for Universal Credit or they have already paid for the child's school meals up until the point where the parent has applied for Discretionary School Meals. In these cases Discretionary School Meals should only be awarded for the remaining weeks within the 8 week period.

### **2.5(b) How will the child's parents know that Discretionary School Meals have been granted?**

You the school, will provide the child's parent with a letter to confirm that their child(ren) will receive Discretionary School Meals. The letter will detail the dates the child will receive Discretionary School Meals for and it will also outline what they need to do when they are awarded Universal Credit – such as making a Free School Meals application and notifying the Local Authority of their award.

The letter is called 'Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – Awarded'.

## **3. Free School Meals**

### **3.1 When should a parent complete a Free School Meals application?**

An application form for Free School Meals should be completed straight-away and sent to the Local Authority's Benefit department.

### **3.2 When will the child's parents know that they need to make a claim for Free School Meals?**

You should advise the parent to still apply for Free School Meal's straight away. Once the Benefits department has received the application they can continually check to see when eligibility to Universal Credit is confirmed to award Free School Meals under the statutory scheme. If they have not been able to do so, 2 weeks prior to the child's Discretionary School Meals ending, you the school, will send a letter to the child's parents warning them that their child's Discretionary School Meals will end in 2 weeks. The letter will also inform them that if they have not done so already, they need to make an application for Free School Meals to the Benefits department if they want their child to receive a school meal, but that this can only be awarded from the date their eligibility to Universal Credit is confirmed.

The letter is called 'Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – 8 week letter'.

### **3.3 When can Free School Meals be awarded?**

A child's entitlement to Statutory Free School Meals will start from the day their eligibility is confirmed by the Department for Education's Free School Meals Eligibility Checking service, or from the date they are notified they are eligible for Universal Credit.

The school will be notified by email (the subject field will have the following text, 'Discretionary School Meal – Universal Credit – FSM Eligibility) or on the weekly schools list that an award for Free School Meals has been made. This will detail the date the award has been made from and Discretionary School Meals should end the day before. If you the school continue to pay Discretionary School Meals beyond the date Free School Meals have been awarded from, then funding will not be awarded from DSG Reserves for this period.

### **3.4 How will I know on what date a claim for Universal Credit has been made?**

The Benefits department do not get notified of every claim to Universal Credit, therefore they will not be able to help you establish when an award has been made. As part of the Universal Credit claim, the child's parents will have access to an online journal, which will detail the date a claim for Universal Credit has been submitted.

The parent will have to show you this entry or provide a copy of it. You should retain a copy of the entry, or a note that you have seen it for your records.

### **3.4(b) What if the parent does not want to share this information with the school?**

Some parents may not want the school to see their Universal Credit information. If this happens, you the school have the following options available:-

- ring the Benefit FSM department to see if they have any information;
- ask the parent to print off their online journal entries, which will enable them to cross out any potentially sensitive information before providing the evidence;
- ask the parent to see if their work coach can provide them with something which will confirm they have applied for Universal Credit and when;
- finally if the parent is prepared to show their online account to the benefits team, the parent can come into the benefits office

### **3.5 How will I know if Universal Credit has been awarded or not?**

The Benefits department will be checking on a daily basis to see if a parent has been awarded Universal Credit. Once eligibility to Free School Meals is confirmed the school will be notified either by email or on the weekly list sent to the school.

## **4. Recording and Funding**

### **4.1 How are the children(s) details recorded?**

You the school will need to keep your own record of every eligible child who is receiving Discretionary School Meals on the Discretionary School Meal – Universal Credit spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet needs to detail every Discretionary School Meal that the child has received. Therefore if the child was off sick or has been provided a packed lunch, then monies cannot be claimed back and should be detailed on the spreadsheet. In these instances there should be an end date when a child does not have a school meal and a separate period should start when the child starts school meals again.

### **4.2 How is the funding claimed back?**

You the school will be able to claim back £2.55 per meal, each day for every child to whom you awards a Discretionary School Meal

The Discretionary School Meal spreadsheet needs to be sent to [carolesmith@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:carolesmith@gateshead.gov.uk) at the end of every school term. The details should only include any child who has finished receiving Discretionary School Meals within that term.

### **4.3 Census Return**

Any children who are awarded a Discretionary School Meal **should not** be indicated as being eligible for a FSM on the school census return, until their Free School Meals status has been confirmed.

## 5. Documents

The following documents are required in awarding Discretionary School Meal.

### 5.1 Send by the School

#### **Appendix 1** – Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – Decision

A word document which should be emailed [CSBenefitsFSM@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:CSBenefitsFSM@Gateshead.Gov.UK). It is used to inform the Local Authority's Benefit department that a Discretionary School Meal has been awarded

#### **Appendix 2** – Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit - Awarded

A letter used to inform the child's parents that an award of Discretionary School Meals has been successful

#### **Appendix 3** - Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – 8 week letter

A letter used to inform the child's parents that their child's entitlement to Discretionary School Meals is due to end and also used as a reminder to submit a Free School Meals application form if they have not already done so

### 5.2 Actioned only by the School

#### **Appendix 4** – Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit spreadsheet

This is to record all the child which have been granted Discretionary School Meals. This needs to be emailed to [carolesmith@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:carolesmith@gateshead.gov.uk) at the end of every school term

### 5.3 Received from the Benefits Department

#### **Appendix 5** - Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – Decision

An email which is used to inform the School that the Benefits department have received a claim for Free School Meals and that Discretionary School Meals can be awarded

#### **Appendix 6** – Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – FSM Eligibility

An email which is used to inform the school that an award of Universal Credit has been made. It will also detail that an application for Free School Meals has been received and the date FSM will be awarded from

#### **Appendix 7** – Discretionary School Meals – Universal Credit – School Meals

An email which is used to inform the school that a crisis payment has been made to cover the cost of school meal arrears

## **6. Unable to award School Meals**

### **6.1 What if a Discretionary School Meal or Free School Meal cannot be awarded?**

In these instances the parent could consider requesting an Advance payment of Universal Credit, if they have not already done so. To do this they can make an entry in their online journal or ask their work coach. As a last resort, they can apply for a Crisis Payment from the Local Authority, by completing the Local Crisis Payment online application.

A Crisis Payment may be made depending on a person's circumstances and comes from a cash limited fund. Therefore you should not guarantee that they will definitely be awarded the money. When the Local Crisis Payment form is received by the Crisis Team, they will determine whether money can be awarded to cover the cost of school meals and they will also consider any other help they can provide. If it is agreed that monies will be paid to cover the cost of the school meal, this money will not go to the parent, instead it will be transferred to the school.

The Local Crisis Payment online application is available at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/LocalCrisisPayments> - paper forms are available from the Crisis Support Team at the Local Authority.

The Crisis Payment phone number is 0191 433 3676.

#### ***6.1(b) How will I know that a Crisis Payment has been awarded to cover the cost of School Meals?***

The Crisis Support team will email you the school. The email will confirm the dates an award for school meals has been granted for.

#### ***6.1(c) How will a Crisis Payment for School Meals be recorded?***

The child's details will be recorded in the same way as you do for a Discretionary School Meal, see 5.1 for details.

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**TITLE OF REPORT: Tackling Toxic Trio**

**REPORT OF: Elaine Devaney – Service Director Children and Families**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report describes a current case which is open to a social worker in the Safeguarding and Care Planning Service. It follows the story of two children and describes the intervention of Children's Social Care in the children's lives. It seeks to inform the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the impact of parental mental health, drug misuse and domestic abuse on the lives of children we safeguard in Gateshead and seeks the views of committee members on this or future planned approaches.

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**Tackling Toxic Trio**

The names of family members have been changed to protect their identity and comply with data protection requirements.

Case Study – 'John and Mary'

1. John and Mary are the children of Mr Tim Hands and Ms Kate Smith. They are aged 8 and 1 year respectively. Mr Hands and Ms Smith have two older children together, Elizabeth and Tim who are adults. There have been concerns about Elizabeth, Tim and John's poor school attendance. Mr Hands and Ms Smith are understood to have an unstable relationship, with domestic violence being a feature and concerns that both parents abuse alcohol. Previous concerns include police call-outs for arguments and aggressive behaviour within the family home.
2. The children's father, Tim has been in prison several times. When he is not in prison he lives with his brother and he is living with his brother currently. He was most recently released from prison in July 2018. His imprisonment on that occasion was for smuggling drugs into prison for his brother. Previous offences have included robbery and ram-raiding.
3. The Local Authority believe John and Mary will suffer significant harm, should they return to the care of Ms Smith. Both children are currently in a foster placement together. The basic needs of the children were not being met, including John's health and educational needs and the housing needs of both children. The creation of a child protection plan to support John and Mary in the care of Ms Smith was not successful as the same concerns persisted, despite social work intervention.

4. Ms Smith currently does not have an address from which she can safely care for the children, the conditions of her current property have been observed as being so poor it was not safe for the children to be present at any time in the property.

5. The Local Authority has had enduring concerns regarding Ms Smith's often erratic and troubling presentation, raising suspicions of substance misuse or poor mental health. Because of Ms Smith's poor engagement, it has not been possible to truly determine why Ms Smith presents this way. Ms Smith has refused any support or intervention around her emotional health.

## **PRECIPITATING EVENTS**

6. A Legal Gateway Meeting took place on 22 February 2018, due to concerns that Ms Smith was not engaging with the Child Protection Plan. Additionally, despite obtaining a new tenancy, she was once again at risk of eviction due to non-payment of rent. John needed 10 dental extractions; he had done so for over a year, but Ms Smith did not take him for appointments. John was observed to be in pain and in school would choose softer foods. Transport was provided by the Local Authority to help Ms Smith and John travel to the appointments, but Ms Smith did not take up this offer of help. John's attendance at school had deteriorated further and he was not brought to school for four weeks prior to the meeting.

7. Access into the property and visits to the children were not always guaranteed, with visits often coordinated with the help of Housing Services or Police.

8. The Legal Gateway Meeting concluded that a Letter Before Proceedings meeting should be held, with timescales set with Ms Smith to engage with assessments and intervention required to safeguard the children.

9. Following the Legal Gateway Meeting, a home visit took place on 26 February 2018 with an Environmental Health Officer, Ms Smith had reported that there was no heating or hot water to the property and the toilet was blocked. Ms Smith refused access to the property and was advised that the Police would be called; Ms Smith then left the property, handing her keys over to the Police to allow them to enter. Photographs were taken by a Housing Officer which illustrated the deplorable home conditions. There was an accumulation of rubbish, no bedding for the children, faeces in a washing bowl on the floor and the toilet was overflowing with faeces. Arrangements were made for Ms Smith and the children to stay at her mother's house.

10. Ms Smith did not attend for her planned Letter Before Proceedings meeting on three occasions. Because of her disengagement and no improvement in the children's housing situation, John's dental needs being neglected and very poor school attendance, a decision was made for care proceedings to be issued.

11. A Child Concern Notification was then sent by the Police. A member of the public had reported Ms Smith and the children being asleep in the garden of her mother's property, during the night in March. Police visited and considered Ms Smith to be intoxicated, which she denied. Ms Smith advised she was locked out and had been unable to wake her mother. John had a scratch to his face. Ms Smith was dismissive of the concerns, citing that her children were safe in the garden as she 'knew people in the area'. Ms Smith demonstrated a total lack of regard for the children's safety as well as their physical health.

12. Ms Smith then went missing with the children. A report was made to Northumbria Police who made attempts to locate the family, including circulation of Ms Smith's details on social media.

13. At 8.30am the following day, the children and Ms Smith were found in a local garden. John informed social workers that he and his mother and baby sister had stayed out all night. Ms Smith was challenging and abusive to Police in the presence of the children, she was arrested on suspicion of child neglect and was held at Forth Banks Police Station. Because of the concerns, Police exercised their powers of protection and the children were brought to the Civic Centre.

14. Both children were observed to be very cold and wet; John could not tell us when he last ate. Whilst the children had coats on, John only had a t-shirt underneath and no socks. The Local Authority requested a medical examination of the children, as they had stayed out overnight when it was very cold and raining. The Consultant Paediatrician reported the primary need for the children was for warmth and safety.

15. John later informed social workers that his mother got a quilt from 'Nana's' to enable them to sleep outside. This raised concern about maternal grandma's endorsement of Ms Smith's actions.

16. John and Mary both have additional unmet health needs, in the form of their outstanding immunisations. Mary is a baby of just one year, her own health and development has not been safely promoted, she did not receive adequate antenatal health care. There is a concern that Mary may have Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

17. John has been exposed to domestic violence between his parents, there have been continued challenges in engaging Mr Hands so that meaningful understanding of his parenting function can be gained. Records do suggest he has a dependency to abuse alcohol and this will impact on his capacity to care for the children.

18. Ms Smith has demonstrated erratic and challenging behaviour in the presence of the children, she has become volatile and aggressive illustrating little regard for the children's welfare. On those occasions, neither child has responded to their mother's behaviour, which does suggest they see this as 'normal'.

19. The reasons for Ms Smith being unable to engage with services or to follow any previously agreed plans largely remains unknown, although her presentation and behaviour has led professionals to believe she is misusing alcohol or other substances. Ms Smith can struggle greatly to regulate her emotions. The neglectful, inconsistent responses of Ms Smith towards the children, as well as their exposure to her aggressive and challenging behaviour highlights they are unlikely to be able to feel safe and secure in her care. Ms Smith's mother has reported that Kate has been sleeping rough on the estate. Kate's mental health deteriorated in July 2018, illustrated by shouting, behaving bizarrely and reportedly hallucinating. At this time she was living with her mother. The mental health crisis team attempted to assess her needs on three occasions, but she refused to engage with them; during one attempted visit she jumped out of a window to evade them.

20. The Local Authority has now issued care proceedings to secure the care of the children in the long-term. The children's father is currently being assessed as a carer for the children by an independent social worker at the request of the Court. The children's mother has disengaged from the Court process.

21. As part of the care proceedings a toxicology test was carried out which revealed a high level of alcohol use and use of amphetamines by the children's mother.

22. In July 2018, Ms Smith was arrested for assaulting a police officer. Upon her arrest she was found to be carrying amphetamines and an offensive weapon (a saw) in her handbag.

23. There is a final Court hearing in December. The Local Authority plan is for the children to live with their maternal aunt who lives outside of the Gateshead Council boundary. It is hoped that maternal aunt will be granted a Special Guardianship Order and thus have parental responsibility for the children. Maternal aunt and her partner already have SGO's for her partner's two grandchildren, as a result of those children being neglected by their parents.

24. An anonymous call was received in October 2018 informing that Tim, the children's father had moved Kate, the children's mother into the property he shares with his brother, in the hope that the children are placed in his care, and that ultimately, Kate can get them back. Elizabeth, Kate's eldest daughter had told the social worker that her mum has 'gone away to rehab'.

### **Recommendation**

It is requested that the Looked After Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider this report and make any observations as it deems appropriate.

CONTACT: Chris O'Reilly

EXTENSION: 3865

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Annual Work Programme

**REPORT OF:** Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive  
Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and  
Governance

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**Summary**

The report sets out the provisional work programme for Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

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1. The Committee's provisional work programme was endorsed at the meeting held on 19 April 2018 and Councillors have agreed that further reports will be brought to future meetings to highlight current issues / identify any changes/additions to this programme.
2. Appendix 1 sets out the work programme as it currently stands. Any changes proposed to the programme will be set out in bold and italics for ease of identification.

**Recommendations**

3. The Committee is asked to
  - a) Note the provisional programme;
  - b) Note that further reports on the work programme will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional policy issues, which the Committee may be asked to consider.

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## APPENDIX 1

<b>Draft Families OSC 2018-19</b>	
<b>14 June 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution (<b>to note</b>)</li> <li>• Role and remit (<b>to note</b>)</li> <li>• The Council Plan – Year End Assessment and Performance Delivery 2017-18</li> <li>• Review of Obesity (across the life course) - Scoping report</li> <li>• How Adult and Children’s Services are working Together – Progress Update.</li> <li>• Ofsted Inspection – Outcome and Next Steps</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
<b>13 Sept 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSC Review of Obesity (across the life course) - Evidence Gathering</li> <li>• Annual Report on Complaints and Representations – Children</li> <li>• Ofsted Inspections/School Data – Progress Update</li> <li>• Monitoring – OSC Review of Children on the Edge of Care</li> <li>• Safeguarding Children - LSCB Annual Report and Plans</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
<b>18 Oct 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Children – LSCB Annual Report and Plans</li> <li>• Early Help – Progress Update</li> <li>• School Exclusions – Performance Update</li> <li>• <i>YOT Performance Update</i></li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
<b>6 Nov 18</b> <b><u>*Additional Meeting</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>CAMHS Progress Update</i></li> <li>• <i>Work Programme</i></li> </ul>
<b>6 Dec 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council Plan – Six Monthly Assessment and Performance Delivery 2018-19</li> <li>• OSC Review of Obesity (across the life course) – Evidence Gathering</li> <li>• Provision of School Meals (Universal Credit)</li> <li>• Tackling the Toxic Trio (domestic abuse/substance misuse and neglect) – Case Study</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
<b>31 Jan 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>OSC Review of Obesity (across the life course) – Evidence Gathering</i></li> <li>• Ofsted – Annual Report</li> <li>• Secondary Academies Performance – Progress Update</li> <li>• Promoting the Independence of children and young people with SEN/learning disabilities – Progress Update (with a focus on how needs are being met; SEN progression and Home to School Transport)</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>
<b>7 March 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSC Review of Obesity (across the life course) – Interim Report</li> <li>• <b><i>Recruitment &amp; Retention of Social Workers – Progress Update (Deferred from December meeting)</i></b></li> <li>• Annual Conversation with Head Teachers of Special Schools</li> <li>• School Exclusions – Performance Update</li> <li>• <i>Best Start in Life – Outcome of Pilot Self- Assessment (highlighted in 2017-18 and deferred to 2018-19 work</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>programme).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Progress update – Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder</i></li> <li>• <i>Work Programme</i></li> </ul>
<b>4 April 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSC Review of Obesity (across the life course) – Final Report</li> <li>• Liaison with Gateshead Youth Assembly</li> <li>• Monitoring - OSC Review of Children on the Edge of Care</li> <li>• Early Help – Progress Update</li> <li>• LSCB Emerging Priorities</li> <li>• OSC Work Programme Review</li> </ul>

**Issues to slot in: None**