

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Care, Wellbeing and Learning: Annual reports and plans for 2016/17**

**REPORT OF:**               **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive and Interim Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval of a suite of annual reports for adults, children, young people and families.

### **Background**

2. This suite of annual reports is presented together to illustrate the considerable level of activity across services for adults, children, young people and families in Gateshead, and to fulfil the requirement for the Council to approve and publish a range of statutory annual reports.
3. Annual reports are also produced for the LSCB on the Independent Reviewing Officer function and around child protection.
4. The Council is also required to produce an annual report into its activities around fostering, adoption, and to publish a report into social care complaints.
5. The Council also publish an annual report for Education Gateshead and FamiliesGateshead.

### **Proposal**

6. The annual reports presented here provide a look back at key activity in 2016/17.
7. A summary of the key issues from each document is outlined below.
8. **Children's Services Complaints and Representations Annual Report 2016/17**

The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 requires that Councils with Social Services responsibilities produce an Annual Report of their Statutory Children's Services Complaints Procedure. This annual report sets out details of the complaints and representations made during the period April 2016 – March 2017.

Information contained in the report provides the numbers and types of complaint received during this period and outlines changes or improvements to services as a result of complaints and other formal representations received. The report also

provides statistical information regarding the issues received and the effectiveness of the Children's Services Complaints and Representations Procedure.

**10. Annual Report on Adults Complaints & Representations (Social Services) April 2016 – March 2017**

The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009 came into force on 1 April 2009. As part of the responsibilities set out in the Act, local authorities must produce an annual report on all complaints and representations received. This report fulfils Gateshead Council's obligations and provides information on all representations received about the Council's Adult Social Care Services between 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017.

Information contained in the report provides a summary of the statistical information regarding the numbers and themes of complaints received together with a review of the effectiveness of the procedure. Some examples of service improvement are also included within the report.

**11. Adoption Annual Report**

The Adoption Service Annual Report 2016/2017 outlines the performance of the service during this period, detailing numbers of children adopted and adopters assessed and approved. The report also includes comments from users of the service in relation to the performance of the Service and evidences that the service continues to perform well in relation to key areas such as adoption support, recruitment of adopters for children requiring adoption and the secure placement of children with their new families, with very low levels of disruption. Recruitment of suitable adopters to meet the complex needs of waiting children will remain a priority as will the continuing provision and development of post adoption support. Ongoing reform including the regionalization of adoption services remains a central Government priority and the service will continue to adapt to meet evolving demands.

**12. Fostering Service Annual Report**

This is the Annual Report for Gateshead Council's Fostering Service covering the following areas for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017:

- Structure of the Fostering Service
- Payment for Skills
- Current foster carer population within Gateshead Council
- Referrals for fostering placements
- The use of Independent Fostering Agencies
- Recruitment and retention of foster carers
- Business undertaken by the Fostering Panel
- Service development

The report highlights the activities and work undertaken within the Service within this period.

### **13. Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report**

The Statutory Guidance for Independent Reviewing Officers (2010) sets a clear framework for the production of the annual report.

The Independent Reviewing Officers' annual report 2016/17 outlines the performance of the service, the context and requirements within which it operates, the effectiveness and impact of the service and planned developments for 2016/17.

The service continues to have good and above national average outputs regarding the timeliness of reviews (98% held within timescale) whilst there has been an increase of 4% in the number of meetings held as well as a significant increase in child protection activity. The service continues to improve its practice in relation to the involvement of children and young people and maintains the focus on establishing stable relationships between IROs and the looked after children and young people.

A full review of the service has been undertaken to ensure that the Safeguarding Children Unit continues to provide a robust service for our most vulnerable children now and in the future.

### **14. Child Protection Conference Chairs Annual Report**

This report outlines the work of the Chairs of Child Protection Conferences. Although there is no statutory requirement to produce a report, this report is produced for the LSCB as part of its oversight and challenge role, and sets out the key performance data and outcomes from this part of the child protection system.

### **15. EducationGateshead (Learning and Schools) Annual Report**

The Annual Report for educationGateshead assesses the performance of the Council's School Improvement Services using the following indicators;

The performance of Gateshead children and young people in national assessments and examinations, ranging from the Early Years' Foundation Stage to Key Stage 5. The performance of schools in Gateshead in Ofsted Inspections.

This year see the introduction of new assessment procedures in primary and secondary schools and so the report is not able to show results over time.

All publically funded schools in Gateshead are considered within the report including academies and those locally maintained. The Annual Report identifies strengths and challenges for further improvement faced by the Schools and the Council's services working in partnership.

### **16. FamiliesGateshead Annual Report**

The Annual Report for 2016-17 for FamiliesGateshead covers year three of the five year programme due to end in March 2020 under Phase 2 which began 1 April 2015. The annual report covers performance, payment by result claims and key priorities for 2017/18.

## Recommendations

17. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Endorse the following reports
  - a. Independent Reviewing Officers annual report for 2016/17
  - b. Child Protection Conference Chairs Annual report for 2016/17
- (ii) Approve the following reports:
  - a. Children's and Adult Services Annual Complaints Reports
  - b. Adoption Annual Report
  - c. Fostering Annual Report
  - d. EducationGateshead Annual Report
  - e. FamiliesGateshead Annual Report

For the following reasons:

- (i) To continue to ensure that the needs of children, young people and families continue to be met
- (ii) To ensure most effective use of resources and alignment of programmes to achieve the priorities in the council plan,
- (iii) To ensure the Council fulfils its statutory duties.

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**CONTACT:** Sheena Ramsey

extension: 2052

## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Context

1. The proposals in this report are consistent with Vision 2030, and in particular Creative Gateshead, Active Health Gateshead and Sustainable Gateshead.
2. The proposals also directly support the delivery of the Council Plan, and Children Gateshead, the plan for children, young people and families in Gateshead.

### Background

3. The Council and its partners remain engaged in the delivery of a wider range of activity to support children, young people and families across Gateshead.
4. There remain statutory requirements around children's trust arrangements, and in Gateshead partners have agreed to retain a plan as the basis for strategic action.
5. There is a statutory duty to publish annual reports of the activities around fostering and adoption, as well as an annual complaints report. All such reports are presented here for approval.

### Consultation

6. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Adult Social Care have been consulted. A variety of agencies have been engaged in the development of these strategies and annual reports, details of which are included in the reports themselves.

### Alternative Options

7. The Council must produce annual reports into complaints, fostering and adoption. Therefore there are no alternatives to these reports being presented.
8. By publishing this suite of reports at the same time, partners and residents have the opportunity to review the wide range of activity across all themes.

### Implications of Recommended Option

9. **Resources:**
  - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications as a result of this report. Specific proposals arising from implementation will be presented to Cabinet for approval as required.
  - b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no specific implications arising from this report. Specific proposals arising from implementation will be presented to Cabinet for approval as required.
  - c) **Property Implications** - There are no specific implications arising from this report. Specific proposals arising from implementation will be presented to Cabinet for approval as required

10. **Risk Management Implications** - The development of effective strategies forms part of control measures for Care, Wellbeing and Learning.
11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – No major implications
12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are a range of proposals in each strategy which seek to safeguard children and to reduce their risk taking behaviour where necessary. Specific issues are referenced in each document.
13. **Health Implications** –There are a range of proposals in the strategy documents which address tackling the causes of ill health and also reducing health inequality, both key elements in the Active, Healthy and Well strategy for Gateshead
14. **Sustainability Implications** - No major implications.
15. **Human Rights Implications** - Proposals in the strategies support Article 6 – the right to education and article 8 – the right to a family life.
16. **Area and Ward Implications** - No specific implications