

FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, 19 October 2023 at 5.30 pm in the Bridges Room

From the Chief Executive, Sheena Ramsey

Item	Business
1	Apologies for absence
2	Minutes of last meeting (Pages 3 - 8) The Committee is asked to approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 September 2023.
3	Young Person's Ambassadors (Care Leavers) (Pages 9 - 26) Report and Presentation of Chris Hulme, Children's Rights Officer, Childrens Social Care and Lifelong Learning
4	Update on Support to Vulnerable Adolescents (Pages 27 - 34) Report of Lisa Wood, Practice Leader, Childrens Social Care and Lifelong Learning
5	Trauma Informed Team Update (Pages 35 - 40) Report of Lisa Wood, Practice Leader, Childrens Social Care and Lifelong Learning
6	Preventing Homelessness for Young People (Pages 41 - 44) Report of Lisa Wood, Practice Leader, Childrens Social Care and Lifelong Learning
7	Update on Gateshead Local Area SEND Inspection (Pages 45 - 52) Presentation of Andrea Houlahan, Deputy Strategic Director, Children's Social Care and Lifelong Learning
8	Work Programme (Pages 53 - 56) Report of Grace Anderson, Democratic Services Officer
9	Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting of Families OSC will be held on 30 November 2023, 13:30 in Bridges Room, Gateshead Civic Centre.

Contact: Grace Anderson, Tel: 0191 433 4635, Email:
democraticservicesteam@gateshead.gov.uk, Date: Wednesday, 11 October 2023

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 7 September 2023

PRESENT: Councillor M Hall (Chair)

Councillor(s): D Burnett, D Bradford, B Clelland, P Craig, K Henderson, K McCartney, E McMaster, J Mohammed, L Moir, A Ord, D Robson and Rachel Walton

F96 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caffrey, Kelly and Mullen.

F97 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

F98 SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLAINTS AND REPRESENTATIONS

The Committee were presented with a report on complaints, compliments and representations for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Children's Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006 sets out the procedure that Local Authorities have a responsibility to follow when a complaint is made about Children's Social Service, Regulation 13 (3) of this Act states that all local authorities must publish an Annual Report (1 April to 31 March) to identify the number, detail and outcomes to all complaints received. This information within the Annual Report fulfils Gateshead Council's obligations under this regulation and covers the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

The Committee were advised there are 3 stages to the procedure:-

Stage 1 – Local Resolution
Stage 2 – Investigation
Stage 3 – Review Panel

- The Committee were informed that the number of formal contacts received citing dissatisfaction about Children's Services decreased by 18% (72 from 88) compared with the number of dissatisfaction contacts received during 2021/22(88)
- However, during 2022/23, 63% (125) of all Children's Services contacts were compliments

- Children's Services received 8 Stage 1 complaints during 2022/23. This is a 27% decrease on Stage 1 complaints received during 2021/22 (11)
- 62% (5) of complaints related to the quality of services provided
- No statutory complaints were received regarding professional misconduct of workers
- One Corporate Complaint was received about actions by a member of staff within the Children's Engagement Service. The complaint was later withdrawn by the complainant.
- 25% (2) of complaints were regarding the quality or lack of support provided by individual workers or services
- The number of complaint related queries (low level issues nor requiring a written response) decreased by 11% compared to those received during 2021/22 (23 from 26)
- Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams received 52% (12) of complaint related queries received. However, it was found that a number were relating to court proceedings and subsequently closed.
- All complaint related queries received about Children's Social Care were dealt with directly by either the Team Manager of the service complained about or by the Complaints Section after prior discussion with the worker concerned
- There were four complaints registered at Stage 2 of the complaints procedure during 2022/23. Stage 2 is the progression from a Stage 1 complaint. The issues remain the same but require a more in depth investigation
- There were also 3 Stage 3 Review Panels held during this time. All three Review Panels were progressions from Stage 2 investigations carried on in 2022/23
- Two of the Panels held were from different members of the children's family and related to the quality of support provided by the workers concerned. Decisions taken by the service were also the subject of both complaints. One Review Panel was regarding the quality of a Child in Need Assessment, where it was alleged that key information had not been recorded.

The Committee received details of the themes of statutory complaints received, equalities monitoring and learning from complaints.

The Committee were also advised that between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, Children's Services received 125 compliments about either individual workers or teams. This means that compared with the number of statutory and corporate complaints received during 2022/23, (18) 87% (125) were compliments about Children's Services:-

- 16% (20) of compliments were regarding Access and Intervention Teams
- 4% (5) were regarding Children's Business Support Officers
- 3% (4) were about the Cared for Children Team

- 33% (41) were about the Children with Disabilities Service, including Grove House Respite
- 33% (41) were regarding teams within Early Help
- 6% (8) were about the Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams
- 5% (6) were regarding the Safeguarding Unit, including FDAC and Children's Engagement

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) That the Committee wished to place upon record their thanks the staff within the service and were satisfied with the performance of Children's Services in responding to complain and that this results in continuous service improvement

F99 HMIP INSPECTION OF YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES IN GATESHEAD

The Committee received a report and presentation summarising the recent HMIP Inspection of Youth Justice Services in Gateshead and outlined recommendations and next steps.

On 19 January 2023, HMIP announced the intention to carry out an inspection of youth justice services in Gateshead during the week commencing 27 February 2023.

The inspection covered the following key domains:

- Organisational Delivery
- Court Disposals
- Out of Court Disposals
- Resettlement

The inspection found that Gateshead Youth Justice Service was rated 'Good' overall while rating its 'implementation and delivery' as 'Outstanding', due to the way high-quality, well focused, personalised and coordinated services are delivered, engaging and assisting the child.

Proposal and/or issues for consideration and communications implications were outlined to the Committee and the Youth Justice Service and Partnership Board responses to the recommendations made were outlined as follows:-

- Review the remit of the existing Performance Subgroup to ensure data is effectively scrutinised and analysed to ensure the needs of the children are fully understood and that these findings shape service delivery.
- Continue to have an active role in the review and evaluation of local, regional and national initiatives whilst further developing our in-house process to better understand the impact that Youth Justice Service involvement has had for children and their families.
- Review our resettlement policy and provision to develop clear guidance in relation to preparing children for release. This will include the responsibilities of the partnership to ensure robust and effective

resettlement provision across wellbeing, accommodation, education, training and employment.

- Strengthen our understanding of diversity, language and communication screening process for every young person coming into Youth Justice Service and strengthen our partnership arrangements and pathways to support with CAMHS, CYPS and North East Counselling to ensure young people have direct access to the appropriate counselling and support for emotional health issues.
- Work with Trusting Hands GATESHEAD to ensure that young people have quick access to specialist mental health provision and pathways into speech, language and communication provision is fully embedded.
- Establish an education lead worker within YJS and collaborate with education partners to strengthen the education offer for young people and ensure they receive appropriate and effective provision to meet individual need.

These actions will form part of a development plan which will be submitted to HMP as part of the inspection process.

The recommendations will be incorporated into the priorities in the Gateshead Youth Justice Service Strategy 2023-2024.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

F100

EARLY HELP STRATEGY 2023-26 - PROGRESS AGAINST THE KEY PRIORITIES, INCLUDING FAMILY HUBS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The Committee received a report and presentation on the Early Help Strategy 2023-2026, progress against the key priorities including Family Hubs implementation update.

The Committee were advised that the former Children's Centre sites and Deckham, Birtley, Felling, Blaydon, Chowdene and Teams have operated under Family Hubs branding from July 2023. Chopwell will follow in August 2023. Further sites at Wrekenton and Leam Lane will also host a Family Hub offer and the recruitment of the appropriate staff have been completed.

Pre-funding agreements have been reached with VCFS providers at St Chad's Community Project, Labriut and Teams Life Centre to provide a community outreach offer to supplement the core Family Hub network. Funding documents will be signed in August 2023.

Progress against the milestones of the Gateshead Delivery Plan is regularly reviewed with DfF Officers. Family Hubs were officially launched on 2 August 2023 and a comprehensive all age offer is being delivered across the Family Hub network.

The Committee were informed that work also includes:-

- Broaden and improved the range of virtual information and support

available to families, including a clear Start for Life offer for families with young children

- Map and develop a range of prevention services for young people at risk of entering the youth justice system
- Improving access to early help services in education settings
- Develop and embed a clear Reducing Parental Conflict offer for parents and co-parents
- Develop and embed an improved offer of support for family relationships
- Review the early help assessment process with key stakeholders and align with other local assessments
- Develop data maturity across the early help system to further enhance analysis of performance
- Improve the strategic oversight of, and accountability within, the early help system and
- Communications implications

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

F101

GATESHEAD'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING LOCAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN 2023-24 UPDATE

The Committee were given a presentation which outlined the requirements of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Long Term Plan deliverables.

The plan is based on 5 themes within future in mind:-

- Promote good mental health, build resilience, and identify and address emerging mental health problems as soon as possible
- Ensure children, young people and families have timely access to evidence based support and treatment when in need
- Improve the experience and outcomes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, ensuring they are adequately supported at key transition points
- Work in partnership to develop multi agency pathways underpinned by quality performance standards, which will be reported in a transparent way
- Continue to train and develop our workforce to ensure we have staff with the right mix of knowledge, skills and competences to respond to the needs of children and young people and their families, making every contact count

The next steps were outlined as follows:-

- Build on information available through 'Our Gateshead'

- Work with Family Hubs, Edberts House and development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams with a view to maximising the workforce and services available in Gateshead
- Looking to enhance Daisy Chain offer to provide an additional workforce training to improve accessibility of services and upskill staff
- Build Children and Young People’s Peer Support Offer
- The Plan is to be presented at various forums including OSC’s, Health & Wellbeing Board
- Narrative plan sent out to partners for comment (deadline 18 August 2023)
- Full plan - narrative and action plan circulated for final comments (deadline 15 September)
- Publication of the plan on or before 29 September 2023

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

F102 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

The Committee received a report which provided details on the development of the work programme for Families OSC for the municipal year 2023-24.

The proposed 2023-24 work programme was attached to the main report as Appendix 1 and remains provisional as:-

- Cabinet may wish to refer further issues to OSC’s for further consideration
- It does not take into account of new policy issues which may be identified during the year, which Cabinet may wish to refer to Overview and Scrutiny, and
- It does not include issues identified by members of committees on an ongoing basis during the year as a result of scrutiny decisions, call in and councillor
- call for action

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted
 - ii) The Committee endorsed the OSC’s provisional work programr for 2023-24 attached at Appendix 1, subject to any amendment arising from consideration of Appendix 1
 - iii) The Committee noted that further reports will be brought to the Committee to identify and additional issues which the Committe may be asked to consider

Chair.....

Title of Report: Gateshead's First Care Experienced Young Ambassadors

Purpose of the report

- 1 To provide Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary of the work carried out by Gateshead's first care experienced young ambassadors.

Background

- 2 Our first care experienced young ambassadors Aisha Imran, Jake Curbison and Mariceu Neto took up their posts in January 2022. The posts were contracted for 6 hours per week and fixed term for 18 months.
- 3 These posts were ringfenced for cared for and care experienced young people aged between 16-25 years from Gateshead.
- 4 These young people would represent and champion the views and needs of Cared For and Care Experienced Children and Young People. The ambassadors were assigned to two themes of the Corporate Parenting Partnership.
- 5 Aisha, Jake and Mariceu were involved in many pieces of work including:
 - Delivering training to Elected Members
 - Working directly with young people to champion their needs.
 - Attending an event at the Houses of Parliament to lobby MPs about the independent review of Children's Social Care.
 - Delivering their own projects e.g. Healthy Relationships Sessions.
 - Being part of many meetings/project working groups representing other children and young people.
 - Reviewing the Care Leavers App.
- 6 The Ambassadors work plan is attached to this report for information.
- 7 Aisha Jake and Mariceu left the Council's employment in July 2023 when their fixed term contract came to an end.
- 8 Recruitment for the next round of young ambassadors has taken place. Seventeen young people submitted applications and were interviewed. Three candidates have been offered posts subject to references.

Proposal and/or Issues for consideration

- 9 Aisha will attend The Families OSC meeting on the 19th October to share some of the work they delivered and her experiences of being one of Gateshead's first Care Experienced Young Ambassadors.

Communications Implications

- 10 None

Recommendations

- 11 Members are recommended to:
- (a) Note the work of the Young Ambassadors.

Consultees:

The following officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report:

Paige Thomason
Aisha Imran
Children's SMT

Contact:

Chris Hulme, Children's Rights Officer

Ext:2647

Appendix 1: Young Ambassadors Work Plan

Activity/ Objective	Tasks	Timescale	With
Corporate Parenting Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver session to Families OSC (Prior to starting posts) • Deliver additional session on Teams – offered to all elected members. 	December 2021 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development
Review Looked After Children's Service Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in session to review service plan and contribute to updated plan. 	Quarterly meetings prior to full CPP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bev Hunter Smith • Other Young People
Recruitment of new DCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in online interviews for new DCS, alongside Gateshead Youth Assembly, One Voice Youth Network and SEND Youth Forum. 	March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources
Corporate Parenting Board/Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings when required (and available). • Work between meetings on issues identified by young people and Councillors. 	As and when required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Officers • Councillors
Mockingbird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in working group meetings • Assist with face-to-face events • Meet young people in groups. 	As and when required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering Team • Michelle Steriker • Jill Little
Care Pledge and Standards of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation about new care pledge priorities launched with staff prior to wider roll out. • Assist with reviewing and amend pledge 	Ongoing Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Officers

AYSE Academy Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and deliver a session for the launch event for the Gateshead Academy. 		Workforce Development Principal Social Worker
Annual Survey for Care Experienced and Cared for Children and Young People.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redesign annual surveys to be delivered in Dec/January – working with Chris and Workstream Leads. Surveys to reviewed by partners. Surveys to be more targeted 	May 2023	CPP QA
Regional Children in Care Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YA to participate in the regional CiCC. Represent Gateshead's Young People Take part in regional Care Leavers Board and working group. 	Ongoing Ongoing	Regional Partners
Children's Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit homes regularly and chat with young people. Contribute to Reg44 visits and liase with Kim Leighton 	Ongoing	Kim Leighton Gary Hays Linda Roberts Danielle Nicholson
Social Media Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure social media accounts are used and updated including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instagram (childrensrightsgateshead) Twitter (@RightsGHD) Facebook (Gateshead Children's Rights and Engagement Team) 	Ongoing	Chris Hulme
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with planning for Summer programme for Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People. Attend sessions and encourage participation. 	Summer Holidays October Half Term Christmas	Bev Hunter Smith Big Red Bus Digital Me
TikTok Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested project from Mariceu. Funding Secured Sessions planned for summer holidays. Launch videos on TicTok 	July 2022 November 2022	Digital Voice for Communities Bev Hunter Smith Chris Hulme

Its Our Care Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend “Its Our Care – Day of Action” event In houses of Parliament and Lobby MP’s from our region. • Link with other groups from the North East 	<p>June 2022</p> <p>January 2023</p>	Chris Hulme
Agency Staff Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with delivering training to Agency Staff who were looking after a Gatshead child. • Shared own experiences of being looked after. 	August 2022	Workforce Development Chris Hulme
Annual Celebrating Achievement Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in planning group • Assist with running the event. • Speak to other young people and feed views into planning group. • Help with evaluation. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>November 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People • Virtual Head • Various departments • Senior managers
Healthy Relationships Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver sessions to young people in Longside and Kites Rise with Laura from the DA team. 	October Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Moat • Danielle Nicholson • Linda Roberts
SAILS Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in working group session • Get views of young people who have experienced SAILS 	November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement • Housing • Commissioning
Youth Justice Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent young people on the board and contribute as needed. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Service
Care Leavers App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to other young people about what should be on the app • Work with Digital Team to support development of new site. 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Page 3

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Gateshead's First Young Ambassadors

Aisha Imran

Our first photos together!

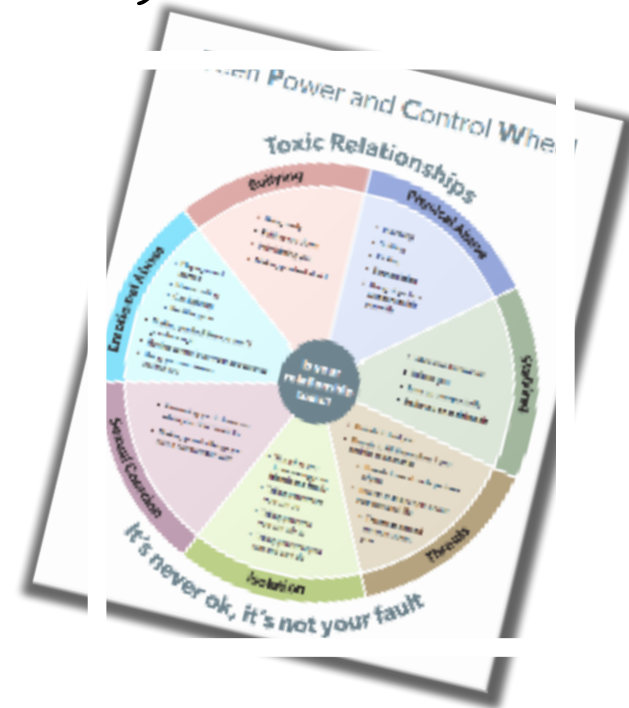


Work with our Children's Homes

- Building relationship based on shared experiences
- Delivering specialist workshops
- Encouraging young people to get involved in other activities
- Raising issues
- Having FUN!



Page 17



Delivering Training and Conferences

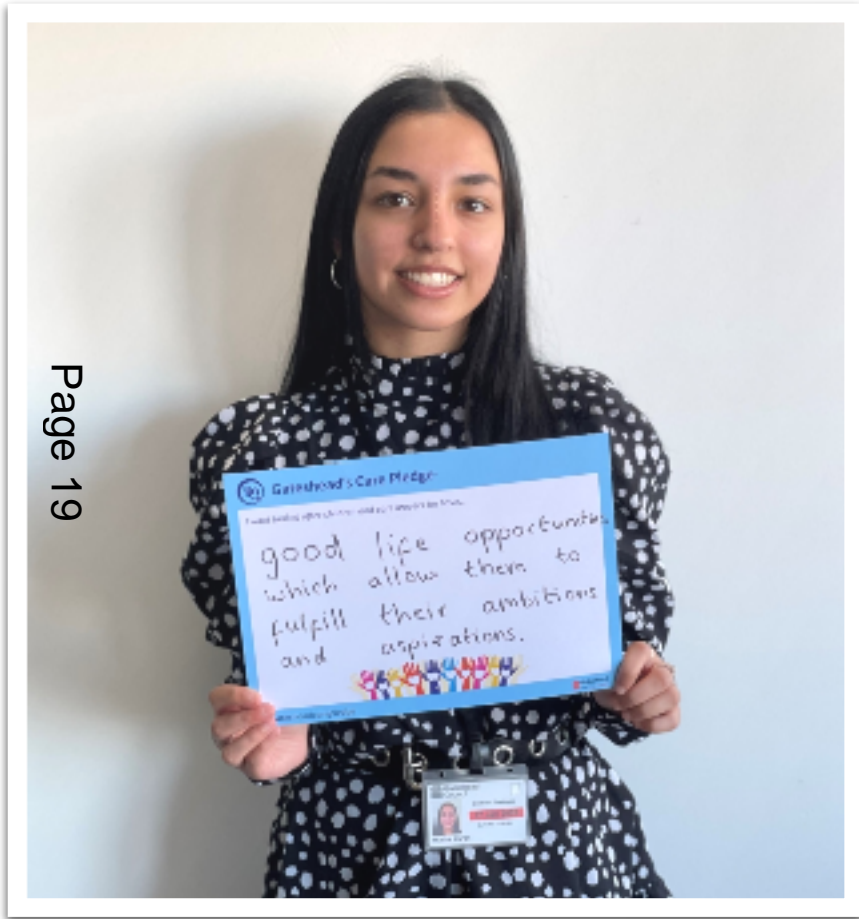
- Corporate Parenting Sessions for Elected Members
- Specialist sessions for Agencies caring for our children
- AYSE Academy Launch Event
- Transitions to Independence Training

Page 18



Hearing from other Children and Young People

Page 19



- Annual Survey
- Care Pledge Renewal
- Work with One Voice Youth Network
- Care Leavers App Replacement

Campaigning for better services

- Regional Children in Care Council
- Care Leavers Board
- Attending Special Events and Activities



Having Fun!

- Big Red Bus Adventure
- Halloween Party



Working with partners



Page 22

- Mental Health Workshops
- Rise Programme Board
- YJS Board



Our last photo's
together



Page 24

Meet our new Young Ambassadors!



GATESHEAD'S CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM



GATESHEAD'S CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM



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Title of Report: Work to reduce children who are missing from care and support for those who are at risk of exploitation.

Purpose of the report

- 1 To update Families OSC on practice and developments in supporting children and young people who go missing from home or care and young people at risk or victims of child exploitation.

Background

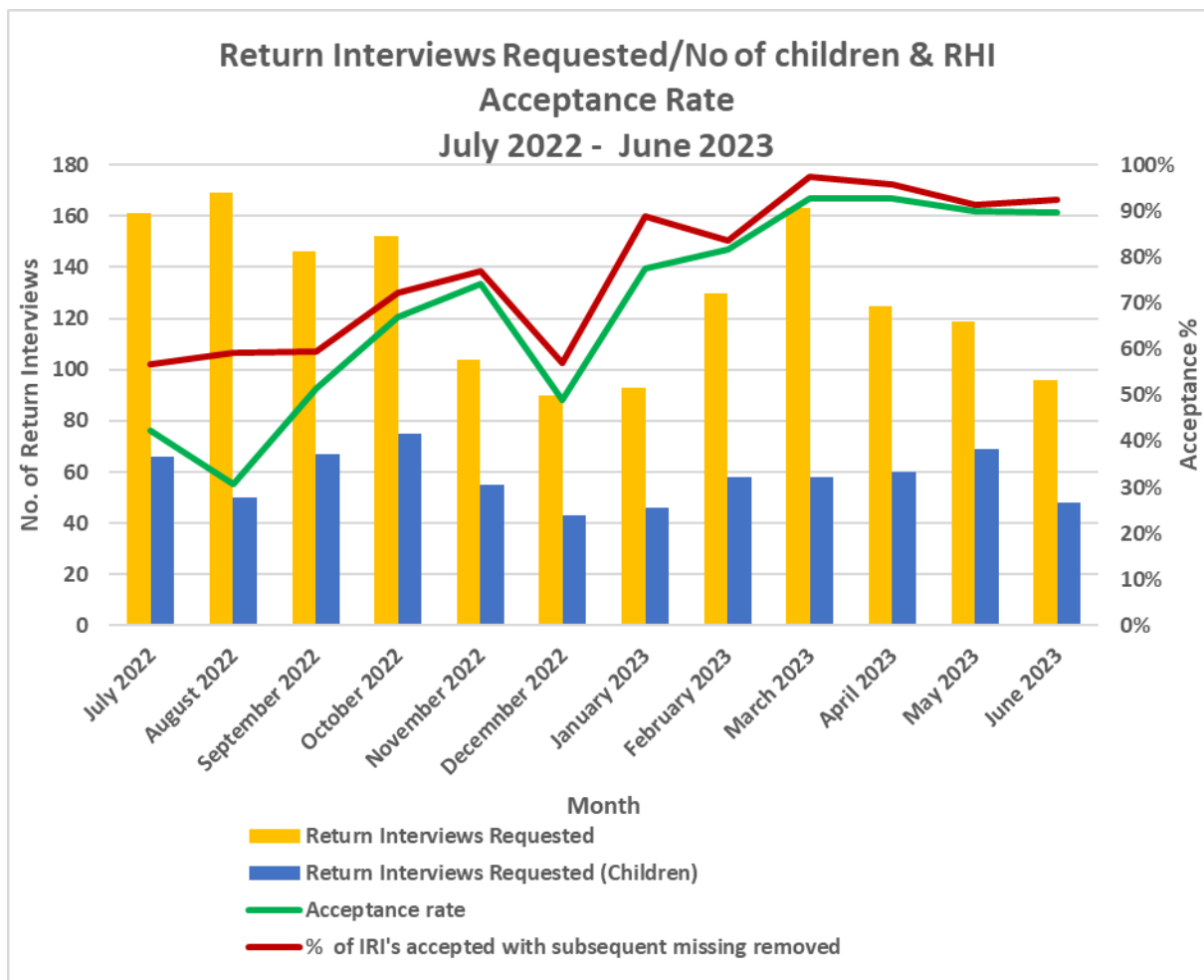
- 2 A dedicated Return Home Support Worker has been in post since September 2021.
- 3 This report outlines progress in terms of engagement and timeliness, considers practice developments and recommendations for next steps.
- 4 Gateshead Childrens Services are part of a Northumbria force wide procedures (MSET) to tackle missing and exploitation.

Proposal and/or Issues for consideration

- 5 In Total (all children), between July 2022 and June 2023 there have been 1548 missing episode recorded and a Return Home Interview offered following every episode (100% offer). This equates to 338 Young People. During the period a total of 1056 offers of an RHI Interview were accepted and subsequently proceeded to being undertaken.
- 6 This is an increase of 114% on the 723 missing episodes from the previous year. This increase is in line with regional neighbours, and is a direct result of the pandemic.

All Missing Episodes	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Return Interviews Requested (Children)	66	50	67	75	55	43	46	58	58	60	69	48
Total number of missing episodes where a RHI	161	169	146	152	104	90	93	130	163	125	119	96
Breakdown of outcome												
Interview Accepted	56	47	73	98	75	38	65	88	118	90	84	65
Parent accept – initial advice given, RHI with young person not required	12	5	2	4	2	3	1	3	9	5	7	2

IRI - accepted - completed by other professional	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	15	23	21	13	18
IRI - accepted - Young Person completed electronic form	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
Interview Declined by Young person	11	9	14	6	3	0	1	3	1	0		1
Interview Declined by Parent	7	4	10	4	4	3	3	3	0	1		3
IRI Unable to establish contact	25	15	16	23	14	19	1	0	0	0		
IRI - unable to establish contact - letter sent	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	3	7	3
IRI Not Appropriate	9	8	11	6	2	11	3	11	1	1	3	
Acceptance %	42%	31%	51%	67%	74%	49%	77%	82%	93%	93%	90%	90%
IRI -- Subsequent Missing Episode	41	81	20	11	4	13	12	3	8	4	2	3
Accepted % with subsequent missing removed	57%	59%	60%	72%	77%	57%	89%	83%	97%	96%	91%	92%



7 In relation to Children in Our Care, between July 2022 and June 2023 there have been 969 missing episodes recorded for Cared for Young people and a Return Home Interview offered. This equates to 79 Young People. During the

period a total of 652 offers of an RHI Interview were accepted and subsequently proceeded to being undertaken.

Children in Our Care	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
% of RHI (Children/YP)	42%	48%	42%	41%	36%	47%	39%	43%	40%	33%	37%	55%
% of RHI (No. of RHI Requested)	68%	78%	62%	58%	61%	69%	56%	60%	60%	56%	56%	66%
Return Interviews Requested (Children)	28	24	28	31	20	20	18	25	23	20	25	18
Total number of missing episodes where a RHI	109	131	90	88	63	62	52	78	98	70	66	62
Breakdown of outcome												
Interview Accepted	41	33	50	67	48	29	36	62	81	58	56	52
IRI - accepted - completed by other professional						2	1	6	8	10	3	5
IRI - accepted - Young Person completed electronic form											3	1
Interview Declined by Young person	11	8	13	2	1	3	1		1			
Interview Declined by Parent	1		1									
IRI Unable to establish contact	12	6	7	10	8	10	1					
IRI Not Appropriate	7	4	2	2	2	5	1	7	1	1	2	0
Acceptance %	38%	25%	56%	76%	76%	50%	71%	87%	91%	97%	94%	94%
IRI -- Subsequent Missing Episode	37	80	17	7	4	13	12	3	7	1	2	3
Accepted % with subsequent missing removed	57%	65%	68%	83%	81%	63%	93%	91%	98%	99%	97%	98%

Children in Our Care

8 79 Cared for Young People have been reported missing in the past 12 months. 54 (68%) have accepted their latest offer of a Return Home Interview. 25 (32%) did not accepted an offer of a Return Home Interview. This is an increase Of 32% in the same reporting period last reporting year, and continues to increase.

- 10 (40%) had an outcome of 'not appropriate'. Examples of this outcome could be where a child is detained in custody, not yet found or hospitalised due to mental health.
- Of the remaining 15 Young People, 3 (20%) had previously participated in the RHI process and engagement work continues with those young people.
- 7 young people (47%) declined after one missing report and no further missing episodes were reported.

- Of the 5 (33%) young people who have been reported missing more than once but have never engaged in the RHI process, the RHI manager will work in partnership with others involved to develop an individual response should they go missing again.

Other Children (excluding Children in Our Care)

- 9 259 young people who are not included in the Cared for cohort have been reported missing in the last 12 months. 168 (65%) have accepted their latest offer of a Return Home Interview. 91 (35%) did not accept an offer of a Return Home Interview.
- 22 (24%) had an outcome of 'not appropriate'. Examples of this outcome could be where a child is detained in custody, not yet found or hospitalised due to mental health.
 - Of the remaining 69 Young People, 7 (10%) had previously participated in the RHI process and engagement work continues with those young people.
 - 59 young people (86%) declined after one missing report and no further missing episodes were reported.
 - Of the 3 (4%) young people who have been reported missing more than once but have never engaged in the RHI process, the RHI manager will work in partnership with others involved to develop an individual response should they go missing again.

Impact

- 10 Since the appointment of the Return Home Support Worker, RHI engagement rates have improved along with evidence of high-quality interventions.
- 11 Overall RHI engagement rates were at an all-time high of 93% in March & April 2023.
- 12 Overall engagements rates have risen from 60% between January & June 2022 to 87% between January and June 2023 which is a 27% increase.
- 13 Engagement rates for children in our care have risen to a 97% high in April 2023.
- 14 Young people have shared intelligence in relation to concerning activities in the community such as underage alcohol sales which have been reported to the relevant authorities who have responded accordingly.
- 15 On one occasion, a child has been reported missing for the second time and the parent has contacted the RHSW before the return notification has been received to arrange support.
- 16 At the request of a core group, the RHSW is providing additional support to a young person outside of the missing remit due to the positive relationship that has been established.

*“In the Return Home Support Worker we have had consistency and support for our young people, which I believe has helped protect and safeguard them”
(Children’s Home manager)*

*“It is apparent in the RHI’ that the Return Home Support Worker has developed a good rapport with the young people. The RHI’s have been informative and helpful with associates/locations whilst missing. This information can then be used by ourselves in any future missing episodes”.
(Police Missing From Home Co-ordinator)*

Future developments

17 Future developments include:

- Introduce a tracker process to monitor the timeliness of Return home interviews – Dfe guidance standards are that RTHI’s should be completed within 72 hours
- In order to strengthen communication channels and ensure managers are aware of children of concern who regularly missing, a new weekly report will be circulated to Practice Leads and Team Managers highlighting young people who have been reported missing more than 4 times in the previous four weeks. This will feed into wider mapping exercises and support Practice Leads to ensure robust management oversight of clear planning to reduce missing episodes.
- A recent review of the response time to RHI engagement has been carried out and has identified that whilst the Return Home Support Worker attempts contact as soon notification is received, arranging to meet with the young person and undertake the interview within 72 hours is a challenge. Changes to Mosaic are required to measure accurate timescales and RHI practice should be strengthened across the service to meet the demands around weekend working etc.
- Acceptance rates are currently at 92% (June 23) but this can fluctuate due to the limitations of 1 FTE Return Home Support Worker (annual leave etc.) Deploying contingency plans involving other professionals to carry our RHI can result in a young people being reluctant to engage with people they are unfamiliar with or who are involved in their life for a different reason (social workers etc).
- Oversight of the missing agenda and line management of the Return Home Support Worker will transfer to Emma Blackwell from 7th August 2023. This will build on the positive developments already achieved in this area and strengthen the collaborative working between missing, contextual safeguarding and youth justice. This role will also be considered as part of a review of services for vulnerable adolescents.

Child Exploitation

- 18 The Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficked (MSET) framework has been implemented across the 5 local authorities within the Northumbria Police force wide area. The framework is designed to provide an effective response to vulnerable young people who are at an increased risk of child exploitation due to their vulnerability.
- 19 The purpose of the framework is to ensure that a coordinated response is undertaken when considering the vulnerability of individual young people who are deemed to be at medium or high risk of exploitation.

MSET Referral data Child Exploitation – provided by Northumbria Police

	Total number of children referred	Child sexual exploitation	Child criminal exploitation	Pre-mset screening	Full mset	Intel submissions into the Police exploitation hub
Jul 22 – Jun 23	62	25	24	27	13	209

- 20 Its worthy of note that some young people can be subjected to both sexual and criminal exploitation.

Review of Contextual Safeguarding within Gateshead Childrens services

- 21 Safeguarding Level 1 – is an approach that focuses on understanding and responding to young people’s experiences of harm beyond their families, either from adults or other young people.
- 22 Safeguarding Level 2 – is an approach to safeguarding of places and spaces in the context of either groups of young people being harmed and or locations where harm outside the home is taking place. The approach seeks to understand the contexts by working in partnership with community guardians and increase safety in identified hot spots.

What’s working well in Gateshead

- 23 Safeguarding Level 1 – Gateshead Safeguarding Partnership have an agreed framework, Missing, slavery, exploitation and Trafficked (MSET) to provide an effective response to vulnerable young people who are at increased risk of all forms of child exploitation. The framework includes a screening and identification tool to support anyone working with a young person in Gateshead to identify risk in the context of exploitation. Depending on the outcome of screening, an exploitation assessment is completed by the young person’s social worker and discussed at MSET Multi-agency disruption and

safeguarding plans implemented and regularly reviewed either within young person's care planning arrangements led by children's social care (CSC) or if high risk or victim of exploitation young person's plan reviewed within MSET.

- 24 The complex child in need team was developed and launched in January 2018 with a focus on young people with complex issues and supporting young people on the edge of care. The team was renamed in 2023 to the Contextual safeguarding Team. The majority of cases of adolescent harm outside of harm outside the home are managed under child in need within the Contextual safeguarding team, and the Social Workers have a good understanding of their role and starting to develop specialist skills in assessing all forms of child exploitation.
- 25 In Nov 2022 funding for 2 years was secured for a young woman and girls intervention worker to provide intensive support to young woman and girls involved in exploitation or gangs.
- 26 The contextual safeguarding team is working in partnership with other local authorities and police across the region to create cross boundary map and intel gathering for a group of young people involved in a gang. (on-going police operation)
- 27 The interface and partnership working in relation to the contextual safeguarding team is good, and this is evidenced in young people's electronic records and the relationship-based practice with families, in meetings and team around the family arrangements.
- 28 Gateshead children's services has representation at regional and national contextual safeguarding forums and have been part of consultations and research to develop the national guiding principles.

What we are worried about

- 29 There is currently no central function or responsible team in children's services to provide specialist oversight of young people who do not meet the criteria for MSET multiagency oversight, who may be open to children in our care teams as an example to help develop contextual safeguarding disruption plan or prevent young people who are vulnerable to exploitation to build their awareness and resilience and prevent them becoming victims.

Future Developments

- 30 Future Developments include:
 - Develop the Contextual Safeguarding – level 2 offer, in partnership with Community safety and Edge North east.
 - Develop robust systems to record, track and monitor all young people who are at risk of contextual safeguarding issues.
 - Develop a toolkit and consultancy offer to social workers and lead practitioners across children's services to ensure all young people and

their families get a consistent offer of support where there are concerns about child exploitation.

- Develop a framework to provide independent oversight of young people who are victims of harm outside the home with IRO service and safeguarding partners.

Recommendations

31 Families OSC are recommended to:

- (a) Note the contents of the report.

Consultees:

The following officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report:

Linda Whitehead

Sarah Hutchinson

Gemma Thompson

Chris Hodge

Catherine Hardman

Alex Naisbit – Northumbria Police

Contact: Lisa Wood, Linda Whitehead

Title of Report: Trauma Informed care update

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an overview of the development and progress of 'Trusting Hands Gateshead', the integrated Trauma Informed Care service.

Background

2. Trusting Hands Gateshead ("THG") was established in May 2023 as a 2-year pilot service commissioned by the Integrated Care Board (ICB). THG is a multidisciplinary team of mental health practitioners employed through Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW), embedded in and working collaboratively across Gateshead Children's Social Care services to support the coordination, integration and delivery of trauma-informed care.
3. The service follows the six principles of NHS England's Framework for Integrated Care (Community):
 1. Every Interaction Matters: There is a focus first on building and supporting positive collaborative relationships.
 2. CYP and the relationships they experience are at the centre of all care they receive through genuine co-production
 3. Those spending most time with young people are the primary facilitators of change
 4. Positively influencing the day-to-day care is the basis of any intervention and the primary focus of support
 5. All behaviour is understandable in context; there is a focus on developing an understanding of each CYP's behaviours and needs based on their story
 6. There is a commitment by all to build and sustain trauma informed organisations.

Delivery model

4. The service aims to meet the needs of our 'high risk, high harm, high vulnerability' cohort through trauma informed approaches with care teams and systems.

- 5 'High risk, high harm, high vulnerability' young people are those with multiple, pervasive, and complex needs, which are not easily or coherently met by traditional services. This includes young people who are:
- Children in our care (residential, foster or kinship/connected care) or care leavers.
 - Known to the Youth Justice Service (voluntarily or by virtue of a court disposal).
 - Open to the contextual safeguarding / edge of care social work team.
- 6 The team can offer a range of support around the child including:
- consultation, advice, and signposting
 - 'Understanding the story' formulations
 - Speech, Language and Communication Need clinics
 - input to care team meetings
 - multi-agency liaison
 - scaffolding, collaborative working, and enabling interventions
- 7 And at an organisational level:
- training (both workforce development and therapeutic parenting programmes)
 - debrief and reflective practice
 - Strategic influence and oversight
- 8 In practice, this currently consists of:
- ✓ *Referral*: Either via email or in person via a connected conversation.
 - ✓ *Connected conversations*: A connected conversation will be the first service contact to consider the young person's needs, and whether further involvement is appropriate. Conversations take place with the service point of connection (available at Gateshead Civic Centre daily), or team member embedded within connected teams.
 - ✓ *Consultation*: Consultations are provided to the care team via MS Teams, to develop an initial understanding of the young person's story and subsequent needs.
 - ✓ *Understanding the Story*: Multiagency formulation sessions to develop a collaborative understanding of the young person's risks, needs and vulnerabilities.

- ✓ *Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) clinic:* Consultations are provided to the care team by Advanced Speech and Language Therapists, to understand identified SLCN, and consider communication strategies.

- ✓ *Foundations for Attachment (“FFA”) therapeutic parenting programme:* A six-session programme for those parenting children who have relationship difficulties, especially children who have experienced attachment problems, trauma, loss and/or separation early in their life. It is a Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) - informed programme which aims to help parents/carers to:
 - Gain an understanding of the challenges of parenting a child whose capacity to emotionally connect has been compromised and explore ways of building emotional connections.
 - To increase trust within the child-parent relationship, leading to increased attachment security and reduced levels of shame.
 - Understand how to provide support for behaviour alongside building emotional connections (“connection with correction”).
 - Explore the dangers of blocked care when caring for children with blocked trust and understand the importance of looking after themselves.
 - Understand the significance of exploring one’s own attachment history when caring for children with attachment difficulties.

Staffing

- 9 The team consists of highly skilled clinical psychologists, nurses, psychological therapists, social workers, and speech and language therapists with experience of working across a range of specialist community and inpatient children’s mental health services, including, secure children’s homes, forensic services, and local authority settings. THG practice is informed by evidence-based psychological models including Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP), Systemic Practice, and Adaptive Mentalisation-Based Integrative Therapy (AMBIT).

- 10 The existing configuration of the service consists of:
 - 1 x Consultant Applied Psychologist
 - 1 x Principal Applied Psychologist
 - 2 x Senior Psychological Therapists
 - 2 x Advanced Mental Health Practitioners
 - 1.6 x Advanced Speech and Language Therapists
 - 0.6 x Speech and Language Therapist (Vacancy)
 - 1 x Peer Support Worker (Vacancy)

- 1 x Assistant Psychologist

11 Recruitment for both the Peer Support Worker and Speech and Language Therapist posts are in process.

Progress to date

- Young people within our residential services were supported by THG clinicians and a Gateshead Young Ambassador to co-produce the service name and motto: *“Trusting Hands Gateshead: Strengthening Connections through Stories, Safety, Compassion and Care”*.
- A successful launch day was held on 16th May 2023 at the Federation Brewery, with a range of partner agencies in attendance.
- Points of connection have been established between THG clinicians and teams across Children’s Services to promote a relational approach.
- The THG graduated approach is becoming familiar to practitioners, and has been positively received.
- The first cohort of foster carers have been invited to attend the FFA programme, commencing 12th September 2023. Further courses are scheduled on a rolling basis for residential, foster, and kinship/connected carers.
- Steering group with key stakeholders from across the partnership meets regularly and supports the ongoing development of the service.
- Referral pathways have been established into the service, and electronic recording systems are in place.
- Initial discussions have taken place with colleagues within performance to consider outcome reporting and ongoing service evaluation.
- Initial discussions have taken place with colleagues within workforce development to consider a workforce training strategy to promote trauma informed practice.
- Initial discussions have taken place across connected teams to establish reflective practice space for practitioners.
- A monthly CYPS interface meeting has been established to collaboratively consider young people’s needs, and to promote timely access to specialist support where indicated.

Next Steps

- Progress with recruitment to appoint a Peer Support Worker, and develop our co-production model to include young people with lived experience of local authority care in the ongoing development of the service.

- Develop co-produced branding and accessible service information leaflets.
- Progress with recruitment to appoint a Speech and Language Therapist to be embedded within the Youth Justice Service to address unmet speech, language and communication needs within this population.
- THG will host a second launch/service celebration day as part of Practice Week (Wednesday 18th October, Federation Brewery) to provide an update to stakeholders and partner agencies on the development and delivery of the service.
- Develop and progress with a communication strategy to ensure connected services are aware of the service remit and how to access support.
- Develop and evaluate a targeted workforce training strategy for connected services to ensure that all practitioners are trauma aware.
- Develop and evaluate reflective practice offer across connected services.
- Evaluate the impact of the FFA therapeutic parenting programme.
- Support the development of a broader workforce training strategy for practitioners across Children's Services.
- Develop local key performance indicators, and a portfolio of case studies of service involvement to help measure outcomes and success of the pilot.
- Gather and support a network of trauma informed champions from across Children's Services.
- Contribute to the development of a Children's Services trauma informed care strategy.

Recommendations

12 OSC Families are recommended to:

- (a) note and comment on the information provided in the report.

REPORT OF: Lisa Wood (Practice Lead) & Dr Aisling Martin (Consultant Clinical Psychologist), Trusting Hands Gateshead

CONTACT: Lisa Wood – Practice Lead, Innovation, Transformation, Adolescent Services

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Title of Report: Joint Protocol for 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Gateshead

Report of Lisa Wood – Practice Lead – Innovation, Transformation & Vulnerable adolescents

Purpose of the report

1. To share the joint working protocol is between Housing Services and Children's Social Care. It outlines the action to be taken where a young person aged 16/17 approaches either Housing Services or Children Social Care and are homeless or threatened with homelessness and to give an update on progress to date.

Background

2. Following the Homelessness Review and subsequent approval of our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy in January 2022, the Homelessness and Allocations CORE Project Team were tasked with the development of joint working protocols for 16-17 year olds and care leavers who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and ensure compliance with relevant accommodation-related guidance.
3. The requirement for this document is set out as an action within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

Aim1: Make homelessness a rare occurrence (prevention)

This strategic aim is about early intervention to prevent homelessness and make this event a rare occurrence.

- Action Point 9. Develop youth homelessness joint protocols for 16-17 year-olds and care leavers and ensure compliance with relevant accommodation-related guidance.
4. The Department of Education and Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH), produced a statutory guidance document for both Children's Services and Housing Services covering how both services should work collaboratively to support and accommodate 16-17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
 5. The ['Provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and or require accommodation'](#) mainly outlines that where a 16-17 year old is owed duties under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, this takes precedence over the duties in the Housing Act 1996. However, Housing Services also have duties towards young people who are homeless or threatened with homeless, and duties owed by each service will depend on a range of factors, therefore it is essential that children's services and housing

services work together. The guidance states it is good practice for an assessment of the young person's needs to be conducted jointly by both children and housing services, so young people do not have to repeat their stories each time and navigate between agencies.

6. The Young Persons Working Group, which feeds and reports into the Homelessness & Allocations CORE Project Team, worked collaboratively to develop and agree the protocol document. The Young Person's working group is a cross council group with membership from both Housing, Social Care and Commissioning.
7. The Young Persons Working Group reviewed the government guidance along with pre-existing work and processes being followed and carried out by Housing Services and the Young Persons Homeless Prevention Worker (YPHPW). The role of YPHPW is jointly funded by both Housing Services and Children's Social Care and sits within Assessment and Intervention Team, Children's Social Care.

The Joint Protocol for 16 and 17-year-olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Gateshead

8. The protocol which is attached in appendix 1, has been shared for comment and feedback to both the Homeless and Allocations CORE Project Team and Children's SMT. In brief the protocol sets out that:
 - Children's Social Care and Housing Services have agreed to adopt a one front door approach which aims to ensure that there is a consistent approach to all 16- and 17-year-olds who seek help from the Council who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. All these children will be referred to the Integrated Referral Team (IRT), Assessment and Intervention, Children's Social Care.
 - If the young person is homeless or at risk of homelessness, a Children and Family assessment will be offered to the young person to find out whether the young person may have any other additional needs that would warrant Children's Social Care intervention and assistance under the Child in Need framework other than housing.
 - The allocated Social Worker will co work with the YPHPW jointly assessing what support is required. The key aim is to avoid homelessness and allow young people to remain in the family home where possible, as this will be in the long-term best interests of most young people.
 - A mosaic contact record (Children's Social Care system) will be created for every young person that is assessed and deemed homeless or threatened with homelessness, which details the concerns regarding the young person.
 - The YPHPW will also create, log and maintain details of each case on NEC (Housing Services system) in line with HCLIC specification and within the parameters of the homelessness framework.

- If the young person does not wish to become a child in our care, and/or refuses a Children and Families Assessment, and accommodation is required, the YPHPW will determine which Duty is owed to the young person. They will explain to the young person and identify, all suitable accommodation options available, including the Housing Services, Supported Accommodation & Independent Living Service pathway and process (SAILS), which is specifically for Young People under 25 years old.
- The Protocol will be reviewed annually and when changes in legislation determine by both Children's Social Care and Housing Services. The protocol will also be reviewed following the Housing Improvement Programme and development of the Gateway Model. Shared key performance measures need to be developed which will be reviewed and revised over time.

Review of the response to 16/17 homelessness in Childrens Services

- 9 A review was undertaken in May 2023 of the role of the Young Peoples Homeless Prevention Worker. As the response to young people on the edge of homelessness is similar to those on the edge of care, it was agreed that the Young Peoples Homeless Prevention Worker would move from the assessment & Intervention Team and operate within the Contextual Safeguarding team alongside the edge of care advocates. This will ensure a consistent response to young people and their families for young people and provide resilience to cover the role when the Young Peoples Housing Prevention Worker is on leave, or responding to another young person etc.
- 10 The Review highlighted a need for consistent practice when young people require a social worker as part of the prevention of homelessness and to assess the holistic needs of 16/17 year olds who need to be considered as children in need.
- 11 Sometimes young people who with intensive support/mediation can not remain with their families and this can trigger the duty under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989. A 16 or 17 year old child in need who, having been fully advised of the implications and having the capacity to reach a decision, has decided that they do not want to be accommodated under section 20. Therefore, the remit of the Contextual safeguarding team has been expanded to include this criteria and to respond to the needs of this group of young people.
- 12 The Contextual Safeguarding Management Team will provide management oversight of both the support to prevent 16/17 homelessness and the statutory social care response when a young person is on the edge of homelessness or prevents as homeless. The Management Team will also represent Childrens Social Care at the Young Peoples Supported Living Panel and Housing development Groups. Foster good working relationships with key officers in Housing to provide a joint approach, gather performance data and ensure all young people are recorded and outcomes measured and reviewed.

Performance and Impact - Q1 Apr – Jun 23

An agreed data set has been agreed by senior managers within Housing and Childrens Social Care – information from Q1 has been sourced from case recordings and does not include all consultations or advice, support for those young people who w


- 11 ere not deemed as threatened homeless within 56 days of the referral. This will be included in future performance reports.

No. of YP's on the edge of homelessness	4
No. of YP's presenting as homeless	2

No. of YP's supported to remain with family/network	4
Housed in Eslington - Supported living assessment accomodation	2
YP's entered care	2

12 Members are asked to

- Note the contents of the report
- Note the progress and performance in quarter 1

Appendix 1 – Joint Protocol 16/17 yr old homeless	 <p>FINAL Joint Protocol for 16_17 year old H_</p>
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Consultees:

The following officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report:

Suzanne Storey, Practice Lead, Assessment & Intervention, Children's Social Care
 Lynn Ritchie, Housing Solutions Service Manager, Housing Services

Update on Gateshead Local Area SEND Inspection



Summary of activity over the 3 weeks:

- Parent carer forum involvement critical
- Young people's involvement and voices critical and very powerful
- 100's of responses to the survey
- Over 100 documents and pieces of evidence uploaded
- 6 deep dive cases and multi-agency audits
- 53 children's cases tracked over 3 weeks
- 12 visits to settings across the local area
- 33 practitioners meeting with inspectors



Key strengths in the Local Area:

- Leaders have a determination to provide high quality education and support to children
- PCF actively contributes to strategic developments and feel heard
- SENDIASS offers effective advice to parent carers
- SEND young ambassador shares the views of young people with strategic leaders and have increased accessibility of the Local offer
- Combined strategy for workforce development is in place
- Coordinated early help support makes a positive difference to children and young people
- Dynamic support register is well established
- Specialist speech and language service supports transitions well
- Administration of EHC plans is timely
- Children in residential settings are kept safe and have their needs met effectively



- Strong 0-19 offer implementing the healthy child programme effectively, Good integrated work with paediatricians
- Strong early help offer
- Children have access to accurate school-based assessments with good support from HINT and LINT teams
- ARMS provision is well regarded and able to meet changing need with additional investment
- Effective support to those who have been or at risk of permanent exclusion
- Good integrated support for young people moving into post 16 provision
- Young people are positive about travel training offer
- Effective assessments and plans within the CWD social care team
- Leaders mitigate waiting times for children waiting for CYPS through continued offer from 'getting help services'
- Good process around Fair Access Panel



Areas for further development:

- Increase secondary provision to meet some specialist needs
- Develop strategic plans to meet the needs of children born with complex needs
- Improve the quality and consistency of contributions to EHC plans from all partners
- Increase the short break offer to reduce waiting times
- Further develop the 18-25 health offer to improve transitions
- Improve our response and communication to the diverse needs of people living in Gateshead



Areas for further development:

- Leaders to ensure that plans to reduce waiting times clearly identify the support that children will receive. Plans should contain ambitious timescales for improvement with clear monitoring and evaluation processes
- Leaders to ensure there is clear oversight of CYP as they move through emotional wellbeing and mental health system. Leaders should provide clear information CYP for families and professionals
- Leaders across the local area to provide clarity and consistency of expectations re contributions to improve quality of ECHP assessments and review processes
- Leaders should improve the quality of transitions for young people within health, education and social care services. Start preparation for adulthood earlier, particularly for children with complex needs
- Improve the quality of communication within the SEND service with parents, carers and young people and further develop the role of the SEND case workers. There should be a specific focus on families who speak English as a second language



Next Steps

- Report published in July 2023
- Update to the existing SEND improvement plan in the light of the inspection findings.
- Support and challenge meeting with DFE and CQC improvement advisors to agree details of SEND priority plan with key milestones
- Final SEND priority plan published early Sept after consultation with Parent Carer Forum and young people
- Governance through SEND Board; ICB Committee at Place; OSC and HWBB
- Delivery of the plan via 4 existing workstreams of the SEND Board with more detailed delivery plan for each workstream driving the work



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TITLE OF REPORT:	Annual Work Programme 2023-24
REPORT OF:	Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance

Summary

To provide details on development of the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) and the provisional work programme for Families OSC for the municipal year 2023-24.

Development of 2023-24 Work Programme

1. Every year each Overview and Scrutiny Committee draws up a work programme based on the Council's policy framework which is then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
2. The Committee's work programme is a rolling programme which sets the agenda for its meetings. It is the means by which it can address the interests of the local community, focus on improving services and seek to reduce inequalities in service provision and access to services.
3. OSC members have been involved, through consultation, in shaping the focus of the work of specific OSCs and have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the emerging themes at the April 2023 OSC meetings. The emerging themes have taken account of the need to support the Council's Thrive agenda and add value, the Council's Performance Framework; the Gateshead Strategic Needs Assessment and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
4. Subsequently, in line with usual practice, partner organisations have been consulted on the themes identified through consultation with members and have indicated that they are supportive of the emerging themes overall. Partners have also put forward some suggested areas for scrutiny for specific OSCs as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
5. The proposed 2023/24 work programme (attached at Appendix 1) remains provisional as:-
 - Cabinet may wish to refer further issues to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for further consideration.
 - It does not take account of new policy issues which may be identified during the year, which Cabinet may wish to refer to Overview and Scrutiny; and
 - It does not include issues identified by members of committees on an ongoing basis during the year as a result of scrutiny decisions, call in and councillor call for action.

Recommendations

6. The Committee is asked to:-

- a) Note the information contained in the annual work programme report and provide any comments.
- b) Note that further reports will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.

Contact: Grace Anderson

Email: graceanderson@gateshead.gov.uk

DRAFT Families OSC Work Programme 2023-24	
15 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma Informed Care Report • Performance Management and Improvement Framework – Year End Performance 2022-23 • Children’s Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report – Plans and Emerging Priorities • LADO Annual Report • Corporate Parenting Board Annual Update • Work Programme
7 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of Youth Justice Service Inspection with Action Plan • Social Services Annual Report on Complaints and Representations – Children • Progress on delivering Early Help and Prevention Strategy <i>(to include Family Hub development; delivery of Healthy Child Programme and Baby Box scheme)</i> • Gateshead’s Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Local Transformational Plan 2023-24 Update • Work Programme
19 October 2023 (5.30pm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on support to vulnerable adolescents <i>(to include those missing and exploited / on the edge of Care – impact of strategies to reduce demand for children entering care)</i> • Trauma Informed Team Update • Preventing Homelessness for Young People • Young Person’s Ambassadors (Care Leavers) • Progress Update on delivery of SEND Strategy <i>(to include progress against all 4 priorities; SEND tribunal data; pathways into EET for those with SEND)</i> • Work Programme
30 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Management and Improvement Framework – Six Month Update – 2023-24 • Delivery of Therapy Services for children - impact and outcomes • Overview of delivery of mental health services for children and young people • Work Programme
18 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Performance Overview Report <i>(including attendance, attainment and exclusion data; ofsted school outcomes)</i> • Early Years Sufficiency • Regional Adoption Agency Annual Report • Work Programme
7 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress Update on Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Youth Crime and Serious Violence (<i>invite HEHC OSC to jointly look at this</i>) • Work Programme
18 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Child Poverty in Gateshead • Health Service support in schools for children with chronic health conditions / childhood allergies (<i>to include trends, treatment, management in schools</i>) • Work Programme

Issues to slot in:

- Benefits arising from the changes to the Music Service
- SEND Inspection outcomes