

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



2 July 2013

at 4.00 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Atkinson, Fleet, Griffin, Hill, James, Lauderdale and Simmons

Co-opted Members: Sacha Paul Bedding and Michael Lee

Young People's Representatives

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2013 (*previously circulated*).

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013/14 – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*

5. KEY DECISIONS

5.1 Updated Child Poverty Strategy – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*

5.2 2013/14 Schools' Capital Works Programme – Phase 2 – *Assistant Director, Education*



6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Children and Young People's Strategic Framework – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*
- 6.2 Early Intervention and Children's Centres Governance Process – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*
- 6.3 School Term and Holiday Dates 2014-15 – *Assistant Director, Education*
- 6.4 Statement of Purposes for Exmoor Grove Residential Unit – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*
- 6.5 Adoption Reforms – *Assistant Director, Children's Services and Chief Finance Officer*
- 6.6 Adoption Annual Report 2012/13 and Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose 2013/14 – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*
- 6.7 Fostering Services Annual Report 2012-13 and Statement of Purpose 2013-14 – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Free Early Education for Two Year Olds – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*
- 7.2 Short Quality Screening Inspection of Hartlepool Youth Offending Service – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 7.3 Safeguarding Children in Hartlepool – *Assistant Director, Children's Services*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – 30 July 2013 at 4.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2nd July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Children's Services

Subject: YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2014

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Budget and Policy Framework

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Children's Service Committee the final draft of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013-2014 attached as **Appendix 1**, and seek ratification from the Committee prior to the Plan being considered by Council in July 2013.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The national Youth Justice Performance Improvement Framework is the Youth Justice Board's primary tool for monitoring and securing performance improvement across Youth Offending Services in England and Wales.

3.2 The primary functions of Youth Offending Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by Children & Young People and reduce the use of custody. It is the responsibility of local Youth Offending Services to develop and coordinate the provision of these services for all of those young people in the Local Authority area who need them.

3.3 In recent years Hartlepool has witnessed a significant reduction in youth crime. The local youth justice partnership has been particularly effective in reducing the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time and we are now starting to see a reduction in the rate of crime being committed by those young people who have previously offended.

- 3.4 The National Framework for monitoring the performance and quality of Youth Offending Services includes a range of elements that work together to improve practice and performance. The framework builds upon the statutory responsibilities for Youth Offending Services established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 through a requirement for all Youth Offending Services to annually prepare, as part of the local business planning cycle, a local Youth Justice Plan for submission to the Youth Justice Board.
- 3.5 Whilst the local Youth Offending Service Partnership can develop its own structure and content of the Youth Justice Plan, national guidance suggests the Plan should address four key areas and it is these areas that have been reviewed and refreshed to reflect the position for the service going forward.
- **Resourcing and value for money** - The sufficient deployment of resources to deliver effective youth justice services to prevent offending and re-offending.
 - **Structure and Governance** - The Plan will set out the structures and governance necessary to ensure the effective delivery of local youth justice services. The leadership composition and role of the multi agency Youth Offending Service Management Board are critical to this.
 - **Partnership Arrangements** - To demonstrate that effective partnership arrangements are in place between the Youth Offending Service, statutory partners and other local partners that have a stake in delivering youth justice services and that these arrangements generate effective outcomes for children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending.
 - **Risks to Future Delivery** - To ensure the Youth Offending Service has the capacity and capability to deliver effective youth justice services, identifying risks to future delivery and the Youth Offending Service's partnership plans to address these risks.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The planning framework to support the development of the 2013/2014 Youth Justice Strategic Plan has drawn upon the appraisal of the Youth Justice Boards Regional Partnership Manager, the local Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board alongside the views and opinions of service users, staff and key partners which were established during the recent Youth Justice Peer Review. Alongside the above the development, the plan has incorporated the views and recommendations from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Executive Group and the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum. Further to this, the plan acknowledges the role of the Youth Offending Service in taking forward the priorities of the recently elected Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 4.2 Further to this, the Youth Justice Plan has taken into consideration the changes across the Youth Justice arena following the publication of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 which introduces new measures to ensure that criminal cases run more efficiently, increases the options available for non-custodial sentences and introduces new conditions designed to help reduce the unnecessary use of secure remands for young people.
- 4.3 Central to the development of the services proposed objectives for 2013/2014 has been the core functions of the service which are the prevention of offending and re-offending by Children & Young People and reduce the use of custody.
- 4.4 The planning framework described above has given gives rise to the following strategic priorities for 2013-2014:
- Reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime.
 - Sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system.
 - Demonstrate effective arrangements in place for the management of the risk and vulnerability of young people and their families.
 - The Youth Offending Strategic Management Board will be a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Offending Service performance.
 - The Youth Offending Strategic Management Board will provide a strategic lead for the service and understands the way in which the service contributes to integrated offender management arrangements, reduction of crime and offending and public protection.
 - The Youth Offending Service Management Team will have clearly defined roles and responsibilities and have a shared vision and purpose to support the effective management of the service and drive up standards and performance.
 - Demonstrate a clear understanding across the service of what constitutes effective practice in relation to the prevention and reduction of youth crime and the role of the service within the management of young peoples risk and vulnerability.
 - Demonstrate a clear understanding across the service of what good looks like in relation to the development of Youth Justice Assessments, Reports, Plans, Interventions and effective case management arrangements.
 - Maximise the resources, programmes and specialist expertise available across the service and available resources will be maximised within all planning.

- Practice across the service will be integrated to ensure that young people receive seamless, high quality youth justice services in Hartlepool.
- Ensure all Team Managers and YOS staff further develop their skills and knowledge in core youth justice effective practice around risk assessment and appropriately targeted intervention aimed at risk reduction.
- Further develop expertise across the service relating to high risk offending behaviour.
- Demonstrate that there are robust alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands to custody whilst awaiting trial/sentencing.

4.5 The local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2014 establishes responsibility across the Youth Offending Service and the Youth Offending Strategic Board for taking each improvement activity forward within agreed timescales.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Children's Service Committee is requested to ratify the Youth Justice Plan for 2013 – 2014 and refer the Plan for approval by Council.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013 - 14 is a statutory requirement and therefore part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The Plan will determine how Hartlepool Borough Council and partners can make the most effective use of available funding to produce better outcomes for local children, young people and their families who are at risk of involvement or further involvement in offending behaviour.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

7.2 The Youth Justice Boards: Youth Justice Performance Improvement Framework (Guidance for Youth Justice Board English Regions available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk>)

8. CONTACT OFFICER

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- 8.2 Mark Smith, Head of Youth Support Services, Child and Adult Services, Hartlepool Borough Council, level 4, Civic Centre, TS24 8AY. Tel 01429 523405. E-mail mark.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service

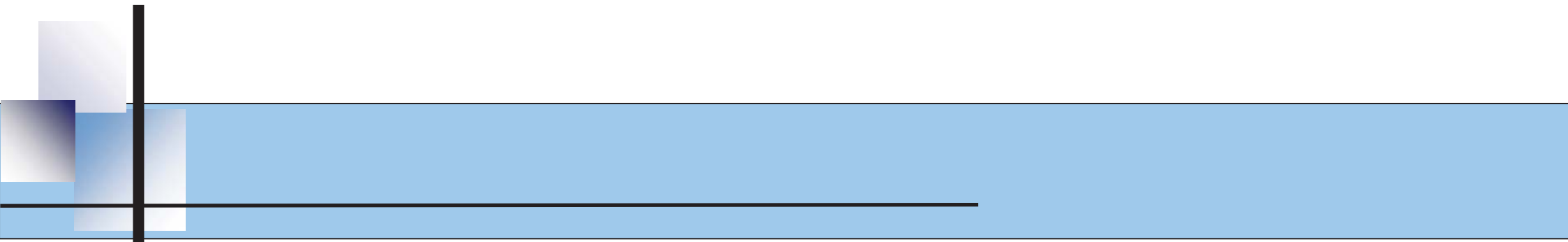
Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2013-2014



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Foreword

Welcome to the 2013-2014 Hartlepool Youth Offending Service's Youth Justice Strategic Plan. This plan sets out our ambitions for Youth Justice Services in Hartlepool and how they will contribute to our overarching aspirations for the town, set out in our Community Strategy 2008-20 wherein:

"Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential".

In recent years Hartlepool has witnessed a significant reduction in youth crime. The local youth justice partnership has been particularly effective in reducing the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time and we are now starting to see a reduction in the rate of crime being committed by those young people who have previously offended.

Beyond this the service has seen:

- The establishment of the One Stop Shop facility in the centre of the town, as the key point of service delivery which enables the service to provide support to young offenders in a non-stigmatising setting in partnership with broader Youth Support Services.
- The steady increase in the involvement of young people in direct reparation work to the victim, enabling the young people to offer a meaningful apology.
- The re-commissioning of Restorative Justice Services to bring about further improvements in the involvement of victims in youth justice processes and victim confidence and satisfaction.

- The successful recruitment, retention and training of volunteer panel members to secure effective Referral Order Panels.
- The further development of court team arrangements leading to improved relationships with local magistrates.
- The participation of the service in a youth justice peer review to support the service to identify further areas for improvement in relation to the reduction of youth crime.

In short the Youth Offending Service is continuing to demonstrate its direct contribution to both improving outcomes for young people and making local communities safer and stronger. Whilst recognising the tough financial climate ahead, it is essential that we continue to push forward with improvements to the Service in 2013 - 2014. This plan defines priorities for the Youth Offending Service in the coming year and highlights further areas for improvement.

As always, the Strategic Management Board is extremely grateful for the skill and dedication of our employees in supporting young people who offend or are at risk of becoming involved in offending in Hartlepool.

On behalf of the Youth Offending Service Strategic Management Board I am pleased to endorse the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2013 -2014.



Steve Jermv. Chief Inspector Cleveland Police

Introduction

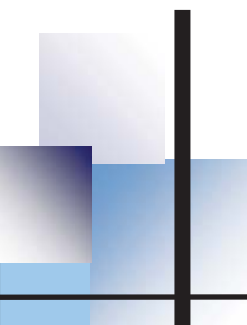
The Hartlepool Youth Justice Plan 2013-2014 sets out the strategic objectives and arrangements to ensure the effective delivery of local youth justice services in Hartlepool. Youth Justice Services are defined nationally by the Youth Justice Board and include:

- Taking steps designed to encourage children and young persons not to commit offences;
- The provision of assistance to persons determining whether reprimands or warnings should be given;
- The provision of reports or other information required by courts in criminal proceedings against children and young persons;
- The provision of support for children and young persons remanded or committed on bail while awaiting trial or sentence;
- The placement in local authority accommodation of children and young persons remanded or committed to such accommodation;
- The implementation of Referral Orders;
- The carrying out functions assigned to the service via the Youth Justice plan formulated by the Local Authority and;
- To act in accordance with any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

The primary functions of Youth Justice Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by Children & Young People and reduce the use of custody. It is the responsibility of local Youth Offending Services to develop and coordinate the provision of these services for all of those young people in the Local Authority area who need them.

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service (YOS) was established in April 2000 following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is a multi-agency service and is made up of representatives from the Council's Children Services, Police, Probation, Health, Education and the local voluntary/community sector directed by the Head of Service. Because the Youth Offending Service incorporates representatives from a wide range of services, it can respond to the needs of young offenders and their families in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

In addition to the services provided to young people in or at risk of entering the Youth Justice System, the service also plays a key role in increasing public confidence in the youth justice system and increasing victim satisfaction through their involvement in restorative and reparative processes, whilst also contributing to broader strategies to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families more generally.



Since its inception Hartlepool Youth Offending Service has been overseen and monitored (like all other Youth Offending Services in the country) by the national Youth Justice Board. The national Youth Justice Performance Improvement Framework is the Youth Justice Board's primary tool for monitoring and securing performance improvement across Youth Offending Services in England and Wales. The framework builds upon the statutory responsibilities for Youth Offending Services established under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act through a requirement for all Youth Offending Services to annually prepare, as part of the local business planning cycle, a local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for submission to the Youth Justice Board.

National guidance suggests the plan builds upon an analysis of local need and developments to address (in line with national requirements) four key areas of provision for Youth Offending Services:

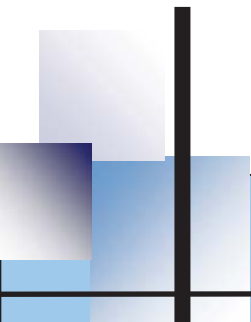
Resourcing and value for money – To demonstrate that available resources are being deployed appropriately to deliver effective youth justice services to prevent offending and reoffending.

Structure and Governance – To ensure that appropriate structures and robust governance arrangements are in place necessary to ensure the effective delivery of local youth justice services.

Partnership Arrangements - To demonstrate that effective partnership arrangements are in place between the Youth Offending Service, statutory partners and other local partners that have a stake in delivering youth justice services and that these arrangements generate effective outcomes for children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending.

Risks to Future Delivery - To ensure the Youth Offending Service has the capability to identify risks to future delivery and to determine how best the Youth Offending Service and the broader partnership's can address these risks.

The 2013-2014 Youth Justice Plan is structured to demonstrate how these key areas are delivered in Hartlepool in response to local need and developments and to highlight how the service remains well placed to prevent offending and re-offending by children & young people and reduce the use of custody.



Local Needs Analysis

Hartlepool is a small unitary authority on the North East coast of England. The borough as a whole covers 9,386 hectares and is predominantly rural with four distinct villages. The majority of the town's 91,900 people live in the town's central urban area. Approximately 25% of the population is children and young people (under 18) and 10.8% (9905) are aged 10 to 17, the Youth Offending Service client group.

Most young people in Hartlepool make the transition to adulthood successfully through a combination of supportive families, good schools, colleges and training providers and access to opportunities for personal and social development outside the classroom along with the vision and belief that they can succeed. Whilst many young people make mistakes along the way and do things they should not do, or wish they had not done, most are able to get back on track quickly with little harm done. But whilst many young people are thriving, evidence is clear that young people from deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds and communities who lack many of the protective factors highlighted above, are disproportionately at greater risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour and poorer outcomes generally.

Despite significant regeneration over the past twenty years the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007) indicates that Hartlepool is still ranked as the 23rd most deprived out of England's 354 Local Authority districts. Deprivation covers a broad range of potentially life limiting issues and refers to unmet needs caused by the interplay of a number of local factors that impact upon families living conditions such as:

- low Income;
- exclusion from the labour market;
- Impairment of quality of life by poor physical and mental health and disability;
- educational underachievement, barriers to progression and a shortage of skills and qualifications amongst adults;
- barriers to accessing key local services and affordable housing;
- low quality of individuals' immediate surroundings both within and outside the home; and
- a prevalence of violent crime, burglary, theft and criminal damage in an area.

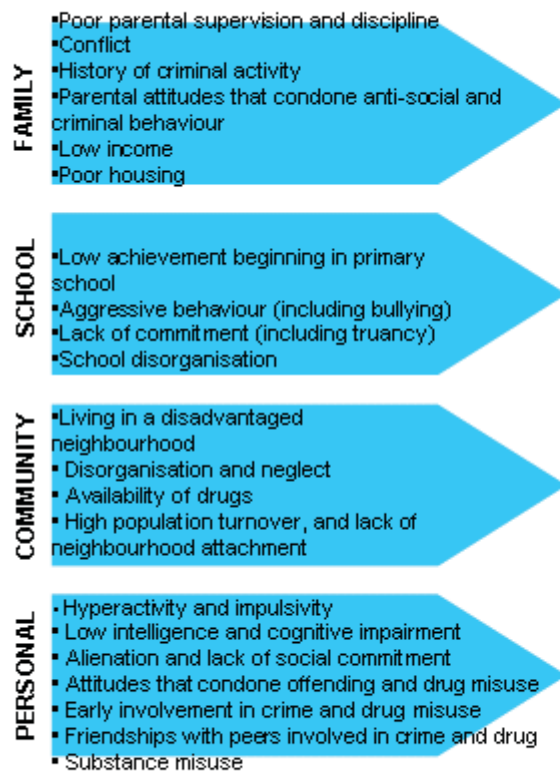
Local analysis of need and outcomes highlights that, whilst there are families who are more resilient to deprivation, the interplay of the above factors clearly places families who are contending with deprivation at a disadvantage. This can significantly limit the opportunities and outcomes for their children which, in time, will tend to perpetuate a cycle of deprivation and disadvantage due to diminished life chances.

A more detailed analysis of the broader circumstances/factors of families whose children are experiencing difficulties indicates that parenting, parental offending, parental substance misuse, housing and home conditions, employment issues, domestic violence and separation for loss are often the main factors linked to the prevalence of poor outcomes in local children and young people. It is often the complex interplay of each of these factors that makes problems in some households insurmountable and places the children at significant risk of involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour.

An annual local analysis of the factors that contribute to young peoples offending behaviour highlights that the most prevalent factors are often a combination of the young person's family circumstances,

their lifestyle, their misuse of substances and a lack of engagement with education and/or further learning all of which shapes thinking and behaviour (see below).

They can be grouped under four 'domains'



Where these factors 'cluster' in a young person's life their likelihood of offending increases

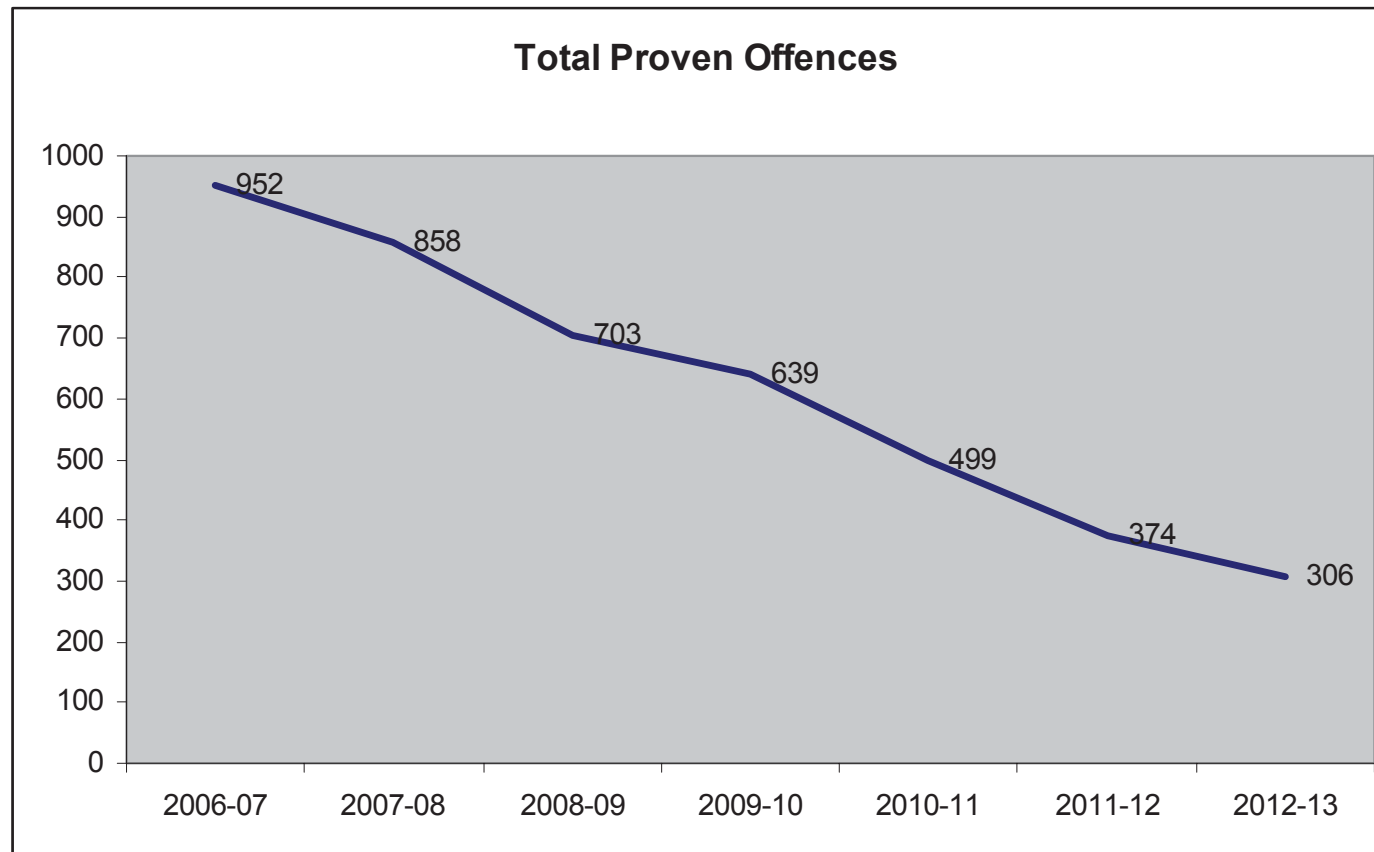
The impact of family and/or parenting factors on a young person's likelihood of offending is also well established

Factors which can impact upon offending risk include;

- Having a criminal or anti-social parent/s
- Overcrowding and/or large family size
- Consistency and warmth of parenting and parenting skills
- Abuse or neglect, family conflict and disruption, financial hardship, substance misuse

Local Performance Data

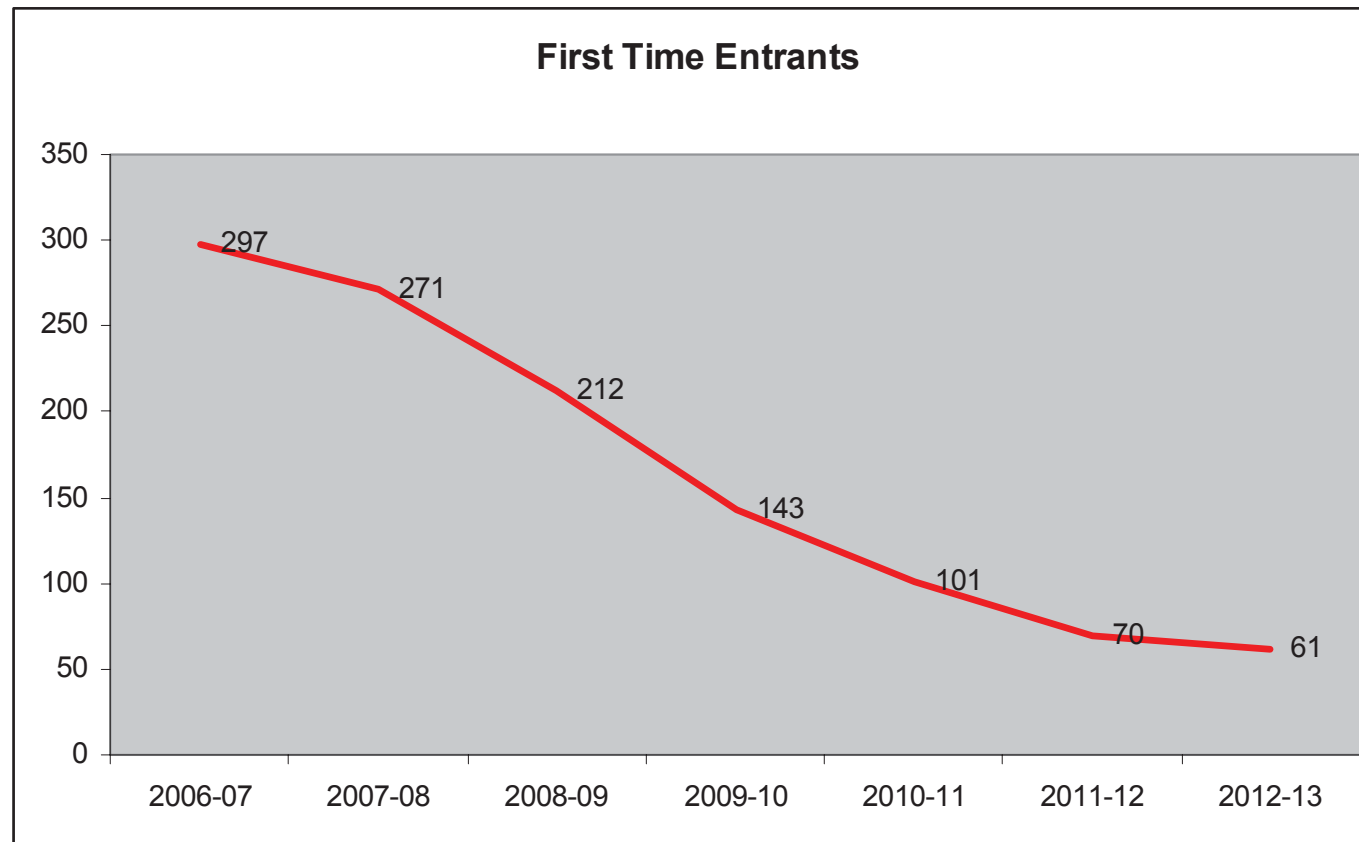
YOUTH CRIME - PROVEN OFFENCES	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Total Proven Offences	952	858	703	639	499	374	306
Percentage Change +/- from 2006/07		-7.24%	-19.18%	-24.11%	-34.90%	-44.53%	-67.9%



Local Performance Data

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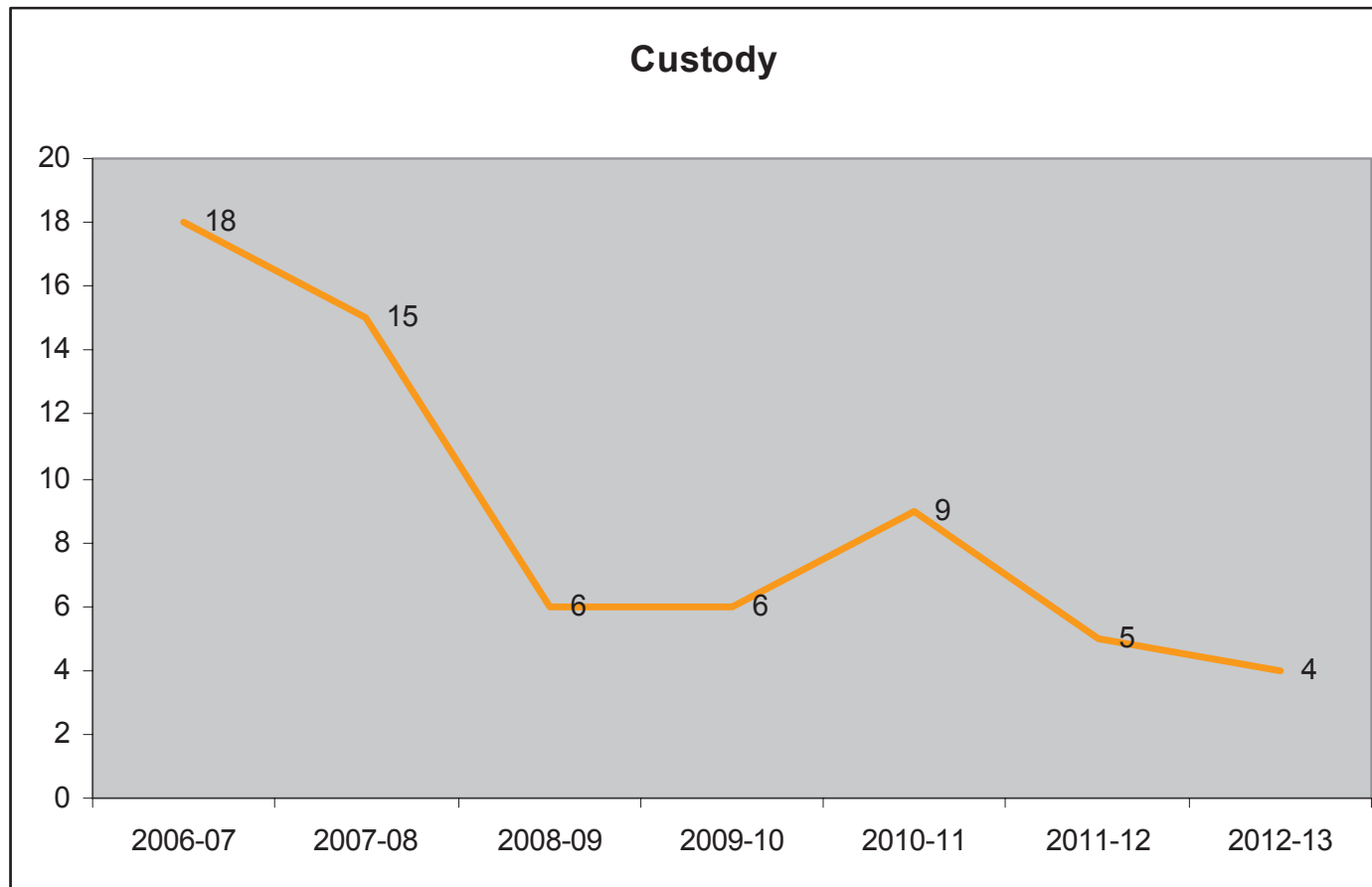
FIRST TIME ENTRANTS	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
First Time Entrants	297	271	212	143	101	70	61
Percentage Change +/- from 2006/07		-6.44%	-21.04%	-38.12%	-48.51%	-56.19%	-78.4%



Local Performance Data

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CUSTODY	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Custody	18	16	6	6	10	4	4
Percentage Change +/- from 2006/07		-10.00%	-60.00%	-60.00%	-40.00%	-70.00%	-77.8%



Local Youth Crime – Key Characteristics

In 2012/13, Hartlepool Youth Offending Service dealt with a total of 151 young offenders who committed 292 offences. 127 were male and 24 female. This represents an 18% reduction in offenders and 22% reduction in offences on the previous year 2011/12.

The table below illustrates the type and numbers of offences committed by young people resident in Hartlepool and the trend over the last five years. The percentage change illustrated below is over five years and in comparison with the previous year. Conditional discharge is an order imposed by the Court; in these cases the Youth Offending Service offer support to the young people on a voluntary basis but this is often declined. If a young person commits further offences they are in breach of this Order.

Grouping	Offence	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	% Change 2008/09 to 2012/13	% Change 2011/12 to 2012/13
Breach	Breach of Bail	8	0	6	4	3	63% Reduction	25% Reduction
	Breach of Conditional Discharge	6	3	8	10	11	83% Increase	10% Increase
	Breach of Statutory Order	28	38	15	26	9	68% Reduction	65% Reduction
Vehicle	Death or Injury by Reckless Driving	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
	Motoring Offences	51	73	21	8	18	65% Reduction	125% Increase
Theft & Burglary	Theft and Handling	200	140	108	72	65	68% Reduction	10% Reduction
	Vehicle Theft	12	21	12	4	5	58% Reduction	25% Increase
	Domestic Burglary	22	14	11	8	13	41% Reduction	63% Increase
	Non Domestic Burglary	25	8	12	10	5	80% Reduction	50% Reduction
	Fraud & Forgery	1	5	4	1	0	100% Reduction	100% Reduction
	Robbery	6	4	1	3	0	100% Reduction	100% Reduction
Violence	Racially / Aggravated	0	3	4	2	3	100% Increase	50% Increase
	Sexual Offences	5	1	3	1	2	60% Reduction	100% Increase
	Violence Against Person	117	128	76	72	55	53% Reduction	24% Reduction
Other	Arson	6	1	3	0	0	100% Reduction	NA
	Criminal Damage	109	103	78	64	36	67% Reduction	44% Reduction
	Drugs Offences	23	22	16	12	17	26% Reduction	42% Increase
	Other	9	11	25	8	7	22% Reduction	13% Reduction
	Public Order	71	57	89	70	43	39% Reduction	39% Reduction
TOTAL		699	632	492	375	292	58% Reduction	22% Reduction

Some of the young people attend a rolling programme at the attendance centre, in particular those who commit motoring offences which addresses the key factors linked to their offending. All interventions are tailored to meet individual needs of the young people.

As can be seen from the table, the majority of offences committed by young people in recent years tend to be grouped around acquisitive crime and public order offences including violent assaults (often on other young people). A key priority for the service in 2013/14 is to reduce reoffending by young people and services delivered will focus on these particular crimes.

It should be noted that sexual offences have increased by 100% in 2012/13 compared with the previous year but the actual number is very low. Staff in the service have completed specialist training to provide specific tailored services to young people who commit sexual offences. Young people who commit drug offences receive specialist packages of support from both the YOS and HYPED. The number of racially aggravated offence is low, nevertheless, the recent increase is a cause for concern and intervention is delivered by The Children's Society.

Analysis highlights that the service is dealing with a small number of offenders (see below) who repeat offend often in line with broader lifestyle choices relating to substance misuse and the need to generate income to maintain substance misuse levels.

	No of Re-Offences Committed												
	0	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	11	13	20	23
No. of Offenders (Jan to Dec 2012) = 205	141	21	11	11	7	3	2	1	4	1	1	1	1

To enable the service to meet its responsibilities in relation to both the supervision and support of young people who are at risk of repeat offending and who are contending with significant difficulties across their lives, it is essential that our offender management arrangements are fully integrated across those local services and initiatives that are in place for children, young people, their families, victims and the broader community.

The will enable the service to fulfil its core functions relating to the supervision of orders, the monitoring of compliance, the management of risk and vulnerability and an emphasis upon delivering interventions and to address identified criminogenic factors that will directly address the young persons offending behaviour, whilst ensuring that the broader needs of the young person and their family, alongside the needs of victims, are addressed in an integrated way that compliments our central efforts to reduce their offending behaviour.

Youth Justice Peer Review

As part of the new approach to youth justice oversight and devolving accountability to local authorities, the Youth Justice Board in partnership with the Local Government Association has developed a Youth Justice Peer Review programme.

The primary purpose of a Youth Justice Peer Review is to help a Youth Offending Service and its partners identify their strengths and to highlight areas for potential improvement in the current provision of youth justice services.

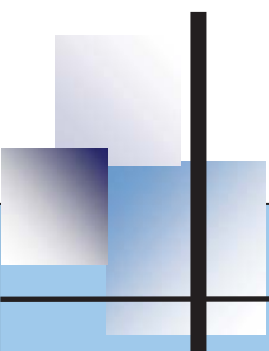
Hartlepool Youth Offending Service invited a Youth Justice Peer Review team to visit in late September 2012. The Review team spent three working days on site talking and listening to a wide range of service users, stakeholders and members of the Service.

The main focus of the review was the performance of the Hartlepool Youth Offending Service and broader partnership on the **local rate of proven reoffending**.

Attention was also paid to the robustness of quality assurance systems designed to ensure good professional practice.

The Youth Justice peer review found that the Hartlepool Youth Offending Service and broader partnership has a strong commitment to the care and needs of children and young people. The team noted that the service is well-resourced in terms of the knowledge, skills and experience of the people who work within it and stakeholders and staff have a firm determination to take the Service forward on a continuing journey of improvement.

However, the Youth Justice Peer Review highlighted that there are several areas for “quick win” improvement which could make a significant impact on service delivery and performance, alongside some broader scope for improvement that the service will need to seek to address in the longer term. The findings of the Peer Review have been incorporated into the annual Youth Justice Action Plan (see Section 8), ensuring that the Youth Offending Service builds upon the comments received by service users, stakeholders and staff teams and strengthens its ability to respond to local need and developments and remains well placed to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and reduce the use of custody.

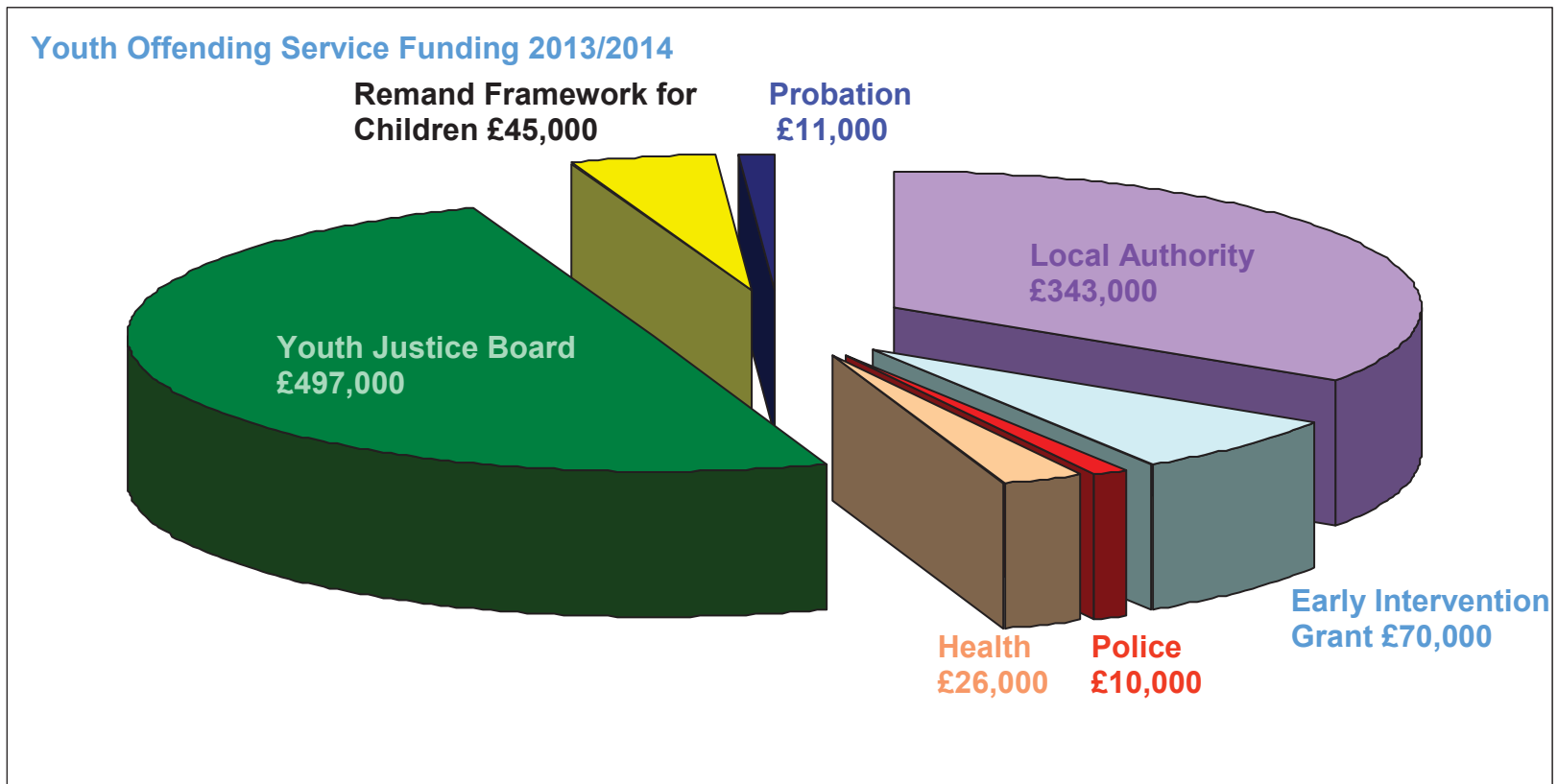


Resources and Value for Money

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Adequate resourcing and the appropriate use of resources underpin the ability of the Youth Offending Service to deliver high quality services. The Youth Offending Service Budget for 2013/14 has seen a reduction in both the Youth Justice Board funding and contributions across statutory partners and as a consequence is 15.6% less than 2012/2013 at (to be included once confirmed) finalise, which

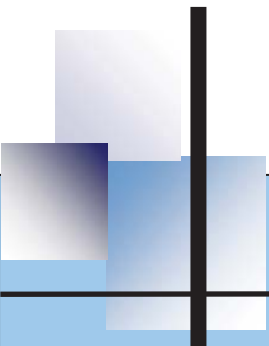
includes a 7% reduction to support the priorities of the recently elected Police Crime Commissioner. The budget is made up of a central grant from the Youth Justice Board and contributions from statutory partners (Health, Local Authority, Police and Probation). Hartlepool Borough Council is the major contributor to the partnership budget.



In preparation for anticipated reductions in funding, the Youth Offending Service had already undertaken a series of service wide reviews of resources. The Phase 1 review focused on Management and Case Management arrangements in Youth Offending Service and Phase 2 considered Youth Offending support services

including Intervention Support, Reparation, Education/training services and Referral Order Coordinator.

Alongside the above reviews the Youth Offending Service is also participating in a broader Local Authority review of Business and Administrative support with a view to generating further savings and efficiencies.



Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner

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During 2012-2013 the Home Office diverted part of its funding allocation for Youth Offending Services to Cleveland Police Authority to support the introduction of the Police & Crime Commissioner. This funding has supported youth crime initiatives delivered and/or commissioned throughout Cleveland by the three Youth Offending Services for over 10 years. Cleveland Police Authority took the decision to passport the funding back to each Youth Offending Service for 2012-2013 in order to maintain service delivery. From 2013-2014, the Home Office will divert all its funding from Youth Offending Services in Cleveland to the Newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Youth Offending Services in the Cleveland Force area is keen to highlight the importance of their work streams underpinned by the funding and how these are aligned with the strategic priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2016, particularly the following:

- Ensure a better deal for victims and witnesses;
- Divert people from offending, with a focus upon rehabilitation and the prevention of reoffending;
- Develop better coordination, communication and partnership between agencies to make the best use of Resources;

The Youth Offending Services is particularly keen to work with the PCC and Cleveland Police to refresh its approach to new 'out of court' police outcomes for children and young people (in line with the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012) and support new restorative justice initiatives adopted by Cleveland Police and other partners. It is hoped that the service can capitalise on these developments to be innovative and creative in the work undertaken, both collaboratively and retain and enhance the work we do in new and exciting ways.

It is estimated, at this stage, that approx £40,000 in funding will be diverted from Hartlepool Youth Offending Service to the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2013 – 2014. This is in addition to reductions in service funding from local and central funding streams. Clearly, without the commitment from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support the Hartlepool Youth Offending Service, there will inevitably be a detrimental impact upon service provision in Cleveland and potential loss of youth justice services and experience. Funding from Police and Crime Commissioner is, therefore, seen as vital in maintaining service delivery and ensuring successful youth justice outcomes are continued.

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service Team will deliver appropriate interventions and utilise resources effectively. YOS staff have a vast amount of skills to deliver youth justice services in line with National Standards and is committed to having in place a workforce strategy that ensures

- The needs of Youth Offending Service staff are met, and their strengths recognised;
- The Youth Offending Service retains its integrity as a successful multi-agency working model, and is not diluted in the process of establishing broader multi-agency structures;
- The crucial role of the Youth Offending Service as the balancing point between the children's and criminal justice agenda is asserted;
- Managers can attract and retain a strong and suitable workforce.
- Youth Offending Service staff can access training and development opportunities.
- Youth Offending Service staff have the appropriate knowledge, skills and expertise to deliver high quality and responsive services to young people at risk of offending or reoffending and their families.

The effective and efficient use of resources is also dependent on effective commissioning arrangements. Working through the Children's Strategic Partnership commissioning processes, the Youth Offending Service has during 2012/2013 revised the local service specification for Restorative Justice Services and re-commissioned a service that will ensure that Restorative Justice is an important underlying principle for all local youth justice disposals, from Out of Court Disposals and Referral Orders to Reparation Orders, Action Plan Orders and Supervision Orders. Hartlepool Youth Offending Service believes that an investment in Restorative Justice is key to supporting the services broader efforts to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people in Hartlepool. The Youth Offending Service will continue to manage and monitor existing commissioned services to ensure that services continue to deliver provision in accordance with contractual specifications to improve outcomes for young people, victims and their families.

Structure and Governance

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Governance

The Youth Offending Service is located within the Children's Services division of Child and Adult Services. The Management Board is chaired by a local Chief Inspector and is made up of representatives from Child and Adult Services, Police, Probation, Health, Courts, Housing, Youth Support Services, Community Safety and the local Voluntary and Community Sector. Effective integrated strategic partnership working and clear oversight by the Management Board are critical to the success and effective delivery of youth justice services in Hartlepool.

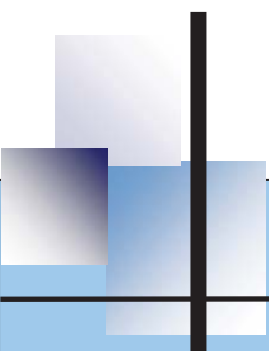
The board is directly responsible for:

- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Overseeing the formulation each year of a draft youth justice plan;
- Agreeing measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan;
- Ensuring delivery of the statutory aim to prevent offending by children and young people.
- Giving strategic direction to Youth Offending Service Manager and Youth Offending Service Team

- Managing performance information on the prevention of youth crime and periodically report this to the Safer Hartlepool Executive Group.
- Promoting the key role played by the Youth Offending Service within local integrated offender management arrangements.

The Management Board is clear about the priority areas for improvement, and monitors the delivery of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. The board is well attended and receives comprehensive reports relating to performance, finance and specific areas of service delivery.

Members of the Board are knowledgeable, participate well in discussions and are members of other related boards, which contribute to effective partnership working at a strategic level. Board meetings are well structured and members are held accountable.



The membership of the Board is as follows:

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Steve Jermy Chair	Chief Inspector Cleveland Police
Mark Smith	Head of Youth Offending and Extended Services for Children and Young People, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sally Robinson	Assistant Director - Prevention, Safeguarding & Specialist Services, Hartlepool Borough Council
Dean Jackson	Assistant Director –Education, Hartlepool Borough Council
Lucia Saiger	Director of Offender Services - Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust
Louise Hurst	Deputy YOS Manager, Hartlepool Borough Council
Emma Rutherford	Social Inclusion Co-ordinator, Hartlepool Borough Council
Deborah Gibbin	Public Health
Jean Bell	Deputy Justices Clerk - Teesside and Hartlepool Magistrates Court
Lindsey Robertson	Community Services Manager for Children and young people North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Lynda Igoe	Principal Housing Officer, Hartlepool Borough Council
Sally Forth	Community Safety Manager, Hartlepool Borough Council
Dave Wise	Chair of the West View Project (Voluntary/Community Sector representative).

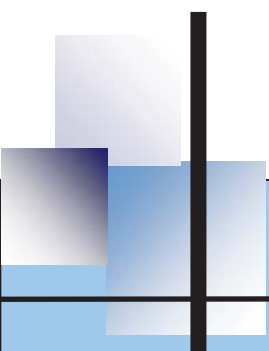
The Youth Offending Service Manager and nominated officers from within the Youth Offending Service are members of other strategic boards relevant to young people who offend. For example representatives sit on the Criminal Justice Intervention Managers Partnership, 11-19 Strategic Board, Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Partnership, Parenting Strategy Board, Substance Misuse Steering Group, Pupil Referral Unit Management Board, Social Inclusion Strategy Group and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Youth Offending Service is also represented on the Children's Strategic Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Health and Well-being Board and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

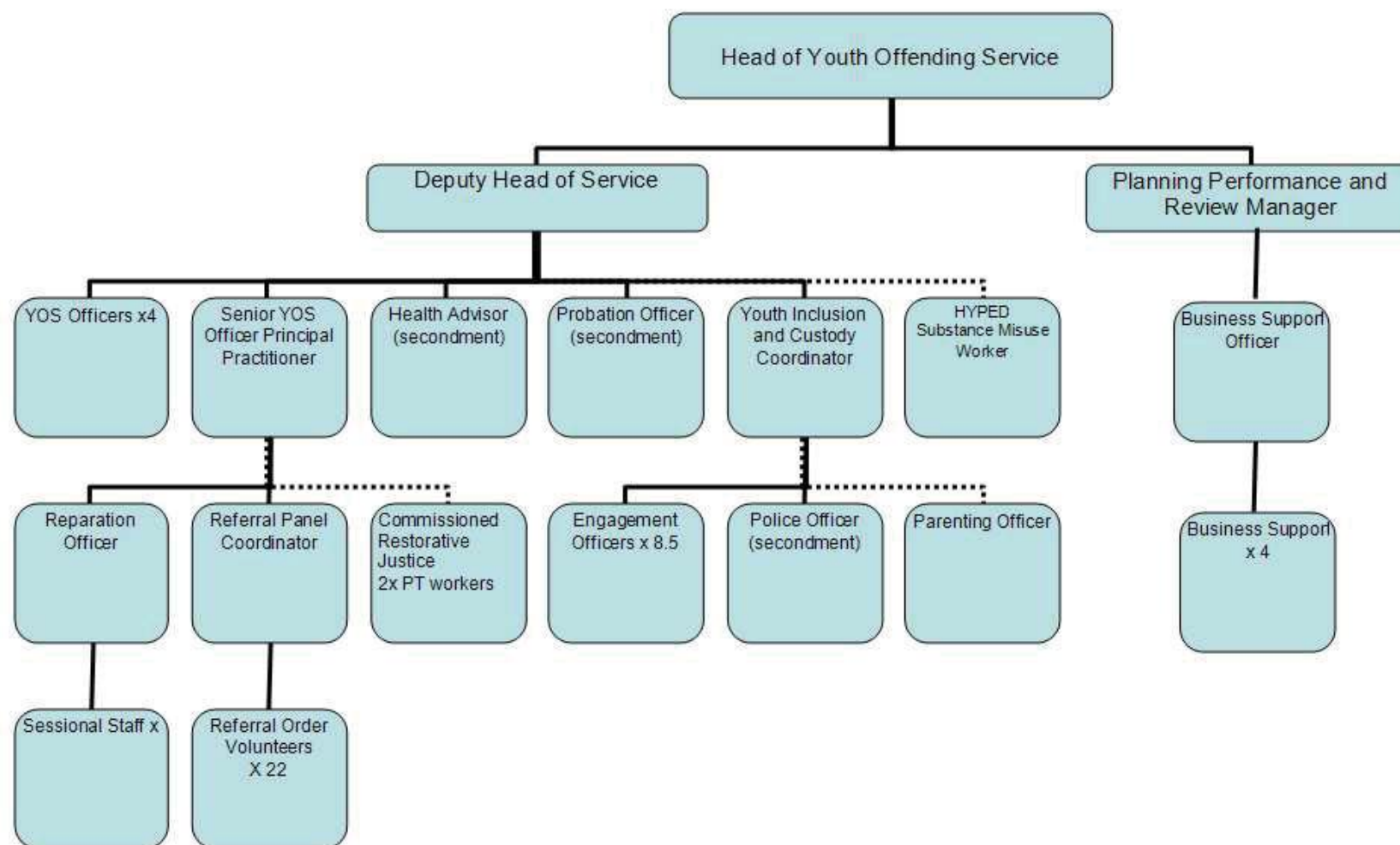
Structure

The Youth Offending Service is in the process of undergoing significant service remodeling in response to the recommendations of the recent Youth Justice Peer Review. Historically the service was organised into two discreet areas; Pre-court and Post-court provision. Going forward the service is moving to a 'through court model of service delivery' that will see the majority of the services resources being placed at the point of prevention and diversion with a view to bringing about further reductions in the numbers of first time entrants.

It is envisaged that for those young people who go onto offend, the Youth Offending officer, who will have established a relationship and rapport with the young person will support the young person and their broader family through the court process, support any statutory interventions and then go on to provide aftercare with a view to reducing any further offending behaviour.

The Youth Offending Service currently has a staff team of thirty three people, which includes four seconded staff from partner organisations, three commissioned staff and three sessional workers. The service also benefits from a team of twenty two active volunteers who sit as Referral Order Panel members who have recently received refresher training. All staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure and barring checks which are renewed every three years.





Partnership Arrangements

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service is a statutory partnership which includes, but also extends beyond, the direct delivery of youth justice services. In order to deliver youth justice outcomes, the partnership must be able to function effectively in both of the two key sectors within which it operates, namely:

- **criminal justice services.**
- **services for children and young people and their families.**

The Youth Offending Service contributes both to improving community safety and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and in particular protecting them from significant harm. Working Together to Safeguard Children highlights the need for Youth Offending Services to work jointly with other agencies and professionals to ensure that young people are protected from harm and to ensure that outcomes for local children, young people and their families are improved.

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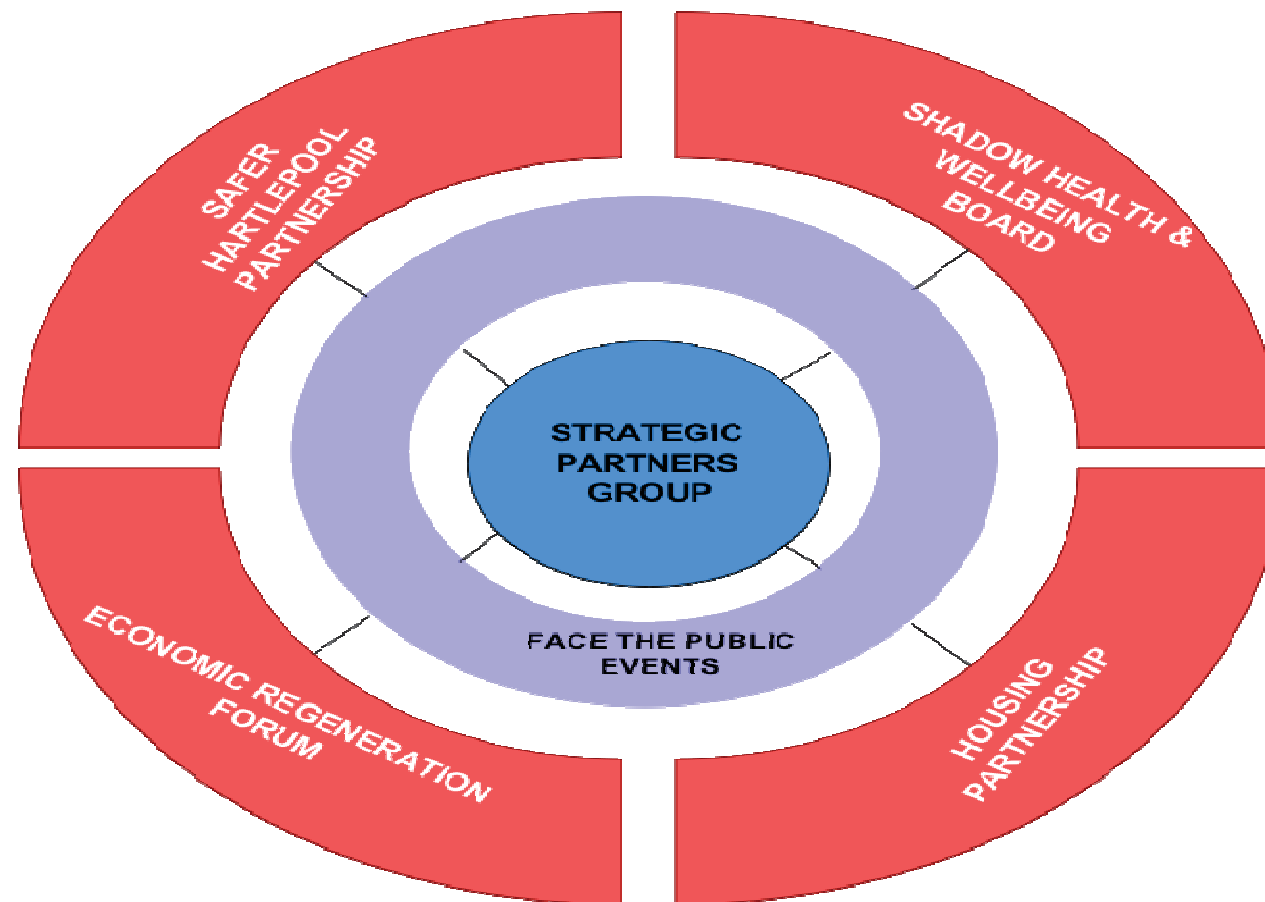
Many of the young people involved with the Youth Offending Service are amongst the most vulnerable children in the borough and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. The Youth Offending Service's multi-agency approach ensures that it plays a significant role in meeting the safeguarding needs of these young people. This is achieved through the effective assessment and management of vulnerability and risk and through working in partnership with other services, for example Children's Social Care, Health and Education to ensure young people's wellbeing is promoted and they are protected from harm.

In order to generate effective outcomes for children and young people who offend or are at risk of offending the Youth Offending Service has in place effective partnership arrangements and is an important delivery partner for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership. This close relationship is embedded in Hartlepool's 'Crime, Disorder, and Drugs Strategy' and 'Children and Young People's Plan'.

The Hartlepool Partnership

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The Hartlepool Partnership is a network of partnerships that brings together all of the Borough's strategic groups who are developing and delivering local services. It provides opportunities for involvement for a wide range of organisations and individuals in the development and implementation of policy. The Partnership is made up of a Board and a series of Theme Partnerships.



The Partnership works to the Community Strategy 2008 – 2020.

Community Strategy 2008 – 2020

The Community Strategy describes a long-term vision of Hartlepool's ambition and aspirations for the future as follows:

"Hartlepool will be an ambitious, healthy, respectful, inclusive, thriving and outward-looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential"

The Vision is further articulated through a set of aims, outcomes and associated objectives grouped into eight priorities:

1. Jobs and the Economy
2. Lifelong Learning & Skills
3. Health & Well-being
4. Community Safety
5. Environment
6. Housing
7. Culture & Leisure
8. Strengthening Communities

Safer Hartlepool Partnership

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership is the statutory body charged with coordinating the activities of its members (including the Youth Offending Service) to work together to keep crime down across the Borough. Members include; Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Hartlepool Housing, Hartlepool CCG, Youth Offending Service, Drug Strategy Team, Anti-social Behaviour Unit, Durham and Teesvalley Probation Service and is chaired by the leader of the Council.

The Partnership has published its three-year Strategy to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reducing re-offending in Hartlepool (2011-2014) which sets out the following priorities:

- Reduce crime and repeat victimisation;
- Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse;
- Create confident, cohesive and safe communities;
- Reduce offending and re-offending;

Further information about the Safer Hartlepool Partnership can be obtained at

<http://www.saferhartlepool.co.uk>

Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 – 2020

The Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 – 2020 is a document which was written on behalf of Hartlepool's Children's Trust and sets out the vision and direction of travel for commissioning and service improvements for the next eleven years to improve outcomes for local children. The Children's Strategic Partnership is the main body which brings together organisations (including the Youth Offending Service) providing services for children, young people and parents and carers.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2020 is structured around five key priorities:

- Tackling Inequalities;
- Narrowing the Gap;
- Eradicating Child Poverty;
- Living Safely;
- Promoting Emotional Well-being.

The Children and Young Peoples Plan is available to download at:

http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/download/4952/children_and_young_peoples_plan

The Early Intervention Strategy

The recent development of the Hartlepool Early Intervention Strategy acknowledges that the best way of dealing with offending and antisocial behaviour is to deliver services to children and young people to prevent them engaging in these risk taking behaviours in the first instance. The key premise of the strategy is to focus more time and resources on helping children, young people and their families who are just starting to experience difficulties as opposed to responding at the point of crisis.

The vision is that all children and young people in Hartlepool are able to enjoy a happy, safe and healthy childhood and fulfil their potential. Families will be supported as needs emerge to identify, at the earliest opportunity, what services and support they require to transform their lives.

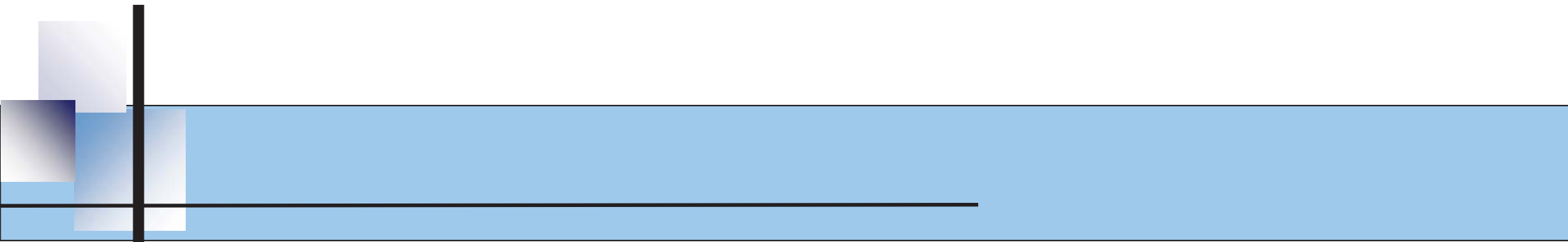
The vision and strategy are based on a series of principles designed to underpin the provision of prevention and early intervention services. These are:

- Think Family – all partners see their interventions within the context of whole family needs;

- Parents as partners in securing improved outcomes for children;
- A child centred system where the needs of the child are the paramount consideration;
- A commitment to prevention through early intervention;
- Offering children the best start in life;
- Supporting families throughout childhood and adolescence;
- Accessible, local, community based services for families;
- A high quality workforce;
- Commissioning and delivering programmes that work.

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The strategy set outs a new model of service delivery that focuses on prevention and early intervention ensuring children, young people and their families receive support in a timely way and tailored to their individual circumstances and it is envisaged that this will significantly support local efforts to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people in Hartlepool and reduce the use of custody.

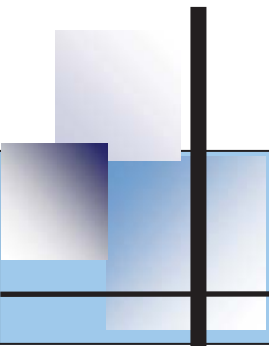


Partnership Working in the Youth Offending Service

Partnership working across the local statutory and voluntary sector is well established and effective. Relevant partners second the appropriate level of staff and contribute funding to the Youth Offending Service pooled budget. Additional sources of income have been achieved through successful partnership bids to the Youth Justice Board and through the use of the Early Intervention Grant, which supports projects such as prevention, parenting, mentoring, reparation schemes, substance misuse and restorative justice activities.

Service level agreements and protocols are in place with partner agencies for referrals and delivery of appropriate services to young people and their families to meet their needs.

For example, a protocol has been developed to secure effective joint working across the Youth Offending and Children's Social Care to: promote a common understanding of the statutory duties, roles and responsibilities of each service; provide effective joint working between services to support young people and prevent or reduce offending behaviour; contribute to improvements in outcomes for children and young people in need, in care, leaving care, at risk of entering or in the youth justice system; support the implementation of national initiatives e.g. the Common Assessment Framework.



The broader context for this Youth Justice Plan reflects the publication of the Legal Aid, Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 which introduces new measures to ensure that criminal cases run more efficiently, increases the options available for non-custodial sentences introducing new conditions designed to help reduce the unnecessary use of secure remands for young people.

New Out Of Court Disposals

From April 2013 there will be new out of court disposals available. In dealing with any offence committed by a young person under the age of 18, the police will have a new range of options as follows:-

- No further action (NFA)
- Community Resolution (CR, delivered by the Police)
- Youth Caution (Caution, delivered by YOS)
- Youth Conditional Caution (Conditional Caution or YCC, delivered by YOS)
- Charge

There will be no escalatory process (in contrast to the previous Final Warning Scheme) and so the range of options can be used at any stage where it is determined to be the most appropriate action. It is envisaged that a discussion between the Police and YOS will take place prior to any sanction/disposal being determined to ensure the right decision is reached.

Meetings are currently underway between Cleveland Police and Hartlepool Youth Offending Service to ensure the service is prepared for implementation and all staff involved are aware of the processes and procedures.

The new Remand Framework for Young People

Through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 the Government has made significant reforms to the youth remand framework which re designed to help reduce the unnecessary use of secure remands: In summary:

- 12 – 17 year olds will be subject to the same secure remand framework as 10-11 year olds and will therefore be treated as a child who is looked after by the designated Local Authority;
- Young people not granted bail, must be remanded to Local Authority Accommodation, unless they are charged with a violent or sexual offence or one where an adult would receive a custodial sentence of 14 years or more;
- Local Authorities will hold the financial responsibility for the funding of all remands to youth detention accommodation (i.e. Secure Children's Home; Secure Training Centre; Young Offender Institution).
- The Local Authority will have the all of the duties of care which run alongside such status

The incentive for local Authorities is to reduce unnecessary secure remands, and reinvest any savings achieved. As ever, Hartlepool has been pro-active and has analysed the factors that have led local courts to historically use secure remands. Whilst in some instances the gravity of the alleged offence could be deemed to have merited as secure remand episode, there have also been instances where the lack of a suitable address has been a factor.

To ensure that we have viable robust community bail arrangements in place going forward HBC is looking at the collective commissioning of Remand Foster Carers across the Tees Valley. However, whilst awaiting this process to take effect, we have already trained a local HBC registered Foster Carer to be able to take on the role of Remand Foster Carer and they have since taken on their first remand placement.

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service is confident that it has a structure and the staff with the appropriate skills to meet any future demands placed upon it and that the recent legislation does not conflict with any of the service's existing priorities.

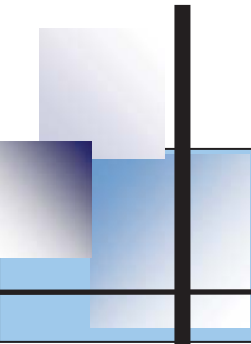
Potential further reductions in core funding and the lack of clarity around grant allocations with subsequent loss of specialist staff and difficulties with recruitment are always areas of concern; however the Youth Offending Service has successfully met these challenges in the past and is well placed to overcome any future problems with the support of a committed, strong Strategic Management Board.

Hartlepool Youth Offending Service intends to work with its partners to continue to drive efficiency within the Service through the delivery of high quality, lean and efficient practices which make maximum use of resources. The Youth Offending Service Partnership will be proactive in addressing risks to ensure it continues to achieve its central aim and this gives rise to the following priorities for 2013-2014:

- Reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime
- Sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Demonstrate effective arrangements in place for the management of the risk and vulnerability of young people and their families.
- The Youth Offending Strategic Management Board will be a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Offending Service performance.
- The Youth Offending Strategic Management Board will provide a strategic lead for the service and understands the way in which the service contributes to integrated offender management arrangements, reduction of crime and offending and public protection

- The Youth Offending Service Management Team will have clearly defined roles and responsibilities and have a shared vision and purpose to support the effective management of the service and drive up standards and performance.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding across the service of what constitutes effective practice in relation to the prevention and reduction of youth crime and the role of the service within the management of young peoples risk and vulnerability.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding across the service of what 'good looks like' in relation to the development of Youth Justice Assessments, Reports, Plans, Interventions and effective case management arrangements.
- Maximise the resources, programmes and specialist expertise available across the service and available resources will be maximised within all planning.
- Practice across the service will be integrated to ensure that young people receive seamless, high quality youth justice services in Hartlepool.
- Ensure all Team Managers and YOS staff further develop their skills and knowledge in core youth justice effective practice around risk assessment and appropriately targeted intervention aimed at risk reduction.
- Further develop expertise across the service relating to high risk offending behaviour.
- Demonstrate that there are robust alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands to custody whilst awaiting trial/sentencing.

The following Action Plan details how these strategic objectives will be taken forward during 2013-2014;



Youth Justice Action Plan 2013-2014

Reducing offending behaviour and the use of custody

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
To bring about further reductions in further offending by young people who have committed crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The factors behind young peoples offending behaviour are established and this intelligence is used to inform future service development. Develop, review and improve current interventions to secure bespoke packages of support for young people and their families (including exit strategies and transitions). Work effectively to increase the engagement in education, training and employment (ETE) of young people in the youth justice system. 	<p>YOS Management Team</p> <p>YOS Management Team</p> <p>YOS Management Team</p>	<p>Reviewed Monthly throughout 2013/2014</p> <p>Quarterly throughout 2013/2014</p> <p>Reviewed Monthly throughout 2013/2014</p>	<p>Reduce the re-offending rate from a baseline of 39.8% in 2011/2012.</p> <p>Engagement in education, training and employment by young offenders is raised from an annual baseline of 69.5% in 2010/2011.</p>
Sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, review and improve current interventions to secure bespoke packages of support for 	YOS Management Team	Quarterly throughout 2013/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Time Entrants are further reduced from a Baseline of 93 in 2010/2011.

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
	<p>young people and their families (including exit strategies and transitions).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with Cleveland Police to further develop the pre-court disposals process. • Work effectively to increase the engagement in education, training and employment (ETE) of young people in the youth justice system. 	<p>YOS Management Team</p> <p>YOS Management Team</p>	<p>April 2013</p> <p>Reviewed Monthly throughout 2013/2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Time Entrants are further reduced from a Baseline of 93 in 2010/2011. • Engagement in education, training and employment b young offenders is raised from an annual baseline of 69.5% in 2010/2011.
<p>Ensure that there are effective arrangements in place for the management of the risk and vulnerability of young people and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain operational procedures to ensure we are working within guidance issued by MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements). • Review operational procedures to ensure risk and vulnerability are reviewed regularly and that the review of risk and vulnerability remains at the forefront of performance management arrangements. 	<p>YOS Management Team</p> <p>YOS Management Team</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>June 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk, threats and vulnerability levels to both the young person and/or the broader community are identified and reviewed regularly in line with best practice to support the development of multi agency arrangements to protect individuals and the broader community. • Risk and vulnerability arrangements are reviewed

Governance, Leadership and Management

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
The Youth Offending Strategic Management Board is a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises YOS performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the membership of the YOS Strategic Management Board to ensure that the Statutory functions specified in the Crime and Disorder Act and associated guidance are fulfilled. 	Chair of the Strategic Management Board	April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership of the YOS Strategic Management Board meets the Statutory functions specified in the Crime and Disorder Act and associated guidance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore whether the board membership could include a young person who has successfully moved on from offending behaviour. 	YOS Management Team	September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business of the Management Board includes the views of young people
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Terms of Reference of the YOS Strategic Management Board to ensure that all members understand their role and function as Board Members. 	YOS Strategic Management Board	April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Members receive a copy of the Boards revised Terms of Reference to support their understanding of their role and function as Board Members.
The Youth Offending Strategic Management Board provides a strategic lead for the service and understands the way in which the YOS contributes to integrated	<p>Ensure that Management Board members have a strong induction programme that includes opportunities to observe YOS practice to develop a clearer understanding of the unique role of the YOS.</p> <p>Ensure Management Board agendas</p>	YOS Management Team	April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Members participate in an induction programme and participate in at least one observation of YOS practice per year.

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
				the programmes available across the service within the intervention plans for all cases to ensure that internal resources are maximised.

Effective Practice

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
There is a clear understanding across the YOS of what constitutes effective practice in relation to the prevention and reduction of youth crime and the role of the service within the management of young peoples risk and vulnerability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective practice in relation to the prevention of youth crime to be established by visiting high performing services, and through the review of existing and emerging national Youth Justice Board resources to inform an internal review of current practice. This needs to ensure that levels of intervention are based upon the Youth Justice Boards scaled approach and that individual interventions are linked to criminogenic factors. 	YOS Management Team	May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report produced to share learning and recommendations from high performing area(s) with YOS Management Board and broader service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective practice in relation to the management of risk and vulnerability to be established by visiting high performing services, and through the review of existing and emerging national Youth Justice Board resources to inform an internal review of current practice. This needs to ensure that the services role in the management of risk and 	YOS Management Team	May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report produced to share learning and recommendations from high performing area(s) with YOS Management Board and broader service.

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual plan is developed to enable specific areas of practice to be scrutinised and reviewed at least annually (e.g. Intervention Plans). 	YOS Management Team	April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Feedback Sheets demonstrate a consistent appreciation of the Court Reports by the Bench.
<p>There is an appreciation of the resources, programmes and specialist expertise available across the YOS and available resources are maximised within all planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance data relating to the effectiveness of YOS programmes is regularly reviewed and shared across the service to establish and inform practice. Clear guidance to be established regarding the consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restorative Justice Parenting Support Deter Young Offenders Programme Health including Substance Misuse 	<p>YOS Management Team</p> <p>YOS Management Team</p>	<p>Monthly throughout 2013-2014</p> <p>April 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on performance across the service is included in all YOS Team meetings. Clear written expectations are developed and shared with the service through Team Meetings.

Workforce Development

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
All Team Managers and YOS staff develop skills and knowledge in core youth justice effective practice around risk assessment and appropriately targeted intervention aimed at risk reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance relating to the use of the Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space are developed to raise knowledge and standards across the service in relation to key areas of Youth Justice effective practice and in particular: risk assessment and appropriately targeted intervention aimed at risk reduction. 	YOS Principle Practitioner	April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hartlepool Youth Offending Service register with Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space. Key modules identified and prioritised to support staff development. Use of the Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space is monitored via YOS Principle Practitioner.
Expertise is developed within the service relating to high risk offending behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the review of staff roles and functions a Training Needs Analysis is undertaken to establish gaps in knowledge with particular priority given to the procurement of training related to high risk offending behaviour. 	YOS Management Team	April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training needs across the service are identified. Appropriate training is procured via HBC Workforce Development Team. All staff within the Post Court

Objectives	Actions	Responsible Officer and Resources	Timeline	Performance Monitoring and Indicators
				Team participate in training relating to high risk offending behaviour during 2013.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2nd July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Children's Services

Subject: UPDATED CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Key Decision (test (ii) Forward Plan Reference No. CAS136/12.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To seek approval for the publication of a revised Child Poverty Strategy 2011 – 2015.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The previous government pledged to halve Child Poverty by 2015 with an aim to eradicate it fully. This pledge led to the introduction of the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 3.2 The Child Poverty Act 2010 places three duties on local authorities:
- To put into place arrangements to work to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local area;
 - To prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty;
 - To prepare a joint child poverty strategy setting out measures that the local authority and named partners propose to take to reduce, and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local area.
- 3.3 Cabinet approved the publication of the Child Poverty Strategy "Everybody's Business" in May 2011. Following this a number of government policies have been introduced impacting on children in poverty. In light of this, it was felt to be timely to update the Child Poverty Strategy in line with government policy changes.

4. DEFINITION OF CHILD POVERTY

4.1 Child Poverty is currently defined using four measures of income as detailed below:

- Absolute low income: a level below which people lack the necessary food, clothing, or shelter to survive. On this definition, a single person is considered to be in poverty with an income of less than £145 per week (at 2005/06 thresholds before housing costs). Similarly, a couple with two children are classed as poor with an income of less than £332 per week.
- Relative low income: this is defined as the level below which a citizen has the economic capacity to participate fully in the society in which he or she lives. This is routinely set as below 60% of the median wage.
- Material deprivation: hybrid of 'lacking certain goods and services and being below 70% of the median wage'.
- Index of Child Wellbeing in the European Union: a composite measure based on many indicators on a 'causal' model rather than 'effect' model.

4.2 Based on the relative low income measurement as explained above, 33% of children living in Hartlepool are living in poverty based on 2012 statistics this is compared to 29.5% in 2010. Hartlepool also has significantly a higher proportion of child living in poverty when compared with the national average for 2012 of 21% and a regional average of 28%.

4.3 The government has recently reviewed the indicators for the measurement of child poverty at a national level and published a consultation "Measuring Child Poverty: A consultation on better measures of child poverty." The consultation sets out the proposal for a multi dimensional measure that does not solely focus on income. The government is expected to respond to the consultation over the next few months.

5. CHILD POVERTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 A child poverty needs assessment has previously been produced to inform the development of the strategy and action plan, attached as **Appendices 1 and 2**. The development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Poverty Theme has replaced the need to produce a separate document. The current Poverty JSNA has recently been discussed as a Scrutiny Coordinating Committee investigation and a copy can be found on <http://www.teesjsna.org.uk/hartlepool>

6. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 Austerity measures

The government has introduced a range of measures to reduce the national budget deficit which includes significant reduction in public spending, services and benefits.

6.2 Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 began to be implemented from April 2013 and the Act includes the introduction of and changes to: Housing Benefit – Under Occupancy / “Bedroom Tax”, Universal Credit, Council Tax Benefit, Benefit Cap and discretionary social fund.

6.3 DWP changes

The DWP have introduced changes to support the government's focus on ensuring individuals seek work. This includes:

- Reassessing all customers currently receiving Incapacity Benefit or Income Support on grounds of incapacity;
- Work Programme has been introduced providing a personalised welfare to work programme;
- ESF (European Social Fund) Families programme – the DWP have contracted with a number of companies to deliver family coaching to parents who are unemployed.

6.4 Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years.

6.5 2 year old childcare

All disadvantaged 2 year olds (as defined by the Free School Meal criteria) will be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare from September 2013. This will be followed with a further cohort of disadvantaged children eligible in September 2014 (details not yet released).

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** For Members to approve the publication of the updated Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To ensure that the Child Poverty Strategy and action plan are responding to changing economic and Government policy.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None

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Hartlepool
Child Poverty Strategy
2011- 2015
REVISED VERSION UPDATED JULY 2013

*Child Poverty –
Everybody's Business*



HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILD POVERTY PLEDGE

Together we will support Hartlepool Borough Council in sharing the Government's ambition to tackle child poverty by:

- **Tackling the causes and consequences of poverty so that all children and young people have a good start in life, enjoy a fulfilling childhood with all the opportunities they need;**
- **Enabling families to break out of inter-generational cycles of deprivation through a variety of measures including intensive family support, access to appropriate financial assistance, training and employment.**

Together we will work with partners to ensure that the vision for Hartlepool is achieved and that we have:

'A society where all children and young people grow up free from deprivation and disadvantage and where birth and social background do not hold people back from achieving their full potential'.

We fully support Hartlepool Borough Council's ambition and endorse it by positive action to address child poverty.

We are a key agency committed to tackling the causes and consequences of child poverty within Hartlepool. Therefore, we will increase our activities to support children, young people and families living in/or who are at risk of living in poverty by working in partnership with all delivery agencies from the statutory, private and third sector to achieve the local authority's six key objectives to:

- **Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;**
- **Increase the parental employment rate;**
- **Improve skills levels;**
- **Increase the benefit take up rate, including in-work and out-of-work benefits;**
- **Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty;**
- **Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.**

Name of Organisation.....

Name of Signatory.....

Date.....

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Abbreviations

DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GONE	Government Office North East
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IAG	Information Advice and Guidance
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
NEET	Not in Education Employment or Training
NI	National Indicator
NRA	Neighbourhood Renewal Area
ONS	Office for National Statistics
SOA	Super Output Areas
FSM	Free School Meals
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SMCP	Social Mobility and Child Poverty
IS	Income Support
ESA	Employment Support Allowance
JSA	Job Seeker's allowance
HB	Housing Benefit
LHA	Local Housing Allowance

1. Foreword by the Leader of the Council

Unfortunately there remain significant public misconceptions about child poverty, and many people don't think child poverty exists in Hartlepool – or fail to see the connection between children living in poverty and poor health or poor achievement in schools. It should no longer be acceptable for poverty to be something that's inherited by successive generations. It shouldn't be an automatic marker for poor health or underachievement. Breaking that cycle is an important part of what our strategy sets out to do.

Building on our previous work and responding directly to what we have heard from parents, teachers, professionals, and children and young people themselves, we wish to reinforce our commitment to eradicate child poverty and ensure that all children and young people are happy, healthy and grow up to be successful. Too many children's education is still being held back by poverty and disadvantage.

If we are going to make this the best town for children and young people to grow up and if we are going to help all children and young people to fulfil their potential, we need to eradicate child poverty.

I know you will agree with me that, if we want to eradicate child poverty altogether over the next decade, we will need to have a much broader, all-encompassing approach. It is vital that we prevent children who are in primary school today from becoming tomorrow's impoverished parents if we are to meet our goal of eradicating child poverty.

Christopher Akers-Belcher, Leader of the Council

3. Introduction

The Child Poverty Strategy was originally developed in 2011 following the introduction of the Child Poverty Act 2010 requiring local authorities and its partners to *“co-operate to reduce, and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area.”*

Government policy has significantly changed over the last two years and this revised strategy refocuses actions to support families within the changing national context. This strategy continues to focus on the same vision and objectives previously agreed by the Council and its partners.

Hartlepool Borough Council is a partner within the North East Child Poverty Commission which *“aims to build public and political support for actions that improve the lives of poor children living in the North East.”* This strategy compliments the work of the Commission and Regional Child Poverty working officer group.

4. What is the vision for Hartlepool?

The target to halve child poverty was the ambition of the previous government however the present government has also committed to a reduction in child poverty although a consultation is currently being undertaken to review the measure of child poverty through median income levels.

Hartlepool Borough Council will build upon the Government's ambition to reduce and ultimately eradicate child poverty by 2020 by:

- Enabling families to break out of intergenerational cycles of deprivation using a family centred approach by ensuring all children and families have support at the earliest possible stage to prevent families reaching crisis

In addition Hartlepool Borough Council will aim to:

- Prevent poor children becoming poor adults

5. Strategic Priorities

The priorities for this strategy include:

- Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;
- Increase the parental employment rate;

- Improve skills levels in parents and children;
- Support families to maximise their entitlements;
- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty;
- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

6. Principles

These will be underpinned by a set of principles for all services working with families:

- The safeguarding of children is paramount throughout this strategy and the safety needs of children and young people will take precedence in all situations;
- Preventative services will be built around universal services (children's centres and schools);
- Parenting is a critical factor that impacts on children's outcomes and will be at the heart of the strategy;
- Families will be partners with services that are in place to support them;
- We will strengthen families through a range of activities that are aimed at building their aspirations for their children;
- We will stress the importance of individual, family, community and society achievement. This requires a clear understanding of where families are starting from and the steps that need to be taken in order that self esteem is raised and barriers to achievement are overcome;
- All staff will make judgements based on guidance and procedures but grounded in seeing the world through the child's eyes;
- Good assessment based on the Common Assessment Framework will underpin all support activities;
- Children and young people's voice(s) will be heard in the development of services and in any support offered;
- Information sharing and local intelligence gathering will be overt and consensual;
- Services will be accessed through a single route that supports any family member to link with the service they require;
- Families will be able to access an intervention plan that is tailored to the need of each individual and the family as a whole;
- Families will receive a seamless package of care regardless of the organisations involved;

7. What is the purpose of the strategy?

Child Poverty is everybody's business and Hartlepool Strategic Partners and Hartlepool Borough Council are wholly committed to eradicating child poverty. Eradicating child poverty is a significant undertaking and the only way Child Poverty will be reduced and eradicated is through a partnership approach. The key principle of this strategy is the need for all services to work together.

The success of this strategy relies heavily on effective partnership working. All organisations and services within the strategic partnership are fully committed to this vision.

The resources of organisations and services are being reduced significantly and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. This strategy acknowledges that position and sets out a targeted approach to ensure that scarce resources are focused on the neediest. The Poverty element of the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs assessment) very clearly identifies areas of need and that information has been used to inform this strategy and action plan.

8. What are the consequences of child poverty?

Research has shown that the full socio-economic cost implications and consequences of not tackling child poverty are likely to be immeasurable to the individual and the wider community. It is unlikely that there will ever be a precise calculation on the full cost of child poverty to individuals, society and the wider economy due to the intricacies of this subject. HM Treasury (2008) and The Fabian Society (2005) reported that the United Kingdom continues to underestimate the extent, severity and structural basis of child poverty and so fails to appreciate its true personal and social cost.

Only a small number of studies have produced estimates of the overall cost of child poverty in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Financial figures for the UK suggest that child poverty could cost the country almost £40 billion a year, which equates to £640 per capita or more than £2,500 a year for a family of four. This estimate includes £13 billion for reduced

productivity and economic output, £13 billion for the higher costs of crime and £12 billion for the costs of poorer health (TUC, 2007).

Whilst it is difficult to extrapolate these costs, it is self-evident that reducing child poverty is a fiscal investment which can produce higher rates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), improve global competitiveness and help minimise expenditure on crime, healthcare, social housing and welfare benefits.

Exposure to poverty is often cited as the central component of the inter-generational cycle of worklessness, low educational attainment and reduced prosperity. Negative employment outcomes sometimes stem from the model parents set for their children. It is accepted that having a significant proportion of the population out of work and training is detrimental to the economy, through reduced productivity and competitiveness. This includes the number of young people aged 16 to 18 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) which has significant cost to the local and national economy in terms of benefits and lost taxes. The fiscal cost to the Government for those young people who are NEET is estimated to be above £10 billion over the lifetime of a two-year cohort. (Hirsch, 2006).

In the United Kingdom, Donald Hirsch (2006) estimates £500 million of additional primary healthcare expenditure is required as a direct result of child poverty. HM Treasury (2008) estimates that poor health has wider costs to the economy as a result of sickness absence and lower productivity rates.

National and international research clearly shows the effects that taking no action to reduce child poverty will have including:

- Children exposed to child poverty, hardship and deprivation will suffer. Their own childhood experiences have a significant impact on their ability to operate as an adult in later life. Children born and raised in persistent poverty are likely to have poor children of their own thus creating a perpetual cycle of deprivation.
- Low educational achievement has a knock on effect on an adult's ability to take up skilled work in the marketplace. This in turn limits the potential productivity of the country as a whole. A lack of skilled workers makes it increasingly difficult for the country to compete in the global economy.
- Some people (but not all) that live in persistent poverty are in danger of turning to crime in order to 'supplement' their income. Crime affects everyone within a community and puts a drain on local resources.

- Children who experience poverty are more likely to develop long term health issues which in turn put a strain on public resources. In addition, as adults with a long term debilitating health issue they are more likely to remain out of work. Low birth weights, respiratory illnesses, including asthma, mental health issues and obesity have clear links to poverty and cannot be ignored.
- Family background is one of the most important predictors of academic success. Children from low-income households are more likely to require remedial help or special educational needs assistance than their better off peers.
- Growing up in poverty is associated with a substantially higher risk of teenage pregnancy.
- A relationship has also been identified between child poverty and living in social housing as an adult, with studies by Hobcraft and Kiernan (2001) and Sigle-Rushton (2004) both demonstrating a strong link between these two factors.
- Difficulties of access and expense limit participation in pre-school education amongst lower-income families. Young people from low income households end up leaving school earlier and are around six times more likely to leave without qualifications than those from higher-income households.
- Deprived communities with poor environments and a lack of local resources leads to reduced citizenship, a lack of neighbourliness and trust. Communities are less likely to volunteer or to engage in civic participation.

It is clear that there is a substantial cost to society in terms of resources and services and of fully participative citizens that contribute to overall society.

9. Definition of Child Poverty

Given the multiple factors that contribute to child poverty, it is evident that there is a need to view any definition and measures of child poverty from a number of differing angles. Attempting to define and measure child poverty solely in terms of income and material deprivation would be to fail to understand the complexity of this issue. There are consistently identified common elements of child poverty within families including psychological, social, emotional, cultural, health and aspirational poverty. 'Hidden' poverty may occur within families who are above the official poverty measurement but where income is used to pay debts or non-essential 'luxury' items. As a result some children may experience a lack of basic necessities including healthy food.

The government has recently reviewed the indicators for the measurement of child poverty at a National level and published a consultation “Measuring Child Poverty: A consultation on better measures of child poverty.” The consultation sets out the proposal for a multi dimensional measure that does not solely focus on income. The responses from professionals and the public have been mixed with the majority of responses raising concerns that a number of the potential measures are not actual measures of poverty. The government is expected to respond to the consultation over the next few months. In the meantime a “Social Mobility and Child Poverty (SMCP) Commission has been set up with Alan Milburn, MP as the Chair. Its purpose is to monitor the progress of government and others in improving social mobility and reducing child poverty in the UK.

10. National reviews

This updated strategy continues to use the research from national reviews to inform the actions:

- Frank Field Poverty Review, The Foundation Years Preventing Poor Children becoming Poor Adults, December 2010
- Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives, Feb 2010
- Graham Allen, Early Intervention: The Next Steps, Jan 2011
- Munro Review, A child centred system, May 2011

11. Government policy

National strategy

The government published a National Strategy “*A new approach to child poverty: tackling the causes of disadvantage and transforming families’ lives*” in April 2011. It set out concerns that the previous government’s approach focusing on relative income had failed and set out new areas to focus on:

- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling debt
- Strengthening families
- Tackling educational failure
- Tackling poor health

It also set out a review of the measurement of child poverty and a consultation on “Measuring Child Poverty: a consultation on better measures of child poverty.”

Included within the Child Poverty Act was a requirement for the government to report on targets.

Welfare Reform Act 2012

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 received Royal Assent on 8 March 2012 which significantly altered the Welfare System with the following key areas of change:

Universal Credit

Income support, Employment Support Allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA), housing benefit (HB) and tax credits are all due to be abolished and replaced by Universal Credit.

Council Tax Benefit

The Act abolishes council tax benefit. It will be replaced with local rebate schemes in April 2013. This has now come into force although budgets for local authorities to administer this new scheme have been significantly reduced.

Discretionary social fund

Section 70 of the Act provides for the abolition of the discretionary social fund (ie, crisis loans and community care grants) with responsibility passed to LAs. This will take effect from April 2013. There will be some provision for loans for one-off expenses and emergencies via 'payments on account' of universal credit.

Benefit Cap

The Act provides for benefits to be capped at the median earnings level after tax, likely to be around £350 a week for single claimants and £500 for lone parents and couples.

Housing Benefit – Under occupancy

The Act allows for Housing Benefit entitlement for working age people in the social rented sector to reflect family size – eg, HB will be restricted to the number of bedrooms allowed under the local housing allowance (LHA) size criteria. This will leave many with a shortfall to cover on their rent.

DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) changes

The DWP have introduced changes to support the governments focus on ensuring individuals seek work:

- Reassessing all customers currently receiving Incapacity Benefit or Income Support on grounds of incapacity. The focus will be on what an individual can do despite their health condition rather than simply what they are prevented from doing. This is based on the firm belief that for most people appropriate work is good for their health and well-being.
- Work Programme has been introduced providing a personalised welfare to work programme for a wide range of customer groups identified as needing extra support to move into employment. Engagement on the programme is linked to benefits and sanctions are being imposed on those that are engaging sufficiently.
- ESF (European Social Fund) Families programme – the DWP have contracted with a number of companies to deliver family coaching to parents who are unemployed.

Pupil premium

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years. Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel. The current level of funding (2013/14) is £900 per pupil.

Two year old childcare for disadvantaged children

All disadvantaged 2 year olds (as defined by the Free School Meal criteria) will be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare from September 2013. This will be followed with a further cohort of disadvantaged children eligible in September 2014 (details not yet released).

12. Hartlepool strategies/plans

The following strategies and plans contribute to the Child Poverty Strategy:

The Early Intervention Strategy (2011 - 2013) was developed and implemented in May 2012. This strategy sets out the model for delivery for early intervention to

improve outcomes for children and contributes significantly to this child poverty strategy.

An Economic, Regeneration Strategy 2011-2021 was published in 2011 which sets out where there will be expected business growth; future jobs created; skills demands and longer term strategies to reduce worklessness. This document provides a ten year vision which will contribute to tackling the causes and consequences of child poverty.

Think Family, Think Community plan: The government introduced a Payment By Results Troubled Families Programme in April 2012 which set out an expectation for Hartlepool to work with 290 troubled families based on the following criteria:

- Low attendance at school
- Unemployment
- Anti- social behaviour
- Criminal behaviour

This plan also contributes to this strategy with a focus on employment support for families.

ESF FamilyWise - The Wise group secured the contract to deliver family coaching for parents who are unemployed for the North East and have subcontracted Hartlepool Council and Shaw Trust to deliver locally.

13. Which groups are most at risk of being in poverty?

Research has identified a number of vulnerable groups most at risk of being in or falling into poverty and these are shown below:-

- families where one or more adults are out of work
- families where one or more adults work part time
- ethnic minority families
- families who have caring responsibilities - including caring for the elderly
- lone parents
- families where one or more of the adults are disabled
- families where one or more of their children are disabled
- families with more than three children
- families with children aged less than five years

- families with a history of depression and mental health illness
- families with substance misuse, a history of domestic violence and/ or offenders in prison.

Services are increasingly identifying separating families as an issue for children. Work has been taking place over the last year to identify the issues for these families and children and look at ways of supporting. This work will be integrated into this strategy and a family focus model will ensure all issues can be addressed within a family.

This strategy is underpinned by a “Think Family” approach and it is expected that the above vulnerable groups will be targeted for support as early as possible.

14. How will we know we are successful?

The indicators set out below will give an indication as to whether this strategy has been successful. The following is an update on progress against 2010/11 development of the strategy.

Indicators linked to success criteria	Position in 2011	Position in 2013
Reduce the numbers of children in poverty (relative low income)	29.5% (2010 figures)	33% (2012 figures)
Proportion of children living in workless households	30.2% (children living in households receiving key benefits) 2009	Only have 2009 figures
Reduce the gap between the 20% lowest performing children and the rest at aged 5 years old	36.3% (2010)	33% (2012 results)
Reduce gap between children eligible for FSM and the rest at KS2	L4+ English 15% L4+ Maths 14% (2009 results)	L4+ English 13%, L4+ Maths 13%, (2012 results)
Reduce the gap between children eligible for FSM and the rest at KS4	5+ A-C* (inc Eng and Maths) 30%	5+ A*-C (inc Eng & Maths) 30.6% (2012 results)
Reduce numbers of teenage pregnancy	57.3 per 1000 population (2009)	37.7 per 1,000 females aged 15 - 17 years (2011)
Reduce the number of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction	87 (2010/11)	68 (2011/12)
Improve employment rate	61.1% (2010)	59.3% (2012)
Improve the number of families accessing affordable home ownership	65.5% (2007)	Unknown
Raise the participation of young people (16 – 18) in further learning	87.4% (2010/11)	83.9% (2012/13)

Increase the number of Common Assessments (CAF)	364 (CAFs started between April 2010 and Mar 2011)	330 (CAFs received by the Hub between April 2012 and March 2013)*
Reduce the number of families needing crisis support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children In Need Children on a Child Protection Plan 	918 (Children starting an episode of need in 2009-2010) 117 (Children who became the subject of a child protection plan during 2009-2010)	1105 starting an episode of need in 2011-12 126 children who became subject of a child protection plan during 2011-12

* A number of agencies initiate Common Assessments and do not notify the hub as they are leading the Team Around the Child without extra support needed. The introduction of the eCAF system should capture the number the children being supported more rigorously. The above table shows that the number of children living in poverty has increased significantly from 29.5% to 33% alongside a decrease in the number of people employed. The number of 16-18 year olds in further learning has decreased.

Positively the numbers of young people entering the Youth Justice System has decreased and the number of teenagers becoming pregnant has decreased.

There have been positive improvements in reducing the gap between the attainment levels of the lowest performing 5 year olds and their peers. Interestingly the gap between KS2 pupils and their peers accessing FSM has reduced from 2010 to 2012 but unfortunately the gap at KS4 has slightly increased.

15. Priorities for 2013/2014

1. Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;
 - Ensure that children and families can access the right support at the right time;
 - Ensure that staff are aware of the inter-relating factors and differentiation between poverty and neglect.
2. Increase the parental employment rate;
 - Identify and support parents to access employment pathways.
3. Improve skills levels in parents and children;
 - Identify and support parents in order for them to access employment opportunities;
 - Identify and support children and young people at risk of not achieving expected levels of attainment.
4. Support families to maximise their entitlements;

- Ensure that the local authority and its partners work in partnership to support families thus ensuring most effective use of resources.
5. Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty;
- Identify those families that could be at risk of poverty and proactively offer support, advice and guidance;
 - Identify those children at risk of poorer outcomes and offer support, advice and guidance through a pregnancy to 3 integrated pathway with health.
6. Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.
- Ensure that vulnerable children and their families are supported through the process of assessment, plan, intervention and review to improve their outcomes.
- 16. What are the resource implications for tackling child poverty in Hartlepool?**

As highlighted previously the resources for this area of work are scarce but there are currently many services/organisations working with families and the need to work in partnership is critical. The resources already being used to support families need to be utilised effectively and efficiently to address the poverty agenda. Every service should have regard for the affects of Child Poverty and be able to support a family to access services that can help families to climb out of poverty. It is everybody's business.

17. Conclusion

Hartlepool is facing a challenging time following a national and global recession with Child Poverty increasing from 29.5% in 2010 to 33% in 2012.

The significant reduction of the Council's budget and Welfare Reforms is having a significant impact on the economy. Hartlepool is a town that relies heavily on the public sector as an employer. It is likely that a continued reduction in Government grants will lead to further redundancies within the local authority and also the third sector which will further impact on unemployment. If the unemployment rate does continue to increase then this may potentially lead to more families being in poverty.

Recent research carried out by Sheffield University on the impact of the Welfare Reforms states that "*when the present Welfare Reforms have come into full effect*

they will take nearly £19 billion a year out of the economy. This is equivalent to £710 per working age adult in Hartlepool against an average across the country of £470".

This therefore shows the disproportionate affect on Hartlepool.

Reducing child poverty, against the backdrop of economic uncertainty and welfare reforms, is not an easy task but Hartlepool has a strong tradition of effective partnership working and it is these partnerships that will need to work together to improve the lives of our children. Reducing Child Poverty is truly everyone's business.

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CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN 2013-2014

1. Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe;

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Timescales/ Milestones	Progress
Ensure that children and families can access the right support at the right time	Update access to services document to ensure that children are supported as early as possible	Danielle Swainston	Safeguarding users group July 2013 Document to board July/August 2013	
	Circulate and market access to services document to all stakeholders	Danielle Swainston	Circulate to stakeholders Aug/ Sept 2013	
Ensure that staff are aware of the inter-relating factors and differentiation between poverty and neglect	Implementation and use of the graded care profile	Elisa Arnold/LSCB task and finish group	Board approve Graded Care Profile July 2013	
	Delivery of multi agency neglect training		Training programme Sept 13 – Mar '14	
	Implementation of LSCB business plan to ensure all children are safeguarded	Elisa Arnold/LSCB task and finish group	March 2014	

2. Increase the parental employment rate;

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Milestones	Progress
Identify and support parents to access employment pathways	Identify and refer families to the Family Wise programme or Work Programme as appropriate	Penny Thompson	Referrals monitored monthly within First Contact	
	Ensure that pupils at risk of NEET receive active support to access education, employment and training through the common assessment and team around approach	Mark Smith/ Zoe McKenna	Number of pupils supported monitored quarterly.	
	FCSH and Children's Centres to identify parents to access volunteering opportunities as part of an employment pathway	John Robinson/ Gill Slimings	Reviewed quarterly	
	Offer advice, guidance and support to businesses to improve employment opportunities	Patrick Wilson	See Economic, Regeneration Strategy 2011-2021 for timescales	
	Identify Think Family, Think Community families and offer employment support through the team around in partnership with FamilyWise or Work Programme as appropriate	Danielle Swainston/ Roni Checksfield	Initial data review May 2013 and quarterly review of data	

3. Improve skills levels in parents and children;

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Milestones	Progress
Identify and support children and young people at risk of not achieving expected levels of attainment	Work with providers to increase numbers of 2 year old places in areas of need	Danielle Swainston/Penny Thompson	Apr 13 – Mar 14 work with providers to increase number of places	
	Identify and place children eligible for a 2 year old place	Danielle Swainston/Penny Thompson	April 13 – Mar 14 place children as identified as eligible into childcare places	
	Encourage schools to use their pupil premium to target interventions with disadvantaged children that improve their attainment and increase their rates of progress in English and mathematics.	Dean Jackson/Mark Patton	Review use of pupil premium as part of school reviews	
	Ensure that pupils at risk of NEET receive active support to access education, employment and training through the common assessment and team around approach	Mark Smith/ Zoe McKenna	Monthly reviews	

5.1

Appendix 2

Identify and support parents in order for them to access employment opportunities	Identify and refer parents to access training opportunities as part of the FamilyWise programme	Patrick Wilson/Penny Thompson	Quarterly reviews	
	Family Nurse Partnership to support teenage parents to be able access training and employment opportunities	Mark Smith/ John Robinson Susan Hutchinson-Brown/Lindsey Robertson	Ongoing as part of FNP support	
	FCSH staff to deliver money matters sessions to parents	Danielle Swainston/Penny Thompson	Mar 2013	

4. Support families to maximise their entitlements

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Milestones	Progress
Ensure that the local authority and its partners work in partnership to support families thus ensuring most effective use of resources	Strategic Welfare Reform group to meet bi monthly to develop strategic response	John Morton/Danielle Swainston	Bi monthly strategic meetings	
	First Contact and Support Hub to offer information, advice and guidance to support families to maximise their income	Penny Thompson	Quarterly data reviewed	
	Signpost appropriate families to West View Advice and Resource Centre for support in applications, appeals, debt and money management	Penny Thompson	Quarterly data reviewed	

	Signpost appropriate families to Hartlepool Credit Union for bank accounts, savings, low cost loans, access to white goods and other appropriate services.	Penny Thompson	Quarterly data reviewed	
	Support families to access social fund provision and ensure that council staff work in partnership with FCSH to administer effectively.	Penny Thompson/ Julie Pullman	Reviewed bi-monthly	
	Support families to access Discretionary Housing Payments for rent shortfalls whilst under occupation issues are addressed	Penny Thompson/Julie Pullman	Reviewed bi-monthly	
	Carry out an analysis of the impact of welfare reform on demand for core services and make recommendations for service development.	Strategic Welfare Reform John Morton/Danielle Swainston	March 2013	

5. Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty;

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Milestones	Progress
Identify those families that could be at risk of poverty and proactively	Identify families subject to the Benefit cap and support them in their transition to	Penny Thompson	Training for staff June '13 – Aug '13	

5.1

Appendix 2

offer support, advice and guidance	Universal Credit and in managing their finances Scan all enquiries into the FCSH for potential finance issues and make proactive offer of support for benefit advice		Implement Sept 2013 Review Dec '13/ Mar '13	
Identify those children at risk of poorer outcomes and offer support, advice and guidance through a pregnancy to 3 integrated pathway with health	Implement universal pathway plus in disadvantages hotspots to ensure that families are supported at the earliest opportunity	John Robinson/Gillian Slimings	Timescales not yet determined due to changes in government rollout of reforms	

6. Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	Milestones	Progress
Ensure that vulnerable children and their families are supported through the process of assessment, plan, intervention and review to improve outcomes	Continue to support universal services to complete Common Assessment to ensure that families are supported early Locality services to support families through team around approach using common assessment	Danielle Swainston John Robinson	Assessment training – bi monthly CAF clinic – monthly Ongoing support monitored Quarterly review Training May/June 2013 Workers using system	

	Implement eCAF system	Danielle Swainston	June 2013/July 2013	
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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Education

Subject: 2013/14 SCHOOLS' CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME
– PHASE 2

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key decision, test 1 and 2 apply. Forward plan reference: CAS009

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek Children's Services Policy Committee approval to the 2013-14 Schools' Capital Programme - Phase 2 - Development Schemes.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At Children's Services Portfolio on 9 April 2013 it was reported that there would be further details submitted to Policy Committee to seek approval for Development Funding schemes which would form Phase 2 of the 2013/14 Schools' Capital Works Programme.

3.2 As in the past and as part of the 2013/14 Schools' Capital Programme, an element of funding has been set aside in order to deliver schemes that can support schools in their aspirations to create school premises that will be more fit for purpose in a 21st century setting. The funding has been termed 'Development Funding'.

In January 2013 all community, foundation and special schools were asked to submit expressions of interest for innovative schemes which will create the opportunity to raise achievement by tackling existing deficiencies in school premises and/or its infrastructure. Eight expressions of interest were received and following an evaluation and moderation process undertaken by members of the Schools Capital Sub Group, it was agreed to progress in terms of design, feasibility and costings, those schemes which achieved the highest evaluation scores.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Schools Capital Sub Group met on the 26 February 2013 and again on the 16 April 2013. The group discussed the evaluation scores and costings and agreed to submit the three schemes with the highest evaluation scores which are affordable, to Policy Committee for consideration/approval. The scoring matrix used for evaluation purposes is detailed in **Appendix 1**. The three schemes for which approval is sought are detailed in **Appendix 2**. A brief synopsis of the three schemes is as follows:

- **Rossmere Primary School - Creation of School Forest**

The staff and governors at Rossmere are hoping to develop a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre site on the school grounds (on the corner of Catcote Road and Callander Road). Consultation with Sport England has determined that the land involved does not constitute as playing field.

Meetings have been held with a variety of organisations and people to develop clear aims and objectives for the project and a Forest School has been visited in Kirklees to view the impact of the Forest School on learning. It is of note that although Kirklees is widely regarded as a leading example of Forest School principles it is located within a largely rural context with an established landscape. The Rossmere Forest School would be one of the first to actively develop a Forest School within an urban context where the benefits of such a facility are arguably much greater. The project is supported by the Neighbourhood Development Officer.

The different learning styles will be fundamental to the learning and the curriculum will be enhanced significantly. Boys particularly learn well through this approach and raising boys' standards is a priority for the school and will help remove their barriers to learning.

The full spectrum of works include:

- Main excavation / fences / rockworks
- Decking / Balustrade
- Tree Planting
- Dens / Bird Hide / Shrub & Tree Planting
- Meadow / Shelter
- Seating / Paving
- Yurt / Electrical works
- Outside Classroom

Approval is sought for funding of two phases and some tree planting. This would provide a scheme that could be used. Other works can be delivered in further phases when future funding can be secured.

- **West View Primary School - Early Years Foundation Stage Improvements**

West View's proposal is to seek funding to relocate the children's centre/community facility to another area of the school to free up this space for 2 year old provision.

The school has already piloted an Ofsted Registered scheme which allows children from the age of 2 years to access fifteen hours per week of flexible entitlement. From September 2013 this provision will be statutory. The space currently used for the 2 year old pilot is a room only 14m², has no natural light or ventilation.

The school has already seen benefits from the 2 year old pilot, these being:

- Staff are successfully toilet training children
- Children who came into the scheme who could not talk are now managing to communicate and interact with the staff and also their peers
- Children who refused to eat are enjoying different healthy snacks and can do this within a social setting.
- Children are finding the transition to nursery much easier
- Staff in mainstream nursery are finding that the children are much further forward academically and socially than some of those who come to us directly at aged three
- The school has successfully accommodated a child who is visually impaired.

The West View scheme proposals include:

- Provision of an external canopy with shutters and storage space to the outside Early Years area
- Small extension to the KS2 building

Following consultation with the First Contact and Support Hub – Business Manager, the scheme will also attract a contribution from '2 year old capital funding'.

- **Rift House Primary School - Early Years Foundation Stage Outside Area**

Rift House Primary School would like to develop a semi-enclosed garden space to create an outside learning space suitable for the needs of the Foundation Stage children to support the development of outdoor learning. The current space does not meet the children's

needs, the current curriculum aspirations or support learning beyond the classroom.

The proposals include:

- learning area, containing story telling, panels for painting and a Stage for performance and seating
- wildlife garden with informal stepping stones through a bog garden.
- den- building structures
- informal mounds with soft play surfacing with a tunnel through and climbing steps for informal play
- all-weather soft play surfacing to replace grass
- mixture of paving to provide a durable surface and a mixture of textures
- opportunities for growing plants
- equipment to include sound making instruments

The school aims to involve the pupils' parents and carers in gardening and also demonstrate how an outside area can be used to develop their child's learning.

It is expected the school would see a significant improvement in children's learning and progress.

- 4.2 Funding for the schemes identified in **Appendix 2** will come from a combination of unallocated grants, slippage from the 2012/13 schools capital programme and 2 year old capital funding.
- 4.3 There are no options submitted for consideration other than the recommendations.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that:

- The schedule of Development Funding schemes as detailed in **Appendix 2** are approved, subject to the LA agreeing contributions from schools towards individual schemes in line with the shared funding principles established by the Schools Forum

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Funding has been set aside to enable schemes to proceed that can clearly demonstrate how capital resources will create the opportunity to raise pupil attainment. The schemes that have been selected for approval have been

through a rigorous evaluation/moderation process using the criteria set out in **Appendix 1.**

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Schools Capital Sub Group - 26 February 2013
- Children's Services Portfolio - 9 April 2013
- Schools Capital Sub Group - 16 April 2013

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Dean Jackson
Assistant Director (Education)
Child & Adult Services Department
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Tel: 01429 523736

Development Funding Evaluation Matrix

Scoring Matrix	
Criteria	Weighting
Part 1 – Improving Pupil Attainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learning styles ➤ Breadth of curriculum ➤ Removing barriers to learning & achievement ➤ Improving learning provision for the wider school community 	35%
Part 2 – Addressing school's challenges and priorities to accelerate improvements and have a positive impact on outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Personalised learning ➤ SEN inclusion ➤ Impact of ICT ➤ Creativity ➤ Sporting development ➤ Out of school activities ➤ Social cohesion ➤ Change management arrangements ➤ Forecast measurements 	35%
Part 3 – Engagements with the school community in shaping schemes developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff involvement ➤ Governors' involvement ➤ Pupils' involvement ➤ Other partners' involvement ➤ Future development plans 	10%
Part 4 – Demonstrate the schools' commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support scheme development (financial) ➤ Support scheme development (human resource) 	10%
Part 5 – Demonstrate the planned outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clarity around how "success" can be measured ➤ Linkage to school key priorities, targets, timescales ➤ How evidence and data relevant to outcomes will be gathered ➤ Impact on out of school activities and requirements for increased community participation. 	10%

5.2 Appendix 2

Eval. Score	School	Scheme	Est. Costs £ 000's	School/Other Contribution	LA Funding Required
96%	Rossmere	Creation of School Forest Phase 1 - Main excavation / fences / rockworks Phase 2 - Decking / Balustrade Phase 3 - Tree Planting (in part)	89,700	8,970	80,730
69%	West View	Early Years Foundation Stage Improvements	185,308	18,500 19,016*	147,792
58%	Rift House	Foundation Stage Outside Area	55,845	10,000	45,845
Totals			330,853	56,486	274,367

* Contribution from 2 Year Old Capital Funding

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2nd July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Children's Services

Subject: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 For Members to approve the publication of the Children and Young People's Strategic Framework 2012 – 2015 attached as **Appendix 1**.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Framework is a visual one page document that sets out the priorities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool to 2015. The previous Children and Young People's Plan was published in 2009 which set out priorities for 2009 to 2020. The national political landscape has changed significantly since the development of the plan and it is felt that a refreshed approach is needed to ensure that the priorities for children and young people are current and relevant.
- 3.2 The Children Act 2004 sets out a duty for all partners to co-operate to improve the lives of children, young people and families. The Children and Young People's Strategic Framework sets out a partnership commitment to improving the lives of children and young people in Hartlepool.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

- 4.1 The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership felt that a plan on a page would be an accessible and effective way of setting out the priorities for the partnership. The Plan focuses on ten areas:
- Child Poverty;
 - Children's Safeguarding;

- Looked After Children;
- Young Carers;
- Early Intervention;
- Health;
- Youth Offending;
- Education;
- Transitions;
- Children with additional needs/disabled children.

All of these areas are underpinned by a strategy and plan that sets out detailed actions and reviews progress against the priorities.

- 4.2 Once approved it is intended that the plan will be printed for public display across the town where children and their families access services.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 For members to approve the publication of the Children and Young People's Strategic Framework 2012- 2015 attached as **Appendix 1**.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To ensure that the priorities for children and young people in Hartlepool are endorsed at the highest level and clear and understood by all stakeholders.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Danielle Swainston, Head of Access and Strategic Planning, 01429 523671,
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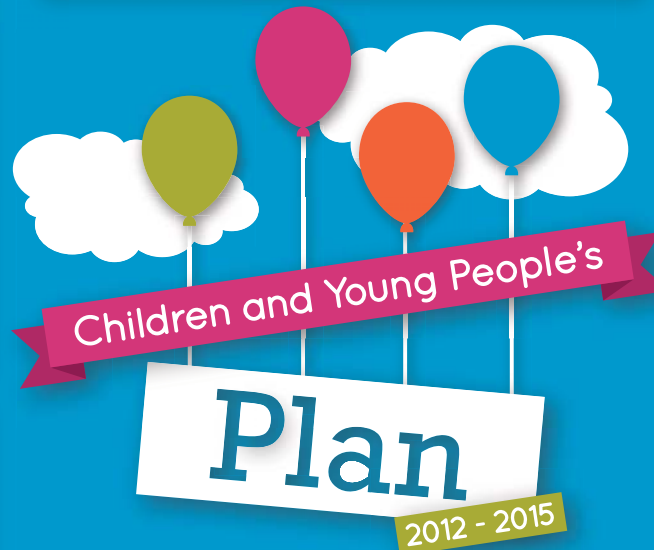
- Ensure that children who live in poverty are safe
- Increase the parental employment rate
- Improve skill levels in parents and children
- Support families to maximise their entitlements
- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty
- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect

- Ensure children live safely in Hartlepool
- Children and young people live in households where they are properly cared for, all of their needs are met and they are free from the impact of neglect
- Children and young people live free from the impact of domestic violence
- Adolescents in Hartlepool are supported to make safer choices and safeguarded from harm
- Children and young people safely access and use existing and emerging technologies to aid their enjoyment and achievement

- Ensure that children and young people are supported at the earliest possible opportunity through effective assessment, planning and intervention thus preventing children entering care
- Ensure that placements are planned effectively and appropriate for individual children's needs
- Ensure all children looked after attend and receive the highest quality education to enable them reach their potential
- Ensure that children looked after are supported to live healthy lives
- Ensure that children looked after are supported effectively as they grow into adults

- Young carers in Hartlepool receive an assessment of their needs and appropriate support
- Ensure young carers of parents who have mental health problems or misuse alcohol or drugs are identified and supported

- Ensure that children and young people are supported at the earliest opportunity through effective assessment, planning, intervention and support
- Ensure that children and young people receive the right service at the right time
- Identify and support those families that are at risk of poor outcomes providing tailored support to narrow the gap in life chances



"In Hartlepool we will work together through the Hartlepool Children's Partnership to keep children and young people and their families at the centre of services that we provide."

- Reduce health inequalities for children and young people
- Give every child the best start in life
- Ensure all children and young people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

- Identify and support young people undertaking risk taking behaviour and prevent them from entering the criminal justice system
- Ensure that there are effective arrangements in place for the management of the risk and vulnerability of young people and their families
- Provide high quality Restorative Justice Services that support victims of youth crime and promote confidence in the community of local Youth Justice Services
- Reduce incidences of reoffending for young people in the criminal justice system

- Ensure all children attend and receive the highest quality education to reach their potential
- Improve standards in reading, writing and mathematics in Key Stage 1
- Improve pupil progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4
- Support all schools to ensure that they are judged to be good or outstanding
- Narrow the attainment gap for pupils on free school meals

- Ensure all young people have access to age appropriate services which are responsive to their specific needs as they grow into adulthood

- Ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have an equal opportunity to achieve their potential
- Ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have those needs met in an holistic way, in partnership with the young people, their parents/carers and other professionals
- Support the increase of community capacity to include and support children with disabilities
- Raise the achievement of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities ensuring that this is dealt with centrally within other education plans
- Ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are empowered to express their views and to have control over their own lives

CHILD POVERTY

- Ensure that children who live in poverty are safe.
- Increase the parental employment rate.
- Improve skill levels in parents and children.
- Increase the benefit take up rate, including in work and out of work benefits.
- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty.
- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING

- Ensure children live safely in Hartlepool
- Ensure that children and young people live in households where they are properly cared for, all of their needs are met and they are free from the impact of neglect.
- Ensure that children and young people live free from the impact of domestic violence.
- Ensure that Adolescents in Hartlepool are supported to make safer choices and safeguarded from harm.
- Ensure that children and young people safely access and use existing and emerging technologies to aid their enjoyment and achievement.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

- Ensure that children and young people are supported at the earliest possible opportunity through effective assessment, planning and intervention thus preventing children entering care
- Ensure that placements are planned effectively and appropriate for individual child's needs
- Ensure all children looked after attend and receive the highest quality education to enable them reach their potential
- Ensure that children looked after are supported to live healthy lives
- Ensure that children looked after are supported effectively as they grow into adults

YOUNG CARERS

- Ensure that young carers in Hartlepool receive an assessment of their needs and appropriate support.
- Ensure young carers of parents who have mental health problems or misuse alcohol or drugs are identified and supported.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2012 - 2015

“In Hartlepool we will work together through the Hartlepool Children's Partnership to keep children and young people and their families at the centre of services that we provide.”

CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS/DISABLED CHILDREN

- Ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have an equal opportunity to achieve their potential;
- Ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have those needs met in an holistic way, in partnership with the young people, their parents/carers and other professionals;
- Support the increase of community capacity to include and support children with disabilities;
- Raise the achievement of pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities ensuring that this is dealt with centrally within other education plans;
- Ensure that children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are empowered to express their views and to have control over their own lives.

HEALTH

- Reduce health inequalities for children and young people
- Give every child the best start in life
- Ensure all children and young people are able to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable communities

EARLY INTERVENTION

- Ensure that children and young people are supported at the earliest opportunity through effective assessment, planning, intervention and support
- Ensure that children and young people receive the right service at the right time
- Identify and support those families that are at risk of poor outcomes providing tailored support to narrow the gap in life chances

EDUCATION

- Ensure all children attend and receive the highest quality education to reach their potential
- Improve standards in reading, writing and mathematics in Key Stage 1
- Improve pupil progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4
- Support all schools to ensure that are judged to be good or outstanding
- Narrow the attainment gap for pupils on free school meals

YOUTH OFFENDING

- Identify and support young people undertaking risk taking behaviour and prevent them from entering the criminal justice system
- Ensure that there are effective arrangements in place for the management of the risk and vulnerability of young people and their families.
- Provide high quality restorative Justice Services that support victims of youth crime and provide confidants to the community in local Youth Justice Services.
- Reduce incidences of reoffending for young people in the criminal justice system

TRANSITIONS

- Ensure all young people have access to age appropriate services which are responsive to their specific needs as they grow into adulthood.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Children's Services

Subject: EARLY INTERVENTION AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES GOVERNANCE PROCESS

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

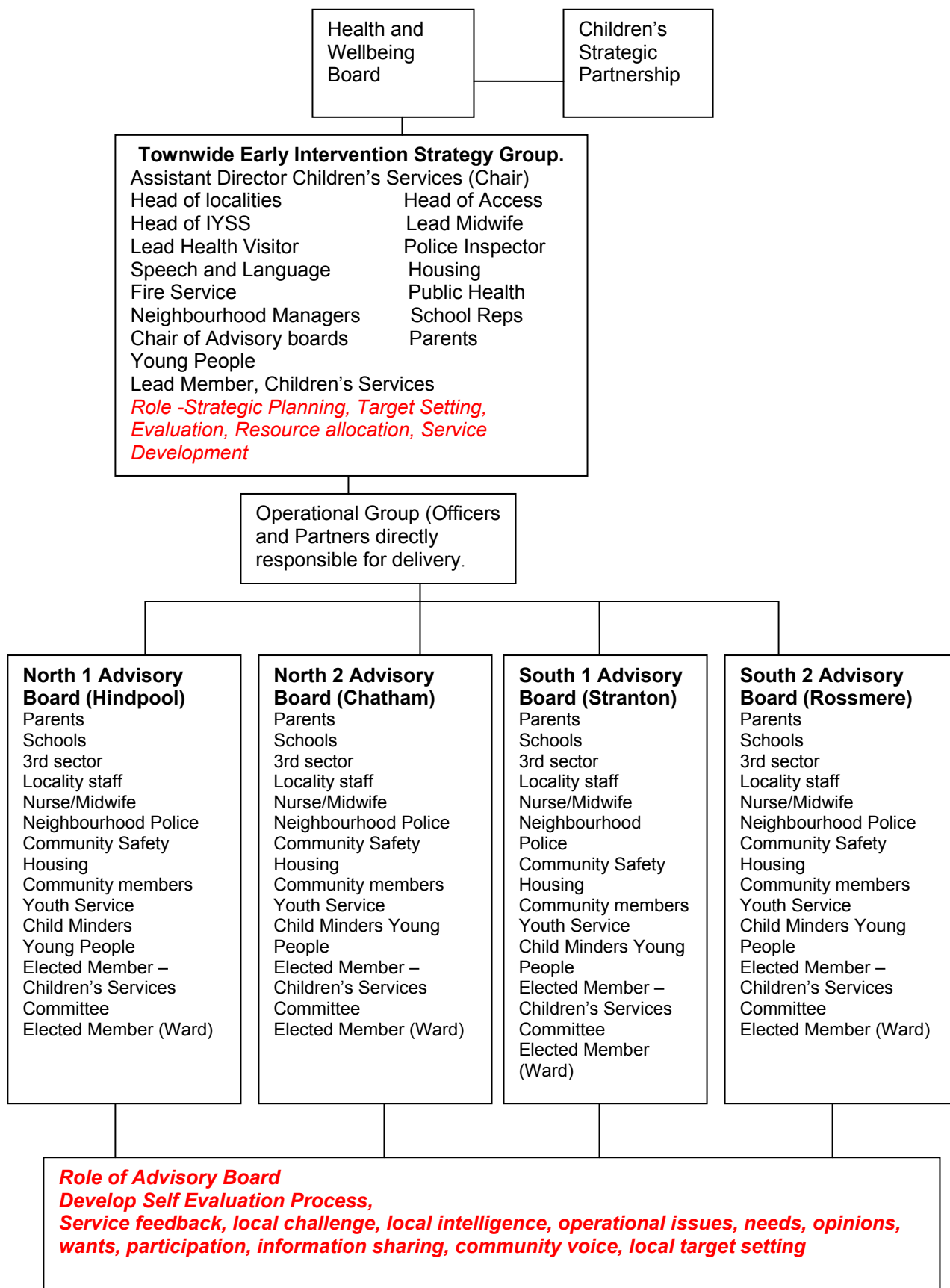
- 2.1 To seek approval to amend the governance arrangements for Children's Centres to include other aspects of the Early Intervention Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that Children's Centres have an Advisory Board to oversee and support work done by each centre.
- 3.2 In June 2012 the Early Intervention Strategy came into operation bringing together a number of services in two locality teams that are linked to Children's Centres. The strategy sets out how services will support families that have children aged 0-19 and consequently ensures that all partners operate within a "Think Family" framework. This has resulted in a number of operational changes being made to the running of Children's Centres and their integration into the Locality Service.
- 3.3 Due to new Ofsted Regulations, Hartlepool will now be inspected as a single Hartlepool Children's Centre Group. Each of the Children's Centres that make up this group, Stranton, Rossmere, Chatham and Hindpool have active Advisory Boards that include partners from a number of key organisations as well as parents from the Children's Centre area. These boards will form the foundation of the suggested revised governance arrangements.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The diagram below shows the suggested governance arrangements and those partners who have been identified as key to the further development of the service.



- 4.2 This structure will enable the service to meet its statutory responsibility to consult with stakeholders and will facilitate a clear flow of shared communication that will result in an integrated service being managed through community involvement at all levels.
- 4.3 The Head of Localities and Family Support is currently involved in a process of engaging local communities in the review of the early intervention strategy and has consequently consulted on this governance route.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications as a consequence of this proposal

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 For the Committee to approve the suggested changes to the governance arrangements for Children's Centres and nominate Committee Members to join Advisory Boards.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To ensure that the Children's Centres and Early Intervention Services have a clear and accessible governance route that reflect an integrated "Think Family" approach to service development as well as fulfilling the statutory duty for Children's Centres to have Advisory Boards.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Education

Subject: SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2014/2015

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non Key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To seek agreement of the Children's Services Committee to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2014/2015.
- 2.2 To seek agreement of the Children's Services Committee in recommending these dates to governing bodies of Aided and Foundation schools and Academies in Hartlepool.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As the Local Authority (LA), the Council has the responsibility for setting the school term and holiday dates for Community and Controlled schools in Hartlepool. Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools' governing bodies and Academies are responsible for setting their own school holiday pattern within the agreed national framework of working days. Traditionally the LA and the governing bodies of all the voluntary aided and Foundation schools work together to ensure a consistent pattern across the town in respect of school term and holiday dates, though in the case of Roman Catholic schools in particular, some variation does occur in some years.
- 3.2 The pattern proposed for 2014/2015 provides for an "envelope" of 195 days, five days are designated by the school as Professional Development (PD) days. Five PD days are provided for in the Conditions of Service and can be taken in combinations of part-day "twilight" sessions at the direction of individual schools.

- 3.3 Local Authorities for a number of years have tried to agree a unified calendar of term dates across the Northern region from Yorkshire to Northumberland with some success.
- 3.4 In 2012 – 2013 the regional group met and agreed draft guiding principles for consideration to establish as far as possible school term dates for each year and to take account of changing times and the decision of the Local Government Association (LGA's) to no longer recommend school term dates as shown in **Appendix 1**.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 In the summer term 2012 North East representatives discussed the school year pattern for 2014-2015 based on the guiding principles and agreed to consult on this pattern and the draft guiding principles within their own authorities.
- 4.2 Following discussions, arrangements were made to consult all Head teachers in Hartlepool and also the relevant associations / unions through the Director's termly meetings on the guiding principles and the school year pattern for 2014-2015.
- 4.3 In response to the consultation, one response was received from a primary school which expressed a number of points in relation to the guiding principles:
- Beginning the school year on first Monday in September which means that in 2014/2015 the school year will begin on Monday 1 September 2013;
 - Christmas break to break up on Friday which is on or prior to 22 December which might in the future necessitate the school finishing on 16 December. A similar situation arose in agreeing dates for 2013/2014 and a model LGA calendar which proposed a shorter Christmas break and in response to this the regional group agreed to alter these dates slightly to ensure a two week Christmas break;
 - If Easter is exceptionally early or late holidays should be fixed to allow for even length terms and the appropriate Bank Holidays taken;
 - Flexibility when a school year finishes on a Monday.

In respect of English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, dates have been agreed broadly in line with the Local Authority for 2014/2015.

- 4.4 On the completion of local consultation in the region, the general consensus from the Local Authorities is to adopt Model attached as **Appendix 2** for school term dates 2014/15

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 To approve the scheduled term dates and holiday dates for 2014 / 2015 for Community and Controlled Schools as shown in **Appendix 2**.
- 5.2 To recommend the scheduled of term and holiday dates for 2014/2015 to governing bodies of all Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools and Academies in Hartlepool as shown in **Appendix 2**.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals seek to achieve common term dates across Yorkshire and the North East based on guiding principles enabling continuity for parents, carers, other schools, local authority staff and other agencies.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

8. CONTACT OFFICER

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Governor Support Officer
Child and Adult Services
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Setting the School Calendar

Guiding Principles for Yorkshire and North East Regions

(Draft)

- 1 The following Authorities listed will work together to establish as far as possible common school term dates each year:

Yorkshire Authorities:

Barnsley
Bradford
Calderdale
Doncaster
East **Riding of** Yorkshire
Kingston Upon Hull
Kirklees

Leeds
North Yorkshire
Rotherham
Sheffield
Wakefield
York

North East Authorities:

Cumbria
Darlington
Durham
Gateshead
Hartlepool
Middlesbrough

Northumberland
North Tyneside
Redcar/Cleveland
South Tyneside
Stockton
Sunderland

- 2 **School Year**

The school year will consist of 195 school days. Pupils must attend on 190 of those days.

- 3 **Length of terms**

Terms should be of equal length and split weeks avoided or kept to a minimum. Where there are an odd number of weeks the second half term should be the shorter of the two.

- 4 **Start of the School Year**

The school year should start on the first Monday in September.

- 5 **Autumn Half Term**

The Autumn half term break should be a five day period Monday to Friday, taking into account point 3.

- 6 **Christmas Break**

The Christmas break should be at least 10 weekdays, and should start on the Friday which is on, or prior to, 22 December. It **should** include the New Year's day holiday which is outside that period, and the day after New Years Day, where this is a weekday.

- 7 **February Half Term**

The February half term holiday should be a five day period Monday to Friday, taking into account point 3.

8 Easter Break

The Spring Term should end on the Friday before Good Friday. The holiday will be 10 weekdays.

If Easter falls exceptionally early or late, consideration will be given to breaking up on the day before Good Friday or returning on the day after Easter Monday.

9 Spring Bank Half Term

The Spring Bank half term should be five days Monday to Friday from the statutory holiday which falls on the last Monday in May.

10 End of the School Year

The academic year should end on the date which achieves 195 school days.

11 Decision making timetable

The timetable for agreeing school term dates is as follows:

Summer Term – a draft calendar will be agreed at a meeting of the Yorkshire and North East Regions Group, held in June.

June to January – each LA representative to carry out consultation as appropriate to their own LA.

Spring Term – the group will meet in February or March to discuss feedback from the various consultations or processes used to determine calendars. A final calendar will be agreed at this meeting for recommendation to the various cabinets or bodies responsible for authorising them in each LA.

12 Governance

When producing a proposed calendar for consideration the group will take account of the following

- Whether the proposed calendar supports appropriate educational provision.
- The economic impact such as costs of home to school transport.
- The number of split weeks across the school year.
- The length of each half term i.e. the first half term being longer than the second half term.
- Where possible the potential impact on families e.g. child care, families with children/partners in more than one school or local authority area.
- Relevant cultural needs.
- Importance of cross border working

HARTLEPOOL CALENDAR 2014/15

2014	August	September	October	November	December
Monday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Friday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Saturday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Sunday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28

2015	January	February	March	April	May	June
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

2015	July
Monday	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday	4 11 18 25
Sunday	5 12 19 26

195 DAY ENVELOPE

Bank Holiday
 Holiday

The number of term days shown is 195. Up to five of these days will be used as professional development days for teaching staff; pupils will not attend these days. Each school determines when these will take place and will inform parents.

CHILD AND ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 July 2013



Report of: Assistant Director, Children's Services

Subject: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR EXMOOR GROVE
RESIDENTIAL UNIT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non Key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Children's Service Committee, the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide for Exmoor Grove 2013/14.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Children's Home National Minimum Standards 2011 require the authority to review the Statement of Purpose for Children's Homes on an annual basis. The Statement of Purpose provide families, carers, children and young people and other agencies with information relating to the service provided for children and young people within the unit to enable them to make informed choices about whether the service would be right for them.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Statement of Purpose for Exmoor Grove 2013/14 is attached at **Appendix 1**. The document meets the requirement of National Minimum Standard 13 - to produce a Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide which is:
- Available to and understood by staff and children, the responsible authority and any parent or person with parental responsibility;
 - Reflected in any policies, procedures and guidance;
 - Child focused and show how the service will meet outcomes for children.

- 4.2 The Statement of Purpose provides details of the arrangements for the management and delivery of the Home, how outcomes for children are promoted and the staffing arrangements with a pen portrait of all the staff.
- 4.3 The Children's Guide to Exmoor Grove is attached at **Appendix 2**. This includes information in an accessible form outlining what the home sets out to do for children, how they can find out their rights, how they can contact their Independent Reviewing Officer, the Children's Rights Director and Ofsted if they wish and how they can secure an independent advocate. The Children's Guide is available in a written format as well as Widget to reflect the needs of the children who attend Exmoor Grove.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Children's Services Committee is asked to approve the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide in line with the Children's Home National Minimum Standards 2011.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Exmoor Grove is regulated statutory service of the Council and as such Children's Services Committee, having the responsibility for Children's Services, requires information about how services are delivered and their effectiveness.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Children's Home Regulations and National Minimum Standards 2011

8. CONTACT OFFICER

Jane Young
Head of Business Unit
Specialist Services



Statement of Purpose

April 2013

EXMOOR GROVE

PROVIDING SHORT BREAK CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



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Responsible Person:

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INTRODUCTION

As service providers Hartlepool Borough Council is bound by the principle that the welfare and needs of the child are paramount. Services are therefore required to reflect this in terms of both provision and philosophy.

16 Exmoor Grove aims to provide support to children with disabilities and their families and carers. We will work in partnership with children and families to offer purposeful and pre-planned care in response to their individual and assessed needs. These can take the form of a residential placement, overnight stays, after school care, weekends and holiday breaks offering flexibility to families. Normally these stays will be on a regular, planned basis but additional stays may, on occasion be arranged to meet the unexpected needs of the families. This could include planned extended stays if required.

PURPOSE

16 Exmoor Grove will provide planned, regular breaks for children and young people. The service will ensure that positive outcomes are achieved for all children and young people using the short break service. These outcomes are identified in "Every Child Matters" as:-

- Helping children to be healthy
- Ensuring children stay safe
- Encouraging children to make a positive contribution
- Supporting children in achieving economic wellbeing
- Ensuring children are given the opportunity to enjoy and achieve.

16 Exmoor Grove is provided by Hartlepool Borough Council as part of a range of resources to meet the needs of children and their families. 16 Exmoor Grove does not operate in isolation and great importance is attached to the need to work in partnership with the range of services and people involved with each individual child accessing the service.

We aim to provide a stimulating, creative and varied environment that promotes the child's development and maximizing their quality of life and opportunities. We also aim to meet the wide range of differing needs by providing short breaks as a positive and flexible service. Promoting self esteem, confidence and independence, enabling the young people to make informed choices about their lives, whilst helping maintain them within the family home.

The staff at 16 Exmoor will deliver services that value equality and diversity, individual care plans and care packages will be responsive to race, background, culture, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, daily needs and life experience

CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE SERVICE

The service is available to children and young people of either gender, aged from five years up to the child's eighteenth year. The criteria for accessing the service is as follows:-

- The child must have a learning disability
- The child must also have associated challenging behaviour categorised as mild to moderate.

The level of service provided will be dependent upon the needs of the individual child and family. Once a young person reaches the age of 18 years, they will transfer to adult services. However on occasion this may be extended beyond the child's 18th birthday to ensure a smooth transition to adult services.

We will liaise closely with health professionals to ensure that children who require medication are able to safely access our service.

ADMISSION TO THE SERVICE

Admission to the service follows an assessment of need by a social worker and a decision by the Resource and Placement Panel who will look closely at the assessed needs of the child and how best these needs can be met.

In an emergency situation Exmoor Grove can admit a child without panel approval, but the child must meet the criteria for the service and with the approval of the Head of Business Unit Resources and Specialist Services.

Exmoor Grove can provide overnight stays for seven children and young people at any one time. This number will not be exceeded under any circumstances.

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE SERVICE

Once it has been decided that a young person will access the service, an individual plan will be formulated with the family, the child and the social worker to introduce the child to the service and facilitate a consistent and smooth transition for the child and reassure parents and carers that the child is comfortable and confident within the unit. A 'Child Appreciation' day will be held, involving the family and all professional's involved in the life of a child/young person.

This plan will be individual to each child; it will begin with a visit to the service by the child with their parents/carers, at this visit a key worker will be arranged for the child. This will be followed by planned tea visits as many as it takes for the individual child to feel comfortable accessing the service. This will then be followed by longer day care sessions and eventually overnight stays if required.

Prior to the visits beginning the child's social worker will be expected to provide all appropriate documentation as set out in the National Minimum Standards this will include all information required for the child's placement plan and to ensure the care

provided meets the child's assessed needs. Care will be taken to ensure that the needs of all children will be fully met, and that children will be 'matched' with others and appropriate staffing levels are in place. This is achieved by careful booking arrangements being in place.

After a three-month period a review meeting is held to determine how well the introductory period has gone and whether the service is successfully meeting the identified needs of the child. Statutory Looked After Reviews are then held in accordance with legislative requirements. The outcomes following the review are recorded in the child's file and any changes to the placement plan are implemented by the registered person.

Once the young person is successfully introduced to the service their key worker will liaise on a minimum monthly basis with the parents/ carers to ensure the young person is fully supported during their time at Exmoor and any potential issues /problems are raised and dealt with as quickly as possible.

TRANSPORT

Monday – Friday during term time children attending Catcote Secondary school will be collected and returned by school transport.

Children attending Springwell Primary School will be collected and returned by staff from Exmoor Grove as per our agreement with the Local Authority. During weekends and school holidays children will need to be dropped off and collected by parents.

Exmoor Grove has use of its own twelve seat mini bus, for use by the children during their stay at Exmoor Grove.

LOCATION

Exmoor Grove is situated in a local residential area a short distance from the town centre. It is close to local amenities and there are bus stops nearby and a regular bus service to the town centre. The home is in a good position to access leisure centres, the cinema and local swimming pool.

ACCOMMODATION

Exmoor Grove is a purpose built bungalow which has a communal lounge, separate dining room, kitchen and laundry. A large playroom is available which is equipped with toys and games. In addition there is a computer room equipped with five personal computers.

There are seven bedrooms all single occupancy. Each bedroom is individually decorated in either a calm muted colour scheme or in a bright colourful one to suit the needs of individual children. Every effort will be made to allow children to choose

which bedroom they would like to use and personalise it with their own bed linen and personal possessions.

There are two bathrooms, and an adapted shower room. Taps in all bathrooms are thermostatically controlled.

The property is equipped with a fire alarm system including emergency lighting.

There are two offices available for staff and a staff bathroom.

The bungalow has a large secluded garden which has recently been renovated to include a large sandpit with a climbing frame, a large bucket swing and a roundabout. The garden has security fencing to its perimeter.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The building is fitted with smoke detectors, fire doors, fire fighting equipment and a fire alarm system which are regularly checked and maintained. Exmoor staff are trained in Fire Safety on a minimum annual basis.

Weekly fire drills are carried out and recorded as is a monthly full evacuation of the building.

Staff will vary the day and time of the evacuations to ensure as many individuals as possible are given the opportunity to experience an evacuation at differing times of day.

ENABLING CHILDREN TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

It is important that every opportunity is given to enable children to access appropriate community based leisure activities. Staff at Exmoor Grove will encourage and support children and young people to engage in positive behaviour, and take an active part in decision making to help develop self confidence and esteem. A wide range of activities are available to children accessing the service, these include bowling, swimming and visits to local cinemas, theatre's, parks, libraries and local youth facilities.

Exmoor Grove provides a range of In house activities including art, crafts, cooking and a variety of electronic games machines including a Nintendo Wii, a play station 2, a Nintendo DS and five personal computers. Children also have access to a range of DVDs and videos.

The views of young people are an essential part of the successful running of Exmoor Grove. There are weekly children's meetings to seek the views of children accessing the service. Key workers also regularly seek the views of the young people in their care on an informal day to day basis.

Exmoor Grove uses a variety of differing communication approaches dependent on the needs of the child to ensure that the child's views are sought.

ENSURING CHILDREN STAY SAFE

A copy of Hartlepool Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures is kept at Exmoor Grove and Exmoor Grove also has its own specific safeguarding procedures which have been approved by the local safeguarding board.

The registered manager ensures that all staff have read and understood the procedures and regular annual training is carried out by the Council to ensure staff are kept up to date.

Any allegations or suspicions of abuse by staff or by other children staying in the home are dealt with in accordance with the Hartlepool Borough Council Safeguarding Board procedures.

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Exmoor Grove aims for children and young people to attend and enjoy school. During term time children will be supported to continue with their education. Staff at Exmoor will assist children with any homework or after school activities they may be involved in.

The staff at Exmoor Grove have built strong positive links with both the local primary and secondary schools. Staff appreciate how important effective communication is and we regularly use home school books to communicate and or telephone conversations where appropriate.

HELPING CHILDREN TO BE HEALTHY

Staff at Exmoor Grove aim to promote a healthy lifestyle and there is a no smoking and alcohol policy in operation. Each young person is encouraged to undergo a regular medical examination in order to protect and promote good health.

For any child whom it is appropriate, a record of medication is maintained and parents are expected to sign in the required amount of medication prior to the child's stay. All medication must be brought in original packaging with the child's name dosage and directions clearly printed on the label.

Responsibility for administering medication is allocated on the monthly rota and it is the responsibility of the allocated person to nominate a second member of staff to assist in the dispensing of the medication and too counter sign records.

If a child becomes ill during their stay at Exmoor Grove, parents will be contacted and the child may be sent home.

Should medical assistance be required, families will be notified and if possible the family GP contacted however in the case of an emergency, help will be sought from The Accident and Emergency Department of Hartlepool General Hospital.

Staff at Exmoor Grove are fully aware of the importance of a healthy diet and physical exercise for the young people in their care and constantly strive to promote

the importance of both to the young people. Examples of this are: - management and staff have recently introduced a simple traffic light system for meals to assist children to make more informed healthier choices. Staff have recently purchased a Wii Fit and Wii Bicycle to complement the Wii Sports package children already had access too as they know the importance of ensuring being healthy is fun for children. Staff have also purchased an Xbox 360 with connect and several keep fit games including Dance and Zumba. Children are actively encouraged to use this equipment and staff regularly give out certificates for fitness achievements.

MEALS AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

All food is prepared on the premises. A healthy, varied and nutritious diet will be provided. Each young person's preferences and dietary and cultural requirements are taken into consideration, with guidance from a dietician if needed.

Meal time is viewed as an important social event and every attempt will be made to encourage a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

Where a child has issues around food or meal times staff will work closely with family and other professionals to ensure minimum disruption to the child's routine.

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY

Staff at Exmoor Grove acknowledge that children and young people using Exmoor Grove have different religious beliefs and values and may come from different cultural backgrounds. We will do our utmost at all times to ensure each individual child's values and beliefs are respected.

Exmoor Grove aims to support young people in maintaining their cultural background and to attend religious ceremonies as appropriate.

We operate an anti-discriminatory policy and derogatory remarks or attitudes based on race, gender, sexuality, age, ability, religion or cultural and ethnic background will not be accepted or tolerated. We firmly respect the right to individualism and the holding of personal values and beliefs.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC WELLBEING

All children and young people receiving short break care at Exmoor Grove will be encouraged to reach their full potential. Economic disadvantage will not prevent any child or young person being involved in any of the activities on offer.

Young people will be supported to develop skills in handling money and making choices and decisions in order to prepare them for the transition to adulthood.

BOUNDARIES

Staff at Exmoor Grove are aware of the importance of appropriate boundaries and consistency for children and young people. Staff use a team approach to ensure that children are clear what is expected of them and of the staff.

It is expected that everyone at Exmoor Grove, staff and young people, respect each other and be mindful of other people's needs and feelings. The staff team will work proactively to encourage this through the building up of positive relationships between staff and young people.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

It is acknowledged that children with a disability can sometimes find verbal communication difficult; as a result difficult behaviour can become a form of communication. Every attempt will be made to resolve such difficult situations, and sanctions will only be imposed as a last resort.

These may include a restriction or a withdrawal of an activity or outing but would never include any form of corporal punishment or deprivation of food or drink. All sanctions will be appropriately and fully recorded.

All staff are trained in the use of P.R.I.C.E.

Protecting Rights In a Caring Environment is a nationally recognised training provider in how to safely and appropriately respond to challenging behaviour, delivering bespoke training and consultancy services to a wide range of social care and health organisations.

PRICE Training places a significant focus upon preventative strategies as well as the de-escalation and diffusion elements of supporting behaviour whilst recognising it is sometimes necessary to use Physical Intervention to hold a service user in order to protect their well being and the welfare of others.

Our training programmes are designed to offer staff a 'toolbox' of skills and strategies to better deal with the everyday occurring situations that can escalate and develop into conflict, without compromising the ultimate welfare and safety of the service user or staff member.

Since 1994, the company has trained several thousand frontline workers in over 200 organisations across a diverse range of sectors, from residential homes (children & adult), therapeutic communities, EBD schools, NHS Trusts, Secure Unit provision, to services for adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Physical restraint will be used only as a last resort when there is immediate danger to the child or another person or serious risk to property. If it is used it will follow the P.R.I.C.E. training techniques.

BULLYING

Living in a group can be difficult for children, particularly when the membership of that group may be different each time the young person stays. There may well be times when some young people attempt to bully others. Whether by physical, verbal or emotional means, the victim will always feel hurt and distressed. Exmoor Grove has high staffing levels which help ensure no child becomes the victim of bullying. We also have a clear policy on bullying:

- Any form of bullying is unacceptable
- We do not accept any excuses for bullying
- Its alright for victims to tell
- Everyone has to take responsibility for ensuring that bullying is discovered and dealt with
- Bullies need help in changing their behaviour

We will keep parents and social workers informed of bullying incidents and keep appropriate records.

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

The children receiving short breaks usually require a high level of staff support as such it is highly unlikely that any of the young people accessing Exmoor Grove would be able to leave the premises unnoticed. In the unlikely event that this did occur departmental procedures would be followed ensuring police and parents are notified immediately.

CONTACT FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We promote contact with children and young people wherever possible. We provide practical means to maintain contact e.g. accessible telephone and private space. Parents and carers are welcome to visit the unit during their child's stay. We are committed to maintain regular communication with parents.

KEY WORKER SYSTEM

Exmoor Grove has a robust key worker system in place. Each child will be allocated a key worker during their initial visit. The key worker will meet the child and give them, their own 'About Me' booklet in order for the child to be given some information about the key worker before they enter the service.

The role of the key worker is to develop and maintain close links with the family, school and other professionals. The key worker is responsible for completing a monthly report following the five outcomes a copy of which is sent to the family and the child's social worker. The key worker is also responsible for undertaking a monthly meeting with parents/carers to ensure that the service we provide is meeting the needs of the young person and any issues are dealt with as they arise.

It is also the responsibility of the key worker to ensure implementation of a child care plan, attend Looked After Reviews for the child and submit written reports for those and other professional meetings.

LOOKED AFTER REVIEWS

All children receiving short breaks are accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, which requires short break provision to be reviewed within the statutory review requirements. Exmoor will actively promote and support participation and consultation with the child and their parents or carers.

CARE PLANS

Each child and young person will have a Care Plan for Looked After Children, which will describe the purpose of the placement and the development plans for each child based on the individual needs of the child.

Each child will also have an About Me Plan this will inform all staff working with the child everything they will need to know to work effectively with the young person. Each plan will be regularly reviewed to acknowledge any changes with regards to the young person's needs.

INSPECTION PROCESS

16 Exmoor Grove is a registered children's home and is therefore subject to monitoring and inspection. Monthly Regulation 33 unannounced monitoring visits take place. In addition, officers from OFSTED will formally inspect 16 Exmoor Grove twice a year unannounced.

Parents, carers and children can contact OFSTED if they wish to make a comment at:

OFSTED
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD
Tel: 03001231231
E mail: enquires@ofsted.gov.uk

Children's Rights Director
Office of the Children's Rights Director
OFSTED
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

COMPLAINTS AND COMMENTS

Children's Services welcomes discussion with parents and young people relating to service provision, as each have the right to comment on any aspect of the service they receive. Where appropriate an advocate maybe appointed.

The aim of the Children's Services policy is that complaints should be resolved within the service where possible and it is anticipated that issues would be first raised with the manager. If unresolved, the child or parent should contact the Complaints Officer at:

Child & Adult Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Civic Centre

Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Copies of the complaints procedure are available on first entering the service and are also available within the establishment.

It is acknowledged that many disabled children have difficulty in understanding their rights and making their views known. We are constantly seeking ways to better support and encourage children to more easily express their feelings and opinions.

STAFFING

Exmoor Grove is staffed according to the needs of the individual children accessing the service on any given day. In general there will be 3-4 Residential Social Care Officers on any day shift which can include either the deputy manager or a shift leader. However this will be increased depending on the needs of the children accessing the service on any given day. The manager works a shift system over a seven day period between the hours of 9am and 7pm to ensure regular contact with all children accessing the unit.

Exmoor has recently implemented an annualised rota system; this is to maximise the flexibility of the staff team to best meet the needs of the young people accessing the service.

Where it is not possible for Exmoor staff to cover required shifts, then Exmoor Grove will utilise its own team of dedicated Bank Staff. Of the staff on duty, at least 50% will be permanent members.

Exmoor is open Monday to Sunday. The shift pattern is 3pm until 9.15pm Monday to Friday and 9am until 9.15pm Saturday and Sunday. The extended shift pattern on a weekend was found to be beneficial to the young people accessing the service as it minimised the disruption caused by changing shift mid way through the day and it allows staff and young people the opportunity to access activities further afield than was possible when staff were required to finish at 3pm.

During holiday periods Exmoor will also be open seven days a week and will offer extended day care and additional overnight care as required and assessed by social workers.

During the night Exmoor has two dedicated waking night officers on shift from 9pm until 9.15am and on occasions an additional sleep over member of staff as required.

Exmoor Grove also employs one domestic working twenty two hours per week and two cooks working thirty eight hours per week between them.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SUPERVISION

Staff members participate in a wide range of courses provided through Children's Services training section. This includes all training specifically required by the

National Minimum Standards. NVQ Level 3 in Caring for Children and Young People is the recognised qualification for residential childcare workers.

The training, practice and overall development of each staff member is monitored through formal supervision by the management team, and a record is kept of each session with details logged in a bound numbered book which is signed by both parties and lists the date and length of the supervision.

Once a year every member of staff has their performance appraised in accordance with Hartlepool Borough Council policy by the manager or deputy manager. The appraisal includes current performance, targets for the coming year and agreed training objectives as part of a personal training plan.

STAFF MEETINGS

Staff meetings take place at least once a month. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss the young people using the service and the service provision.

There is also an opportunity to meet other professionals who can give valuable input in setting up strategies to meet the needs of children who have complex needs.

LINE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Jane Young
Head of Business Unit (Resources & Specialist Services)

Station Lane
Seaton Carew
Hartlepool
TS25 1DX

STAFFING CHART – 16 EXMOOR GROVE

Registered Manager

Sylvia Lowe

Deputy Manager

Christine Purvis

Residential Social Care Officers

Karen McMorris, Jodie Belbin,
Helen Haycock, Steven Morter,
Katie Bage, Steve Morrell,
Samantha Todd, Maria
Drummond. Sophie Edwards

Dedicated Waking Night Officer

Angela Young, Lindsay Bage,
Steve Foster, Tara Nixon

Domestic/Cook

Sally Craigs/Maureen Bage, Paula
Butcher.

STAFF PEN PICTURES

Sylvia Lowe, Manager – Qualifications: B A Hons History, DIPSW, DIPHE, NVQ 4 Management, PQ 1, B A Hons Specialist Award Children and Young People, Safeguarding Children, First Aid, PRICE Training, Fire Safety, Medication Training, Risk Assessment for managers, Bullying Awareness Training.

Experience: Sylvia has over seventeen years experience in working in a social care setting. She spent five years as a residential support worker in a home for adults with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. She then moved to the TNEY Trust working for 2 years as a Community Support Worker before being promoted to Area Coordinator, during her 3 years as Area Coordinator Sylvia assisted in the setting up and management of a respite unit for two teenage boys with learning disabilities and significant challenging behaviour. Following this Sylvia moved to Hartlepool Borough Council where she worked as a Social Worker in a children and families team for two years before taking up her current position as Unit Manager of Exmoor Grove, a position she has held for eight years.

Christine Purvis, Deputy Manager – Qualifications: NVQ 4 Management, NVQ 4 Children and Young People, Child Protection for Managers, First Aid, Moving and Handling, PRICE Training, Fire Safety, Medication Training, Key worker Training, Bullying Awareness Training.

Christine has over twenty five years experience working in social care. She has worked in a variety of settings including elderly care, adults with learning disabilities, a supported living setting and six years in her current position as Deputy Manager of Exmoor Grove

Karen McMorris, Residential Social Care Officer – Qualifications -Karen has an NVQ 3 in children and young people. An NVQ 4 in Social Care. Karen has completed all mandatory training including Child Protection, First Aid, Moving and Handling, PRICE Training, Basic Food Hygiene, Bullying Awareness, Medication Training.

Experience- Karen has over twenty years experience in residential child care in her current position as a Residential Social Care Officer at Exmoor Grove.

Katie Bage, Residential Social Care Officer – Qualifications: NVQ 3 Health and Social Care, Child Protection, First Aid, Moving and Handling, PRICE Training, Fire Safety and Key Worker and Working with Parents training. NVQ Children and Young People completed 2012.

Katie has spent two years as a member of Exmoor Grove's temporary Register working on a casual basis before successfully gaining a post in April 2011.

Steven Morter, Residential Social Care Officer – Qualifications: NVQ 3 Children and Young People. Steven has completed all his mandatory training including:- Safe Guarding Children, First Aid, Moving and Handling, PRICE Training, Basic Food Hygiene, Bullying Awareness, Medication Training.

Steven has over eight years experience in social care, he worked for the TNEY Trust for four years as a Community Support Worker and Residential Social Care Officer

before joining Exmoor Grove as a Residential Social Care Officer a position he has held for four years.

Helen Laycock, Residential Social care Officer - Qualifications: NVQ3 Advanced Health and Social Care. NVQ3 Children and Young People. Helen has completed all of her required mandatory training including:- First Aid at work, Fire Safety, Safeguarding Children, Moving and Handling, Basic Food Hygiene, Bullying Awareness and Medication Training.

Helen has over seven years experience of working with children, she spent three years in paediatrics as a physiotherapist's assistant and five years at Exmoor Grove.

Jodie Belbin, Residential Social Care Officer – Qualifications: BTEC National Diploma in Biomedical Sciences, NVQ3 Children and Young People, NVQ 4 Health and Social Care Children and Young People.

Jodie has completed all of her required mandatory training including:- First Aid at work, Fire Safety, Safeguarding Children, Moving and Handling, Basic Food Hygiene, Bullying Awareness and Medication Training.

Jodie has over three and half years experience of working with children with disabilities at Exmoor grove.

Maria Drummond, Residential Social Care Officer- Qualifications: Early Childhood Studies Degree, AVCE Health and Social Care, PRICE Training, MIDAS Training, Fire Safety Training, Manual Handling Training, Key Worker and Working with Parents Training, Safe Guarding Children and Autism Awareness.

Maria has experience of working in an early years setting, primary schools both main stream and special needs and an out of school club where she provided support for a child with physical and learning disabilities. Maria joined Exmoor Grove in April 2011.

Samantha Todd, Residential Social Care Officer- Qualifications: G.N.V.Q Health and Social Care, Joint Hons Degree Children's Play and Play work Studies and Childhood Studies 2:1, Fire Safety, Manual Handling, PRICE Training, Key Worker and Working with Parents Training.

Samantha has experience of working with children 0- 18 in a variety of settings including nurseries, primary schools and after school clubs. Samantha joined Exmoor Grove in April 2011.

Lindsay Bage, Dedicated Waking Night Officer- Qualifications: NVQ level 2 and 3 in Social Care, Special Needs Assistant Certificate, A1 Assessors Award, Care of Medicines Foundation Module, PRICE Training, Fire Safety, Manual Handling, Key Worker and Working with Parents Training, Safeguarding Children, First Aid and Fire Safety.

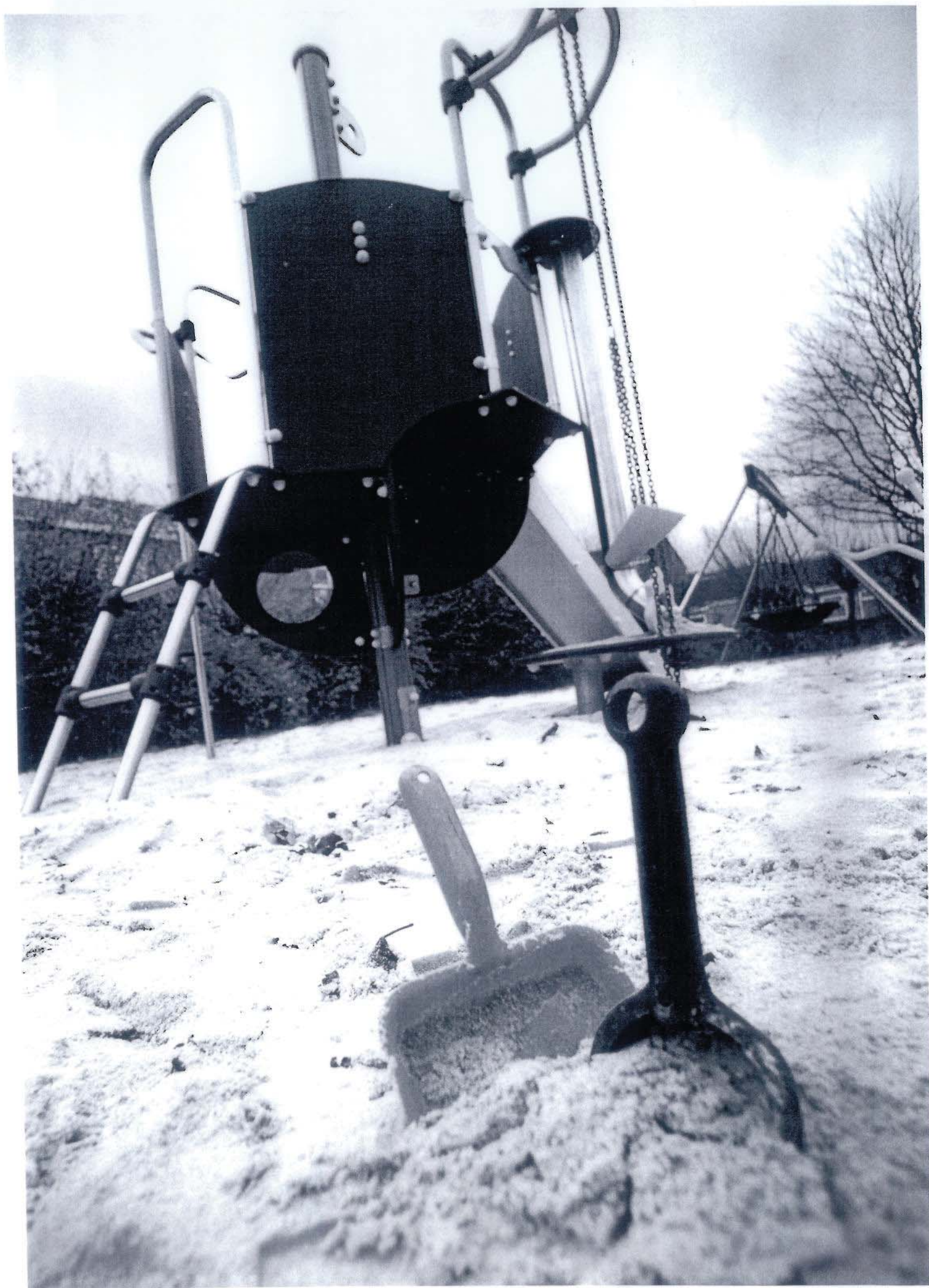
Lindsay has experience of working in a day nursery with children aged between 0-5 years old, she has managed a children's play area and has supported disabled children in the community. Lindsay joined Exmoor Grove in April 2011.

Steve Morrell, Residential Social Care Officer- Qualifications: Youth and Community Certificate, Emergency First Aid, Deaf Awareness, Behaviour Management, Fire Safety, Manual handling, PRICE Training and Key Worker and Working with Parents Training.

Steve has a wealth of experience working with Children, he is a qualified Foster Carer and has fostered for many years both for the local authority and later a private agency. Steve has also worked as an escort for children with disabilities transporting them too and from school for several years. He has worked at Exmoor on the temporary register for two years before successfully gaining a post in April 2011.

Sophie Edwards, Residential Social Care Officer – Qualifications: BTEC Early Years, Degree Childhood Studies, First Aid, Food Hygiene, Infection control, Child Protection, Person Centred Planning, PRICE Training.

Sophie has worked in a residential home with young people for two years prior to commencing her post here as a RSCO.





Children / Young People's Guide



Welcome to Exmoor Grove

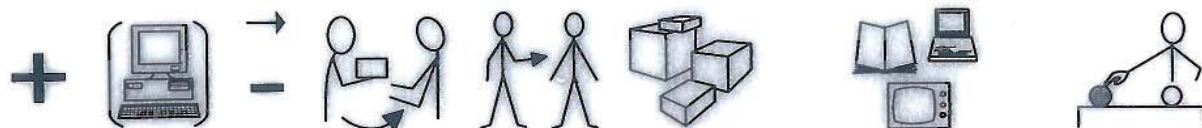
16 Exmoor Grove Hartlepool, TS26 0XE



Telephone 01429232634



This booklet will tell you all about Exmoor



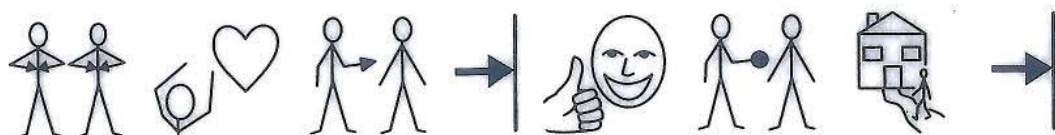
Grove and it will give you some information that



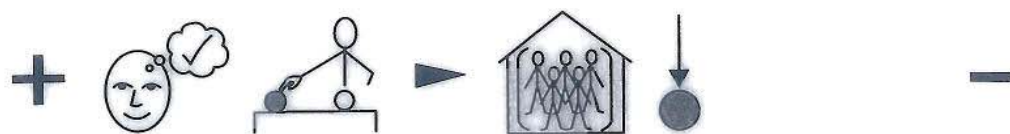
you may like to know before you come and



stay with us.



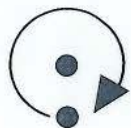
We want you to enjoy your visits to Exmoor



Grove and know that the staff at Exmoor are



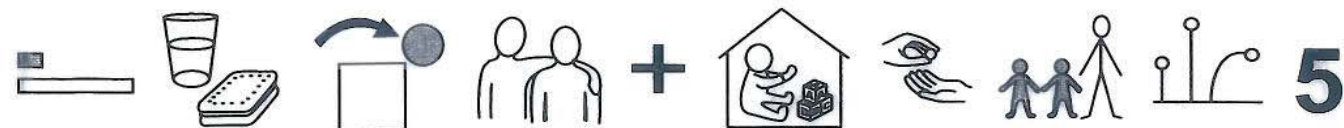
always there to help and support you.



About Exmoor Grove



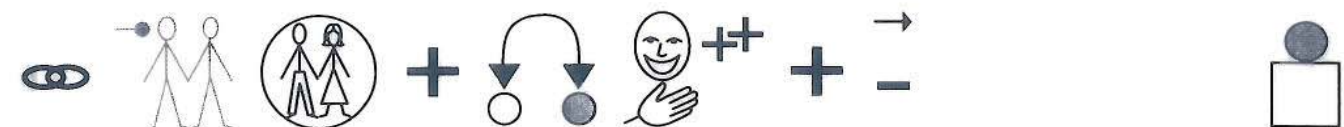
Exmoor Grove is an 6 bedroomed Children's home, which provides



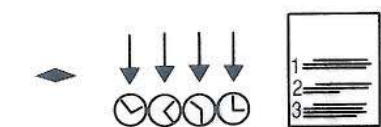
short break overnight care and day care for children aged five



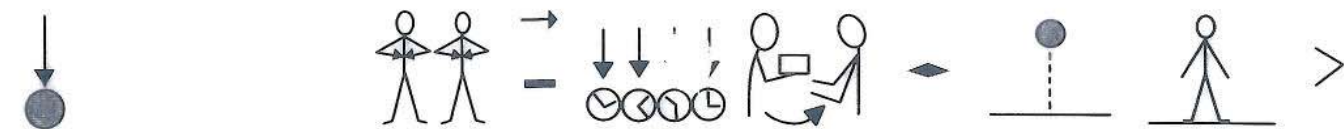
to eighteen. All children who visit Exmoor Grove will live



with their parents and or carers and will access Exmoor on



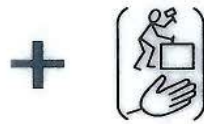
a regular planned basis



At Exmoor Grove we will always provide a high standard of



care for our children which will planned around your individual needs.



Facilities and Services



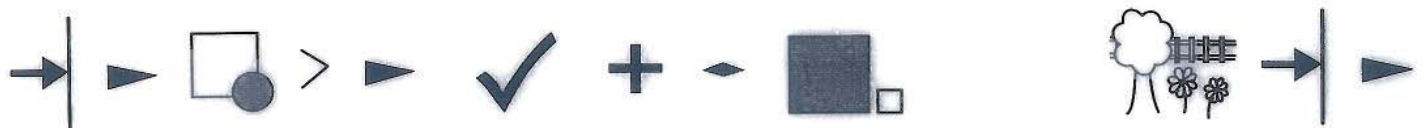
Exmoor Grove is in the Throston Grange area of Hartlepool.



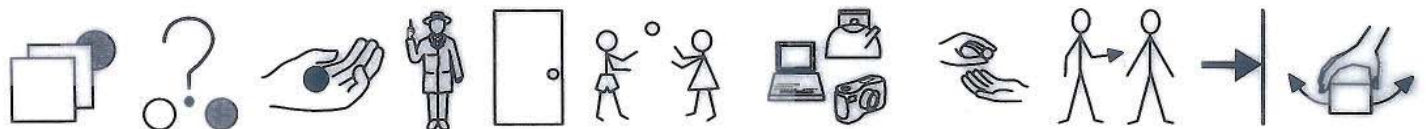
It is a single storey purpose built property that is fully



accessible for wheel chair users. We have our own car park.



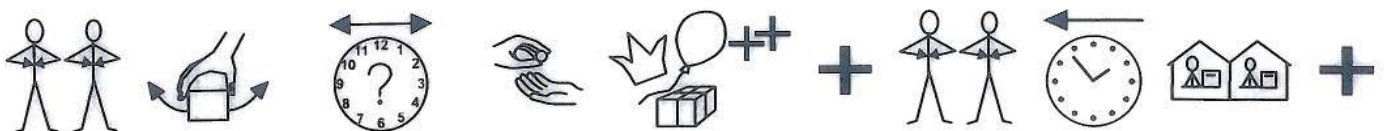
to the front of the property and a large enclosed garden to the



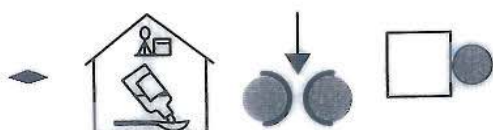
rear which has out door play equipment for you to use.



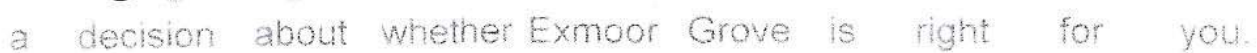
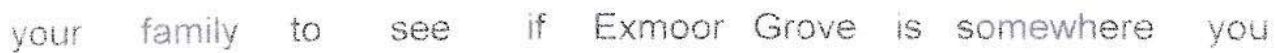
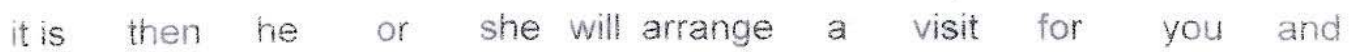
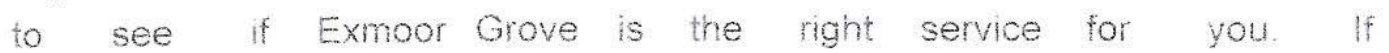
Close by we have a library and a community centre which

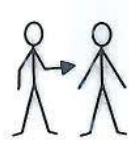




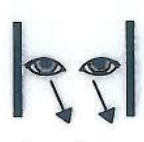
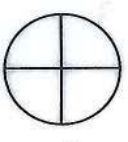






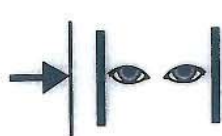

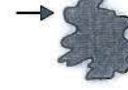

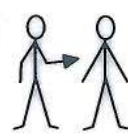

we use sometimes for parties and we have shops and







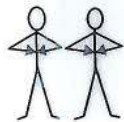





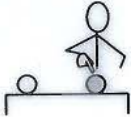




a chemist close by.














 You can now have a look at all the different parts of







 Exmoor Grove to see if its somewhere you would like





 to come and visit.

We will start with our lounge. This is where the children











come and relax by watching TV or a DVD.







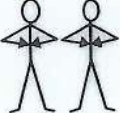




- this is our Dining Room, - this is where we have all of >








our meals. However we do know that meal times at




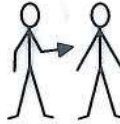



- Exmoor can be quite noisy at times and if you like






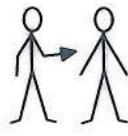


of need a quiet place to eat your meals that's



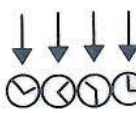

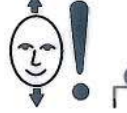
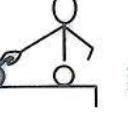

fine you can eat your meal in the playroom with a.


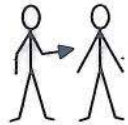
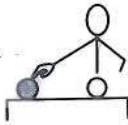
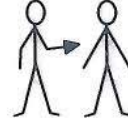




 >      
 member of staff. We have our own cook at Exmoor Grove





 -  +     ++  1 >
 she is called Maureen and she cooks lovely meals and one of


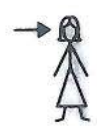


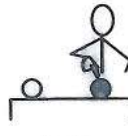


  -     - 
 the things we will do when you visit us is find out

    +    
 what you like to eat and what you don't like to

 +  -      
 eat and we will always make sure that there is something

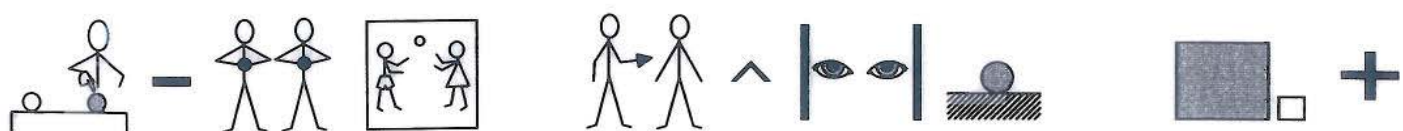
       
 available for you that you like to eat when you

  ^ ++    
 visit. You can also ask Maureen to cook your favourite

 +  -    ?  
 meal and she is quite happy to do this. However she couldn't

     - 
 do it every time you visited as it wouldn't be possible to

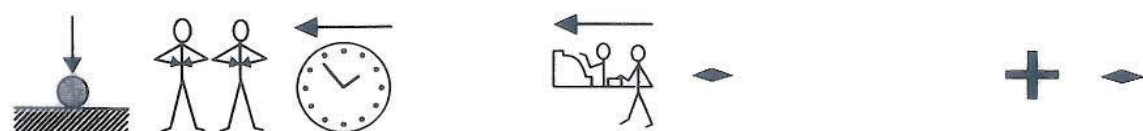
  1   
 cook every one's favourites all the time.



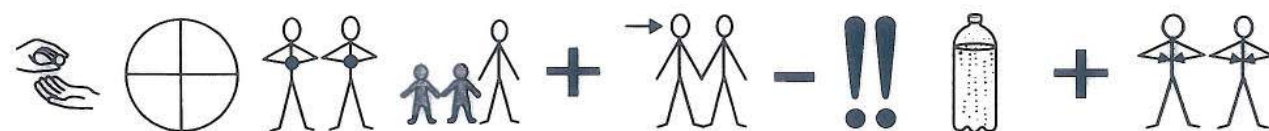
This is our playroom. As you can see it is quite big and



we have lots of activities for you to do whilst you are



here. We have recently bought a nintendo Wii and an Xbox 360



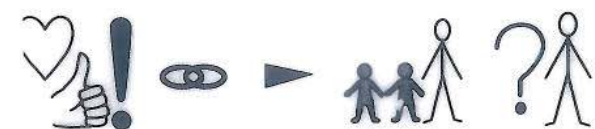
for all our children and they are very popular and we



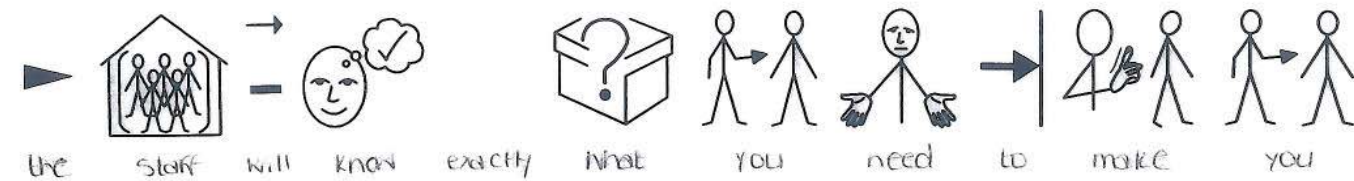
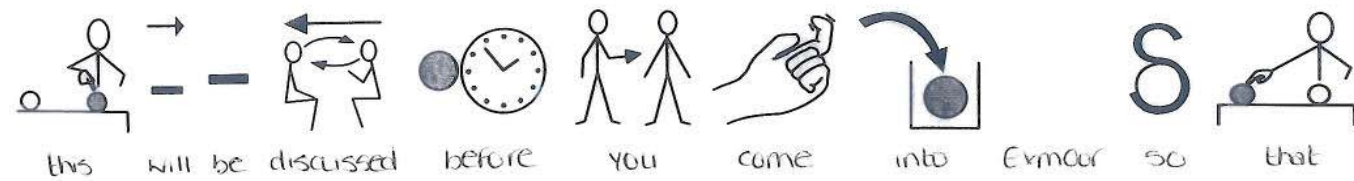
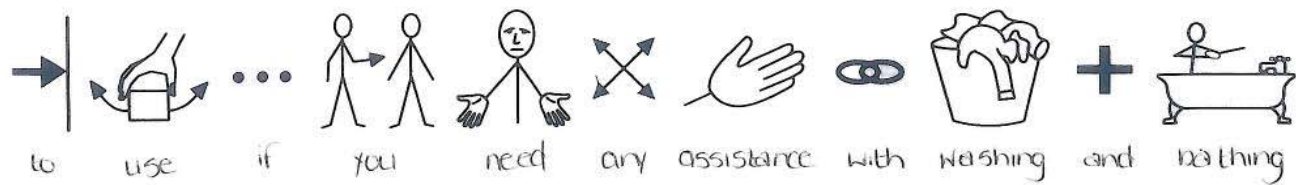
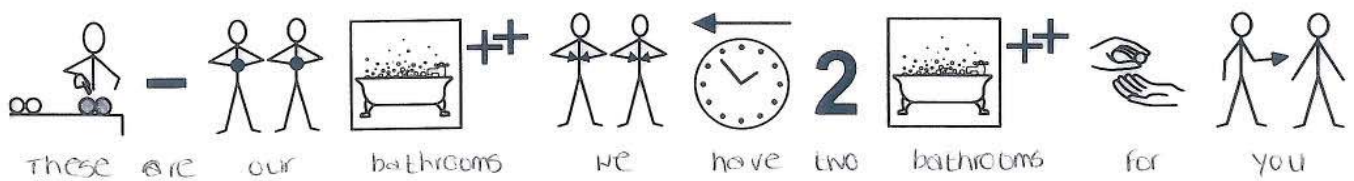
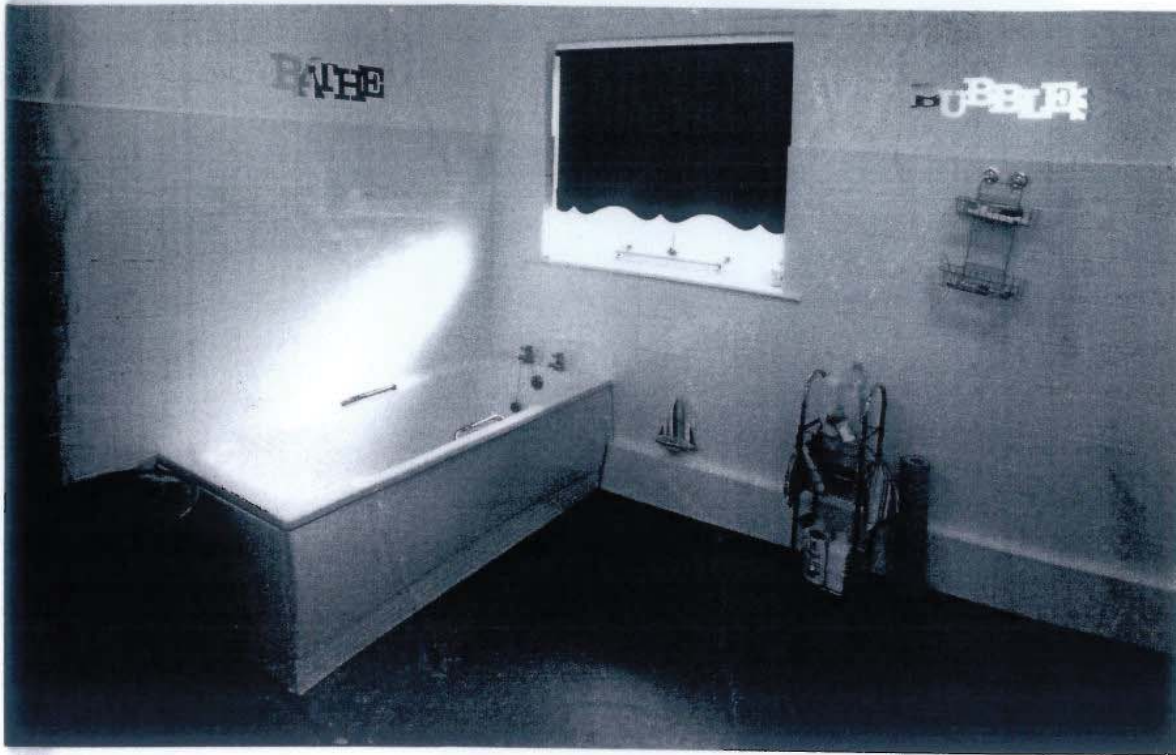
regularly have competition nights



especially bowling which is a great

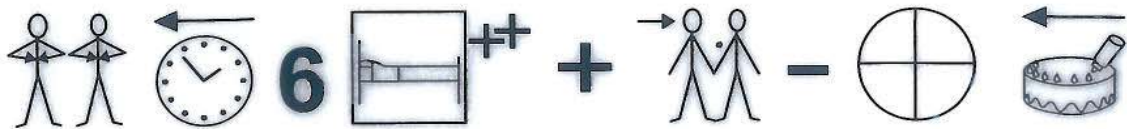


favourite with the children who currently come and stay at Exmoor Grove

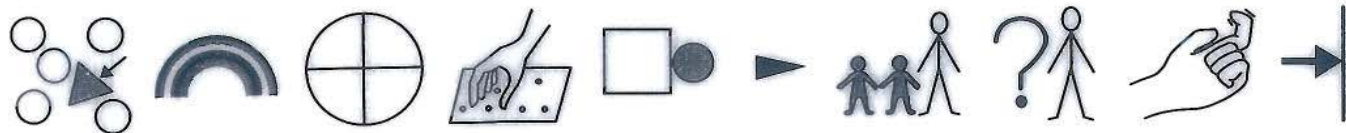




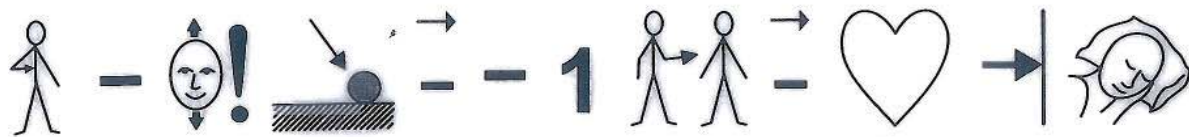
The following pages will show you the different bedrooms at



Exmoor Grove we have six bedrooms and they are all decorated



different colours all chosen by the children who come to



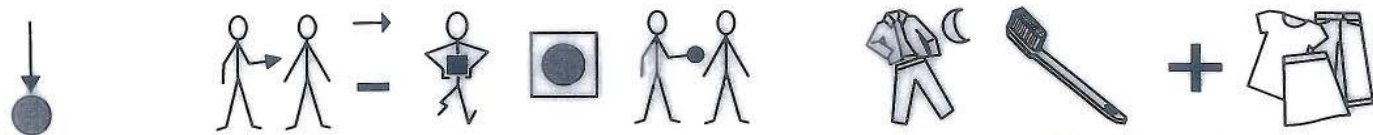
Exmoor. I am sure there will be one you will like to sleep



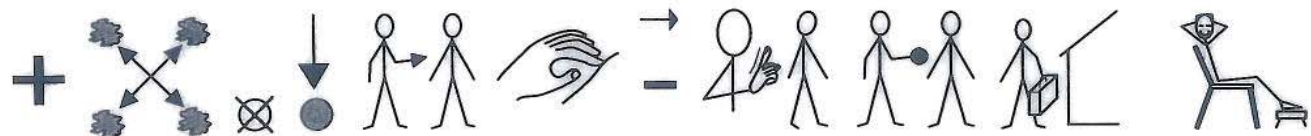
in. Each bedroom has its own Furniture where you can keep



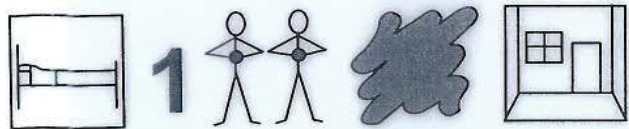
your belongings during your stay. When you stay overnight



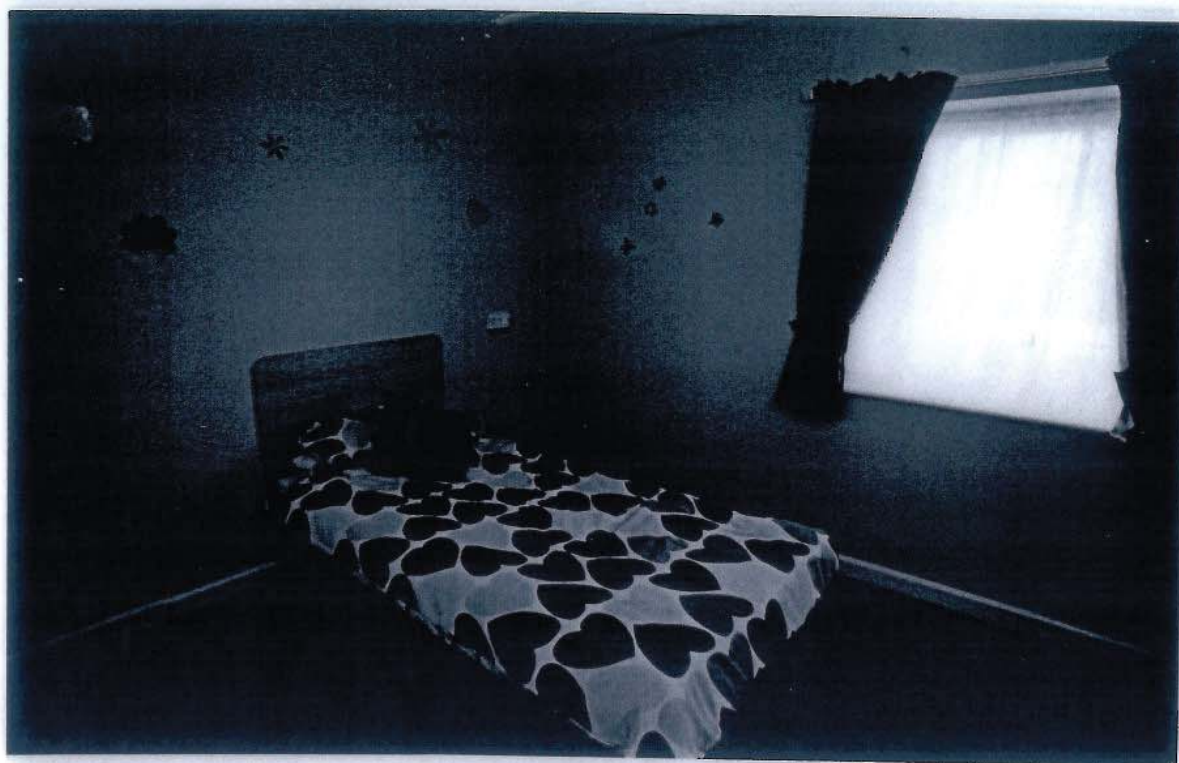
at Exmoor you will bring in your own pyjamas toothbrush and clothes



and anything else you feel will make your stay comfortable.

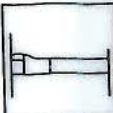



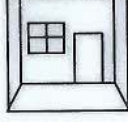


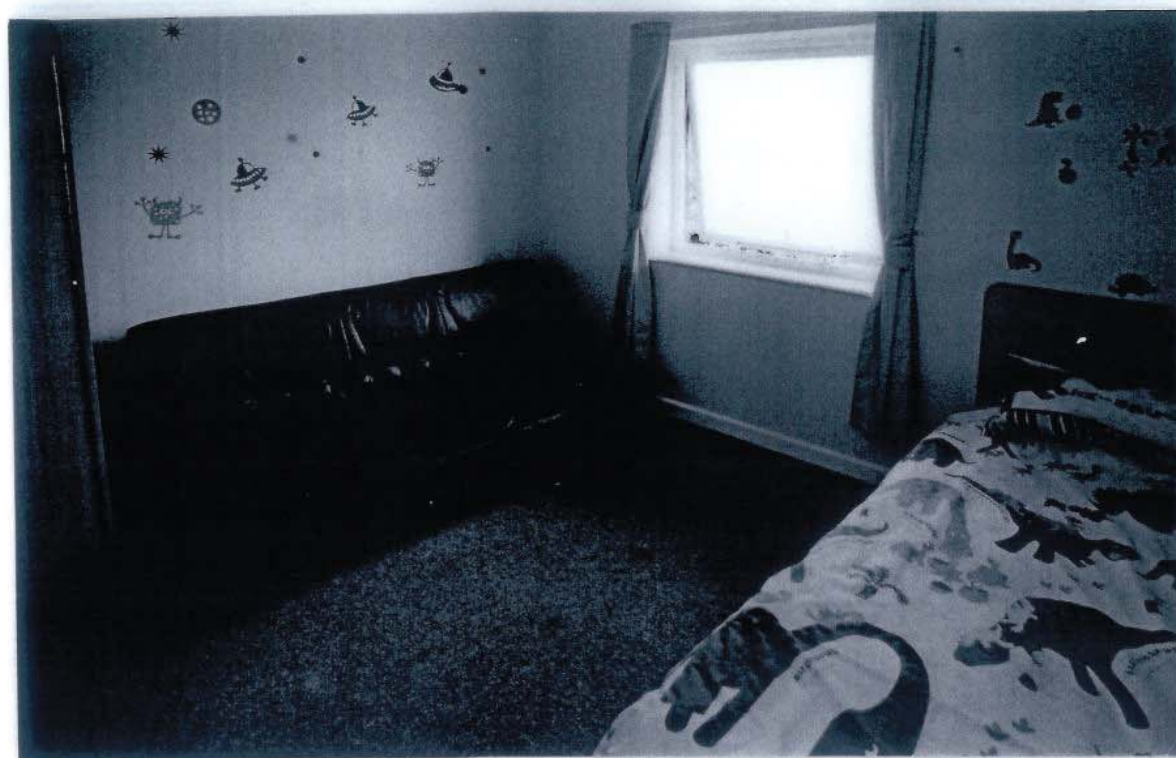
Bedroom 1 our purple room.

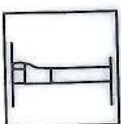




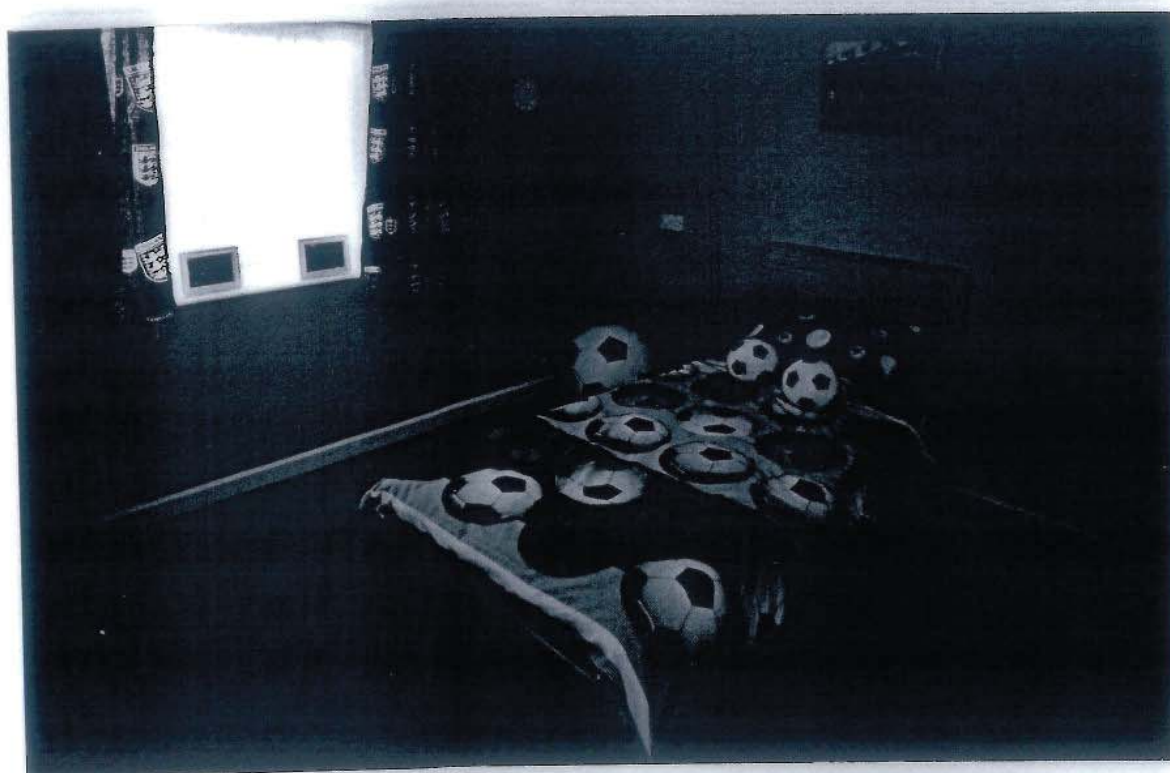
Bedroom 2 is our yellow room

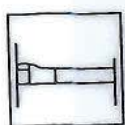



3 -    
 Bedroom 3 is our pale green Room



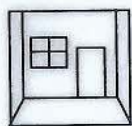
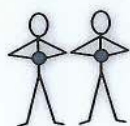

4 -  
 Bedroom 4 is our blue Room



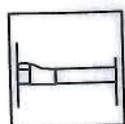


5

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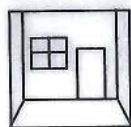


Bedroom 5 is our pink Room




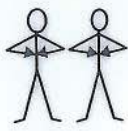




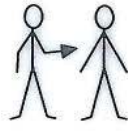


6

-

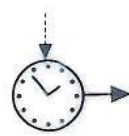


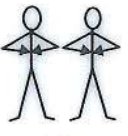









Bedroom six is our turquoise Room




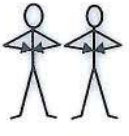


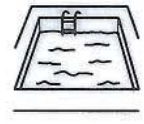




At Exmoor we have a large garden as you can see

from the pictures below We spend a lot of time in the garden

especially in the summer we have paddling pools and water













slides in the summer as well as the swings and slide. We

















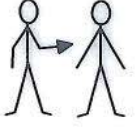

also have barbeques in the summer which all the children





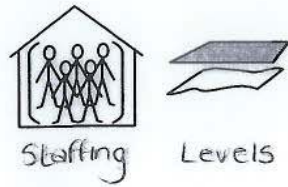



enjoy We also have trikes and bicycles for you to



enjoy





Exmoor Grove has staffing levels that reflect the needs of the

children who are accessing our service on a day to day

basis. This means that there will be different levels of staff

in the building on different days to reflect the different needs

of the children who are accessing our service on that day

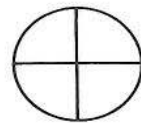
Exmoor Grove has waking night staff on shift every night

so if you needed anything through the night they are there

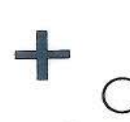
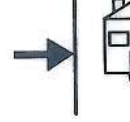
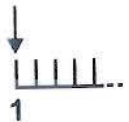
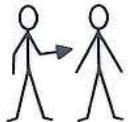
to assist you.



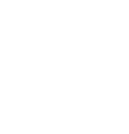
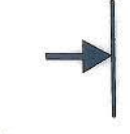
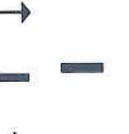
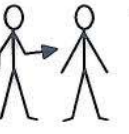
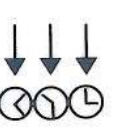
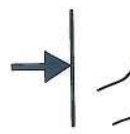
Key Worker Role



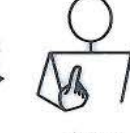
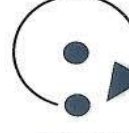
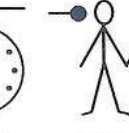
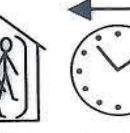
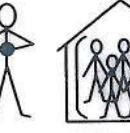
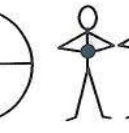
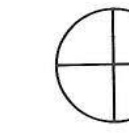
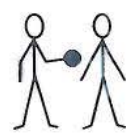
Exmoor Grove has a key worker system in place for all



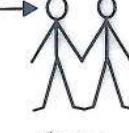
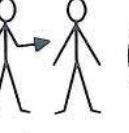
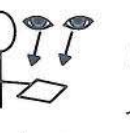
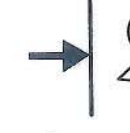
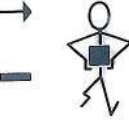
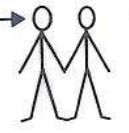
children. When you first come to visit Exmoor and decide



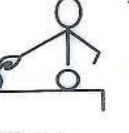
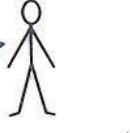
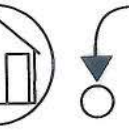
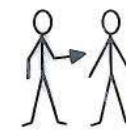
you would like to come regularly you will be introduced to



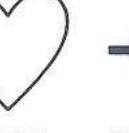
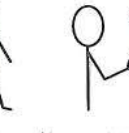
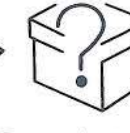
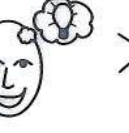
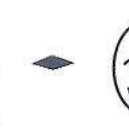
your key worker. All our staff have their own About Me



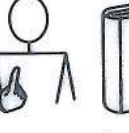
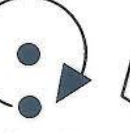
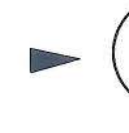
booklets which they will bring to show you when they visit



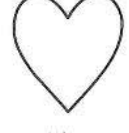
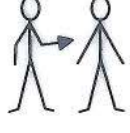
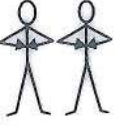
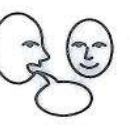
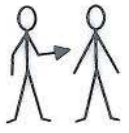
you at home or you visit us at Exmoor. That will



give you an idea of what your key worker likes and



does not like just like the about me booklet we do



for you tells us what you like to do. Your

key worker will speak to your parents every month to make sure

that we are meeting your needs properly and you are happy

during your time at Exmoor We do this as we

know that its sometimes difficult for some children to say

... if they are unhappy or do not like something. However we

do have a complaints form for all children if they

wish to make a complaint and all the staff at Exmoor are

there to listen to any problems or concerns you may

have and will respond appropriately Exmoor also has regular monthly

meetings for children to discuss any issues they wish to bring up



Communication



At Exmoor Grove



we



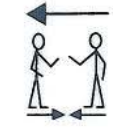
use



many



different



methods



of communication



We



use



widget



symbols



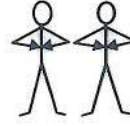
pictures



and



gestures.



We



will



know



The



best



way



to

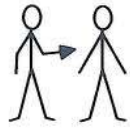


communicate

with



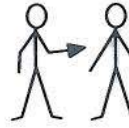
you



When



you



begin



Your



stays



as



Your



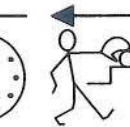
key worker



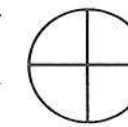
will



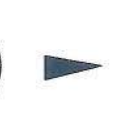
have



gotten



all



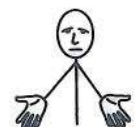
the



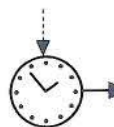
information



We



need



from



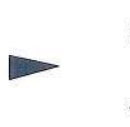
your



parents



and



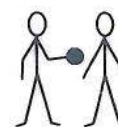
the



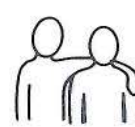
professionals

involved

in



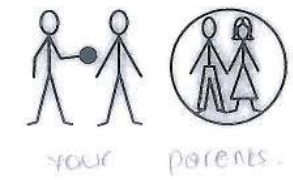
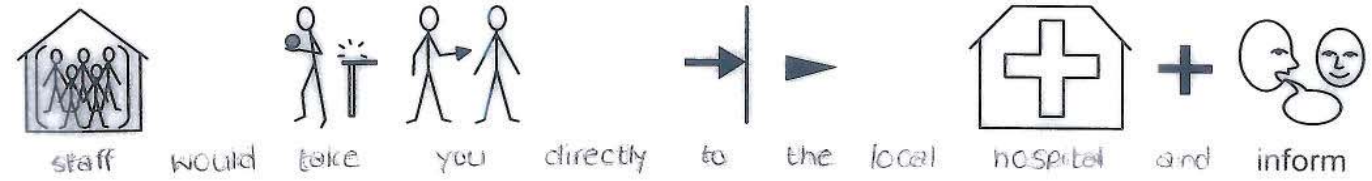
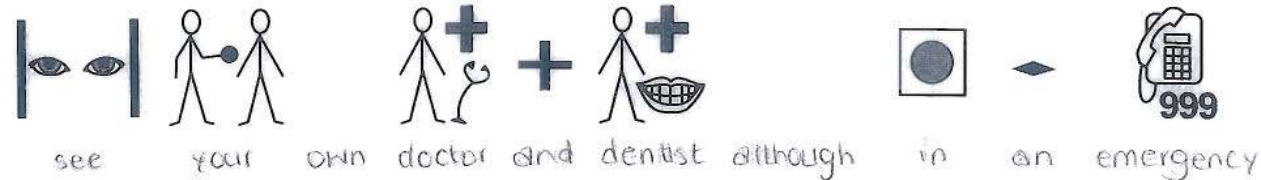
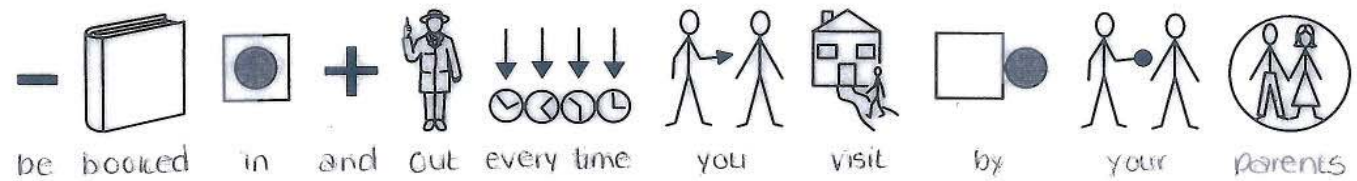
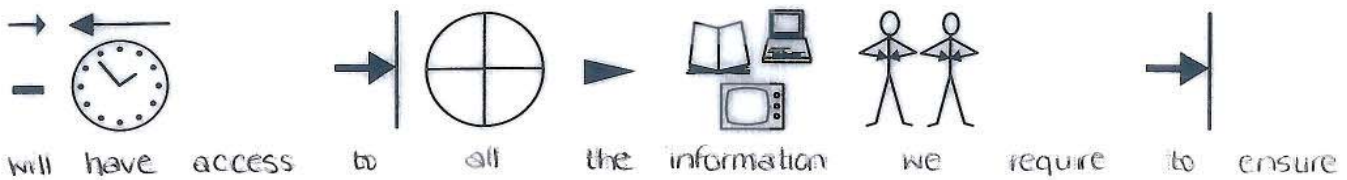
Your

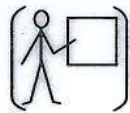


care

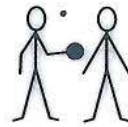
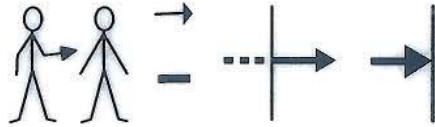


Health Promotion

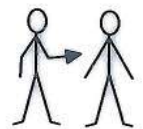
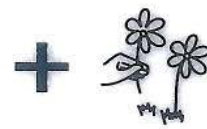




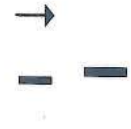
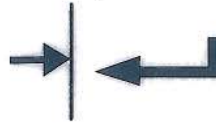
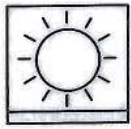
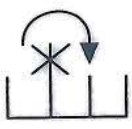
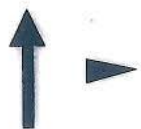
Education



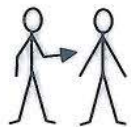
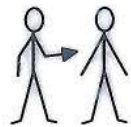
Whilst at Exmoor you will continue to attend your own school and



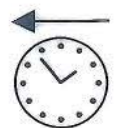
school transport will drop you off at Exmoor and pick you



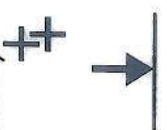
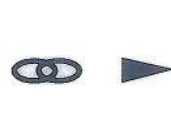
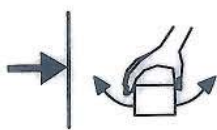
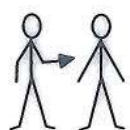
up the next day to return to school Staff at Exmoor will be



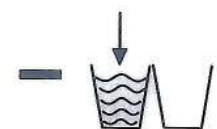
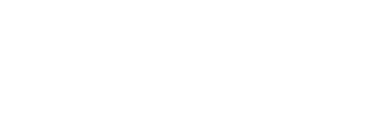
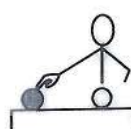
available to assist you with any home work you may



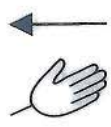
have whilst at Exmoor and we have a computer available for



you to use Exmoor works closely with the local schools to



ensure that all children who attend Exmoor Grove are fully



supported educationally.



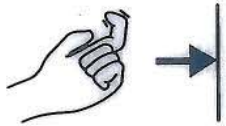
Religion



Exmoor will fully support any religious needs you may have

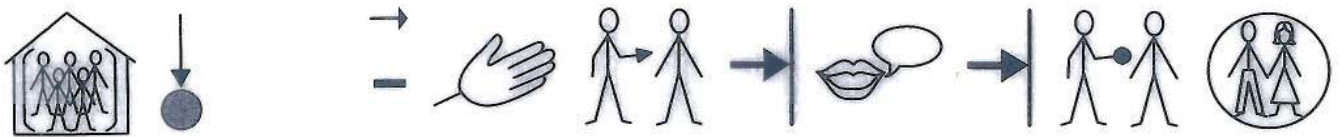


this will be discussed with your keyworker before you begin

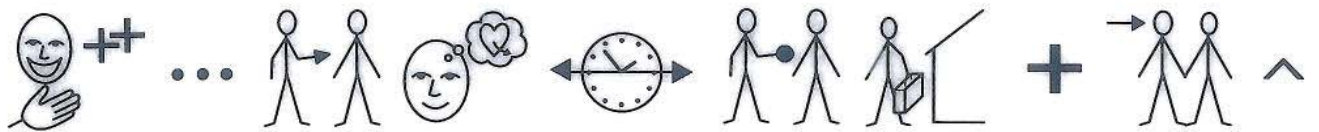


coming to Exmoor Grove

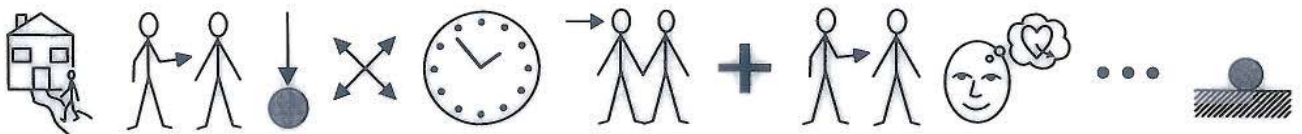
Contact



Staff at Exmoor will support you to speak to your parents



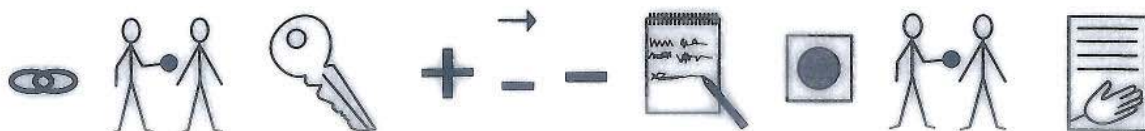
carers if you wish during your stay. And they can



visit you at any time they and you wish. If there is



anyone you should not have access with this will be discussed



with your keyworker and will be noted in your care plan.



Behaviour Management



Staff at Exmoor



feel



it is



important



to



have



good



positive



relationships



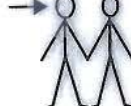
with



the



young people



they



work



with



and



good



behaviour



will be rewarded



and praised.



Staff



at Exmoor



deal



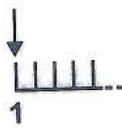
with



unacceptable



behaviour



firstly



by



talking



to



the



young person



and



explaining



why



there



behaviour



is



unacceptable



however



if



the



behaviour



continues



or



worsens



staff



will



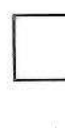
deal



with



it



by



withdrawing



privileges

...

if appropriate.



This



is



only



used



in



extreme



cases



when



children



have been



spoken



to



but persist



in



what



ever



behaviour



is

unacceptable



Bullying



Bullying is not tolerated at Exmoor Grove.



Staff are aware of the



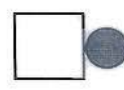
impact of bullying on young people and the staff ratio at Exmoor



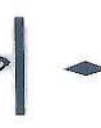
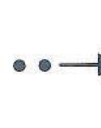
Grove is set at level that ensures children should not be



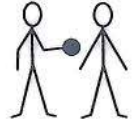
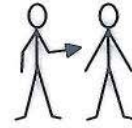
the victim of bullying whilst staying at Exmoor Grove. If you are bullied



whilst at Exmoor Grove or feel in anyway uncomfortable by



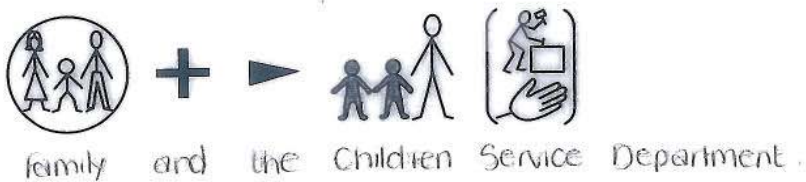
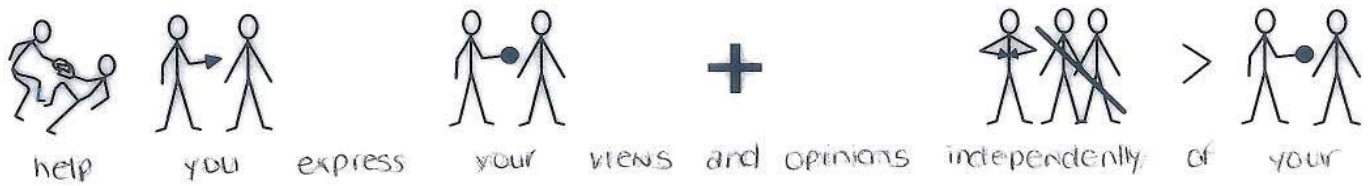
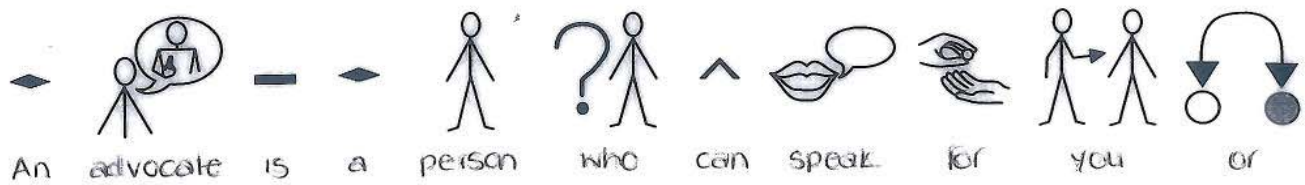
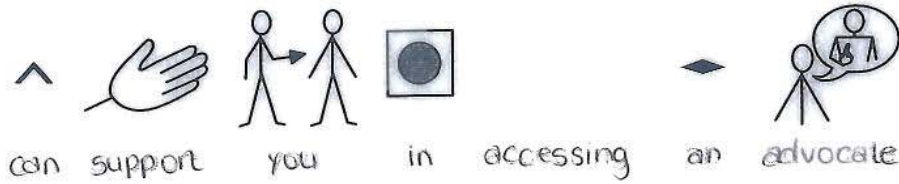
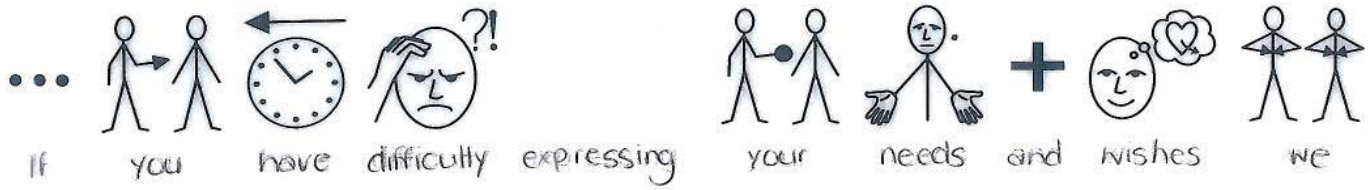
another child or adult then please see a member of staff,



your keyworker the manager or if you prefer your parents.



Advocacy



**My name is Sylvia
I am the manager here at
Exmoor Grove**



I am always here to listen to you if you have something you are not sure about or you need help with a problem.

I love anything our cook makes and I love chocolate.

I don't like tea, coffee or green beans.

I love going for walks or to Flamingoland but I'm too frightened to go on the rides.

My name is Chris
I am the Deputy Manager



Welcome to Exmoor.
I like to go to the cinema and swimming and
I also enjoy driving.
The foods I like are seafood, curry, burgers
and vegetables.
I don't like cheese, celery or vindaloo curry.
My favourite colour is orange.

HI MY NAME IS KAREN



I am always ready to listen.

I like going to the cinema, bowling, visiting farms and parks. Also I enjoy driving.

The foods I like are curry, pasta, sweets and crisps.

I don't like tomatoes, mushrooms and cucumber.

My favourite colour is pink.

Hi my name is Jodie



I will be there to help you settle in when
you stay at Exmoor.

I enjoy going bowling and to the cinema.

The foods I like are curry, rice, pasta and
chicken.

I don't like onions, prawns, sprouts or
broccoli.

My favourite colour is purple.

Hi I am Steve Morter



I am a good listener and always here to listen.

I like going fishing, spending time in the garden and having bbq's.

The foods I like are ice cream, lasagne and Sunday dinners.

I don't like macaroni cheese or broccoli.

My favourite colour is red.

Hi my name is Helen



I am here if you need any help.

I like watching television, shopping and
going to the park.

The foods I like are strawberries,
bananas, cake and sandwiches.

I don't like ice cream, oranges, pasta or
cereal.

My favourite colour is purple.

Hi my name is Sam



I like horse riding, swimming and shopping.

The foods I like are pizza, Indian food and chocolate.

I don't like peas.

My favourite colour is pink

My name is Nora
If you need to talk, I am here



I like reading, going to the
cinema and going for walks.
The foods I like are pasta, bacon,
fish, rice and salad.
I don't like lamb or cauliflower.
My favourite colour is blue.

Hi my name is Steve Morrell



I enjoy going to the gym and keeping fit

**The foods I enjoy eating are healthy
foods such as salads but I do enjoy spicy
Mexican foods.**

My favourite colour is green.

Hi my name is Maria



**I like going to the cinema, eating out,
shopping and going away on trips.**

I like Italian food.

**I don't like food that's too spicy or
seafood.**

My favourite colour is coral.

Hi my name is Katie



**I like listening to music, going to
concerts and the cinema.**

**My favourite foods are fish & chips,
Sunday dinners and pizza**

I don't like hot and spicy foods.

My favourite colour is red.

My name is Debbie



**I work during the night and will see you if
you sleep at Exmoor.**

**I like to go to the theatre, walk my two dogs,
swimming and reading.**

**The foods I like are Indian, Chinese and
shellfish. I don't like mustard!**

My favourite colour is pink.

Hi my name is Lindsay



I like to go running, swimming and watching dvds.

The foods I like are pizza, Indian food and chocolate.

I don't like peas.

My favourite colour is pink

My name is Angela



I like reading, going for long walks and listening to music. The foods I like are pizza, fish and chips, Sunday dinners. I don't like spicy food, coffee cake or Indian food.

My favourite colour is black

Hi my name is Maureen

I am the cook.



**I like to cook your favourite meals,
spending time with my family, knitting
and reading.**

I love to eat any Mexican foods.

**I don't like fish, bullies or anyone telling
lies.**

My favourite colour is turquoise.

**Hi I am Joanne and I'm known
as Jo**



I am here to help you enjoy your stay.

**I like going swimming, sitting in my
garden watching my fish in the pond.**

**The foods I like are ice cream, pasta, fish,
fruit and vegetables.**

**I don't like spinach, black olives or
sardines.**

My favourite colours are yellow and blue

Hi my name is Paula



**I like going to the theatre, the cinema
and reading.**

**I like eating lasagne, curries and fish
and chips.**

I don't like eating mushrooms.

My favourite colour is red.

**My name is Sally
I am the domestic and will put
your favourite bedding in your
room**



**I like to watch football and reading.
My favourite food is chocolate.
The food I dislike is cheese.
My favourite colour is blue**

**PLACES WE
LIKE TO
VISIT**

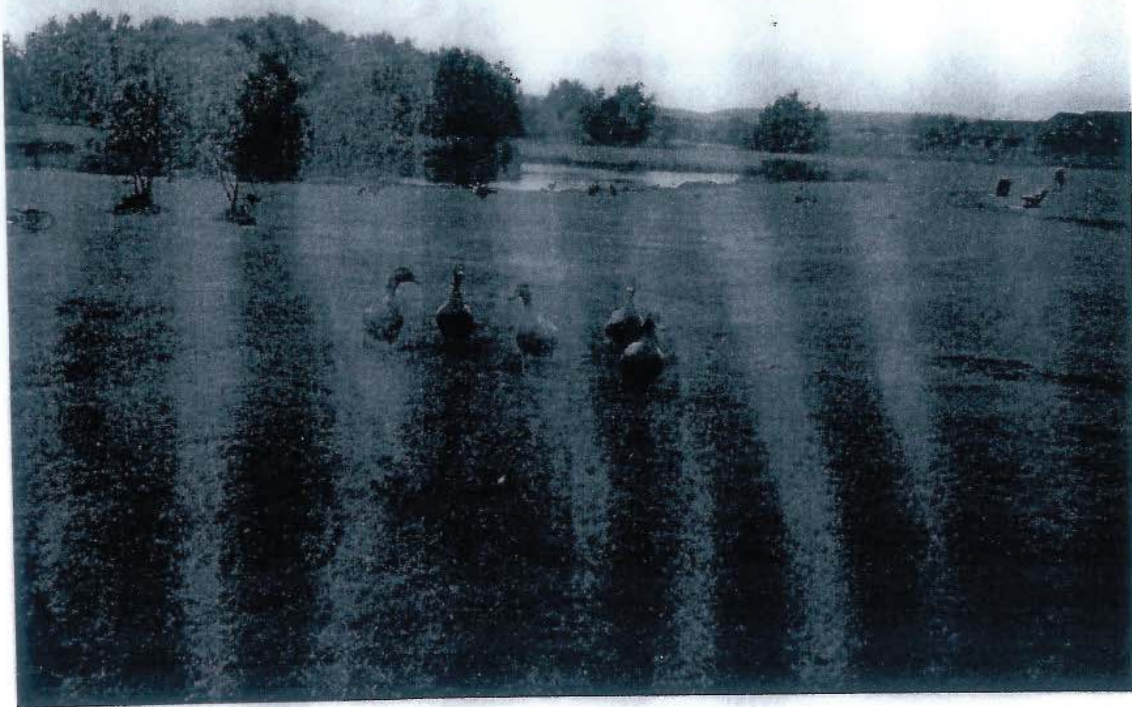




We sometimes go bowling.



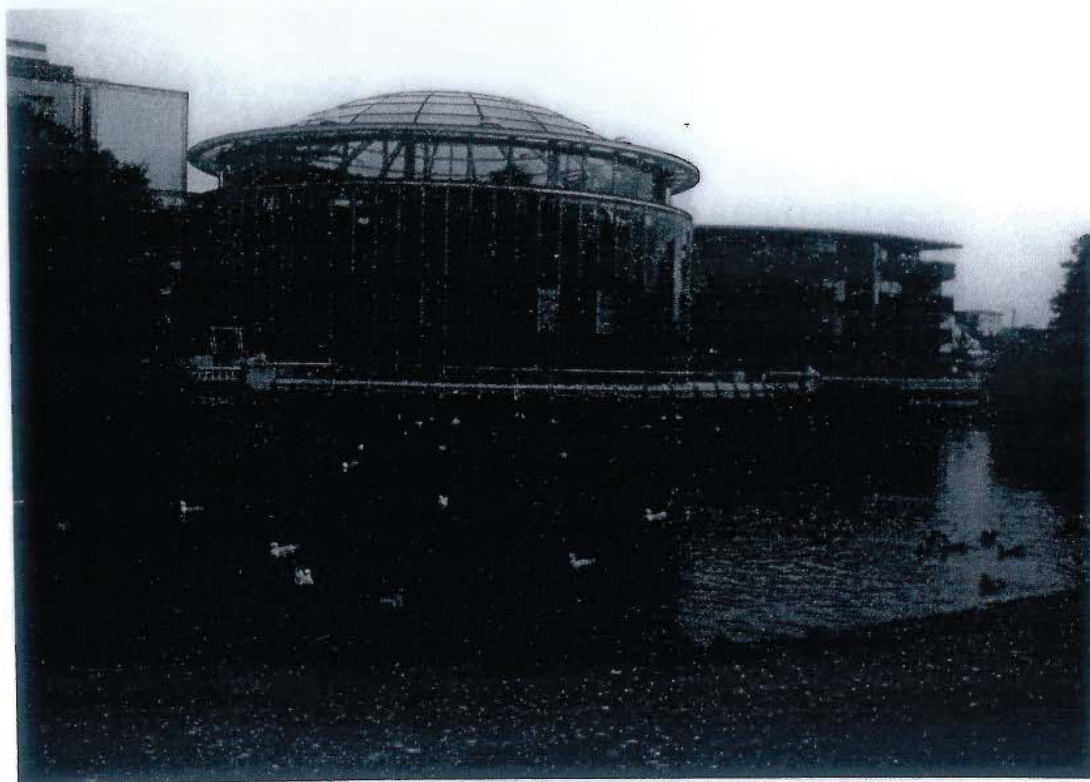
We go to Cafe177 or 'The Street' as the children call it.



The park to feed the ducks.



The beach



The Winter Gardens

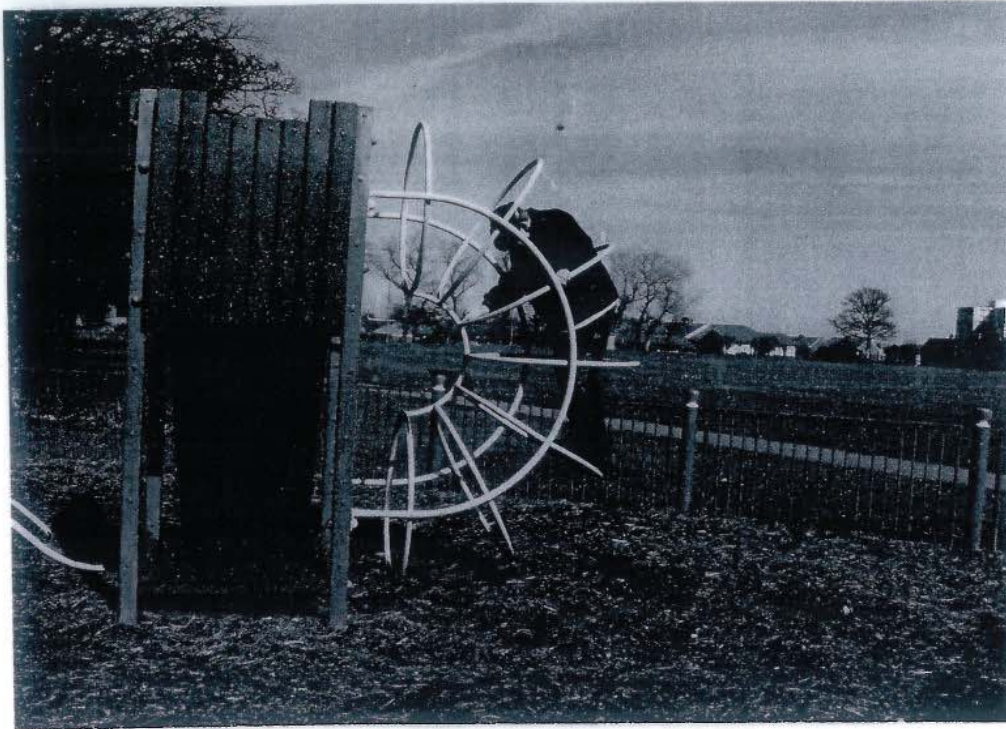


Whitby



Osmotherley





Pallister Park



Penshaw Monument

Contacting OFSTED

Telephone: 0300 123 1231

Address Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

CONTACTING THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DIRECTOR

Free phone 0800 528 0731

Address: Office of the Children's Rights Director

Ofsted
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

Contacting your Independent Reviewing Officer

Telephone: 01429 523878

Address: Aneurin Bevan House

35 Avenue Road
Hartlepool