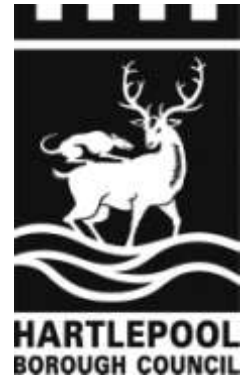


CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Tuesday 6 December 2016

at 4.00 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Beck, Clark, Hamilton, Harrison, James, Lauderdale and Moore.

Co-opted Members: Michael Lee (RC Diocesan representative) and Vacancy (C of E Diocesan representative).

School Heads Representatives: Mark Tilling (Secondary), David Turner (Primary)

Six Young Peoples Representatives

Observer: Councillor Thomas, Chair of Adult Services Committee

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November, 2016 (*previously circulated and published*).

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

- 4.1 Savings Programme 2017/18 – Children's Services – *Director of Child and Adult Services*



5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 School Admission Arrangements for 2018/19– *Director of Child and Adult Services*

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Strategic Financial Management Report - As at 30 September 2016 – *Director of Child and Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer*
- 6.2 Regional Joint Commissioning Arrangements – Residential Children’s Homes and Short Break Care – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 6.3 To Nominate Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Fostering Service Interim Report - 1 June 2016 – 30 September 2016 – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 7.2 Full OFSTED Inspection of Exmoor Grove Children’s Home – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 7.3 Full OFSTED Inspection of Stockton Road Children’s Home – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
- 7.4 School Capital Funding Information – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 17 January 2017 at 4.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SAVINGS PROGRAMME 2017/18 – CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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 enable Members to consider the initial 2017/18 savings proposals relating to the Committees remit to contribute towards achieving the overall savings requirement.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A comprehensive report on the "Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy – Capital and Revenue" was considered by Finance and Policy on 2nd December 2016. The report advised Members that as a Council we are ambitious for the Borough. Despite the fact that we continue to face unprecedented financial and demographic pressure it is important that we remain focused on securing the future prosperity and wellbeing of our residents. Whilst managing government funding cuts we need to remain committed to realising the potential of Hartlepool to be a place that is truly exceptional and use our unique spirit and assets to grow as a vibrant, dynamic and welcoming place to live, learn, work, play and invest.

3.2 The Council plan is currently being developed and will be based around six strategic priorities:

- Growing our Economy, Jobs and Skills;
- Regenerating our town;
- Developing and promoting Hartlepool as a great place to live;
- Developing new services for people and communities;
- Better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people;
- Providing effective leadership based upon innovation and efficiency.

3.3 The report to Finance and Policy Committee reminded Members that Government funding for the Council will be reduced further over the next three years. As a result we are therefore proposing an approach to meeting

the financial and demographic challenges based upon a three year strategic and financial plan that will deliver an improvement and efficiency programme focused on new ways of delivering services within and with communities; better integration of early help services to help people live healthier independent lives to reduce pressure on high cost services; and increasing income by promoting growth and a more commercial approach to traded services.

- 3.4 In relation the development of the five year capital plan the report to Finance and Policy Committee sought Members views on the Council's key regeneration and development priorities. Once these priorities have been approved a further report will be prepared detailing an investment strategy for delivering the capital plan, which will include identify those areas where the Council will need to secure capital grant and external investment.
- 3.5 There will be a presentation at the start of the Committee meeting to provide an overview of the issues reported to Finance and Policy Committee which will provide the context and background for the issues detailed in this report.

4. CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONTEXT

- 4.1 There has been a significant increase in demand over the last few years with more children and families needing support from specialist services. This has been discussed within the Children's Strategic Partnership and the Partnership decided to submit a bid to the Transformational Challenge Award (Cabinet Office) in 2015 to work together to transform all services to deliver integrated locality based support ensuring that interventions were evidence based.
- 4.2 A Better Childhood in Hartlepool is the result of the Transformation Challenge Award and is based on a significant analysis and review of all data and information to develop a programme of service transformation. Reports have been presented to the Children's Services Committee in March 2016 and November 2016 to update Committee on the continued work to develop a Better Childhood in Hartlepool.
- 4.3 The ambition of the Partnership is to

"Enable all children and families in Hartlepool to have opportunities to make the most of their life chances and be supported to be safe in their homes and communities."

The Partnership has committed to do this through:

- The development of integrated locality teams;
- A workforce approach based on intervention based practice;
- A workforce that owns, intervenes and takes action to meet the needs of children and families and assumes their responsibilities as agents of change;

- Building effective relationships with the families we work with to ensure they receive the help and support they need; and
- Supporting families to develop their own plans making sure that all support networks available to them are used. This includes wider family networks and also workers from other organisations.

4.4 The Children's Strategic Partnership has also reviewed the delivery of youth activities and bid to be part of Phase 2 of Delivering Differently (Cabinet Office programme to support new ways of working for the Youth Sector). Hartlepool was successful and has been working with the Children and Young People's Entitlement Group and an external consultancy organisation to look at options for the future delivery of young people's activities. Options have been developed and were presented to Children's Services Committee in September 2016. It was agreed within the Young People's Entitlement Group that the development of a Young People's Foundation be explored. It is the strategic aim of the council to deliver a Young People's Foundation which provides the opportunity to attract non public sector funding to ensure that young people's activities are sustainable in the future. The Foundation would not be a delivery organisation. It would be a membership organisation that would raise funding for young people's activities in Hartlepool which local providers would deliver. The principles developed for the Young People's Foundation are:

- Inclusivity;
- Diversity;
- Collaboration;
- Cross-sector working;
- Grassroots – retaining local focus.

5. PREVIOUS CHILDREN'S SAVINGS

5.1 Children's services has contributed significantly to council savings over the last few years as set out below:

2012/2013	£545,000
2013/2014	£720,000
2014/2015	£2,100,000
2015/2016	£1,790,000
2016/2017	£1,025,000

These have been largely achieved without impacting significantly on the delivery of front line services however the cuts required over the next three years cannot be made without affecting front line children's services.

6. CHILDREN'S SERVICES SAVINGS AND PRESSURES

- 6.1 The total amount of savings required for Children's Services is £1.635 million. Due to the current environment of increasing demand with increased care proceedings and an increase in the number of looked after children Children's Services currently has a budget pressure of £1.6million. Therefore the total savings including the pressures equate to £3.235 million.
- 6.2 Volatility in this budget area has previously been recognised and a specific reserve earmarked to manage these risks. Significant pressures have arisen in the current year in relation to Looked after Children and the costs of care proceedings. These areas are affecting other authorities. In total the increase in demand has resulted in a recurring pressure of £1.6m. On the basis of current caseloads continuing the existing reserve will only be sufficient to fund additional costs in 2017/18 and for part of 2018/19.

Therefore, in order to address this pressure in the medium term and to avoid this issue increasing the overall budget deficit the Director of Child and Adult Services is seeking to manage demand to reduce costs back down to the level of the recurring budget. This will be extremely challenging and if demand cannot be reduced alternative savings will need to be identified as part of the 2018/19 budget.

7. PROPOSALS FOR YEAR ONE SAVINGS

- 7.1 A review of all budgets across the division has been undertaken which has identified a number of areas where budgets have been set based on historic spend, but have not been fully committed in recent years. This review has identified £150k.
- 7.2 The model of service delivery for A Better Childhood in Hartlepool is integrated locality teams with services wrapped around each locality. It is important in order to achieve the vision that all services are reviewed to be in line with this transformation of services. The first internal service to be reviewed is the Youth Service and it is proposed that the Youth Service is redesigned to ensure that it fits with A Better Childhood in Hartlepool model. The current spend for the Youth Service is £569k. This consists of £469k children's services budget and £100k regeneration and neighbourhoods for premises costs. It is proposed that the Youth Service is redesigned realising a funding reduction of £169k.
- 7.3 Commissioned services are also being reviewed over the next two years to ensure that they are in line with the vision and principles of A Better Childhood. The first service to be reviewed is 5- 19 contract as this contract naturally comes to an end in March 2017. The Better Childhood in Hartlepool research showed clearly that the focus of support needs to be for adolescents as there was a large proportion of family breakdown at this age and older children were becoming looked after. It is therefore proposed that funding previously allocated to this contract be focused on older children

11 years and older. The current contract is £345k per year. It is proposed that this is reduced to £160k which realises a saving of £185k. It is proposed that as the Young People's Foundation is developed, this funding is channelled through the Foundation to deliver locality based services.

7.4 It needs to be noted that although this is a reduction in services for 5 – 11 year olds there is a large proportion of services already available across the town for this age group. This includes sports and recreational delivered activities, faith groups, sports clubs, scouting groups etc... Further information can be found on the Family Services Directory: <https://hartlepool.fsd.org.uk/kb5/hartlepool/fsd/home.page>

7.5 There are a number of pieces of work being implemented to try to reduce demand led costs. This includes:

- A review of all residential packages. All of the residential placements are being reviewed to understand whether they continue to meet the individual child's needs and are improving their outcomes. The placement will also be reviewed to understand if the provision provides value for money.
- A review of all Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements All of the IFA placements are being reviewed to understand whether they continue to meet the individual child's needs and are improving their outcomes. The placement will also be reviewed to understand if the provision provides value for money.
- A review of all commissioned contracts delivering placements for looked after children. There are currently a number of contracts in relation to supporting looked after children and care leavers moving to independence. These contracts are being reviewed to understand whether they provide value for money and are the right kind of services to support young people leaving care in successful transitions to independence.
- A continued focus on recruiting internal foster carers. It is important that children who need looking after are supported within Hartlepool by in house foster carers. Work continues to be undertaken to attract new foster carers to ensure that children can live within and be supported by their own community. It has been previously reported that in house foster care provides good outcomes for children looked after and represent excellent value for money. In house placements costs significantly less than Independent Foster Agencies and therefore it is our strategic aim to increase the number of in house foster carers which will reduce demand management costs.
- Review of Direct Payment processes – officers are currently reviewing the Direct Payment processes and are working towards implementing personal budgets. Personal budgets are allocated annually based on specific need and it is anticipated these changes will realise some efficiencies.

8. MAXIMISING GRANT INCOME

- 8.1 The Troubled Families programme is in place until 2020. It is a payment by results programme that gives payments based on achieving targets in relation to children's and families improved outcomes. Hartlepool has a good success rate in relation to this programme and continues to claim funding against improved outcomes. In light of this we propose that the £100k of the funding claimed contributes to the budget savings for the next three years.

9. SERVICE TRANSFORMATON TO MANAGE DEMAND (2018/2019 and 2019/2020)

- 9.1 A Better Childhood in Hartlepool will continue to be implemented as per the vision set out in section 4.3 of this report. The first phase has developed integrated Early Help teams with an expectation that this early support reduces the need for more specialist services. The next phase includes working with CAMHS, midwifery, housing and social care. The aim of A Better Childhood in Hartlepool is to support families at the earliest possible opportunity and ensure needs can be met to prevent the need for social care intervention. The performance of this approach will be monitored closely for the next 6 months to understand whether this is effective.

Parallel to this and as part of A Better Childhood, a programme of workforce development is being implemented to ensure that social workers and other professionals working directly with children and their families have high level expertise and skills to support families to make sustainable changes to improve children's outcomes which will prevent the need for children to become looked after.

- 9.2 A full review of all services will be undertaken in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to ensure that all services are in line with the strategic vision of A Better Childhood in Hartlepool. This will include:

- Review of Children's Centres;
- Review of Children's Social Care teams;
- Review of all commissioned services;
- Review of Short Break Services;
- Understanding of the impact of A Better Childhood in Hartlepool to inform a decision in relation to what the early help offer looks like and whether it is sustainable.

- 9.3 It is important in these times of reducing resources that there is a clear understanding of which services are making a difference and those services that are not. It will be important to continue to deliver the services that are making a difference and stopping those services that cannot demonstrate positive impact for children and families. Evaluation of these services will be used for ongoing savings decisions for 2018/19 and 2019/2020.

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Youth Service: The statutory duty for councils specifies Councils are required “so far as reasonably practicable secure for qualifying young persons (13-19 year olds) on the authority’s area access to sufficient educational and leisure time activities which are for the improvement of their wellbeing.”

The proposals outlined in this report reduces the Youth Service provision however it does not cease all provision therefore the council will continue to meet its statutory duty.

It is also hoped that if a Young People’s Foundation is developed, this will attract external funding to enable further youth activities to be funded.

This option will result in a number of compulsory redundancies and reductions in youth workers hours.

- 10.2 5 -19 activities contract: There is a risk that some children currently accessing the 5-19 activities services will not be able to attend local activity provision. However work carried out to map activities across the town shows that there is a wide range of activities available via community organisations. It is also hoped that if a Young People’s Foundation is developed this will attract external funding to enable further community activities to be funded.

The contract is ending on 31st March and there is no scope for extension. This will mean that there may be redundancies within the current providers.

- 10.3 Troubled Families: There is a risk allocating savings to a payment by results programme due to the need for positive outcomes to be achieved. However in mitigation of this risk Hartlepool has continued to achieve the outcomes required for the last three years and therefore it is expected that this level of performance will continue.

- 10.4 Demand led costs: There is a significant risk in achieving the savings within demand led budgets. Children’s Services has a £1.6 million budget pressure linked to the cost of legal proceedings and placements for looked after children which highlights that current demand management strategies are not working. It is hoped that the implementation of A Better Childhood in Hartlepool can ensure effective early identification of and response to emerging need although it needs to be noted that it is likely to take at least 18 months to see any benefits. Even with the implementation of A Better Childhood in Hartlepool it is highly unlikely additional savings can be achieved and the key focus of the department is managing demand to bring it in line with the allocated budget. In light of this, the service reviews for Year Two and Three will need to reflect a higher proportion of the savings required and therefore careful consideration needs to be given to the ceasing of all children’s services that are not statutory. This would include a review of whether the council could continue to deliver Children’s Centres, Youth Services, Early Intervention contracts and an Early Help offer.

10.4.1 There are a number of demand led budgets within children's services which include:

- In House Fostering;
- Agency Fostering;
- Residential;
- SGO (Special Guardianship Orders) payments;
- Direct Payments.

10.4.2 These budgets are directly related to providing appropriate placements and provision for looked after children and children in need (direct payments). The savings target of £1.635 million with the additional £1.6million pressure needs to be put in the context of the increasing pressures highlighted in section 4.3 of this report. The demand management savings rely on a significant reduction in the number of looked after children placements. A recent piece of research within the Better Childhood in Hartlepool showed that the average annual costs per child are:

- In House placements £15k;
- Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements £42k;
- Residential placements (these vary significantly based on needs) £150k.

Therefore in order to make £1.635 million savings this would equate to:

1. A reduction of 100 in house placements
2. A reduction of 38 IFA placements
3. A reduction of 11 residential placements

11. EDUCATION SAVINGS

11.1 The Council's general fund contributes £1.6m annually to education services in Hartlepool. Of this, £645,000 is spent on items that the Council has no discretion over, such as pension contributions for former employees. The remaining £955,000 is to enable the Council to carry out its statutory and some non-statutory duties. This £1.6m does not include government funding such as contributions from the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) and the Education Services Grant (ESG). It should be noted that the DSG is cash-frozen at 2012-13 prices, and the future of the ESG is uncertain. The Education Division has been asked to make a recurrent saving of £50,000 in 2018-19 and a further recurrent saving of £100,000 in 2019-20.

11.2 The impact of the Education Division on the provision for and outcomes of the children and young people in Hartlepool may be indicated by the measures below:

- Proportion of children attaining a Good Level of Development at the end of Reception has moved from below average in 2012/13 (48%) to above average in 2014/15 (68%)
- Proportion of children attaining at least the expected standard at the end of Year 6 being consistently above the national average over the last three years
- Proportion of young people attaining 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics hovering at or just below the national average for the last three years
- Proportion of schools judged to be Good or Outstanding by Ofsted improving from 78% in 2013/14 to 89% in July 2016

11.3 The recurrent savings outlined above will be achieved in the following ways:

- Income generation rising from £25,000 in 2017/18 to £65,000 in 2019/20, from traded education services such as Education Psychology, Governor Support Services and the use of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL);
- Service reconfiguration and data management will save £41,000
- Inflation freeze will save £44,000.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 The main savings identified within children services for 2017/18 are linked to the implementation of a Better Childhood in Hartlepool. The development of integrated locality teams to support families at the earliest possible opportunity is the aim of all partners within the Children's Strategic Partnership. The first year savings will include a reorganisation of the Youth Service to align with this vision and the development of a Young People's Foundation to attract external funding to meet young people's needs which was highlighted as an area of focus within A Better Childhood in Hartlepool.

12.2 To manage costs associated with demand, work has commenced to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the individual needs of children looked after in external placements and whether the provider is meeting these needs and in the most cost effective manner. To this end all children's external placements will be reviewed to ensure they are meeting need and provide value for money.

12.3 Performance and its impact on demand led budgets will be reviewed regularly to understand the ongoing demand as interventions are delivered to reduce this to track the impact of work to reduce costs back down to the level of the recurring budget.

13. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 It has been highlighted in previous reports that failure to take savings identified as part of the Savings Programme will only mean the need to make

alternative unplanned cuts and redundancies elsewhere in the authority to balance next year's budget.

- 13.2 The savings that have been identified have been assessed for their sustainability. As with all others parts of the authority the sustainability of the savings required by the ongoing cuts which the Authority faces becomes increasingly difficult as the compound affect of these savings impacts on services. It is not necessary to remind Members of the level of savings which have been delivered in previous years or those which are likely to be required in future years. The savings have been identified as sustainable in the light of the need to make ongoing changes to both what is delivered and the scaling back of some activity. The principles that have been applied in determining the proposals for savings have been linked to protecting front line services, savings being realised in respect of vacant posts where this can be managed, considering early retirement / voluntary redundancy request where these have been received and reflecting the pressures, both internal and external that the Authority needs to address to maintain effective governance arrangements.

14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 14.1 The services identified for reductions in this report focus on young people aged 5 – 19 however it is hoped that the development of a Young People's Foundation will mitigate the impact on this group of young people.

15. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 15.1 There are no legal considerations at this time.

16. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 16.1 A child and family poverty impact assessment has been attached.

17. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 17.1 There will be a number of compulsory redundancies arising from the proposals in this report. It has been estimated that 6 – 8 members of staff will be at risk as a result of these proposals.

18. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 18.1 There are no asset management considerations within this report.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 19.1 That Members of the Committee note the content of the report and formulate a response to be presented to Finance and Policy Committee.

20. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 20.1 The proposals included in this report have been identified as the services that do not affect the council's statutory duty at this time. However in future years, dependent upon future management of demand led budgets it is anticipated that cuts may need to be made to front line services.

21. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Finance and Policy Committee - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
2017/18 to 2019/20 - 20th June 2016

22. CONTACT OFFICER

Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Children's Services, Civic Centre,
Hartlepool TS24 8AY, 01429 523732, Danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? YES (Part of budget proposals) If YES please answer question 2 below				
2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? YES / NO If YES please complete the matrix below				
GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21			x	
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness			x	
Those with low educational attainment			x	
Those who are unemployed			x	
Those who are underemployed			x	
Children born into families in poverty		x		There may be some families that were accessing Youth Service or 5-19 activities that see a reduction in the service. Workers working with these families will monitor this and support these children and young people to access other services available in their community. Children living in poverty will be prioritised to access those services available.
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances		x		There may be some families that were accessing Youth Service or 5-19 activities that see a reduction in the service. Workers working with these families will monitor this and support these children and young people to access other services available in their community. Children living in poverty will be prioritised to access those services available.
Lone parents		x		There may be some families that were accessing Youth Service or 5-19 activities that see a reduction in the service. Workers working with

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

				these families will monitor this and support these children and young people to access other services available in their community. Children living in poverty will be prioritised to access those services available.
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds			x	
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
		x		Services are being reduced. Workers will ensure that those children and young people that are living in poverty are prioritised in accessing support in their community. Workers will work to ensure that these children and young people are not adversely affected.
Overall impact of Policy / Decision				
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE			ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE	
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE	<p>X</p> <p>There will be some impact on children and young people however staff will attempt to ensure that cyp in poverty will be prioritised for services however it is noted that workers do not always know that families are struggling until they hit crisis</p>		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE	

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.
Economic
Children in Low Income Families (%)
Children in Working Households (%)
Overall employment rate (%)
Proportion of young people who are NEET
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment
Education
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)
Housing
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims
Number of affordable homes built
Health
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year
Prevalence of obese children in reception year
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6
Life expectancy

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6 December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2018/19

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference Number: CAS 055/16.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To consider and agree the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Hartlepool for 2018/19 academic year.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 It is a mandatory requirement of the national School Admissions Code that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted to schools, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school (oversubscription). Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. The local authority (LA) is the admission authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, while the Governing Body is the admission authority for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools, and the relevant Trust for an Academy or Free School.

3.2 All admission authorities must set admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first consult on those arrangements. If there are no changes proposed they only need to be consulted on at least every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. The consultation period allows parents and carers, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any concerns about proposed admission arrangements.

4. PROPOSALS - CONSULTATION FOR ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018/19 ACADEMIC YEAR

- 4.1 There are no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that require public consultation.
- 4.2 The published admission number for each Community and Voluntary Controlled School is detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report which Committee are asked to approve. The admission numbers for Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools and Academies are included for information.
- 4.3 The admission arrangements including the over-subscription criteria in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, for which no changes are proposed, are included in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.4 The co-ordinated Admission Schemes for primary schools and secondary schools for 2018/19 will be formulated and published on the Authority's website by 1 January 2017, in accordance with the Schools Admissions Code.

5. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is a statutory requirement of all admission authorities that admission arrangements for 2018/2019 are determined by 28 February 2017 and these must be published on their website for the whole offer year. The LA must receive a copy of the admission arrangements of other admission authorities, including Academies, before 15 March in the determination year and provide details on its website of where these can be viewed. Information on how to refer objections to the Schools' Adjudicator (which must be made by 15 May 2017) will also be available on the website.
- 5.2 The LA must publish online, with hard copies available for those who do not have access to the internet, a composite prospectus for parents by 12 September 2017, which contains the admission arrangements for each of the state-funded schools in the LA area to which parents and carers can apply.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be a breach of statutory duty imposed on the LA if admission arrangements are not determined by 28 February 2017 and published on the Council's website by 15 March 2017.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are recommended to agree the following recommendations in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, when determining the admission arrangements for 2018/19:

- that the admission numbers as recommended in **Appendix 1** be approved
- that the current admission arrangements, detailed in **Appendix 2**, be approved.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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Assistant Director of Child & Adult Services
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Victoria Road
Hartlepool, TS24 8AY
Telephone 01429 523736
e-mail mark.patton@hartlepool.gov.uk

**PROPOSED ADMISSION LIMITS 2018/19**

Community and Voluntary Controlled School	2018/19
Barnard Grove Primary School	45
Clavering Primary School	55
Fens Primary School	60
Golden Flatts Primary School	30
Grange Primary School	50
Greatham C of E Primary School	15
Hart Primary School	15
Kingsley Primary School	60
Lynnfield Primary School	55
Rift House Primary School	30
Rossmere Primary School	55
St. Helen's Primary School	45
Throston Primary School	60

Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Academy or Free School*	2018/2019
Brougham Primary School	45
Eldon Grove Academy	75
Eskdale Academy	30
Holy Trinity CE Primary School	30
Jesmond Gardens Primary School	45
Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School	60
St. Aidan's C.E. Memorial Primary School	50
St. Bega's R.C. Primary School	25
St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School	40
St. John Vianney R.C. Primary School	30
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School	24
St. Peter's Elwick C of E Primary School	15
St. Teresa's R.C. Primary School	45
Stranton Primary School	50
Ward Jackson Church of England VA Primary School	25
West Park Primary School	45
West View Primary School	55
Dyke House Sports & Technology College	250
English Martyrs R.C. School & Sixth Form College	260
High Tunstall College of Science	241
Manor Community Academy	250
St. Hild's CE VA Secondary School	180

* Please note that proposed admission numbers for these schools are for guidance only.



Hartlepool Borough Council
School Admissions Arrangements
2018/19

**CURRENT ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS
ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2018/19**

The admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled primary schools, effective from 2018/19 admissions round, is as follows:

Parents/guardians are invited to express preferences for up to 3 primary schools in priority order and give reasons for their preferences.

- In the first instance, places will be awarded to those pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care (ONE) Plan where the school is named as the most appropriate educational setting for the child.
- The remaining places will be awarded in the following priority order:
 - 1) those children who are looked after children and previously looked after children (*previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order*);
 - 2) those children who have brothers or sisters who will be attending the school in September 2018;
 - 3) those children who live in the school's admission zone;
 - 4) those children who are distinguished from the great majority of other applicants whether on medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances and who would suffer significant hardship if they were unable to attend the school;
 - 5) those children who live closest to the school as determined by a 'straight line' distance measurement; from the (ordnance survey) address point for the child's home to the (ordnance survey) address point of the school, using the local authority's computerised measuring system.

Tiebreaker:

If more children qualify under a particular criterion than there are places available, priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school (as described under criteria 5).

Definitions:

Looked After Child - A 'looked after child' is a child who is in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

Sibling - Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carers partner and, in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address. In all cases the responsible parent will hold the child benefit for those children permanently living at that address. A brother or sister living at the same address must be attending the preferred school at the same time as the child who is applying. Please note - this criteria only applies to siblings who are of compulsory school age, not younger siblings who attend a nursery setting attached to a school

Twins or multiple birth children - If you have more than one child who are twins or part of a multiple birth going through the application process this year, you must make a separate application for each child and indicate on each online or paper form that your child has a sibling also going through the process. For community and voluntary controlled schools, we will offer a place to the other child(ren) if one of your twins/multiple birth children is offered the last place available and you have applied to the same school for the other child(ren).

Distance - Distance will be measured by a straight line distance measurement from the (ordnance survey) address point of the child's home address to the (ordnance survey) address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Medical Grounds/Exceptional Circumstances – A panel of specialist officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this criterion. If you think your child has a particular medical or social need to go to a certain school, you must provide supporting evidence from a doctor, psychologist or other professional involved with your child. The supporting evidence must relate specifically to the school you are claiming medical grounds/exceptional circumstances for, and clearly demonstrate why it is only that school that can meet your child's needs in a way that no other school can. If you are applying on-line for a place under this criterion, please send your supporting evidence to the Admissions Team by the closing date, which should include your child's name and date of birth.

NB: Exceptional social reasons do not, in the view of the Authority, include domestic inconvenience arising from parents' work patterns, child-minding problems, separation from particular nursery/primary school friends. Problems of this kind are widespread and cannot be classed as exceptional. Medical reasons do not include temporary conditions. They are permanent medical conditions which require special treatment available at the preferred school only. Medical evidence must be provided and the Authority's officers must be satisfied that the child would suffer to a significant degree if he/she went to any other school.

NOTES:**Criteria 1 Applications**

- Applications from children who are looked after must be accompanied by a letter from the social worker confirming the legal status of the child and the reasons for the school preferences. Any change of legal status and/or placement arrangements must be notified to the Admissions Team.
- Applications for previously looked after children must be accompanied by a copy of any Special Guardianship Order, Adoption Order or Child Arrangements Order.

Criteria 2 Applications

To obtain a school place under the sibling criteria the sibling must still attend the school at the time when the child for whom the place is sought joins the school. This criterion only applies to siblings who are of compulsory school age, not younger siblings who attend a nursery setting attached to a school.

Criteria 4 Applications

A panel of officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specifically to the school applied for under Criteria 4 and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs. Criteria 4 applications will only be considered at the time of the initial application, unless there has been a significant and exceptional change of circumstances within the family since the initial application was submitted.

All schools in Hartlepool have experience in dealing with children with diverse social and medical needs. However in a few very exceptional cases, there are reasons why a child has to go to one specific school.

Few applications under Criteria 4 are agreed. All applications are considered individually but a successful application should include the following:

- specific professional evidence that justifies why only one school can meet a child's individual needs, and/or
- professional evidence that outlines exceptional family circumstances making clear why only one school can meet the child's needs
- if the requested school is not the nearest school to the child's home address clear reasons why the nearest school is not appropriate
- medical cases – a clear explanation of why the child's severity of illness or disability makes attendance at only one specific school essential.

Evidence should make clear why only one school is appropriate.

Examples of cases which have been accepted under Criteria 4

- A child with limited mobility who is only able to walk to their nearest school, as their admission zone school is further away.
- A child for whom only one school is suitable due to child protection issues.

Examples of cases which have not been accepted under Criteria 4

- Case made for continuity of child minding arrangements, such as using a childminder that children are already familiar with who caters for children attending certain schools, or childminding by family members living close to a specific school. These cases were

not upheld because they are not exceptional. Many families rely on complex childminding arrangements.

- Cases made for children with specific learning and/or behavioural needs where the professional evidence submitted is not school specific. All schools are able to support children with a wide variety of individual needs. If a child's individual needs warrant a Statement of Special Educational Needs or ONE Plan the Statement or ONE Plan will name the appropriate school.
- Medical cases where even though there is a severe illness, more than one school could deal with the child's needs.

How to apply under Criteria 4

- Parents/guardians should submit all relevant information including professional evidence, with their application. If applying online, written information should be received before the closing date for applications and include the child's name and date of birth. Information provided after the closing date will only be considered when there are significant changes of circumstances.
- Applications under Criteria 4 will only be considered when supported by a letter from a professional involved with the child or family, for example, a doctor, psychologist or police officer. Supporting evidence should demonstrate why only one named school can meet the social/medical needs of the child or family.

Admission Zones

Admissions Zones are used in Criteria 3 for community and voluntary controlled schools. Some of the secondary schools (foundation and voluntary aided) have also adopted the council's criteria and will also use primary admission zones to prioritise applications. A child is not guaranteed a place at an admission zone school.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer

Subject: STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT - AS AT 30th September 2016

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non-Key Decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the 2016/17 Forecast General Fund Outturn, 2016/17 Capital Programme Monitoring and provide details for the specific budget areas that this Committee is responsible for.

3. BACKGROUND AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

- 3.1 As detailed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy Report (MTFS) submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 30th June 2016 the Government will implement further cuts in funding for Councils up to 2019/20. Over the next 3 years (2017/18 to 2019/20) this means a further grant cut of £9.8m. An MTFS update report was submitted to Finance and Policy Committee on 2nd December 2016 which informed Members of changes in the overall budget deficit and which confirms that the Council still faces an extremely challenging financial position over the next 3 years.
- 3.2 In view of the ongoing financial challenges the Corporate Management Team will continue to adopt robust budget management arrangements during 2016/17 and as detailed in section 5 it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage the annual budget. This position will need to be managed carefully over the remainder of the financial year, particularly over the winter period where some services face their highest demand and therefore cost of providing services.

4. REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS 2016/17

- 4.1 The availability and reporting of accurate and up to date financial information is increasingly important as future budget cuts are implemented and one-off resources are used up.
- 4.2 The Finance and Policy Committee will continue to receive regular reports which will provide a comprehensive analysis of departmental and corporate forecast outturns, including an explanation of the significant budget variances.
- 4.3 To enable a wider number of Members to understand the financial position of the Council and their service specific areas each Policy Committee will receive a separate report providing:
- a brief summary of the overall financial position of the Council as reported to the Finance and Policy Committee;
 - the specific budget areas for their Committee; and
 - the total departmental budget where this is split across more than one Committee. This information will ensure Members can see the whole position for the departmental budget.

5. SUMMARY OF OVERALL COUNCIL FINANCIAL POSITION

- 5.1 An assessment of the forecast outturn has been prepared to reflect expenditure incurred to date and forecast to be incurred in the second half of the financial year. As Members will be aware from previous years, significant elements of the Council's budget are demand led and affected by expenditure over the winter months, including care costs in relation to older people and winter maintenance. The outturn forecasts will be closely monitored and regular updates will be reported to Finance and Policy Committee. The forecasts need to be considered in the context of the complexity of managing a gross General Fund budget of £213m and a net budget of £86m.
- 5.2 The latest report submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 2nd December 2016 anticipated that the best case forecast outturn for departmental budgets is an over spend of £0.470m and the worst case is an over spend of £1.090m. The range reflects seasonal and demand led factors.
- 5.3 The position in relation to corporate budgets is more positive and a net under spend of £0.540m is forecast. This is after earmarking £1.8m to fund future priorities, including capital investment. Detailed proposals for using this money will be included in the 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Strategy report to be considered at a future meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee, before detailed proposals are referred to full Council.
- 5.4 After reflecting the above factors the overall forecast position for departmental and corporate budgets is a best case potential net under spend of £0.121m, or a worst case over spend of £0.499m.

6. 2016/17 FORECAST GENERAL FUND OUTTURN – CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6.1 The following table sets out the overall budget position for the Child and Adult Services Department. Budgets are managed at a Departmental level and therefore a summary of the Departmental position is provided below broken down by Committee, together with a brief comment on the reasons for the forecast outturn.

Budgets Managed by the Director of Child and Adult Services

2016/17 Budget	Description of Expenditure	September Projected Outturn Adverse/ (Favourable) Worst Case	September Projected Outturn Adverse/ (Favourable) Best Case	Comments
£'000		£'000	£'000	
30,103	Adult Committee	(323)	(558)	The projected underspend relates to current expected levels of expenditure and increased income from the CCG for jointly-funded packages, however the winter period may result in additional expenditure so the projection will be closely monitored and updated as the year progresses. In addition there are the unbudgeted costs of DoLS following the Supreme Court Judgement (which will be funded from within the overall outturn). There are a number of 'one-off' underspends arising from incremental drift, 2017/18 savings in advance and vacant posts which have now been filled. These are only temporary and not sustainable.
17,410	Children's Committee	1,623	1,478	The forecast over spend previously reflected higher levels of Looked After Children. This trend has continued during the year, including an increase in the number of high-cost, complex needs children being placed with Independent Foster Agencies and Residential Placements and an increase in Care Proceedings budgets.
47,513	Total Child & Adult	1,300	920	
Release of Departmental Reserves for 2016/17 Savings Shortfall				
(725)	Departmental Reserves required to fund shortfall in 2016/17 savings.	0	0	This reflects the usage of departmental reserves which are required to fund the shortfall in the 2016/17 savings.
-	Adult Services - Release of DoLS Reserve	0	0	DoLS costs are to be funded from within the overall outturn to protect the specific DoLS reserve.
(725)	Release of Specific Reserves Total	0	0	
46,788	Total Child & Adult - Net of Reserves	1,300	920	

6.2 Further details of the specific budget areas this Committee is responsible for are provided in **Appendix A**.

6.3 Have previously forecast an over spend reflecting higher levels of Looked After Children. This trend has continued during the year, including an increase in the number of high-cost, complex needs children being placed with Independent Foster Agencies and Residential Placements and an increase in Care Proceedings budgets. The department is focused on transforming services to reduce demand for these packages of care, although these changes will take time to implement.

7. CAPITAL MONITORING 2016/17

7.1 The 2016/17 MTFS set out planned capital expenditure for the period 2016/17 to 2017/18.

- 7.2 Expenditure against budget to the 30th September 2016 for this Committee is summarised in the following table and further details are provided in **Appendix B**.

Department	2016/17 Budget including Future Years £'000	2016/17 Budget £'000	2016/17 Actual to 30/09/16 £'000	2016/17 Remaining Expenditure £'000	2016/17 Re-phased Expenditure £'000	2016/17 Total Expenditure £'000	2016/17 Variance from Budget Adverse/ (Favourable) £'000
Children's Services	5,692	5,692	1,189	4,503	0	5,692	0
Total	5,692	5,692	1,189	4,503	0	5,692	0

- 7.3 Following feasibility and further design it has become apparent that the replacement of the external doorset scheme at the Pupil Referral Unit requires a more robust system with electronic access control. Building regulation approval is also needed. Consequently this scheme has now increased in costs to £29k from an original budget of £12k. Capital sub group have endorsed this increase in costs.

8. CONSIDERATIONS / IMPLICATIONS

Financial Considerations and Risk Implications	Covered in detail in Sections 3 to 7
Legal Considerations	None
Child and Family Poverty Considerations	None
Equality and Diversity Considerations	None
Staff Considerations	None
Asset Management Considerations	Covered in detail in Section 7

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 An updated assessment of the forecast 2016/17 budget outturn has been prepared, reflecting expenditure to date and forecast over the remainder of the year. The current forecasts indicate a best case net underspend of £0.121m and a worse case overspend of £0.499m. A significant number of these forecasts relate to seasonal services where higher levels of activity and expenditure occur over the winter months. The forecast outturn position will be managed carefully over the remainder of the year and regular updates reported to the Finance and Policy Committee.
- 9.2 In the event of a year-end overspend this will either be funded from the General Fund Reserve or by reducing the resources earmarked for Capital priorities. The position will continue to be monitored and the final outturn report to

Finance and Policy Committee will recommend a strategy to address a year end underspend if this occurs.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Members:-

- note the report
- that the £17k increase in budget for the Pupil Referral Unit Replacement Dorset capital scheme is approved.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To update the Members on the Committees forecast 2016/17 General Fund Revenue budget outturn and provide an update on the Capital Programme for 2016/17.

12. APPENDICES

Appendix A attached.
Appendix B attached.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 31st July 2016 to Finance and Policy Committee 05.09.16.

14. CONTACT OFFICERS

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REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17 as at 30th September, 2016

Approved 2016/2017 Budget £'000	Description of Service Area	September		Director's Explanation of Variance
		Projected Outturn Variance - Adverse/ (Favourable) Worst Case £'000	Projected Outturn Variance - Adverse/ (Favourable) Best Case £'000	
Children's Committee				
11,874	Children & Families	1,813	1,738	The overspend relates to a combination of historic budget pressures and an increase in LAC. Residential Placements have increased this financial year and were increasing during last financial year so there is the full year effect of these costs. In-House fostering placements have also been increasing over the last 15 months. Care Proceedings legal costs and the need to increase staffing at Exmoor Grove and the Children's Home owing to the increasing complexity of need and the requirement to maintain staffing ratios have also contributed to the overspend.
3,476	Early Intervention Services	(265)	(265)	The underspend relates to a combination of vacant posts and under spends against supplies and services budgets which, where possible, will be used to contribute towards the 2017/18 savings targets.
4	Play & Care	15	15	Historic shortfall in income - charges have been increased and will be closely monitored throughout the remainder of the year.
428	Youth Offending Service	0	0	
208	Access to Education	(17)	(33)	In year vacancy savings have resulted in forecast underspend.
120	Central Support Services	5	5	
522	Other School Related Expenditure	0	0	
524	Raising Educational Achievement	60	10	Relates to shortfall in buyback income to be funded from reserves.
237	Special Educational Needs	14	14	Additional staffing costs partially offset by additional grant and buyback income, shortfall to be funded by reserves.
16	Strategic Management	(2)	(6)	
17,410	Children's Committee Total	1,623	1,478	

PLANNED USE OF RESERVES

The above figures include the 2016/2017 approved budget along with the planned use of Departmental Reserves created in previous years. The details below provide a breakdown of these reserves

Approved 2016/2017 Budget £'000	Description of Service Area	Planned Usage 2016/2017 £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Director's Explanation of Variance
Children's Committee				
44	Youth Offending Reserve	44	0	
361	Better Childhood Programme	361	0	
0	Looked After Children Reserve	337	337	An element of the specific LAC reserve is to be released to contribute towards the increasing costs of LAC and the overspend position.
175	Early Intervention Reserve	175	0	
16	Schools Transformation Team	16	0	
30	Data Team	30	0	
72	School Improvement	72	0	
0	Independent Support/Short Breaks	11	11	£21k Reserve created from 2015/16 grant funding - element will be spent during 2016/17 as contribution towards current scheme.
698	Children's Committee Total	1,046	348	

MEMO:-	Dedicated Schools Grant			
(4,346)	Early Years	0	0	
(8,106)	High Needs	0	0	

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(36,300)	Schools	0	0	
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CHILDREN'S SERVICES

6.1 APPENDIX B

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Project Code	Scheme Title	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE IN CURRENT YEAR					Type of Financing	2016/17 COMMENTS
		A 2016/17 and Future Years Budget £'000	B 2016/17 Budget £'000	C 2016/17 Actual as at 30/09/16 £'000	D 2016/17 Expenditure Remaining £'000	E Expenditure Rephased into 2017/18 £'000	F (C+D+E) 2016/17 Total Expenditure £'000	G (F-B) 2016/17 Variance from Budget £'000		
Children's Committee										
7469	Children's Centre's Capital	18	18	11	7	0	18	0	RCCO	
8072	Integrated Children's Services Case Management Improvement	37	37	0	37	0	37	0	MIX	
8218	Youth Service Portable Multi-Use Games Area (Youth Capital Fund)	7	7	0	7	0	7	0	GRANT	
8783	Barnard Grove Primary School - Section 278 Works	12	12	0	12	0	12	0	GRANT	
8587	Brougham Primary School - Air Handling Unit Replacement	40	40	4	36	0	40	0	GRANT	
8890	Clavering Primary - Class Room Extension	289	289	268	21	0	289	0	GRANT	
8907	Clavering Primary School - Roofing Block A (Phase 2 of 2)	55	55	51	4	0	55	0	GRANT	
8898	CETL - Cafe/Meeting Area	10	10	10	0	0	10	0	RCCO	
7384	Devolved Schools Capital	354	354	47	307	0	354	0	GRANT	
8948	Eldon Grove Primary School - Dining Room Extension	231	231	0	231	0	231	0	RCCO	
8947	Fens Primary School - Heating Distribution (Phase 2 of 3)	40	40	15	25	0	40	0	GRANT	
7923	Golden Flatts Primary School - Electrical Rewire (Phase 2 of 3)	95	95	95	0	0	95	0	GRANT	
8734	Golden Flatts Primary School - Condensation mitigation works	15	15	0	15	0	15	0	GRANT	On hold pending ongoing investigation.
8874	Golden Flatts Primary School - Emergency Boiler Replacement	40	40	0	40	0	40	0	GRANT	
8947	Golden Flatts Primary School - Heating Distribution	50	50	17	33	0	50	0	GRANT	
8907	Golden Flatts Primary School - Roofing Replacement	66	66	60	6	0	66	0	GRANT	
8906	Grange Primary School - Window Replacement	30	30	31	6	0	37	7	GRANT	This scheme is currently anticipated to be completed £7k over budget. This can be funded from the funding currently unallocated.
8891	Hart Primary School - Classroom Extension	89	89	32	57	0	89	0	MIX	
8718	High Tunstall School - Roofing - Area of Block A Phased	59	59	0	59	0	59	0	MIX	On hold pending Priority School Building Programme Phase 2 but minor works were necessary and have been undertaken. The remainder of the scheme will remain on hold until the Autumn when EFA provide information as to where within the 5 yr programme the new build will be timetabled.
8718	High Tunstall School - Roofing - Block A	12	12	0	12	0	12	0	MIX	Scheme reduced pending outcome of Priority School Building Programme Phase 2. The remainder of the scheme will remain on hold until the Autumn when EFA provide information as to where within the 5 yr programme the new build will be timetabled.
8719	High Tunstall School - Roofing - Block L	102	102	0	102	0	102	0	MIX	On hold pending Priority School Building Programme Phase 2. The remainder of the scheme will remain on hold until the Autumn when EFA provide information as to where within the 5 yr programme the new build will be timetabled.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

6.1 APPENDIX B

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Project Code	Scheme Title	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE IN CURRENT YEAR					Type of Financing	2016/17 COMMENTS
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
		2016/17 and Future Years Budget £'000	2016/17 Budget £'000	2016/17 Actual as at 30/09/16 £'000	2016/17 Expenditure Remaining £'000	Expenditure Rephased into 2017/18 £'000	(C+D+E) 2016/17 Total Expenditure £'000	(F-B) 2016/17 Variance from Budget £'000		
8716	High Tunstall School - Window Replacement - Block A	156	156	0	156	0	156	0	RCCO	On hold pending Priority School Building Programme Phase 2. This scheme will remain on hold until the Autumn when EFA provide information as to where within the 5 yr programme the new build will be timetabled.
8588	High Tunstall School - Replace Underground Distribution Pipework	50	50	10	40	0	50	0	GRANT	
8906	Kingsley Primary School - Window Replacement	48	48	14	34	0	48	0	MIX	
8603	Pupil Referral Unit - Security Barrier Fencing	5	5	5	0	0	5	0	RCCO	
8604	Pupil Referral Unit - Replacement Doorsets with Security Doors	12	12	0	29	0	29	17	MIX	Following feasibility and further design it has become apparent the replacement of the external doorset and a more robust doorset system with electronic access control is required. Building regulation approval is also needed. Consequently this scheme has now increased in costs to £29k. Capital sub group have endorsed this increase in costs. This can be funded by funding currently unallocated.
7586	Purchase of Computer Equipment - City Learning Centre	4	4	0	4	0	4	0	RCCO	
8947	Rift House Primary School - Heating Distribution (1 of 2)	55	55	0	55	0	55	0	GRANT	
8907	Rift House Primary School - Roofing Replacement	85	85	27	58	0	85	0	GRANT	
8891	Rift House Primary School - Classroom Extension	662	662	2	660	0	662	0	MIX	
8819	Rossmere Primary School - Lighting/Emergency Lighting	27	27	4	23	0	27	0	MIX	
8692	Rossmere Primary School - Forest School	37	37	1	36	0	37	0	RCCO	
8906	Rossmere Primary School - Window Replacement	50	50	5	45	0	50	0	GRANT	
7421	School Travel Plans	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	GRANT	
8138	Schools General - BSF - ICT	498	498	237	261	0	498	0	GRANT	
8139	Schools General - BSF - ICT Infrastructure Costs	112	112	87	25	0	112	0	GRANT	
9004	Schools General - Contingency	150	150	0	150	0	150	0	GRANT	
9004	Schools General - Funding Currently Unallocated	328	328	0	304	0	304	(24)	MIX	Underspend represents amount to fund the Pupil Referral Unit - Replacement Doorsets with Security Doors scheme and the anticipated overspend in relation to the Grange School window replacement scheme.
9004	Schools General - RCCO Earmarked for Asbestos Surveys	25	25	0	25	0	25	0	RCCO	
9004	Schools General - Suitability RCCO Unallocated	738	738	0	738	0	738	0	RCCO	
8788	Schools General - Universal Free School Meals	53	53	0	53	0	53	0	GRANT	
8903	Springwell Primary School - Toilet Replacement	30	30	14	16	0	30	0	GRANT	
8590	Springwell Primary School - Electrical Distribution System	60	60	0	60	0	60	0	GRANT	
7419	Springwell Primary School - Conservatory Conversion	85	85	1	84	0	85	0	RCCO	
8865	St Cuthbert's Primary School - Outdoor Area	96	96	0	96	0	96	0	RCCO	

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT PERIOD ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Project Code	Scheme Title	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE IN CURRENT YEAR					Type of Financing	2016/17 COMMENTS
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
		2016/17 and Future Years Budget £'000	2016/17 Budget £'000	2016/17 Actual as at 30/09/16 £'000	2016/17 Expenditure Remaining £'000	Expenditure Rephased into 2017/18 £'000	(C+D+E) 2016/17 Total Expenditure £'000	(F-B) 2016/17 Variance from Budget £'000		
7422	St Cuthbert's Primary School - Mobile Unit Toilet Extension	88	88	40	48	0	88	0	RCCO	
8945	St Helen's Primary School - Roofing Replacement	95	95	0	95	0	95	0	GRANT	
8947	St Helen's Primary School - Heating Distribution Emitters	40	40	12	28	0	40	0	GRANT	
7106	St Hilds School - Security Barrier Fencing	21	21	0	21	0	21	0	RCCO	
7423	Sacred Heart Primary School - Car Parking Extension	12	12	0	12	0	12	0	RCCO	
7420	Stranton Primary School - Access Road and Pathways	19	19	0	19	0	19	0	RCCO	
7423	Stranton Primary School - Car Parking Extension	112	112	0	112	0	112	0	RCCO	
7521	Two year old Free Nursery Entitlement Capacity Building	23	23	0	23	0	23	0	GRANT	
7385	Ward Jackson Primary School - Disabled Access to Classroom 5	5	5	0	5	0	5	0	RCCO	
8455	West Park Primary School - Door Entry System	6	6	4	2	0	6	0	RCCO	
8950	West Park Primary School - Rectify Sound Issues to Extension	5	5	2	3	0	5	0	RCCO	
8653	West View Primary School - Early Years Foundation Stage Improvements	153	153	3	150	0	153	0	RCCO	
7105	West View Primary School - Access Road and Pathways	94	94	80	14	0	94	0	RCCO	This scheme was put on hold in 2014/15 pending the PSBP 2 announcement and only works to canopy and external store were completed. The school was not successful for PSBP2 therefore the scheme is now progressing.
Children's Committee Total		5,692	5,692	1,189	4,503	0	5,692	0		

Key

RCCO Revenue Contribution towards Capital
MIX Combination of Funding Types
UCPB Unsupported Corporate Prudential Borrowing
SCE Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)

GRANT Grant Funded
CAP REC Capital Receipt
UDPB Unsupported Departmental Prudential Borrowing
SPB Supported Prudential Borrowing

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: REGIONAL JOINT COMMISSIONING
ARRANGEMENTS – Residential Children's Homes
and Short Break Care

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non - key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform members of proposals regarding joint commissioning arrangements across the North East Local Authorities in relation to placements in Residential Children's Homes and short breaks and respite care for children with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD).

2.2 To seek approval to the recommendations outlined in the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In March 2015 Children's Services Committee gave approval for the collaborative commissioning approach with the North East (NE) local authorities for Independent Residential Schools. Following the approval, Hartlepool worked with the other NE authorities in developing a regional framework with shared procurement and contract responsibilities.

3.2 The procurement process was completed at the beginning of the year, with the Framework going live in February 2016. The NE authorities meet on a regular basis as part of the performance management arrangements, to share information around costs and ensure a joint approach to compliance.

3.3 Since the establishment of the Framework, Hartlepool has made 3 placements and transferred 2 placements, potentially saving in the region of £10 – 40k. This, together with the shared responsibility for contractual arrangements and quality assurance, has brought added value to the

Council and benefitted the Children's Commissioning Team by providing access to additional expertise.

- 3.4 The success of the Independent Residential Schools Framework has led to the opportunity for further collaborative ventures across the NE authorities.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 **Residential Children's Homes** – Newcastle has been identified as the Lead Authority which would have responsibility for leading the joint commissioning exercise on behalf of the regional local authorities. Each local authority has been allocated a role in supporting the Lead Authority to ensure that the procurement and commissioning process is managed equitably.

A number of meetings have been held with the consortium and discussions are underway with procurement leads to identify the most effective and efficient procurement options available to the group.

A total of 4 provider engagement events have been held during September and early November, to share the consortium's thinking around the existing commissioning arrangements and where positive changes could be made to current provision. Future events are planned in the New Year, to support market development to enter onto the framework. A core specification and lotting structure has been developed, this would provide significant savings for the North East authorities who together have greater buying power.

Once approval has been given the North East local authorities will work together to share procurement and contract management responsibility.

It is anticipated that the new arrangements will be in place across the region by September 2017, however, future procurement decisions may impact on this target date.

- 4.2 **Short breaks and respite care for children with learning difficulties and disabilities** –

The first provider engagement event was early in October, to share the consortium's thinking around the existing commissioning arrangements and where positive changes could be made to current provision. Future events are planned in November and December, to support market development to enter onto the framework and agree a lotting structure and core specification.

- 4.3 The rationale for both commissioning exercises is to secure the following outcomes;

1. To ensure good and improving outcomes for children and young people.
2. To ensure relationships with all providers are good and improving; open and transparent.

3. To increase financial efficiencies and value for money in all placements.
4. To achieve financial transparency in placement costs.
5. To achieve fairness of financial contribution from Health, Education and Social Care in those instances where placements are joint funded.
6. To ensure a consistency of quality across all providers.
7. To encourage and enable growth in the local market in order to provide a range of choice and suitable placements to meet the needs of children and young people.
8. To establish 'harmonised' terms and conditions for providers and purchasers.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The risk of Hartlepool not entering into the collaborative arrangements with the NE regional local authorities may affect our ability to purchase placements for our children and young people in the future, limiting our choice of provision and increasing the costs.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 As outlined in the Report it is anticipated the proposals will ensure financial efficiencies, transparency and value for money in all placements.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Hartlepool is already part of a Tees Valley consortium for the commissioning of placements in residential children's homes. This framework is due to terminate on 31st March 2020.
- 7.2 Advice has been sort from the Council's and Newcastle's legal team as to whether Hartlepool can be part of and access both frameworks. The guidance received indicates that this is an acceptable proposal and would allow the Council to participate in both procurement opportunities.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Options have been considered and there are no child and family poverty impact issues.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 Shared responsibilities for the procurement and contract management of both frameworks between all NE authorities provides access to additional expertise and increased capacity within the Children's Commissioning Team.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no asset management implications.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Committee;
- approve the proposal to participate in joint commissioning arrangements as part of the North East region for the commissioning of placements in Residential Children's Homes;
 - approve the proposal to participate in joint commissioning arrangements as part of the North East region for the commissioning of short breaks and respite care for children with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Hartlepool's experience of participating in partnership arrangements in other contracts e.g. the Independent Residential Schools framework, means that costs are managed on a regional/sub regional basis and offer greater efficiencies and leverages better value for money.
- 13.2 If Hartlepool was actively involved in both joint commissioning exercises, it would ensure maximum influence on standards, quality and costs. Monitoring and review arrangements would involve officers within the Children's Commissioning Team.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children's Services Committee Report – 15th March 2015

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: TO NOMINATE LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update members of the Children's Services Committee in respect of vacancies that currently exist for local authority representative governors, and to request that members recommend nominees to the governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reports have previously been presented to the Children's Services Committee in February and July 2015 alerting members to the requirement that local authority governors are now nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing body on the basis that the nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school, and meets any other eligibility criteria they may have set.

A schedule (Appendix A) is attached setting out details of vacancies which currently exist, together with applications received (Appendix B). **This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government), (Access to Information), (Variations Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (Para 1).**

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 None.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 None.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 None.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 None.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 None.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 None.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 None.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The committee gives consideration to applicants as set out in Appendix B in respect of local authority nominations for consideration by governing bodies where vacancies currently exist.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that the nomination of local authority governors will contribute to improve the effectiveness of the governing body to which they are appointed.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL	VACANCY	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	NOMINEES RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPOINTMENT BY GOVERNING BODY
<p>High Tunstall College of Science</p> <p>The college would wish to retain the skills of Mrs Butterworth on the governing body. As a parent governor she has shown strong commitment and has been actively involved on a number of committees. She is able to bring management and leadership skills including financial management and human resources and in her work role is actively involved with children. Mrs Butterworth chairs the Curriculum and Performance Committee at the college.</p>	<p>1 vacancy</p>	<p>Mrs J.Butterworth</p>	

<p>Barnard Grove Primary School</p> <p>Councillor Cook is an experienced governor who has been on the Governing Body of Barnard Grove and other schools for a number of years. As a local councillor he has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the school community and takes a proactive role in helping to resolve local issues connected to the school. He is also a member of the school's Finance and General Purposes Committee.</p>	<p>1 vacancy</p>	<p>Councillor R Cook</p>	
<p>Rift House Primary School</p> <p>Councillor Beck is currently the LA Governor at the school and is a member of the Council's Children's Services Committee. These experiences have helped him develop a knowledge and understanding of the educational needs of children and the issues facing schools. In his role as ward councillor he has strong links with the local community. The school would wish to retain the services of Councillor Beck on the governing body.</p>	<p>1 vacancy</p>	<p>Councillor P Beck</p>	

<p>THROSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL</p> <p>Mr Shears has been a LA Governor at the school since 2009. He is Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and is actively involved with other committees including the school's Forward Planning Working Party and staff recruitment panels when required. His financial background and knowledge through his employment at the local authority is a strength which the school would wish to retain.</p>	<p>1 vacancy</p>	<p>Mr K Shears</p>	
<p>SACRED HEART RC PRIMARY SCHOOL</p> <p>There are a number of Governors whose term of office will come to an end in the coming months and the Governing Body is keen to retain their experience wherever possible. Mr. Hall has served as a Local authority Governor for a number of years and brings a wealth of knowledge of the community and experience to the Governing Body.</p>	<p>1 Vacancy</p>	<p>Councillor G Hall</p>	

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: FOSTERING SERVICE INTERIM REPORT
1 June 2016 – 30 September 2016

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Children Service's Committee with information relating to the activity of the Fostering Service for the second quarter of 2016/17. The Fostering Service is a regulated service and as such there is a requirement to provide the executive side of the Council with performance information on a quarterly basis.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The work of the Fostering Service is subject to National Minimum Standards applicable to the provision of Foster Care for children looked after. The National Minimum Standards, together with regulations for fostering and the placement of children looked after, form the basis of the regulatory framework under the Care Standards Act 2000 for the conduct of Fostering Agencies.
- 3.2 The report provides details of the staffing arrangements in the service, training received by both staff and Foster Carers, the constitution of the Fostering and Adoption Panel, activity in relation to the recruitment, preparation and assessment of prospective Foster Carers and progress in relation to the priorities set out in the Fostering Annual Report.
- 3.3 The Fostering Services Minimum Standard 25.7 requires Fostering Services to ensure the executive side of the Local Authority:

- Receives a written report on the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency once every 3 months;
- Monitors the management and outcomes of the service in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and achieving good outcomes for children;
- Satisfies themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of the registration.

4. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION (AS AT 30 SEPT 2016)

- 4.1 The fostering team continue to recruit and assess prospective foster carers to minimise the dependency and need to source costly external placements for children.
- 4.2 There are currently 110 foster carers (including 21 of those approved as Connected Persons). These carers provided placements for 164 children and young people, including 8 young people in Staying Put placements and 25 children/young people in Connected Care foster placements. This represents an increase of three fostering households since the previous quarter and an increase of 9 children placed from the previous quarter.
- 4.3 Of the 110 approved fostering households, there is currently one foster carer who is currently on hold due to the individual circumstances of the carer, equating to 2 placements. There are a small number of placements that cannot be used due to the specific matching needs of the children/young people already in that foster placement.
- 4.4 The fostering team has continued the recruitment collaboration with the four neighbouring local authorities within the Tees Valley, Tees Valley Fostering, the initiative shares resources and strategies to enable increased recruitment activities to take place across the sub region. We continue to focus this recruitment on specifically recruiting more foster carers for sibling groups and teenagers. A radio campaign and a further television advertisement is planned for October and December 2016.
- 4.5 The table below provides details of the recruitment activity which has taken place in the second quarter of 2016/17.

<p>Initial Enquiries – including survey of where did people hear about the service</p>	<p>Initial Enquiries 15</p> <p>Source HBC Website 5 Own volition 4 Hartbeat Facebook 4 Friend recommendation 2 Hartlepool Mail TV advert</p>
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Information packs sent out between 1/04/16 and 30/06/16	15
Initial Visits How many proceeded	7 5
Preparation Group	A preparation group was held in September 2016 and was attended by 5 fostering households and 1 connected foster carer.
How many prospective Carers are in the assessment process?	There are currently 3 prospective fostering households in stage 1 of assessment. There are 8 prospective fostering households in stage 2 of the assessment.

5. FAMILY PLACEMENT PANEL

- 5.1 The Family Placement Panel continues to be held on a twice monthly basis and agenda items include both fostering and adoption matters. Between 1 June and 30 September 2016, six panel meetings have taken place. The panel has a full cohort of members now available. Any new appointments continue to receive induction training and ongoing training throughout the year. Yearly appraisals of panel members are also undertaken.
- 5.2 From 1 June 2016 to 30 September 2016 the Panel has made recommendation to the Agency Decision Maker on the following fostering matters:
- Five Foster Carer approvals, 4 of which are Connected Foster Carers;
 - The matches of three children with a long term Foster Carer;
 - Seven foster care reviews.
 - Two foster carer resignations
 - The best interest decision for 4 children for Long Term Foster care.
- 5.3 There are effective processes in place for the recommendations made by Panel to be considered by the Agency Decision Maker and the timescale for this is within 10 working days of the Panel meeting taking place.

6. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Fostering Team consists of a Team Manager who has management responsibility for the Fostering and Adoption Service, an Assistant Team Manager and six social work posts. We have had a period of stability in

relation to staffing, with the only significant change being that the temporary position within the team has been re-appointed to with an experienced social worker on a 12 month temporary contract who commenced employment at the beginning of February 2016, this post is to cover the post held by the current family finder. A permanent Social Worker has returned from maternity leave in July 2016.

- 6.2 The Fostering Team continues to benefit greatly from the support of a team clerk. The role of this worker is to continue to offer admin support to the Fostering Team and she is responsible for the planning, preparation and smooth running of Fostering and Adoption Panel.
- 6.3 In addition the Fostering Team continues to benefit from the ongoing role of Family Finder who continues to be instrumental in family finding for those children and young people in need of permanency via long term fostering.
- 6.4 The Family Finder has been instrumental in developing links with independent agencies and ensuring processes work efficiently between the local authority and the independent agencies.
- 6.5 The Family Finder worker has ensured that plans for permanence are identified as early as possible and that a Permanency Planning meeting is closely followed by a process meeting to minimise delay for children and ensure that social workers are supported in producing quality timely matching reports.

7. DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE SERVICE

- 7.1 The number of children becoming looked after in the second quarter has increased minimally, however this continues to be in line with an increase in connected carer foster carers. We are continuing to recruit, assess and approve new carers consistent with an aim to be able to offer placement choice to placing social workers. We continue to need placements for sibling groups of 3 or more and older teenagers which will be the focus of ongoing targeted recruitment campaigns.
- 7.2 As part of their development and progression, all new foster carers are encouraged to complete the Children's Workforce Development Council Standards for Foster Carers Portfolio within a 12 months post approval timescale. All approved Connected Person's Carers have an increased timescale of two years to complete the portfolio. Support in completing the portfolio is available from both supervising Social Workers and existing approved carers wishing to reach progression level Band 4 where there is a requirement to provide mentoring and support. We continue to have a high proportion of our carers who achieve their CDWC qualification within the required timescale.
- 7.3 All foster carers are required to complete a record of the training they have attended for the year of their approval. The four mandatory courses are child

protection, first aid, attachment and E-Safety. There is a requirement that these courses are completed within one year of approval and updated every three years.

- 7.4 Foster carers are provided with bespoke training specific to their needs whilst caring for looked after children. The bespoke training is reviewed annually and reflected on during the foster carers annual reviews.
- 7.5 Foster carer support groups have continued to take place bi-monthly. Groups are usually attended by 20+ foster carers and offer an element of training, usually provided by a guest speaker delivering information which is of interest to carers and an informal Support Group Session towards the end of the evening.
- 7.6 The Support Groups are arranged and facilitated by at least two members of the Fostering Team who are available to discuss any issues raised by individual carers or the group as a whole.
- 7.7 The fostering team also facilitate a bi-monthly coffee morning for foster carers, which is an informal support meeting.
- 7.8 Foster Carer retention is an essential part of the Fostering service and as such a great emphasis is placed upon this. Within this quarter a family fun day was held collaboratively with the Tees Valley authorities where children and carers competed in activities.
- 7.9 The fostering action plan is attached as **Appendix A**.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Fostering service ensures that it supports all foster carers to enable them to support our children and young people.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The service continues to recruit and assess prospective Foster Carers to provide placement choice. The fostering service will continue to work in collaboration with the Tees Valley local authorities in respect of fostering recruitment. In addition to this the team will continue to respond to requests for Connected Person's assessments.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations within this report.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The Children's Service Committee is asked to note the report in relation to the work of the Fostering Service in the second quarter of 2016/17.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 12.1 The Fostering Service is required to fulfill its statutory responsibilities to children looked after by the local authority and provide regular reports to the Children Services Committee to enable the Committee to satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of the registration.
- 12.2 Children's Services Committee has an important role in scrutinising the activities of the fostering services to ensure that performance in this area is robust.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Fostering National Minimum Standards Services 2011;
- Fostering Regulations 2011;
- Fostering Annual Report 2015/2016.

14. CONTACT OFFICER

- 14.1 Karen Douglas-Weir, Head of Services for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, Karen.douglas-weir@hartlepool.gov.uk (01429) 405584 (Direct) / (01429) 405588 (Reception)
- 14.2 Christine Croft, Team Manager (Family Placement) Christine.croft@hartlepool.gov.uk 01429 287216



Fostering Services Action Plan April 2016 - April 2017

Priority	Progress Achieved Quarter 1	Lead Officer	Target Date
<p>Target recruitment to attract foster carers for older children and sibling groups and those with more challenging behaviours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment strategy in place Bus Shelter and Billboard campaign completed . Fostering advert on Argos till receipts throughout Facebook advertising focussing on teenagers TV advert planned to air in January 2016 Leaflets redesigned to feature teenagers 	<p>Jacqui Dixon</p>	<p>Ongoing Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed</p>
<p>To continue to offer and deliver an extensive training programme to our carers to ensure that all of our fostering households have achieved the CWDC qualification within the allocated timescales and can demonstrate continued professional development as foster carers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All foster carers who have been approved for more than a year have completed the standards, those recently approved are working towards. A support group is in place where experienced carers support new carers to complete the standards 	<p>Christine Croft</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To continue with family finding post enabling children and young people to have 'permanency' in their lives as early as possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family finding post has been secured for a further 12 months. Procedures are in place and proving effective to ensure early matching and permanence. 	<p>Emma Howarth/Angi Simmonds Christine Croft</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>To hold life appreciation events for all children where permanency is the option.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life appreciation events have taken place. • Family finder post supporting this. 	<p>Emma Howarth/Angi Simmonds</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To continue to demonstrate our appreciation of the commitment provided by our foster carers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual celebration event held in February 2016 . • Fostering families fun sports day planned for July 2016. • Fostering Christmas party to be planned 2016 	<p>Jacqui Dixon/ Christine Croft</p>	<p>Completed Completed Ongoing Completed</p>
<p>To continue to strive to support our carers to engender stability within placements for our looked after children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly evening support groups held • Supervising social workers provide regular supervision and support visits. • Supporting mentoring of new carers by experienced carers • Placement support team continue to work with carers and young people to support and maintain placements 	<p>Supervising social workers Christine Croft Margaret Hennessey</p>	<p>Completed Completed Completed Completed</p>
<p>To ensure that carers have the skills, knowledge and experience to care for children with attachment and emotional difficulties and those moving on to Staying Put</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To plan/organise and facilitate the first Hartlepool Foster Carers Conference • Conference to be held in June 2016 	<p>Christine Croft Margaret Hennessey Suzanne Brennan CAHMS Young People/CICC</p>	<p>Completed</p>

<p>To consult foster carers in relation to the performance of the Local Authority in relation to support, training and retention of foster carers and to use this information to develop future priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual consultation survey sent to carers • Feedback forms reviewed during annual foster care reviews. 	<p>Christine Croft Jacqui Dixon</p>	<p>Ongoing Completed</p>
<p>To review the Staying Put policy and guidelines to ensure that they are fit for purpose and meets the needs of the Young People of Hartlepool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying Put Policy to be reviewed • Staying Put workshop to be delivered within FC annual conference • To ensure that all young people have a Living Together License and Agreement in place before reaching 18 years of age. 	<p>Christine Croft Suzanne Brennan Conference Facilitators</p>	<p>Completed Completed Ongoing</p>
<p>Continue to facilitate sons and daughters group for children of foster carers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings and activities have taken place • Specific training planned for children and young people • Sons and daughters of Foster Carers to be invited to attend preparatory training. 	<p>Placement Support team Christine Croft</p>	<p>Ongoing Not completed</p>
<p>To further improve the quality of the care provided to children and young people to ensure better outcomes are achieved for children and young people in all aspects of their lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers have attended the Foster Carers Annual Conference June 2016 • All carers have a personal development plan highlighting training requirements. 	<p>Christine Croft</p>	<p>Completed Completed</p>
<p>To review the approval ages and status of the more experienced carers with a view to encouraging them to provide placements for older children with more complex needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with carers has taken place at a support group meeting • Training planned 	<p>Christine Croft Jacqui Dixon</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>To continue to work within the the BAAF 2 stage assessment process providing timely assessments, recruitment and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BAAF 2 stage process is proving effective • Work has been undertaken with ICT staff to ensure that the current ICS system is updated to reflect this change and enable foster carer recruitment and training to be recorded appropriately . 	<p>Christine Croft</p>	<p>Ongoing Completed</p>
<p>To continue to work collaboratively with the neighbouring authorities to share resources and expertise in foster carer recruitment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tees Valley Fostering holds regular meetings attended by Hartlepool • Joint recruitment activities planned for 2016 	<p>Jacqui Dixon</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: FULL OFSTED INSPECTION OF EXMOOR GROVE CHILDREN'S HOME

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Children's Services Committee the recent full inspection report of Exmoor Grove Children's Home by OFSTED which took place on 24 August 2016 and for members to note the report (attached as **Appendix A**).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Inspections of Children's homes are unannounced. Ofsted have a duty to inspect children's homes twice a year under The Children's Homes Regulations 2015. This takes the form of a full inspection followed by an interim inspection. The scheduling of inspections takes account of;

- previous inspection findings;
- complaints and concerns about the service;
- notifications from the home; and
- the content of monitoring reports to Ofsted by children's homes under regulations 44 and 45 of The Children's Homes Regulations 2015.

3.2 The inspection judgments and descriptions for a full inspection are:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Inadequate

- Inspectors will use the descriptors as the bench mark against which to grade and judge performance. Inspectors are required to weigh up the evidence in:
 - How well children and young people are helped and protected; and
 - the impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers;
 - and consider it against the evaluation criteria, outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate before making the judgment of the experience and progress of children and young people.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The Full inspection of Exmoor Grove took place on 24 August 2016 against the above judgments and the service was judged as **Outstanding** overall. The report of the inspection is attached at **Appendix A**. The headlines and reasons why the Children's home provision is outstanding is set out in the report as below:

- Children and young people receive highly individualised care that helps to maximise their progress.
- The range of in-house and community activities that children and young people take part in are exceptional.
- Admissions procedures for children and young people are excellent
- Young people moving on from the home are exceedingly well prepared and benefit from exemplary key-worker support.
- Staff use a research-based approach to manage difficult behaviour, significantly decreasing children's and young people's anxieties.
- Meticulous placement plans and child-centred review documents mean that staff focus on how to help children and young people progress in all areas.
- Staff commitment is evident in the additional fundraising activities that they take part in, contributing to the provision of a new sensory room.
- Children, young people, parents and carers benefit from inspirational leadership and management, and
- Senior staff are genuinely invested in continuing professional development, and share the outcome of training with staff to improve and promote good practice.

4.2 To improve the quality and standards of the care further the following recommendations were made by Ofsted;

- The registered person is responsible for ensuring that each child's day-to-day health and well-being needs are met. Staff should work to make the children's home an environment that supports children's physical, mental and emotional health, in line with the approach set out in the home's statement of purpose. In particular, make clear what the home does in practice to meet the needs and consult with children and young people who have communication difficulties.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Children's home needs to implement the recommendations to ensuring children and young people continue to receive a good service. If the children's home does not continue a program of improvement and does not follow up on the recommendations made, it runs the risk of being judged 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' meaning the care of children and young people has become unsafe or poor.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations within this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations within this report.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations within this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The inspection outlines how the Children's home, care and practice are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, ethnicity, faith, or belief, gender, gender identity, language, race and sexual orientation.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific staff considerations within this report however it is needs noting that the outstanding grading given to Exmoor Grove highlights the hard work and commitment of all the team including the Head of Service.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no asset management considerations within this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Children's Services Committee is asked to note the positive inspection report of Exmoor Grove Children's Home. The provision has been judged to be Outstanding, which is the highest judgement. This is an improvement from the home's good judgment which has been consistent over the last 6

inspections which demonstrates the hard work and commitment of the staff team as a whole and positive management and leadership of the Registered Manager.

13.. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Exmoor Grove is a regulated statutory service providing care for children and young people and Children's Service Committee must be kept informed of inspections and the judgments of OFSTED in relation the provision.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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Children's homes inspection – Full

Inspection date	24/08/2016
Unique reference number	SC030967
Type of inspection	Full
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered provider	Hartlepool Borough Council
Registered provider address	Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 8AY

Responsible Individual	Sally Robinson
Registered manager	Sylvia Lowe
Inspector	Michele Hargan

Inspection date	24/08/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Sustained effectiveness
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home are	Outstanding
The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good. The actions of the home contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help, protection and care.	
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Outstanding
The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding

SC030967**Summary of findings****The children's home provision is outstanding because:**

- Children and young people receive highly individualised care that helps to maximise their progress.
- The range of in-house and community activities that children and young people take part in are exceptional.
- Admission procedures for children and young people are excellent.
- Young people moving on from the home are exceedingly well prepared and benefit from exemplary key-worker support.
- Staff use a research-based approach to manage difficult behaviour, significantly decreasing children's and young people's anxieties.
- Meticulous placement plans and child-centred review documents mean that staff focus on how to help children and young people progress in all areas.
- Staff commitment is evident in the additional fundraising activities that they take part in, contributing to the provision of a new sensory room.
- Children, young people, parents and carers benefit from inspirational leadership and management.
- Senior staff are genuinely invested in continuing professional development, and share the outcome of training with staff to improve and promote good practice.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further, the service should take account of the following recommendation:

- The registered person is responsible for ensuring that each child's day-to-day health and well-being needs are met. Staff should work to make the children's home an environment that supports children's physical, mental and emotional health, in line with the approach set out in the home's statement of purpose.

In particular, make clear what the home does in practice to meet the needs and consult with children and young people who have communication difficulties.
(*'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'*, page 33, paragraph 7.3)

Full report

Information about this children's home

The home provides short breaks for up to eight children with learning disabilities. If the home accommodates a young person aged 18 then it must reduce the number of children accommodated by one. It is operated by a local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/02/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
24/09/2015	Full	Good
06/03/2015	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
27/11/2014	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

	Judgement grade
The overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home are	Outstanding
<p>Staff methodically plan children’s and young people’s care, significantly aiding their overall development. Individually abilities are assessed using a child-friendly format. This results in a celebration of children’s and young people’s talents and achievements, alongside identifying areas that would benefit from further support. A member of staff said, ‘I have recently spoken to a young person’s parents. They were really proud of what he had achieved. They can take their certificates to school, and another young person has certificates to say what cooking and baking she has done. She loves that, because it helps her to understand what she can do.’</p> <p>Staff are highly skilled in building effective relationships with children and young people. They demonstrate this through sensitive responses, conveying to the child or young person that they are genuinely interested in them. As staff understand the crucial link between play and learning, they provide opportunities to take part in bespoke activities aimed at meeting the individual developmental needs of children and young people. For example, trips to places of interest for walking, as part of a physical rehabilitation, and constructive experiences of outdoor play. This results in significantly improved physical and emotional well-being. A member of staff said, ‘The young person loves sensory play with water, in the “mud kitchen”. She just has the best time. It helps her to stay calm and she is less agitated.’</p> <p>Children and young people’s short stays fruitfully enrich their lives, exceeding parents’ and professionals’ expectations. A vibrant and highly aspirational culture, alongside high levels of structure and supervision, means that children and young people can fully participate in what the home has to offer. Children and young people really look forward to their stays, because they feel meaningfully engaged and enjoy themselves while making real progress. This results in improved patterns of sleep, reduced anxieties around mealtimes and better communication. A parent said, ‘He has made fabulous progress. He can form sentences that are more readily understood by others and it shows, out in the community, eating out, going to the shop – simple things, being able to speak to someone. It’s a small thing, but being understood is huge.’</p> <p>Staff support children and young people to succeed in the activities and pastimes that they are encouraged to take part in. Staff are vigilant in noticing and rewarding positive behaviour through a points-based system that leads to rewards that have a special value for individual children and young people. A parent said, ‘They took him to wheelchair ice-skating and to a show. He loves musicals.’</p> <p>An innovative approach to the admission process helps children who are new to the</p>	

home to quickly settle in and make excellent progress in their communication and social skills. This involves parents and professionals taking part in a 'child appreciation meeting', to build a holistic picture of the child's abilities and needs. This enables an in-depth understanding of a child before admission so that staff are extremely well prepared. A parent commented, 'I feel like they know our child now.' A social worker said, 'I picked up on information about the child that I didn't know. It was very helpful and the child's family quite enjoyed it.' Another parent said, 'The transition was handled brilliantly. We met with the key worker and we discussed our son. She went to visit him in school, where he was more comfortable.'

Similarly, young people moving on from the home also receive exemplary key-work support and excellent individualised help well in advance of their planned move. This helps reduce young people feeling anxious and overwhelmed, and instead are well prepared and experience a very positive transition. As a part of this process, young people are presented with a bound pictorial record capturing their significant moments and achievements for them to treasure. A member of staff said, 'We threw a surprise party for the young person. Off-duty staff came in. We had a collection and staff bought him a gift – an electronic game that he'd always wanted. He couldn't believe it.' A social worker said, 'The home was a massive support.'

	Judgement grade
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Outstanding
<p>Children and young people are safe during their short breaks. They do not go missing and they are not bullied or exploited. Without exception, parents, carers, professionals and staff agree that this is the case. Staff are clear about what to do in the event of any issues and they are highly vigilant for any possible indicators of concern. A parent said, 'We have never had any concerns about his safety. We know that he is safe.'</p> <p>The managers are accredited trainers in a psychotherapeutic approach using an attachment model. They actively share their knowledge with the staff team. This has resulted in skilled responses to children and young people who communicate difficulties through their behaviour. This has helped children and young people to make links between their feelings, thoughts and behaviours. This approach helps children and young people recognise they have choices about how to behave. As a result of this development sanctions are no longer used and restrictive physical interventions have significantly reduced. This response exceeds a previous recommendation. A member of staff said, 'It does work. Our restraint log has gone down massively. You can see it more from their point of view. The children are happier and it's so much better.' A parent also said, 'The way that they talk to him, they try to distract him and they show real respect for him. He just calms right</p>	

down.’ The details of these low-level interventions are now fully recorded. This makes staff accountable for their actions and meets a previous requirement.

Significantly improved staff recruitment procedures ensure the management verify references directly. This maximises the opportunity to clarify any issues and obtain further information. This additional safeguard further protects children and young people by ensuring that prospective staff are carefully vetted. This also meets a previous recommendation.

Children and young people experience a short break in a home that is safe, comfortable and exceedingly well equipped to meet their needs. Active fundraising by staff and a donation from the local authority staff lottery have led to the provision of a well-equipped sensory room. Further communication aids throughout the home have significantly improved children’s and young people’s abilities to express their wants and needs. In addition, the provision of an inflatable hot tub in the home’s garden area means that young people have access to sensory experiences that meet their development needs and help them to relax. A member of staff said, ‘We have the special wetsuits for children and they are properly supervised, and we make sure that the water is clean and safe.’

A proactive management culture means that staff routinely undertake environmental safety checks throughout the building. This approach ensures that any health and safety matters are quickly identified and actioned. This typifies the preventative approach to safeguarding children and young people that is a strong feature of the home. A senior member of staff said, ‘We have updated all the risk assessments. They are now red, amber or green, so you can see at a glance any areas of concern. We have all risk assessments signed up to by parents and social workers and we have incorporated PACE (playful, accepting, curious and empathic response) into all the behaviour support plans.’

Any complaints or concerns are taken seriously and investigated, and the outcome fed back to the complainant to resolve any issues. This response helps to sustain meaningful relationships with stakeholders, in the best interests of children and young people.

	Judgement grade
The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding
<p>The highly dedicated manager is suitably qualified and experienced, and has been in post since 2008. The manager is clearly committed to continuing professional development and is an inspiring role model for staff. This is also evident in the care and time taken to ensure that staff receive high-quality training tied to improving outcomes for children and young people. When discussing the home’s ethos, the manager said, ‘We use an approach aimed at helping children and young people to</p>	

develop their personal and social skills. It means that each child or young person has a chance to shine in an area that is focused on them, and that helps to develop and stretch them. It helps them to realise their potential.'

A record of achievements now forms the basis for representing the views and accomplishments of children and young people. The pictorial document portrays the impact on children's and young people's development, so that any improvement and areas where additional help can be targeted are apparent. This assessment process is underpinned by a methodical approach to promoting children's and young people's holistic development which maximises their potential. This development exceeds a previous recommendation.

Highly skilled staff inspire confidence in parents, carers and professionals, because children and young people receive excellent care. Staff know how to earn the trust of children and young people, and this lays the foundation for sound relationships. The tailored care that children and young people receive reflects their unique personalities and interests. This helps them to feel genuinely invested, maximising their overall progress. A very good response to Ofsted surveys also adds to this view. For example, a parent wrote, 'It is the most fantastic place with brilliant staff, and we are so glad that our child has the opportunity to go there.' A social worker stated, 'Staff are always eager to discuss how they feel they could further promote the child's well-being. Staff go above and beyond what is expected of them.'

Reports completed by the independent visitor are rigorous, and make a meaningful contribution to reviewing the quality of care that children and young people receive. This promotes accountability by staff and managers for their actions and helps to ensure that the home maintains high standards.

Reviews of the quality of care provided by the home are worthwhile. This process focuses on what can be done to further improve the support that children and young people receive. It is evident that the identified actions translate into excellent care practice that is immensely beneficial to children and young people.

Meaningful consultation about the home is undertaken with children, young people, parents, carers and professionals. The results demonstrate a united view by all concerned that staff provide an outstanding service. This is underpinned by ongoing development of staff which is firmly established. For five days in every year, staff receive intensive training, helping them to achieve a shared understanding about any new approaches or learning. Staff clearly feel valued and sustained by this initiative. The additional benefit of the event is to strengthen cohesive teamwork. As a result, children and young people receive a consistent approach from all staff, with the new ways of working helping to reduce any anxious or distressed feelings.

The home's statement of purpose does not fully reflect what happens in practice to ensure effective communication with children and young people. This omission

means that any new stakeholders, parents and carers are not fully informed about what staff do to ensure that children's and young people's views, wishes and feelings are taken into account.

What the inspection judgements mean

The experiences and progress of children and young people are at the centre of the inspection. Inspectors will use their professional judgement to determine the weight and significance of their findings in this respect. The judgements included in the report are made against 'Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection'.

An **outstanding** children's home provides highly effective services that contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help and protection and care. Their progress exceeds expectations and is sustained over time.

A **good** children's home provides effective services that help, protect and care for children and young people and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

In a children's home that **requires improvement**, there are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. The welfare of children looked after is safeguarded and promoted. Minimum requirements are in place. However, the children's home is not yet delivering good protection, help and care for children and young people.

A children's home that is **inadequate** is providing services where there are widespread or serious failures that create or leave children and young people being harmed or at risk of harm or that result in children looked after not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people who it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the, 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: FULL OFSTED INSPECTION OF STOCKTON ROAD CHILDREN'S HOME

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Children's Services Committee the recent full inspection report of Stockton Road Children's Home by OFSTED which took place on 17 August 2016 and for members to note the report (attached as **Appendix A**).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Inspections of Children's homes are unannounced. Ofsted have a duty to inspect children's homes twice a year under The Children's Homes Regulations 2015. This takes the form of a full inspection followed by an interim inspection. The scheduling of inspections takes account of;

- previous inspection findings;
- complaints and concerns about the service;
- notifications from the home; and
- the content of monitoring reports to Ofsted by children's homes under regulations 44 and 45 of The Children's Homes Regulations 2015.

3.2 The inspection judgments and descriptions for a full inspection are:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Inadequate

- Inspectors will use the descriptors as the bench mark against which to grade and judge performance. Inspectors are required to weigh up the evidence in:
 - How well children and young people are helped and protected; and
 - the impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers;
 - and consider it against the evaluation criteria, outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate before making the judgment of the experience and progress of children and young people.

4. OFSTED INSPECTION FINDINGS

4.1 The full inspection of Stockton Road Children's home took place on 17 August 2016 against the above judgments and the service was judged as **outstanding**. The report of the inspection is attached at **Appendix A**. The reasons why the Children's home provision is outstanding is set out in the report as below:

- Young people have an exceptional range of experiences reflecting the highly individualised care and support that they receive.
- Staff are very skilled at building and sustaining relationships with young people by working through any arising difficulties in a calm and empathic way.
- Young people are very well nurtured and truly valued. They make excellent overall progress in their educational, social and emotional development.
- Care practice is underpinned by evidenced-based research. This means that staff can draw on a range of approaches depending on the needs of the young person.
- Young people's safety improves over time. Proactive steps are taken by the manager to address the signs of risk-taking behaviour, ensuring that young people are protected.
- Young people re-establish relationships with their families where this is assessed as safe. This is because staff know the value of family contact for young people.
- The manager promotes an aspirational culture that instils positive self-belief in young people that they are capable of achieving what they set out to do.
- The home's manager ensures that all staff receive a high level of additional support through personalised training. This means that staff develop increased levels of insight and become skilled at helping young people to realise their full potential.
- Young people's views are listened to particularly within their meetings which are purposefully carried out; and
- The Registered Manager is an inspiring leader who ensures care practice is underpinned by relevant theory.

4.2 Ofsted did not make any statutory recommendations however made three recommendations for further improve quality and standards:

- Children's home staff should take reasonable precautions and make informed professional judgements, based on the individual child's needs and developmental stage, about when to allow a child to take a particular risk or follow a particular course of action;
- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and should understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home; and
- The home's records on each child represent a significant contribution to their life history. Children and their parents should be supported to understand the nature of records kept by the home and how to access them. Staff should understand their important roles in encouraging the child to reflect on and understand their history, according to their age and understanding. In particular, the home should contribute to a written report for the child's looked after review that is primarily written for the benefit of the child.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Children's home needs to implement the statutory requirements and recommendations to ensuring children and young people continue to receive a good service. If the children's home does not put in place the statutory actions or demonstrate a continued program of improvement and does not follow up on the recommendations made, it runs the risk of being judged 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' meaning the care of children and young people has become unsafe or poor.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations within this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations within this report.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations within this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The inspection outlines how the Children's home, care and practice are sensitive and responsive to age, disability, ethnicity, faith, or belief, gender, gender identity, language, race and sexual orientation.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific staff considerations within this report however it is noted that the outstanding grading given to Stockton Road highlights the hard work and commitment of all the team including the Head of Service.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no asset management considerations within this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Children's Services Committee is asked to note the positive inspection report of Stockton Road Children's Home. This is the home's first Outstanding Judgment. The provision has been judged adequate and improved effectiveness, then good and now outstanding which demonstrates that the home has made great improvements over the last 24 months. This demonstrates the hard work and commitment of the staff team, young people and their family as a whole and the inspiring management and leadership of the Registered Manager and team.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Stockton Road is a regulated statutory service providing care for children and young people and Children's Service Committee must be kept informed of inspections and the judgments of OFSTED in relation to the provision.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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Children's homes inspection – Full

Inspection date	17/08/2016
Unique reference number	SC472417
Type of inspection	Full
Provision subtype	Children's home
Registered person	Hartlepool Borough Council
Registered person address	Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 8AY
Registered manager	James Welsh
Inspector	Michele Hargan

Inspection date	17/08/2016
Previous inspection judgement	Sustained effectiveness
Enforcement action since last inspection	None
This inspection	
The overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home are	Outstanding
The children's home provides highly effective services that consistently exceed the standards of good.	
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Good
The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding

SC472417

Summary of findings

The children's home provision is outstanding because:

- Young people have an exceptional range of experiences reflecting the highly individualised care and support that they receive.
- Staff are very skilled at building and sustaining relationships with young people by working through any arising difficulties in a calm and empathic way.
- Young people are very well nurtured and truly valued. They make excellent overall progress in their educational, social and emotional development.
- Care practice is underpinned by evidenced-based research. This means that staff can draw on a range of approaches depending on the needs of the young person.
- Young people's safety improves over time. Proactive steps are taken by the manager to address the signs of risk-taking behaviour, ensuring that young people are protected.
- Young people re-establish relationships with their families where this is assessed as safe. This is because staff know the value of family contact for young people.
- The manager promotes an aspirational culture that instils positive self-belief in young people that they are capable of achieving what they set out to do.
- The home's manager ensures that all staff receive a high level of additional support through personalised training. This means that staff develop increased levels of insight and become skilled at helping young people to realise their full potential.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further, the service should take account of the following recommendations:

- Children's home staff should take reasonable precautions and make informed professional judgements, based on the individual child's needs and developmental stage, about when to allow a child to take a particular risk or follow a particular course of action. Staff should discuss the decision with the child's placing authority when appropriate. If a child makes a choice that would place them or another person at significant risk of harm, staff should assist them to understand the risks and to manage their risk-taking behaviour to keep themselves and others safe. In particular, staff should complete a risk assessment that takes into account the impact for young people of living with a young adult aged 18 years old. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 42, paragraph 9.7)
- The registered person should ensure that staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, and should understand the key role they play in the training and development of staff in the home. In particular, they should ensure that staff complete training about how to safeguard vulnerable adults. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 53, paragraph 10.11)
- The home's records on each child represent a significant contribution to their life history. Children and their parents should be supported to understand the nature of records kept by the home and how to access them. Staff should understand their important roles in encouraging the child to reflect on and understand their history, according to their age and understanding. Staff should keep and encourage children to keep appropriate memorabilia of the time spent living at the home and help them to record significant life events. In particular, the home should contribute to a written report for the child's looked after review that is primarily written for the benefit of the child. ('Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.5)

Full report

Information about this children's home

The home accommodates up to four children who have emotional and/or behavioural difficulties. It is owned and operated by a local authority.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
4/03/2016	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
21/10/2015	Full	Good
26/02/2015	Interim	Improved effectiveness
12/06/2014	Full	Adequate

Inspection judgements

	Judgement grade
The overall experiences and progress of children and young people living in the home are	Outstanding
<p>Staff build excellent relationships with young people. They know how essential it is to build trust with young people and they realise that this calls for sensitivity and takes time. Young people experience this supportive perseverance and learn that staff accept them for who they are, while helping them with any concerning behaviours. This level of care means that young people develop resilience and a sense of their own identity. A social worker said, 'There [have] been massive improvements in the young person since he has been there. He has really settled.'</p> <p>Staff make sure that young people derive the maximum amount of benefit from whatever they want to take part in. As a result, young people have a chance to immerse themselves in activities that they are interested in significantly increasing the likelihood of their gaining future employment. Their skills in these areas develop, as do their self-esteem and confidence. This leads young people on to exceptional individual accomplishments, including attaining a scuba diving qualification, owning a horse, being a volunteer football coach of younger children, completing snowboarding assessment, volunteering at a bird sanctuary and achieving excellent school reports. A parent said, 'He has never been anywhere better than at the home. It's the best ever. He does all sorts, something every day.'</p> <p>The improved emotional and physical well-being of young people is evident in their appearance. They look well nurtured, happy and relaxed. After having recently returned from a holiday abroad, a young person proudly showed the underwater film of their scuba diving experience on a coral reef. The young person said, 'It was great. I'm going back next year.' A senior member of staff said, 'The young person would never have been able to show what they had done before. This time last year, it would have been hood up and head down.'</p> <p>Young people collectively and individually are effectively listened to, and what they say counts. Their requests in the regular house meetings are followed through, resulting in additional clothing monies, holiday destinations of young people's choosing, gardening projects, including a fish pond, and redecorated bedrooms. The recently achieved award demonstrating how much the home invests in young people is further testament to this. When asked about what the home could do to further improve, they all agreed with one young person who said, 'Nothing. It's good the way it is.'</p> <p>Pathway plans for young people moving on from the home are now in place. This means young people and staff are clear about what needs to be done to help them move on as young adults. This development meets a previous requirement. It is</p>	

also evident that staff do all they can to help prepare young people who move on from the home, for example, by providing practical support and assistance with moving, supplying furniture, decorating and outreach support, following a move. Due to factors beyond the home's control, another young person's plans to move on have fallen through. The distressing impact of this is being carefully managed and helping to sustain the young person's overall well-being.

Staff make meaningful relationships with young people and their immediate and extended families. Staff ensure that when it is in the young people's best interest to see members of their family, this happens. The frequency of this is determined by how much this benefits the young people, in consultation with their families and social workers. A parent said, 'His birthday party went really well. Me and the whole family were invited. I have never felt included in this before.' A social worker said, 'Staff totally support contact. The young person seems to have a better relationship with their family now.' This approach helps preserve young people's place within their birth families now and in the future.

Staff support young people effectively and this is underpinned by a sound understanding of theories of attachment, nurture and emotional intelligence. Young people's experiences are further enhanced by staff access to therapeutic advice from psychologists in the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS). Staff can arrange consultations with CAMHS clinicians to discuss young people. In addition, they can explore the impact for them of working with young people who have experienced trauma. This promotes the emotional well-being and effectiveness of young people and staff. A member of staff said, 'I thought it was me. It was such a relief to hear I was doing a good job. I know other staff have found this really helpful as well.'

	Judgement grade
How well children and young people are helped and protected	Good
<p>Young people are safe. Staff understand the impact that factors have outside a young person's control and how these can increase vulnerability and undermine safety. For example, a planned transition for a young person is on hold because of an escalation of episodes of them going missing. Staff have responded effectively to this providing increased support and as a result there have been no further occurrences. A member of staff said, 'You could feel the sense of relief when I said to the young person what we could do to help.'</p> <p>Staff have a sound knowledge of young people's histories and they use this to help</p>	

them understand potential triggers for any behavioural difficulties. As a result, staff are able to respond appropriately to young people's needs and promote their emotional development. For example, a member of staff said, 'Sometimes it can be hard for young people because when staff respond empathically to an angry outburst, you can see they weren't expecting that and they are not always quite sure what to do or how to respond.'

Staff ensure close working with the vulnerable, exploited, missing and trafficked (VEMT) safeguarding service and local police officers. These established relationships mean that any concerns are quickly passed on and followed up. The outcome of this joined-up approach ensures that young people at risk of sexual exploitation are protected. A range of input from safeguarding specialists is available to young people. This increases young people's understanding about the dangers of grooming and online abuse, and helps them to develop the skills to stay safe now and in adulthood. A member of staff said, 'Young people do know more now. They can stop and think about what they learnt from the preventative work they did.'

Staff take their responsibility to respond to any concerns about bullying seriously. Young people receive effective support, when necessary, about boundaries and expectations, and about relationships with each other. This means that they are clear about being able to raise any worries about this with staff. As a result, the single concern raised regarding this since the last inspection has been thoroughly responded to and is not a current issue.

Young people are actively helped to improve their behaviour and staff are responsive when behaviour dips recognising the underlying cause. This leads to an individualised approach in re-establishing clear boundaries. Staff enlist the support of preventative services that work restoratively with young people before any issues escalate. This means that young people receive the necessary support to help make links between their feelings, thoughts and the choices they make. This helps young people to take control in ways that have a beneficial impact on their lives.

Records relating to the one restraint since the last inspection are clear and accountable. This was a previous recommendation and is now met. Similarly, sanctions are few and appropriately considered. Staff are moving away from a punitive response to behaviour management, as they recognise the deficiencies of this approach for young people who have a history of trauma. This improvement reflects a culture of care practice aimed at meeting the needs underlying young people's behaviour.

There are good links with the designated officer in the local authority. Senior staff are clear about why and when it is necessary to pass on any concerns and seek guidance about how best to proceed. Staff are clear about what to do in the event of a disclosure from a young person. Any concerns raised by young people are taken seriously providing them with the necessary support. This ensures that young people and staff are protected.

Recruitment practices are sound. Extensive checks are carried out to ensure that only staff who are suitable to care for young people are appointed. This ensures young people’s ongoing safety. Risk assessments are comprehensive and make clear to staff the individual needs of each young person. However, these do not take into account the impact of being aged 18 and living in the home. Nor have staff had training in how to safeguard vulnerable adults. This oversight leaves room for reactive rather than proactive responses that can compromise young people’s welfare.

	Judgement grade
The impact and effectiveness of leaders and managers	Outstanding
<p>Young people and staff benefit from inspirational leadership. The registered manager, who has been in post since the home opened three years ago, is suitably experienced and qualified. They have an excellent understanding about the impact of trauma on young people. Their dynamic staff development strategy and a fearless approach to advocating on behalf of children mean that young people make exceptional progress. A highly experienced newly appointed member of staff talked enthusiastically about the exceptional range of opportunities that young people are afforded. This person said, ‘I have never known young people have the opportunities that they get here.’</p> <p>The ongoing, focused training stretches staff personally and professionally. This increases the self-awareness of staff and improves how they relate to young people. A senior member of staff said, ‘I know the training is hard for some staff, but that’s good. The staff need to know, to understand the emotional impact for young people of what they say to them.’ This management philosophy results in a cohesive approach, as staff have a shared knowledge base and are highly effective at transforming young people’s lives. A social worker wrote, ‘Staff have made every effort to go beyond what is expected to identify the educational needs of the young people.’ In an Ofsted survey, a young person wrote, ‘They have fought for me to be in education.’</p> <p>The methodical and systematic approach that informs the home’s management practice helps ensure that young people’s needs remain central to the running of the home. Staff receive regular supervision and highly personalised support through excellent induction and appraisal processes. This means that staff feel genuinely valued, enabling them to value young people. A newly recruited member of staff said, ‘I wanted to learn all about being a senior member of staff. The</p>	

manager was quite clever really. He slowed me down. He has allowed me time to get to know the young people and staff.' Another member of staff said, 'Our manager is always open to suggestions, especially if it will make the home run better and is more beneficial to our young people.'

Training in person-centred planning has led to improved individualised care plans. Young people's needs are now outlined in a format that is unique to them and reflects their interests. This increases ownership and willingness to read them. As these include aspirational outcomes, young people can see just how much others believe in their potential to succeed. Plans to produce information in a similar individualised format for young people's looked after reviews are in place. This intends to complement the pictorial record that staff compile for young people. Providing young people with a meaningful narrative in this way aids their current and future understanding about their lives during this time.

The manager now outlines clear actions about how to achieve continuous improvement when reviewing the quality of care. This meets a previous recommendation.

What the inspection judgements mean

The experiences and progress of children and young people are at the centre of the inspection. Inspectors will use their professional judgement to determine the weight and significance of their findings in this respect. The judgements included in the report are made against 'Inspection of children's homes: framework for inspection'.

An **outstanding** children's home provides highly effective services that contribute to significantly improved outcomes for children and young people who need help and protection and care. Their progress exceeds expectations and is sustained over time.

A **good** children's home provides effective services that help, protect and care for children and young people and have their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

In a children's home that **requires improvement**, there are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. The welfare of children looked after is safeguarded and promoted. Minimum requirements are in place. However, the children's home is not yet delivering good protection, help and care for children and young people.

A children's home that is **inadequate** is providing services where there are widespread or serious failures that create or leave children and young people being harmed or at risk of harm or that result in children looked after not having their welfare safeguarded and promoted.

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people living in the children's home. Inspectors considered the quality of work and the difference that adults make to the lives of children and young people. They read case files, watched how professional staff work with children, young people and each other and discussed the effectiveness of help and care given to children and young people. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, the inspectors have tried to understand what the children's home knows about how well it is performing, how well it is doing and what difference it is making for the children and young people whom it is trying to help, protect and look after.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the children's homes regulations including the quality standards'.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

6 December 2016



Report of: Director of Child and Adult Services

Subject: SCHOOL CAPITAL FUNDING INFORMATION

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key decision does not apply – for information only.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform Children's Services Committee of the various school capital funding streams.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the September 2016 Children's Services Committee it was agreed that a further report be submitted to clarify the position in relation to school capital funding streams, which type of schools can access funding and how schemes are approved.

4. CAPITAL FUNDING

4.1 The current pattern of government capital funding for schools consists of:

4.1.1 **School Condition Allocation (SCA)** – an annual formula grant to the LA for all **maintained community and voluntary controlled schools**. This funding is to address condition needs in existing school premises, eg roofing, windows, boiler replacements etc but does not include academies or voluntary aided schools. Schemes are prioritised based on condition survey data and the programme of works is agreed by the Schools' Forum Capital Sub Group and formally approved by Children's Services Committee.

4.1.2 **Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP)** – an annual formula grant similar to the SCA for the **voluntary aided sector** (Roman Catholic and Church of England schools) and targeted at condition issues.

Roman Catholic and Voluntary Aided schools submit bids to the Dioceses to access this funding.

- 4.1.3 **Basic Need** – a capital allocation made to the LA to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing **maintained schools (community and voluntary aided) or academies** and by establishing new schools. It is to be used to secure the additional capacity needed to meet local pressure. Current pupil numbers on roll, the current capacity of a school, pressure for places, future housing developments and projections are analysed to identify where additional places should be funded. This is locally determined through consultation with schools and key stakeholders and formally approved by Children's Services Committee.
- 4.1.4 **Condition Improvement Fund (CIF)** – the core priority for CIF is condition; keeping academies and sixth-form colleges safe and in good working order. It is a similar funding stream as the SCA but for **academy schools**. Academies are required to bid to the Education Funding Agency for this funding and can submit up to 2 bids per year.
- 4.1.5 **Suitability** – this is top-sliced funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Previous allocations (formally approved schemes) have been based on suitability issues. Suitability assesses whether accommodation in school is fit for purpose. The evaluation criteria and title of this funding is currently being reviewed and **all schools** will be invited to submit schemes for consideration. Schemes have been and will continue to be evaluated and put forward for formal approval by the Schools' Forum Capital Sub Group and formally approved by Children's Services Committee.
- 4.1.6 **Priority Schools Building Programme - Phase 2 (PSBP2)** – is a further phase of PSBP. This funding is to tackle the requirements of schools in the worst condition nationally. Two of the expressions of interest that were submitted by the LA to the Education Funding Agency were successful: The English Martyrs School & Sixth Form College and High Tunstall College of Science. It is expected that approximately 70-80% of the schools will either be complete new build or major refurbishment. **All schools** were eligible to submit expressions of interest for this funding. The Education Funding Agency evaluated and selected the schools included in the programme.
- 4.1.7 **Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)** – a relatively limited capital allocation made directly to all state funded schools and funds small scale capital projects including the purchase of ICT equipment. It is allocated to **maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools, special schools, pupil referral units, academies and free schools, non-maintained special schools and sixth form colleges**. Schools decide on their priorities for spend.

- 4.1.8 **Early Years Capital** - this is a one-off funding opportunity for early years providers that deliver 2-, 3- and 4-year-old free nursery entitlement. All LAs were invited to bid on behalf of providers who require adjustments to premises in order to meet the requirements of the new 30 hours a week offer. Hartlepool was allowed to bid for no more than four projects of low to medium value. **All providers (childminders, day care and schools)** were eligible to submit bids. Following extensive market analysis a bid was submitted for Cheeky Monkey Day Nursery (Dyke House Sports and Technology College) and West Park Primary School. The outcome of the bids are expected in December 2016.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no risk implications.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal considerations.

7. CHILD AND POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no child and poverty considerations.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations.

10. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial considerations.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Members to note the information contained within this report.

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