

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

## AGENDA



**Tuesday 28 January 2020**

**at 4.00 pm**

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

**MEMBERS:** CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Hamilton, Harrison, Lauderdale, Little, Moore, Smith, Ward.

Co-opted Members: Jo Heaton, C of E Diocese and Joanne Wilson, RC Diocese representatives.

School Head Representatives: Mark Tilling (Secondary), David Turner (Primary), Zoe Westley (Special).

Six Young Peoples Representatives

Observer: Councillor Little, Chair of Adult and Community Based 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 17 December 2019 (*previously circulated and published*).

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

- 4.1 Council Plan 2020-23 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 4.2 Youth Justice Strategic Plan – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*



## **5. KEY DECISIONS**

- 5.1 Dedicated Schools Grant – Early Years Block 2020/21 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 5.2 Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block 2020/21 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 5.3 School Admission Arrangements for 2021-22 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 5.4 Commissioning of Short Break Activities and Specialist Equipment Service – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

## **6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

No items.

## **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Schools Health Related Behaviour Survey – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 7.2 Pupil Performance 2019 – Headline Indicator Summary – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*
- 7.3 School Admissions (In-Year Transfers) – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28<sup>th</sup> January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** COUNCIL PLAN 2020-23

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Budget and Policy Framework

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide the Committee the opportunity to consider the proposals that fall under the remit of the Committee for inclusion in the Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 which is currently out to consultation.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The current Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 is coming to an end this year. It was developed following the extensive Your Say, Our Future consultation with residents, staff and partners which took place in the summer of 2016 and identified a series of key priorities for Hartlepool.

3.2 Finance and Policy Committee agreed at their meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 to begin preparing a new Council Plan to cover the period 2020/21 – 2022/23 with the aim of having it agreed before the end of the current municipal year.

3.3 Consultation on the Council Plan priorities for 2020/21 – 2022/23 launched on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and ran for 4 weeks. There were 4 key questions that were asked throughout the consultation:

- What do you think is going well in Hartlepool?
- What do you love about Hartlepool?

- What do you think needs to improve in Hartlepool?
- How do you think that the Council, our residents and our partners can work together to make a difference?

In addition residents were asked whether the priorities identified in the 2016 consultation were still important.

- 3.4 In order to raise public awareness of the consultation a wraparound was published in the Hartlepool Life and the Hartlepool Mail highlighting the achievements from the current Council Plan and promoting the ways in which people could get involved in shaping the new Council Plan. The opportunities that were made available for people to get involved included:

- Survey – online and paper copies made available in Community Hubs and other Council venues (251 responses);
- 3 public drop in events held at the Community Hubs;
- A roundtable discussion with partners (12 partner organisations took part);
- Roundtable discussions with our employees at the Autumn Corporate Management Team (CMT) Roadshows (191 employees took part);
- A roundtable discussion with the Youth Council;
- A roundtable discussion with the Senior Leadership Team;
- A Members Seminar (5 Members took part).

#### **4. DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2020/21 – 2022/23**

- 4.1 The Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 has been developed to build on what has already been achieved over the last 3 years and to respond to what residents, employees and partners told us through the recent consultation exercise.
- 4.2 The consultation draft of the Council Plan was agreed by Finance and Policy Committee at their meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Consultation on the draft Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 will be open for 5 weeks and will include:
- A short online survey with written comments/responses also accepted;
  - A Members Seminar – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020;
  - Reports to Policy Committees – Children's Services (28<sup>th</sup> January 2020), Adult and Community Based Services (30<sup>th</sup> January 2020), Regeneration Services (5<sup>th</sup> February 2020) and Neighbourhood Services (21<sup>st</sup> February 2020).

- Sharing the draft with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the Economic Regeneration and Tourism Forum for their comments;
- A partners roundtable discussion.

4.3 The consultation draft of the Council Plan is included as Appendix 1 and this includes:

- An summary of the progress made through the last Council Plan, an outline of the current position in Hartlepool in relation to some of our key indicators and the key themes that emerged from the recent consultation exercise;
- The strategic priorities that it is proposed the Council focus on over the next 3 years. For each strategic priority details are provided about what success will look like and the action that is proposed to be taken to deliver it.

4.4 As a whole, the priorities identified in the Council Plan will improve opportunities for children and young people in the town. However, the actions set out under the strategic priority 'Building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people' will be of particular interest to the Committee. The Committee is requested to consider the consultation draft and provide feedback which will inform the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## 5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Following the end of the consultation period the final Council Plan will be prepared and taken to Finance and Policy Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 for agreement and referral to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Comments and observations from Policy Committees will be added to those received through the rest of the consultation and included in the overall presentation of the final draft of the Council Plan to Finance and Policy Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, before being taken for formal agreement by Council at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## 6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council needs appropriate planning and performance management arrangements in place in order to manage its key strategic risks. The

Council's Strategic Risk Register captures the strategic risks facing the Council in the delivery of the Council Plan and its key responsibilities and forms the third strand of the Council's performance management framework. The Register will be reviewed and updated to reflect the priorities identified in the new Council Plan.

## **7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The new Council Plan will be prepared alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the 5 year Capital Plan as three parts of a single plan to ensure the links between the three are strengthened.

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 Whilst the Council Plan is not included in the list of plans and strategies required to be approved or adopted by the Local Authority under Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012, it is recommended good practice to do so and therefore is included as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The planned consultation arrangements are set out in section 4.2 of the report and this will include consultation with Elected Members through a second Members Seminar on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and through reports to individual Policy Committees in January and February 2020.

## **10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY**

- 10.1 The new Council Plan will continue to work to reduce child and family poverty within Hartlepool and a Child and Family Poverty Impact Assessment has been developed for the draft Plan and is included as Appendix 2. This will be reviewed and updated as necessary in the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## **11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 The new Council Plan will aim to have a positive impact on the whole population of Hartlepool and will include the Council's Equality Objectives as

required through the Public Sector Equality Duty. An Equality Impact Assessment has been developed for the draft Plan and is included as Appendix 3. This will be reviewed and updated as necessary in the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## **12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 No implications.

## **13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 No implications.

## **14. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 Children's Services Committee is recommended to consider the consultation draft of the Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 included as Appendix 1 and provide feedback to inform the preparation of the final Council Plan.

## **15. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.2 Children's Services Committee are the responsible Committee for a number of areas within the Council Plan.

## **16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 Developing a new Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 report to Finance and Policy Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.
- 16.2 Council Plan 2020-23 report to Finance and Policy Committee 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

## **17. CONTACT OFFICERS**

- 17.1 Sally Robinson  
Director of Child & Adult Services  
01429 523732  
[sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:sally.robinson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Sign Off:-

|                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Director of Finance and Policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Chief Solicitor                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



# **Consultation Draft**

## **Council Plan**

**2020/21 – 2022/23**



**SHAPING OUR FUTURE  
THE NEXT THREE YEARS**



## **Shaping our Council Plan**

In 2016 we held a town-wide conversation called “Your Say, Our Future” and what we were told then informed our Council Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20. Three years on we have reflected on what we have achieved and asked our residents, employees and partners to help shape our Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23.

In autumn 2019 our residents, employees and partners told us what they thought was going well in Hartlepool and what they loved about the town. They also identified what they felt needed to improve and how the Council, our residents and partners could work together to make a difference.

We have also reviewed a range of key statistics for the town to understand where Hartlepool is in relation to the national and regional picture and this has helped us to identify our strategic needs.

Building on what we have already achieved, what the statistics are telling us and by listening to what our residents, employees and partners have told us we have developed our strategic priorities for the next three years.

We recognise that it is important that we are clear about what we intend to do and by when and that is the purpose of this Council Plan. The following pages set out the clear plans and commitments we have made under each strategic priority.

## **Our Vision**

The Council vision launched in 2016 set us on a journey to make Hartlepool a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to live, visit, work, invest and grow up in.

Since embarking on this journey we have achieved well against the significant ambitions we set for ourselves. However, there is still much more to do and taking account of where we are, we have refreshed our approach and propose eight strategic priorities for the next three years.

## **Our Strategic Priorities**

- 1 Growing a diverse economy by supporting businesses, increasing jobs, attracting inward investment and improving skills and aspirations.
- 2 Creating a clean, green, and safe Hartlepool by protecting our environment and improving our neighbourhoods.
- 3 Create an attractive and connected Hartlepool by attracting investment to improve key buildings, derelict land and our transport network.
- 4 Developing a healthy Hartlepool by working with our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of our people.
- 5 Building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people.
- 6 Improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers.
- 7 Building and improving homes that people want to live in.
- 8 Shaping a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | <b>Growing a diverse economy by supporting businesses, increasing jobs, attracting inward investment and improving skills and aspirations.</b> |
|---|--|

Growing our economy remains a priority for the town and as a Council we have a key role to play in supporting this to happen. Over the last three years we have worked hard to provide the space and opportunity for businesses to flourish in the town through our development of the Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) in and around Church Street, encouragement of new business start-ups and building on the success of the Queens Meadow Enterprise Zone. We secured £3m of external funding to transform the former General Post Office building in Whitby Street into the Bis a new centre for business start-ups in the creative industry sector.

Our new business registration rate, which followed the national trend by reducing in 2018/19, is in line with our near neighbours but remains well below the national average at 43 per 10,000 population aged 16 and over. Supporting new businesses in the town to develop and grow will be key priority for the Council. A key priority in the previous Council Plan was to increase business and jobs and encourage our young people to come back when they've been away to university and following our recent consultation we understand that this remains important to the people of the town.

Creating high value jobs remains a strategic priority for Hartlepool. Our overall employment rate is well below the national average at 64.1% compared to 75.6% nationally (Quarter 2, 2019/20) and our youth unemployment rate is 11.2% (Quarter 1, 2019/20). We will continue to support our residents and young people to ensure that they have the skills and qualifications that they need to move into sustained employment.

We have focussed on improving the town's offer as a tourism destination through our partnership with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the development of an annual events programme including the Waterfront Festival and developing facilities in Seaton Carew including the splash pad and crazy golf. The total number of visitors to the town increased by 6.4% to 3.66 million in 2017/18 and visitor numbers at the National Museum of the Royal Navy alone were up almost 40% in August 2019 compared to the same time the previous year. Holding events and promoting Hartlepool as a place to come and visit remains important to people in the town and many identified that the increasing range of activities, events and things to do were things that were going well and that they loved about Hartlepool.

We recognise that the nature of people's shopping habits are changing and that as a result we need to look at how we can secure the future of our town centre. We also

understand that people are concerned about empty shops and a poor retail offer in the town centre. We will work with local businesses and residents to develop a town centre investment plan and will take action to rejuvenate it funded in part from central government.

**What success will look like:**

- Increased jobs and growth in the local economy.
- Increased number of inward investment projects.
- Business growth.
- Strengthened reputation of Hartlepool as a place to invest particularly in the energy, advanced manufacturing and creative and cultural sectors.
- A skilled workforce.
- Reduction in the jobless figures.
- Increased visitor numbers in our tourist industry.
- Increased public sector expenditure in the local economy.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Promote Hartlepool as an excellent location for inward investment particularly in the energy, advanced manufacturing and creative and cultural sectors.
- Deliver a strategy for reshaping and developing our town centre as a safe and exciting place to shop, live, visit and work.
- Provide secure, effective support and investment to enable new and emerging businesses to be sustained and to thrive.
- Establish a fast track system for planning consents and other regulatory permissions.
- Increase the number of businesses who can benefit from high quality business and incubator space.
- Increase the availability of intermediate and higher level skills pathways in key sectors in partnership with local further and higher education providers.
- Deliver a partnership approach to increasing employment and skill development programmes which provide pathways for adults into employment.
- Market the culture and tourism offer within the town regionally and nationally which highlights our unique maritime history and assets.
- Deliver a first class events and festivals programme that attracts visitors from across the region and country.
- Deliver improvements to key cultural venues in the town including the Borough Hall, Town Hall Theatre, Headland Bandstand and Christchurch Art Gallery.
- Work with our partners to increase the level of public sector expenditure in the local economy.

## **Creating a clean, green, and safe Hartlepool by protecting our environment and improving our neighbourhoods.**

Our residents have told us that they want Hartlepool to be a place that is clean, green and where they feel safe. Over 95% told us that having a clean and attractive environment remains a priority. Living by the sea and being surrounded by green open spaces are things that people love about Hartlepool and our communities recognise the need to protect our environment for future generations. Over the last three years we have focused on improving our parks and open spaces and supporting residents to reduce litter across the town. Our wildflower schemes are highly regarded and we have expanded this into new areas. We have invested £4m in neighbourhood and highway improvements. Schemes we have delivered include King Owsy shopping parade, improvements to local and strategic cycleways, improved play facilities provided at the Town Moor, Burn Valley Gardens and Ward Jackson Park and a new play facility at Coronation Drive.

The overall crime rate has increased in recent years to 131.7 per 1,000 population in 2018/19, which remains well above the national average and we understand why crime and anti-social behaviour remain concerns for people in the town. Through the last Council Plan we launched a new integrated Hartlepool Community Safety Team bringing together our community safety staff with those from the Police and Fire Brigade to coordinate efforts to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. This new Team has held a series of days of action across the town in response to information received from residents and businesses. These have resulted in the closure of properties used for drug dealing and the seizure of drugs and cash. Several hundred victims of crime and anti-social behaviour have also been supported by the Victim Care and Advice Services Officer in the Team. We understand that more needs to be done and we are committed to reviewing our approach and working in partnership with other agencies and our residents to ensure that our communities feel protected and safe.

We know that our residents continue to identify litter as a problem in the town. Through the Council Plan consultation exercise residents told us that we need to take more enforcement action and improve our recycling education and offer. However, people also told us that the sense of community and people pulling together to make the town better was something that was going well in Hartlepool and examples included beach cleans and the Big Town Tidy Up.

### **What success will look like:**

- People have access to quality public space, green space and playspaces.
- Strong neighbourhood retail offer.

- Reduction in littering, fly tipping and dog fouling.
- Communities are protected and feel safe.
- Reduced landfill and increased levels of recycling.
- Reduced carbon footprint.

**What will we do to make this happen:**

- Strengthen our approach to enforcement action on litter, dog fouling and illegal car parking.
- Deliver a play sites investment programme.
- Invest in our neighbourhoods and strengthen the local retail offer.
- Deliver a joined up and targeted response to tackling anti-social behaviour and improving community safety.
- Take action to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and mitigate the impact of climate change locally.

**3**

**Create an attractive and connected Hartlepool by attracting investment to improve key buildings, derelict land and our transport network.**

In order to make Hartlepool an attractive place for new businesses to invest, for people to want to come and live here and to support the development of our town as a tourist destination we need to invest in the infrastructure of our town. We have worked hard to deliver regeneration schemes across the town and brought £10.5m of external funding into the town that would have gone elsewhere. The improvements at Seaton Carew and Church Street and our partnership work with the Northern School of Art were all given through recent consultation as examples of what was going well in Hartlepool. We have also secured £42m of external funding that will be delivered over the next 5 years on priorities identified within this Council Plan.

We know that people love the history and heritage of Hartlepool and the facilities that we have to bring people into the town including the National Museum of the Royal Navy and Christchurch Art Gallery. We will develop the key sites around these facilities to ensure that Hartlepool develops its reputation as a tourism destination.

We appreciate that people are concerned about the impact empty buildings have on their local neighbourhoods and we are committed to reducing the number of derelict buildings across the town and make the best use of all of the land we have available, particularly those sites that have been left abandoned for many years.

We understand that we need to improve our transport network to provide better strategic links for businesses and developers and to ensure that our residents are better connected to jobs and local services.

**What success will look like:**

- Reduction in derelict buildings and land.
- Improved connectivity across the town.
- Residents better connected to jobs, local services and neighbourhoods.
- Better strategic links for businesses and developers.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Develop the Waterfront and National Museum and Royal Navy site as a visitor attraction of national significance.
- Complete the renovation of Church Street and Church Square including improvements to shop fronts, Shades and the Christchurch Art Gallery.
- Deliver a new TV and film production studio in partnership with the Northern School of Art.



- Invest in our transport and the local road network including the Elwick bypass.
- Renovate Stranton Chapel and deliver improvements to Stranton Cemetery.
- Take effective enforcement action in relation to derelict buildings and land.
- Work with the Combined Authority to improve public sector transport and footpaths and cycleways.

## **Developing a healthy Hartlepool by working with our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of our people.**

Improving the health and wellbeing of residents in the town is a key priority for the Council, our partners and indeed residents themselves. In our recent consultation people identified the need to improve the overall health of the population through preventative work and that they were concerned about drug issues across the town.

Over the next three years we will focus on reducing levels of smoking, halting the year on year increase in obesity, reducing the levels of substance misuse, reducing frailty and reducing violence and the impact that this has on our community. National statistics show that 18.6% of people in Hartlepool currently smoke, more than 4% above the national average. We also know that over 10% in Reception year in Hartlepool were recorded as obese in 2018/19 which is just above the national average. However the level of children recorded as obese in Year 6 increased to 26.86% which is significantly higher than the national average and the highest in the North East. Both of these have implications for the future health and wellbeing of our residents.

Through the last Council Plan we launched three Community Hubs which brought together a range of services for local people under one roof. People have told us that Community Hubs are one of the things that they feel are going well in Hartlepool. Over the next three years Community Hubs will have a key role to play in providing people with access to advice about health improvement so that they are able to make better, more informed choices that will help them to live longer, healthier lives.

Our sports and leisure facilities are another way in which we can support people to live healthier lives. We understand that developing recreational and leisure activities and facilities remains a priority for people. However, we recognise that some of our facilities are in need of updating and are committed through this plan to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century sport and leisure facilities that meet the needs of local people.

### **What success will look like:**

- 21<sup>st</sup> century sport and leisure facilities that meet the needs of local people.
- People of Hartlepool are enabled to make better choices that promote their physical and mental health.
- Reduced levels of smoking, particularly in pregnancy.
- The level of increase in obesity will be arrested.
- Reduction in levels of substance misuse and drug and alcohol related hospital admissions and deaths.
- Reduced levels of violence including Domestic Violence.

- Reduced frailty in the population.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Build modern 21<sup>st</sup> century sport and leisure facilities.
- Increase the Community Hub offer to ensure that people can access information, advice and support and be signposted to services that benefit their wellbeing.
- Deliver programmes that support people with long term conditions including Cardio Vascular disease, cancer, muscular skeletal conditions, neurophysiological conditions and diabetes to improve their wellbeing and be more physically active.
- Provide a new clinically integrated drugs and alcohol service with a greater emphasis on prevention and developing strong links with primary and secondary care.
- Deliver a multi-agency programme of targeted initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in our most deprived neighbourhoods and wards with highest levels of need.
- Deliver a multiagency approach to obesity across Hartlepool linking council, health and third sector partners.
- Develop a standardised approach to provide stop smoking services using a community based approach with partners across Hartlepool.
- Work with General Practice to increase the uptake of screening and health checks to reduce late presentation.
- Implement a public health approach to reducing violent crime.

## **Building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people.**

As a Council we remain committed to ensuring that our children and young people have the best start in life. We understand that the people of the town feel that our education provision is one of the things that is going well in Hartlepool and also that access to the best education and learning opportunities remains a priority for them. Most of our schools are rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted and our primary schools achieved excellent KS2 results which were above the national average. We recognise that there is work to be done to improve outcomes for our children at secondary school and beyond to Higher Education and advanced apprenticeship pathways and this will be a key focus for the next three years.

Over the last few years we have faced increasing demands for services from families that are struggling to provide their children with a healthy and safe childhood. The number of children that are looked after by the Council has increased significantly and this is due, in part, to issues of domestic violence and substance misuse within families. Since 2009 the rate of looked after children in Hartlepool has increased by 103% compared to a national average increase of just 20% and we have the 4<sup>th</sup> highest increase in the North East. Child and family poverty in Hartlepool is high with 34.1% of children living in poverty in 2017/18 and we have also seen the impact of being an early adopter area for Universal Credit on families in the town. We are proud that our children's services have been consistently good and that we have been rated outstanding by Ofsted for our work with children in care and care leavers. We were also named the Local Government Chronicle's Children's Services of the Year in 2019. However, we will work to build resilience and support in families and communities for our vulnerable children and to develop the understanding of all frontline professionals so that they can provide the best response to those who have suffered Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).

The emotional and mental health and wellbeing of Hartlepool children is also a key priority for the town. We will build upon what we have initiated in the last three years and look to work more closely with partners to take this important area of work forward.

### **What success will look like:**

- Fewer children will experience harm through abuse, neglect and adverse childhood experiences.
- All children benefit from good development and learning in their critical first three years.
- Children's attainment at key stages 1 – 5 is at or above national average.

- More Hartlepool young people are entering Higher Education and advanced apprenticeship pathways.
- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families have their needs met in a timely way that improves outcomes.
- All schools and education providers are judged good or outstanding.
- Barriers to learning are removed for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- Children and young people have good mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Establish a Community Support Team to develop a new model of practice aimed at reducing the need for children to become looked after.
- Provide early support to families and communities to build resilience to support vulnerable children at an early stage.
- Provide workforce development to all front line professionals so that they have a good understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences and can respond appropriately.
- Implement a Borough wide approach to improving early language skills in the first 1001 days.
- Establish an Education Improvement Board to encourage schools to collaborate and improve education outcomes for children and young people in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- Deliver initiatives in partnership with schools to ensure 14 and 19 year olds achieve the best education outcomes possible and can progress to higher skills pathways and Higher Education.
- Provide effective challenge and support to schools to ensure they achieve good inspection outcomes.
- Develop and deliver a new model to support school transitions to improve pupil readiness for learning.
- Deliver an improvement plan for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families to ensure they have their needs met in a timely way that improves outcomes.
- Improve education provision for children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs.
- Work with partners to develop and implement a strategy and whole system approach to improving the emotional and mental health and well being of Hartlepool children.
- Improve the alternative education and cultural offer at CECA and remove barriers that prevent schools from accessing this resource.

- Work with health visitors and school nurses to support children identified as obese or overweight and to promote breast feeding.
- Deliver 'Fill the Holiday Gap' schemes to promote health eating and cooking skills.

## **Improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers.**

Improving health and social care services in the town have been a key focus for the Council in the last 3 years. Working with partners we have developed an award-winning Integrated Hospital Discharge Team which has focussed on ensuring people experience a safe and timely discharge following a hospital stay. The work of this Team has reduced delayed transfers of care from an average of 452 days per month in 2016/17 to 114 days per months over the first 4 months of 2019/20. We have also worked with local care home providers to encourage the development of new care facilities and to improve availability of places which has brought about a 23.5% reduction in the number of older people in care home placements outside of the town since 2016. The quality of the provision in Hartlepool has also improved and the number of adult social care providers rated as good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) reached 87.9% at the end of 2018/19 from just 56.3% at the end of 2016/17.

Over 97% of people in the recent Council Plan consultation identified that having excellent local health and care services and support remains an important priority for them. We recognise that whilst services have improved we have a growing elderly population and that there are concerns from our residents about the health offer in Hartlepool particularly in relation to hospital and mental health services.

### **What success will look like:**

- People are involved in their local community rather than being socially isolated.
- Adults with care needs are supported to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Services are accessible and responsive, and people only have to tell their story once.
- The role and contribution of carers is recognised and valued.
- Services that are commissioned to support adults with care needs are rated good or better by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Provide advice, guidance and support to people to link them into their communities and reduce social isolation.
- Strengthen support for carers and ensure a range of options are available to help them continue in their caring role, including information, advice and peer support.

- Work with strategic partners, carers and people who receive care and support to reduce the stigma associated with the term 'mental health' and increase understanding of what is good mental health.
- Support adult care providers to continually improve which ensures that vulnerable adults are getting the best possible care.
- Develop services at the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) to incorporate a Community Hub offer, as well as supporting adults with disabilities to live more independent lives.
- Deliver integrated services with health partners that reduce preventable admissions to hospital and care homes and support people to return home and regain independence following a hospital stay.



In 2016 people told us that housing was a key priority for the future of our town. They identified the need to build starter homes and affordable homes. They felt that we needed to work to improve and promote the range of housing to attract people to live here and that we also needed to reduce the number of empty homes. We have worked to deliver on this priority and Hartlepool has had the fastest housing growth in the Tees Valley over the period 2014/15 to 2019/20, up 11.46% compared to an average of 9.62%. This growth is providing additional recurring Council Tax income of £4.24m in 2019/20. We now have 293 Council houses available for social rent and we have delivered new social housing units including over 90 empty homes brought back into use.

We have worked in partnership with Thirteen Group to deliver new social housing in the Raby Estate and with Placefirst to deliver the Carr and Hopps Street regeneration scheme, “The Green”, which won three awards at the Sunday Times British Home Awards for Development of the Year (under £10m), Development Transformation of the Year and the Judges’ Award for Excellence.

Improving housing provision particularly focusing on private landlords, homelessness support and more social / affordable housing were identified as areas that needed to improve in recent consultation. We also recognise that increasing the number of Council houses and the development of student accommodation in the town centre are important priorities for the future.

### **What success will look like:**

- More high value homes to support economic growth.
- More Council houses.
- More purpose built homes for vulnerable adults.
- Better accommodation to meet the needs of the growing student population in the town.
- More affordable homes.

### **What we will do to make this happen:**

- Working with private sector housebuilders and registered providers to grow the housing stock in Hartlepool.
- Work in partnership with private sector housebuilders and registered providers to increase the number of affordable homes.
- Increase the number of Council houses in Hartlepool by designing, building and acquiring our own houses.

- Adopt a multi-agency approach in the Oxford Road area to tackle issues of crime, anti-social behaviour, street cleansing, building maintenance and vacant properties.
- Take effective action to tackle poor housing standards and anti-social behaviour in private sector housing.

**Shaping a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

In order to deliver on our ambitious plans for Hartlepool we need to be a well-led, safe, high performing and efficient council that is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The funding that we receive from Central Government has reduced year on year since 2010/11 and the burden of paying for local services is being pushed to Council Tax raised locally. In 2019/20 we received approximately £20m less from Central Government than in 2013/14, a reduction of about 45%. We have managed this reduction by making efficiencies whilst trying to limit the impact on our frontline services. Services have been redesigned and we have worked in partnership with other council's and partners from the public and voluntary and community sectors to make our activities more efficient. Over the last 3 years we have focussed on developing online access to our services, a priority from the 2016 Your Say, Our Future consultation. This has made many of our services accessible at times more convenient for our residents.

We recognise that there is more that we can do to protect our services from future reductions. Through this Council Plan we will review our estate and look to reduce the number of Council offices we have across the town and also to ensure that those that we keep allow access to services in an integrated and accessible way whilst being more energy efficient. Being more energy efficient will also lead to a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint.

We will look to increase the Council's traded services and increase our income streams. We have delivered award winning schemes for other councils as well as within Hartlepool and we will build upon that success.

Our employees across the Council play a vital role in ensuring that services are delivered. It is the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our employees that has enabled us to continue to deliver excellent services during a period of austerity and uncertainty. Demand for our services is increasing at the same time as our budget is reducing and our employees face challenges every day to make this work so that our residents receive the support that they need. We will work over the next 3 years to ensure that our employees have the skills, resilience and motivation to achieve high standards of public service in a safe working environment.

Through recent consultation people told us that the #LoveHartlepool campaign was something that they felt was going well but that we needed to celebrate what we do more. We recognise that there is still work to be done to promote the positive things that are happening in Hartlepool and to tell our story regionally and nationally. We are committed to providing effective communication to our residents and to work with

partners to promote Hartlepool as a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to live, work, invest and grow up in.

**What success will look like:**

- Reduced number of Council offices.
- Improved energy efficiency in Council office accommodation and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- Expansion of Council traded services and increase income streams.
- Increased voter engagement in the democratic process.
- Better awareness and participation of citizens in community life.
- A healthy and motivated workforce who are given the opportunity to grow the skills they need to achieve their best.
- Improved public satisfaction with the range of Council services that can be managed online.
- Improved positive coverage of the town on a local, national and international basis.

**What we will do to make this happen:**

- Undertake a strategic review of the Council's property and accommodation to ensure that services can be delivered in an integrated and accessible way.
- Undertake a strategic review of all fees and charges across the Council to ensure that they are fair, affordable and maximise income for the Council.
- Undertake an energy efficiency audit of all Council buildings and introduce improvement measures.
- Deliver development opportunities to ensure that our staff have the skills, resilience and motivation to achieve high standards of public service in a safe working environment.
- Provide effective communication to our residents and work with partners to promote Hartlepool regionally and nationally as a vibrant, welcoming and inspiring place to live, work, invest and grow up in.

## **How will we know if we are succeeding?**

In order to understand whether we are on track to achieve our strategic priorities we have identified what success will look like and what we will do to make it happen (our key deliverables). We will monitor progress on these key deliverables throughout the lifetime of the plan and we will report to elected members through Finance and Policy Committee every six months. We will also produce annual reports for our residents that will set out what we have achieved during each year of the plan.

## POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT      Appendix 2

| <b>1. Is this decision a Budget &amp; Policy Framework or Key Decision? YES</b><br>If YES please answer question 2 below                           |                 |                 |           |  |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|--|
| <b>2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? YES</b><br>If YES please complete the matrix below |                 |                 |           |  |
| GROUP  | POSITIVE IMPACT | NEGATIVE IMPACT | NO IMPACT | REASON & EVIDENCE  |
| Young working people aged 18 - 21  | X               |                 |           | The Council Plan will focus on increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include young people aged 18-21.   |
| Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness   | X               |                 |           | The Council Plan will focus on improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers – many of which will have a disability.  |
| Those with low educational attainment  | X               |                 |           | The Council Plan will focus on building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people and increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include those with low educational attainment.                           |
| Those who are unemployed   | X               |                 |           | The Council Plan will focus on increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include those who are unemployed.  |
| Those who are underemployed  | X               |                 |           | The Council Plan will focus on increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations and this will include those who are underemployed.   |
| Children born into families in poverty   | X               |                 |           | The Council Plan will focus on building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people and increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations both of which should have a positive impact on children born into families in poverty. |
| Those who find difficulty in managing their finances   |                 |                 | X         | There will be no direct impact on this group.  |
| Lone parents   |                 |                 | X         | There will be no direct impact on this group.  |
| Those from minority ethnic backgrounds   |                 |                 | X         | There will be no direct impact on this group.  |
|  |                 |                 |           |  |

## POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT      Appendix 2

| 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  |
| Children in Low Income Families (%)   | X               |                 |                                  | The strategic priorities in the Council Plan aim to have a positive impact on all of the listed measures of poverty through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• building better beginnings and better futures for our children and young people;</li><li>• increasing jobs and improving skills and aspirations;</li><li>• developing a healthy Hartlepool;</li><li>• improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers; and</li><li>• building and improving homes that people want to live in.</li></ul> |
| Children in Working Households (%)  | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Overall employment rate (%)   | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Proportion of young people who are NEET   | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Adults with Learning difficulties in employment   | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)  | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM  | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)                                     | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Number of affordable homes built  | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Prevalence of obese children in reception year  | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6  | X               |                 |                                  |  |
| Overall impact of Policy / Decision   |                 |                 |                                  |  |
| POSITIVE IMPACT   |                 | X               | ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE |  |
| NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE   |                 |                 | STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE   |  |
| ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE   |                 |                 |                                  |  |

# Impact Assessment Form

## 4.1 Appendix 3

| Department  | Division   | Section   | Owner/Officer                       |                   |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| All – CED Lead  | CS   | CS&P Team   | Claire McLaren / Catherine Grimwood |                   |
| Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned   | Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23   |   |                                     |                   |
| Why are you making the change?  | A new 3-year Council Plan being prepared as the previous plan is coming to an end. |   |                                     |                   |
| How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?  |  |   |                                     |                   |
|   |  | <i>Please tick</i>  | <b>POSITIVELY</b>                   | <b>NEGATIVELY</b> |
| <b>Age</b>  |  |   | <b>X</b>                            |                   |
| <p>The Council Plan will focus on improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers – many of which are over 60 years old.</p> <p>The Plan will also focus on building better beginning and better futures for children and young people under 19 years old.</p> |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Disability</b>   |  |   | <b>X</b>                            |                   |
| <p>The Council Plan will focus on improving outcomes for adults with health and social care needs and their carers – many of which will have a disability.</p>  |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Gender Re-assignment</b>   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Race</b>   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Religion</b>   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Gender</b>   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Sexual Orientation</b>   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>  |  |   |                                     |                   |
| No differential impact.   |  |   |                                     |                   |
| <b>Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?</b>  |  | <p>Initial consultation on the priorities for the Council Plan took place between 13<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> October (4 weeks). The findings from that exercise have informed the draft Council Plan. Consultation on the draft Council Plan will take place for 5 weeks in January / February 2020 and the feedback from that will be used to inform the final Council Plan which will be presented to Finance and Policy Committee and Council in March 2020 for approval.</p> |                                     |                   |



|  |          |  |          |
|--|----------|--|----------|
| As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships? |          | It is not anticipated that the proposals included in the Council Plan will have any negative outcomes. By providing a range of opportunities to feed into the development of the Council Plan it is anticipated that it will maximise positive outcomes and foster good relations. |          |
| Describe how you will address and monitor the impact   |          | <b>1. No Impact - No Major Change</b><br>The draft Plan will be subject to further consultation but it is not anticipated that any negative impact will be identified.   |          |
| Initial Assessment   | 13/12/19 | Reviewed   | 00/00/00 |
| Completed  | 00/00/00 | Published  | 00/00/00 |

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Budget and Policy Framework

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 Children's Services Committee are being asked to approve draft Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2021 (**Appendix 1**) and to agree to the plan being presented to Full Council on 20 February 2020 for adoption.

2.3 The final Strategy will also be sent to the National Youth Justice Board.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The national Youth Justice System primarily exists to ensure that children and young people between the age of 10 and 17 do not engage in offending or re-offending behaviour and to ensure that where a young person is arrested and charged with a criminal offence, they are dealt with differently to adult offenders to reflect their particular welfare needs as children.

3.2 Local Youth Offending Services were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop, deliver, commission and coordinate the provision of youth justice services within each Local Authority.

3.3 Hartlepool Youth Justice Service was established in April 2000 and is responsible for youth justice services locally. It is a multi-agency service and is made up of representatives from the Council's Children's Services, Police, Probation, Health and Education.

3.4 The primary objectives of Youth Justice Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and reduce the use of custody.

- 3.5 There is a statutory requirement for all Youth Justice Services to annually prepare, a local Youth Justice Plan for submission to the national Youth Justice Board.
- 3.6 The annual Youth Justice Plan provides an overview of how the Youth Justice Service, the Youth Justice Service Strategic Management Board and wider partnership will ensure that the service has sufficient resources and infrastructure to deliver youth justice services in its area in line with the requirements of the *National Standards for Youth Justice Services* to:
- promote performance improvement
  - shape youth justice system improvement
  - improve outcomes for young people, victims and the broader community

#### **4. PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Children's Service Committee approved the consultation process for Youth Justice Strategic Plan on 19<sup>th</sup> November, consequently the Youth Justice Plan has been presented to Safer Hartlepool Partnership and Audit and Governance Committee where it has been accepted and no additional comments or amendments have been suggested. Therefore Children's Service Committee are being asked to approve the presentation to Full Council to seek adoption of the Youth Justice Plan 2019/2021.

#### **5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Should the plan not be agreed we would not be compliant with the requirements linked to Youth Justice Board Grant.

#### **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Should the council not receive the Youth Justice grant there would be a significant budget pressure.

#### **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 A local authority must submit a youth justice plan annually to the Youth Justice Board setting out (a) how youth justice services are to be provided and funded in their area and (b) how the YOTs established by them are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate and what functions they are to carry out. The plan must be published in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 This plan has had the approval of the Youth Justice Management Board, Children's Service Committee, Safer Hartlepool Partnership and Audit and Governance Committee.

## **9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY**

- 9.1 Not applicable

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 Not applicable

## **11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no staffing consideration within this report

## **12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no asset management consideration within this report

## **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 The Committee is requested to approve the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20 being presented to Full Council for ratification.

## **14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 The development of the Youth Justice plan for 2019-2021 will provide the Youth Justice Service with a clear steer to bring about further reductions in youth offending and contribute to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families alongside the broader community.
- 14.2 The local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019–2021 will establish responsibility across the Youth Justice Service and the Youth Justice Strategic Board for taking each improvement activity forward within agreed timescales.

## 15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019

## 16. CONTACT OFFICERS

16.1 Jane Young, Assistant Director, Children and Families,  
Hartlepool Borough Council,  
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TS24 8AY.  
Tel 01429 523957.  
E-mail [jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:jane.young@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒



# HARTLEPOOL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2019/2020

|          |   |                |
|----------|---|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>FOREWORD</b>   | <b>Page 3</b>  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION</b>   | <b>Page 5</b>  |
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| <b>4</b> | <b>STRATEGIC VISION AND PRIORITIES - A BETTER CHILDHOOD IN HARTLEPOOL</b> | <b>Page 22</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE</b>   | <b>Page 27</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY</b>                                      | <b>Page 30</b> |
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| <b>8</b> | <b>RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY</b>   | <b>Page 33</b> |
| <b>9</b> | <b>STRATEGIC SUMMARY</b>  | <b>Page 35</b> |

## 1. FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2019 - 2021 Hartlepool Youth Justice Strategic Plan. This plan sets out our ambitions and priorities for Hartlepool Youth Justice Service and the broader local Youth Justice Partnership for the next 2 years.

Hartlepool's Community Strategy 2008-20 establishes a vision for the town:

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

The Youth Justice Service and broader partnership has a key role in contributing to this vision, by continuing to deliver a high quality, effective and safe youth justice service that prevents crime and the fear of crime, whilst ensuring that young people who do offend are identified, managed and supported appropriately, without delay.

In recent years Hartlepool has witnessed a significant reduction in youth crime. The local youth justice partnership has been particularly effective in reducing the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, but there remains a need to drive down incidents of re-offending by young people who have previously offended. This will be achieved through a combination of robust interventions designed to manage and reduce risk of harm, support safety & wellbeing, restore interpersonal relationships, promote whole family engagement and achieve positive outcomes. Encouragingly, Hartlepool Youth Justice Service is developing its restorative offer to young people whilst ensuring that victims of youth crime have a voice.

The recently published 'Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019' and the 'Child First' ethos will be integral to the way the service builds upon our progress to date. However, it must be acknowledged that the current economic climate, and the continuing introduction of new reforms relating to how we respond to children, young people, families and communities, will inevitably present new challenges in the coming year and beyond.

Despite these challenges I am very confident that Hartlepool Youth Justice Service and the broader Youth Justice Partnership will continue to help make Hartlepool a safer place to live, work, learn and play

In 2019-21 we will strive to continuously improve by:

- Adopting an Enhanced Case Management model, with trauma informed practice at its core.



- Developing a clear and consistent approach to all forms of child exploitation.
- Building on the improving YJS offer of a 'whole family approach'
- Ensuring the Service maintains a 'child first' ethos.

None of the above will be possible without the continued support and close working relationships of our partners and Children's Social Care. In addition, these relationships allow us to mitigate the impact of ever reducing partnership budgets whilst maintaining the quality and effectiveness of the Service.

2018-19 has been a year of change with the YJS Team Manager. Mike Lane moved to HMIP as a Lead Inspector, I would like to put on record the thanks of the Management Board, YJS staff and all the partners for his dedicated and effective leadership.

We also wish Roni Checksfield all the very best in taking up the challenge and are confident that the Service will continue to deliver high quality services to all young people, families and victims.

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

On behalf of the Youth Justice Service Strategic Management Board I am pleased to pledge my support to and endorse the Youth Justice Strategic Plan

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ch. Insp Burnell', written in a cursive style.

Chief Inspector Nigel Burnell, Cleveland Police - Youth Justice Service Strategic Management Board Chair

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The National Youth Justice System primarily exists to ensure that children and young people between the age of 10 and 17 (who are arrested and charged with a criminal offence) are dealt with differently to adult offenders, to reflect their particular welfare needs.

In summary, young people who offend are:

- Dealt with by youth courts;
- Given different sentences in comparison to adults and
- When necessary, detained in special secure centres for young people.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority and statutory partners to secure and coordinate local youth justice services for young people, area who come into contact with the Youth Justice System as a result of their offending behaviour. This is achieved through the established Youth Justice Service.

The primary functions of Youth Justice Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and reduce the use of custody.

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service was established in April 2000 and is a multi-agency service made up of representatives from Children's Services, Police, Probation, Public Health, Education, Community Safety and the local voluntary/community sector. Hartlepool Youth Justice Service seeks to ensure that:

- All young people entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk and protective factors associated with their offending behaviour in order to inform effective interventions.
- Courts and Referral Order panels are provided with high quality reports that enable them to make informed decisions.
- Orders of the Court are managed in such a way that they support the primary aim of the youth justice system, alongside managing risk of harm and ensuring there is due regard to the welfare of the young person.

- Services provided to courts are of a high quality and ensure that magistrates and the judiciary have confidence in the supervision of young people.
- Comprehensive bail and remand management services are in place locally for young people remanded or committed to custody, or on bail while awaiting trial or sentence.
- The needs and risks of young people sentenced to custodial sentences (including long-term custodial sentences) are assessed to ensure effective resettlement and management of risk.
- Those receiving youth justice services are treated fairly regardless of race, language, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or any other factor, and actions are put in place to address discrimination if identified

In addition to the above, the remit of the service has widened significantly in recent years due to both national and local developments relating to prevention, diversion and restorative justice and there is a now requirement to ensure that:

- Strategies and services are in place locally to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour;
- Out-of-court disposals deliver targeted and bespoke interventions for those at risk of entering the Youth Justice System
- Assistance is provided to the Police when determining whether Youth Cautions should be issued and
- Restorative approaches are used, where appropriate, with victims of crime and ensures that restorative justice is central to work undertaken with young people who offend.

The Hartlepool Youth Justice Plan for 2019-2021 sets out how youth justice services will be delivered, funded and governed in response to both local need and national policy changes including the implementation of Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019. It also highlights how Hartlepool Youth Justice Service will work in partnership to prevent offending and re-offending by young people and reduce the use of custody.

### 3. WHAT WE HAVE ACHEIVED IN 2017/18 & 2018/2019

A review of progress made against last year's plan highlights that the service has made progress across the majority of the year's priorities; but there remains key areas for improvement that will need to be driven forward in the coming year:

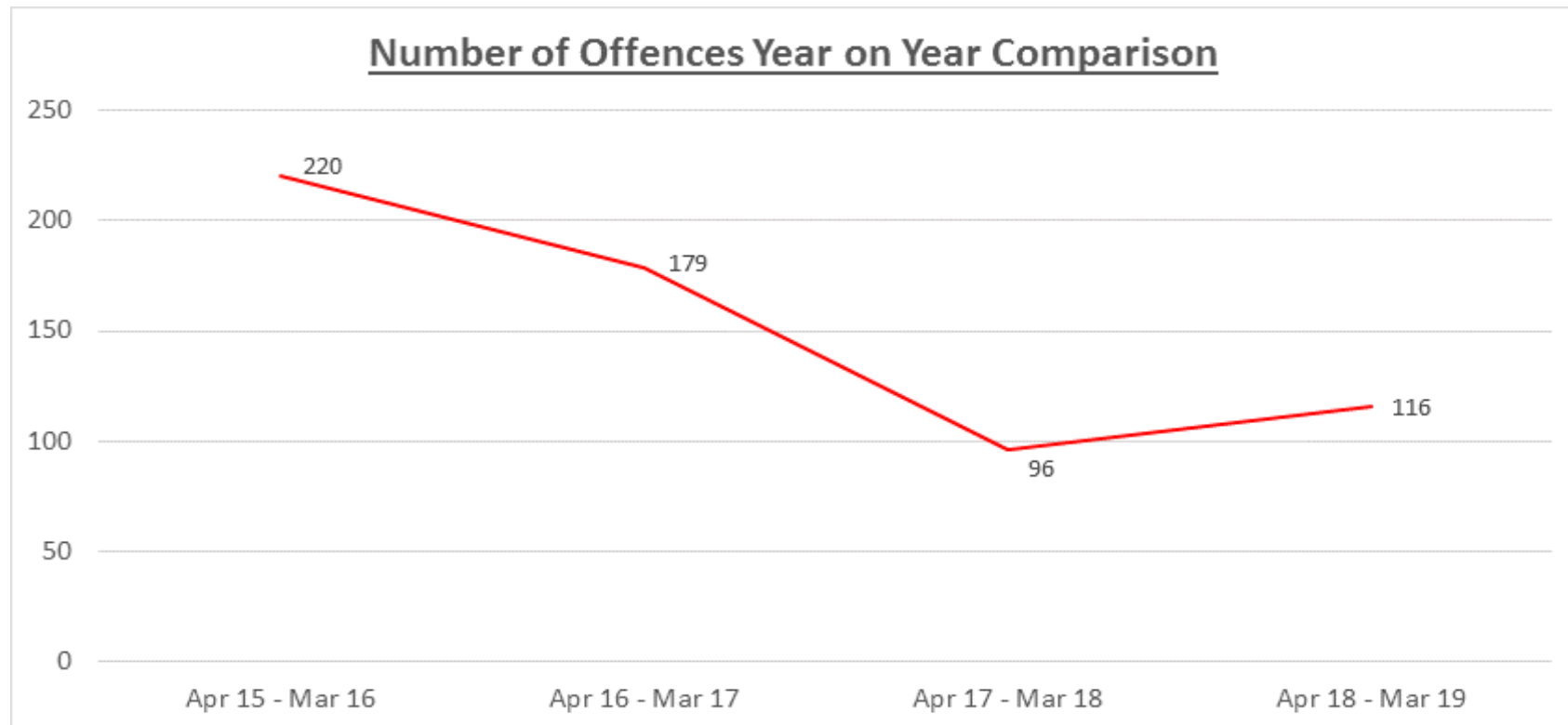
|  | Comments  |
|--|---|
| <b>Early Intervention and Prevention</b> – sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that there remain strategies and services in place locally to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour | <p>The last two years have seen decreases in FTE's. In 2016/17 we had an increase in FTE to 42. This has been followed by a 52% reduction in 2017/18 to 20 and a further 25% reduction in 2018/19 to 15. These decreases are reflective of the Tees-wide trend, with neighbouring Tees Valley YOTS also reporting decreases across the same period.</p> <p>Our continued partnership arrangements with Cleveland Police remain effective in relation to the diversion of young people from the Youth Justice System. This is primarily through the delivery of Out Of Court Disposals, with longer term data trend evidencing significant success in this area.</p> <p>The Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) continues to fund Triage.</p>  |
| <b>Re-offending</b> - reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime  | <p>The YJMIS reoffending data demonstrates how unpredictable young people's behaviours can be. The current rate is 53.8% (Apr 17-Jun 17 cohort) which represents an increase after 5 consecutive quarterly reductions. The number of re-offenders has also fluctuated over the last 2 years. Inevitably, due to the low cohort numbers, any re-offending sees a considerable increase in the rate.</p> <p>The rate of youth re-offending within Hartlepool remains above both the national and regional average and addressing this remains a strategic priority in the coming year. This will be primarily through continued assessment and a bespoke package of interventions (which is currently being developed). In addition, the proportionate use of rehabilitative interventions and, where necessary, restrictive interventions will serve to ensure effective management of risk and support around welfare-related need. We aim to address the needs</p> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | of young people using a systemic team around the family model maximising inter-agency support and services and the family own resources.  |
| <b>To focus our iniRemand and Custody –</b> demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.   | <p>The number of remand episodes in 2017/18 was 0 with 1 in 2018/19. These are excellent figures and continue to evidence the Bail Supervision and Support/ISS packages which are provided (where necessary and appropriate) as an alternative to custody.</p> <p>The number of custodial sentences across 2017/18 and 2018/19, have remained static with 3 young people having been made subject to such a disposal.</p> <p>The number of breaches of community based court orders has decreased from 15 in 2017/18 to 8 in 2018/19.</p> <p>Compliance panels have been established within YJS practice, as a means of identifying barriers to engagement and the reasons for none attendance, with the aim of increasing attendance and reducing the likelihood of remand.</p>  |
| <b>Restorative Justice –</b> ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is central to work undertaken with young people who offend. | <p>The victims of youth crime are given the opportunity to participate in restorative justice. Restorative practice remains an integral part of the work undertaken with young people involved with the YJS.</p> <p>The Restorative Justice and Victim provision was in-sourced from April 2017, after a review of the previous provision. These statutory duties were re-aligned within the existing staffing of Hartlepool YJS – all of whom have undertaken service-wide Restorative Justice training, many to level 3. This has enabled Hartlepool YJS to have control and influence in shaping the direction and quality of Restorative Justice work. Across 2017/18 and 2018/19 there were <b>90</b> contacts with victims of crime and where consented a Victim Impact Statement completed.</p> <p>Young people, under the supervision of Hartlepool YJS, delivered approximately <b>700</b> hours of direct and indirect unpaid reparative activity within the Hartlepool area in 2017/18 and 2018/19. This was across various projects and involved working with local voluntary groups throughout the town.</p> |
| <b>Risk and Safety &amp; Wellbeing –</b> ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk                       | Risk, Safety and Wellbeing arrangements continue to benefit from regular quality assurance, ensuring all young people entering (or at risk of entering) the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment (via Asset Plus). The management of risk remains a key priority, alongside ensuring   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| and vulnerability to inform effective intervention and risk management.  | interventions are tailored to meet the individual's needs. The safety and wellbeing of young people under the supervision of the YJS is paramount.  |
| <b>Voice of the Young People</b> – ensure that all young people are actively involved in developing their own plans and interventions and have the opportunity to develop and inform current and future service delivery | <p>Hartlepool YJS has ensured young people have a voice and this is captured within their assessment – primarily through completion of the Asset Plus self-assessment.</p> <p>The service has ensured young people have been provided with opportunities to influence and shape service delivery – through utilising Hartlepool YJS e-survey feedback.<br/>The e-survey has recently been extended to include parents/carers and victims.</p> <p>Specialist Speech, Language and Communication Need (SLCN) training was commissioned from Durham YOS, and whole-service training was delivered, with the aim of raising awareness and supporting those young people with a SLCN. In turn, this enabled more effective signposting of young people to specialist Speech &amp; Language Therapeutic services, culminating with the YJS commissioning a Speech and Language Therapist in 2018/19 and re commissioned in 2019/20.</p> |
| <b>Extremism and PREVENT Strategy</b> – To ensure that the Youth Justice Service is compliant with legislative and practice requirements and adhere to the specific objectives of the 2011 Prevent Strategy              | <p>All members of Hartlepool Youth Justice Service (across all staff grades) have completed the mandated training around the PREVENT strategy and the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST)</p> <p>Hartlepool YJS has a designated staff member as a specialist Prevent lead and WRAP3 Train the Trainer, accredited via the Office for Counter Terrorism &amp; Security.</p> <p>Assessments and planned interventions adequately consider issues such as extremism and radicalisation and, where necessary or appropriate, refer young people for further guidance and support</p> <p>Hartlepool YJS are also represented on the local Prevent Operational Group.</p>  |
| <b>Effective Governance</b> – ensure that the Youth Justice Strategic Management Board remains a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Offending Service performance.              | <p>The Youth Justice Strategic Management Board continues to be a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Justice Service performance. Ongoing development/shadowing days with all board members will continue to ensure the board remain committed and are able to advocate for the YJS within their own service areas.</p> <p>A new YJS Team Manager was appointed in October 2018 and a review was undertaken in March 2019 to ensure that the governance of YJS activity is fit for purpose, in line with changing national policy.</p>   |

## Young People Who Offend

In spite of the challenges that young people, families and communities contend with in Hartlepool, the local Youth Justice Partnership has had significant success in recent years in terms of preventing and reducing youth offending behaviour.



The number of offences committed by the YJS cohort has reduced from 179 (2016/17) to 96 in 2017/18 and followed by a slight increase to a current level of 116 in 2018/19 – which represents a significant reduction of 35% across the two years. Alongside this, the longer term rising trend in Restorative Interventions (for which responsibility lies with the Police) has contributed to a reduction of the number of young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

## **Prevention and Diversion**

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service, and the broader youth justice partnership, continue to place a significant emphasis on the prevention of young people's involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. This continues to positively impact on the reduction of young people entering the Youth Justice System.

Youth crime prevention and diversion is based on the premise that it is possible to change the direction of young people by reducing risk factors that may lead to offending behaviour and enhancing protective factors that might help prevent offending.

It marks a concerted shift away from reactive spending, towards early action and intervention, through a range of programmes for young people who are at risk of offending, which can result in better outcomes and greater value for money.

For young people whose behaviour has become more problematic, robust out of court interventions have proven to be highly successful in diverting young people away from further involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. The use of out of court interventions are able to impress upon the young people the seriousness, and potentially damaging effect, of their actions however they do not criminalise the young people in the way that statutory court orders inevitably do.

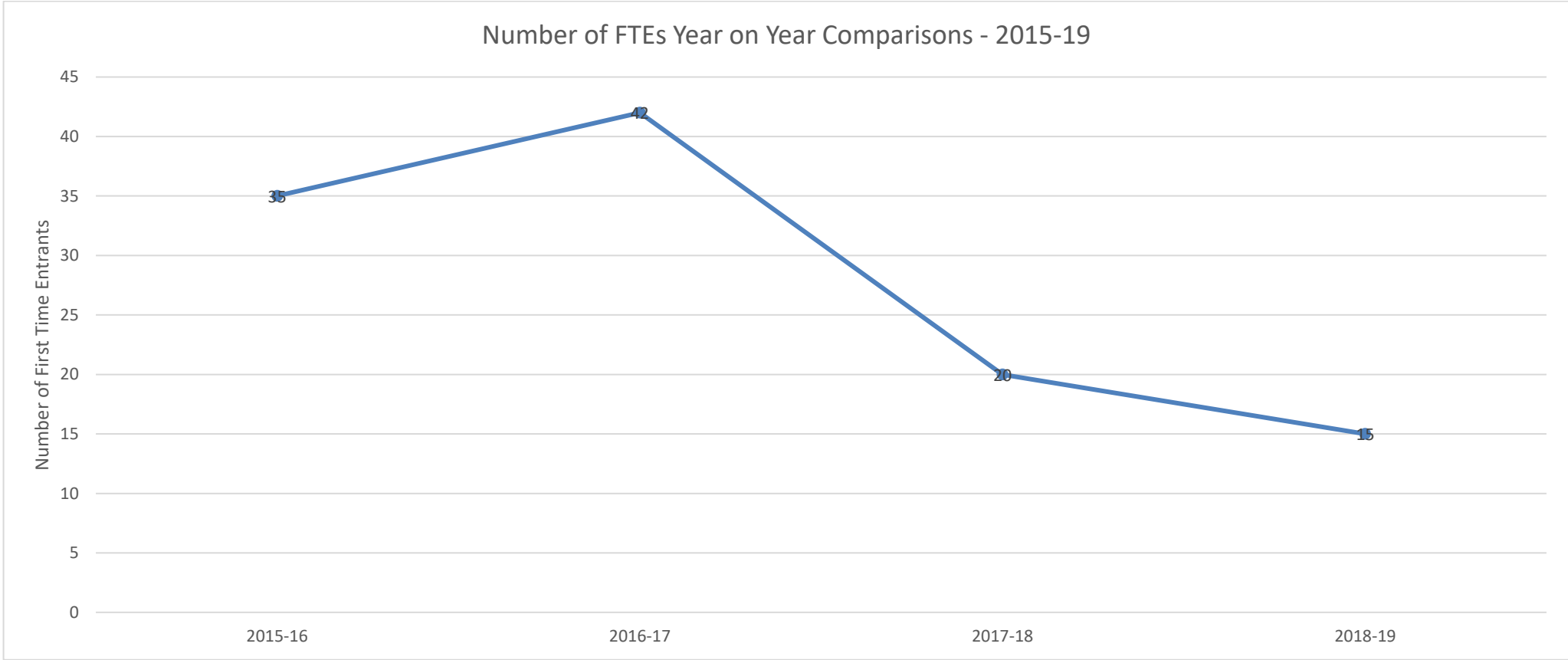
Hartlepool YJS has again seen a reduction in First Time Entrants (FTEs) over the last 2 years 2017/18 and 2018/19. Hartlepool YJS partnership arrangements with Cleveland Police are established and effective in relation to the diversion of young people from the Youth Justice System. This remains primarily through the delivery of Out Of Court Disposals (O OCD), with longer term data trend evidencing significant success in this area. Indeed, Hartlepool YJS will continue to monitor the number of FTEs and for those young people subject to an O OCD, ensuring interventions are robust and sufficient to address the offence committed, alongside other areas of need identified in the assessment, in order to help prevent any further offending.

Cleveland PCC continues to fund the diversionary Triage programme which has made a considerable contribution to the continuing reduction of FTEs. There was a recorded 143 FTEs in 2009/10, compared to 15 in 2018/19 marking a huge reduction of 89%.



Multi agency partnership work is ongoing to implement suitable interventions and processes to work intensively with those young people identified as potentially being criminally exploited. Hartlepool YJS will be providing a leading role in this process alongside the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) local board.

First Time Entrants (FTEs)



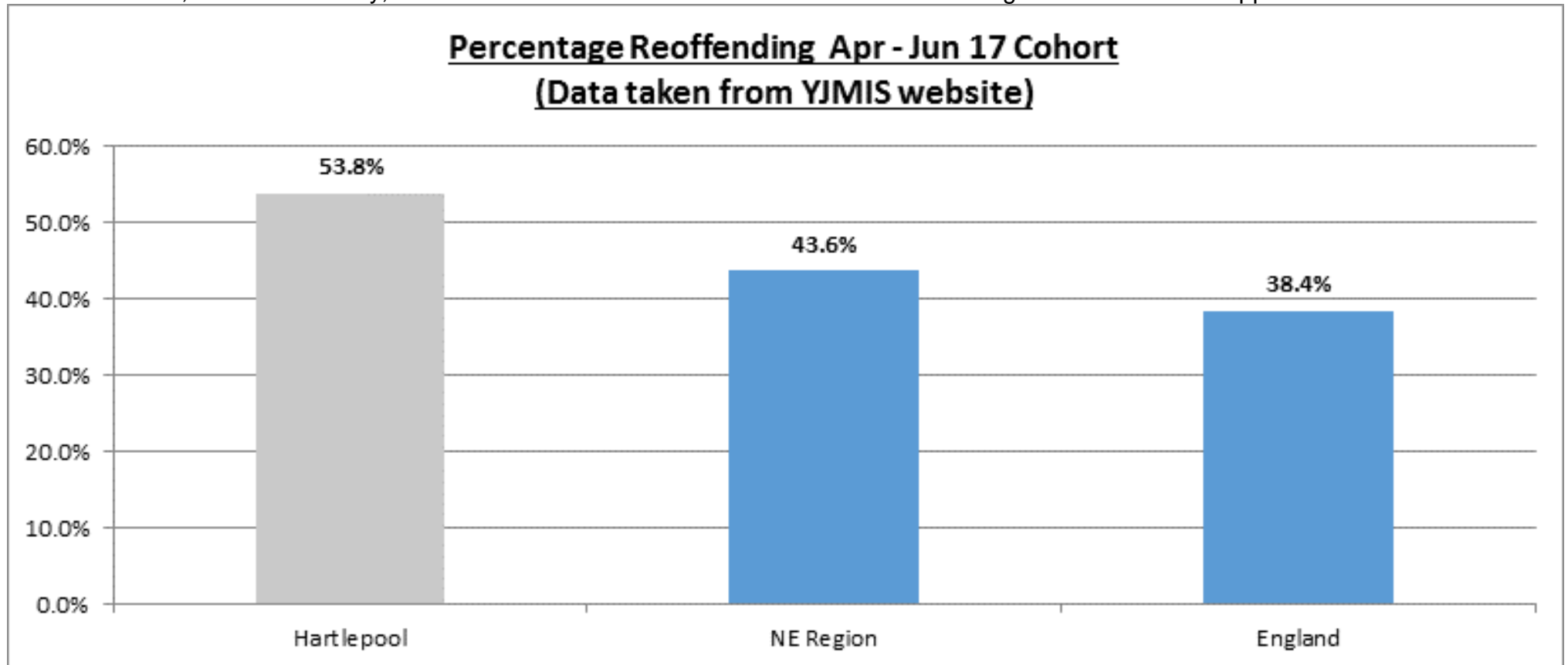
## Reoffending

The reoffending indicator has been changed nationally which makes direct comparisons with historical performance difficult. Although Hartlepool is still above the national and regional average, the YJMIS reoffending data provides a somewhat unpredictable picture. Up until recently, Hartlepool YJS's reoffending rate had seen a reduction for 5 consecutive quarters. At a current level of 53.80%, which still represents a reduction of 6.20% from the July 15 – Sept 15 cohort. Each of the cohorts are tracked for a period of 12 months, plus a further waiting period of 6 months to allow for any offences which may not have yet been dealt with by the Criminal Justice System – therefore the most recent reoffending data always has an 18 month time lag.

Alongside this, the number of re-offenders also continues to fluctuate, although the constant low numbers impact hugely on the reoffending measures.

| Cohort                 | Number in cohort | No of Re-offenders | No of Re-offences | Re-offences / Re-offenders | % Re-offending |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Jul 15 - Sep 15</b> | 20               | 12                 | 54                | 4.50                       | 60.00%         |
| <b>Oct 15 - Dec 15</b> | 29               | 17                 | 88                | 5.18                       | 58.60%         |
| <b>Jan 16 - Mar 16</b> | 16               | 9                  | 54                | 6.00                       | 56.30%         |
| <b>Apr 16 - Jun 16</b> | 18               | 10                 | 23                | 2.30                       | 55.60%         |
| <b>Jul 16 - Sep 16</b> | 22               | 10                 | 36                | 3.60                       | 45.50%         |
| <b>Oct 16 - Dec 16</b> | 29               | 9                  | 22                | 2.44                       | 31.00%         |
| <b>Jan 17 - Mar 17</b> | 25               | 11                 | 31                | 2.82                       | 44.00%         |
| <b>Apr 17 - Jun 17</b> | 26               | 14                 | 35                | 2.50                       | 53.80%         |

The rate of youth reoffending within Hartlepool remains above the national and regional average and will be a key priority in the coming year. This will be primarily achieved through an improvement in the offers of intervention (which is under review) to young people under YJS supervision and using feedback from young people to inform service delivery. In addition the planned use of Live Tracker and the proportionate use of rehabilitative interventions and, where necessary, restrictive measures will serve to ensure effective management of risk and support welfare-related need.



The service is dealing with smaller caseloads consisting of complex individuals with multiple risks and vulnerabilities. Recent analysis reveals a cohort which display broader lifestyle choices relating to substance misuse and the need to generate income to maintain this. This also reflects the national and regional picture in terms of caseload composition.

Furthermore, this cohort of young people who continue to offend are predominantly young males aged between 15 and 17, many of whom reside within Hartlepool's most deprived neighbourhoods. Although not mutually exclusive, the common criminogenic need and welfare issues prevalent amongst this cohort are identified as:

- higher than average mental health/emotional wellbeing needs
- higher levels of drug and alcohol use than for the general population and in particular 'heavy cannabis use'
- low educational attachment, attendance and attainment
- having family members or friends who offend
- higher than average levels of loss, bereavement, abuse and violence experienced within the family
- a history of family disruption
- chaotic and unstructured lifestyles

Alongside this cohort of young males, there is another cohort of young females aged 14 -17 whom, although perhaps not as prolific in terms of reoffending, are of significant concern due to multiple complex issues which are predominately welfare-orientated. These include:

- Substance misuse
- Chaotic lifestyles
- Sexual exploitation
- Missing from home
- Family breakdown

Again, as with the male cohort, young females who are offending are noted to have a higher prevalence of poor emotional well-being. Analysis shows that this arises from loss, bereavement and domestic or sexual abuse.

Working in partnership is key to supporting a greater understanding of these underlying issues, alongside addressing them in a holistic and co-ordinated way to provide “pathways out of offending”, with the intention of trying to reduce crime and break the cycle of offending behaviour across generations. This collaborative work is achieved through:

- A Better Childhood In Hartlepool,
- Hartlepool Community Safety Partnership
- Cleveland & Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership
- Education Commission
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation

It is also important to adopt an ‘intelligence-led’ targeted approach, particularly in relation to prevention, and build on service-wide staff training to respond to Speech, Language, & Communication, alongside the emotional health and wellbeing needs of the young people. An important element to the reduction of reoffending and the number of those entering the youth justice system is the development of the YJS interventions. Interventions are bespoke, based on high quality, integrated assessments and plans, delivered by YJS staff and partner agencies. Some progress has been made in this area, however further work is needed in the forthcoming year. Some innovative interventions have been developed and a more evident ‘Whole Family’ approach is being further developed with the recent inclusion of Psychological Therapists and the re commission of the Speech and Language Therapist within the service. This will continue to be monitored through established quality assurance and performance measures, such as the monthly YJS performance clinics and the Hartlepool Community Safety Partnership meetings between Police, Social Care, ASBU, YJS, Fire and Rescue Services and Adult Services.

## Victims of Youth Crime

Whilst crime rates in Hartlepool have fallen, the likelihood of being a victim of crime still remains a reality, especially in our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The YJS and broader Youth Justice Partnership are working hard to reduce the numbers of victims of crime, by incorporating the use of restorative justice practices. Restorative Justice (RJ) provides opportunities for those directly affected by an offence (victim, offender and members of the community) to communicate and ensure victims of youth crime have a voice.

In addition victims of youth crime are helped to access appropriate support pathways that enable them to move on from the impact of crime. A personalised approach is taken to ensure that victims of crime in Hartlepool are placed at the centre. This includes ensuring that individual needs and wishes are fully taken into account. As a result we aim to visit all victims of crime so they are able to access pathways to support, including the option to participate in restorative justice. Across 2017/18 and 2018/19 there were **90** contacts with direct victims of crime and where consented a Victim Impact Statement carried out.

RJ is an important underlying principle of all disposals for young people on YJS caseload, from Triage to Detention & Training Orders. Whilst restorative processes typically result in practical reparation, for example participating in a task that benefits the community, the communication between victim and offender, as part of this process, can also produce powerful emotional responses leading to mutual satisfaction and socially inclusive outcomes.

The decision was made to in-source the RJ and Victim provision as of 1/4/17. These statutory duties have been re-aligned within the existing staffing of Hartlepool YJS – all of whom have undertaken service-wide RJ training, many to level 3. This decision has enabled Hartlepool YJS to have direct control and influence in shaping the direction and quality of RJ work, including the establishment of updated working policies, practices and procedures. In turn, this has already begun to result in better outcomes for both victims and young people and is much more responsive to local need.

There is considerable evidence that RJ practice is much more integrated across all areas of the service. In particular, there is a closer link between those workers with additional RJ responsibility and case managers in relation to the needs and wishes of victims.

In summary, young people under the supervision of Hartlepool YJS delivered approximately 700 hours of direct and indirect reparative activity within Hartlepool in 2017/18. This was across a varied scope of projects and collaborative working with local voluntary groups in varying locations. across the town, including The Headland, Burn Valley Park, Ward Jackson Park and Seal Sands beach. In addition, more individual bespoke projects have taken place involving furniture restoration, bird boxes for distribution to local groups, Christmas hampers for those in need and an art project to benefit the local community.







## Quality of Services

Throughout 2018/19, the YJS Team Manager has focused on the quality of assessments and subsequent managerial oversight and quality assurance. This has been sustained by the current management team, through regular supervision, audit and staff training. Policy development has been a priority over the last two years in particular updating and reviewing the staff guidance in relation to the management of Risk of Harm, Safety & Wellbeing and also Case Recording.

Performance management and data analysis has continued to be a priority within 2018/19, with significant work undertaken in conjunction with the Local Authority's Data information and IT teams. This has enabled various processes and documents (including the YJS Board Report) to be aligned with cleansed data, which not only makes performance management data more accessible and understandable, but also allows such data to inform service improvement activity, comparative analysis and the directing of resource to areas of organisational need.

Hartlepool YJS continue to commission South Tees YOS, to provide duty cover of Youth Court work in Teesside. Whilst allowing the service to maintain excellent working relationships within the Court arena, this continues to create some necessary and critical capacity within the team to manage the volume of post-court work and utilise staffing time more effectively. Given the success of this arrangement (strategically, operationally and financially) this was re commissioned in March 2019 for a further 12 month period.

A continued key strength of Hartlepool YJS is the ability of all staff to engage complex and challenging young people, through quality assessments and response to individual need. This builds positive relationships and leads to better outcomes – both for the young person as an individual and their families and the community as a whole. Throughout 2017/18 and 2018/19 there has been considerable service-wide training, which compliments staff members' professional development on an individual level via training from the Local Authority and other statutory and voluntary partners. Alongside internal training around Risk of Harm, Safety & Wellbeing, and Asset Plus refreshers. Hartlepool YJS has received Talking Mats training which is a specialist Speech Language and Communication Need (SLCN) intervention and some staff attended Kids For Law training. All of the YJS staff received two days Trauma training delivered by Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust, which will be followed up by Trauma Recovery Model training and the implementation of Enhanced Case Management, which is planned for late of 2019. Staff development will continue throughout 2019-21 and remains a key focus in working towards a quality service. This will be supported by regular supervision and appraisal, alongside reflective supervision sessions which encourage staff to analyse their practice within a supportive learning environment.

The HMIP inspection framework and the recently published 'Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019' will ensure that Hartlepool YJS continues to provide the best outcomes possible for children in the youth justice system.



## Service User Feedback

The voice of the young person was identified as a key strategic objective for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and completion of Asset Plus self-assessments remains critical in capturing the voice and perceived needs of those young people with whom the YJS work. Internally, given that (as of April 2017) HMIP were no longer gathering and monitoring Viewpoint e-survey returns. Hartlepool YJS completed some internal work to develop an evaluative Survey Monkey (based on the original Viewpoint questions) to measure Young People's perceptions of: Quality of Service, Likelihood of Offending, Fairness of treatment by YJS staff and Quality of interventions.

52 surveys were completed by young people across the last 2 years:

- Just under 90% of YP indicated they know what kind of things make them more likely to offend;
- Just under 90% of YP indicated work with the YJS made them realise change is possible;
- Over 80% of YP indicated they are a lot less likely to offend;
- Over 90% of YP felt they were treated fairly;
- Over 80% of YP felt the service they given was 'very good';
- 100% of YP felt listened to by the people who worked with them
- Just under 80% of YP indicated the sessions helped change their behaviour

## 4. STRATEGIC VISION AND PRIORITIES - A BETTER CHILDHOOD IN HARTLEPOOL

Hartlepool's Children Strategic Partnership has set out its vision for children and young people within the town as follows:

### **Vision:**

Our ambition as a children's 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.

### **Obsessions:**

- Children and young people have opportunities to make the most of their life chances and are safe
- Improving family relationships, strengths, skills and ability to cope
- Reducing the impact of domestic violence, mental health, drugs and alcohol misuse on children and families
- Helping parents, carers and young people to gain skills and get jobs

The Youth Justice Service, as part of the wider services for children, seeks to deliver on the vision and obsessions through a number of identified Youth Justice Service Strategic Priorities for 2019 - 2021.

In addition, these priorities align and overlap with the strategic objectives set by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership for 2017-2020:

- Reduce Crime and repeat Victimisation
- Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse
- Create confident, cohesive and safe communities
- Reduce offending and reoffending.

To enable Hartlepool Youth Justice Service to contribute to the vision above, it will focus on the following strategic objectives and priorities:

## Proposed Strategic Objectives and Priorities – 2019-2021

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service (and the broader Youth Justice Partnership) will be utilising the YJB grant to help achieve the following key strategic objectives during 2019-21, also ensuring the service achieves and maintains inspection readiness and that the recently published Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019 are embedded throughout the service:

### Youth Justice Strategic Priorities

**Re-offending** - reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime with a particular emphasis in the development of Service interventions that are structured, responsive and tailored to meet identified individual need and evaluated. (Both within Youth Justice Service and provided by external agencies).

#### Key Actions

- Undertake quality assessments of young people at risk of re-offending, ensuring risks, desistance factors and needs are identified which inform effective intervention planning
- Improve interventions delivered, through innovation and collaboration where appropriate
- Improve intelligence and timely information sharing relating to those young people who are at risk of offending, to inform service-wide improvement activity or targeted work
- Continue to improve the 'whole family' approach offer within the service and with partners
- Scoping activity to be undertaken in relation to retaining both the Speech & Language Therapist and Emotional Wellbeing therapists presence within the YJS beyond March 2020

**Early Intervention and Prevention** – sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that strategies and services remain in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

#### Key Actions

- Embedding of 'A Better Childhood' in Hartlepool and fulfilling the YJS role within the wider Local Authority approach and vision
- Operate a targeted approach to supporting individuals and groups of young people at risk of offending - based on intelligence and collaborative working with key partners (Police, ASB, Early Help, Voluntary Community Sector, Schools, etc)
- Ongoing trend analysis of past and current FTE's to identify key themes and responses
- Ongoing briefings to key partners (such as Police and Social Care) to emphasise and promote the Prevention and Diversion agenda
- Ensure point of arrest diversion is evident as a distinct and substantially different response to formal out of court disposals

**Remand and Custody** – demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.

**Key Actions**

- Monitor and maintain the use of Compliance Panels to ensure continued effectiveness
- Ensure the Service provides intensive packages of supervision and support to high intensity orders and bail arrangements
- Ensure that the needs of young people in custody and the factors relating to their offending behaviour are addressed in the secure estate to prevent further offending upon release
- Ensure that robust and timely Resettlement Planning is in place for young people upon release to reduce the risk of further reoffending (Recommendations to be implemented from the Joint Youth Resettlement Inspection carried out by HMI Probation and HMI Prisons 2018/19)
- Review capacity to deliver ISS, and resource appropriately, through a multi-agency approach

**Risk and Safety & Wellbeing (Asset Plus)** – ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk of harm, safety and wellbeing concerns and desistance factors, to inform effective intervention and risk management.

**Key Actions**

- Continued Asset Plus refresher training, ensuring robust assessment of a young person's needs
- Work in partnership with other agencies to ensure there is a co-ordinated assessment and plan relating to a young person's risk and safety & wellbeing
- Implement an audit cycle/performance clinic to ensure assessment and plans are meeting the appropriate quality standards through robust and transparent quality assurance and feedback.
- Ensure that desistance factors are identified and analysed in all assessments of every young person subject to YJS supervision through quality assurance and staff supervision.
- Attendance and contribution to YJB Regional Effective Practice groups and peer collaboration with Tees Valley and North East YOT colleagues
- Ongoing internal staff training and workshops to benchmark quality standards in the management of risk and safety & wellbeing
- Continue to work alongside the partnership to identify suitable interventions and pathways for children and young people criminally exploited and potentially being drawn into County Lines activity
- Undertake 'Practice Week', this consists of a team of independent auditors to carry out case work audits, undertake practice observations and gain feedback from young people and their families. The evaluation of practice week will inform the service development plan.

**Restorative Justice** – ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is incorporated in to the work undertaken with young people who offend.

**Key Actions**

- Ensure that victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches leading to improved outcomes for victims
- Continue to use restorative practice across all aspects of the Youth Justice Service
- Regularly re-visit, review and develop practice and process around Referral Order panels to ensure increased involvement from victims, panel members, young people and their families
- Continue to develop the in-house RJ 'offer' to consolidate and embed current and better integrated working practices – including the victim's evaluation

**Effective Governance** – ensure that the Youth Justice Strategic Management Board is a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Justice Service performance.

**Key Actions**

- The Youth Justice Management Board will provide oversight and scrutiny of the service action plan and performance
- Ensure Management Board members attend regular development and shadowing opportunities as provided by the YJS Team Manager.
- Continue to review the Terms of Reference for the YJS board to ensure it is fit for purpose and includes appropriate representation and contribution of all statutory partners.
- Attendance and representation at YJB Regional executive meetings with colleague YOT Managers from the North East – to share learning and Governance issues to improve wider regional service delivery

**Voice of the Young People** – ensure that all young people are actively involved in developing their own plans have the opportunity to develop and inform current and future service delivery

**Key Actions**

- Ensure young people's involvement in relation to their assessment and plans is clearly evidenced within the records.
- Young people to be actively involved in developing their own plans and their comments are captured at implementation, review and closure of all plans
- The service will ensure young people are provided with opportunities to influence and shape service delivery – through access to, and completion of, Survey Monkey feedback
- YJS leadership team to hold regular evaluation/feedback meetings to ensure all comments are seen and actioned where required

**‘Child First’** – ensure that the Child First principles are embedded within the Youth Justice Service and that every child has the opportunity to live a safe and crime free life, and makes a positive contribution to society.

**Key Actions**

- Prioritise the best interests of children, recognising their needs, capacities, rights and potential.
- Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion.
- Ensure that all work carried out by the service is a meaningful collaboration with children and their parents/carers.
- The YJS will promote a childhood that is removed from the Justice System, using prevention, diversion and minimal intervention and that all work minimises stigma.

## 5. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

### Service Structure:

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service employs a staff team of thirty people, which includes three seconded staff, and four sessional workers (**see Appendix 1**). The service also benefits from a team of ten active volunteers who are Referral Order Panel members. All staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks which are renewed every three years.

Hartlepool YJS has experienced a challenging year (operationally and strategically) during 2018/19. Internal challenges have included staffing changes at managerial and operational level, policy development, service-wide training, and, in addition, external issues in terms of ongoing reductions in finance and resource across the partnership.

The YJS delivery model has been reconfigured and restructured to ensure the service remains sufficiently flexible to address future challenges. This will continue to be achieved through a generic case management and intervention delivery model, across pre and post court functions. This will ensure maximum resilience, capacity and flexibility to meet the needs of children and young people and the service as a whole.

The current YJS structure aims to consolidate areas of strong performance and effective practice, whilst also providing a dynamic framework to respond to emerging priorities, recognised both by the Local Authority and key partners. This model (alongside the YJS strategic plan) allows the organisation and the wider YJS partnership to action the priorities for service delivery and to achieve best outcomes for children and young people across the range of statutory and preventative service.

### Governance:

The Youth Justice Service is located within the Children & Joint Commissioned Services Division of Child and Adult Services. The Management Board is chaired by the local Police Area Commander and is made up of representatives from Child and Adult Services, Police, Probation, Public Health, Courts, Education, Youth Support Services and Community Safety.

Effective integrated strategic partnership working and clear oversight by the Management Board are critical to the success and effective delivery of youth justice services in Hartlepool. The board is directly responsible for:

- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Overseeing the formulation each year of the youth justice plan;
- Agreeing measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan;

- Ensuring delivery of the statutory aim to prevent offending by children and young people;
- Giving strategic direction to Youth Justice Service Manager and Youth Justice Service Team;
- Providing performance management of the prevention of youth crime and periodically report this to the Safer Hartlepool Executive Group;
- Ensuring that Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019 are embedded across the whole service and audits are completed within required timescales;
- Promoting the key role played by the Youth Justice Service within local integrated offender management arrangements;
- Advocate on behalf of the YJS within their own service areas and beyond, specifically supporting the YJS overcome barriers to effective multi agency working;
- Oversight of all data submissions to the YJB ensuring timeliness, especially conditions set out in the YJB grant;

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

Members of the Board are knowledgeable, participate well in discussions and are members of other related boards, such as the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, which contribute to effective partnership working at a strategic level. Board meetings are well structured and members are held accountable. The current membership of the Board is as follows:

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Nigel Burnell (Chair)</b>     | Local Police Area Commander                 |
| <b>Jane Young (Deputy Chair)</b> | Assistant Director – Children and Families' |
| <b>Roni Checksfield</b>          | Hartlepool YJS Team Manager                 |
| <b>Emma Rutherford</b>           | Virtual School Headteacher, HBC             |



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Ann Powell</b>    | Head of Cleveland NPS – National Probation Service (NE)  |
| <b>Rachel Parker</b> | Community Safety Team Leader HBC   |
| <b>Zoe McKenna</b>   | One Stop Shop Manager, HABC  |
| <b>Deborah Clark</b> | Public Health Improvement Practitioner HBC   |
| <b>Jo Heaney</b>     | Clinical Commissioning Group (North east)  |
| <b>Lesley Moss</b>   | Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)   |
| <b>David Ward</b>    | Head of Finance (Children's & adults) HBC  |
| <b>Lisa Oldroyd</b>  | Office for Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)  |
| <b>Kay Nicholson</b> | Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company  |
| <b>Paul Cartmell</b> | Head of Service, Health & Justice Services   |
| <b>Linda Bush</b>    | Head of Innovation and Engagement (North East/Yorks & Humber)<br>Youth Justice Board for England and Wales |

## 6. RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The Youth Justice Service budget is mainly funded by a combination of Local Authority funding and Youth Justice Board grant, although historically there have been financial contributions from the Police and Health (CCG and Public Health). The Local Authority's contribution to the service has remained protected; however there have been significant reductions in the other areas of funding.

The Youth Justice Board grant has been static for the last two years 2017/18 and 2018/19, and the anticipated cut in YJB grant for 2019/20 wasn't as big as expected, the YJB allocated a grant reduction of 0.94%.

The National Probation Service continue to provide funding (£5k) as well as their staffing contribution which is 0.5 FTE, however there continues to be no health contribution (CCG).

Cleveland Police ceased their cash contribution in 2013/14. However funding secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2015 towards the delivery of Triage continues, there has however been a slight reduction in the amount of this funding for the next 18 months.

### 2019/2020 Youth Justice Service Budget

| Agency                        | Staffing Costs | Payments in kind | Other delegated funds | Total          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Police                        |                | 45,000           |                       | 45,000         |
| Police and Crime Commissioner |                |                  | 32,000                | 32,000         |
| Probation                     |                | 19,000           | 5,000                 | 24,000         |
| Health                        |                |                  |                       | 0              |
| Local Authority               | 148,954        | 117,545          | 92,398                | 358,987        |
| Welsh Government              |                |                  |                       | 0              |
| YJB                           | 213,034        |                  | 156,979               | 370,013        |
| Other                         |                |                  |                       | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>361,988</b> | <b>181,545</b>   | <b>286,377</b>        | <b>830,000</b> |

## Planned/Proposed Expenditure 2019/20

| Direct Costs               | 2019/20 Budget<br>£'000 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Employees                  | 532                     |
| Premises                   | 23                      |
| Transport                  | 12                      |
| Other Non-Pay Costs        | 114                     |
| Indirect Costs – HBC #     | 85                      |
| Indirect Costs - Police    | 45                      |
| Indirect Costs - Probation | 19                      |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>830</b>              |

# - Inc recharges for premises, management, payroll, HR, finance, legal etc

The minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 requires that the service has a nominated person from each of the following statutory partners; Police Service, Children's Social Services, National Probation Service, Education and Health. Hartlepool YJS does not have an education rep sitting within the team, however there is a designated Education Officer who deals solely with YJS children. Monthly Education meetings are held where each child in the current cohort is discussed at depth, barriers to education, current circumstances and plans moving forward are also agreed. All staff have direct access to the Education Officer to discuss ongoing daily education issues as and when they arise and gather any information/data as required.

## 7. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

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

- Criminal justice services.
- Services for children, young people and their families.

The Youth Justice Service contributes both to improving community safety and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and in particular protecting them from significant harm.

Many of the young people involved with the Youth Justice Service are amongst the most vulnerable children in the borough and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. The Youth Justice Service's multi-agency approach ensures that it plays a significant role in meeting the safeguarding needs of these young people. This is achieved through the effective assessment and management of safety & wellbeing and risk, through working in partnership with other services, for example Children's Services, Health, Education, Secure Estate and Police to ensure young people's wellbeing is promoted and they are protected from harm. Regular ongoing communication, meetings, joint training opportunities and speedy information/intelligence sharing ensure ongoing strong links and relationships.

All high risk cases can be escalated to either the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked group (VEMT) or the Strategic Risk Management Group, the Youth Justice Service has representation on both groups which meet monthly. Discussions around serious youth violence, criminal exploitation and county lines are conducted within these forums ensuring tight plans are implemented and strategic management oversight is afforded

## 8. RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY

The key risks that have the capacity to have an adverse impact on the Youth Justice Service in the coming twelve months and potentially beyond are detailed below:

| Risks   | Potential Impact  | Control Measures   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Secure Remand Costs</b>  | The continued unpredictability associated with remand episodes and remand length has the potential to place significant financial pressure on the YJS and broader Local Authority.  | It remains essential that the service can demonstrate to magistrates that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.<br><br>Coordinated multi-agency responses to young people at risk of remand where safe and secure accommodation is the precipitating factor to be further developed. Remand budget is incorporated within Wider Children's Services placement costs. |
| <b>Managing the potential for reduction in YJB grant and partnership financial and 'in-kind' contributions for post-2019/20</b> | Consequential negative impact on performance. Reduced capacity to meet strategic and operational obligations and statutory requirements. Reduced capacity to continue to focus on early intervention and identification   | Targeted resources to address need. Continue to administer and embed the current structure and practice. Regional collaboration with neighbouring YOS' such as coverage of TYC. Robust financial management and oversight from strategic board.  |
| <b>Performance on reoffending outcomes and impact to children</b>   | Rising reoffending rates will have an adverse effect on the service as a whole. Leading to potential rises in remand, custody figures and the use of alternatives to custody. This will place considerable pressure on the service both financially and in terms of capacity. | Through continued assessment and a bespoke package of interventions (which is currently being developed) and identifying all desistance factors. In addition, the proportionate use of rehabilitative interventions and, where necessary, restrictive interventions will serve to ensure effective management of risk and support around welfare-related need.   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  |   | Continue to work alongside the partnership to identify suitable interventions and pathways for children and young people criminally exploited and potentially being drawn into County Lines activity alongside timely referrals to Strategic Risk Management and VEMT groups.   |
| <b>Emerging concerns around Serious Youth Violence, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines</b> | The rise in FTE, reoffending rates and exploitation of vulnerable children. Ultimately leading to criminalisation and wider service involvement having an adverse impact on Looked After Children (LAC) figures | <p>Continued regular communication, intelligence and information sharing across all services. Ensuring a multi-agency approach is adopted with senior strategic oversight. Ongoing joint training and regular updates on the national and local picture enabling timely and relevant interventions.</p> <p>Ensure clear processes and pathways (known to all staff) are implemented to work with identified children.</p> |

## 9. STRATEGIC SUMMARY

In spite of the adversities that families and communities contend with in Hartlepool, the local Youth Justice Partnership has had significant success in recent years in preventing and reducing youth offending behaviour.

An emphasis on prevention and diversion needs to be maintained, however this presents significant challenge in light of the continued economic climate and potential impact on staffing and resources. In spite of the continued reductions in offences and FTE, the rate of re-offending in Hartlepool continues to be an area of concern. The Youth Justice Service will continue to work with partner agencies particularly Early Help Locality Teams, Schools and CAMHS to identify and support children and young people at risk of offending as part of the wider programme “A Better Childhood in Hartlepool”, the Education Commission and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation Programme

Evidence highlights that it is often the complex interplay of multiple deprivation factors and difficulties that makes problems in some households insurmountable and places these vulnerable children at significant risk of criminal exploitation, involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour and in some instances links to County Lines. As a result there is a need to place an even greater emphasis on whole family interventions to create “pathways out of offending”, reduce crime and break the cycle of offending behaviour across generations.

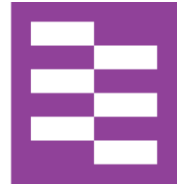
Whilst youth crime rates in Hartlepool have fallen, the likelihood of being a victim of crime still remains a reality, especially in our most disadvantaged communities and there remains a need to continue to invest in the delivery of restorative approaches to give victims of crime a voice, choice, control and satisfaction in the criminal justice system.

At a national level the recent implementation of the new HMIP Inspection Framework and newly published Standards for children in the youth justice system have given all youth justice providers elements of challenge, but a clear steer and direction of travel for the future. Hartlepool Youth Justice Service and broader Youth Justice Partnership will be proactive in implementing the above standards, tackling all future challenges and ultimately securing further reductions in offending and re-offending by children and young people.

## Hartlepool Youth Justice Partnership



National  
Probation  
Service



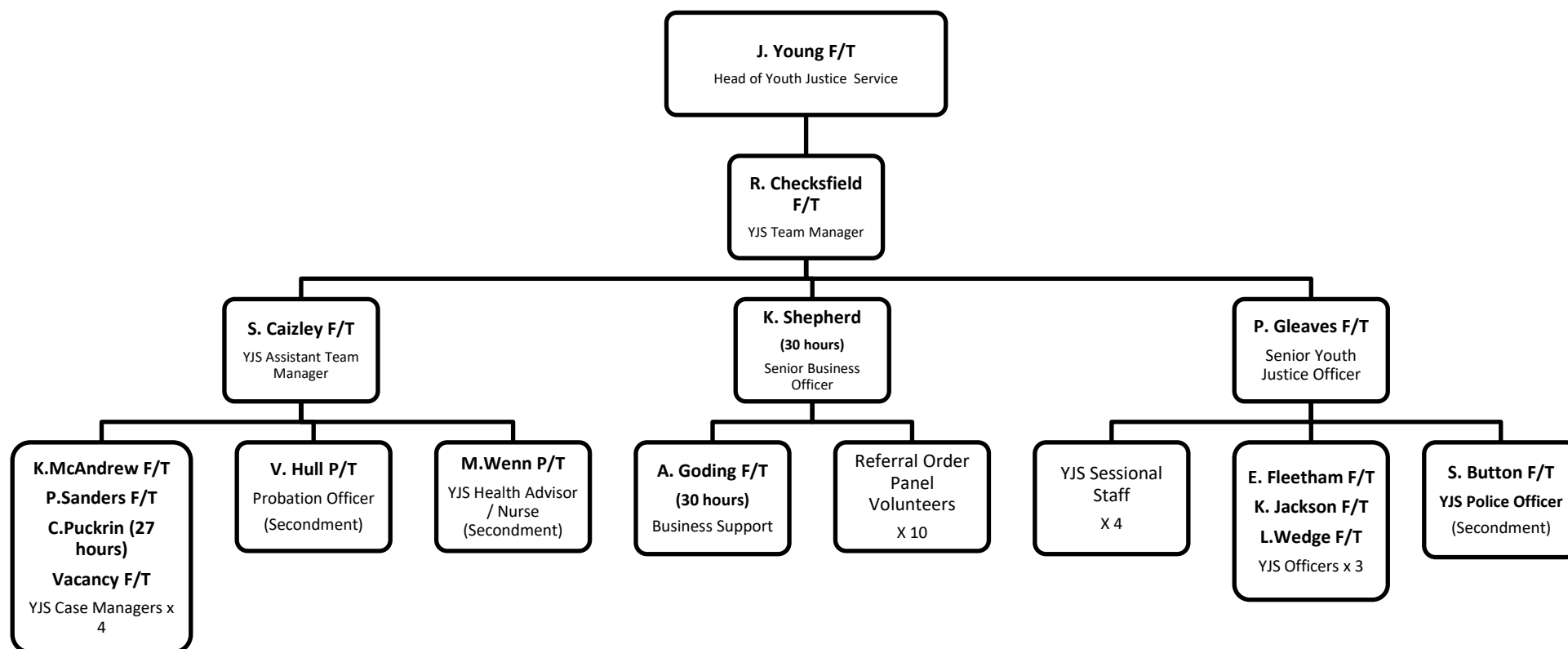
**NHS**  
*Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees  
Clinical Commissioning Group*





## Appendix 1

### Youth Justice Service Structure



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director for Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT –  
EARLY YEARS BLOCK 2020/21

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

- 1.1 This report contains key decisions - test (i) and (ii) apply.
- 1.2 The forward plan reference is **CJCS 090/19**.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide an indicative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding allocation in relation to the Early Years Funding for 2020/21 and propose the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) for 2020/21.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since its introduction in April 2017, the EYNFF has set the hourly funding rates that each local authority is paid to deliver the universal and additional entitlements for three and four year olds, along with entitlements for 2 year olds.
- 3.2 For three and four year old provision, local authorities are required to consult providers on proposed annual changes to the local early year's funding formula, although the final decision rests with the local authority.

## 4. 2020/21 EARLY YEARS BLOCK FUNDING

- 4.1 The 2020/21 funding allocation for the Early Years Block shown in the following table was announced in December 2019.

| Early Years Block                         | Rate            | 2020/21 Funding (£) |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| 3/4 Year Old Funding                      | £4.57 per hour  | 4,729,197           |
| Disability Access Fund (DAF)              | £615 per pupil  | 26,445              |
| Pupil Premium                             | £0.53 per hour  | 141,685             |
| Total 3/4 Funding                         |                 | 4,897,327           |
| 2 Year Old Funding                        | £5.28 per pupil | 1,339,272           |
| <b>Total Indicative Early Years Block</b> |                 | <b>6,236,599</b>    |

- 4.2 Hourly rate funding increases for 2020/21 have been announced and are included in the table above. The increases are from £4.49 to £4.57 for three to four year old provision and from £5.20 to £5.28 for two year old provision.
- 4.3 The funding increase for three to four year olds is subject to the 95% pass through rate regulation so should be reflected in a revised hourly rate calculation for provider payments.
- 4.4 Provider payments relating to two year old provision are not subject to a pass through rate requirement. This means that the 8p per hour increase does not necessarily have to be passed in full to providers.

## 5. PROPOSED HOURLY RATE STRUCTURE 2020/21 – Three to Four Year Old Provision

- 5.1 Members will recall that a key aspect of the consultation for 2019/20 related to a restructure of the supplement element of the hourly rate. Review of 2019/20 spending to date is showing that the restructure appears successful in reaching the required pass through rate to providers of 95%.
- 5.2 Members will also recall that the basis on which providers attract a supplement for deprivation was improved in 2019/20. Rather than making payments on the basis of provider postcode, the deprivation supplement is now based on the proportion of three to four year olds that attract pupil premium.
- 5.3 For these reasons, it is proposed that the current hourly rate structure is retained for 2020/21. The table below shows the proposed hourly rate structure for 2020/21, taking into account the increase of 8p per hour outlined at paragraph 4.2.

| Proposed three & four year old formula | Hourly Rate (£) | % Allocated   | Total Funding (£) |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>DFE allocation</b>                  | <b>4.57</b>     | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>4,729,197</b>  |
| <b>Proposed Hartlepool Formula:</b>    |                 |               |                   |
| Base Rate                              | 4.28            | 93.8%         | 4,435,987         |
| Mandatory Deprivation Supplement       | 0.01            | 0.2%          | 9,458             |
| Contingency                            | 0.02            | 0.4%          | 18,917            |
| SEN Inclusion Fund                     | 0.03            | 0.6%          | 28,375            |
| <b>Pass- through rate to providers</b> | <b>4.34</b>     | <b>95.0%</b>  | <b>4,492,737</b>  |
| <b>Centrally retained funding</b>      | <b>0.23</b>     | <b>5.0%</b>   | <b>236,460</b>    |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>4.57</b>     | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>4,729,197</b>  |

#### 5.4 Pass-through rate – 95%

The pass-through rate includes the base rate, the funding of the deprivation supplement, the proposed contingency fund and an allocation for the SEN inclusion fund. These elements are described in more detail below.

#### 5.5 Base rate and discretionary supplements – 93.8%

The base rate proposed would represent an increase of 7p per hour from the existing base rate of £4.21. The base rate is payable to all providers of three to four year old provision.

#### 5.6 Mandatory Deprivation Supplement – 0.2%

Deprivation is a mandated supplement within the early year's hourly rate. This is proposed at the same rate as 2019/20. Payments would continue to be allocated on the basis of those three to four year olds attracting pupil premium.

#### 5.7 Contingency Fund 0.4%

Although there is a duty to ensure that 95% of three to four year old funding is passed to providers, it is important to understand and manage the risk of exceeding the 95%, resulting in a new financial pressure on the Early Years Block. A contingency fund of 0.5% is proposed in order to mitigate this risk. Such a risk could materialise through unexpected volatility in census volumes during the funding year. The contingency fund would provide for 7 full time places for a complete year and is considered a reasonable provision based on previous year census variations.

#### 5.8 SEN Inclusion Fund – 0.6%

The SEN Inclusion Fund is proposed to be maintained at 0.6%. This fund can be accessed by all providers in accordance with the agreed policy.

#### 5.9 The pass-through rate position will continue to be carefully monitored in-year to assess any risk and respond appropriately.

#### 5.10 Centrally Retained Funding

In accordance with ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) guidance, centrally retained funding of 5% of the EYNFF, is proposed. Schools' Forum agreed that the 5% retention be recommended to Children's Services Committee for approval at their meeting on 13 September 2019.

### 5.11 Other Specific Funding

The local authority also receives specific funding for eligible three and four year olds relating to the Disability Access Fund (DAF) and Pupil Premium; this is pass ported to eligible providers. The rates per pupil for 2020/21 are DAF £615.00 per pupil and pupil premium of £0.53p per hour. These rates are unchanged from 2019/20.

## 6. **PROPOSED HOURLY RATE STRUCTURE 2020/21 – Two Year Old Provision**

- 6.1 The government announced an increase of 8p per hour for two year old funding in 2020/21.
- 6.2 In recent years, the hourly rate paid to providers for two year old provision in Hartlepool has matched the hourly rate funding from government. However, this has not always been the case historically.
- 6.3 There is no requirement within the regulations to pass through the full 100% of hourly rate funding for two year old provision, although the guidance does state "... there is no pass through requirement for two year olds as s251 data demonstrates that the vast majority of such funding is already passed through to providers. We expect this to continue, as it is important that this funding reaches providers in order to deliver two year old places, and we will continue to monitor any two year old central spend in future years".
- 6.4 Schools' Forum commissioned a Task and Finish Group during summer 2019 in response to a financial pressure against two year old spending within the Early Years Block. Overspending against two year old provision in 2018/19 was £0.105m with a similar forecast for 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- 6.5 The 8p per hour increase could be retained to partially offset the current financial pressure against two year old provision whilst options for mitigation in future years are explored. This would provide funding of circa £20k per annum towards the projected deficits for 2020/21.
- 6.6 As there is currently no agreed approach to deal with the known financial pressure relating to two year old provision, the preferred option from Schools' Forum is to retain the saving and not pass the 8p per hour increase on to providers in 2020/21. Once the work of the Task and Finish Group is concluded, this position would be reviewed for 2021/22 and beyond.

## 7. **CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

- 7.1 The consultation with providers of three to four year old provision in Hartlepool ended on 18 November 2019. A summary of the responses is shown in the table below.

- 7.2 The response rate was disappointing at 12%. However, this may reflect the lack of change proposed in the hourly rate structure for 2020/21

| <b>Early Years Consultation 2020/21 - Responses</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>% Agreed</b> |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1: Do you wish to retain the current base rate of £4.21 payable to all providers?  | 8          | 1         | 1               | 10           | 80%             |
| 2: Do you wish to retain the current deprivation supplement of £0.01 of the hourly rate? Please note that deprivation is a mandatory supplement so we are not able to remove it from our hourly rate to providers. | 8          | 0         | 2               | 10           | 80%             |
| 3: Do you support continued funding at £30,095 for an SEN Inclusion Fund using 0.6% of the hourly rate funding for 3-4 year olds with low level and emerging needs?  | 7          | 1         | 2               | 10           | 70%             |

## 8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 If a revised funding formula is not approved, the local authority may not meet the statutory requirement to notify providers with their initial budgets for 2020/21 by 31 March 2020.

## 9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The 2020/21 allocations are subject to adjustment following the January 2020 census. Therefore, the figures provided in the table shown at paragraph 4.1 are subject to change during 2020, although the hourly rates will not vary.

## 10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The local authority is required under the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations to consult providers on annual changes to their formula. This has been completed, with the outcomes reported at paragraph 7.2 above.

## 11. CONSULTATION

- 11.1 All providers in Hartlepool have been consulted on the hourly rate proposals for three to four year old provision in 2020/21 and the results were considered at Schools' Forum on 26 November 2019.

## **12. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no specific child and family poverty considerations.

## **13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no specific equality and diversity considerations.

## **14. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no specific considerations.

## **15. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 15.1 There are no asset management considerations.

## **16. CONCLUSIONS**

- 16.1 Local authorities are required to consult providers on annual changes to local early year's funding formulas, although the final decision rests with the local authority to agree the EYNFF.
- 16.2. The consultation closed on 18 November 2019 and the outcome was discussed at Schools' Forum on 26 November 2019. Schools' Forum unanimously agreed to centrally retaining 5% of funding for 2020/21 at their meeting on 13 September 2019 and to recommend the proposed EYNFF to Children's Services Committee for approval at their meeting on 26 November 2019.

## **17. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 17.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- a) note the contents of this report and the outcomes from the consultation with providers and Schools' Forum;
  - b) note the decision by Schools' Forum to centrally retain funding of 5%;
  - c) approve the hourly rate funding formula for three to four year old provision for 2020/21 as shown in the table at paragraph 5.3;
  - d) approve the hourly rate funding formula for two year old provision as outlined in Section 6, which includes retaining the 8p increase to partly mitigate the projected 2020/21 overspend in this area.

## 18. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 18.1 It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to consult and agree the EYNFF annually.

## 19. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 19.1 Schools' Forum Reports of 13 September 2019 and 26 November 2019 relating to Dedicated Schools Grant – Early Years Block 2020/21.

## 20. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning

**Subject:** DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT –  
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2020/21

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

- 1.1 This report is for key decisions - test (i) and (ii) applies.
- 1.2 The forward plan reference is **CJCS 092/19**

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the funding allocation for the High Needs Block in 2020/21 and to seek approval for the 2020/21 budget. The High Needs Block forms part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Updated High Needs Block funding allocations for 2020/21 were published in December 2019. As with other areas of the DSG, funding for the High Needs Block is via the National Funding Formula (NFF).
- 3.2 For 2020/21, the government confirmed funding increases in the range of 8% to 17%. Hartlepool has benefited from an increase towards the top-end of increases nationally at 16%.
- 3.3 Although the significant increase in funding is a positive step forward, it remains insufficient to meet the projected levels of demand for services to children and young people with special educational needs in 2020/21.
- 3.4 The local authority, in partnership with Schools' Forum, continues to implement improvements and cost efficiencies as part of the overall high needs financial strategy to restore expenditure to a sustainable level based on forecast need. Without these improvements, the funding pressure against the high needs block in 2020/21 would be significantly higher.

- 3.5 To address the predicted funding shortfall, a disapplication request has been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval to transfer £0.550m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block. This disapplication request was approved by Committee on 19 November 2019.
- 3.6 Members are asked to note that the budget proposals contained in this report are based on a successful outcome for the disapplication request submitted to the Secretary of State for a transfer of £0.550m from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block.

#### 4. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK FUNDING 2020/21

- 4.1 Schools' Forum received reports based on ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) indicative allocations for 2020/21. The indicative allocation for 2020/21 was **£10.704m** (after recoupment).
- 4.2 The allocations were updated by ESFA and published late on 19 December 2019. The information published indicates additional funding of £0.152m, based on an increase of 38 pupils. This gives an updated allocation for 2020/21 of **£10.856m**. However, final allocations remain subject to change, known as import/export adjustments, during 2020/21 depending on volumes of pupils accessing provision outside of their home authority.
- 4.3 Should the Secretary of State approve the disapplication request, the available high needs block funding in 2020/21 would increase by £0.550m to **£11.406m** (after recoupment but before import/export adjustments).

#### 5. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2020/21

- 5.1 The planned high needs budget for 2020/21 is shown in the table below:

| High Needs Block Budget Requirement<br>2020/21 |  | £m            |
|--|--|---------------|
| Place Funding - Maintained                     |  | 1.549         |
| Independent School Fees                        |  | 2.755         |
| Out of Authority Top-ups                       |  | 0.441         |
| Exclusions                                     |  | 0.674         |
| Top-ups and Support                            |  | 4.775         |
| Post-16 Top-ups                                |  | 0.720         |
| High Needs Services                            |  | 0.467         |
| <b>Total Budget</b>                            |  | <b>11.381</b> |

- 5.2 The budget requirement of £11.381 compared to the expected funding of £11.406m gives a contingency amount of £0.025m. This represents less than 0.3% of the total high needs budget.

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 If the High Needs Block budget is not approved, the local authority may not meet its statutory requirement to notify the ESFA of planned DSG budgets by 21 January 2020.
- 6.2 There is a risk that approval for the block transfer of £0.550m is not granted by the Secretary of State. This is likely to result in a DSG deficit position in 2020/21 and would require a financial plan to recover any deficit.

## **7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 To fulfill its responsibility for financial management, the local authority has taken steps to address the shortfall by seeking disapplication approval from the Secretary of State for a transfer of funding from the Schools Block.

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The local authority is required to set an annual budget for its High Needs Block.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 All schools have been consulted on options to address the High Needs Block funding shortfall for 2020/21 via Schools' Forum.
- 9.2 At their meeting on 15 November 2019, Schools' Forum agreed to support the proposed block transfer from the schools block to the high needs block in 2020/21.

## **10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no specific child and family poverty considerations.

## **11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no specific equality and diversity considerations.

## **12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no specific considerations.

### **13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no asset management considerations.

### **14. CONCLUSIONS**

- 14.1 The planned budget for high needs spending in 2020/21 is shown at paragraph 5.1 of this report.
- 14.2 The planned budget for 2020/21 relies on a successful outcome to the disapplication request submitted to the Secretary of State to transfer **£0.550m** from the Schools Block.

### **15. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 It is recommended that Members:
- a) note the contents of this report
  - b) approve the 2020/21 budget shown at the table in paragraph 5.1 of this report, pending a successful outcome of the disapplication request to the Secretary of State.

### **16. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 16.1 To ensure the local authority establishes an appropriate budget for High Needs in 2020/21 that meets expected demand.

### **17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 17.1 Schools' Forum report of 25 October 2019 – High Needs Block Budget Requirement 2020/21.
- 17.2 Committee report of 19 November 2019 – High Needs Block Disapplication 2020/21
- 17.3 Committee report of 17 December 2019 – School Budget Shares 2020/21

### **18. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR 2021-22

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference Number: CJCS96/19

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To consider and agree the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled school in Hartlepool for 2021-22 academic year. As the local authority, the Council is the admission authority it is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools.

## 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 school, 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 and their published admission number 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 seven years. Consultation must be for a minimum of six 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. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It is a statutory requirement of all admission authorities must determine arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required. Admissions authorities must determine admissions arrangements for entry in September 2021 by 28 February 2020 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 2020) will also be available on the website.
- 4.2 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 2020, which contains the admission arrangements for each of the state-funded schools in the LA area to which parents and carers can apply.

#### **5. PROPOSALS - CONSULTATION FOR ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR**

- 5.1 There are no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that require public consultation.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The admission arrangements including the over-subscription criteria in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools are included in **APPENDIX 2**.

#### **6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 No material financial implications.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There will be a breach of statutory duty imposed on the LA if admission arrangements for 2021/22 are not determined by 28 February 2020 and published on the Council's website by 15 March 2020 (Admissions Code 2014).

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 At its meeting of the 14 November 2019, members of the Admissions Forum were informed that there are no changes proposed to the current admissions arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

## **9. CHILD AND POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no child and poverty considerations.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

## **11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no staff considerations.

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 Members are recommended to agree the following recommendations in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, when determining the admission arrangements for 2021/22:
- that the admission numbers, as recommended in **APPENDIX 1**, be approved
  - that the current admission arrangements, detailed in **APPENDIX 2**, be approved

## **13. CONTACT OFFICER**

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Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒

## PROPOSED ADMISSION NUMBER 2021/22

| <b>Community and Voluntary Controlled School</b> | <b>2021/2022</b> |
|--|------------------|
| Barnard Grove Primary School                     | 45               |
| Clavering Primary School                         | 60               |
| Fens Primary School                              | 60               |
| Golden Flatts Primary School                     | 30               |
| Grange Primary School                            | 50               |
| Greatham C of E Primary School                   | 15               |
| Kingsley Primary School                          | 60               |
| Lynnfield Primary School                         | 55               |
| Rift House Primary School                        | 36               |
| Rossmere Primary School                          | 55               |
| St. Helen's Primary School                       | 45               |
| Throston Primary School                          | 60               |

| <b>Voluntary Aided*, Foundation*, Academy*</b>       | <b>2021/2022</b> |
|--|------------------|
| Brougham Primary School                              | 45               |
| Eldon Grove Academy                                  | 75               |
| Eskdale Academy                                      | 30               |
| Hart Primary School                                  | 15               |
| 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                             | 60               |
| Dyke House Sports & Technology College               | 270              |
| The English Martyrs R.C. School & Sixth Form College | 270              |
| High Tunstall College of Science                     | 270              |
| Manor Community Academy                              | 250              |
| St. Hild's CE VA Secondary School                    | 190              |

\* please note that proposed admission numbers for voluntary aided, foundation and academy schools are for guidance only and may be subject to change



**Hartlepool Borough Council**  
**School Admissions Arrangements**  
**2021/22**

**CURRENT ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS  
APPROVED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2021/22**

*The admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled primary schools, effective from 2021/22 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 2021;
  - 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/guardian's 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

28<sup>th</sup> January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** COMMISSIONING OF SHORT BREAK ACTIVITIES AND SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT SERVICE

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision (general exception applies)

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to ask members to approve a procurement process through tender submissions for short break and specialist equipment services for children with SEND (Special Education Needs and/ or Disabilities) and their families.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Short breaks are part of a continuum of services which support children, young people with SEND and their families. They include the provision of day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child and young person, and can take place in a child's home, the home of an approved carer, or in a residential or community setting. The breaks usually have two aims: to enable children/ young people to participate in fun, interesting and safe activities and to provide a break from caring for parents.

3.2 There are a range of short break options commissioned and provided by Hartlepool Borough Council which includes Exmoor Grove Children's Home, Short Break activities as set out in this report and direct payment process for families to source and access their own support.

3.3 The local authority have a statutory duty to provide short breaks to children and young people with SEND to safeguard and promote their welfare. A

report was presented to children's services committee on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 which set out the council's statutory duties and the current offer.

It is important that families have a number of options to choose from for short breaks to ensure that the short break meets their child and family's needs.

- 3.4 There are currently two contracts for this area of work:
- Short-breaks - Extended Activities, afterschool activities for families of children with SEND (respite), 11 week playscheme
  - Short-breaks - Specialist Equipment Service for families of children with SEND
- 3.5 Hartlepool Families First currently deliver both of these services. The contract for these comes to an end in March 2020. There is no further provision to extend the existing contract therefore there is a need to undertake a procurement process for these services.

#### **4. PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 It is proposed to join both these services together and go out to tender for a joint Short Breaks Extended Activities and Specialist Equipment Service for one year with an additional year included as an option dependent on performance and the budget situation. This will allow for providers to be innovative in their approach to how they provide both of these services.
- 4.2 Members had previously asked whether the Specialist Equipment Service could be delivered in house however on review this would cost a considerable amount of funding to establish the equipment store. This funding is not available. It is also of note that the current provider attracts additional funding due to the current funding which offers added value that could not be accessed if the provision was in house.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Information gathered by the Parent Carer Forum from parents states that the services currently delivered is highly valued and offers varied activities for children and young people with SEND.

#### **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is a risk that if these services are not procured there will be children and young people with SEND and their families not able to access the support they need. This will therefore mean there is a risk that families will hit crisis point and needs may escalate.

- 6.2 These activities offer value for money as they are group activities and providers are able to source additional funding to support children and families. If these activities were not available it is highly likely that families will request direct payments which the council would need to provide due to the council's statutory duties for children with disabilities. This would be more costly than an activity based model as set out in this report.
- 6.3 Short Breaks offer respite care for families which is of paramount importance to support families.

## **7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The service will be re-tendering in line with the current allocated budget therefore there are no financial implications. The total contract would be £107k for one year and an additional £107k for the following year if extended for a further year as per the contract.

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no legal considerations within this report.

## **9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The provider will be expected to support children or young person with SEND depending on individual needs.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The commissioning of short break services is likely to have a positive impact on all children and young people with SEND and their families. The service will be expected to support children and young people with SEND appropriate to their individual needs,

## **11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no staff considerations for Hartlepool Borough Council employees.

## **12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

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



**13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 For members to approve the procurement of short breaks services for children and young people with SEND.

**14. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 14.1 The current contract comes to an end in March 2020 and a decision needs to be made to prevent a gap in services for families.

**15. CONTACT OFFICER**

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Sign Off:-

Director of Finance and Policy ☒

Chief Solicitor ☒

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** SCHOOLS HEALTH RELATED BEHAVIOUR SURVEY

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To share the results of the questionnaire and to identify any areas of interest with the intention of making recommendations on next steps.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Schools Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire is coordinated by the Schools and Students Health Education Unit (SHEU), an independent body providing surveys and research. The Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire has been in use for over 30 years and is a self-reported behaviours and perception questionnaire. Schools participate across the country, which provides a useful information resource as we are able to benchmark Hartlepool schools against the national cohort of schools taking part. The questionnaire has standard questions with the opportunity to include customised questions.

3.2 In Hartlepool, the questionnaire was administered in February 2019 to 13 primary schools, 3 secondary schools and 1 primary specialist school and the Pupil Referral Unit. A total of 992 pupils took part with primary school pupils aged 8 to 11 and secondary school pupils aged 12 to 15 answering the questionnaire.

## 4. RESULTS

4.1 **Appendix One** outlines a report on the primary and secondary data. These have focused on the following sections:

- Healthy Eating and Physical Activity
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Violence
- Relationships

### 4.6 Recommendations from the report

That the information is used by schools to develop strategies and interventions to support the health and wellbeing of their pupils. This will be particularly useful in supporting the development of the statutory RSE work.

The data and intelligence from the survey should be used to support the development of work programmes and commissioning services. In particular it is recommended that the data inform:

- Whole Systems Obesity programme (including links to poverty and holiday hunger).
- The surveillance section of the Public Health Approach to Violence work.
- Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan development work

The report is added to the JSNA and utilised as a baseline report for future work with children and young people.

## 5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no risk implications.

## 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There are no financial considerations.

## **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 There are no legal considerations.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 There is no requirement for consultation as this is for information.

## **9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY**

9.1 Not applicable.

## **10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

10.1 Not applicable.

## **11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

11.1 There are no staff considerations.

## **12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

12.1 There are no asset management considerations.

## **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 For members to note the findings in the report and the recommendations to come from the report.

## **14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

14.1 The SHEU report outlines the results of an important survey of the health and wellbeing of children in our schools. As such, this is a useful resource to inform future developments and commissioning intentions.

## **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Appendix One:** Schools Health Related Behaviour Survey Report, Hartlepool 2019

## 16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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## **Appendix One**

### **Schools Health Related Behaviour Survey Report Hartlepool 2019**

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## Introduction

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The Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) have been surveying schools using the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire for over 30 years nationwide. The questionnaire measures self-reported behaviours and perceptions and collects information on a set of standard questions. There is also the opportunity to include customised questions.

A summary document has been produced by SHEU which outlines some of the key findings of the report. This paper presents more detailed analysis of the results for some of the main areas of interest to the authority and partners. These areas are:

- Healthy Eating and Physical Activity
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Safety and Violence
- Relationships

### Demographics

The questionnaire was completed by a sample of primary pupils aged 8 to 11 and secondary pupils aged 12 to 15 in Hartlepool in the spring of 2019. Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils completed the primary questionnaire and Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils completed the secondary questionnaire. A total of 992 pupils from 16 schools took part. The breakdown of respondents overall is as follows:

| Table One: Breakdown of respondents to questionnaire                                      |     |      |       |       |       |       |
|---|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Year  | 4   | 5    | 6     | 8     | 9/10  | Total |
| Age   | 8-9 | 9-10 | 10-11 | 12-13 | 14-15 |       |
| Boys  | 164 | 44   | 170   | 46    | 56    | 408   |
| Girls   | 140 | 36   | 178   | 51    | 59    | 464   |
| Total   | 304 | 80   | 352   | 105   | 120   | 961   |
| 17 pupils didn't give male or female as their gender. 31 pupils completed the SEN version |     |      |       |       |       |       |

For primary school pupils, 90% described themselves as White British, 1% said White non-British, 3% as Asian, 1% as Mixed, 1% Chinese and 2% don't want to say. For secondary school pupils, 88% described themselves as White British, 2% said White non-British, 4% as Asian, 1% as Mixed and 3% didn't want to say.

There are important points to remember when reviewing the results of the survey. This is a snapshot as not all schools in Hartlepool took part. Not all pupils from the participating schools will have taken part – it will be restricted to those who were in school on the day the questionnaire was administered.

## **Schools**

The schools that took part were:

### **Primary Phase**

Brougham Primary School  
Clavering Primary School  
Grange Primary School  
Hart Primary School  
Holy Trinity CE (Aided) Primary School  
St Bega's RC Primary School  
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School  
St Helen's Primary School  
St Joseph's RC Primary School  
St Peter's Elwick CE VA Primary School  
St Teresa's RC Primary School  
Stranton Primary School  
West View Primary School

### **Secondary Phase**

Hartlepool PRU  
High Tunstall College of Science  
St Hild's CE VA School

Springwell School completed a special version of the questionnaire adapted for their students.



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# Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

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## Introduction

Healthy eating and physical activity are an important area to consider as they are key drivers of the current obesity problem. The most recent National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data for Hartlepool shows that the prevalence of overweight children in reception is 24.1% whilst in Year 6 it is 43.8%. Obese or overweight children often become obese or overweight adults and so we know that this is likely to carry over into secondary school. This is clearly a priority for action.

## Primary School data

As might be expected within a primary school, school lunches were eaten by the majority of pupils. This ranged from 57% in Y4 and 58% in Y5 to 65% in Y6. After this a packed lunch was the most popular option, with just over 1 in 3 pupils, 35%, eating a packed lunch. In all three age groups girls were more likely to have a packed lunch than boys. This demonstrates the importance of the school environment for meals.

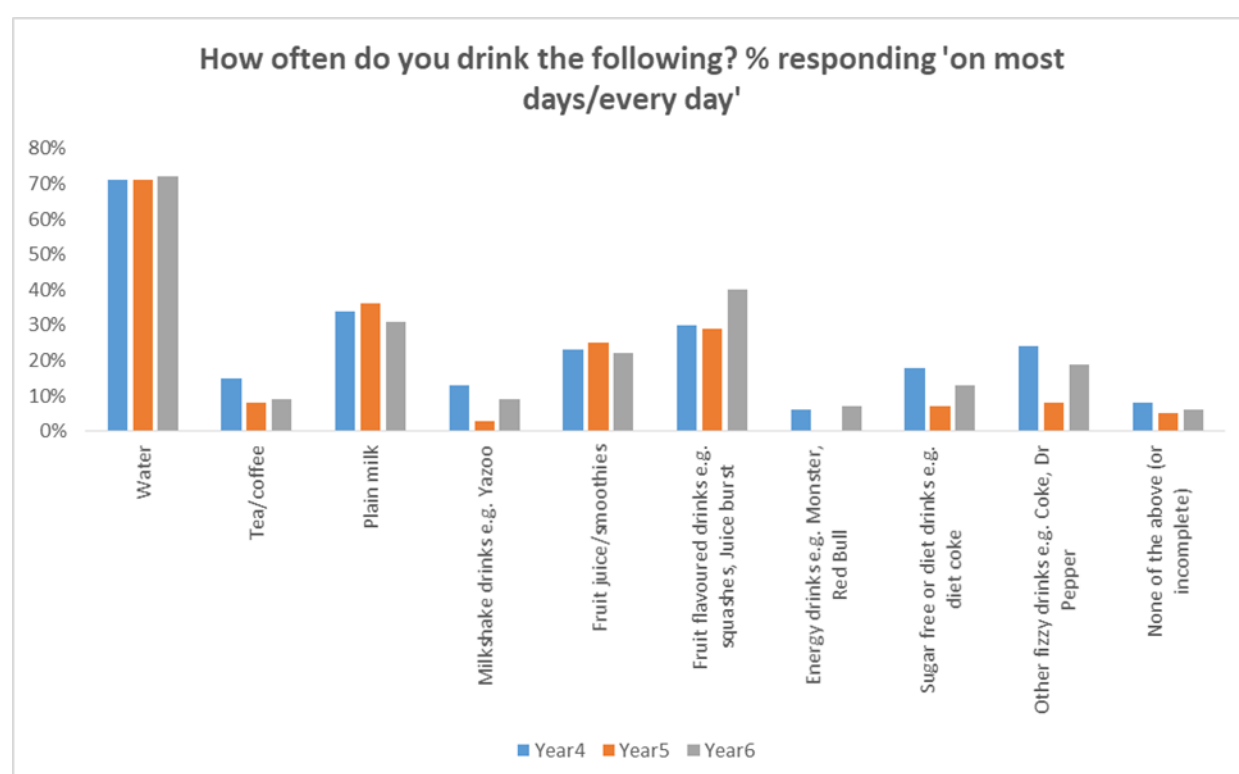
On the day of the survey 11% of pupils had eaten nothing that morning. This was 10% of pupils in both year 5 and year 6, but 13% of year 4 pupils. In years 4 and 6 girls were slightly more likely to have not eaten that morning, however in year 5 all of the female pupils had eaten and 19% male pupils had not eaten that morning. It's not possible to establish from the data whether this was because of personal choice or other reasons.

For those who had eaten that morning, 74% of all pupils had eaten at home. Years 5 and 6 had the same proportion eating at home (77%) but year 4 had only 69% of pupils eating at home. Conversely year 4 had the largest proportion of pupils eating either on the way to school (11%) or at school (15%).

Sugary cereal was the most popular breakfast choice across all categories, 24% overall. Year 4 girls were the least likely to have sugary cereals (22%) and year 5 girls were the most likely (39%). Almost 1 in 3 year 5 pupils (32) had sugary cereal, compared to year 4 (23%) and year 6 (24%). After sugary cereals, bakery items (toast, bread, croissant, bagel, etc.), 17%, and low sugar cereals, 16%, were the most popular. Year 5 pupils had the largest proportion eating eight of the 11 specified breakfasts, however they were the only year to have no responses for energy drinks being consumed as

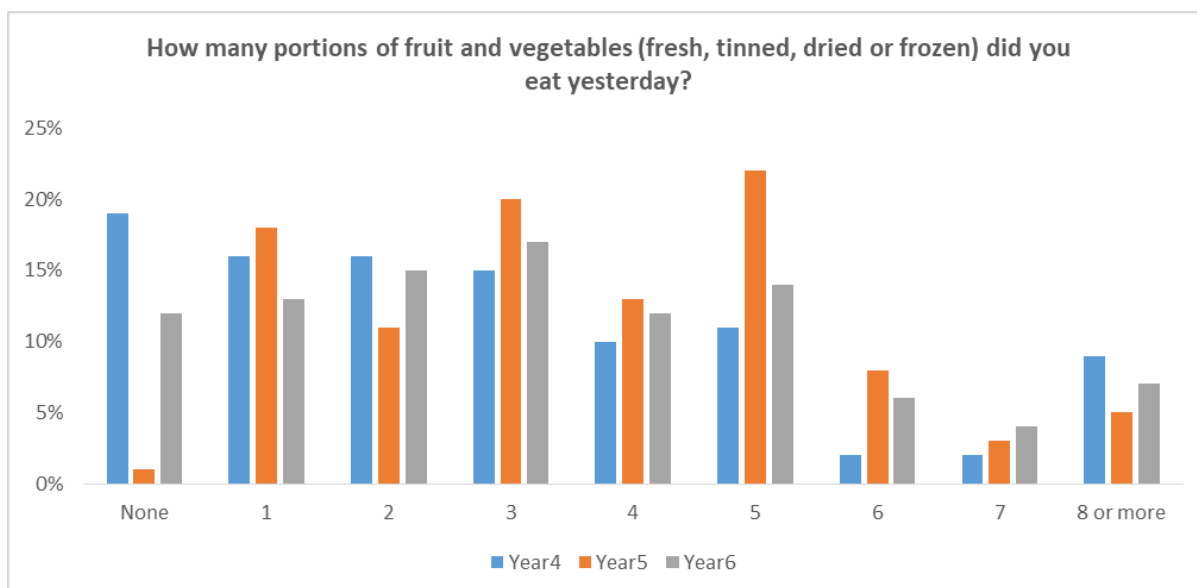
breakfast. Year 5 pupils had the largest proportion eating sugary cereals, but also the largest proportion eating fruit, though the proportion eating fruit is almost a third of that eating sugary cereals, 32% to 11%. Year 5 girls were more likely to consume fruit or fruit juice, 14% and 22%, than year 5 boys, 9% for both. A breakfast of just fruit juice or energy drinks was consumed by 3% overall, all of which were year 4 or 6 pupils, 3% both year groups.

Figure one shows that water is most widely drunk among all year groups on most days. Whilst fizzy drinks are less likely to be drunk than water, when they are consumed they are more likely to be full sugar versions.



**Figure One: How often do pupils drink the following? % responding 'on most days/every day'**

The 5 a day message is important in getting people to eat a healthy diet. As can be seen in Figure Two, the majority of pupils in each year group don't eat 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables a day.



**Figure Two: How many portions of fruit and vegetables (fresh, tinned, dried or frozen) did you eat yesterday?**

The largest proportion (28%) of pupils responded that they were active for at least 60 minutes for all seven days in the previous week. Only 5% responded that they weren't active for 60 minutes on any day the previous week and 7% were only active for one day. The proportions of boys (28%) and girls (29%) active every day were comparable and across the year groups the proportion increased year on year 27% year 4, 29% year 5 and 30% year 6. This is quite a low proportion being physically active each day.

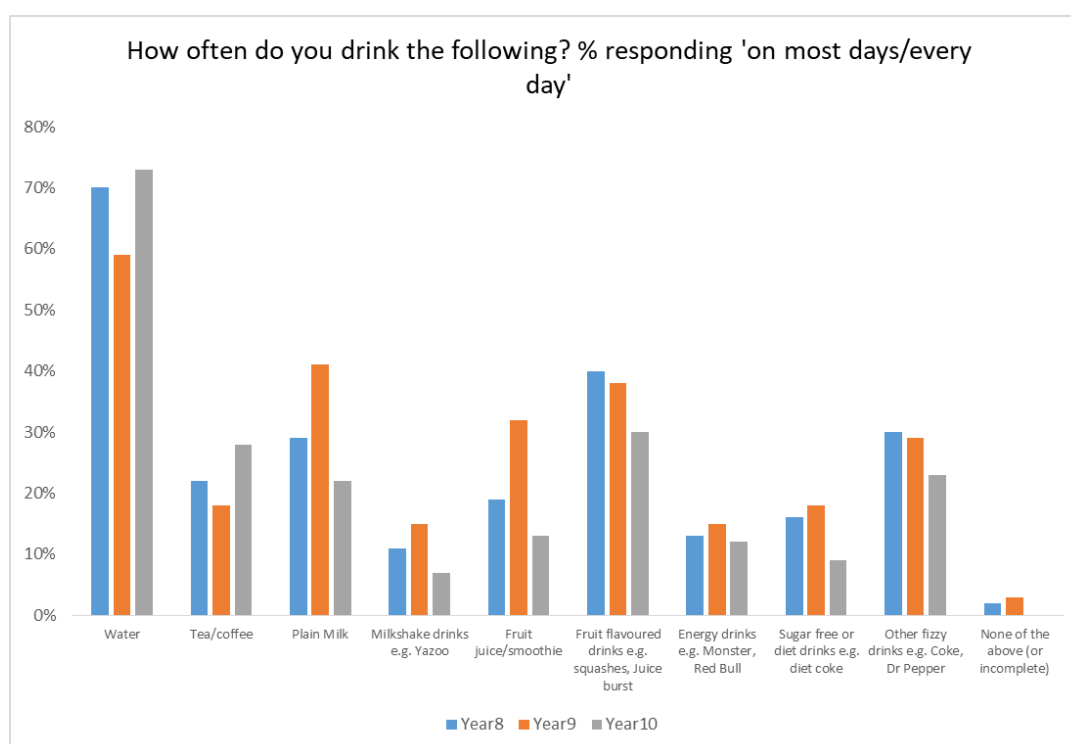
### Comprehensive school data

Almost 1 in 4 male pupils who ate before school had cereal with sugar - 23%, compared with 8% who had low sugar cereal. For female pupils this rate was much narrower, with 13% eating a cereal with sugar and 12% opting for a low sugar cereal. Cereal bars were eaten by fewer pupils in each year than traditional cereals, either with or without sugar. Hot breakfasts were eaten by 7% of pupils and fried breakfasts by 1%. More than 1 in 5 year 9 males had a hot breakfast (22%) and the overall year 9 rate for hot breakfast is at least three times the size of the year 8 or 10 rate. Twice as many year 8 pupils had an energy drink before school than years 9 and 10, with 1 in 5 year 8 males consuming an energy drink before school.

Year 10 pupils were more likely not to have eaten anything before lessons started than year 8 and 9 pupils. Almost 1 in 4 year 10 pupils had not eaten anything that morning (24%) compared with year 8 (10%) and year 9 (3%). When the year 10 figure is broken down by gender, more than 1 in 4 males

had not eaten and more than 1 in 5 females - 26% and 22% respectively. What we are not able to ascertain from this data is why pupils hadn't had anything to eat before school.

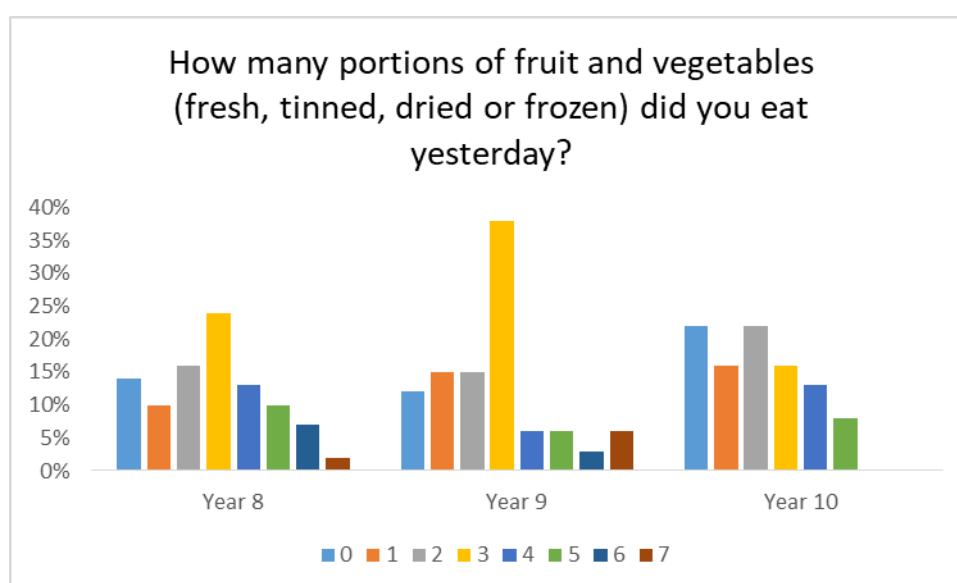
In this survey it was reported that water was consumed on most/every day by 70% of both males and females, but rarely or never by 11% of males and 5% of females. Year 9 had both the smallest proportion drinking water on most/every day (59%) and drinking it rarely or never (6%). (Figure Three)



**Figure Three: How often do you drink the following? % responding on most days/every day"**

Energy drinks were consumed on most/every day by almost three times the proportion of males than females - 20% to 7%. The proportion in each year group consuming energy drinks most/every day is comparable - 13% year 8, 15% year 9 and 12% year 10. Years 8 and 10 had a similar gender split on energy drink consumption most/every day, 24% male and 4% female in year 8, and 21% male and 4% female in year 10. However in year 9 this is reversed, with 29% of females and 6% of males consuming energy drinks most/every day. Energy drinks are problematic as they often contain high levels of caffeine and sugar. They have been implicated not only in increasing obesity but in causing behavioural problems and insomnia as well as other health problems.

Five or more portions of fruit or vegetables were eaten by 20% of females compared to 13% of males. The proportion eating five or more portions declines with each ascending year group, starting at 22% in year 8, 15% year 9 and 10% year 10. The proportion of year 10 males eating five or more portions is 5%, the lowest proportion of any breakdown. The proportion of pupils eating no fruit or vegetables was 17%. 1 in 5 year 8 males, year 9 females and year 10 females, and 1 in 4 year 10 males all ate no fruit or vegetables. This suggests that there is significant work required to support healthy eating messages (Figure Four).



**Figure Four: How many portions of fruit and vegetables (fresh, tinned, dried or frozen) did you eat yesterday?**

Physical activity on all seven days in the previous week had the largest proportion of respondents (25%). Five days of physical activity was the next largest (16%). Zero days and 1 day had 4% and 5% respectively. Seven days of activity was indicated by 47% of year 9 pupils – split equally between males and females. Children participating in zero or one day of activity was the highest in year 8 - 13%, compared with 6% in year 9 and 5% year 10. In years 8 and 9, no males responded with zero days of activity. In years 8 and 10 more females responded with seven days of activity than males.

Although 25% of pupils were active for seven days, only 12% had to breathe harder due to exercise for seven days in the last week. Three times as many pupils responded that they had not had to

breathe harder due to exercise - 12% than indicated they were not active any day in the last week - 4%.

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## Health and Wellbeing

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A child's emotional health and wellbeing influences many factors in their lives, such as cognitive development and learning, their physical health and mental health in adulthood. Promoting good mental health and wellbeing is therefore a crucial for our young people.

### Primary Schools

Overall just under half (49%) of pupils are very happy with their life, 51% boys and 47% girls, and only 4% of both boys and girls are very unhappy. No pupils in year 5 are very unhappy with their life, 4% of both girls and boys in year 6 are very unhappy, and 4% of girls and 6% of boys in year 4 are very unhappy. Year 5 has the largest proportion who are very happy (55%) and the largest proportion who are quite or very happy (78%).

SATs/tests were a worry for more than half of the pupils (54%) with year 5 having the highest proportion (57%) and year 6 the lowest (53%). Girls in each year group were more likely to be worried about SATs/tests than boys. Family (45%) and friends (40%) were the next largest causes of worry. More than half of year 4 boys worried about family and friends. More than half of year 5 boys (54%) worried about family, but only 39% of girls did. In year 6 this fell to 37% of boys and 31% of girls.

### Secondary Schools

Eight or more hours sleep was achieved by 41% of pupils (35% males and 46% females). 45% of year 8 pupils achieved this and 38% of years 9 and 10. In year 10, 47% of females achieved 8 or more hours compared to 26% of males. Less than 5 hours sleep was achieved by 21% of year 9 pupils, compared to year 8 (11%) and year 10(12%). In year 9 36% of females got less than 5 hours sleep, six times the proportion of males (6%).

The majority of pupils, 51%, were satisfied with their life quite a lot or a lot. Of the remaining 49%, 29% were unsure and 20% were satisfied not much or not at all. Not at all accounted for 6% of respondents, 9% of females but only 1% of males. Year 9 had the largest proportion of pupils not at all satisfied, 21% of year nine females, but 0% of year nine males. Year 9 males had the largest proportion of pupil satisfied a lot, 39%. Year 9 was also the year group with the largest overall proportion of satisfied a lot, 26%. Just over 1 in 3 females, 34%, were unsure how satisfied they are compared with 22% of males. Unsure was the largest proportion for female pupils, satisfied quite a lot was the largest proportion for males.

When asked “Which statement best describes your feelings about the way you look?” the following responses were given. There is a clear gender difference within this response. Approximately a third of respondents didn’t like or hated the way they looked.

| <b>Table Two: Which statement best describes your feelings about the way you look?</b> |               |               |               |               |                |               |              |              |               |             |               |            |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
|  | <b>Year 8</b> |               | <b>Year 9</b> |               | <b>Year 10</b> |               |              |              |               |             |               |            |
|  | <b>Male</b>   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>   | <b>Female</b> | <b>Male</b>    | <b>Female</b> | <b>Year8</b> | <b>Year9</b> | <b>Year10</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>All</b> |
| I never think about the way I look   | 19%           | 12%           | 17%           | 0%            | 22%            | 7%            | 15%          | 12%          | 13%           | 19%         | 8%            | 14%        |
| I love the way I look  | 9%            | 2%            | 11%           | 0%            | 16%            | 9%            | 7%           | 6%           | 12%           | 12%         | 5%            | 9%         |
| I like the way I look  | 23%           | 18%           | 17%           | 0%            | 16%            | 22%           | 20%          | 9%           | 19%           | 19%         | 17%           | 18%        |
| I think I look OK  | 28%           | 25%           | 28%           | 50%           | 32%            | 18%           | 26%          | 38%          | 24%           | 30%         | 25%           | 27%        |
| I don't like the way I look  | 16%           | 22%           | 28%           | 29%           | 8%             | 33%           | 19%          | 26%          | 22%           | 15%         | 27%           | 21%        |
| I hate the way I look  | 5%            | 22%           | 0%            | 21%           | 5%             | 11%           | 14%          | 9%           | 11%           | 4%          | 17%           | 12%        |
| Valid Responses %  | 100%          | 100%          | 100%          | 100%          | 100%           | 100%          | 100%         | 100%         | 100%          | 100%        | 100%          | 100%       |
| Count  | 43            | 51            | 18            | 14            | 37             | 45            | 102          | 34           | 85            | 98          | 110           | 221        |
| Total Sample (Count)   | 46            | 51            | 18            | 14            | 38             | 45            | 105          | 34           | 86            | 102         | 110           | 225        |

The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) had 65% of pupils scoring either med-high or high. 0% of males scored low mental wellbeing compared to 8% of females. Year 8 had the largest proportion scoring high mental wellbeing, 26%, compared with 12% year 9 and 14% year 10. Year 9 males were 94% med-high or high, however year 9 females had 0% scoring high and 21% scoring low.

51% of pupils responded that worry causes them some issues with concentrating or enjoyment. 36% of pupils responded that worry sometimes stops them concentrating or enjoying things, 38% females and 34% males. A further 15% stated that they find it hard to concentrate or enjoy things, however here it gender split is 21% females and 6% males. 20% of pupils stated that they don’t worry at all, here the gender split is reversed, 13% female and 31% males, and 28% claimed they had their worries under control, with a similar proportion of males and females, 29% male and 28% females. While years 9 and 10 had similar proportions who found it hard to concentrate or enjoy things, 21% and 20% respectively, year 8 had a proportion approximately half of that, 10%. Year 10 males are nearly four times likely to not worry than females, in year 8 females are seven times more likely to find it hard to concentrate or enjoy things, 14% to 2%, and year 9 females six times more likely, 36% to 6%.



Of those who responded quite a lot or a lot to the following reasons, the largest proportions were for career, 48% and school work, 44%. School work was an issue for 51% of females compared to 34% of males, and the proportion of pupils for whom it was a concern rose in each year group, 40% year 8, 47% year 9 and 49% year 10. This was the only subject that increased year on year. Crime had the lowest proportion, with 7% of pupils. The reasons with the largest gender disparity was the way they look, with 49% of females and 22% of males. HIV/AIDS, whilst only an issue to 8% of pupils overall, was a concern for 21% of year 9 pupils, compared with 4% year 8 and 7% year 10. Relationships, either with friend, parents, partners, or between parents, all were a concern for between 31-38% of pupils. Bullying was an issue for 29% of year 10 females, but only 6% of year 10 males.

# Smoking

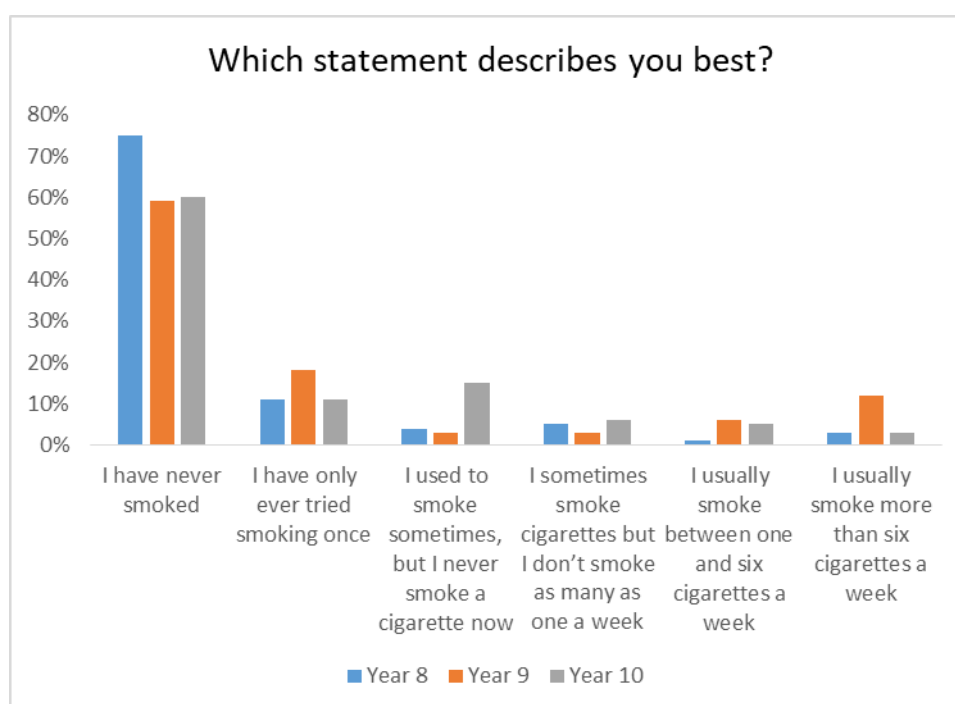
Children and young people may start to smoke for a variety of reasons. These can include, parental or sibling smoking, ease of access to cigarettes, smoking by friends, exposure to tobacco marketing and socioeconomic status. Children who live with a family member that smokes are more likely to become smokers themselves.

## Primary Schools – Year 6 Only

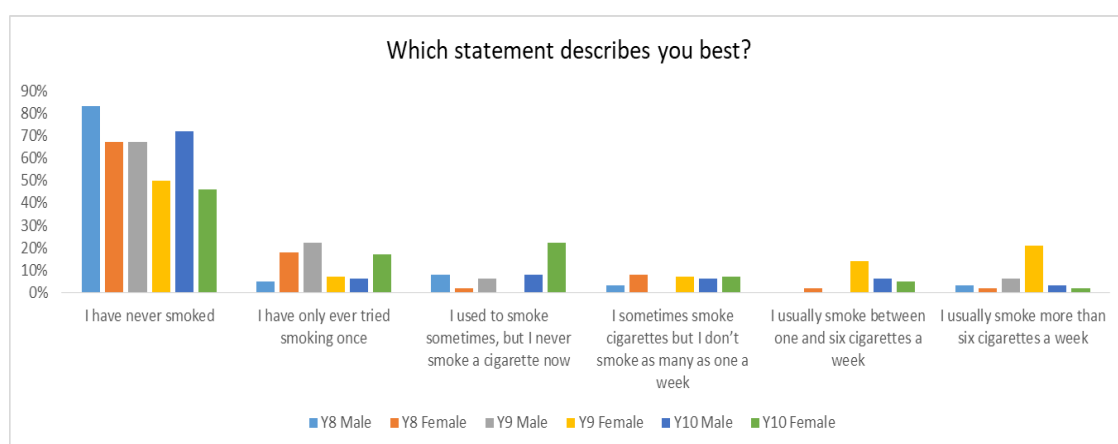
In year 6 99% of pupils had never smoked a cigarette, 98% boys and 99% girls. For boys in year 6 21% reported that people regularly smoke around them, compared with 16% for girls. Year 6 boys reported that 7% had used an e-cigarette, 3% had used it once and 4% more than once. For girls, only 1% had used electronic cigarettes once.

## Secondary Schools

In each year group more males stated that they had never smoked than females. The biggest disparity in genders was in year 10, where 72% of males had never smoked compared with 46% of females. While in year 8 and 10, the proportion of pupils smoking every week was 4% and 8% respectively, in year 9 this was 18%. 14% of year nine females smoke between one and six cigarettes a week, and 21% smoke more than six a week. Ex-smokers accounted for 8% of pupils in total, however by year group this was 4% year 8, 3% year 9 and 15% year 10.



**Figure Five: Smoking: Which statement describes you best? By year group**



**Figure Six: Smoking: Which statement describes you best? By year and gender**

Other people regularly smoke near 29% of pupils, with 55% reporting no one smoking near them. Both of these have comparable gender splits. Year 9 pupils had the largest proportion with no one smoking near them (65%) and year 10 had the largest proportion of people smoking near them (34%).

Electronic cigarettes have been used by 40% of pupils, though only 22% have used them more than once. The proportion of pupils who have used an electronic cigarette increase each year, from 23% in year 8, to 44% year 9 and 58% year 10. However year 9 has the largest proportion who have used it more than once (35%). 50% of year 9 females have used an electronic cigarette more than once, this is the largest proportion.

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## Alcohol

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Children who start drinking at an early age are at risk of disease, poisoning, violence and mental health problems. Starting drinking at an early age is also associated with a higher prospect of alcohol dependence.

### Primary Schools Year 6 Only

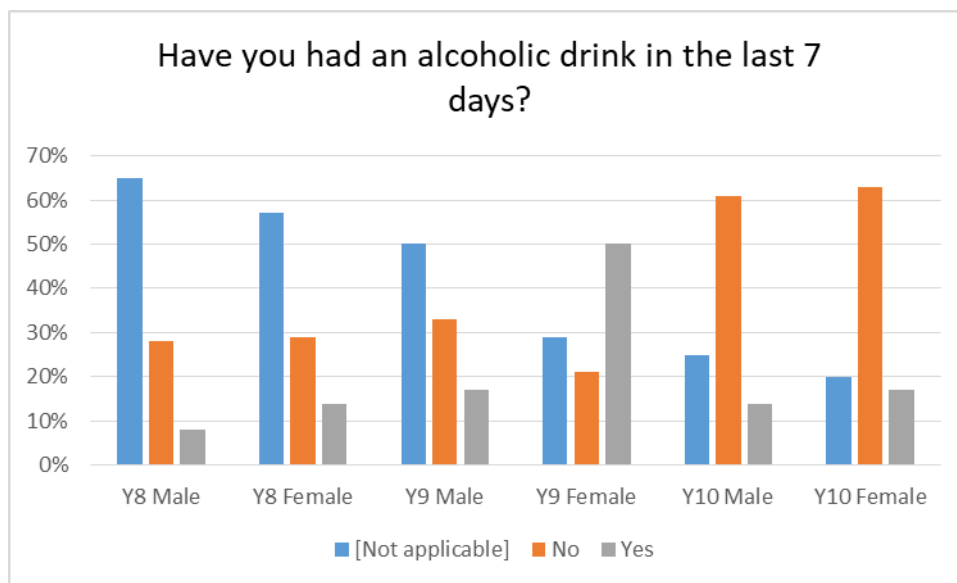
Of the year 6 pupils questioned, 18% had previously had an alcoholic drink. However the proportion of boys (24%) was higher than the proportion of girls (12%). When asked if they had drank alcohol in the last seven days, again the proportion of boys (2%) was slightly higher than that of girls (1%). Of those who stated they had previously had an alcoholic drink, 54% of boys and 41% of girls did so with their parent or carers knowledge.

56% of pupils had drank a full alcoholic drink. This proportion increase with each year group, 38% year 8, 62% year 9 and 76% year 10. In each year group a larger proportion of females had drank a full alcohol drink than males. The largest disparity between the genders is in year 9, where 71% of females and 50% of males had drank a full alcoholic drink.

### Secondary Schools

Only 16% of pupils had drank alcohol in the previous week, however this proportion does not increase year on year, the peak is in year 9. 29% of year 9 pupils (17% male and 50% female) had drank alcohol in the previous week. This compares to 12% year 8 (8% male and 14% female) and 15% year 10 (14% male and 17% female). Again more females had drank alcohol in the last week than males in every year group.

Of the alcohol units consumed in the previous seven days, one unit and three units were consumed by 1% of pupils, two units and 11-14 units by 2% of pupils, 4-6 units by 3% of pupils, and 7-10 units by 4% of pupils. No more than 5% of any year group specified a particular unit total, except for 7-10 units which was consumed by 12% of year 9 pupils, 21% of year 9 females and 6% of males reported consuming 7-10 units.



**Figure Seven: Have you had an alcoholic drink in the last 7 days?**

The parents of 34% of pupils always know if they are drinking at home, 41% of females and 28% of males. Only 2% of pupils responded that their parents never know, 3% female and 1% male. A further 9% stated that their parent usually or sometimes know, 12% female 7% male. 10% of pupils stated that although they drink alcohol, they do not drink at home, 6% female 17% male. Year 9 has both the biggest gender disparity between those who drink, but not at home and those whose parents always know when they are drinking at home. 28% year 9 males and 7% year 9 females drink, but not at home, and, conversely, 50% year 9 females and 17% year 9 males' parents always know when they are drinking at home. The proportion of pupils whose parents always know when they are drinking at home increases by year group, 23% year 8, 32% year 9 and 49% year 10.

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## Drugs

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### Primary Schools Year 6 Only

Of the year 6 pupils, 6% know someone who uses illegal drugs. A higher proportion of boys (8%) know someone who uses illegal drugs than girls in year 6, 3%. Only boys in year 6 have ever been offered illegal drugs, 3% offered cannabis and 1% offered other illegal drugs.

28% of pupils knows someone who takes drugs, 26% males and 30% females. More than half of year 9 students know someone who takes drugs, 44% males and 71% females, compared to 33% in year 10 and 15% in year 8.

28% of pupils have been offered cannabis, 23% male and 30% female. The proportion offered in years 9 and 10 is 41%, however in year 8 it is only 13%. in every year group a larger proportion of females have been offered cannabis than males.

14% of pupils have been offered substances other than cannabis, 13% male and 12% female. Years 9 and 10 have similar proportions offered, 21% and 18% respectively, and again year 8 has a significantly smaller proportion offered, 8%. In year 8 only 2% of females have been offered substances other than cannabis, compared to 10% of males. This is the only example where more males have been offered than females. 1 in 5 females in both year 9 and 10 have been offered substances other than cannabis.

8% of pupils have taken an illegal substance, 6% male 9% female. Year 9 has the largest proportion of pupils who have taken an illegal substance, 15%, compared to 10% year 10 and 3% year 8. in year 9 21% of females have taken an illegal substance, this is the largest proportion. Years 9 and 10 females have a larger proportion who have taken an illegal substance, in year 8 males have the larger proportion.

The largest proportion of pupils, 2%, took their first illegal substance at 14 years old. 3% of year 10 males had taken their first illegal substance by the time they were 10.

3% of pupils have taken multiple illegal substances together, and 4% have taken illegal substances and alcohol together. For both of these year 9 had the largest proportion.

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## Safety and Violence

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Exposure to violence and unsafe situations can affect children in a number of ways. Children affected by domestic violence and other types of violence can develop negative coping and health risk behaviours and challenge cognitive development. Young people carrying weapons have featured heavily in recent news reports and (whilst rare) outcomes can be significant.

### Primary School

In answer to the question *“Do adults at home get on well together and are they nice to each other?”* 12% of Year 4 pupils responded “hardly ever” – higher than year 5 (4%) and year 6 pupils (3%). For those who responded “sometimes”, the proportions were Year 4 (22%) Year 5 (11%) and Year 6 (11%). A similar pattern where year 4 is higher than the subsequent two years is seen in response to the question *“Has there been any shouting and arguing between adults at home in the last month that frightened you?”* (Table Three).

| <b>Table Three: Has there been any shouting and arguing between adults at home in the last month that frightened you?</b> |               |               |               |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
|   | <b>Year 4</b> | <b>Year 5</b> | <b>Year 6</b> | <b>All</b> |
| No  | 54%           | 75%           | 76%           | 66%        |
| Once or twice   | 29%           | 17%           | 20%           | 23%        |
| Once a week   | 8%            | 7%            | 3%            | 6%         |
| Every day/almost every day  | 9%            | 1%            | 2%            | 5%         |
| Valid Responses   | 100%          | 100%          | 100%          | 100%       |
| %   | 296           | 75            | 343           | 714        |
| Count   | 304           | 80            | 352           | 736        |

When questioned about violence between adults at home, 83% of year 4 pupils responded that violence **hadn’t** occurred in the last month, compared to 97% in year 5 and 94% in year 6. Table Four shows the breakdown by year group. Again this shows a higher proportion reporting in Year 4.

| <b>Table Four: Has there been any violence between adults (e.g. hitting, punching, slapping) at home in the last month?</b> |               |               |               |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
|   | <b>Year 4</b> | <b>Year 5</b> | <b>Year 6</b> | <b>All</b> |
| No  | 83%           | 97%           | 94%           | 90%        |
| Once or twice   | 12%           | 1%            | 4%            | 7%         |
| Once a week   | 2%            | 1%            | 1%            | 2%         |

|                            |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Every day/almost every day | 3%   | 0%   | 1%   | 2%   |
| Valid Responses            | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| %                          | 296  | 76   | 345  | 717  |
| Count                      | 304  | 80   | 352  | 736  |

Table Five shows where pupils consider they have been bullied in the last 12 months. It shows that 25% of pupils feel they have been bullied at school in the last 12 months. This is slightly higher for boys (26% to 23% for girls). Year 5 has a lower rate than year 4 and 6. Bullying at school is the highest proportion though it is worth noting that bullying online or by mobile phone is the next highest occurrence of bullying overall.

| <b>Table Five: In the last 12 months have you been bullied?</b> |               |               |               |            |             |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|   | <b>Year 4</b> | <b>Year 5</b> | <b>Year 6</b> | <b>Boy</b> | <b>Girl</b> | <b>All</b> |
| At school...  | 26%           | 17%           | 25%           | 26%        | 23%         | 25%        |
| Near school...  | 22%           | 10%           | 13%           | 19%        | 13%         | 16%        |
| Online or mobile phone  | 18%           | 18%           | 17%           | 20%        | 15%         | 18%        |
| On school transport   | 7%            | 1%            | 4%            | 5%         | 5%          | 5%         |
| None of the above (or incomplete)                               | 54%           | 65%           | 64%           | 58%        | 62%         | 60%        |
| Valid Responses (Count)   | 295           | 77            | 344           | 368        | 344         | 716        |
| Total Sample (Count)  | 304           | 80            | 352           | 378        | 354         | 736        |

Across all three school years the four main reasons for bullying were weight, appearance, hobbies and no known reason. The largest single response was 28% of year 6 girls were bullied for the way they look. In year 5 a larger proportion of boys to girls were bullied for the way they look, 18% to 14%. Weight was the reason given for 24% of year 5 boys, the largest proportion for those bullied due to their weight. Across all three years boys had a higher proportion of bullying due to weight. 73% said that their school takes bullying seriously.



This reflects the impact our high levels of overweight and obesity have on children and one that we need to consider more widely when developing our work programmes to address obesity.

## Secondary School

10% of pupils were sure to some degree that their friends carry weapons for their protection when out, 5% fairly sure and 5% certain. For both responses the proportion of males was larger than females, 9% to 1% for fairly sure, and 6% to 3% for certain. Pupils in year 9 had the largest proportion of sure to some degree (12%) and the largest proportion of certain (9%). Year 9 females were 0% for both fairly sure and certain.

5% of pupils have carried a weapon for their own protection, 3% sometimes and 2 % always. Year 10 had the smallest proportion, with only 1% carrying a weapon sometimes. Year 8 and 9 had similar proportions carrying weapons (8% and 9% respectively) though year 9 had twice the proportion always carrying a weapon (6% to 3%). Only 1% of females carry a weapon for their protection, compared with 9% of males. Whilst this is a low proportion, it is concerning that any number of pupils are carrying weapons.

There had been shouting between adults that frightened the pupil in the last month for 21% of pupils, 14% once or twice, 4% once a week and 3% daily. Table Six shows the proportions for each category. 23% of females reported being scared due to shouting at some point in the last month compared with 20% for males, though both have 3% for it being a daily occurrence.

| <b>Table Six: Has there been any shouting and arguing between adults at home in the last month that frightened you?</b> |               |               |                |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
|   | <b>Year 8</b> | <b>Year 9</b> | <b>Year 10</b> | <b>All</b> |
| No  | 73%           | 79%           | 86%            | 79%        |
| Once or twice   | 16%           | 15%           | 10%            | 14%        |
| Once a week   | 5%            | 6%            | 1%             | 4%         |
| Every day/almost every day  | 5%            | 0%            | 3%             | 3%         |
| Valid Responses   | 100%          | 100%          | 100%           | 100%       |
| %   | 94            | 34            | 79             | 207        |
| Count   | 105           | 34            | 86             | 225        |

The figures for shouting between adults and children in the home which frightened in the last month are comparable with that of shouting between adults. 20% reported some level of shouting in the last month, 12% once or twice, 4% weekly and 4% daily. Again year 9 reports no daily shouting. Females are more likely to experience this to any degree (24% to 16%).

Physically hurtful behaviour is reported in the last month by 8% of pupils (10% of females, 6% of males). Year 9 pupils report no physically harmful behaviour. Year 10 report physically harmful behaviour once or twice in the last month for 4% of pupils, 3% males 5% females. For year 8 this is an issue for 15% of pupils, 12% once or twice, and 3% daily.

Bullying causes 34% of pupils to fear going to school at least sometimes, 26% sometimes, 4% often and 4% very often. The proportion of pupils who fear going to school because of bullying decreases year on year by each year group. The location of bullying is outlined in Table Six below.

| <b>Table Six: Have you been bullied in any of these places in the last 12 months?</b> |               |               |                |             |               |            |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
|   | <b>Year 8</b> | <b>Year 9</b> | <b>Year 10</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>All</b> |
| I have not been bullied in the last 12 months   | 55%           | 65%           | 63%            | 63%         | 57%           | 60%        |
| At school   | 40%           | 32%           | 30%            | 33%         | 38%           | 35%        |
| On the way to or from school  | 7%            | 9%            | 6%             | 9%          | 5%            | 7%         |
| At the bus or train stop / station  | 2%            | 3%            | 3%             | 3%          | 1%            | 2%         |
| On a school bus   | 2%            | 0%            | 4%             | 2%          | 3%            | 2%         |
| On a public bus or train  | 3%            | 3%            | 5%             | 4%          | 3%            | 4%         |
| In the park / recreation ground / skate park  | 10%           | 3%            | 4%             | 4%          | 7%            | 6%         |
| In a shopping centre or amusement arcade  | 3%            | 6%            | 4%             | 2%          | 5%            | 4%         |
| In a café or shop   | 1%            | 3%            | 1%             | 2%          | 1%            | 1%         |
| At or near home   | 6%            | 3%            | 4%             | 2%          | 7%            | 5%         |
| Somewhere else  | 7%            | 6%            | 8%             | 6%          | 7%            | 7%         |
| None of the above (or incomplete)   | 0%            | 0%            | 0%             | 0%          | 0%            | 0%         |
| Valid Responses (Count)   | 94            | 34            | 79             | 94          | 101           | 207        |
| Total Sample (Count)  | 105           | 34            | 86             | 102         | 110           | 225        |

In secondary schools, 32% of pupils said that their school takes bullying seriously however 32% said it didn't take it seriously.

# Relationships

## Secondary School

These questions were only responded to by Year 10 pupils. 20% of year 10 pupils stated they have had sex, 10% in a previous relationship and 10% in a current relationship. 14% of males and 8% of females had sex in a previous relationship, and 11% males and 10% females in their current relationship (Table Four). Contraception was never used by 6% of pupils (8% males and 5% females) and always used by 10% of pupils (11% males 10% females) (Table Five).

**Table Four: Year 10+: Nationally, we know that most young people under 16 have not had sex (28% of under 16s report having sex). Which of the following best describes you?**

|   | Year 10 |        |        |      |        |      |
|---|---------|--------|--------|------|--------|------|
|   | Male    | Female | Year10 | Male | Female | All  |
| Never had sex                                 | 75%     | 83%    | 80%    | 75%  | 83%    | 80%  |
| Had sex in the past                           | 14%     | 8%     | 10%    | 14%  | 8%     | 10%  |
| Currently in a relationship where we have sex | 11%     | 10%    | 10%    | 11%  | 10%    | 10%  |
| Valid Responses                               | 100%    | 100%   | 100%   | 100% | 100%   | 100% |
| %   | 36      | 40     | 79     | 36   | 40     | 79   |
| Count   | 38      | 45     | 86     | 38   | 45     | 86   |

**Table Five: Year 10+: If you have had sex, did you use a method of protection or contraception?**

|                  | Year 10 |        |         |      |        |      |
|------------------|---------|--------|---------|------|--------|------|
|                  | Male    | Female | Year 10 | Male | Female | All  |
| [Not applicable] | 75%     | 83%    | 80%     | 75%  | 83%    | 80%  |
| Never            | 8%      | 5%     | 6%      | 8%   | 5%     | 6%   |
| Sometimes        | 3%      | 0%     | 1%      | 3%   | 0%     | 1%   |
| Usually          | 3%      | 3%     | 3%      | 3%   | 3%     | 3%   |
| Always           | 11%     | 10%    | 10%     | 11%  | 10%    | 10%  |
| Valid Responses  | 100%    | 100%   | 100%    | 100% | 100%   | 100% |
| %                | 36      | 40     | 79      | 36   | 40     | 79   |
| Count            | 38      | 45     | 86      | 38   | 45     | 86   |

When asked if they had ever taken risks with sex after alcohol or drug use, 6% stated that they had, (8% males and 5% females) and 11% that they had not (17% male compared to 8% females). 3% of pupils were unsure if they had ever taken risks with sex, all of whom were female. When asked if they had gone further with sex than they would like after alcohol or drug use, 3%, both for males and females, stated that they had.



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## Conclusion

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This report has taken a more detailed look at some of the key areas of the schools Health Related Behaviour Survey for 2019. The survey is a rich source of information from primary and secondary schools. Those areas chosen for a more in depth look are areas that have been identified as key priorities for action. By completing the survey we have been able to gain an insight into the main issues affecting the health and wellbeing of Hartlepool children.

### Recommendations

That the information is used by schools to develop strategies and interventions to support the health and wellbeing of their pupils. This will be particularly useful in supporting the development of the statutory RSE work.

The data and intelligence from the survey should be used to support the development of work programmes and commissioning services. In particular it is recommended that the data inform:

- Whole Systems Obesity programme (including links to poverty and holiday hunger).
- The surveillance section of the Public Health Approach to Violence work.
- Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Plan development work

The report is added to the JSNA and utilised as a baseline report for future work with children and young people.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** PUPIL PERFORMANCE 2019 – HEADLINE  
INDICATOR SUMMARY

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 This report is for information only.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide a summary of the pupil performance measures for Hartlepool from public examinations in the summer of 2019.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The report provides headline data from 2019 across all Key Stages and including EYFS.

3.2 The report provides a two year comparison within Hartlepool and provides a comparator against national outcomes.

## 4. OUTCOMES SUMMARY

4.1 The published pupil performance measures for 2018 and 2019, along with national averages, are presented at **APPENDIX A**. Note that although the 5+ A\*-C incl English and maths measure is no longer published by the DfE, Hartlepool still gathers and collates relevant information to enable some kind of year-on-year comparison of performance until the new accountability measures are established (minimum three years of data).

4.2 Hartlepool's quartile placement for each 2019 measure is also presented in the table at **APPENDIX A**. Quartile A is the top quartile (top 25%) of all local authorities nationally; quartile D is the bottom quartile (bottom 25%).

- 4.3 The headline performance measures of a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of early years and the Phonics Screening Check at the end of Year 1 are now well embedded in primary schools. These measures have been in place since 2013 and 2012 respectively. Variations in performance in these measures at school level are now likely to be due to cohort characteristics rather than changes to assessment and testing regimes. For this reason a 'direction of travel' arrow appears next to these measures in **APPENDIX A** showing whether performance has increased or decreased on the previous year.
- 4.4 The summer of 2018 marked the third year of the new testing arrangements at the end of key stage 2 (KS2). As teachers and children adjusted to the demands of the new arrangements performance is more likely to increase. This can be seen in the improvements in KS2 outcomes for Hartlepool children, and children nationally. Improvements in KS2 performance are also anticipated as the Year 6 cohorts in schools experience more and more of the new primary National Curriculum introduced in September 2014. Variations in KS2 performance at school level are now more likely to be due to cohort characteristics rather than changes to curriculum content or assessment and testing regimes. For this reason a 'direction of travel' arrow appears next to these measures in **APPENDIX A** showing whether performance has increased or decreased on the previous year.
- 4.5 The secondary data presented at **APPENDIX A**. Variations in KS4 performance at school level are likely to be due to changes to curriculum.
- 4.6 In summary:
- a) Standards at the end of reception year are in line with national benchmarks but increasing at a higher rate, meaning that Hartlepool children are as well prepared for key stage 1 as other children nationally. Hartlepool is in the second quartile for this measure.
  - b) Children's understanding and use of letters and the sounds that they make (phonics) increased in 2019 when compared with 2018 and is above national averages. Hartlepool is in the second quartile (top half of all local authorities) for this measure.
  - c) Standards at the end of key stage 1 in reading, writing and in mathematics are generally in line with national averages. Hartlepool is in the second quartile for these measures.
  - d) Standards at the end of key stage 2 are generally above national averages at the expected levels but not greater depth. Standards in reading and maths at greater depth remain weaker than in writing, reflecting the national picture. Hartlepool is generally in the second, or third quartile.
  - e) Progress made by children from key stage 1 to key stage 2 is average with the exception of progress in writing which is stronger.
  - f) Standards at the end of key stage 4 in 2019 were generally below national averages, and Hartlepool is in the bottom quartile in all standards measures.
  - g) Progress from key stage 2 to key stage 4 dropped in 2019. Hartlepool is in the bottom quartile for this measure.



**5. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no risk implications.

**6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial considerations.

**7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 There are no legal considerations.

**8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 No consultation was required in the production of this report.

**9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations.

**10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications.

**11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

11.1 There are no staff considerations.

**12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

12.1 There are no asset management considerations.

**13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 It is recommended note the contents of this report.

**14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 It is important that Committee scrutinises pupil performance data in order to support and challenge Hartlepool schools and Council officers to ensure that children receive a first class education in Hartlepool. This will also help to realise this Committee's stated ambition that every school in Hartlepool will be graded at least GOOD by Ofsted.

**15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 There are no background papers.

**16. CONTACT OFFICER**

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## 7.2 APPENDIX A

| Performance measure                         | 2018               |                    | 2019                   |                    |  |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|
|   | Hartlepool %       | National %         | Hartlepool %           | National * %       | National quartile measure <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>EARLY YEARS</b>                          |                    |                    |                        |                    |  |
| Good Level of Development                   | 69                 | 72                 | 72 ↑                   | 72                 | B                                      |
| <b>KEY STAGE 1</b>                          |                    |                    |                        |                    |  |
| Phonics Screening Check                     | 82                 | 82                 | 84 ↑↓                  | 82                 | B                                      |
| Expected standard KS1 Re                    | 75                 | 75                 | 74 ↓                   | 75                 | C                                      |
| Expected standard KS1 Wr                    | 72                 | 70                 | 70 ↓                   | 69                 | C                                      |
| Expected standard KS1 Ma                    | 77                 | 76                 | 75 ↓                   | 76                 | C                                      |
| Greater depth KS1 Re                        | 25                 | 26                 | 22 ↓                   | 25                 | D                                      |
| Greater depth KS1 Wr                        | 20                 | 16                 | 16 ↓                   | 15                 | B                                      |
| Greater depth KS1 Ma                        | 22                 | 22                 | 21 ↓                   | 22                 | C                                      |
| <b>KEY STAGE 2</b>                          |                    |                    |                        |                    |  |
| Expected standard KS2 Re                    | 76                 | 75                 | 76 ↔                   | 73                 | B                                      |
| Expected standard KS2 Wr (TA <sup>2</sup> ) | 82                 | 78                 | 81 ↓                   | 78                 | B                                      |
| Expected standard KS2 Ma                    | 78                 | 76                 | 81 ↑                   | 79                 | B                                      |
| Exp standard combined RWM                   | 67                 | 64                 | 68 ↑                   | 65                 | B                                      |
| Exp standard KS GPS <sup>3</sup>            | 79                 | 78                 | 79 ↔                   | 78                 | B                                      |
| Higher standard KS2 Re                      | 23                 | 28                 | 24 ↑                   | 27                 | D                                      |
| Greater Depth KS2 Wr                        | 20                 | 20                 | 20 ↔                   | 20                 | C                                      |
| Higher standard KS2 Ma                      | 21                 | 24                 | 22 ↑                   | 27                 | D                                      |
| Higher standard KS2 RWM                     | 7                  | 10                 | 8 ↑                    | 11                 | D                                      |
| Progress score Re <sup>4</sup>              | +0.1               | 0                  | +0.2 ↑                 | 0                  | NA                                     |
| Progress score Wr <sup>4</sup>              | +0.9               | 0                  | +0.5 ↓                 | 0                  | NA                                     |
| Progress score Ma <sup>4</sup>              | +0.5               | 0                  | +0.2 ↓                 | 0                  | NA                                     |
| <b>KEY STAGE 4</b>                          |                    |                    |                        |                    |  |
| Basics (4+ in English and maths)            | Gr4+ 60<br>Gr5+ 38 | Gr4+ 59<br>Gr5+ 40 | Gr4+ 60 ↔<br>Gr5+ 37 ↓ | Gr4+ 60<br>Gr5+ 40 | D<br>D                                 |
| Attainment 8 (ave score per pupil)          | 42.3               | 44.5               | 42.9 ↑                 | 44.5               | D                                      |
| Progress 8 (ave score per pupil)            | -0.47              | -                  | -0.34 ↑                | -                  | D                                      |
| English Baccalaureate (entries)             | 27                 | 35                 | 22 ↓                   | 37                 | D                                      |
| English Baccalaureate (achieved)            | Gr4+ 15<br>Gr5+ 9  | Gr4+ 22<br>Gr5+ 15 | Gr4+ 12 ↓<br>Gr5+ 7 ↓  | Gr4+ 23<br>Gr5+ 16 | D<br>D                                 |

\* 2019 national figures are taken from Department for Education statistical releases and Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)

<sup>1</sup> A = top quartile of all local authorities nationally, then B, then C, and D = bottom quartile of all local authorities nationally

<sup>2</sup> Teacher assessed

<sup>3</sup> Grammar, punctuation and spelling

<sup>4</sup> 2019 Key Stage 2 progress data calculated locally. Quartile not yet available.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

28 January 2020



**Report of:** Director of Children's & Joint Commissioning Services

**Subject:** SCHOOL ADMISSIONS (IN-YEAR TRANSFERS)

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## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform members of the work being carried out by a recently established In-Year Transfer Task & Finish Group.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In the 2018/19 academic year, there were a total of 696 transfers taking place in Hartlepool schools, 466 in primary schools and 230 in secondary schools. 263 of these pupils, 37.8% were from families moving into the town. This includes pupils who may have previously lived in Hartlepool.

3.2 At its meeting on the 21 June 2019, members of Schools Forum agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group. The aims of this group are to look into the causes of in-year transfers, work with other agencies, such as housing and social care and to also look at the wider issues impacting on transfers and try to reduce the number taking place.

3.3 Members of Schools Forum concurred that in-year transfers affects and impacts on all schools, but with only a small impact on schools with very few surplus places. It has a significant impact of some primary schools situated in areas where there are very transient populations and rented properties on a short lease, or hard to let properties.

## 4. INITIAL FINDINGS

4.1 An in-year school transfer is when a child transfers from one school to another, during the academic year. There are a number of reasons, parents

provide when applying for an in-year school transfer. The most common reasons are; moved into area, parental request and change of address (within Hartlepool). A breakdown of all reasons for the 2018/19 academic year are detailed below.

| Reason                 | Number     |
|------------------------|------------|
| Moved into area        | 263        |
| Parental request       | 164        |
| Change of address      | 106        |
| Waiting list           | 58         |
| Looked after child     | 20         |
| Closer to home         | 15         |
| Upheld appeal          | 15         |
| Moved back into area   | 12         |
| Resettlement programme | 12         |
| School waiting list    | 12         |
| In-Year Fair Access    | 10         |
| Arranged via SEND      | 9          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>696</b> |

- 4.2 **Moved into area / Housing need** - The highest number of in-year school transfers were from families with children moving into Hartlepool. Of approximately 45,000 houses in Hartlepool, 15% are rented through the private sector and 30% through the social sector, which includes a number of different landlords. Approximately 60% of all rented properties are in rent arrears, and there is an eviction rate of 4 to 5 families per week. This situation is not likely to improve, and is likely that the problem will grow. If families are evicted, families are housed in short term leases. Finding a home becomes the immediate priority, so it's sometimes a distance away from a child's current school, which sometimes results in a transfer request being submitted.
- 4.3 Another factor is that Hartlepool has one of the cheapest average rent rate in the country, and some landlords from the South are targeting Hartlepool and we have seen an influx of families who have no support networks and no previous knowledge of the town. This situation is likely to continue, as there is no shortage of housing stock.
- 4.4 **Parental requests / Preference** - When parents do not state a reason for a transfer, it's recorded as parental request. The School Admissions Code requires local authorities (LAs) to provide information to a parent about the places still available in all schools within its area and a suitable form for parents to complete when applying for a place for their child at any school for which they are not the admission authority. Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round. For applications in the normal admissions round, the form must allow parents to provide their name, their address (including documentary

evidence in support), and the name, address and date of birth of the child. In some cases, admission authorities will need to ask for supplementary information in order to process applications, however, this information must only be required when it has a direct bearing on decisions about oversubscription criteria eg a request for a Baptism Certificate. The same principle is applied for in-year school transfer application forms.

- 4.5 The School Admissions Team work hard to persuade parents of the importance of stability in schooling. Parents are advised to have an initial discussion with the current headteacher regarding their reasons for a transfer (if not a house move). A headteacher signature (of current school) has been introduced onto the application form to give headteachers an opportunity to speak to parents in the first instance. However, if parents do not obtain this, the application can still be processed and if a school has a place available in the year group requested, the transfer must take place. The Admissions Team are monitoring whether the requirement of the headteacher signature reduces school movement during the 2019/20 academic year. Ultimately, parental preference is the overriding factor.

## **5. IMPACT**

- 5.1 The impact on schools when there are high numbers of transfers can be significant. Children who have moved a number of times often have significant gaps in their learning, or additional needs which may require extra support.
- 5.2 For one secondary school in Hartlepool the transfers into the Year 11 leavers 2019 had a -0.2 affect on their progress 8 figure.
- 5.3 100% of students who transferred to the school from two schools in Hartlepool were deemed not to be successful due to either receiving a fixed term exclusion or had attendance of under 92%.
- 5.4 From the other two schools it was deemed approximately 55% were successful. In terms of those students who joined the school in the example from outside of Hartlepool 64% were successful and did not receive any fixed term exclusions and attendance was over 92% for the whole time they were at the new school. 63% were students classed as disadvantaged

## **6. ACTIONS**

- 6.1 To date, the In-Year Transfer Task & Finish Group have met twice and a number of actions have been agreed.
- Monitor whether the introduction of the 'current school' headteacher signature has any impact in reducing movement between schools.
  - Share the number of transfers in Hartlepool with other authorities within the Tees Valley and work together to share good practice.

- Share housing information with headteachers
- Raise awareness with social care and health visitor teams
- School Attendance and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities representatives to be invited to the group
- Analyse the transfers which are noted as parental request.

6.2 It has quickly become apparent that there are no quick or obvious solutions to this issue and with movement into town, the situation could become worse. It is proposed to continue with the research.

## **7. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no statutory requirements.

## **8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 No material financial implications.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 LAs must, on request, provide information to a parent about the places still available in all schools within its area, and a suitable form for parents to complete when applying for a place. Any parent can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school outside the normal admissions round.

## **10. CONSULTATION**

10.1 At its meeting of the 14 November 2019, members of the Admissions Forum requested a report be submitted to Children's Services Committee.

## **11. CHILD AND POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS**

11.1 There are no child and poverty considerations.

## **12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS**

12.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations.

## **13. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

13.1 There are no staff considerations.

**14. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 14.1 That members note the contents of the report.

**15. CONTACT OFFICER**

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