



2013 - 2016 Edition

Kirklees Children and Young People Plan

New priorities

The priorities for 2013-2016 as identified by the Children's Trust are:-

1	Mental, emotional health and wellbeing A joint priority within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board
2	Looked after children and care leavers – improving life chances
3	Young people – improving life chances by being ready for and have opportunities for work
4	Disabled children – improving life chances
5	Child Sexual Exploitation – improving life chances of those at risk A joint priority with the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

These priorities have been chosen as areas that the partnership as a collective can make a difference to improve the life chances and outcomes for these particular groups of young people.

The priorities are brought together by:-

- preventative approaches
- the responsibility of everyone to contribute
- there is identified capacity to lead on the priority and deliver agreed actions

Priorities for 2013 - 2016

Mental, emotional health and wellbeing

A joint priority within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board

Why this priority matters

Local and national evidence and experience shows that emotional health and wellbeing are important issues for children and young people. On average, one in ten children needs some extra help with their feelings or behaviours. Without this support, the difficulties can escalate and continue into adulthood.

There is a need to help young people to understand their emotions and how they deal with these emotions in good times and bad times, giving them the resilience to cope and access to the tools and information to be able to do so. The Children's Trust has agreed that there needs to be a particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

Mental, emotional health and wellbeing is not only a priority for the Children and Young People Plan but also the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This affects the whole family unit and by working in collaboration we can ensure this priority has the best outcomes for children and young people as well as adults.

This is a multi layered area with lots of work going on at different levels. These include services that are linked to Child Mental Health Services which are targeted and specialist provision. Then there are the less visible areas of work aimed at the general population where needs are not as acute but children and young people need to know where to go to access services.

Work to be developed in this area:-

- Needs assessment has identified it as a priority in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- The Children's Trust has identified concerns in specific areas of need such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), parenting skills, raising aspirations, anti-bullying work and resilience.
- The Children's Trust agreed that partnership actions are needed to improve outcomes.

Outcomes and Performance

Key Performance Information

- Data from the tier two and tier three contracts
- Maximise the use of data from health intelligence such as health surveys, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and young people's views.
- Revised performance indicators will be monitored and reported to the Children's Trust.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Develop broad understanding of the terms and underlying factors.
- The Trust making the phrase 'make mental and emotional health and wellbeing everyone's business' real.
- Ensure anti-bullying work is effective and implemented.
- Develop a universal level of service and support.
- Ensure young people are involved to help each other and develop their own solutions/personal resilience.
- Ensure services for children and young people and adults are joined up and co-ordinated.
- To ensure delivery of high quality care, develop a Single Point of Access (SPA) for all new referrals which offers a streamlined access to services through a clear pathway. Reducing the number of referral routes and providing a consistent response to referrers.
- Maximise the contributions, engagement and involvement of schools to provide a nurturing environment for children and young people.

Challenges to partners

- Providing appropriate levels of support to develop an awareness of early identification of issues.
- Recognising where there is a problem, deal with it appropriately and signpost where necessary.
- Ensure appropriate workforce development for the partnership is in place and resourced.

Young people say:

- Involve us in planning and delivering services/activities, for example as peer information, mentors and educators.
- Have the right adults working with us (people we can trust, who we can talk to in confidence, who are not judgemental, who like young people).
- Support our parents, carers, siblings and friends so they can support us.
- Provide young people friendly venues.
- Because of transport issues, we need local venues.
- We want to know what we can expect from a service (clear information; use a variety of ways to get the information through, quality standards).

Commissioning Intentions

Jointly commissioned contracts are in place for tier two and tier three Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) managed by the council and Clinical Commissioning Group's to meet the identified needs of young people who require targeted support which can include specialist services.

How people are contributing

Early discussion with the Youth Council April 2013

Young people made some suggestions including:

- Wanting to see good practice from schools shared across the whole system.
- Have a buddy system for people who are being bullied.
- Mediation system that is run by young people.
- A confidential email system that can be used to get help.
- Drop in spaces that are easy to access.
- Being able to trust others to help you.
- Use trusted young people to help with IT systems so they are harder to exploit.
- Supporting families who are having difficulties.

This is the start of an ongoing dialogue with a range of young people. It has been agreed with lead members of the Children's Trust that youth councillor's will develop their top three issues for discussion later in the year.

Some of the outcomes from the emotional health and wellbeing workshop that are linked to the children's agenda were to build emotional wellbeing into the children and young people's workforce development, link projects and services to school programmes and to consider action to improve safe, valued transport provision. The links with schools and educational establishments was to be utilised better by encouraging greater buy in for emotional wellbeing across the school environments and to work with strong school Heads to help drive the agenda forward learning from what works.

Locala

Locala health visitors and school nurses are notified when children live in circumstances that are likely to make them vulnerable to mental health and emotional problems. They are notified by partner agencies such as the police, Kirklees housing solutions team, substance misuse services when children are living in the context of domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, when they experience homelessness, or are resident in refuge accommodation. These notifications prompt widened assessment by the health visitor or school nurse of a child's circumstances. Assessment strategies include review of health records, discussion with other professionals concerned with the child's welfare, and direct contact with the child. Assessment of these children's health needs may identify problems with emotional health and wellbeing. School nurses and health visitors work with the families to ensure that remedial interventions are put in place.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Speech, language and communication difficulties (particularly those with Specific Language Impairment, Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Dysfluency) may result in a child having poor mental and emotional health and wellbeing e.g. low self-esteem and confidence, which in turn can lead to a child becoming withdrawn and/or often presenting with behavioural problems.

Following referral, we would assess such children (formal assessment, observation, liaison with parents, teachers and other relevant professionals) and ensure an accurate diagnosis. We would then offer support and therapy/intervention as appropriate.

Intervention would include ensuring a communication friendly environment (be it home or school) to reduce pressures on the child and improve their access to communication and learning, thereby reducing their anxieties. Direct therapy may result in improved communication, which may increase self-esteem and therefore improve emotional health and wellbeing and often behaviour.

Often with older children, it's important that they have an understanding of their difficulties, so that we can work with them to learn strategies, again to reduce their anxiety and improve their emotional wellbeing.

Early Intervention and Targeted Support Service

Through one to one family support, Early Intervention and Targeted Support staff provide, and can direct families to a range of services to support their mental, emotional health and wellbeing. The service also commissions both parent and young people's counselling sessions, the latter for children and young people experiencing sexual, emotional, physical abuse, domestic violence, mental health, substance misuse, family break up; whereas the former supports parents experiencing domestic abuse, historical abuse and facing issues with their parenting capacity.

West Yorkshire Probation Trust

There are a disproportionate number of adult offenders on Probation case loads experiencing mental and emotional wellbeing issues across the continuum. The impact on dependant children of these adults is a key dimension for Think Families work promoting in assessments and sign posting is one of our key activities. Particularly the negative effects for children whose parent/s receive custodial sentences and explaining options with partner agencies regarding this so that this dimension can be addressed. Presentations are being made to the Children's Trust to consider the multi-disciplinary responses to this.

Kirklees Active Leisure

Taking part in positive sport, exercise and other forms of physical activity greatly helps to improve individual's self-confidence, self-esteem, sense of belonging and overall wellbeing. KAL provide a huge range of opportunities for young people to take part in sport and exercise, with, for example, young people taking part in swimming lessons every week across the KAL managed sites, which are also home to the majority of the school swimming sessions held in Kirklees. KAL also provide a wide range of sports courses and holiday activities for local young people to take part in, as well as pay-and-play activities for children and their families to enjoy, all of which contribute towards positive mental health and wellbeing.

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust provides a range of specialist services (Tier three) for children and young people to support emotional and mental health wellbeing.

Northorpe Hall

Northorpe Hall Child and Family Trust deliver the Children's Emotional Wellbeing Service (ChEWS).

The following activities contribute to this priority:

- Telephone support for parents, professionals and young people who have concerns about a child's emotional well-being.
- One to one support to children and young people.
- Group sessions to raise awareness of common emotional and behavioural difficulties to reduce stigma and provide self help tips.
- Group and individual support for young carers and their families, increasing their confidence, resilience and celebrating their achievements.
- Training and support for school staff, enabling them to respond well to common needs and issues and work with children individually and in groups.
- Recruiting, selecting and training volunteer mentors and volunteers to work in children's centres and in the Council's family support service.
- Sharing learning and good practice.

The Trust coordinates work with Locala, Family Support Coordination Group, Tier 3 CAMHS, Safeguarding, Schools and voluntary sector partners – including the V6 Consortium to ensure a joined up approach to emotional well-being.

Library and Information Centres

- The network of Library and Information Centres (LICs) across Kirklees are safe, welcoming places where children and young people are respected and treated as individuals. We provide an opportunity for children to interact with other children and adults in an environment outside of the school or family.
- All staff are aware of their role and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding.
- LICs provide access to books, films, music, information and the internet, all of which can directly refer to the issues an individual is dealing with or can be used as recreational or education purposes.

Fusion Housing

Fusion Housing provides a one to one housing support service to 16–25 year olds across Kirklees. Within the generic service targeted support to Asian young women is provided. Also provided is a young parent's service and a resettlement into the community project for offenders, some of whom are young people. The support planning is based on the Every Child Matters criteria which includes a 'Be Healthy' section including mental and emotional health and wellbeing. This ranges from supporting young people with mild depression to those accessing or needing to access Community Mental Health Teams. Fusion Housing is part of the V6 Consortium and so have close links with Northorpe Hall.

Other:

Partner agencies will be contributing to the emotional health and wellbeing action plan which is being led by Public Health.

Support for the anti-bullying work which is overseen by both the work of the Children's Trust and the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership. The work includes the hate crime strategy group,

LGBT steering group (both groups are multi-agency) and also supporting the young people's LGBT group Yorkshire Mixtures. Plans are being developed for activities for anti-bullying week in November. Schools are key partners in anti-bullying work.

Appropriate links are being made to the health strategic reviews in terms of emotional resilience and the involvement of a range of health, social care and voluntary sector partners.

Looked after children and care leavers – improving life chances

Definition

This priority remains in the plan but is sharper and better focused to reflect the current picture and enable the partnership to respond to the challenge of the specific outcomes and opportunities available to these young people.

The four challenges that will be the focus of this priority are:

- Early Intervention Review
- Sufficiency of accommodation - placements
- Attainment – education – employment
- Accommodation

The population of young people who are looked after is growing at a fast rate in Kirklees with approximately 650 children being looked after. Although the numbers are stabilising this is a massive pressure on resources in the system.

Attainment - There is lots of work to do on the current outcomes with regards attainment with 6.7% of looked after children achieved GCSE grade C in English and maths last year, however, the figures are better at earlier key stages. As a partnership work continues to need to be done to understand why this is.

Placements - We need to ensure that young people get the right placements for them. The fostering and adoption routes need to be more efficient as there are currently not enough foster families available in Kirklees. This highlights the barriers to fostering and volunteering in general and work needs to be done to improve the situation. A more holistic approach as to how we work better as a partnership to things like housing, sports and activities would be beneficial to these young people. As part of this approach a Placement Desk is in operation which is co-ordinating all placements requests.

Partnership - Changes have been made to the allocations policy to ensure that foster carers have priority access to properties with extra bedrooms enabling them to care for young people.

Commissioning intentions

- Placement desk – this is in its early stages and we will assess the success of the strategy.
- A collaborative approach has been undertaken for the set of framework contracts for foster placements and residential care through the White Rose Consortium. The success of this collaboration will continually be reviewed.

Outcomes and Performance

- Provide a range of services in partnership to ensure stable, secure, safe and effective care for all children and young people - this includes high quality placements, placement support (including the provision of a range of placement options for Looked After Children), and support for care leavers and adoption services.
- Provide services that enable children who have entered the care system to achieve permanency in a timely fashion via adoption, arrangements with connected persons, long term placement options and services that support families to effectively care for their children.
- Maintain or improve the good performance in Kirklees against measures of placement stability, both in terms of length of placements and number of placements.
- Continue the reduction in the percentage of Looked After Children who are placed outside Kirklees boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live.
- Improve performance for Looked After Children reaching level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2, reaching level 4 in reading at Key Stage 2 and achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths).
- Reduce the percentage of young people who were looked after aged 16 who are not in education, employment or training.
- Improve the percentage of young people aged 19 who were looked after aged 16 who attend higher education courses.
- Ensure that all care leavers who are living in suitable accommodation where possible.
- Implement new IT systems across children's workforce to provide an IT system that supports the children's workforce and better reflects the child's journey working in conjunction with IT services and learning and development.
- An update on the review of the placement desk and collaborative working will be taken to the Children's Trust as appropriate.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Reducing the numbers coming through the system who then need to be looked after
- Explicit link to the Emotional Health and Wellbeing priority.
- Developing effective early intervention as part of the way we reduce demand - this links to developments in the strategic reviews with health to enable more care nearer home and more confident / resilient families.
- Continue to work on the CAF and get full engagement across the partnership. The Children's Trust is signed up to this and has a sub group which reports back.
- All agencies and schools/colleges ensuring support for Looked After Children in place to improve outcomes.
- Improving outcomes overall in all areas of their lives.
- Post care support which includes housing/employment/managing to live independently.

How people are contributing

Family Support and Child Protection

Family Support and Child Protection brings together the statutory elements of social care provision and a wide range of family support services into one overall management arrangement. The service is responsible for:

- Assessment and intervention activities to ensure the timely implementation of child protection plans, child-in-need plans and care plans in line with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Longer term social work support and intervention, including work around care proceedings.
- Provision of a range of accommodation options and support for children and young people in care and care leavers including fostering and residential placements and supported accommodation.
- Support for connected persons who look after children and young people in Kirklees (e.g. Residence and Special Guardianship Order holders).
- Adoption services for children who cannot return to live with their family of origin.

Locala

Locala's co-located health advisors with the Looked After children's team work with children and young people, and colleagues in other elements of children's services to make sure that health assessments are carried out promptly for Looked After Children. The health advisors coordination work ensures that identified health needs are addressed, and that relevant health information is shared at important transitions in children's lives.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

- Contribute to and attend Looked After Children reviews.
- Liaise with teams in other areas to ensure a smooth transition for children who move out of area.
- Work with children and families, supporting communication and ensuring access to communication is maximised, so as to enable children and families to build attachments and relationships.
- Work with babies who are experiencing feeding and swallowing difficulties and their families. Success with early feeding is critical to encourage attachment.

Locala Homeless Service

Children living in temporary accommodation have increased vulnerability, Locala Homeless Service works very closely with Kirklees Housing Solutions in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, sharing information regarding families who are living in temporary accommodation or make a homeless application. This enables health professionals to provide targeted work for vulnerable children.

Working to agreed safeguarding procedures, within ten days of receiving a referral from the homeless service, health visitors carry out a face to face visit with every child under five years, school nurses make contact with school age children within the same time frame. Midwives are alerted to the change in circumstances.

Locala is open and honest about the joint working and at the point of contact with housing solutions information is given to the family explaining how and why health services will be in touch, then when the family leaves the temporary accommodation they are asked to complete a joint housing and Locala survey that asks if they have been happy with the service they have received, and if they have any comments how the service could be improved.

As a direct result of this survey changes are now being made to the way we work, it has involved the youth service, facilitating workshops between school children and school nurses and children attending a safeguarding board meeting (the work is being put forward for a national award!).

Early Intervention and Targeted Support Service

Early Intervention and Targeted Support works alongside colleagues in social care services to provide targeted family support, both in relation to early intervention, but also when families are de-escalated from higher tiers of care. This coming year, Early Intervention and Targeted Support will pilot a link officer role within Kirklees schools. The aim of this is to support schools to identify needs at a much earlier stage, routing increased referrals through the CAF and family support co-ordination processes, rather than to social care when needs become more significant. This support will help to ensure that identified family needs are addressed in the community, which should ultimately reduce the numbers of children coming into the care system.

West Yorkshire Probation Trust

Children of adult offenders are more likely to be taken into care as a result of custodial sentences. Presentations are being made to the Children's Trust to consider the multi-disciplinary responses to this.

Kirklees Active Leisure

KAL is working with Kirklees Council to offer cashless accounts to young people in foster care and looked after children. The foster care service provided a lump sum, which KAL provided a further "in kind" contribution towards helping the funding go further. This enables the children or the carers to access activities for free, up to a certain predefined limit.

Northorpe Hall

The following activities contribute to this priority:

- Providing counselling to parents whose children have been adopted or taken into care.
- Looked after children receive support as appropriate.
- Providing counselling, therapy, one to one emotional health support and mentoring to help looked after children.

Fusion Housing

Involvement with care leavers is back on the agenda and work with this group of young people is again based on the Every Child Matters criteria and the support includes:

- Family and neighbour mediation.

- Accessing a tenancy including a private tenancy through our own Bond Guarantee Scheme.
- Furnishing (through our own recycling project) and managing a tenancy.
- Support in relation to the CAF.
- Health and safety.
- Maximising income, accessing benefits and dealing with debt.
- Support into education, employment and training through our learning and employment teams, see below under **'Young People-improving life chances by being ready for and have opportunities for work'**.
- Parenting skills.
- Being healthy including mental, physical and sexual health.
- Addressing offending behavior.
- Drug and alcohol issues.

Housing advisors and solicitors are also employed who can advocate on behalf of the young person if they are in danger of being evicted.

Kirklees Housing

There is provision for supported accommodation for up to nine young people, including care leavers. This service will provide accommodation and support to enable young people who are vulnerable to move onto independent living and successfully maintain a home where it is not appropriate for them to return to the family home. The service will specifically provide emergency accommodation to resolve the problem of immediate homelessness for young people aged 16-21 years. Provide support and links into education, training and employment as well as debt advice, and substance misuse advice and help with access to health and support services.

Young people – improving life chances by being ready for and have opportunities for work

In the previous plan the focus for the young people's priority was jobs, opportunities and money. A considerable amount of work has taken place with young people over the last year to improve young people's access to jobs, opportunities and money.

After consulting with young people from the Youth Council one of the areas of focus for this year will be on being "ready for work" and having the necessary "skills" for the labour market, looking at what this involves and the expectations of employers and young people.

The priority will also focus on some of the wider issues affecting young people such as mental health and wellbeing and the impact this has on young people looking to enter into the job market. Links are made here to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities and the skills agenda.

Consultation with Youth Council in April 2013 highlighted the importance for young people about provision of volunteering opportunities and well organised work experience placements. The discussion produced the following ideas that all agencies can contribute to.

Volunteering:

- Volunteering is good for building confidence in young people to enable the transition from school to work.
- Need to promote the positives of volunteering to other young people.
- Linking volunteers into schools and promoting the Volunteering Centre.
- Agencies that run specific volunteering schemes to provide information.

Work experience:

- A more creative approach is needed to enable young people to develop work readiness skills. All Children's Trust partners could offer a range of opportunities which might include a work experience placements, a shadowing opportunity or an advice session about a specific career.
- Young people identified the value of workshops and said it would be good for employers to come into schools. This would also benefit from opportunities for young people to visit local employers.

Outcomes and Performance

Number of work related opportunities

Number of young people volunteering

Key Issues and Challenges

- The number of volunteering opportunities provided by all partner agencies.
- Partner agencies to provide shadowing opportunities.
- Bring volunteering organisations into the school environment promoting what is available to young people.
- For Trust members to consider their own organisations capacity and to offer volunteering/work experience opportunities.

How people are contributing

- The Police offer opportunities through the Young Explorers Scheme.
- The Council offering a number of apprenticeship placements.
- Local Authority and College partners now have additional responsibilities about Raising Participation Age (RPA) and will need to respond to recently published Department of Education Guidance. This will contribute to ensuring young people will be able to access appropriate education and training opportunities up to the age of 17 years and continued focus on supporting those young people 16-18 years old who are not in education, training or employment.
- The Employment and Skills Board brings together a coherent approach to challenges and has membership from business and partner organisations.
- Calderdale and Kirklees involvement of young people in Business planning.
- Town centre developments which have worked with young people in developing ideas and opportunities.

Locala

Locala clinicians work with children and families, partner health providers and colleagues in school to ensure that children are healthy, and able to benefit from educational opportunities. They also work with children and families and partner children's services, when vulnerabilities are identified as likely to reduce the chances of children benefiting from educational opportunities, to make improvements, under CAF plans, child in need plans and child protection plans.

Locala school nurses are working with the Our Voice Team to understand how young people would like aspects of school nursing service delivered. This work has included welcoming young people to Locala Safeguarding Committee. We hope the young people have gained experience of influencing adult decision making, which will contribute to their confidence and skills in the world of work.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

We strive to ensure children reach their potential and understand their difficulties, where appropriate, thus improving their opportunities.

We offer support groups for teenagers who are dysfluent (i.e. they have a stammer) – these work on developing confidence and self-esteem and offer peer support as well as working on practical 'life skills' such as interview techniques, telephone skills and practicing social situations. There are

opportunities for individuals to practice skills necessary to them in a 'safe' environment e.g. if an individual was required to do a presentation.

Early Intervention and Targeted Support Service

Early Intervention and Targeted Support continues to support teenage parents through its provision in children's centres, including targeted support to re-engage within education, training, volunteering and ultimately employment. With regard to volunteering, the service commissions a volunteer induction programme which young parents are able to access. Once completed, volunteers are then able to support delivery of activities within children's centres, gaining valuable experience along the way.

West Yorkshire Probation Trust

Joint engagement with Youth Offending Team colleagues to focus on improved provision for young adults in transition age group to facilitate an increase in compliance and delivery for offender engagement and outcomes.

Kirklees Active Leisure

The KAL workforce is, overall, a generally young and a local workforce, with 351 of KAL's 650 employees being 25 or younger, representing 54% of the charity's overall workforce. KAL is actively involved in the Kirklees Jobs Fund, with five staff employed, two of which are from the stronger families programme, and is developing an emerging apprenticeship programme, which will further enhance the opportunities of local young people to gain employment.

Northorpe Hall

The Trust provides a range of support – one to one and in peer groups – to improve emotional health and enable children to continue attending school and achieving good educational outcomes.

The Kirklees Young Carers 'Growing Strong' programme for young carers includes money management and consideration of work and employment options.

Library and Information Centres

Being ready for work requires a degree of skill in Communication, Language and Literacy. LICs support lifelong learning for children and young people through:

A range of provision which includes

- Automatic membership of the library for each baby registered in Kirklees through Tell Us Once.
- Bookstart initiative.
- Regular story times and holiday activities.
- Playgroup loan service.
- Class visits.
- Summer Reading Challenge.

- Carnegie and Greenaway awards shadowing groups.
- Commissioned Integrated Youth Support Service Our Voice project to consult on the future of the library service which has led to the group of young people securing funding for and organisation of activity sessions for young people in LICs; resulted in the achievement of a Youth On Board (YOB) British Youth Council Award.
- Opportunities to volunteer as Summer Reading Challenge Champions; through Duke of Edinburgh award scheme; work experience opportunities; two pilot places created as part of Council's new work placement scheme.

Huddersfield University

Provision of access to high quality higher educational opportunities for young people in Kirklees 'on the doorstep': The university's excellent record on graduate employment – 94% of graduates go on to work or further study within six months - coupled with its commitment to inclusion and diversity means that young people locally have access to education for a wide range of careers from drama and engineering, textile design and health, social care and education. For example the School of Human and Health Sciences has a foundation year for those wishing to follow a career in the health professions but who do not have the appropriate entry requirements. Collaborative events seek to engage with young people locally for example an event was held at the university in February 2013 to celebrate the academic achievement of Looked After Children and young people in Kirklees and in July 2013 the HEART event 'Word Power' held at the university was aimed at children and young people aged 10-16 who may be hard to reach to encourage communication and self-expression via spoken and written word.

Schools and college visits are encouraged and are accessible via the Schools and College Liaison team contactable at schools.liaison@hud.ac.uk. Open Days are scheduled throughout the year.

Research relating to contemporary issues regarding children and young people: National and international research relating to children and young people is a priority within the schools of Human and Health Sciences and Education and Professional Development. The Centre for Childhood Studies and the Early Years, Childhood and Youth and Community Research Group are particularly relevant in regard to children and young people and provide seminars and public lectures. For example recent events have included topics such as 'NEET and the Labour Market' and research on engaging with marginalised young people. Go to the following link: <http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/>

Fusion Housing

This area of work has been developing since 1998 and the Learning and Employment Teams now hold contracts with both Kirklees Council and Kirklees College. Provision includes the following: for 16-18 year olds we have a European Social Fund Positive Futures NEET programme that now includes the leaving care contract; for this age group we also have a Foundation Learning Programme which is a study programme tailored to the individual with a substantial work experience element. A large percentage of provision for 19 year olds upwards is geared to the 18-25 year olds and engaging the most disengaged young people.

We provide a young person friendly learning environment using tutors with considerable experience of working with these groups supporting them to build self-confidence, improve their self-esteem and to achieve and progress.

Three important elements integrated into each course are:

- The integration of Information Advice and Guidance provision ensuring that progression is addressed throughout the course.
- Embedded maths, English and IT learning.
- Additional support through our volunteer programme.

Work Clubs are run in Huddersfield and Dewsbury linking into Job Centre Plus where our Information Advice and Guidance workers work on a one to one basis.

Disabled children – improving life chances

Definition

Although this priority was in the previous plan there is still more work to be done in this area. It is a cross cutting issue for the Children's Trust to focus on especially with the current and future financial issues. The role that the Clinical Commissioning Groups now have will see changes and challenges to delivering services for disabled children. The change agenda affects all partners and the implications of these changes will be a challenge for future working arrangements.

It is still early days for this priority with considerable work to do to effectively embed the Disabled Children's Strategy, which is now complete and available on-line at

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/you-kmc/kmc-policies/disabledchildrenstrategy.pdf>

The strategy has been a challenge to write, linking with existing strategies but keeping the focus for children and young people. Integrated services will be the most difficult part of the strategy to deliver with a multi agency approach that encompasses the partnership with health and education, but also considerations related to service redesigns within the Council. This is timely and links with the Integrated Youth Support Service Review, that for Early Intervention Services and also the anticipated implementation of the Children and Families Bill, currently set for September 2014.

Outcomes and Performance

The work against the six priority actions within the Disabled Children Strategy are moving on apace. The Kirklees Additional Needs Register will be implemented using an on-line process and is expected to go live in late 2013.

The work towards achieving an integrated approach to assessment of children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities is still progressing in line with government timetables and taking account of sector-led work and pathfinder outcomes in this region and more widely. Implementation by March 2014 is still the target and there is much more integrated work taking place on the ground that we aim to consolidate across the partnership by future service redesigns that are including co-location and multi-agency teams as part of this.

The development of the parents' forum arrangement continues. Parents of Children with Additional Needs (PCAN) continues to build its profile and membership as the conduit body representing parents/carers voices in strategic developments. They are becoming an integral part of strategic groups and more investment by the Council into this group will ensure this is set to grow and develop further over the next crucial period.

The implementation of the redesign and review of specialist education provision for disabled children and young people is nearing completion. The Short Breaks Statement has been reviewed in 2013 and currently work is being completed on the Short Breaks Offer following a consultation exercise with young people, parents and carers.

The Transitions Delivery Plan was reviewed at the end of April 2013 and is in the process of being updated. There has been an increase in social work resources from Disabled Children's Service in the last period that is dedicated to working with the Transitions Team and the information for young people and parents/carers has been significantly improved.

Key Issues and Challenges

Clinical Commissioning Groups have the role to plan and commission local health services. The new duty will mean that they will by law have to secure services in education, health and care plans for children and young adults. This will include specialist services like physiotherapy and speech and language therapy.

How people are contributing

There is now a project plan to assist the implementation of personal budgets for disabled children in 2014. The project team involves social care, health and learning, a project manager from the policy team and a consultant from In Control, central government's contribution to championing the implementation of personal budgets and self service for disabled children and their families and carers.

There is also recognition that our data about needs, current and future, arising from disability is not currently accessible or accurate and a working group across Directorate for Children and Adults, health and learning are considering how to rectify this.

The Disabled Children Commissioning Group has become the Disabled Children Strategy Group and incorporated a wider membership drawn from adults social care. This group meets regularly to review the progress against the Disabled Children's Strategy and the related strategic actions. All agencies will follow through on the agreed eligibility criteria.

Locala

Locala clinicians and named nurses facilitate and participate in shared reflective learning work, with colleagues from other health providers, who provide care to children with complex health needs. This work is helping to ensure that care to disabled children is well coordinated, and consistent, and maintains a focus on improving the child's health, safety and circumstances.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

- Contribute to assessment of the 'whole child' to help develop appropriate care packages.
- Aim to maximise communication and communication opportunities and may introduce AAC (Alternative and Augmentative Communication systems) where appropriate e.g. Makaton sign language, use of symbols, visual timetables, use of electronic communication devices e.g. switches.
- Again, advise on and encourage 'communication friendly environments' to maximise their access to communication and learning.
- Assess, advise and treat children with feeding and swallowing difficulties (dysphagia). This results in improved nutrition for children, which in turn improves their medical wellbeing and therefore their life chances. By ensuring that they are eating and drinking safely, risk of illness is reduced.

- Improved medical wellbeing (due to better nutrition) is more likely to result in improved ability to communicate, thus improving access to learning and educational attainment.

Early Intervention and Targeted Support Service

Through universal provision, Early Intervention and Targeted Support is well placed to support the early identification of children with additional needs. The service engages with a significant proportion of the under five population in Kirklees, with significantly higher levels of engagement in areas of highest deprivation.

Accessible Homes Team

- Adapt the family home to ensure the child can be cared for safely, increasing their independence.
- Adaptations to support others in the home environment so that they can safely care for the disabled person.
- Adaptations to enable longer term foster placements/adoption.
- Close/joint working with the Children with a Disability Team around assessing for and provision of advice, equipment and adaptations for the disabled person.
- Provide advice and assistance with re-housing where a persons existing home cannot be made suitable for their needs.
- Provision of adaptations for disabled parents to enable continued safe care of their family in the home.

Kirklees Active Leisure

A “Directory for sport and physical activity for disabled people in Kirklees” <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/localorgs/orgdetails.asp?OrgID=5448> was produced in June 2013 and provides a useful summary of the wide range of opportunities available for local disabled people. This includes a large number of activity sessions and groups that take part at KAL managed facilities or from clubs based within KAL sites. The guide also includes a useful summary of the accessibility of KAL managed sites for use by the disabled. KAL also provides, via the KAL Card, considerably reduced cost access to many activities for disabled children wanting to attend outside of these organised sessions.

KAL is represented on the KSPAP (Kirklees Sport and Physical Activity Partnership) disability group and FLAME club steering groups. Working closely with the new West Yorkshire Sport/Council “Creating Connections” Sport Development officer and the FDSO (Federation of Disability Sports Organisations) to implement some of the recommendations from the FDSO audit into improved accessibility to Kirklees leisure facilities, including staff training.

Northorpe Hall

Northorpe Hall Child and Family Trust run a weekly and term time creative activities group for children with additional needs to build confidence, communication and social skills.

The Trust supports parent self help groups including Parents of Children with Additional Needs, Families with Eating Disorders and provides a venue for SPROUT gardening activities for families

with children with additional needs. The Trust provides land and a venue for young adults with learning disabilities in partnership with Ambitions4Kirklees.

The Trust provides, in partnership with Chevin Housing and Ambitions4Kirklees, supported accommodation for young adults with learning disabilities.

Library and Information Centres

All aboard collections of children's books are in range of accessible formats e.g spoken word, large print, Braille for children with special educational needs, promoted via Sensory Impairment Team this includes school visits.

Transcription service offers support to visually impaired children and their families.

There has been a successful pilot project with Learning Service Early Years Consultant to support children with learning and language disabilities which will be rolled out to targeted schools in 2013/14.

Child Sexual Exploitation – improving life chances of those at risk

A joint priority with the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board

Definition

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive something (for example food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child Sexual Exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

A number of high profile criminal cases have led to a national focus on safeguarding children from sexual exploitation. In light of this, the Safeguarding Children's Board have made this one of their priorities and in support of this the Children's Trust has agreed to make it a priority within the Children and Young People's Plan.

Work is going on nationally, with an All Party Parliamentary Group looking at the issue centrally as well as work going on across West Yorkshire and Kirklees. There are significant partnership operations taking place across the region with a national reporter commissioned to write about child sexual exploitation in the West Yorkshire area. Locally there is a strategic group that deals with policy and procedure and an operational group that looks at risk assessments and the effects on the people involved. This is all crucial to the development of multi agency working, covering all aspects from health and social care to the Police issues.

Outcomes and Performance

This year the Safeguarding Children Board plan to:-

- Finalise the updated West Yorkshire Consortium procedures and protocol in respect of child sexual exploitation to bring them into line with current guidance.
- For the Board to receive a report on the partnership programme in which social workers have been co-located with the police in a safeguarding unit and have been active in providing support and interventions to those thought to be at risk. This will enable the Board to have oversight of the impact of this project and be aware of further challenges to be addressed.
- Develop a clear understanding of child sexual exploitation within Kirklees and an associated action plan to address the challenges identified.
- Consider the best approach to prevent primarily young men engaging in sexually exploitative behaviours. The workstream will seek to explore if there are any links to specific ethnic groups and consider an approach to this.

- Develop the workforce by raising the awareness of child sexual exploitation issues and providing training to essential groups via conferences, briefings, multi agency and single agency training courses.

Key Issues and Challenges

- To develop preventative approaches involving all agencies.
- Working with young people who are potential victims which includes working with schools who have a critical role.
- The partnership has identified the need to focus on public places and licensing arrangements as locations where young people may be at risk.
- Young people as potential perpetrators.
- To set up and maintain a children's partnership wide workforce development programme.

How people are contributing and the role of the Trust

The Trust has a strategic role to oversee the preventative work and will ensure connections are in place with the Safeguarding Board.

All Board members to consider how their agencies/groups they represent can contribute to the preventative agenda and what their staff need to do to help keep children and young people safe. To support these strategic discussions with senior managers, briefing information and a presentation from a member of the child sexual exploitation strategic group will be made available.

The Children's Trust Board to consider resources from agencies in terms of staff time and budgets to deliver the preventative strategy and training programmes.

Locala

Locala named nurses are members of Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board child sexual exploitation workstream, and have contributed to work focused on improving our community response to children at risk of sexual exploitation.

Locala named nurses attend monthly child sexual exploitation operational meetings led by police colleagues to ensure that work to reduce risks of child sexual exploitation to individual children and to our community are well coordinated, and involves contributions from Locala clinicians.

Locala health visitors and school nurses attend specialist training offered by Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that they are skilled in identifying and responding appropriately when risks of child sexual exploitation are identified.

Children's Speech and Language Therapy

- Attend safeguarding training to heighten our awareness of these issues.
- At times, attend safeguarding training sessions of other teams to broaden our knowledge of such areas.
- Seek 1:1 supervision there were concerns which required further support.

- Promote the development of social skills (e.g. what is appropriate behaviour, body language etc) to improve a child's awareness of right/wrong. Often advise schools or help them to set up appropriate social skills groups.
- Support and contribute to the decision making around relevant post-16 setting, to reduce the risk of exploitation where a young person is vulnerable.

Early Intervention and Targeted Support Service

Early Intervention and Targeted Support will play a role in supporting this priority through the ongoing provision of family support services to Kirklees families.

West Yorkshire Probation Trust

The primary Probation contribution is to manage the rise of adult perpetrators convicted and seek to prevent the exploitation of new victims. It will be critical to ensure that when prosecution of the index offence is unrelated to child sexual exploitation that intelligence around areas of risk is communicated to offender managers in Probation.

Kirklees Active Leisure

KAL have a clear Safeguarding Children Policy in place, with related training provided to those employed by KAL. KAL also sit on the Kirklees Safeguarding Board's Voluntary Sector workstream group.

Northorpe Hall

Northorpe Hall Child and Family Trust provide therapeutic services to children who have had traumatic experiences or who may be engaged in risky sexual behavior, and contribute as appropriate.

Library and Information Centres

- All LIC staff are attending E-Safety training.
- All LIC staff have been provided with current guidance on spotting signs of sexual exploitation and what action to take.

Learning and development

In order to help workers in the Integrated Youth Support Service understand and recognise the issue of child sexual exploitation, be able to implement local procedures and respond appropriately, a course was designed together with safeguarding that would suit the service. This was rolled out to staff between April and December 2012. In total 12 courses ran across the nine months with approximately 180 members of staff accessing the training. The course helped staff recognise that many young people (both boys and girls) are vulnerable or involved in sexual exploitation.

The safeguarding level 2 Working Together Course has been rolled out to all staff who work 18.5 hours and above. In total 116 staff members needed to access this course, and by continuing to work closely with safeguarding all the needs were met. This training was rolled out from April

2013 with 65% of staff being trained already with the rest booked on courses in the future. The aim is to have the entire workforce trained to this level by February 2014.