

EVERY CHILD MATTERS IN COUNTY DURHAM

A **Summary** of the
Children and Young People's Plan
2006/09



Making a difference where you live





Every Child Matters in County Durham

Welcome to the first summary of our Children and Young People's Plan 2006/09. It sets out how this plan has come together, what life is like for children and young people in County Durham, what and how we will do things over the next three years to make things better for them. These are the aspirations, actions and targets we will be judged against.

“We have the highest aspirations and ambitions for the children and young people of County Durham and for the services we provide. The Children and Young People's Plan is one of the most important and far reaching documents that Durham County Council has ever produced. It recognises that we can only meet the needs of our children and young people if a wide range of organisations pull together”.

David Williams

David C Williams
Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Services
Durham County Council



Footnote:

This plan covers all children and young people aged 0 – 19 and those aged 19 – 25 who are care leavers or have a learning difficulty.

How did this plan come together?

Young people with different backgrounds and experiences have driven this plan from the start by helping us to understand what matters most. They created our vision and helped us to agree our priorities.

For the last two years we have been gathering information for this Plan. We completed an Audit of Needs and Services in 2005 and agreed the Durham 5 Outcomes Framework. The 2005 Annual Performance Assessment also identified some areas where we needed to do better. All of this information has given us a good picture of what life is like for children and young people in Durham and how it needs to improve.

Using all of this information and guided by the views of young people and all partners, we agreed that these priorities are the key to improving children's lives in County Durham.

What is life like for children and young people in County Durham in 2006?

108,900 children and young people are growing up in County Durham in 2006. Life for them varies a lot in this large county and there are many reasons why some of them may need extra help to achieve good outcomes. For example, about a third of homes with children in the County are on state benefit and are not as well off as others.

Children and young people more likely to experience poorer outcomes include those who:

- have disabilities or special educational needs
- are in public care
- are from black and minority ethnic families,

including travellers, Gypsies, asylum seekers, migrants and refugees

- are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual
- are abusing drugs, alcohol, or other substances, or whose parents do so
- have mental health problems or whose parents do so
- are experiencing family breakdown
- are living in poverty or are homeless
- are caring for family members
- are teenage parents

This Plan will help us to get things done so every child and young person across County Durham can have a healthy, safe, successful, positive and better future. The County Council wants to make sure that through our policies and procedures everyone has a fair chance.

How **healthy** are children and young people in County Durham?

- We have good rates of immunisation (jabs).
- 98 of the 156 schools in deprived areas had achieved the National Healthy School Standard.
- 20% are estimated to have mental health needs at some time.
- We have high rates of teenage pregnancy.

How **safe** are children and young people in County Durham?

- There are fewer children on the Children Protection Register than other North Eastern councils.
- When children and young people are victims of crime, incidents are less likely to be reported.

- Many children and young people in County Durham are likely to witness domestic violence and are potentially at risk of significant harm.
- Over 600 young people aged between 16 and 19 were homeless or at risk of homelessness in the year up to April 2005.

How well do children in County Durham enjoy and achieve?

- 90% of 3 year olds are in good quality educational settings.
- 45% of children aged 0 - 5 live in Sure Start areas.
- School attendance is the highest ever.
- School exclusions are low.
- Primary school achievement is similar to levels across England and improving.
- In English, Mathematics and Science at age 14 the gap between County and national figures is narrowing.
- In 2005 51.3% pupils achieved more than 5 or more GCSE A* to C grades.
- We need to do more work on “enjoy”.

How do children and young people make a positive contribution?

- 169 organisations across County Durham have achieved Investing in Children membership.
- 83% of schools who responded to a recent survey have a School Council.
- Engagement in the Youth Crime Prevention Strategy initiatives is high.
- 6,500 under 19’s are involved in community activities.
- All young people aged 13-19 have access to a Connexions Personal Adviser.

How well do young people achieve economic well being?

- We have a range of work placements and secondary school careers education.
- New vocational diplomas and pathways are being introduced from Key Stage 4 to link school to work.
- We have very high rates of young people not in employment, education and training.

What we want to do to make things better and how we will do this

Our Vision for Children, Young People and Their Families

In County Durham, all children young people and their families will:

- Be healthy
- Be safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Have economic well being

All children, young people and their families will be:

- Listened to
- A full part of decision making
- Comfortable with the decision making process
- Aware of the opportunities to be involved
- Treated with the same respect, dignity and status as adults

It is recognised that the involvement of some groups of young people may pose challenges to organisations. This is a challenge we wish to meet.

OUR PRIORITIES

To achieve this vision we all agreed 14 of the most important things that matter to us and what we will do to make them better.

BEING HEALTHY

We want more children and young people to choose a healthy lifestyle

We will:

- Reduce smoking
- Tackle childhood obesity and increase opportunities for physical activity
- Do the basics well – including immunisation, breast feeding support, and child health checks
- Ensure young people have confidential access to information and support
- Reduce teenage pregnancy
- Address substance misuse

We want all children to be able to access services to support emotional wellbeing

We will:

- Promote emotional wellbeing
- Improve access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

STAYING SAFE

We want parents and carers to have skills and support needed to be effective throughout all stages of family development

We will:

- Provide support for parents-to-be and for the development of parenting skills
- Ensure safeguarding of children living with parents who misuse drugs and alcohol.

We want children and young people to be protected from homelessness and eviction.

We will:

- Make sure all agencies work together to tackle homelessness

We want children and young people to be safe from bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour.

We will ensure:

- Children and young people are safe from domestic abuse
- Children are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

We want to ensure that the gap in school results between the highest and lowest achievers is reduced.

We will:

- Ensure children and young people are safe from prejudice based on their race, culture, religion, disability or sexual orientation
- Ensure the gap between boys' and girls' achievement is narrowed
- Increase attainment levels of vulnerable groups
- Raise educational attainment at age 14 and 16
- Encourage pupils to enjoy school and ensure they feel respected

We want children and young people to access safe play, learning and leisure facilities

We will:

- Improve access to leisure opportunities

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

We want children, young people and their families to join in with community activities, say what they need and see the results.

We will:

- Involve young people by ensuring that their views are made known and followed up
- Increase opportunities for making a positive contribution in the community
- Increase opportunities for young people from under-supported backgrounds and minority / hard-to-reach groups like those on page 1.

We want a positive image of children and young people to be promoted so they feel respected in their communities and by service providers

We will:

- Tackle discrimination against young people

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELLBEING

We want to reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty or suffering its effects

We will:

- Reduce child poverty e.g. by increasing childcare places to enable parents to work

We want more young people to have learning opportunities such as apprenticeships leading to jobs, so there is less chance of being disadvantaged.

We will:

- Reduce levels of young people who are not at college, in training or at work
- Encourage all young people to aim higher and not stick to “traditional” roles

Three more things we need to improve so that we can meet our key priorities

We will provide more safe and affordable transport, so there is better access to jobs, leisure and services including for those living in rural areas.

We will improve data collection, sharing and analysis across all agencies

We will work to meet the needs of vulnerable and minority / hard-to-reach children and young people

Working together to improve life for children and young people?

One Service for children, young people and their families

The new Children's Services Authority will bring together Education and children's Social Care services to work as partners with other agencies such as Health, Connexions, Youth Engagement Service, Learning and Skills Council, the Police District Councils and many others.

Working in Partnership

All agencies in County Durham want to make sure they help families

- do the best they can for their own children
- feel part of a supportive community
- get the services they need when they need them

The full plan describes how services will be planned and delivered in partnership through Local Children's Boards and an Executive Group. It also shows how we will check that services are value for money.

The full Children and Young People's Plan and the detailed Action Plan can be downloaded from our website:

www.everychildmattersincountydurham.org

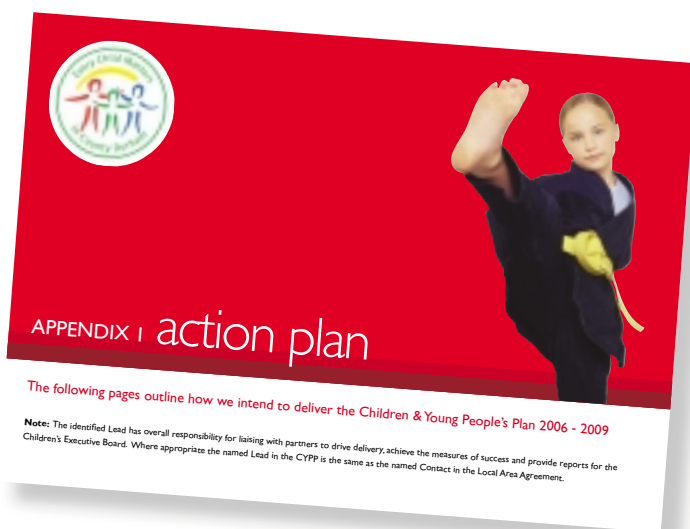
Engaging children, young people and parents

Children, young people and parents will remain at the heart of our work and will have the chance to shape the services they receive and to be involved in all of our decisions.

Our Staff

We have many excellent staff in County Durham. We want all children and young people to receive the right service at the right time from the right person. So everyone who works with children and young people in County Durham will need to have a common core of skills and knowledge, use the Common Assessment Framework and Lead Professional arrangements. All of our staff need to be involved as we introduce these changes.

Working together, we will make things better.



Every Child Matters in County Durham



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For further information about the plan or for further copies of this Summary of the Children and Young People's Plan, please contact:

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If you need this information summarised in another language or format such as Braille or talking tape, please call the number below.

إذا اردت معرفت ملخص هذه المعلومات باللغة العربية اتصل علي الرقم التالي
Arabic

আকারে এই তথ্যটি পেতে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করুন:
Bengali

假如您需要這份資料的中文摘要，請致電下面的號碼。
Chinese

यदि आप यह जानकारी का संक्षेप हिन्दी में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निचे दिए हुए नम्बर में सम्पर्क करें।
Hindi

Jezeli potrzebujesz streszczenia tych informacji w jezyku polskim zadzwon prosze na ponizszy numer
Polish

ਜਾਂ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਖਬਰ ਦਾ ਨਿਚੋੜ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਥੱਲੇ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਹੋਏ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।
Punjabi

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات اردو میں درکار ہیں تو اس نمبر پر کال کیجیے۔
Urdu

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