



North Tyneside Council

Family Friendly Sub- committee

5 January 2024

Thursday, 11 January 2024 0.01 Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY commencing at 6.00 pm.

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Members of the Family Friendly Sub-committee

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Councillor Bruce Pickard

Councillor Sarah Day

Councillor Val Jamieson

Councillor Josephine Mudzingwa

Councillor Rebecca O'Keefe

Councillor Erin Parker-Leonard (Chair)

Councillor Judith Wallace

Meeting: Family Friendly Sub-Committee

Date: 11th January 2024

Title: Safeguarding update

Author: Mary Connor

Service: Childrens Services

Wards affected: All Wards

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the committee with an update on current information in relation to children open to children's social care over Quarter 1 and 2 20/23 and provide some information about our comparison against regional indicators for Quarter 2

To provide an update on some of our key service developments over the next few months in children's social care.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that committee members:

1. Take note of the contents of the report.
2. Offer any suggestions for future reports in this area.

3. Information

Performance

- 3.1 Quarter 1 saw an increase in the number of referrals received month on month and reached 210 in June. There was a slight reduction in referrals in

the middle part of Quarter 2 to 142 in August (which would be normal in the school summer holidays) before picking up again in September to 200. Our rate of referrals per 10,000 in Quarter 2 is below the North East average at 523.4 per 10,000 and has reduced by 3.9% on 22/23.

3.2 The total number of children in need who were open to statutory social work services has fluctuated across Quarter 1 and 2 starting from 1654 children in April with a reduction during the summer and into the end of Quarter 2 down to 1617. We continued to have one of the lowest rates of children in need per 10,000 in the region in Quarter 2 at 386.5 per 10,000 and saw a reduction of 3.9% on the same point in 22/23.

3.3 The number of children on a child protection plan has remained consistently lower than 2022/23. In Quarter 2 North Tyneside had the lowest rate of children on a child protection plan per at 40.6 10,000 in the region and there was a 20.9% reduction on the rate at the same time in 22/23. The main reasons for children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan remain emotional abuse and neglect.

3.4 We have seen a rise in our children in care number across Quarters 1 and 2, with 7.8% of these being Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. Despite this we still have the second lowest rate of children in our care at 92 per 10,000 in the region in Quarter 2.

3.5 We have had a number of inspections or monitoring visits to our internal residential children's homes provisions in Quarters 1 and 2. Riverdale and Sycamore were both rated Good. Beech had a monitoring visit as a result of a previous inspection finding of Requires Improvement and was deemed to be making appropriate progress.

Service Developments

3.6 A key area for development continues to be the recruitment and retention of staff in key service areas in social care, primarily social workers, early

help staff and residential workers. This is a regional and national challenge with all local authorities. We are working with the recruitment and communications teams to develop approaches to make us stand out from other authorities and are reviewing our current wellbeing offer to staff to ensure it continues to meet needs.

3.7 We are providing a range of management development support to managers across the service through a number of different ways recognising the important role that our first line managers, particularly, play in ensuring the quality of practice with children and families.

3.8 We continue to monitor the amount and types of homes we need for children in our care across all areas and develop these. This includes being part of the regional Fostering pilot which has been developed as part of the 'Stable Homes Built on Love'. We also continue to review and develop our own internal group living accommodation. Positively our supported accommodation provision for 16/17 year olds, Starting Point, is now registered with Ofsted.

3.9 We have led on a DfE funded piece of work 'Childrens Voices' which has involved jointly working with Northumberland, Professors Eileen Munro and Andrew Turnell to test out ways in which practitioners can use different approaches to gathering children's voices and using feedback to inform their work. It has involved national working with Coram Voice and gathering views from other local authorities to provide recommendations to the DfE around potential ways in which how local authorities gather and use feedback from children and families could be measured.

3.10 We have started to roll out 'Family Seeing' training to support practice in enabling families to develop family networks by the use of a range of tools. The first session of training took place in November with further training planned and regular support opportunities planned for staff who have attended to help embed them in practice.

4.1 The senior management team in children's social care receive a range of reports providing data to monitor the number of children involved with the children's care system. This includes a monthly dashboard presented to the senior management team containing the key information highlighted above.

4.2 Regionally we provide data to enable a regional quarterly report to be produced. South Tyneside take the lead for producing this report.

4.3 Childrens social care has a number of plans and strategies which support the development work we are doing.

5. Appendices

None

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Meeting: Family Friendly Sub-Committee

Date: 11 January 2024

Title: Ambition for Education (refresh) 2024–2028

Author: Lisa Cook, Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion

Service: Children and Young People’s learning

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek comments and input from the committee to shape the initial proposal of the priorities set out within the refresh of the Ambition for Education 2024–2028.

1.1.2 The Ambition for Education 2024–2028 refresh, sets out the priorities and objectives that will impact positively on the education of all children and young people, ensuring they have access to a high-class education in order to achieve their full potential.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that committee members

- (1) Consider the proposals for the refresh of Ambition for Education 2024–2028 in terms of the priorities and note that following this, consultation with young people is planned to commence as part of next steps to further shape and inform the priorities.

- (2) Note the final version of refreshed Plan will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in the Authority's Constitution.

3. Information

- 3.1 The 2024 – 2028 strategy is the second Ambition for Education that the Authority has produced. The previous Ambition for Education was launched in March 2020, with the changing needs both in North Tyneside and nationally shaping the development and delivery of this strategy with covid recovery.
- 3.2 A refresh of the strategy (2024 – 2028) and its priorities has commenced in light of the impact of covid on children, young people and families to ensure that all children in North Tyneside are able to achieve their full potential.
- 3.3 The Ambition for Education (refresh) 2024 – 2028 aligns with the priorities in our North Tyneside Plan and is developed and owned by Education North Tyneside.
- 3.4 The Ambition for Education (refresh) 2024 – 2028 is a key mechanism by which we deliver the objectives linked to 'A family-friendly North Tyneside' – we will support local schools, making sure all children have access to a high-quality education with opportunities to catch up where needed after the pandemic.
- 3.5 The Ambition for Education (refresh) 2024 – 2028 focuses on delivering improved outcomes for all children and young people up to the age of 19 years, and those young people aged up to 25 years who are care leavers, have special educational needs or a disability and live in the borough.
- 3.6 The Children and Young People's plan sets out our collective vision for children and young people in North Tyneside of: *"Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to*

thrive; where all, can access a high-class education with a culture of inclusion and achievement.”

3.7 The Ambition for Education (refresh) 2024 – 2028 will focus on the following key priorities and objectives:

- Achievement for All – ‘challenge and support schools and settings to improve outcomes both academic and personal for all children and young people in North Tyneside’
 - Broaden and develop the School Development Partner programme to include neighbouring Local Authorities including multi academy trusts.
 - Work with schools to reduce the number of exclusions and suspensions and improve attendance.
 - Work with schools to improve SEND provision across the Local Authority.
 - Work with schools to develop a high-quality curriculum offer for all pupils which will improve academic outcomes and progress.

- Careers and Employability – ‘improve the quality of Career Education Information and Guidance’
 - To improve careers, education, information, advice and guidance from primary school to post 16 to ensure that there is an appropriate awareness of the range of routes available to young people.
 - Ensuring there are sufficient high-quality post 16 progression pathways

- Early Childhood Education and Childcare – ‘support and challenge all who work with children from 2 years old to give them the best start in life’
 - Effective Leadership for Early Years phase leads, headteachers and managers.
 - Planned, enacted, impactful and inclusive curriculum that is well understood.
 - All schools and settings are knowledgeable and skilful in the provision effective language development.

- All schools and settings have well trained staff skilled in adaptive teaching to meet the needs of children.
- Effective implementation of government funded places priority
- Health and Wellbeing – ‘tackle the physical and mental health inequalities for young people’
 - Provide all pupils with the opportunity to engage in a broad, balanced and accessible offer in PE, school sport and physical activity (PESSPA); to create life-long approach to being physically active to support their physical and mental health.
- Leadership and Retention – ‘inspire the leaders of our schools to continue to develop their professional learning to raise standards in North Tyneside’
 - Continue to develop the headteachers’ induction programme, ensuring that it reflects current challenges and draws on the expertise of experienced headteachers.
 - Continue to support distributed leadership including deputies and assistant headteachers, subject leaders and other specialist posts through central training and bespoke professional development in schools.
 - Explore and enact effective professional development imaginative opportunities for experienced headteachers and other senior leaders including colleagues from multi academy trusts in the borough.
 - Maintain a high profile for governor services through events and training opportunities for governors from all schools and academies across the year.

3.8 Despite the many significant achievements that the Authority has delivered in recent years, there remain many challenges that the Authority continues to be focused on. Alongside the changing need and demand, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Authority’s understanding of its challenges and what is important to children and young people have informed the priorities and actions

set out in the refreshed strategy to meet those different needs and help all children and young people thrive.

- 3.9 We have developed a tracker to deliver against the priorities and objectives and data will enable us to evidence the outcomes achieved for children and young people in North Tyneside.

4. Background Information

4.1 The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report:

- (1) [Ambition for Education - Education Strategy for North Tyneside 2020-2024](#)
- (2) [2020-24 Our North Tyneside Plan](#)
- (3) [North Tyneside Council Constitution: Part 4.7 Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules](#)

5. Appendices

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