

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 14 October 2024

Title: Children and Young People's Plan 2024-25

Portfolio(s):	Supporting and Protecting Children	Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Peter Earley
Report from Service Area:	Children, Young People and Learning		
Responsible Officer:	Julie Firth, Director of Children's Services	Tel: 0191 643 1454	
Wards affected:	All		

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 appended to this report and for the refreshed Plan to be presented to full Council on 21 November 2024 for Council's approval.
- 1.1.2 Cabinet will recall that the refreshed Children and Young People's plan 2024-2025 was previously endorsed by Cabinet on 16 September 2024. Subsequent to this, a small amendment has been made, requiring Cabinet to endorse this Children and Young People's Plan, before it is presented to full Council for Council's approval.

1.1.3 The current Children and Young People's Plan 2021–2025 was developed in 2020 and published in 2021 following approval by full Council on 18 March 2021. The Plan is set to be fully reviewed in 2025.

1.1.4 The Children and Young People's Plan explains how services will work together to support and help children and young people who live and go to school in the Borough.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

1.2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

(1) Notes the work that has been undertaken by the Authority with its partners, to co-produce the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan for 2024–2025 appended to this report.

(2) Endorses the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan for 2024–2025 appended to this report and recommend that the refreshed Plan be adopted by full Council on 21 November 2024.

1.3 Forward Plan:

1.3.1 Twenty eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 2 August 2024.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

1.4.1 This report relates to the following priorities in the 2021–2025 Our North Tyneside Plan:

1.4.2 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.
- We will provide outstanding children's services, events and facilities so North Tyneside is a great place for family life.

- We will ensure all children are ready for school including through poverty proofing the school day – giving our kids the best start in life.

1.4.3 A Caring North Tyneside:

- We will provide great care to all who need it, with extra support available all the way through to the end of the pandemic.
- We will work with the care provision sector to improve working conditions for care workers.
- People will be cared for, protected and supported if they become vulnerable, including if they become homeless.
- We will support local community groups and the essential work they do.
- We will work to reduce inequalities, eliminate discrimination and ensure the social rights of the people of North Tyneside are key to council decision making.

1.4.4 The Children and Young People’s Plan 2024-2025 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.

1.4.5 The Local Authorities (Functions and responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 specify that the Children and Young People’s Plan is the shared responsibility of Cabinet and Full Council. Accordingly, the Policy forms part of the Authority’s Budget and Policy Framework and this report is submitted to Cabinet in pursuance of the established process set out in Part 4.7 of the Constitution in relation to the formulation and approval of plans and strategies comprised in the Budget and Policy Framework.

1.5 **Information:**

1.5.1 The North Tyneside Children and Young People’s Plan 2024-2025 was developed by and is owned by the Children and Young People’s Partnership (“the Partnership”). The Partnership brings together the

Authority, public, voluntary and community sector organisations to improve the lives of the Borough's children and young people.

- 1.5.2 The Children and Young People's Plan was last published in 2021 following its approval by full Council on 18 March 2021. The Plan will be fully revisited in 2025, when the current Our North Tyneside Plan ends. This refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 describes the Partnership's priorities over the next 18 months, reflecting the impact of the pandemic and inequalities children, young people and families continue to experience.
- 1.5.3 The refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 is a key strategy for the Partnership to deliver in accordance with the priorities set out within the Our North Tyneside Plan. The Plan sets out the strategic framework and partnership priorities to ensure that all children in North Tyneside live a safe, happy and healthy life, and are able to achieve their full potential.
- 1.5.4 The Plan also supports the delivery of two key objectives set by the Authority's joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, (Equally Well: A healthier, fairer future for North Tyneside), namely, that children and young people should have 'the best start in life' and can therefore 'maximise their capabilities'.
- 1.5.5 The Partnership's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Executive Group sets out the Partnership's safeguarding priorities and arrangements for keeping children and young people safe; this refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 also reflects the MASA's priorities.
- 1.5.6 The priorities within the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 are informed by a detailed understanding of need across the Borough and reflect activity which the Partnership is driving forward to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in the Borough. It builds on the positive work delivered in line with the current published Children and Young People Plan 2021-2025.

1.5.7 The Children and Young People’s Plan 2024-2025 is co-produced by the Authority and the Partnership and is informed by what children and young people have told the Authority and the Partnership is important to them during engagement throughout 2023 and 2024. The Plan is underpinned by a shared ambition to provide children and young people with the best start in life, with the aim of reducing health inequalities and maximising their capabilities, providing the right support at the right time and preventing needs from escalating wherever possible. The Plan reinforces the Partnership’s commitment to enabling the voice of children to be heard and responded to and ensures that prevention is front and centre in all the Partnership’s work.

1.1.6 This plan is underpinned by a robust delivery plan overseen by the Children and Young People Partnership Board.

1.5.5 The Authority and its partner’s vision and ambitions

1.5.6 The Children and Young People’s Plan 2024-2025 sets out how the Authority and its partners will work together to achieve its vision for children and young people in North Tyneside, which is:

“Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or disabled, are ready for school, ready for work and life, cared for and supported.”

1.5.7 In delivering on this vision the Partnership has set four priorities, that children and young people will live a safe life, a happy life, a healthy life, and that they are able to achieve in life in North Tyneside.

1.5.8 For each priority the Partnership has developed a revised outcomes framework setting out what they wish to achieve. These are as follows.

- **To have a safe life** we want North Tyneside to be a place where children and young people are protected from harm, live in safe

communities, and are supported and cared for within their family and wider networks.

- **To have a happy life** we want children and young people to be empowered to be resilient, happy in their schools and settings, and to thrive with strong support networks, connected to their communities.
- **To have a healthy life** we want children, young people and their families to benefit from the best start in life, experience improved health outcomes, and improved emotional health and wellbeing, with those who are neurodivergent able to live in neuro-comfortable, inclusive communities.
- **To be able to achieve in life** we want children and young people to be ready for school, safer in education, supported by strong attendance, and to experience a high class, inclusive education where they maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.

1.5.9 These priority outcomes are underpinned by the Authority's and the Partnership's shared principles and strong commitment, to listen to the voices of children and young people and that the Authority and Partnership continue to further develop and embed the prevention and early help agenda, to enable them to identify and meet the needs of children, young people and their networks early, preventing needs from escalating wherever possible.

1.5.10 The Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 is underpinned by strong governance arrangements with a robust 18-month delivery action plan in place, overseen by the Children and Young People Partnership Board, which in turn reports progress into the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership.

1.6 Decision options:

1.6.1 The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet agrees the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Cabinet does not agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

1.7.2 Option 1 is recommended for the following reason:

1.7.3 The Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 is a key plan to deliver the priorities set out within the Our North Tyneside Plan 2021-2025. Cabinet's endorsement of the refreshed Plan will enable the Plan to be presented to full Council on 21 November 2024.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: The Refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025

1.9 Contact officers:

- Julie Firth, Director Children's Services, Children, Young People and Learning, tel. (0191) 643 1454
- Mark Mirfin, Head of Commissioning Partnerships and Transformation, Children, Young People and Learning, tel. (0191) 643 8091

1.10 Background information:

1.10.1 The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) The Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025
- (2) Equally Well: A Healthier, Fairer future for North Tyneside (2021 - 2025) [Equally Well Strategy](#)
- (3) Children and Young People's Plan Refresh report to Family Friendly Sub-Committee (24 June 2024) [Children and Young Peoples Plan Refresh report](#)
- (4) Children and Young People's Plan Regulations (2005) [The Children and Young People's Plan \(England\) Regulations 2005](#)
- (5) Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025 [Children and young people plan | North Tyneside Council](#)
- (6) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Annual Report [Annual Reports | North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Partnership \(northtynesidescp.org.uk\)](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

2.1.2 The Children and Young People Plan 2024-2025 priorities are aligned with the Our North Tyneside Plan and are consistent with the Authority's existing financial and resource planning priorities.

2.2 Legal

2.2.1 Under the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005 ("the Regulations") the Authority is required to prepare, consult upon and publish a Children and Young People's Plan and to review the Plan.

2.2.2 The Regulations require the Authority to review the Children and Young People's Plan in each year. During the conduct of such a review the Authority should consult with such persons as it considers appropriate and publish the outcome of the review. Those who were consulted as part of this review are referred to in section 2.3 of this report.

2.2.3 The review undertaken this year has resulted in the refreshed Children and Young Person's Plan appended to this report.

2.2.4 As referred to in the body of the report, the Children and Young People's Plan is the shared responsibility of Cabinet and Council and is not to be the sole responsibility of Cabinet. It is for this reason that the Plan forms part of the Authority's Budget and Policy Framework

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation:

2.3.2 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Supporting and Protecting Children and with a range of representatives from across Children, Young People and Learning.

2.3.3 The initial proposals for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 were presented to the Family Friendly Sub-Committee on 16 November 2023. The final proposals for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 were presented to the Family Friendly Sub-Committee on 24 July 2024. The Sub-Committee's observations were taken into account when finalising the refreshed Plan.

2.3.4 External Consultation/Engagement:

2.3.5 The Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 and its priorities have been developed through engagement with partners represented across the children and young people's partnership.

2.3.6 The Authority and partners also regularly engage with children and young people through a variety of mechanisms and methods, and their views have shaped the strategic outcomes and priorities contained within. This includes the 2023 Young People's Annual Conference, Young Mayor and MYP project and elections, Make your Mark annual consultation, Youth Council and Committees, Special Educational Needs and Disability Youth Forum, Children in Care Council and Annual Conversation projects, Youth Offer work, Schools of Sanctuary project and the Children's Council.

2.4 Human rights

2.4.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report. However, if there are changes made to the provision of services for children, young people and their families, then regard will be had to relevant legislation, including but not limited to:

- Children Act, 2004.
- The Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.
- Human Rights Act, 1998.
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

2.5.1 The Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2025 will contribute to the Authority's statutory equalities duties. It will advance the equality of opportunity for children and young people, with a focus upon those who are experiencing or at increased risk of experiencing vulnerability and / or deprivation. It will also contribute to the achievement of the two other key aims of the Equality Act 2010 and the public sector equality duty contained in the Act; to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share those characteristics.

2.5.2 Individual Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken and updated as part of change, project planning and development of all actions detailed within the plan.

2.6 Risk management

2.6.1 Should this plan not be adopted, the Authority would be failing to adhere to the legislation set out in section 2.2.

2.6.2 Failure to deliver priorities could limit the Authority and partnership's ability to improve outcomes for children and young people.

2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 The partnership's work will seek to reduce risk taking behaviour and the number of children and young people engaging in alcohol and drug misuse, and anti-social behaviour. We seek to reduce the number of first-time entrants to the Criminal Justice System and those who become repeat young-offenders.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 There are no direct environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Interim Director of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service