

# Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

**Date:** 2 February 2021

**Title:** Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025

Author: Mark Jupp, Senior Manager - Transformation Tel: 0191 643 5332

Service: Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

Wards affected: All

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide additional information in relation to queries raised by the Committee when considering the draft of the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-25 on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

1.2 Further information was requested by the Committee in relation to:

- The number and rate of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and approaches to support young people
- The proportion of children with SEND educated outside of North Tyneside
- The priorities within the developing Autism Strategy
- The priorities within the developing SEND Inclusion Strategy

1.3 The remainder of the report provides additional information in relation to those areas requested.

## 2. Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

2.1 In response to a comment by the Committee, additional emphasis has been added to the draft Children and Young People's Plan in relation to the focus on supporting young people into Education, Employment or Training (EET).

2.2 The table below indicates the key indicators and their comparison to regional and national averages, as at December 2020.

Measure	North Tyneside	North East	England
16-17 year olds who are NEET	2.8%	4.6%	2.7%
16-17 year olds with destinations unknown	1.6%	1.3%	3.6%
16-17 year olds in EET	93.9%	92.0%	92.1%
16-24 year olds with SEND with destinations unknown	13.1%	16.4%	38.0%

16-24 year olds with SEND in EET	64.9%	67.2%	51.3%
----------------------------------	-------	-------	-------

2.3 Connexions Advisers returned to working in schools in September 2020 but have reverted to telephone and online delivery, following the latest national lockdown measures being introduced. Google Classroom is being used to provide virtual careers guidance sessions

2.4 Interventions with young people that are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET are a key priority, including young people with SEND. Work is also continuing with social workers, leaving care advisors, and other professionals to support children in care and care leavers via telephone and online support. Virtual Helping Hands groups have been established to support vulnerable young people with social, emotional and mental health issues

2.5 National Apprenticeship Week (February 2021) and National Careers Week (March 2021) are providing additional opportunities to engage virtually with young people, teachers and parents with a range of activities taking place.

2.6 Despite the ongoing work, there are considerable concerns that young people will be disproportionately impacted by the current crisis and resulting economic impact. The impact and additional actions to mitigate this are being considered and taken forward with regional colleagues as part of the North East Covid-19 Regional Response Group, with North Tyneside Council leading the input of data and intelligence on EET and NEET. The team also continue to closely follow and respond to additional regional and national policy and funding announcements.

### **3. Number of out-of-borough education placements**

3.1 Over the past two years, the overall number of children in out-of-borough educational placements has increased. At December 2020, there were 215 out of borough placements recorded, which is a 20% increase on the same time last year.

3.2 This, in part, reflects the overall increase in children and young people with identified SEND, which is the case both nationally and in North Tyneside.

3.3 The proportion of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who are in an out-of-borough education placement has increased from 11% last year to 12% this year.

3.4 The priority contained within the Children and Young People's Plan relating to children with additional needs includes a key action aimed at increasing the proportion of children and young people with SEND who are educated in North Tyneside.

### **4. Autism Strategy**

4.1 A multi-agency group is developing a co-produced All-Age Autism Strategy for the borough. Initial consultation and engagement with people with autism, their carers, and a range of professionals, which commenced in early 2020 but has been impacted by the response to Covid-19, identified a set of high-level priorities:

- Getting support with diagnosis faster; identify people's needs and meet these in a timely manner
- Support people with autism to understand what it means to live with the condition and the impact it has on their families
- Awareness raising in universal and specialist services – so people with autism can be supported appropriately
- People with autism and families will be listened to and taken seriously
- We have inclusive communities - including school communities, where people with autism are welcome, safe and able to contribute
- Support is available for people with autism who are going through life changes

4.2 Engagement will continue with service users and key stakeholders, as the priorities are developed as part of the strategy, with a supporting action plan to take forward.

4.3 It is intended that the Autism Strategy will be presented to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board in summer 2021.

## **5. SEND Inclusion Strategy**

5.1 A verbal update and presentation will be provided to the Committee in relation to the SEND Inclusion Strategy by Kevin Burns, Assistant Director, SEND.