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Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

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Tel direct: 01670 622614

Date: Wednesday, 24 March 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at a virtual meeting of the **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held on **THURSDAY, 1 APRIL 2021 at 10.00 AM.**

Please note this will be a "virtual meeting" that will be streamed live on our Youtube channel at [youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV](https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV)

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee members as follows:-

M Swinburn (Chair), K Stow (Vice-Chair), D Campbell, T Cessford, W Daley, S Dickinson, L Dunn, J Lang, Lawrie and R Wallace

L Haughton, A Hodgson, D Lennox, P Rickeard and J Sanderson

Cabinet Members: R Dodd and G Renner-Thompson

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this virtual meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting. However, the only participants in the virtual meeting will be the Councillors concerned and the officers advising the Committee.



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest) they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. NB Any member needing clarification must contact the monitoring officer by email at monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

3. FORWARD PLAN

(Pages 1
- 2)

To note the latest Forward Plan of key decisions for April to July 2021. Any further changes made to the Forward Plan will be reported to the Committee.

4. EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY PORTFOLIO NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY

(Pages 3
- 16)

The report provides the Committee with an overview of the ongoing projects and work in the Inclusive Economy portfolio within the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

5. MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS

(Pages
17 - 28)

The report informs the Committee about the current offer of mental health support available to students and staff in schools across Northumberland. It offers a comprehensive overview of support provided across NCC and partner agencies and summarises the position with regard to services usually available, and the additional offer in place to support during the COVID 19 pandemic.

6. FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MONITORING REPORT 2019/20.

(Pages
29 - 44)

Members are asked to review and note the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and Monitoring Report.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or

b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-registerable personal interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.

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Forward Plan

FORTHCOMING CABINET DECISIONS APRIL TO JULY 2021

DECISION	PROPOSED SCRUTINY DATE	CABINET DATE
Financial Performance 2020-21 - Provisional Outturn The report will provide Cabinet with the revenue financial position as at 31 March 2021 for the Council against the Budget for 2020-21. (N. Oliver/A. Elsdon 01670 622168)		11 May 2021

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Northumberland County Council

COMMITTEE: FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 1ST April 2021

EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY PORTFOLIO NORTH OF TYNE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Report of: Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director Children's Services

Cabinet Member: Cllr Richard Dodd, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Secretary

Purpose of report

To provide the Families and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny committee with an overview of the ongoing projects and work in the Inclusive Economy portfolio within the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

Recommendations

Committee is recommended to:

- Review the key themes and workstreams in the Inclusive Economy portfolio and the progress to date
- Review the plan for the Joint School Improvement Strategy
- Consider the work of the Northumberland Officers Group developing projects for submission to meet the needs of Northumberland.
- Identify any areas for further scrutiny

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- We want you to have access to the things you need; 'connecting'
- We want you to achieve and realise your potential; 'learning'
- We want you to attract more and better jobs; 'thriving'

1.0 Key issues

1.1 The Ambition:

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) is focused on developing an inclusive and dynamic economy, for us this means becoming the home of ambition and opportunity for all.

The Combined Authority believes in opportunity for all, removing the barriers which make it difficult for people to take up employment and training opportunities. We want to empower our people with the skills and resources they need to take ownership of their futures and secure good jobs with fair living wages.

We will be the home of ambition, where every resident owns their economic future and all young people to have high aspirations, with support to enable them to make good choices.

We will work to increase the earnings, qualifications levels and progression routes accessible to local residents so that every resident has the tools and confidence to access the higher skilled jobs in future.

1.2 What success will look like

We are focused on narrowing the gap both between the area and the national average (outside London) and within the area to reduce inequality; this includes:

- Closing the gap on average earnings: Increasing the earnings, qualifications levels and progression routes for local residents will be an important issue as an inclusive economy to ensure residents have access to new higher skilled jobs in future
- Closing the unemployment gap: Remove the barriers which make it difficult for people to take up employment and training opportunities
- Closing the skills and education gap: Through good schools and colleges, make sure our young people have the skills, experience and qualifications to take up quality training and jobs
- Closing the aspiration and ambition gap: So that local people own their own economic future and all young people to have high aspirations and confidence, with support to enable them to make good choices

2.0 Inclusive Economy Board

2.1 The NTCA Inclusive Economy Board (IE Board) was launched in March 2020 and advises the NTCA Cabinet on inclusive economy interventions across the North of Tyne area, championing the NTCA Vision and supporting the area to become a national exemplar in inclusive growth.

2.2 Independently chaired by the Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle and including membership at senior level from business, local government, central government, civil society and experts in inclusive and economic growth, the IE Board provides robust governance for a strategic approach to better integrate and strengthen education, skills and employment interventions in order to improve local education and employment outcomes for North of Tyne residents.

2.3 The IE Board provides oversight of the jointly developed Employment Framework Agreement between NTCA and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Approved in October 2020, the Framework will make a significant contribution to creating an inclusive economy, focussed on coordinating employment, skills and health services to move more people into good work.

“In March, I was made chair of the North of Tyne Inclusive Economy board. It’s a role I was proud to adopt. The North of Tyne Combined Authority created the Inclusive Economy Board to find new ways to raise opportunity through work and training for people in Newcastle, Northumberland, and North Tyneside, whatever their circumstances. By doing this, and by working together across the public, private and voluntary sectors, we will help create the more fair – and green – economy that we want to see flourish in our region. Crucially, the board is about doing not discussing: it’s about driving forward real change to move us further, faster towards our goal of creating a fairer and more inclusive economy here.”

The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle and independent chair of The North of Tyne Inclusive Economy Board

3.0 Good Work Pledge

NTCA has co-developed the Good Work Pledge, which enables employers to understand the key elements of Good Work, what they can do to achieve this for their employees and what support is available to help them get there. It is not a formal accreditation or award, but instead represents a set of five pledges that businesses can work towards, support and receive recognition for.



A Good Work Pledge launch event took place in November 2020 with 97 participants. A number of applications are either approved or in development. Here is a video of some early adopters

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2ZRMQHZESg>

“We want people who work for us to have the opportunity to reach their potential, so signing up to an initiative which recognises this was a step in the right direction,” .. Unisus.

Good Work Pledge Early Adopters

GOOD WORK PLEDGE LAUNCH

These are just some of the organisations joining us so far...



4.0 Adult Education Budget devolution

- 4.1 A significant contribution to the Inclusive Economy ambition has been in the successful devolution of the Adult Education Budget which went live in August 2020. This has allowed us to ensure that over £23million every year is being invested in the skills development of our residents to move them closer to, into and progress in work, matching skills to the jobs in our area. We have developed the North of Tyne AEB Skills Plan to provide the area with a strategic approach to skills development, and we are also maximising the benefits of a devolved fund, responding swiftly to the COVID-19 crisis.
- 4.2 Providers are working in extremely challenging circumstances and we are providing stability and flexibilities where possible to ensure that delivery is maintained throughout and beyond the current crisis.
- 4.3 Providers have implemented innovative plans to ensure delivery of the devolved AEB continues during the COVID-19 crisis. This has included transferring provision on-line, supporting vulnerable learners through one to one video calls and where classrooms have been able to open, delivering to groups of learners with effective safety measures in place.
- 4.4 Up to the beginning of November 2020, AEB has supported 8545 enrolment opportunities undertaken by North of Tyne residents aged 19 and above. We have already received much feedback on how this funding is making a positive impact to people's lives and we have case studies from a number of residents providing us with 'their story' on how the courses they are taking are building their confidence and skills, and supporting them on their next steps.

5.0 Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund

In April 2019 Cabinet agreed that up to £12 million could be allocated from the NTCA Investment Fund to prioritise innovative inclusive economy investment activities. In October 2019 Cabinet approved the Inclusive Economy Innovation Fund (IEIF) priorities for investment, as part of suite of measures to support the delivery of an inclusive economy.

5.1 This included prioritising people and groups which traditionally experience social disadvantage and economic exclusion, primarily:

- residents who are out of employment;
- in-work, low-earning individuals;
- individuals with low skills;
- young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

5.2 The £12 million allocation approved by Cabinet will be used to attract co-investment with an ambition of achieving a ratio of 3:1 leverage on the NTCA commitment. The principles of the Fund are agreed as

- impact at scale: creating a Fund which can go further, faster
- innovation: in both structure and delivery
- citizen engagement: co-developing the fund with our residents and their representative groups
- business engagement: creating a natural place for conversations about new economic and investment models to take place.

5.3 NTCA has already signalled its intent with early investments in, and support for a number of projects, which are already making a positive impact to the lives of our residents and act as demonstrators to how the NTCA inclusive economy ambitions will be realised over time.

6.0 Return to Work - Carers

NTCA is working in partnership with 3 charities - Newcastle Carers, Carers Northumberland and North Tyneside Carers Centre - to support 450 carers in their journey to paid employment over the course of a 2-and-a-half-year 'Return to Work – Carers' pilot. This innovative pilot launched in April 2020 just as the COVID-19 pandemic began to take hold across the UK.

6.1 Early days of project delivery included developing virtual methods of communication and establishing the project against the backdrop of extreme changes in the economy and in the lives of carers.

6.2 To date this programme has supported 43 residents with current or recent experience of unpaid caring responsibilities with 9 moving into employment and a further 5 securing a place in education or training.

6.3 Although engagement with residents has been slower than anticipated due to the impacts of COVID-19 such as lockdowns and social distancing, the project is already making a positive difference to those individuals involved.

- 6.4 In December 2020, North Tyneside Carers Centre held a focus group to hear feedback on project experiences to date. Whilst the remote support was felt to be strange at first there were reports that the lack of travel for appointments was good, it saved time and stress. Although it was also recognised that face to face support is important for people who can feel isolated. What carers really appreciate about the project was the non-judgemental and flexible approach.

“We can take as much or as little as we want from the project and it is great that there is no pressure.”

Participant on the NTCA Return to Work – Carers pilot

- 6.5 The focus group identified that carers have a lot to bring to the workplace from their experience of caring, including resilience. However, it was also recognised that many employers would benefit from information about the challenges carers face and how best to support them in the workplace. The carers highlighted that before practical support and skills building can be useful or effective there is a need to help people rediscover their confidence and self-esteem which can be eroded by the multiple demands of being a carer.

“The project has given me the support to access online education and I’m now doing English and IAG qualifications. It is free and my adviser helped me get a grant for the laptop. My confidence has really improved and it is good to know the adviser is always there and regularly checking in with me. Just knowing people are there makes all the difference. I’ve come such a long way and benefited from having this time for myself.”

Participant on the NTCA Return to Work – Carers pilot

7.0 North of Tyne Digital Inclusion Scheme

The Digital Inclusion scheme is designed to prioritise support for residents who are deemed most in need of support, because of the impacts of COVID-19. The pandemic has significantly disrupted face-to-face delivery services. Residents without access to a suitable device and internet connection are locked out and facing further disadvantage.

- 7.1 The scheme aims to support 4 specific cohorts:

- school children, initially from school years 6 and 9, to enable them to continue their education;
- adults in education funded by the NTCA devolved Adult Education Budget;
- unemployed adults who were previously accessing employability provision but are now unable to access the services and;
- care homes, to enable their residents to connect with family and services and to maintain their mental wellbeing. Staff in care homes can also benefit from this connectivity while at work, supporting their residents and keeping their own digital skills up to date.

Delivered through our three constituent local authorities, the North of Tyne Digital Inclusion Scheme aims to support 2675 residents by the time of its conclusion in June 2021.

- 7.2 Feedback from wider stakeholders has confirmed this Scheme is a valuable intervention as the issue of digital exclusion continues to be exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19.

“We are thrilled to be giving our young participants the tools they need to stay connected and engaged at a time when jobs fairs, training opportunities and job applications are hosted online.”

Dawn Barber, Newcastle United Foundation’s Business Network Manager

8.0 North of Tyne Working Homes

Using an innovative partnership between housing providers, housing associations, learning providers and local authorities, and part funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), this large-scale employment support pilot programme will help 1650 residents move closer to work.

- 8.1 The North of Tyne Working Homes project integrates employment coaches and other support workers as part of housing management teams to help residents find work, build their resilience and gain the skills they need to maintain successful tenancies.
- 8.2 Launched in April 2019, the programme has already supported 847 residents. Many of the residents supported face additional barriers to employment, including 370 residents with a disability, 207 aged over 50, and 121 of an ethnic minority. Despite the challenging economic conditions due to COVID-19 and having to suspend face-to-face support, the programme has, to date, enabled 194 residents to progress into education, employment or training.
- 8.3 Case studies of the impact the North of Tyne Working Homes programme has had on residents are available through the NTCA website and provided below are quotes from two residents accessing support from the programme.

“With my adviser’s knowledge of the local business support on offer, I learned all about self-employment and how to set up and market my business and how to attract customers.”

Working Homes programme participant

“The adviser has supported me lots with accessing food, medication, citizens advice, bills and lots more. This support made a huge difference in our lives because I’m self-isolating which means I can’t go out, so it really helps me and I am so grateful and feel happy and cared for.”

Working Homes programme participant

“I would like to thank ‘North of Tyne Working Homes’ for their encouragement and belief in me. After redundancy I was put forward for several IT courses. I didn’t know the first thing about IT and at 62 years old was a little worried! However, I felt really encouraged when I completed them and received certificates – something I never believed I was capable of.”

Working Homes programme participant

“By running through a mock interview on Zoom with Evie I felt prepared and more confident for the real interview. I am over the moon I was offered the job!! I would recommend anyone in my position speaking to Working Homes. I would not have been able to do it without her. Thank you.”

Working Homes programme participant

9.0 Survey work with young people

The activity mentioned throughout this report, and the ongoing evaluation and feedback we are gathering from participants, partners and stakeholders enables us to learn what’s working well and acknowledge what isn’t working so well and why. We are using this learning and insight to continue to co-create with residents, doing with and not doing to. Creating new opportunities to support and to ensure everyone has a stake in our region’s future. The NTCA COVID-19 recovery plan is bold, building on the strong foundations we already have in place, and maximising our potential for growth.

9.1 In Summer/Autumn 2020 NTCA published a survey to seek the views of our young people (aged 16-25) in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on their current learning and work, and on their future aspirations.

A common thread across the survey results is a clear loss of confidence and increased anxiety caused by the economic instability.

- Those who aspired to enter apprenticeships or work this autumn revised their expectations to either return to education or to continue job-searching
- Respondents identified a range of different interventions they felt would help them move towards a positive destination
- The most frequently requested interventions were help with CVs and selection processes, and access to work experience

“You need to help us. This GCSE mess isn’t fair. It’s not OK, I’m so worried about my future, feel like I’ve wasted 3 years of my life”.

Comment from NTCA Young People Survey

“Please be careful. Futures are balanced, including mine”.

Comment from NTCA Young People Survey

9.2 NTCA are taking this valuable insight to inform the programmes we are putting in place to support our young people through this crisis and into recovery. Targeted support such as an Apprenticeship Hub, Youth Employment Partnership and acting as a Gateway for the Kickstart programme will all be launched in 2021, in addition to the targeted skills interventions ongoing from the Adult Education Budget.

9.3 We are committed to ensuring our residents have a voice in our future plans and will launch a Poverty Truth Commission in 2021. The North of Tyne Poverty Truth Commission will bring together community, civic and business representatives with people with experience of living in poverty. It will aim to better understand the specific effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for people living in Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Northumberland and come up with practical solutions.

The impact of the coronavirus crisis on people already struggling and the steps needed for economic recovery will be a central theme of the Commission's work.

"We want to better understand all the impacts of this crisis on people experiencing poverty so that our recovery as a region is for everyone"

Cllr Joyce McCarty, Deputy Leader Newcastle City Council and
NTCA Cabinet member for Employability and Inclusion

"Understanding the truth about the barriers and difficulties people face helps us develop lasting solutions. It's about fixing the causes of poverty in the long-term."

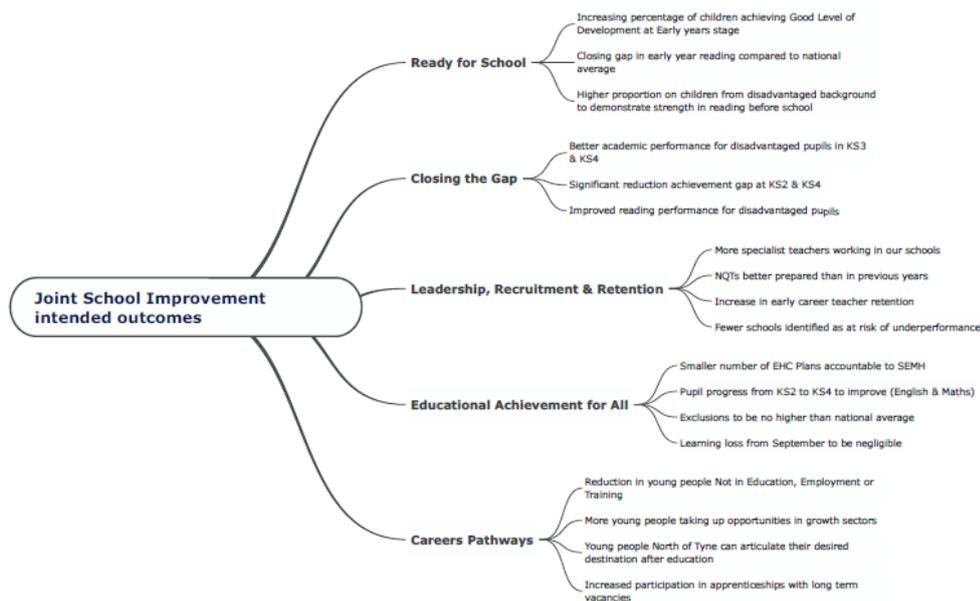
Jamie Driscoll, Mayor of the North of Tyne Combined Authority

10.0 Joint School Improvement Strategy

The Joint School Improvement Strategy represents a unified approach to school improvement across the constituent North of Tyne authorities. It identifies how our education teams will collaborate to add value, contributing to improved performance against five key priorities, considering national and local best practice. Our collective impact will raise the standard of education and improve life chances for the young people we serve.

- 10.1 What are we trying to improve? Evidence suggests that not enough of our children enter the North of Tyne education system ready for school, with early reading highlighted as one of our biggest areas of concern. This contributes to a long-term negative impact on academic outcomes, particularly for white British boys from disadvantaged backgrounds. We are also concerned about the mental health of our pupils, highlighted by a rising number of Education, Health and Care Plans accountable to Social, Emotional & Mental Health issues. We expect this situation to have been exacerbated by the impacts of Covid-19.
- 10.2 Progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 has historically been and continues to be a significant challenge. At the end of Key Stage 4, 4000 of our young people do not achieve a 'strong' 9-5 pass in English and Maths GCSEs. Our exclusions North of Tyne are higher than the national average, both for fixed-term and permanent exclusions.
- 10.3 The achievement gap (the difference in attainment between pupils from disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged backgrounds) is one of the biggest challenges in the North of Tyne education system. Evidence suggests this problem will be compounded due to Covid-19 school disruption. In the North of Tyne secondary phase, pupils receiving the Pupil Premium for deprivation are more likely to receive a Fixed Term Exclusion than their peers. Similarly, pupils from the 20% and 40% most deprived areas are more likely to receive a Fixed Term Exclusion than pupils from other areas.
- 10.4 On leaving school, too many of our young people are Not in Education, Employment or Training. We expect this to get worse owing to the impact of Covid-19 – we have already seen a sharp decline in apprenticeship uptake among our 16-18-year olds. We also face an employability skills gap across the North of Tyne, which needs to be addressed before our young people leave school.

- 10.5 Evidence tells us that quality teaching has the most positive impact on pupil outcomes, particularly for those from a disadvantaged background. It is therefore of concern that we have a notable gap in Physics, Maths and Computing specialist teachers, and a problem retaining new entrants to the profession. At the moment, 92% of our Primary schools and only 68% of our Secondary schools are graded as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. Our leadership development training needs to better reflect the current challenges of school leadership (including how to lead through a crisis), in order to raising existing standards and prepare a strong pipeline of tomorrow's school leaders.
- 10.6 Our approach - We intend to add value to the efforts of our three constituent authorities by collaborating to raise standards against our five shared priorities. We will share best practice across North of Tyne schools, academies, colleges and specialist provision. We will build on the strong partnerships that already exist and will share our learning with the wider sector. We will use rigorous evaluation processes to ensure that our research, learning and impact are robustly tested.
- 10.7 This strategy outlines what the system needs, some approaches are about identifying opportunities to share current best practice and extend successful interventions, some will require extra funding and is a companion to an ambitious North of Tyne Education Challenge. The Challenge will impact positively upon all priorities outlined here, supporting the work with additional, related interventions.
- 10.8 The practical inputs we intend to focus on:



10.9 What will success look like?

If we have succeeded, most children will arrive into our school system ready for school. Pupils in the Early Years will show confidence and competence in reading, regardless of their background. Pupils in our schools will demonstrate strong mental health, with a reducing number of EHCPs stating SEMH as a contributory factor.

- 10.10 We will have addressed the historical issue of transition and pupils will progress between Key Stages, particularly Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4, with increased

success. Our fixed and long-term exclusions will show a long-term downward trend, demonstrating a truly inclusive education system.

10.11 The difference in attainment between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers will have reduced at Key Stage 4. Our work in Early Years and at transition points will have contributed towards a long-term reduction in the attainment gap. Our young people will demonstrably understand the skills and qualifications they need for a successful life after school. The very large majority of our young people will be in education, employment or training.

10.12 We will have a thriving community of specialist teachers and school leaders ready to successfully teach our children, to develop our school workforce and to lead our schools. The number of schools graded as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted will have increased and be higher than that seen nationally. Where a school is not yet Good or Outstanding, the local authority will be confident that the leadership of the school is bringing about rapid improvement. Our strategies and research will be nationally recognised and reflect the outstanding education practice that exists across our region

Northumberland engagement with North of Tyne Combined Authority

There are a number of officers engaged directly with the workstreams; the Inclusive Economy and Joint School Improvement portfolio is well represented.

10.13 Northumberland is well placed in the work stream activities to shape and define the needs of the county, ensuring that the particular needs and priorities of Northumberland are considered in the planning and subsequent proposals. The voices championing our industrial heritage, innovation, opportunity, rurality, sparsity as well as our coastal and town challenges are heard within the projects and proposals.

10.14 The Inclusive Economy Board is attended by The Deputy Leader and Chief Executive Officer supported by officers.

10.15 The Young People workstream reporting to the Inclusive Economy Board encompasses the work with Apprenticeships, Kick Start, Youth Employment and links directly with DWP. Northumberland has directly led on some of the Apprenticeship work approaches and provided some innovative solutions (Global Bridge Platform) to developing the Apprentice Hub as well as successfully engaging and building relationships with employers to support the kickstart placements.

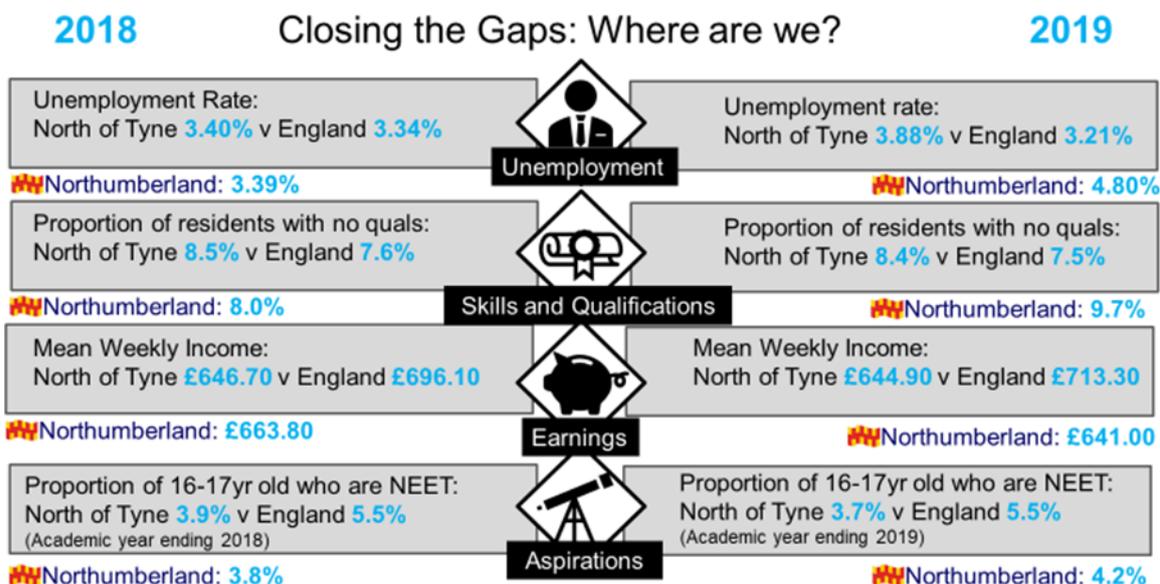
10.16 Northumberland Officers meet every four weeks and have developed an ideas bank leading the development of the ideas into project proposals pipeline in preparation for the North of Tyne planning group. The projects are all focused on the needs of Northumberland.

11.0 Conclusion

Northumberland is engaged and active within the North of Tyne Inclusive Economy and Education portfolios. Officers have been involved in developing and shaping each of the projects detailed in the report. Northumberland has been able to support

residents in two significant pieces of work through digital inclusion and also the triage employability team throughout Covid global pandemic.

North of Tyne team developed an impact image to show the 4 key areas of the Inclusive Economy portfolio and the work completed to date with the impact. The image has been used to further refine the impact for Northumberland. Comparative data shows the Northumberland performance against all NOT partners and against the England rate.



The Joint School Improvement Strategy (JSIS) and plan is being further developed to ensure this also considers carefully the recovery phase and underpin the journey to recovering learning and progress in education. Nationally there are a number of proposals to recover and support education and the team will work to ensure the JSIS complements and adds value to the central system.

One of the most important tasks to undertake is to continue the development work and ensure there is a responsive and dynamic narrative to identify where we can access additional funding support to deliver the needs of Northumberland. Officers work across areas of the council to be able to take ideas and create a framework that delivers the ambition of Northumberland County Council.

Implications

Policy	The actions set out in this report support the vision and values of the Councils Corporate Plan.
Finance and value for money	All budgets and decisions conform to expected NOTCA funding requirements.
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	The existing delivery sites for skills and corporate projects relate to the projects at North of Tyne CA.
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	In relation to projects, all staff have individual risk assessments. All sites are risk assessed and covid risk assessed.
Crime & Disorder	The report has considered Section 1 (CDA) and the duty it imposes and there are no implications arising from it.
Customer Consideration	Service plans and systems are approached from the pupil/family/customer perspective. All learner facing approaches include the learner/ customer journey to improve satisfaction.
Carbon reduction	The increase in digital and remote learning as well as digital meeting spaces as significantly reduced the travel and carbon footprint in 2020.
Health and Wellbeing	Staff well-being is of high importance with bespoke arrangements in place to meet individual needs.
Wards	All aspects of the service supports all wards in Northumberland, the digital reach has now expanded this opportunity.

Background papers:

None.

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

Audrey Kingham	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Helen Lancaster
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Cath McEvoy- Carr
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Richard Dodd

Author and Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of Cath McEvoy-Carr, Executive Director, Children's Services by Audrey Kingham, Interim Director of Education and Skills, Audrey.kingham@northumberland.gov.uk



Northumberland County Council

Families and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1st April 2021

Mental Health Support in Schools

Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Children's Services, Cath McEvoy-Carr

Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Guy Renner-Thompson

Purpose of report

To inform the Scrutiny Committee about the current offer of mental health support available to students and staff in schools across Northumberland. It has been written in conjunction with Helen Bowyer, CYP Operational Commissioning Manager, Northumberland CCG, with contributions from Yvonne Hush, Public Health Manager and Kay Vincent, Professional Lead and Clinical Manager within Northumbria Healthcare Trust responsible for School Health.

It therefore offers a comprehensive overview of support provided across NCC and partner agencies.

The report summarises the position with regard to services usually available, and the additional offer in place to support during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Note the contents of the report.
- 2) Recognise the support on offer to staff and students in Northumberland Schools and identify any potential issues for further consideration if appropriate.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to priority 3 in the NCC Corporate Plan 2020 (Living) and

priority 6 (Learning).

It is also relevant to priority 5 of the [Northumberland Children and Young Peoples Plan](#); that 'children and young people feel safe and supported and are able to cope with life's ups and downs.'

Key Issues

1. Improving local services for mental health support has been high on the agenda for Northumberland County Council and its partners, with significant national drivers, since 2015. The vision, and improvement plans have been documented within the [Local Transformation Plan](#), and work is ongoing. Progress through that plan is monitored via the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. COVID 19 and the global pandemic of 2020/21 has brought significant further challenge for children, young people and families, and also to schools as they have played an important role in supporting their communities and ensuring stability in an ever-changing landscape
3. For the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 there has been an enhanced offer beyond that which is usually available, to meet the additional need created by the pandemic. This enhanced offer has been created by joint work across the Northumberland County Council education and social care workforce along with the services commissioned by Northumberland CCG, and the ongoing Public Health activity described in the background papers listed at the end of the report
4. Service activity at the present time needs to respond to the immediate situation that residents are facing whilst mitigating the risk of the long-term impact of the pandemic. This includes building capacity in schools via the promotion of strong whole school approaches to supporting the wellbeing of staff and pupils

Section 1 – Support available to children and young people on an ongoing basis in Northumberland

1.1 Support for children and young people’s (CYP) mental health in Northumberland has undergone significant change in the past 3 years. Services are offered to meet need across a range of severity, with the aim of providing the right service at the right time, based on the Thrive model whereby families, schools and all referrers are encouraged to consider which service is appropriate based on the severity of the need, whilst internal pathways reduce the ‘bounce’ between services. The [Be You](#) website was recently launched to provide access to information related to this, and has separate areas for young people, parents and carers and professionals. It contains additionally self-help and resource materials, local events and training opportunities. This is a very welcome development. It is of crucial importance that schools and other referrers, including families, are aware of referral pathway and what is available. In the past, pathways were felt to be unclear, and indeed criteria for referral into each service unclear. The website, along with work undertaken internally with health teams means that systems for finding support appropriate to the level of need are more accessible and transparent

1.2 There are a number of routes into services. At the level of early help and intervention, NCC offers a coordinated service via the Early Help Hub whereby families, children and young people themselves, and anyone involved with them can refer, with the aim of children receiving the right help at the right time.

Between September and December 2020, 1624 CYP were referred into the Hub, from 1175 families. 396 were referred by their GP, 373 by schools. Other referrals came from the police, health visitors, social care and health professionals. The Hub ensures appropriate onward referrals based on the presenting need of child and/or family. The pathways are onwards into school-based services including the specialist teaching and advice teams, including Educational Psychology (EP) and the Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour team (EWB), to Early Help Family Workers and to Health teams such as School Health (Public Health School Nurses), Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHW) and Children and Young People’s Service (CYPS).

1.3 In addition to the Early Help Hubs, children and young people requiring higher levels of intervention can be referred directly into the appropriate services, and the system transformation work has led to improvements in access to these services in recent years. Significantly, 3 years ago the average waiting time for appointments was 30 weeks. Currently, approximately 91% of CYP are seen within 4 weeks, with 75% having their second appointments within those 4 weeks. This covers referrals into Children and Young Peoples Service

(CYPS) and Primary Mental Health Worker (PMHW) team combined. This means that children and young people are receiving the help they require significantly more quickly at this level of intervention. Both teams have consultation phone lines and will take calls from parents/carers and schools.

- 1.4 During the pandemic, the services that are part of the universal offer for children and young people in schools have offered a consistent, if adapted, service to children and young people through usual referral pathways. The use of digital technology has enabled ongoing support. For example, PHSNs have continued to promote the school health 'chat health texting service', and PMHWs, PHSNs and CYPS using the 'Attend Anywhere' (virtual consultation) mechanism. The EP and EWB teams have maintained a level of service to schools in support of individual learners, throughout the pandemic period, mainly virtual and in person when required. During this academic school year, EWB team have received referrals for 158 children, and report an increase in the number of cases where anxiety is the prevailing need. There has also been an increase in requests being made by schools for advice on how to support families to meet the emotional wellbeing and behaviour needs of their children at home. 398 individual pieces of work linked to casework were completed by the team between 1st September and the 4th February 2021; 52% of the work was carried out virtually and 48% in person. This constitutes a significant change to service delivery as a direct result of COVID 19.
- 1.5 In 2018 Northumberland CCG was successful in securing funding for the development of Trailblazer projects jointly funded by the DfE and DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) as part of the 'Future in Mind' initiative. Northumberland was one of only 12 areas across the country who were successful in 2 parameters, the development of Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) around schools and reducing waiting times to appropriate assessment treatment for children and young people to 4 weeks. As previously indicated, there has been a positive impact on waiting times.
- 1.6 MHSTs are operational in the school partnerships of Hexham and Blyth and provide a multi-agency support offer to schools, including via a new workforce, Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs). The offer of service has been consistent through the pandemic period, with all teams adopting a virtual means of delivery. The work of the MHSTs focusses on developing whole school approaches to positive mental health, and also on low level interventions within small groups and on a 1:1 basis.
- 1.7 As part of the focus on whole school approaches to emotional wellbeing and resilience, schools are required to identify a Senior Mental Health Lead. In April 2020, a post was created to coordinate support for these staff by developing a community of practice (Hive) in order to provide opportunities to share best practice, promote whole school wellbeing audits. Schools have all

been invited to receive FRIENDS resilience training, programmes which are cognitive behaviour therapy based (CBT) and endorsed by the World Health Organisation. They are designed to help build the social and emotional development of children, develop coping skills and prevent anxiety. To date 74 schools have taken up the offer of training. This work has been partly funded by Public Health as the initial offer was part of the Trailblazer activity and as such would have been restricted to schools within those partnerships. The Public Health contribution has ensured a whole county offer.

- 1.8 Emotional health support is available to specific cohorts of children and young people through the Virtual school; namely Education Other than at School (EOTAS) for children unable to attend school for medical reasons, and Education Service for Looked After Children (ESLAC). These services have been available throughout the pandemic period, proactively supporting both learners known to them and at the requests of schools, parents/carers.
- 1.9 In June 2020 an online resource for children and young people aged 11-18 years was commissioned jointly between NCC and the CCG. [Kooth](#) is a confidential and anonymous service available on any web enabled, internet connected device including laptop, smart phone, or tablet. It is available 24/7, 365 days a year to provide self-help resources, static forums and magazine articles and links where necessary to crisis support.

Also available is a 1-1 scheduled and drop-in live counselling option with qualified professionals. Children and Young People can receive up to six sessions of counselling support from Kooth, before either moving on, or in some cases being escalated to the CYPS service where needed.

Kooth has been promoted widely with schools via SENCo communications, Headteacher updates and direct marketing by the provider, XenZone. It was also publicised more widely so that parents/carers would be aware of the resource for their young people.

Take up of the service has been good, with many new registrations on a monthly basis. For the period October-December 2020, new registrations were 243, with a total of 2438 log ins. November was the busiest month. Full quantitative analysis of the service use is available but in terms of qualitative feedback provided by service users on the platform, snapshots are:

- 'I tell everyone about Kooth. I love it here.'
- 'I just want to say this app is Amazing talking to someone has been Amazing you bring hope to so many people so from me thank you to all of you and please tell your team this...Thank you ever so much'

- 1.10 Similarly, an online resource with the same functions has been commissioned

for school staff, as a one-year initial pilot, recognising the need for additional focus on staff wellbeing. By supporting staff, this enables them to optimally support children and young people. [Qwell](#) is an early intervention and prevention mental health support platform which enables staff to self-direct to the care they need; from finding out more information and gaining support for dealing with heavy workloads, stress, and sleep issues, through to receiving formal therapeutic support for anxiety, depression, and trauma. Users access articles and peer to peer support and can also opt for asynchronous messaging and synchronous text-based counselling. The site/service is confidential, responsive, flexible and anonymous, allowing safe access without fear or stigma. October – December 2020 saw 89 new registrations with 273 log ins. Of these 85% were return logins. This has been a slower start than for Kooth, as expected due to a recognised sense of initial mistrust of online support by adults. However, registrations are increasing, and Xenzone are actively reaching out to potential service users, with stakeholder events being held within partnerships. The real value is identified within service user comments e.g.

- ‘This place has been an absolute blessing. Hand on heart I don’t know how things would’ve turned out. Thankfully I’m in a better place, it’s a shame that qwell doesn’t offer the option to pay for more as I definitely would. I did for the first time ever open up, maybe too much at times but finally saw that I really needed to make a change. Sure, it’s never easy making that step, being online for me is way easier than face to face.’

- 1.11 Headteacher wellbeing has also been identified as a priority through the period April 2020 to present time. Heads were invited to participate in a working group to coproduce a support offer and work is underway with that group to create a framework of supportive measures
- 1.12 An Education and Skills Staff Wellbeing [online resource](#) has been collated and at the request of Headteachers, shared with them to provide to their staff. It contains practical ideas to support wellbeing, and links to many useful organisations
- 1.13 A number of online resources have been generated and circulated for schools and families around emotional wellbeing and mental health, coproduced by education and health teams (see Appendix 1)
- 1.14 Voluntary sector organisations provide an offer of support commissioned by Public Health, and the CCG eg Barnardos, Cygnus, Talking Matters

Section 2 - Pandemic Response

The impact of Covid on CYP Emotional Health and wellbeing across Northumberland has been significant. There has been:

- Increased rise in presentations of anxiety, followed by depression and low mood.
- Increase in self-harm in particular for those who already self-harm.
- An ongoing increase in referrals to teams e.g., PMHW team whose total referrals in 2019/2020 was 791 have seen 1,177 so far in this academic year.
- Increase in parents accessing telephone consultation lines to services.
- Increase in younger referrals in CYPS predominantly 12-13 yrs.
- Issues with service capacity due to staff absence; sickness from Covid or need to self-isolate due to a family member etc.
- Concerns around staff emotional health and wellbeing in general.
- Break in routines and everyday structures which has an impact on general emotional health and wellbeing and has caused an increase in behavioural issues for those CYP with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and a rise in condition-specific coping strategies

Specific and Additional Support Provided in Response to the Pandemic

Services across the system of health education and social care have worked collaboratively and flexibly to provide additional needs led support. The response has included the following activity.

- 2.1 The implementation of a 'Preparation for Return to School' Senior Manager steering group. This group focused after the first lock down on supporting CYP and education settings with their return to school in September. The focus of the steering group was the establishment of the Return to School Pop Up Hub. Whilst it was anticipated that most children and young people would manage this return without difficulty, it was identified that a coordinated temporary system would be needed to support the return to school for the minority of families and children and young people who would find the transition more difficult. Early Help services, education services and early intervention mental health service providers including our school nurses and the primary mental health work team worked in a coordinated way via the return to school pop up hub into which schools and others could refer. The hub was initially expected to run for the first half of the Autumn term but was extended until Christmas due to ongoing levels of need. It was introduced as a temporary addition to and not replacing existing routes to access services.

91 children and young people were referred into the Hub, with the largest number from the 12-16 age group. Each referral was looked at and allocated

to an appropriate service. Through interventions, average attendance increased from 50% (first 48 referrals only) to 52% (total 91 referrals), with 17 of the young people reaching 85% attendance by the end of term from low starting points, and a further 26 reaching attendance over 75%. Of note was that although many referrals were COVID specific, some were more about longer term mental health concerns which had become worse through the COVID situation.

- 2.2 In September 2020, NCC received a grant to support implementation of the government's Wellbeing for Education Return Programme, a nationally developed training package to be delivered to all schools and FE (Further Education) providers before March 2021. The training was designed to cover whole school approaches to wellbeing and resilience, covering whole school/setting communities including staff. It includes awareness building around issues such as bereavement and loss, anxiety, low mood, stress and trauma and aims to enable staff and students alike to recognise early signs of these in themselves and others

A small team of staff from the Educational Psychology and the Primary Mental Health Teams collaboratively commenced the implementation and roll out of the training to Northumberland Schools and settings in November using the recommended cascade model. 103 establishments had received training by December 2020, and further training opportunities and follow up support are being offered to schools/settings this term. The target of all schools/settings will be achieved by April 2021.

- 2.3 The health teams have been able to adopt flexible working to optimise staff resource. The Education Mental Health Practitioners from the trailblazer partnerships (traditionally based in schools in their allocated areas) are being utilised across the county to provide flexible and targeted support where needed. CYPS staff have been moved around to utilise skills best in light of the pandemic, including deploying those with most experience into front facing initial assessment roles
- 2.4 PMHW team has made proactive contact with key schools in order to enquire directly as to whether they require any additional support in the terms and Children and Young People (CYP) returning to school. This has enhanced the usual level of service
- 2.5 The CCG has provided funding to the Psychiatric liaison team at NSECH to enable them to introduce a specialist CYP psychiatric liaison role within the team to target and engage with children and young people more effectively, support capacity and the increasing issues of self-harm potentially associated with COVID

- 2.6 Successful award of additional funds via a Wave 3 Trailblazer bid. This will see a new MHST Trailblazer team being established in Ashington and Bedlington to provide additional early help and prevention resource into the schools and the communities, supporting with the additional issues and impact of COVID.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

Policy:	Services and connectivity between service providers are outlined within the report, including description of the Council response to 'Future in Mind'. Further detail is included within the Local Transformation Plan.
Finance and value for money:	A number of the initiatives undertaken have been funded from external sources (DfE, DHSC) as part of government focus on transforming services nationally.
Legal:	
Procurement:	N/A
Human Resources:	N/A
Property:	N/A
Equalities: (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Provision of effective services for children and young people leads to improved life chances and the reduction of any disadvantage gap
Risk Assessment:	There is a risk of poorer long-term outcomes for children and young people with unmet mental health needs, with wide reaching impact on financial wellbeing
Crime & Disorder:	Unmet mental health needs likely lead to an increase in youth offending
Customer Considerations:	Meeting the needs of residents via enhanced services is important in the light of the pandemic
Carbon Reduction:	The use of digital technology will have an ongoing positive impact on carbon reduction
Wards:	

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Update on Mental Health and Wellbeing in Northumberland](#) – Report written by Yvonne Hush, Public Health Manager for Health and Wellbeing Board, December 2020

[Mental Health Impact Assessment Scoping Paper](#) – Report written by Yvonne Hush, Public Health Manager, for Health and Wellbeing Board, December 2020

Report sign off

Finance Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Executive Director of Children's Services	Cath McEvoy-Carr
Portfolio Holder(s)	Guy Renner-Thompson

Report Author: Nicola Taylor, Head of Inclusive Education Services, NCC

Appendix 1

Digital Resources Available to Schools and Families

https://padlet.com/nies1/return_to_school

Being well back in school. Resources to support wellbeing during a pandemic. Find materials here to support staff, family and child wellbeing.

<https://padlet.com/nies1/parentcarerresources>

A padlet of resources to share directly with parents / carers focussed on wellbeing following the return to school and wellbeing.

https://nlandeducation.padlet.org/gill_finch2/managing_bereavements

A padlet about managing loss and bereavements in schools. Including materials that can be shared with families

<https://padlet.com/nies1/WER>

The padlet provides information and training materials related to the Wellbeing for Education Return (WER) programme. Includes a focus on parents, a focus on SEND and resources to address emotionally based school avoidance.

https://padlet.com/nies1/Emotional_Wellbeing_and_Behaviour_Support_Service

Resource for schools to help support emotional wellbeing and behaviour needs of students including detail of ideas and helpful strategies.

Northumberland County Council

Family and Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme and Monitoring Report 2019 - 2020

Chris Angus, Scrutiny Officer
01670 622604 - Chris.Angus@Northumberland.gov.uk

19 March 2021- CA

Terms of reference:

(a) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:

- Early Years
- Education and Schools
- Special education needs and disability
- Adult and Community Education
- Training and Vocational Education
- Lifelong Learning
- Youth Offending
- Social Services for Children and Young People
- Children's Health
- Teenage Sexual Health
- Looked After Children
- Safeguarding - Children
- Youth Services
- Family Services
- Children's Centres

(b) To oversee and monitor school improvement, as follows:

- (i) To receive feedback on the Ofsted inspection of schools.
- (ii) To support the work of the County Council and the progress of schools on the School Intervention and Support Programme in specified categories.
- (iii) To receive an annual report about the number of schools that have been on the School Intervention and Support Programme, the reason(s) for their inclusion, the support given by the Council and the success of this support.
- (iv) To receive an annual report on the performance of schools.

ISSUES TO BE SCHEDULED/CONSIDERED

Regular updates:

Safeguarding Activity Trends Report
Finance and Performance Six Monthly Report
Children Permanently Excluded from School/Elective Home Education
Schools performance
Joint Targeted Area Inspection

Issues to be raised:

Themed Scrutiny:

School Exclusions

Issues to be scheduled

Teacher Recruitment & Retention T&FWG - Action Plan to be provided
The Education Challenge

**Northumberland County Council
Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2019 - 2020**

1 April 2021

Mental Health Support in Schools
Joint School Improvement Strategy for the North of Tyne (NOT)

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OSC MONITORING REPORT 2019/2020

Ref	Date	Report	Decision	Outcome
1	6 June 2019	Proposal And Rationale For Changes To Morpeth Children's Centre	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 11 June 2019.
2	6 June 2019	Corporate Parenting Report	RESOLVED that the progress that had been made in relation to the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the work plan be noted.	No further action required.
3	6 June 2019	Annual Report of the Virtual School Headteacher 2017-2018	RESOLVED that:- 1. The positive education outcomes be noted; and 2. The increasing strengths and improvement over time of Northumberland's Virtual School be noted.	No further action required.
4	6 June 2019	Peer Challenge - Care Leavers Service	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action required.
15 Page 33	6 June 2019	Twelve Month MASH Review	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action required.
	4 July 2019	Outcomes of consultation on extending age ranges of Whitley Memorial CE & West End First Schools	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 9 July 2019.
7	4 July 2019	School Reorganisation Plan 2018-2021 - Annual Update	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 9 July 2019.
8	4 July 2019	Safeguarding Activity Trends (Six Monthly Report)	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action required.
9	4 July 2019	CIN Census Benchmarking (Safeguarding Activity Trends Annual Report)	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action required.
10	4 July 2019	Elective Home Education	RESOLVED that: 1. The improvements which had been made since July 2018 in processes to identify, monitor, support and safeguard families in	No further action identified.

			Northumberland who electively home educate their children be noted; and 2. The on-going concerns regarding potential impact on safeguarding and education outcomes for children be noted.	
11	4 July 2019	Outcomes of SEND Ofsted - update	RESOLVED that:- 1. The contents of the report be noted; and 2. The ongoing developments be recognised	No further action identified. The Committee will continue to receive update reports.
12	4 July 2019	Summer Activities and Holiday Hunger	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action identified.
13	5 August 2019	Ofsted Joint Targeted Area Inspection 17 - 21 June	RESOLVED that the report be noted.	No further action identified.
14	5 August 2019	Final Business Case for Replacement Buildings for Hadrian Learning Trust Schools	RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the committee supports the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 6 August 2019.
15	5 September 2019	Proposal to extend the age ranges of Bedlington Whitley Memorial CE and West End First Schools	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 10 September 2019.
16	5 September 2019	Expansion of Whytrig Middle, Horton Grange Primary and New Delaval Primary Schools	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 10 September 2019.
17	5 September 2019	Alternative Education Provision	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 10 September 2019.
18	5 September 2019	Finance and Performance Six Monthly Report	RESOLVED that the current performance be noted with no further issues identified for further scrutiny at this time.	No further action identified.
19	5 September 2019	Care Proceedings and Public Law Outline Annual Report on Progression	RESOLVED that the information be noted with no further issues identified for further scrutiny at this time.	No further action identified.
20	5 September 2019	Adopt North East	RESOLVED that:- The information in the report be noted; and The Director of Adult Services and Children's Services provide a report in March 2020 detailing the success, effectiveness and value for money of Adopt North East.	Further report to be provided in March 2020 to include details of the success, effectiveness and value for money.

21	16 September 2019	Outcome of the Outline Business Case for the Haltwhistle Primary School Provision for Wise Academy Trust	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 17 September 2019.
22	3 October 2019	Annual Report of the Principal Social Worker	RESOLVED that the Committee note the contents of the report and acknowledge the work completed over the year.	No further action required.
23	3 October 2019	Outcomes of SEND Ofsted - update	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action required.
24	3 October 2019	Exclusions Task and Finish Working Group Report	RESOLVED that The content of the report be noted; and Costed recommendations from the Exclusions Task and Finish Working Group be presented to the Committee for their decision on how to take them forward.	Further report to be presented to Committee in November 2019.
25	27 November 2019	Proposal to extend the age range of West Woodburn First School to become a primary school with effect from 1 September 2020	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 2 December 2019.
26	27 November 2019	The Development of Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) for Pupils with SEND in Northumberland	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 2 December 2019.
27	27 November 2019	Key Education Outcomes - 2018-19 Academic Year	RESOLVED that: 1. Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendation as outlined in the report; and 2. A report on pupil premium funding be provided at a future meeting.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 2 December 2019. A final report will be brought to the OSC in the new year.
28	27 November 2019	Report of the Exclusions Task and Finish Working Group	RESOLVED that: 1. The contents of the report be noted; 2. The recommendations of the report be noted; 3. The report to be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration on 10 December 2019.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 10 December 2019.
29	5 December 2019	Report of The Independent Chair of The Northumberland	RESOLVED that:	No further action identified.

		Safeguarding Children Board (Nscb)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The content of the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board final Annual Report be noted; and 2. The Committee noted that the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board had now been replaced by the Sub regional Strategic Safeguarding Partnership and the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Committee as set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. 	
30	5 December 2019	The Annual Report of Northumberland County Council Fostering Service 2018-2019	RESOLVED that:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the report be noted; and 2. Members acknowledged the report and performance information in regard to the period April 2018 - March 2019. 	No further action identified.
31	9 January 2020	School Funding 2020-21 (National Funding Formula)	RESOLVED that:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the report be noted; 2. The recommendations of the report be noted; 3. The report to be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration on 14 January 2020. 	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 14 January 2020.
32	9 January 2020	Presentation from Northumberland College following merger with Sunderland College	RESOLVED that the information provided be noted	A future report to given towards the end of 2020
33	9 January 2020	Children Social Care and Universal Credit	RESOLVED that the position regarding access to universal credit data and the ongoing work being undertaken within the local authority on this issue be noted.	No further action identified
34	9 January 2020	Young Carers	RESOLVED that the information provided be noted and the proposed changes to the provision of services to young carers be supported.	No further action identified
35	6 February 2020	School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2021/22 Academic Year	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 11 February 2020.

36	6 February 2020	Annual Test of Assurance	RESOLVED that the arrangements for discharging the role of Director of Children's Services passed the "test of assurance" required by statutory guidance.	No further action identified
37	6 February 2020	Learning and Skills Service Draft Self-Assessment for 2018/19	RESOLVED that the report be noted.	No further action identified
38	6 February 2020	SEND: Progress Update on the Written Statement of Action	RESOLVED that the contents of the report and ongoing developments be noted.	No further action identified
39	5 March 2020	Ofsted: Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services	RESOLVED that the content of the report and the findings of the associated Ofsted report are noted.	No further action identified
40	5 March 2020	Director of Education Annual Report: Key Education Outcomes - 2018-19 Academic Year	RESOLVED that: 1. the contents of the report be noted; and 2. a report providing an analysis of the use of Pupil Premium Funding be provided.	No further action identified
41	5 March 2020	Youth Service Review - Report following one year of operation	RESOLVED that the content of the report and the positive steps taken to implement the review be noted.	No further action identified
42	5 March 2020	ASYE Academy Evaluation	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action identified
43	5 March 2020	West Woodburn - Outcomes of Informal Consultation	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 10 March 2020.
44	7 May 2020	Outcomes of statutory consultation on a proposal to close West Woodburn First School	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 7 May 2020.
45	16 July 2020	Current Performance	RESOLVED that 1. the information in the report be noted; 2. further information regarding exclusion levels be provided.	Further information regarding exclusion levels be provided at a future date
46	16 July 2020	Missing, Slavery, Exploitation and Trafficking Report (MSET)	RESOLVED that 1. The report and range of support be noted. 2. A breakdown of the figure for children vulnerable	A breakdown of the figure for children vulnerable to exploitation in the Blyth or Cramlington locality be provided for each area.

			to exploitation in the Blyth or Cramlington locality be provided for each area.	
47	16 July 2020	JTAI Action Plan	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action
48	16 July 2020	Northumberland Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Action Plan	RESOLVED that the submission and content of the action plan be noted along with progress made since the inspection	No further action
49	16 July 2020	Covid-19 - Northumberland County Council Response	RESOLVED that the reports on Northumberland County Council's response and recovery be received.	Further COVID 19 updates to be given to the committee
50	16 July 2020	Covid-19 - Planning for Recovery in Northumberland	RESOLVED that the reports on Northumberland County Council's response and recovery be received.	Further COVID 19 updates to be given to the committee
51	17 September	COVID Update	RESOLVED that the information be noted	Further COVID 19 updates to be given to the committee
52	17 September	Pupil Premium Funding	RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted	No further action
53	17 September	Complaints Annual Report 2019/2020 - Adult social care, children's social care, and continuing health care services	RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted	No further action
54	1 October	COVID-19 Update	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	Further COVID 19 updates to be given to the committee
55	5 November	COVID Recovery Report	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	Further updates to be given when necessary

56	5 November	SEND Recovery Plan	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	No further action
57	3 December	Care Proceedings and Public Law Outline Annual Report on Progression	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action
58	3 December	Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the report be noted; 2. A report on the mental health programmes and support offers in schools and the wider community be brought to a future meeting; and 3. A report to include data on the numbers of MSET children would be brought to a future meeting. 	A report on the mental health programmes and support offers in schools and the wider community be brought to a future meeting and a report to include data on the numbers of MSET children would be brought to a future meeting
60 Page 39	3 December	Free School Meals Presentation	RESOLVED that the information be noted.	Future report to return to the committee in February under Winter Support Grant
	7 January	Pre-scrutiny: National Funding Formula and 2021/22 School Funding	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that this Committee supported the recommendations as outlined in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 12 January 2021. A further report would be provided to this Committee once the final figures had been allocated
61	7 January	Annual Report of the Principal Social Worker	RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the work completed over the last year be acknowledged.	The Committee will continue to receive this report annually
62	7 January	Education Strategy Board Update	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of the Northumberland Education Strategy Board be agreed; 2. The initial priorities of the Board be agreed; and 	A further report into the Joint School Improvement Strategy for the North of Tyne to be scheduled

			3. The plans for the Board to convene as soon as possible be agreed taking into account the comments made about membership.	
63	7 January	Tootoot Briefing	RESOLVED that:- 1. The strengths and weaknesses of the app were noted; 2. The use and impact of the app by the Skills team were noted; 3. The future use of the app in Northumberland Schools be welcomed; and 4. The Local Authority assist more schools in adjusting their ways of working and support schools and children in a more effective and modern way of working to respond to issues	
Page 405	7 January	Finance and Performance Report	RESOLVED that the current performance be noted	The Committee will continue to receive this report regularly.
	4 February	School Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2022/2023 Academic Year	RESOLVED that Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations in the report.	Cabinet considered the recommendation of the OSC when determining the report at its meeting on 12 January 2021.
66	4 February	Adult Learning Service Annual Report: Learning and Skills Service Draft Self-Assessment	RESOLVED that: 1. The contents of the report be noted; 2. The performance, given the significant challenges of the global pandemic against operating circumstances and the valuable support provided to all learners within the Learning and Skills Service, Careers Guidance Team and Employability and Skills Service be recognised; and	A further report on the skills strategy and economic path finder to come to Committee at a future date.

			<p>3. To note the key areas for improvement and the focussed work programme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills strategy required which met Northumberland and North of Tyne priorities. • More young people (16-18) access the right programme and support to be able to achieve well with good opportunities for employment. • More adult learners enrol to improve their chance to gain employment through a curriculum offer which supported this approach. • A coherent approach working with businesses, building relationships which benefit industry, skills schools and our residents. 	
67	4 February	Winter Support Grant (Inc Free School Meals)	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the report and the successful implementation of the initiatives undertaken with the funding from the Winter Support Grant be noted; and 2. An update report on the remaining allocation of Winter Support Grant to FSM following February and Easter half-term holidays, and including an update on the allocation of FSM during the current lockdown period be provided. 	An update report on the remaining allocation of Winter Support Grant to FSM following February and Easter half-term holidays, and including an update on the allocation of FSM during the current lockdown period be provided.

68	4 February	The Role of Schools Forum	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of the reported be noted; and 2. An annual summary of decisions made by Schools Forum be provided to this Committee. 	An annual summary of decisions made by Schools Forum be provided to this Committee.
69	4 March 2021	Director of Education Annual Report: Key Educational Outcomes – 2019-2020 Academic Year	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The content of the headline report be noted; 2. The digital annual report be received and the performance, given the significant challenges of the global pandemic against operating circumstances, and the valuable support provided to all learners by the following be recognised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Settings and Schools • Special Education Needs support and service • Virtual School • Learning and Skills Service including Carrers Guidance Team and Employability and Skills Service • School Organisation and Resources • Performance monitoring Team 	Further information on the North of Tyne School Improvement Strategy be scheduled for April.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Human Resources and Health and Safety team contributions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The key areas for improvement in the Education and Skills priorities which inform how we review, revisit and shape future improvements and work programmes be noted; 4. The development of a Skills Strategy for Northumberland which supported our schools to build career pathways, develops the skills of our young people and adults to be able to have successful and sustainable jobs underpinning the economic priorities of the County be supported; and 5. The development of a coherent approach working with businesses, building relationships which benefit industry, skills, schools and our residents be supported. 	
71	4 March 2021	Update on School Reorganisation Plan	<p>RESOLVED that it was noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The School Organisation Plan 2018-2021 had had a final update with the latest data and information on schools since the previous version from June 2019. This reflected changed data and school circumstances over the last 18 months and known changes in the near future; 2. The latest update to the School Organisation Plan had been delayed in order to prioritise the more urgent work with schools and 	<p>Copies of the plan to be shared with all members.</p> <p>Update to be given following the 2021 review of the plan.</p>

			<p>academies that had arisen for the School Organisation and Resources Team as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic;</p> <p>3. A new School Organisation Plan for 2021-2024 would be produced in the summer term 2021 and would be brought to Cabinet for approval in September for subsequent publication.</p>	
72	4 March 2021	Update on Capital Investment in Schools	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	No further action
73	4 March 2021	School Exclusions	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1. The content of the reported be noted with particular attention paid to the impact of the work undertaken within Children's Services and Schools has had on the lives of Northumberland children; and</p> <p>2. The actions taken to reduce the number of fixed and permanently excluded children and young people and the next steps being taken to improve the support to keep children in education be noted.</p>	Further update to be scheduled
74	4 March 2021	Children Who Are Electively Home Educated	RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.	Regular updates to be given to the Committee.