

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Review and Annual Report 2016-2017 (incorporating Child Poverty)



Introduction

Welcome to our first annual report of the Children, Young People and Families' plan 2016-2020. The purpose of this document is to provide an update on our headline achievements during the first year and to set out our plans for year two of the plan.

The Children, Young People and Families' Plan 2016-2020 brought together a range of priorities and activities within a single vision. The priorities within the plan are:

- **Reduce the impact of child poverty**
- **Make a positive difference to children and young people through parenting**
- **Provide Early Help and support for children and families that need it most**
- **Improve emotional wellbeing and mental health**
- **Prepare young people for adulthood**
- **Improve skills and employability**

There have been a number of changes since the plan was first published in April 2016. The 'Prepare young people for adulthood' and 'Improve skills and employability' priorities were originally mirrored in the Adults Strategic Partnership plan, with both boards jointly responsible for monitoring progress. Following a recent city council restructuring process, the Adults Strategic Partnership board was dissolved, and sole responsibility for the two priorities now sits with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The remaining priorities of the Adults Strategic Partnership plan are monitored by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A Local Area Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) inspection took place across the city during July 2016 with a positive outcome as services work to embed the duties described within their Code of Practice, published 2014.

As we move into year two of the plan, Councillor Janine Bridges, Cabinet Member for Education and Economy and Lead Member for Children's Services continues in her role as Chair of the partnership board. Councillor Ann James, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care has also retained her role as Vice Chair.

The first year of the plan has also seen several changes in board membership. We have said goodbye to several board members over the last 12 months and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the following, for their commitment and contribution to the work of the board over recent years:

- Wayne Jones (Police), Neil Hulme (Police)
- Karen Litherland (Jobcentre Plus),
- Angela Staplehurst (National Probation Service),
- Claire Gaygan (representing further education colleges),
- Cllr Joanne Powell-Beckett (Overview and Scrutiny representative),
- Sharon King (Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group), and
- Melanie Brock (SSOTP NHS Trust)

I would also like to welcome the following as new members of the partnership as we look forward to working closely together in order to achieve our shared objective of improving outcomes for children and young people across the city.

- Phil Eaton (Police),
- Robert Leese (Jobcentre Plus),
- Jamie-Ann Edwards (National Probation Service),
- Sheila Crosbie (Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group),
- Cllr Kath Banks (Overview and Scrutiny representative), and
- Sue Garland (SSOTP NHS Trust)

Priority – Reduce the impact of child poverty

Our aim is for all children, young people and families to be happy, healthy and have the resilience they need to live well with access to equal opportunities regardless of background.

By 2020, we aim to have:

- Identified and ensured that families who need immediate help are able to access appropriate services, for example foodbanks, free school meals and free college meals.
- Worked with schools, school governors, communities and families to promote and extend best practice in closing the gap between pupil premium children and their peers.
- Analysed the use of short term support services, such as foodbanks, in the city and taken strategic action to address the findings.
- Implemented approaches to tackle the issue of children who go hungry during the school holidays.
- Maximised how the wider partnership can identify and help families, including those impacted upon by welfare reform.
- Improved our Information, Advice and Guidance services so that families and practitioners have access to information to support families experiencing hardship.
- Ensured that parents are supported into work to lift their families out of poverty, leading their families by example.
- Ensured that communication is robust between all partners and agencies working to support families.

What have we achieved during Year 1 of the plan?

- ✓ A reduction in the number of families eligible for a free school meal.
- ✓ A sharp rise in the number of pupils accessing their universal entitlement to a free school meal, as a result of schools taking a more targeted approach to encouraging families to complete the application process.

Next steps

The child poverty priority has had quite a turbulent journey during the first year of the plan. The actions within the priority are linked to the other five priorities of the plan and, as a result, have been driven forward and progressed, despite the limited capacity of priority leads.

The second year of the plan sees confirmation of two named priority lead officers, which will provide much needed focus and stability. The first piece of work to be carried out by the joint priority leads, one of whom is a member of the Hardship Commission, as requested by the partnership board, will be to develop an action plan to co-ordinate and drive the priority forward, providing peer challenge amongst priority leads to ensure effective progress in reducing the impact of child poverty.

Priority – Make a positive difference to children and young people through parenting

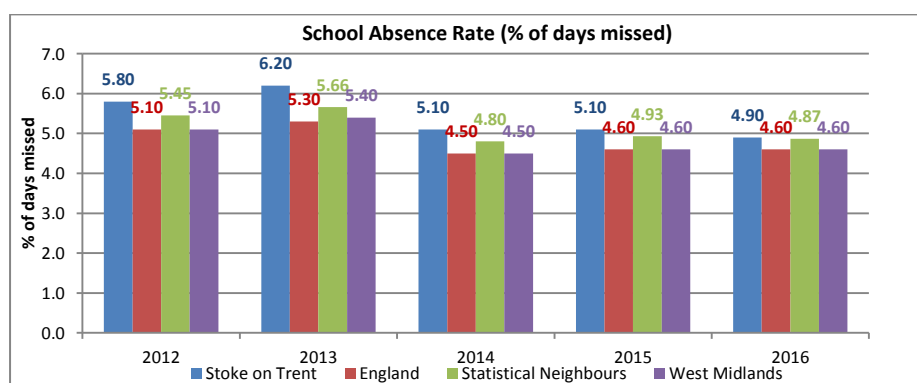
Our aim is for all parents to be confident and knowledgeable, possessing the skills they need to nurture and encourage their children. As a result, all children will be able to thrive, flourish and be able to successfully manage their behaviour, forming strong attachments and positive relationships within their immediate family circle as well as the wider community. Children will be curious about the world around them and ready to learn and achieve well.

By 2020, we aim to have:

- All children making a positive confident and well planned transition into school
- Children achieving age-related expectations
- Parents actively involved in their children's learning and development
- Children who are a healthy weight
- Women experiencing healthier pregnancies and healthier babies as a result
- Mothers and babies with improved health as a result of the benefits of breastfeeding
- All children and young people being supported to achieve their educational potential.

What have we achieved during Year 1 of the plan?

- ✓ Parenting Priority steering group established and delivery plan developed.
- ✓ Links with School Improvement Group established.
- ✓ Further alignment with key strategic documents (Healthy Weight Strategy, School Readiness Plan etc.) to strengthen work within this priority area.
- ✓ Consultation with parents and families to ensure greater understanding of local parenting needs.
- ✓ Review of the priority to ensure that national drivers regarding the NHS Maternity Transformation Programme and Perinatal Mental Health are included within the priority.
- ✓ A 1% reduction in the school absence rate (as shown below):



Next steps, including any changes to existing actions and measures

As the priority moves into year two, actions and measures within the priority have been revised and regrouped to more accurately follow the life-course. The delivery plan has also been revised to reflect the changes and work is pressing ahead to deliver the objectives, despite austerity requirements and associated reductions in services which may in turn restrict the parenting support / service capacity to meet demand.

Priority – Provide Early Help and support for children and families who need it most

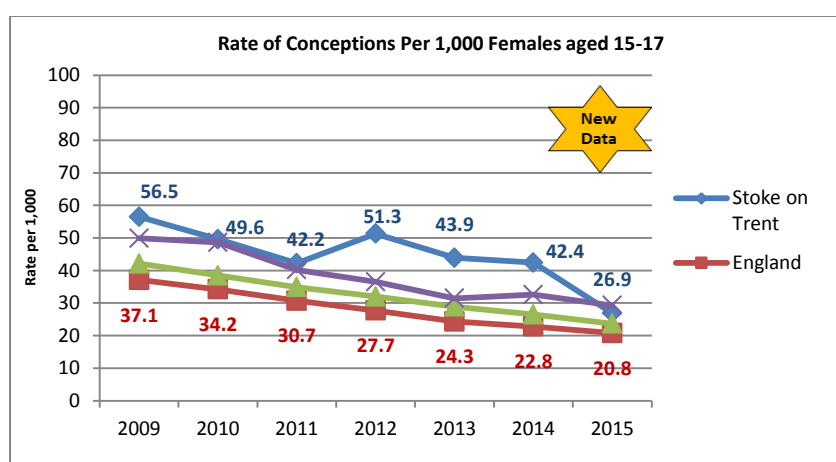
Our aim is that children and families are supported early in the life of a problem so that children can achieve their potential, and so that they and their families live happy, safe and healthy lives.

By 2020, we aim to have:

- Our most vulnerable children accessing their entitlement to free childcare and education places by targeting both hard to engage families and those already engaging with partners.
- Delivered phase two of the Troubled Families programme (known locally as Families Matter) to a wider range of families, meeting a broader eligibility criteria.
- Implemented that School Readiness plan and delivered improved outcomes.
- Provided clear leadership and embedded a shared culture and approach to Early Help across the city focusing on engagement of all partners, thresholds, workforce development and quality assurance.
- Encouraged greater accessibility and engagement with families who need support the most

What have we achieved during Year 1 of the plan?

- ✓ Developed a new Early Help strategy.
- ✓ Quality assurance framework developed and shared with partners.
- ✓ Improved confidence amongst partners in completing Early Help Assessments which, in turn, has resulted in an increase in registrations.
- ✓ Every school in the city has a named Early Help Champion.
- ✓ Identified the required number of families into the Families Matter programme to fully maximise the full attachment fee for 2016-2017.
- ✓ An increase in the number of identified young carers, all of which have received a young carer's assessment.
- ✓ A reduction in the number of under 18 conception rates (shown below):



Next steps, including any changes to existing actions and measures

Following a city council-wide restructuring process, which concluded in March 2017, all work involving early help and intervention, is part of the newly formed Early Intervention and Children's Social Care division.

During year 2 of the plan, and following a review of the actions and measures within the priority, work will also build on our understanding of need in relation to Early Help and vulnerability so that commissioning can be strengthened in relation to preventative and intervention services.

Activity to build resilience in young people will also take place during 2017-2018.

An Early Help consultation event has been arranged, early in quarter 1, with parents and partners to further develop the Early Help Strategy before its summer 2017 launch.

Priority – Improve emotional health and wellbeing

Our aim is for all children and young people to be emotionally healthy and resilient and that they, and their parents/carers, have access to information, guidance and advice to maintain good emotional wellbeing – ensuring that where they need help with mental health issues they are supported to manage their conditions.

By 2020, we aim to have:

- Delivered on the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CAMHS Local Transformation Plan which encompasses the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and Young People from birth to 18 years, Stoke-on-Trent Commissioning Strategy 2015-18 and its priorities and commissioning intentions.
- Embedded the new CAMHS Hub and reviewed the internet based accessible advice and guidance website.
- Addressed waiting times at early intervention and where clinical input is required through additional investment, from the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan.
- CAMHS care pathways in place to start to reduce waiting lists.
- High quality interventions and support for complex needs and vulnerable groups, such as children in care/care leavers, children and young people with multiple issues, learning disabilities, behavioural issues and mental health issues.
- Worked with our partners in Staffordshire and developed our strategic overview and commissioning practice.
- Continued to work with adult mental health commissioners to co-ordinate approaches to working with children and young people who need support into adulthood and adults with mental health needs who are parents.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Waiting lists for ASD assessments have been cleared.
- ✓ Referrals for young people with suspected eating disorders have been prioritised within the CAMHS central referral hub.
- ✓ A reduction in waiting lists as additional capacity was secured across targeted and specialist provision.
- ✓ Training for non-mental health practitioners has been recommissioned.

Next steps, including any changes to existing actions and measures

During 2017 closer relationships will be fostered with adult mental health commissioning services to improve co-ordinated approaches to working with children and young people who need support into adulthood and with adults who are parents with mental health needs.

Actions within this priority have been amended to ensure that further reductions in waiting times can be achieved.

Measures have also been revised to provide the partnership board with data that more accurately reflects progress.

Priority – Prepare young people for adulthood

Our aim is for children and young adults to lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, with choice and control over their support and successful preparation for adulthood including independent living and employment. We want to make sure that in particular, children and young adults with special educational needs and/or disabilities, and those leaving care, receive the right support at the right time.

By 2020, we aim to have:

- Encouraged services to improve co-ordination across education, health and social care and work closely with parents/carers so that individual needs are met.
- High quality personalised provision available which ensures good educational progress, health and care which allows timely preparation for independence into adulthood and employment.
- Further developed the Local Offer.
- Plans written for education, health and care needs which are aspirational, with clearly defined outcomes and goals.
- Effective data sharing arrangements in place.
- Developed and delivered phase two of Hazel Trees, the co-located hub and assessment centre, offering co-ordinated services for families of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25.
- A multi-agency transition policy published.
- Improved outcomes for all pupils - including closing the gap for vulnerable pupils, children and young people with SEND in mainstream education, higher attaining pupils, free school meal/pupil premium pupils and care leavers.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ Developed a joint steering group, consisting of staff from adults and children's services to ensure joint and seamless working towards the objectives of this priority.
- ✓ Local Area SEND inspection (July 2016) confirmed that the Stoke-on-Trent local area has made good progress towards implementing the SEND reforms.
- ✓ Implementation of a quality assurance and compliance checklist for education, health and care (EHC) plan writers.
- ✓ Completion of the draft SEN joint area needs assessment, ensuring more accurate demographic profiles for SEN.
- ✓ A Transition Forum which is nationally recognised as a model of good practice (SCIE) and includes representation from adult mental health services in response to challenges with regard to the adult mental health pathway.

Next steps

During the second year of the plan, there will be a focus on developing mechanisms across children's social care/adult social care/health and education to further enhance and improve collaborative commissioning of services and engagement with providers, ensuring that services are of high quality and can demonstrate value for money as well as being responsive to demand and children and young people's aspirations.

There will also be a focus on delivering the actions that were identified during the local area SEND inspection that took place in July of last year.

Priority – Improve skills and employability

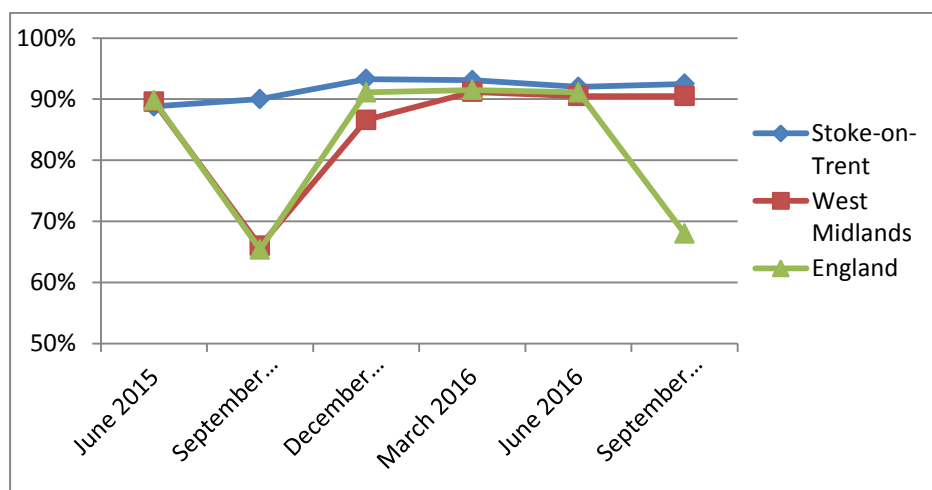
Our aim is that everyone who can and wants to work has the right support, advice and guidance to do so and once in work people are able to progress their career, reskill, upskill and achieve a good quality of life.

By 2020, we aim to have:

- Stoke-on-Trent City Council is an exemplar employer with the ability to influence.
- Businesses can clearly identify and articulate their skills needs.
- Improved labour market information is in place, so that people understand what jobs are available and the skills they require to secure sustainable, quality employment.
- Develop a cohesive employment strategy for the city.
- Employers are supported to develop flexible employment policies to support those with specific needs.
- Continue to increase the number of 18-24 year olds who gain the skills necessary to secure a job of their choice.
- Increase the number of local people moving into work / securing good quality work.
- Provide support in obtaining ESF funding for 2016-2018 to fill the gap in provision and support for the Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) and at risk young people groups.
- Ensure there is co-ordinated partnership delivery and improved employer engagement to deliver apprenticeships.
- Develop meaningful activities (formal/informal volunteering, adult learning opportunities, work-like activity, skills for employment, etc.) for those not in work - including those experiencing long term unemployment.
- Increase job readiness through Early Help and support for households.

What have we achieved?

- ✓ ESF funded programmes are being delivered to improve employment, skills and social inclusion
- ✓ The post-16 area review has been completed and published.
- ✓ A draft Employment and Skills Strategy has been developed
- ✓ The number of out of work claimants has fallen, and is continuing to fall (although still above the national average).
- ✓ Out-performing regional and national percentage levels regarding participation rates for 16-17 year olds (as shown below):



Next steps, including any changes to existing actions and measures

The second year of the four year plan will see the publication of the Employment and Skills strategy, with the work supporting delivery of the strategy beginning in earnest shortly afterwards.

Apprenticeships will also remain a key focus within the priority, as work continues to help employers to understand the government Apprenticeship Reforms and encourage them to employ apprentices and/or upskill and reskill existing staff.

Looking ahead

The recent comprehensive review of actions and measures within the Children, Young People and Families' plan, means that the partnership board can be confident that the plan remains timely, relevant and focussed on improving outcomes for children and young people across the city.

As we move into the second year of the four year plan the partnership will also, in addition to the main aims and objectives, focus on making sure that the Board remains fit for purpose by undertaking a thorough and comprehensive review of its governance arrangements.