North Tyneside **Prevention** & Early Help Strategy

2016







Introduction

Welcome to the North Tyneside Prevention and Early Help Strategy.

All partners in North Tyneside are working together, through the Our North Tyneside Plan, to ensure that the borough has a bright future ahead and that it continues to be a great place to live, work and visit for generations to come.

However, we know that for some families this bright future is not guaranteed. Therefore all partners in North Tyneside have signed up to work differently in order to support families, to make sure that children are ready for school and that young people and adults are ready for work and life.

Purpose of this strategy

The strategy will set out how all partners will work together to reform, strategically plan, commission and deliver a range of provision to support children, young people and their families at the earliest opportunity.

This means providing services at the right time to meet families' needs and to keep them in control of resolving their issues and problems.

The aims of the strategy are to:

- Define what we mean by Early Help in North Tyneside
- Explain, based on the well understood level of need, our ambition for transforming Prevention and Early Help services
- Outline how we will know we are making a difference: our success criteria underpinned by an effective performance management system.

What is Prevention and Early Help?

Prevention and Early Help are vital for improving children's life chances and delivering better outcomes for them and their families. The sooner we can help families, the less likely it is that their situations will worsen.

Children and families need to be equipped to adapt positively to challenging life experiences at a time when there is intense pressure on public finances. Resilient children, families and communities can bounce back and thrive despite the challenges they face. Children, young people and their families can be supported in three broad ways:

- So that problems don't arise in the first place (prevention)
- At the first sign of a problem to prevent problems getting worse (early help)
- So that something is in place for needs or problems that are serious, do not respond to early help or will endure (specialist intervention)

Whilst our aim is for children, young people and parents to be confident and independent through their own personal resilience and the support of social networks, this isn't always possible without support provided by a range of services including excellent universal services delivered by a variety of

partners which are available to all (early years, health services, schools, play and youth provision), and effective accessible targeted or specialist services, when needed. There is a growing body of research evidence that suggests that intervention as early as possible pays off, early in the life of a child and early in the life of a problem. It is therefore crucial we ensure the right balance of investment across universal, targeted and specialist services and work in partnership with family members to deliver services that respond to their needs and build on their strengths, to give them the best chance of making a positive difference to children's lives and to break the cycle of disadvantage.

Prevention refers to services and interventions for the whole population, or groups and individuals who may have characteristics that identify them as vulnerable or at risk, to stop or limit specific needs that may arise without early help. Prevention is essentially a broad set of universal support services which aim to increase the protective factors and decrease the risk factors facing children, young people and families. It refers to the complex mix of individual, family and community factors which combine to keep individuals safe and well, and for any problems or concerns to be tackled informally and quickly, without the need for more support.

Prevention is preferable, and there continues to be a need for universal, or open access services which can support children, young people and families, in a non-stigmatising and non-judgemental way helping all children, young people and families to help themselves to find their own solutions to problems or prevent problems developing through building their resilience.

Universal services are those that are available to all families. Most children will access universal services successfully and have their needs met by their family and informal support systems with minimal intervention from professionals. The provision of high quality universal services such as GP practices, midwives, health visitors, school nurses, children's centre offer, early years, PHSE education, libraries and leisure centres, immunisation programmes can enhance the quality of the lives of children and their families and help prevent them from experiencing significant problems.

To effectively deliver universal services within the context of early help, agencies and professionals will support families to identify their own solutions to problems. This will involve:

- Provision of the healthy child programme, a schedule for public health services covering care from 28 weeks of pregnancy through to age 19 which delivers evidence-based health, wellbeing and resilience programmes for every child
- Making information available to families so that they can find out what services there are and where and how they can access them when they need them
- Providing general advice and information
- Assessing and identifying unmet needs
- Monitoring needs in a low-key way

and be ready to step in if the family exhibits signs that indicate a more targeted response is required

 Being aware of the range of targeted and specialist services available and understanding how to link with them. This may for example involve targeted services being delivered within universal settings so that families can transition between them as their needs emerge and are dealt with.

If delivery and support is right at this stage the need for more targeted support will reduce and in this respect universal services work in a preventative way ensuring families receive early help and support upstream before problems develop further and reduce demand on downstream, higher cost specialist services.

A key focus of universal services will be from conception to age 2 providing advice, guidance and support to families in helping each child to have the best start in life. What happens in early pregnancy and childhood impacts on physical and emotional health all the way to adulthood. Supporting maternal health and wellbeing is important for giving babies the best start. The earliest experiences, starting in the womb, shape a baby's brain development and premature and small babies are more likely to have poorer outcomes. During the first 2 years of life the brain displays a remarkable capacity to absorb information and adapt to its surroundings. Positive early experiences are therefore vital to ensure children are ready to learn at 2 years old, ready for school at 5 years old and have good life chances as they

progress through adulthood.

There have been a number of reviews (Marmot (2010), Field (2010), Tickell (2010), Allen (2011), Munro (2011)) commissioned by successive governments that have all independently reached the same conclusion, which is that it is important to provide help early in order to improve outcomes.

The 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015) guidance places an emphasis on the importance of early help in promoting the welfare of children, together with clear arrangements for collaboration, and we want to ensure that our early help offer reflects the ambitions of this guidance.

Our offer also takes into account the key messages from the Munro (2011) review that

- Preventive services will do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services
- Co-ordination of services is important to maximise efficiency
- Within preventive services, there needs to be good mechanisms for helping people identify those children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer harm from abuse and neglect and who need referral to children's social care



Why do we need to change?

Despite this clear evidence for the importance of prevention and early help, in North Tyneside we've seen an increase in the number of children becoming Looked After since 2009.

After reviewing a number of cases we believe that, in almost half of the cases, something 'probably' or 'definitely' could have been done to prevent the child becoming Looked After.

Our ambition is to deliver a better Prevention and Early Help Strategy that will help children be ready for school, work and life. It could also save public services over £3 million.

Who would benefit from Prevention and Early Help services?

Central to our prevention and early help offer is the early identification of children who would benefit from early help and a coordinated early assessment and response to prevent abuse and neglect of children and young people. Crucially, this will also help improve outcomes for the whole family.

'Working Together' (2015) recommends that professionals should, in particular,

be alert to the potential need for early help for a child who

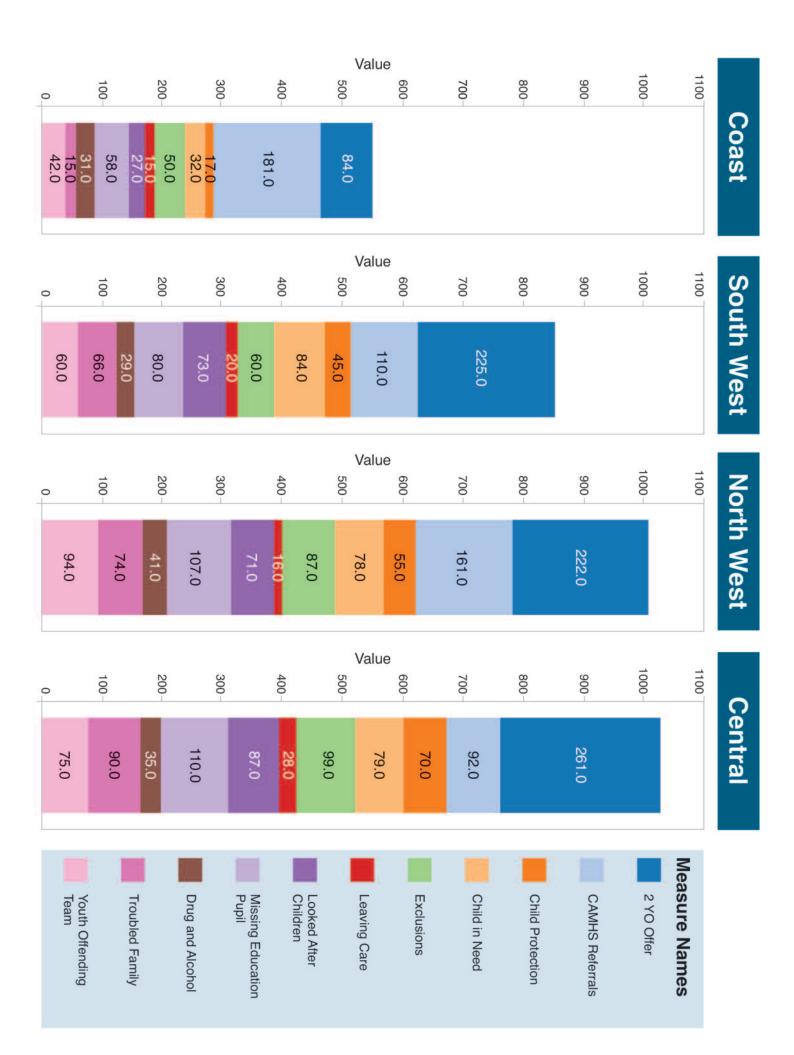
- is disabled and has specific additional needs or special educational needs
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance misuse, adult mental health, domestic violence and/or
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect and/or sexual exploitation

After carrying out our local review we found that demand for our services is coming from

- Families that suffer from domestic abuse (DA) and substance misuse
- Specific areas of the borough
- Specific age groups (under 1's and over 14 year olds)

In North Tyneside we have also analysed who is currently using our services, based on location, service need and other segmentation tools. This intelligence has allowed us to understand where in the Borough families are likely to require support.

But we also found that our services were not designed to meet these demands or prevent future need. To deliver our vision we are transforming children's services.



Transforming Children's Services

Our transformation plan is based upon creating a new approach, the key features of which are

- Promote the social, emotional and mental wellbeing that enables our children, young people aged 0-19 years and their families to be resilient, healthy and live at home together
- A single, integrated offer with improved pathways to early help
- A range of professionals e.g. health visitors, school nurses, police, forming multi-agency locality teams
- A single performance framework with the whole team responsible for meeting of core Key Performance Indicators 'KPI's
- An appreciation of different professional knowledge and roles leading to a wider skill base so any member of team can work with families across a number of levels of need
- Expertise and 'specialisms' within the team
- Integrated management arrangements to create a single team response
- Statutory functions will be provided
- A more systematic capturing of core needs with a greater focus on 'root cause analysis'
- Specific targeting of 0-1 and 15+ cohorts

- Implementation of new models of intervention specifically targeting domestic abuse and substance misuse
- Greater partner involvement in the delivery of prevention services
- Localities based on our analysis

Our experience of delivering the successful Troubled Families programme has influenced our thinking to develop approaches where people adopt whole family working.

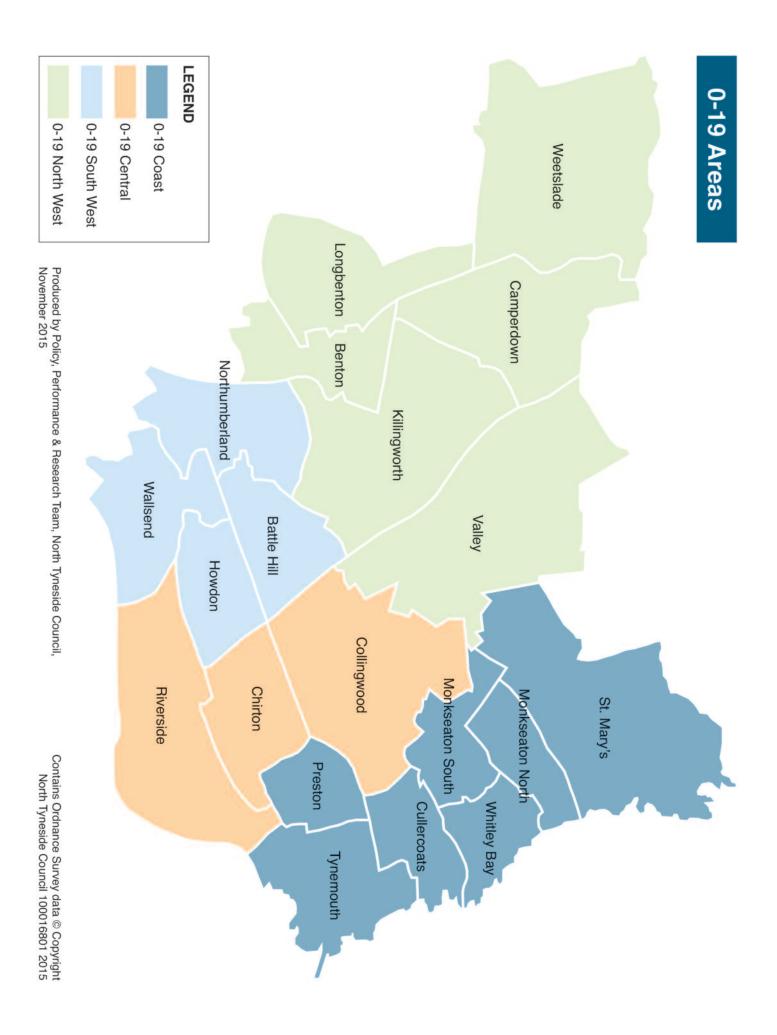
Whole family working is based on the simple principle of 'one worker, one plan, one family'. It does not mean the worker – the lead professional – is responsible for doing/knowing everything.

It means following the 5 factors of success:

- A lead worker dedicated to the family
- Who looks at what's really happening for the family as a whole
- And gives practical hands-on support
- With an assertive and challenging approach and use of sanctions if appropriate
- Backed by an agreed plan and common purpose among relevant service

In Prevention and Early Help this approach needs to become the day job for everyone. Despite being a relatively small borough, we know that we are an area of significant contrasts. Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA 2015) explains that a child born today in the most deprived part of the borough will live 10 years less than a child born in the least deprived part.

Therefore we understand that need has a geographic focus. Based on the analysis of need we've been able to redesign our services into four new localities where our teams will be based (as shown in the map on the next page)



Who can access support?

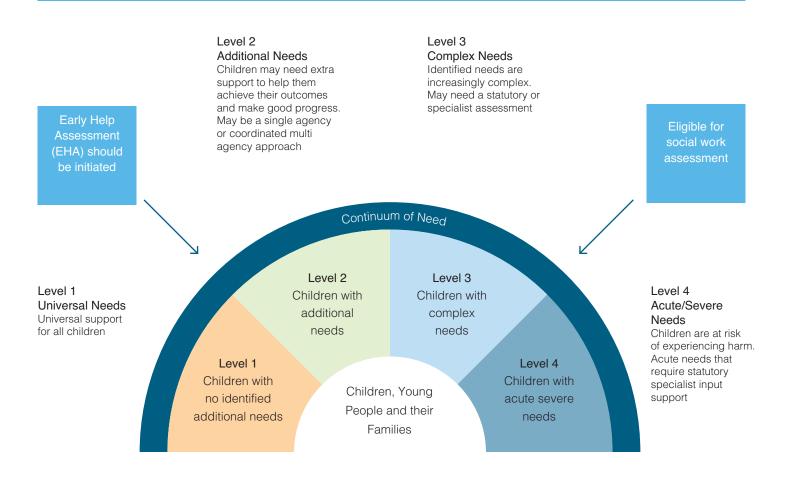
The provision of early help should form part of a continuum of help and support to respond to the different levels of need of individuals and families. This is illustrated in the Thresholds of Need model below.

In North Tyneside, as we respond to the reduction in public funding, we wish to ensure that we maximise the use of universal services.

However we understand that for some families they will require some additional support perhaps even intensive support at times. However, our approach will always be to see how we can help the family reduce their need for intensive support from public services.

It is also critical that, whilst all professionals remain aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and protecting children, that they too are engaged in providing early help. For many professionals, they know the family best and that can often be the start of helping outcomes for children and families to improve.

North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board (NTSCB) Thresholds of Need



How to access support

Local partners have worked hard together to develop this new approach and are refining the process to ensure the effective delivery of the new model.

Within the model we are introducing, new services will deal with low level need and reduce demand for higher tier services. Initial advice and guidance will be given when needs being expressed can be met by universal services. If something more is needed, but needs can be met by some low level support and by connecting people back to their communities, then 'Care and Connect' will work with families to help them identify local community resources they can access and sometimes, establish new ones. We believe this community development aspect of our early help offer will also build resilience in children and families and build on the assets that already exist within our communities

When needs are at a higher level, it is clear that to ensure that the best possible support is provided to children and families there needs to be an Early Help Assessment (EHA) considering the child's developmental needs, family and environmental factors and parenting capacity.

The Early Help Assessment is a consent based, whole family assessment which has the voice of the child and family threaded throughout.



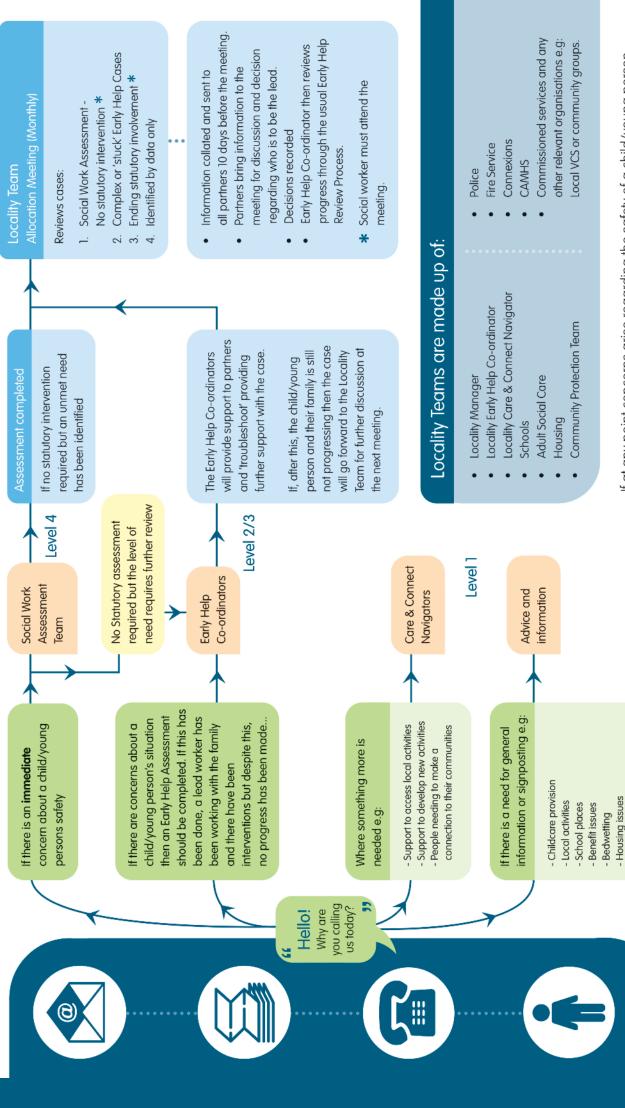
It is reviewed 6 weekly and our Early Help Cooordinators provide support and challenge to those completing them, ensuring there is no 'drift' with families and that all agencies are held to account for their actions through regular Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings.

Where cases get 'stuck' or are complex, then the locality teams will discuss the needs of the family and between them agree which is the best agency to lead the EHA process and what support is available from all the partners to make sure change happens. To enable them to do this, our 'Professional Conversations' framework will help partners share information in a way that is safe and legal.

The flow chart on the next page shows the Early Help Pathway, which has the EHA as the critical driver in the process.



Level 2/3



If at any point concerns arise regarding the safety of a child/young person it must go straight back to the Front Door.

How to access Early Help

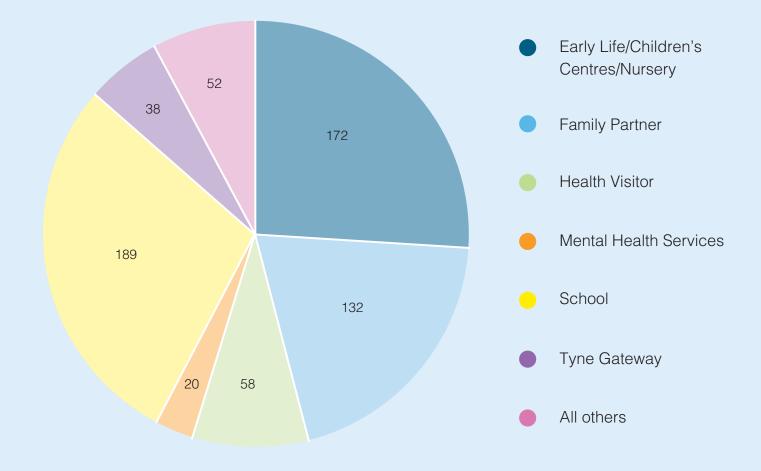
Assessment training



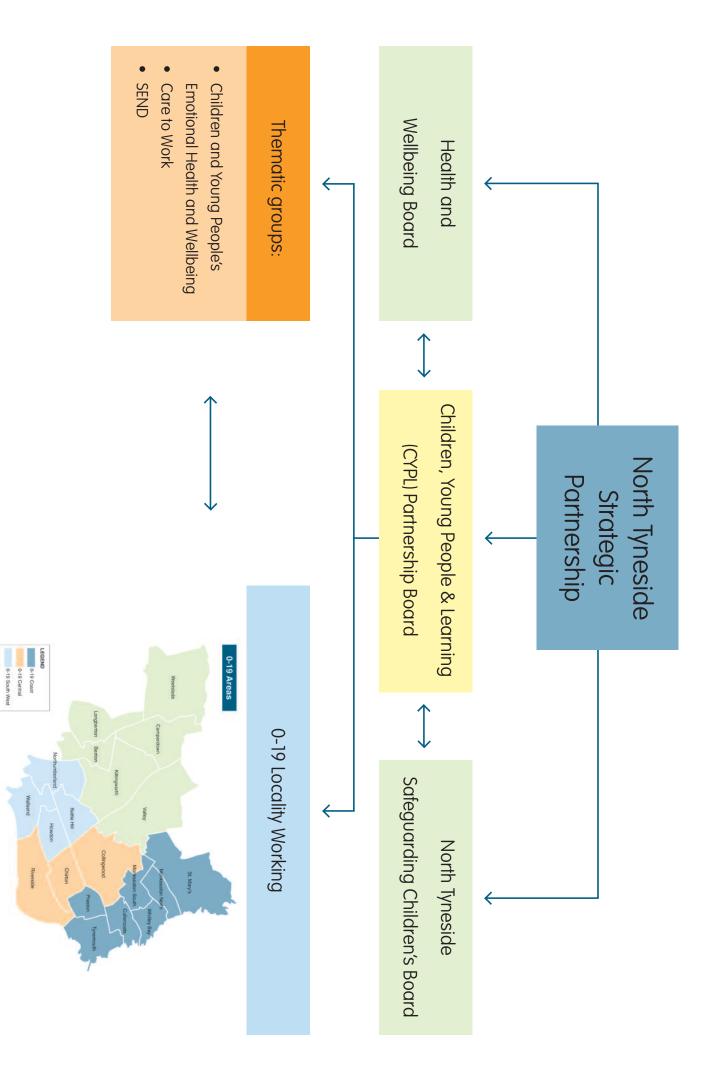
Working in partnership

It is well understood in North Tyneside that we will only deliver our aims by working together. We have already made progress, if you consider the range of partners that completed an Early Help Assessment in 2015/16.

In addition the work to develop a new model of working has been a partnership effort, which has included the input into the design stage as well as through regular communication channels with stakeholders. This collaborative way of working will support us as we progress this new approach. In terms of overall governance, the new locality teams will report to partnership structures as described on the following page.



No of EHA's 15/16 by Author



0-19 North West

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How we will measure success

Ensuring that we have a single set of performance measures that are shared by all partners, is a key feature of the new locality teams. The following list of measures have been developed to show strategic alignment to addressing the key issues facing all partner organisations in North Tyneside.



Prevention and Early Help Key Performance Indicators

Our North Tyneside Outcomes	Transforming Children's Services Outcome	Outcome performance measures that the team will contribute to (at borough level)	Performance measures that the team will be accountable for/share accountability (broken down by locality)
Our people will be cared for and safeguarded if they become vulnerable	More children living safely at home	 Number of Looked After Children (LAC) Number of children on a Child Protection Plan Number of children identified as a Child In Need Children who have had a missing episode Children at risk of child sexual exploitation The rate of offences against children Hospital admissions caused by unintended and deliberate injuries to children and young people Reported incidents of domestic violence Number of Troubled Families achieving significant and sustained outcomes 	 Number of children who, on becoming LAC, had had no EHA (TOM 3) Number of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (within two years) (TOM 3) Number of children who have previously been LAC becoming LAC again in the last 12 months (TOM 3) Number of children ceasing to be LAC, returning home (TOM 3) As defined in the Troubled Families Outcomes Plan (TOM 2)
Our people will be cared for and safeguarded if they become vulnerable	Families access help and support at the earliest opportunity	 Experience of the child (TOM 3) Number of Early Help Assessments (EHA) completed 	 Number of days from completing an EHA to offering help (TOM 2) Number of repeat EHAs (TOM 2) Source of EHA (TOM 2) Number of contacts/referrals/social care assessments (TOM 2) % of EHA leading to the provision of a social care service (TOM 2) % of families with an EHA using universal services (e.g. children's centres, libraries and leisure centres) Care and Connect usage (TOM 1) Website usage (TOM 1) Families making progress (TOM 2)
Our people will be ready for school work and life - with the skills and abilities to achieve their full potential, economic independence and meet the needs of local businesses	More young people are ready for school, work and life	 Number of 18-24 year olds Not in Education, Employment or Training SDQ progress for LAC School attainment % of pupils for whom pupil premium is paid Attainment by Looked After Children 	 Children at the age of two and a half who are not meeting their level of development milestones will be by the age of four (TOM 1) % receiving their ready for school entitlement (TOM 1) School attendance (TOM 1) % accessing full-time curriculum (TOM 1) % permanent and fixed-term exclusions (TOM 2) Number of children who are missing out on education (TOM 2) Secondary school ready measure (TOM 1) Schools report pupils making expected levels of progress between KS1 & KS2 (reading writing, maths) (TOM 1)
Our people will be healthy and well - with the information, skills and opportunities to maintain and improve their health, wellbeing and independence	Improved health for both parents and children and young people	 % of all live births at term with low birth weight % of children ages 4-5 and 10-11 years classified as overweight or obese % of young people at aged 15 years who are currently smokers Rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children 0-14 years and 15-24 years Rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self harm (all age, all persons) Rate of conception per 1000 females aged 13-15 and 15-17 years 	 % of women who smoke at the time of delivery (TOM 2) % of women who breastfeed their babies in the first 48 hours after delivery (TOM 1) % of all infants due a 6-8 week check that are totally or partially breastfed (TOM 1) % of children who have received a completed 2-21/2 year Integrated review (TOM 1) Number of young people aged under 18 years registered in NTDMS with a treatment plan (TOM 2) Number of first time entrants to Youth Justice System (TOM 2)

Prevention and Early Help Strategy Action Plan

Objective	Develop Locality Teams
Actions	 Establish new teams involving schools and partners Create locality bases Clarify information sharing arrangements through 'Professional Conversations' Framework
Potential Outputs	 Provide the highest level of knowledge and analysis of all known intelligence and information across the localities to ensure individuals who are potentially high risk/high cost cases are identified, including those within the PREVENT agenda and that risk management interventions are timely and proportionate Develop skills and knowledge of the workforce in Whole Family Working to address all issues concerned Strengthen our early help offer through the creation of a Care and Connect model Embedded Early Help Pathway
be delivered	 A variety of agencies in an integrated multi-agency team Information shared appropriately and securely on children, families and adults around the child or young person Timely and appropriate actions taken to safeguard and promote the welfare of families
Lead officers	Senior Manager, Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services

Objective	Develop further the integration of social work with the locality teams and early help
Actions	 Conduct an options appraisal on possible models Include all CYPL Partnership Board agencies in evaluation of options Recommendations to the CYPL Partnership Board and implementation of preferred option
Potential Outputs	Transformational change plan to deliver social work on a locality basis
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Improved accessibility for families to social work support Improved safeguarding outcomes for children Increased support for families through early help that avoids higher tier safeguarding services Improved multi-agency working with partners
Lead officers	Senior Manager Safeguarding working with LSCB

Objective	Review the Single Assessment arrangements
Actions	 Redevelop SAF pathway and process to be compliant with Early Help Review and quality assure the new arrangements
Potential Outputs	 New pathway developed and embedded for Early Help arrangements Strengthened Front Door processes and use of data Quality Assurance arrangements in place Better arrangements for transitions between threshold levels Increased use of EHA and TAF
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Help for children and families is identified as soon as problems start to emerge, or when there is strong likelihood that problems will emerge in the future Services are provided in a timely manner
Lead officers	Senior Manager Safeguarding working with LSCB



Objective	Develop a Ready for School Offer
Actions	Implement a Ready for School Entitlement
Potential Outputs	A Ready for School Entitlement that is widely known and understood
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Clarity on what being 'ready for school' looks like Early identification and early help services which aim to improve outcomes for young people and their families A particular focus on families in greatest need of support in order to reduce inequalities in the borough
Lead officers	Senior Manager, Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services working with all partners

Objective	To ensure all children of a compulsory school age (5 to 16) are on a school roll or receiving a quality alternative education for at least 25 hours a week, for example at home or in alternative provision. To ensure poor attendance is monitored and high levels of unauthorised absence are investigated with schools.
Actions	 Set up a review meeting every 6 weeks to review Children Missing Education (CME) and Children Missing Out on Education (CMOOE) data as part of a cross-service partnership to ensure each child is fully supported Continue to track children coming into or leaving North Tyneside to ensure they are on roll at a school or entered onto the DfE Lost Pupil Database Ensure the quality of alternative provision is reviewed and quality standards are clearly defined and embedded into the commissioning process for all work- related education provision Review attendance data every 6 weeks to ensure children are receiving at least 25 hours of education and discuss concerns with school, child and family where attendance continues to be below 25 hours
Potential Outputs	Suitable alternative education provision which delivers 25 hours quality education per week
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Improve attendance by taking action to support children with high levels of absence Ensure any safeguarding concerns highlighted as part of the reviews are addressed Ensure children in alternative provision receive at least 25 hours education per week Ensure alternative provision and work based education meets defined quality standards and deliver agreed outcomes for each child
Lead officers	Facilities and Fair Access for CME Commissioning Team and School Improvement for quality provision Data team for data provision

Objective	Develop our Youth Offer
Actions	Further develop the Youth Offer across the borough
Potential Outputs	Asset map of available youth provision
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Increased opportunities for young people to make use of services Improved quality of services from the perspective of young people Improved satisfaction of young people with services Reached a larger representative proportion of the youth population
Lead officers	Senior Manager, Prevention, Early Intervention and Support Services working with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)



Objective	To ensure that prevention and early intervention is fully embedded as part of the commissioning cycle for people-based services and in effective joint commissioning arrangements across the partnership.
Actions	 Review existing services in terms of opportunities to strengthen prevention and early intervention Confirm commissioning intentions Prioritise prevention and early intervention within specifications for new services Ensure existing services are compliant with early help pathways and processes such as, where appropriate, whole family working and using the Early Help Assessment Promote integrated working between providers and opportunities to strengthen linkages with community resources/assets
Potential Outputs	 Key performance measures will depend upon the service delivered e.g. mental health, DA, drug and alcohol, family support, social care, Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND), early years etc. Metrics to indicate 'good' demand increasing and 'unwanted' demand decreasing More families in need receiving a whole family working approach to support – increase in EHAs completed
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 A demonstrable shift in investment towards prevention and early help services A more robust evidence base to inform future commissioning, understanding impact, cost/benefit intelligence around prevention and early help Strengthened joint commissioning e.g. with Health High quality commissioned services Effective use of resources - value for money
Lead officers	Strategic Commissioning Manager

Objective	To provide a 0-19 children's public health service	
Actions	 To develop and lead a project management board to oversee the successful and safe transfer of staff from the current provider to the council To work closely with the current provider up to the point of transfer To work with partners to shape a new model of service delivery within the prevention and early intervention integrated locality teams To provide an impact assessment which includes a focus on equality and safeguarding 	
Potential Outputs	 Deliver a range of universal and targeted services to children, young people and their families Lead and coordinate the national Healthy Child Programme 0-19 Promote healthy lifestyle and positive child development Identify and help families who need additional support through holistic evidence based assessment and interventions Work within the agreed Early Help Pathway 	
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Improve child development at 2-2.5 years Improve school readiness Improve breastfeeding initiation and prevalence at 6-8 weeks Improve emotional wellbeing for all children of reception age - 19 years old Improve Chlamidia diagnosis 15-24 year olds Reduce low birth weight of term babies Reduce smoking at delivery Reduce health and social inequalities Reduce excess weight of pupils aged 4-5 and 10-11 years Reduce hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children and young people Reduce self harm Reduce tooth decay 	
Lead officers	Director of Public Health	





Objective	Early identification of children with SEND
Actions	 The publication and dissemination of a North Tyneside SEND multi agency assessment protocol The development of a SEND multiagency audit team to provide support to improve the quality of integrated assessments The development of a SEND training programme to support understanding and implementation of the assessment protocol
Potential Outputs	 A North Tyneside assessment protocol Reports from multi agency audits of integrated assessment and recommendations for future learning The development of quality standards for the production of an integrated assessment
Outcome(s) to be delivered	 Use of the appropriate assessment process Maximum use of resources within the local offer Evidence that outcomes are met Whole family working Evidence of improvement in standards in relation to writing integrated assessments Changes to the local offer as a result of gap analysis from audits
Lead officers	Principal Manager, 0-25 Integrated Disability and Additional Needs Service

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