

## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES**

### **2014~15 OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND EMERGING ISSUES**

#### **Achievements**

1. Positive staff morale as evidenced by social work survey and employee survey.
2. High level of performance in timeliness of social care processes – large majority of Single Assessments, Reviews, and Initial Child Protection Conferences undertaken within timescales.
3. Enhanced Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Team successfully launched – increase in CAF performance overall, particularly by education settings.
4. Positive outcomes from Ofsted inspections of children's homes – all LA maintained / Joint Venture homes inspected during 2014-15 were rated 'good' or 'outstanding'.
5. Housing Options Diagnostic Peer Review identified response to homeless 16 and 17 year olds as model of good practice nationally.
6. Youth Direction - positive performance maintained; eg performance remains better than benchmark groups for proportion of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or 'Not Known' (i.e whose status has not been established).
7. Steady rise in the number of early year providers judged good or better. At 31 March 2015, 100% of childcare settings (private and voluntary providers) and 86% of childminders were rated as good or outstanding at their last inspection - better than national and regional averages.
8. Improving quality of Children's Centre provision – 75% (3 out of 4) of our Centres inspected during the period were rated as 'good', moving us in line with the England average for proportion of all Centres rated good or outstanding.
9. All maintained primary schools judged good / outstanding by Ofsted.
10. Progress in narrowing the gap in attainment for free school meals pupils.
11. School attendance – pupil absence rates remain better than national / regional rates for primary pupils; improving rates in secondary sector.
12. Education of looked after children – improvement in the quality of Personal Education Plans. Robust arrangements established for monitoring of children educated out of the Borough.

#### **Challenges**

13. Ensuring effective implementation of the Early Help Strategy.
14. Common Assessment Framework (CAF) – need to secure improved engagement of North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust (NTHFT) and Children's Centres.
15. Social Worker caseloads are stable but above the 'benchmark' indicated in Ofsted reports.
16. Consistency and quality of social work practice needs to improve further.

17. Number of children subject to child protection plans, duration of plans, and rates of subsequent plans remain areas of concern.
18. Complaints – need to embed new arrangements for management and investigation of complaints.
19. Recruitment to Social Worker posts becoming a challenge again (staff moving to Agency work).
20. Ensuring a robust relationship with academy providers to support good outcomes in Ofsted inspections as converter Academies become due for first inspections.
21. Maintaining vigorous monitoring of performance across the Stockton schools given changes to assessment information at early years, KS1 and KS2 and KS4.
22. School capital strategy and pupil places.
23. Narrowing the gap in outcomes for vulnerable groups particularly SEN and boys' achievement.
24. Increasing the number of secondary schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding.
25. Further improving the educational progress and attainment of looked after children.
26. Improving the percentage of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) completed within required timescales.
27. Increasing the take-up of free early education and childcare places.
28. Embedding new Children's Services structures and recruitment of staff.

### **Emerging issues**

29. Government's Regionalising Adoption agenda.
30. Significant changes to Ofsted inspection frameworks for early years provision, schools and further education and skills, from September 2015.
31. Proposals for future multi-agency inspections of Children's services.
32. Tees Education Challenge
33. Tees Review of Post-16 Provision
34. Outcomes of Tees Early Help Peer Review
35. Impact of Shaping A Brighter Future, and changes in corporate structure.