

# NORTHUMBERLAND CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

STRATEGIC STATEMENT 2015 - 2018

## WHY WE ARE HERE:

To work together with children, young people, families and friends in order to secure happy and healthy lives for all.

Northumberland  
is a great place  
to live!

## THE FOCUS OF WHAT WE DELIVER:

### A JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Consistently high numbers of young people whose circumstances mean they are vulnerable live in accommodation that meets their needs.

### BRINGING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER & TACKLING CHILD POVERTY

Children and young people in Northumberland are far less likely to be the victims of crime than is the case nationally. Over 10% of young people aged 13 to 19 in Northumberland participate in volunteering activities and that number is increasing annually.

There are fewer children living in poverty in Northumberland than in other parts of the north east, but there are certain areas of the county where it remains a major issue.

### DEVELOPING AMBITION, ENJOYING LIFE & DOING AS WELL AS POSSIBLE

A very high number of young children receive prompt health and development checks that ensure they have the right foundations to make a good start in life.

### BEING THERE TO HELP & SUPPORT WHEN IT WILL HAVE MOST IMPACT

Through partners on the Youth Justice Board, there has been an 87% reduction in the number of 10-17 year olds becoming involved with the youth justice system.

85% of children and young people who are looked after say the support they receive from their foster carers is "outstanding".

### PROMOTING SAFEGUARDING & HOW TO LIVE SAFELY

When Children's Services receive referrals, they make prompt decisions on how to act.

There is a highly effective programme of training that is utilised by staff who work directly with children and young people who may be at risk of harm.



**IMPROVE  
COMMUNICATION**  
with partners and reduce bureaucracy.

**INCREASE  
IMPACT**  
using feedback from children, young people and families and then tell them what has improved as a result.

**BEST  
PRACTICE**  
**USE OF  
BEST  
PRACTICE**  
to drive the skills and values of the trust workforce to meet common goals.

**ENSURE**  
the multi-agency commissioning framework improves outcomes, develops more effective ways to work together and reduces inequalities.

**ENGAGEMENT**  
with local organisations in the voluntary and community sector to improve existing services.

“The Children and Young People’s Strategic Statement has been developed by young people and a range of partners working together. Thank you to everyone who has participated. That process and the new format is meant to be inclusive and I hope it will lead to a sense of shared ownership and commitment. We now have some clear targets, firmly based on the aspirations of Northumberland’s young people. It is our task now to turn those aspirations in to reality and to monitor how effective we are in achieving that aim over the lifetime of the plan.”

**Robert Arkless,**  
Chair of FACT Board



# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC STATEMENT

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS (N.A. = No survey in that year)

Indicators		Proposed Targets			
	Base	Mch 16	Mch 17	Mch 18	
<b>A Journey to Independence</b>					
1. Knowing what young people are doing after they leave full time education means that services can be more effective in how they can support their ambitions for education, training or employment. We want the <b>percentage of 16-18 yr olds whose destinations are Not Known</b> to reduce.	6.1	5.0	4.0	3.5	
2. If young people on their journey to independence are living in places that meet their needs, they are less likely to be vulnerable to poor outcomes and are likely to have a job or be in education. We want the <b>% of a) care leavers and b) young offenders in suitable accommodation</b> to be consistently high.	a)95 b)97	95 97	95 97	95 97	
3. In the Health & Behaviour-related (HBR) survey, of those who identified themselves as having additional needs, 20% said their <b>needs were not being looked after properly in school</b> . We want that to reduce.	20	14	N.A.	0	
<b>Bringing Communities Together and Tackling Child Poverty</b>					
4. Public services, schools and the voluntary and community sector coordinate activities to reduce child poverty. In Northumberland, the proportion of <b>children living in low income families</b> is below the average for the region, but still unacceptable for those experiencing it, and as a minimum we would expect to see that there was no increase on current levels.	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6	
5. Research tells us that if new mothers are supported by those around them and their communities to continue to breastfeed, their babies' resilience to infection and ability to bond fare much better. We want the <b>% of new mothers breastfeeding at 6-8 wks after birth</b> to increase.	37	40	42	45	
6. For children who cannot live with their parents and are in the care of the local authority (LAC), the next best option for their life chances is to have a wide range of foster carers that they can be placed with. We want the <b>percentage of LAC in foster care that are placed with the Council's foster carers</b> to increase.	61	82	85	90	
7. Children and young people should have resilience or to know how to ask for help. <b>58% of those who responded to the HBR survey said that if at first they don't succeed, they 'usually' or 'whenever possible' keep on trying until they do, and 39% say that they ask for help</b> . We want this to increase.	58 39	60 41	N.A.	62 43	
8. The views of children and young people matter. 36% said in the HBR survey that they felt <b>their ideas and opinions made a difference about what they learn at school</b> – we would like that to increase.	36	38		41	
<b>Developing Ambition, Enjoying Life, Doing as well as Possible</b>					
9. In the HBR survey, 71% of pupils responded that <b>they are 'quite a lot' or 'a lot' happy with their life at the moment</b> – we would want that to increase.	71	72	N.A.	74	
10. In Northumberland, there is a large gap between how well boys do at GCSE compared with how well girls do. Whilst the exam system is changing, we would still want to see more boys wanting to stay in full time education. In the HBR survey, 50% of year 10 boys said they wanted to continue in full time education compared with 64% of girls. We want the <b>percentage for boys to be as high as it is for girls</b> .	50	55		64	
11. We all want children to go to a good school, but in Northumberland, there are <b>nearly 10,000 children and young people who attend a secondary school that is either requiring improvement or inadequate</b> . We want that figure to reduce significantly.	9617	8000	7200	6500	
12. If young people are not in employment, education or training, it reduces their life chances and places them at greater risk of offending and poor housing. We want the <b>percentage of 16-18 year olds who are classified as NEET</b> to reduce.	5.8	5.0	4.0	3.5	
<b>Being there to Help and Support when it will have the Most Impact</b>					
13. If we have a wider range of support available to children, young people and families, fewer of them will need to be involved with social services. This means there will be a reduction in the <b>number of cases held by social workers</b> , the baseline being 32 per worker. Similarly, there will be a reduction from the baseline in the <b>number of referrals into the specialist Children and Young People's Service</b> .	32 1700	28 2%	25 3%	25 4%	
14. Providing support at the right time and in the right way to children who cannot live with their family is very important. We would hope that all looked after children and young people would be positive about <b>the support from their carers</b> , with at least 90% saying it was good or outstanding.	88.5	90	90	90	
15. 67% of pupils responding to the HBR survey said that <b>if they are worried about something, they know an adult they trust that they can talk to about it</b> . We would want that to increase.	67	69	N.A.	72	
16. More effective early intervention will help <b>reduce the number of secondary school children who are permanently excluded</b> in the previous 12 months.	42	32	21	20	
<b>Promoting Safeguarding and how to Live Safely</b>					
17. In the HBR survey, <b>75% of pupils rated their safety at school as 'good' or 'very good', while 50% said the same of going out after dark</b> . We would like to see both increase.	75 50	77 51	N.A.	79 53	
18. Having the opportunity for regular health assessments is particularly important for children and young people who need to be in care (LAC). <b>88% of LAC have their annual health assessment</b> and we would like to see that increase.	88	90	92	94	
19. Having the best start in life means ensuring that young children's health and development needs are reviewed at the right time. The <b>percentage of children who received a 2-2.5 year review</b> is 85 and we would like to see that increase.	85	86	88	90	
20. 10% of pupils responded to the HBR survey saying their <b>school deals with the important issue of bullying 'badly'</b> . We would like that to decrease.	10	8	N.A.	4	