

**County Durham**

# **Children and Young People's Strategy**

**2019 - 2022**

## Purpose

This is a partnership strategy for all children and young people from pre-birth up to the age of 25 (for those young people with special educational needs and disabilities) and their families in County Durham.

The aim of this strategy is to provide focus and clarity on the priorities for improving services and life opportunities for children and young people. The document considers what life is currently like for children and young people in County Durham, based on feedback from children and young people and analysis of their needs. It sets out where we want to be in three years and what actions we will undertake to achieve this. For the public it provides a summary of the importance of services and support for children and young people, who are the future of our county, and what they can expect from local services.

This strategy has been prepared jointly by all public services and voluntary and community services including the Council, local health services and the police who work together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families through the Children and Families Partnership.

For those responsible for delivering services, any future work programmes should contribute to achieving the aims set out in this strategy. It can therefore be used as an aid in deciding what to do and of equal importance, what not to do. Members, officers and partners will find this document of practical use in evaluating whether to participate in new national initiatives and funding bids and help select the work programmes that we need to do. The strategy is therefore a living document that is designed to be used regularly.

## National Policy

There is a huge amount of national legislative and policy change affecting children's services which have informed this strategy. Key policy areas are:

- The strengthened **Working together to Safeguard Children** guidance published in July 2018 aims to improve partnership working to protect children and young people. It sets new legal requirements for the police, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to make joint decisions to meet the welfare and safeguarding needs of local children and families.
- The independent review, **Foster care in England**, published in February 2018, sets out six priority areas for the government's vision for a better care system, driven by children's needs and views.
- The government's **Childhood Obesity: a plan for action, Part 1 and 2**, published in June 2018, aims to reduce England's childhood obesity within the next 10 years. Their goal is to half childhood obesity and reduce the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030.
- **Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a green paper**, published in December 2017, proposes measures to improve mental health (MH) support for children and young people through earlier intervention and prevention, especially in schools and colleges.
- The government is also consulting on draft regulations and statutory guidance relating to **Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education** which includes teaching children about physical and good mental health, online safety and healthy relationships.

- The **Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper**, published in May 2018, considers developing children's digital literacy and the safety of young people's use of online dating websites and applications.
- **The Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that Works for Everyone**, published in August 2018, sets out how the government will work with and for civil society in the long-term to create a country that works for everyone, including a review of the statutory duty placed on local authorities to provide appropriate local youth services.
- Investment is part of an £800m package of measures in its social mobility action plan, called **Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential**, aimed at boosting the life chances of disadvantaged young people. The £50m early years investment aims to provide better access for children to highly qualified early years staff in areas of high deprivation and will be focused on closing the "word gap" in the early years; tackling these development gaps at the earliest opportunity, particularly focused on key early language and literacy skills so that all children can begin school ready to thrive.
- **Careers Guidance and Access for Education and Training Providers** published in October 2018 sets out the requirements and expectations of schools to develop and improve their careers provision.
- **Child health in 2030 in England: comparisons with other wealthy countries** published in October 2018 by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health which looked at key children's health outcomes and compared then with other wealthy European and Western countries. It found that England has poorer health outcomes and that there were marked inequalities which are likely to widen over the next decade which are worsening more quickly amongst the most deprived section of the population.
- Ofsted's **Inspecting Local Authorities Children's Services (ILACS) Framework** changes the way local authorities are inspected depending on previous judgement and places a stronger emphasis on partnership working within front-line services to improve children and young people's lives
- The **Children and Families Act 2014** addresses the needs of children and young people up to the age of 25, including those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Reforms include a single coordinated birth to 25 Educational, Health and Care (EHC) Plan for these children and young people whilst in education; improving cooperation and collaboration between all the services that support individual and families, particularly local authorities, education providers and health services; and the introduction of the 'Local Offer' including centralised information, advice and guidance.
- The **Local Area SEND Inspection Framework** is a joint inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission providing an independent external evaluation of how well a local area carries out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in order to support their development.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation's (HMIPs) inspection of **Youth Offending Services** reports on the effectiveness of work with adults and children and young people who have offended focussing on the quality of services provided.
- Ofsted's **Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF)** is applied to a number of settings including secure children's homes, using the same judgement structure with the experiences and progress of children central to the inspection.
- Consultation on a new **Education Inspection Framework** is expected to be released in early 2019 with implementation from September 2019.
- The **Troubled families programme** ensures that children, young people and families receive effective early help and have 'whole family' 'outcome focussed' support. A

single lead worker coordinates support services around the family in a single multi-agency plan to reduce duplication and prevent high cost statutory service interventions.

- Police and Crime Commissioners have a responsibility to ensure good partnership working around criminal justice matters through Local Criminal Justice Boards.

## **Vision for Children and Young People in County Durham**

The County Durham Partnership sets out the long term vision for County Durham. The economic ambition underpinning the vision for Durham is to shape a County Durham where people want to live, work, study, invest and visit and enable our residents and businesses to achieve their full economic potential. Success will require us to capitalise on untapped potential to provide growth and resulting in narrowing the productivity and employment gap between the county, the region and the UK. An increasingly more balanced economy will not only benefit our businesses, communities and residents financially, but will help to enable social mobility, improve community cohesion, reduce social exclusion, reduce job-related health problems, and improve quality of life across the county.

The County Durham Partnership also have a longstanding commitment to make life better for children and young people in the county, and this is a strategic priority for all partners. We want to renew and strengthen our focus on improving life for our children and young people, by improving the access they and their families have to these economic opportunities, as well as improving children's health, education, safety, and transitions into adulthood.

We recognise that children and young people benefit from remaining with their families and play an active role in their communities giving children the security, stability and love through their childhood and beyond to ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes. Where this is not possible we will ensure that permanence is the long-term plan for a child's upbringing and provides an underpinning framework for all social work with children and their families, ranging from family support through to adoption.

## **Vision and Aims**

Our vision is that County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential. To achieve this, we have developed four key aims:

1. All children and young people have a safe childhood
2. Children and Young People enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing
3. Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood
4. Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) achieve the best possible outcomes

### **Aim 1**

#### **All children and young people have a safe childhood.**

We will provide a range of services for children, young people and families to help ensure they achieve this aim. We will focus on preventative measures through our early help and intervention services and will ensure that all children in need of help and protection are protected from harm. We will ensure that young people are protected from crime and those

who get into trouble are supported by a range of services, including the youth offending service.

For those needing our statutory support services we will ensure that our social work practice is of a high standard. We will be an excellent corporate parent to the children and young people within the Council's care and for those leaving the care system. We will work with education, youth support and other networks to ensure good services are available to all our children, young people and their families.

### **Aim 2**

#### **Children and Young People enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing.**

Better outcomes for children cannot be achieved through health and social care service improvement in isolation. How children live, learn and play are all key drivers of healthy development. Parenting is critical to a child's development and evidence shows children who are exposed to adverse events such as domestic abuse or alcohol misuse can be affected negatively, both physically and mentally, throughout their adolescence and into adult life. Education, housing, community connections, employment and poverty all determine whether a child will be more likely to thrive and achieve their optimum potential in life. We will work to ensure our children enjoy the best start in life and have good health and wellbeing, offering help when required. For our more vulnerable children and families we will provide a more targeted offer of support to reduce inequalities in outcomes. Children and young people will be supported to achieve their optimum mental health and wellbeing.

### **Aim 3**

#### **Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood.**

We will focus on improving the educational attainment of our children and young people. We also need to ensure that young people have the right skills and are prepared for work and we need to work together to ensure children develop a love of learning in addition to ensuring that there are sufficient employment and training opportunities available. We will also ensure that young people have the opportunity and support to progress in education, employment and training on leaving school through our DurhamWorks programme.

### **Aim 4**

#### **Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes.**

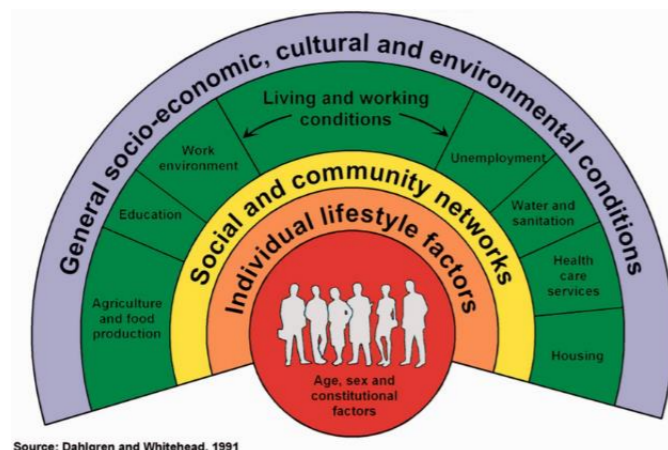
We aim to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have high quality support which meets their needs. Children, young people and their families will be involved in the design and plans for these services, with their voice being listened to and where possible acted upon. It is important that we are able to support these children and young people to secure meaningful employment which enables and prepares them to live independently into adult life.

## Promoting Equality of Opportunity

In developing this strategy, we recognise that poverty is the most important driver of outcomes for children and young people. **Our ambitions are underpinned by an unrelenting cross-partnership focus on tackling the impact of poverty and disadvantage on all residents, including children, young people and their families.** We have formed a Child Poverty Working Group, which aims to develop and implement a single coherent and coordinated approach to addressing and mitigating child poverty across County Durham. The objectives of the group are being delivered through three key strands, namely; language and values associated with child poverty; poverty management in the community linked to early help; and an economic - inclusive growth approach<sup>1</sup>.

## Health and wellbeing inequalities

We understand that economic factors, alongside environmental and social inequalities can determine children, young people and their families' risk of getting ill, their ability to prevent sickness, or their access to effective treatments. We have based our improvement plans on this understanding of the relationship between individuals and families, their environment and health (see diagram below). Individuals are placed at the centre and surrounding them are the various layers of influences on health – such as individual lifestyle factors, community influences, living and working conditions, and more general social conditions. This context is essential as the ability to achieve changes in outcomes is dependent on the wider influences of health.



## Listening to our children, young people, families and local communities to improve services

We recognise that we have responsibilities to ensure that all of our children, young people and their families are included within the opportunities that this vision will provide. We aim to **listen** to our children, young people and families, and continually review and **learn** from them, leading a programme of service improvement to better meet their needs.

We are passionate about understanding individual needs and improving the life chances and wellbeing for children, young people and families who need extra support and care, including:

- Young carers
- Disabled children
- Children in poverty
- Families affected by substance misuse, mental health and domestic violence
- Children with special educational needs
- Children in care
- Care leavers
- Children subject to a care plan or child protection plan
- Children and families who are economically disadvantaged
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Children with mental health needs
- Young people who offend
- Young victims of crime including those who have been sexually abused
- Children with a parent with learning difficulties

We want to ensure that all children and their families are fully able to take advantage of the opportunities we are creating for better employment and prosperity. This will mean better safeguarding, and a passionate commitment to ensuring that children have safe, loving and stable home environments, with any risks dealt with quickly and effectively.

We will work more closely with families, schools, colleges and employers to ensure our children have a good start in life, good education and develop the skills to access good quality employment. We will work with employers to ensure that there are routes for young people into the new jobs that are on offer.

We are also ambitious to improve the health of our children and young people. Our children and families have a challenging legacy in terms of higher than average levels of deprivation in the county, in particular key health measures such as childhood obesity, smoking and teenage pregnancies are not as good as we would like. Our vision is that all of our children have the opportunity to live healthy lives and have the right environment for this to be achieved with optimum access to effective and advice which meet their needs.

<sup>1</sup> The Joseph Rowntree Foundation definition of poverty has been utilised of 'When a person's resources are well below their minimum needs, including the need to take part in society'.

As our economic prospects improve, people of the county, its businesses and public sector bodies are looking forward. In looking to our future as a county, we are placing our children and young people at the heart of our thinking.

A participation and engagement strategy is being developed to further strengthen how partners listen to our vulnerable children and young people and their families so that their 'voice' is heard and acted upon.

**Opportunities for children, young people and families to get involved (an explanation of these opportunities is found in Appendix 1):**

- Investing in Children (including the eXtreme group and Children in Care Council)
- Making Changes Together
- Student Voice Survey
- Bridge Young Carer's service
- Care Leavers Forum
- Humankind
- Durham Children and Young People's Network on Facebook
- Looked After Children Young People's Service
- Area Action Partnerships (AAP's)
- CCG engagement
- Mini police, volunteer police cadets and police apprentices

We have adopted a charter approach to listening to and acting upon the views and experiences of children and their families. The following charters are commitments of the Children and Families Partnership:

- Investing in Children Membership Award™
- Young Carer's Charter
- SEND Promise

**Investing in Children Dialogue**

Dialogue has taken place with a number of children and young people aged 4 to 22 within County Durham through two Investing in Children agenda days. Children and Young People from different groups within Investing in Children, including young people with SEND, Children in Care, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) and different areas across County Durham have had the opportunity to have their voice heard and views listened to. This enables us to evaluate children and young people's perceptions of current issues within education, health, special needs/disabilities and emotional wellbeing.

Key findings from the Investing in Children Agenda day tell us that:

- Children and young people feel they need more support when leaving school to get into further education, training or employment. With a specific emphasis being placed upon more support needed for students who experience mental health difficulties.
- Young people reported that they would benefit from receiving more life skills at school.

- Bullying appears to be apparent across the age groups. Children and young people reported that more needs to be done within school policies to ensure this is dealt with properly.
- Children and young people reported a lack of financial resources which negatively impacts on experiences in and out of school and therefore impacts on overall health and wellbeing.
- The need to feel safer at home, school and in the community with consistent stability from parents, guardians and teachers was highlighted for all children and young people including those looked after.
- Children and young people felt that parental drug and alcohol misuse had negative impacts on overall health and wellbeing.

**Student Voice Survey 'You Said'**

As part of the Children and Families Partnership, a Student Voice survey (an online questionnaire) took place in both primary and secondary schools in County Durham between January and April 2017. Of the 204 primary schools 97 participated (3,719 students) and 20 of the 33 secondary schools (5,640 students). In total, more than a third of all eligible students in County Durham participated in the engagement. The survey is planned to be completed again in 2019.

The Student Voice Survey indicates that:

- 53% of secondary school students feel that they are achieving expected progress in Reading, Writing and Numeracy
- 1,481 primary school pupils and 1,418 secondary school pupils who participated said that they had been bullied at their current school
- In primary school bullying is more prevalent in above average Free School Meals (FSM) schools and Free School Meals eligible pupils in secondary school are more likely to have been bullied
- The vast majority of both primary and secondary pupils reported that they feel safe. Feelings of safety are reported lowest at break time (primary) and around school when not in lessons (secondary)
- The survey found that only 52.2% of Year 11 pupils knew how to get an apprenticeship
- A higher percentage of boys (in both primary and secondary) reported to consuming one or more energy drinks per day
- Only 37.1% of boys and 31.2% of girls in primary and 25.5% of boys and 17.7% of girls in secondary reported to being physically active for at least 60 minutes on all 7 days
- In primary schools with above average FSM, significantly fewer pupils eat their 5-a-day (54.0% compared to 62.6%). FSM eligibility is also associated with less engagement with clubs outside of school.

**'We did'**

Some of the immediate actions we have taken to respond to things children, young people and families have said are set out below. Key elements from the engagement have informed the priorities of this strategy.

**You said:** bullying is more prevalent in above average FSM schools and FSM eligible pupils are more likely to be bullied

**We did:** The Child Poverty Working Group (CPWG), in partnership with Education Durham, have developed a 'cut the cost of the school day' training programme which aims to reduce the stigma associated with living in poverty, increase opportunities for pupils living in poverty to access educational opportunities in school and extracurricular and challenge staff and pupil perceptions of poverty and deprivation. The training programme will be rolled out to both primary and secondary schools over the next three academic years (with a number of schools already signed up).

**You said:** 1,481 primary school pupils and 1,418 secondary school pupils said that they had been bullied at their current school

**We did:** The Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience group have agreed the roll out of the Durham Resilience programme to 25 schools per year and to deliver the YAM (Youth Aware of Mental Health) programme in 10 schools in 2017/18 and 20 schools in 2018/19. Providing emotional wellbeing and resilience nurses to build capacity and upskill staff and school nurses is also a key priority of the 0-19 programme.

**You said:** pupils aren't engaging in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day

**We did:** Public Health, education, culture and sport along with other partners have developed the 'Active 30' programme to encourage schools to get pupils more active by pledging to achieve 10, 20 or 30 minutes of exercise per day. Schools will be given tools that will encourage leaders in the educational sector to embed physical activity right across the agenda. This is being rolled out to schools during the 2018/19 academic year (with a number of schools already signed up).

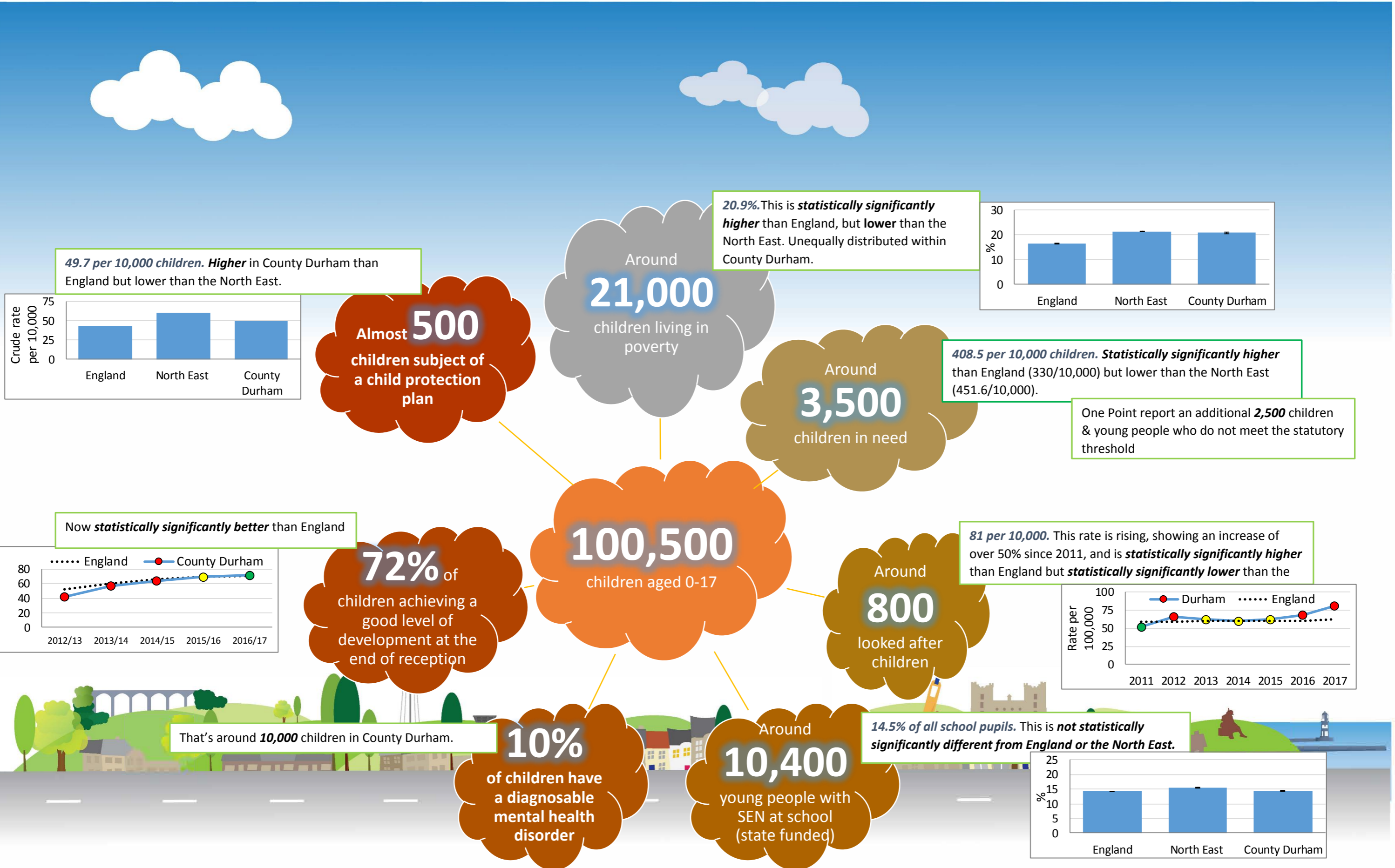
**You said:** 47.8% of Year 11 pupils did not know how to get an apprenticeship

**We did:** promote careers education information and guidance information resources to increase awareness of all post-16 options (including apprenticeships)

# Where we are now

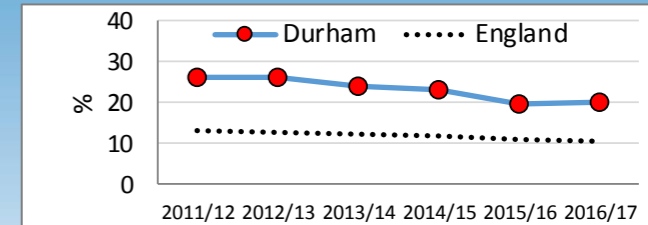
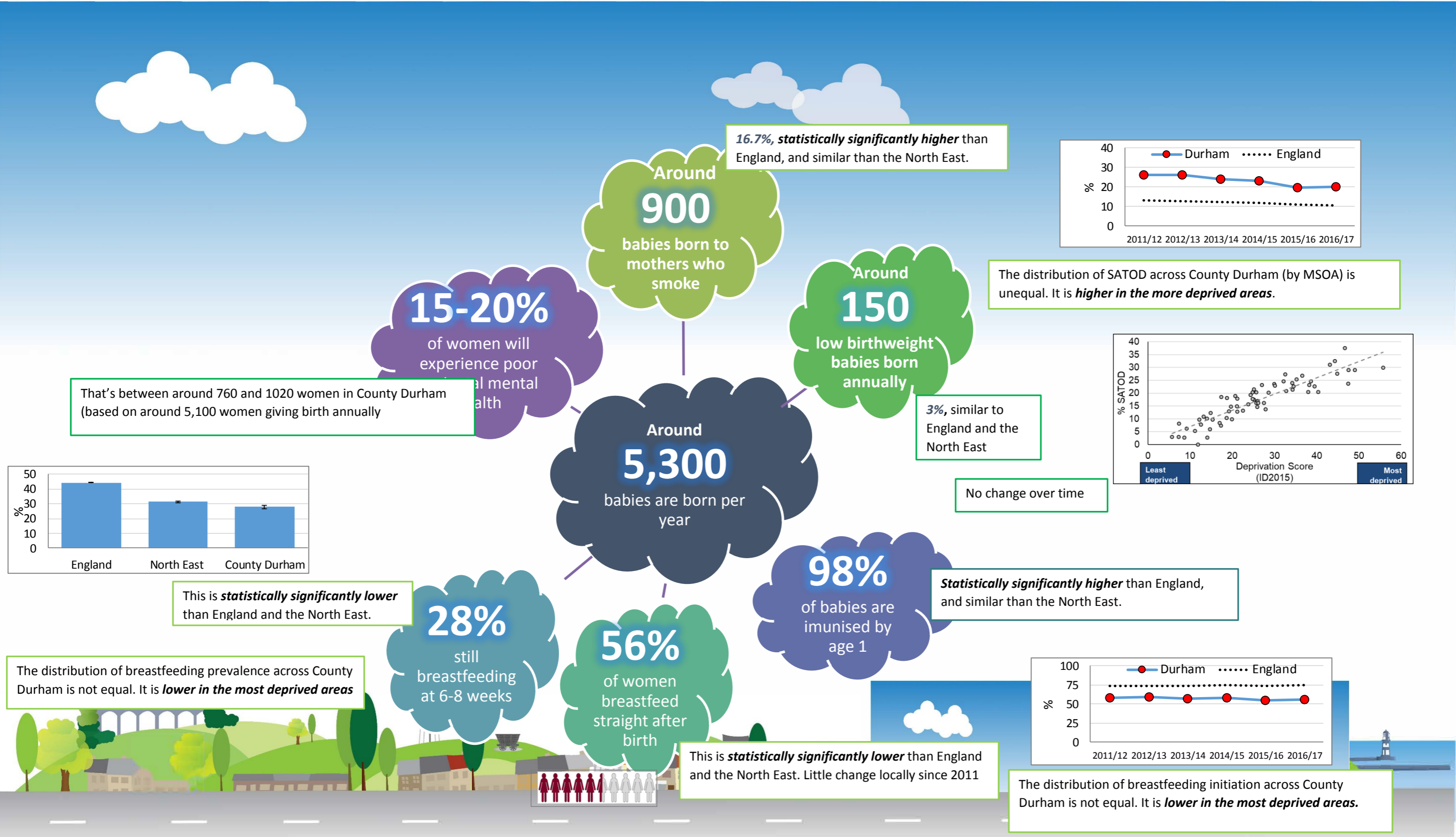
## Children and young people in County Durham

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England

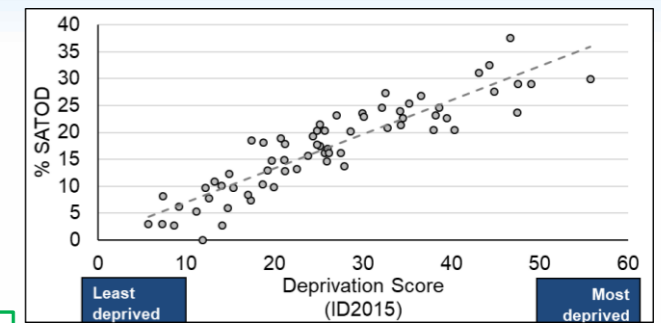


# Pre and post birth

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England



The distribution of SATOD across County Durham (by MSOA) is unequal. It is **higher in the more deprived areas**.

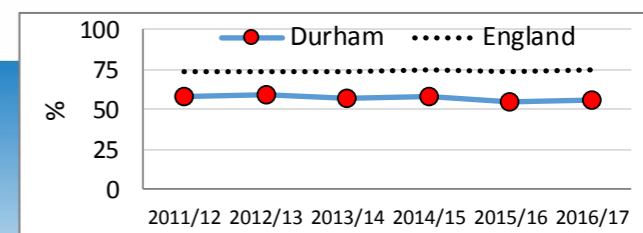


No change over time



This is **statistically significantly lower** than England and the North East.

The distribution of breastfeeding prevalence across County Durham is not equal. It is **lower in the most deprived areas**.

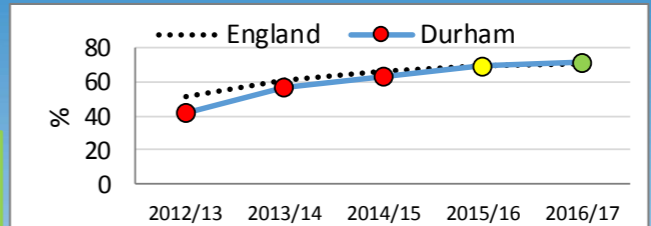
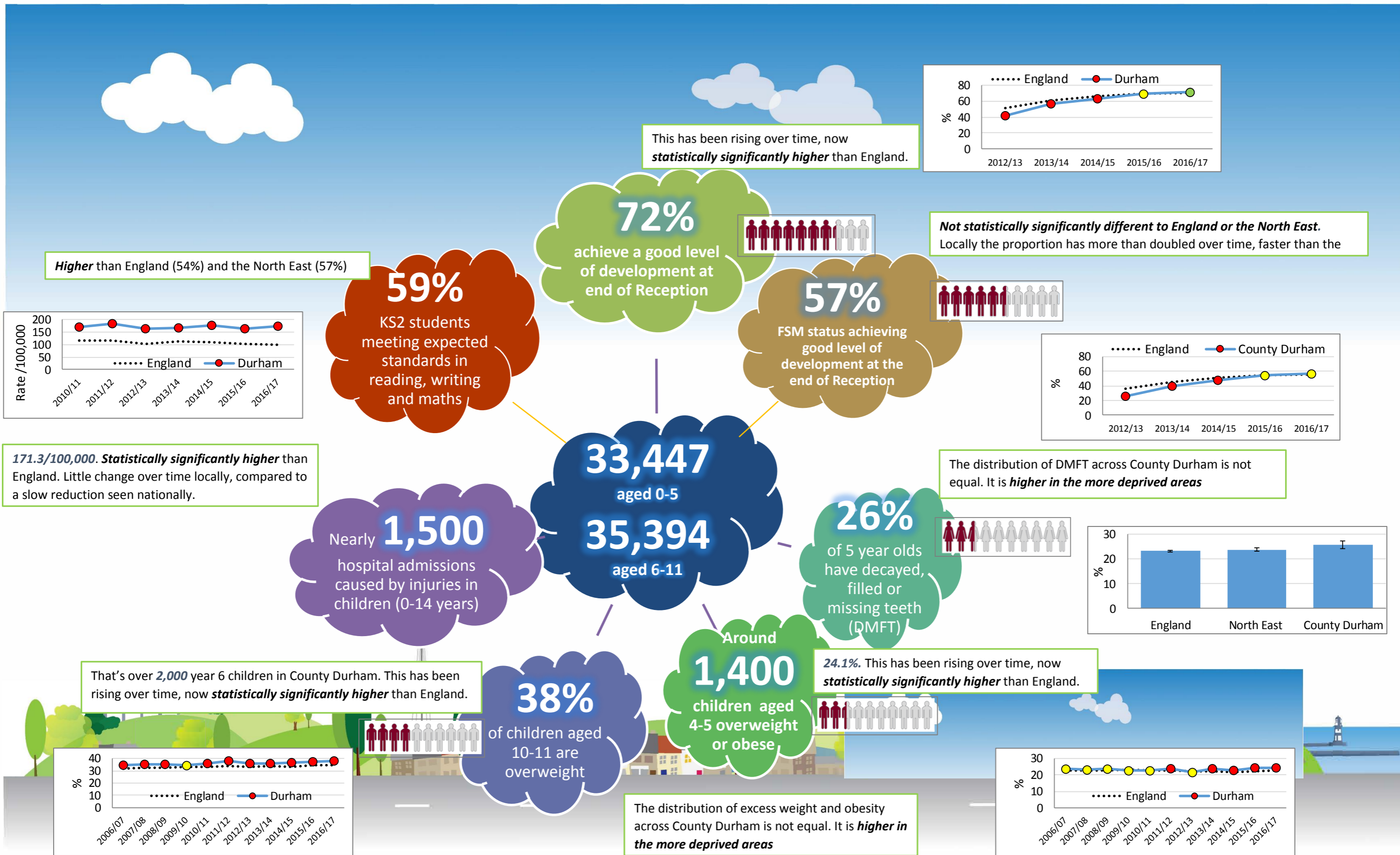


The distribution of breastfeeding initiation across County Durham is not equal. It is **lower in the most deprived areas**.

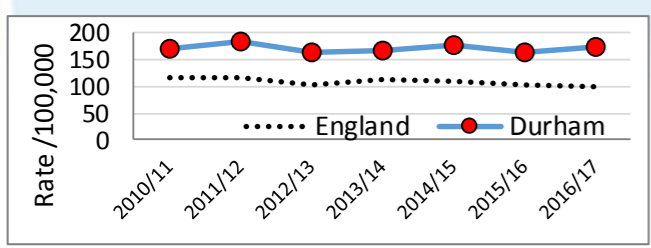


# Early Years and Primary School

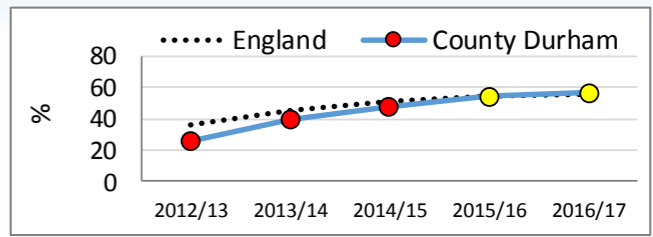
●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England



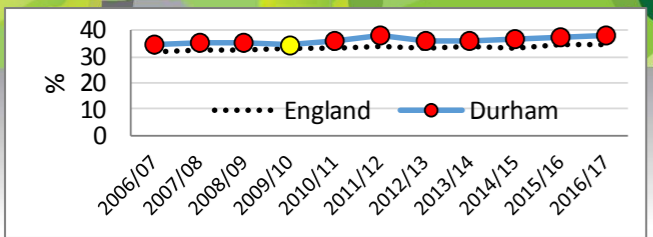
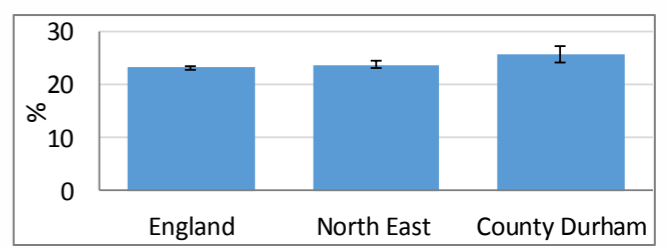
**Not statistically significantly different to England or the North East.** Locally the proportion has more than doubled over time, faster than the



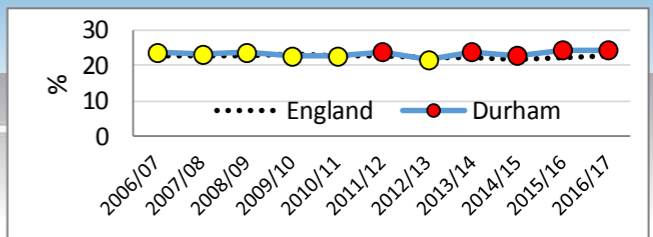
**171.3/100,000.** **Statistically significantly higher** than England. Little change over time locally, compared to a slow reduction seen nationally.



The distribution of DMFT across County Durham is not equal. It is **higher in the more deprived areas**



That's over **2,000** year 6 children in County Durham. This has been rising over time, now **statistically significantly higher** than England.

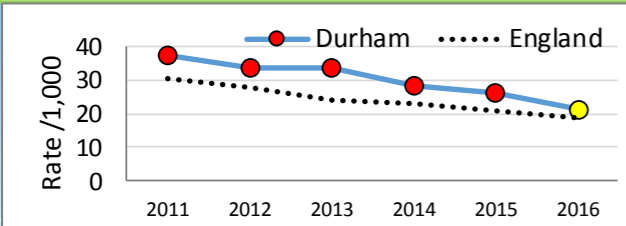


The distribution of excess weight and obesity across County Durham is not equal. It is **higher in the more deprived areas**

# Secondary School and Transitions

●	Statistically significantly better than England
●	Not significantly different to England
●	Statistically significantly worse than England

22 per 1,000 teenage conceptions in 2016, the lowest since the 1998 benchmark. A decreasing trend locally and nationally. The rate is now **not statistically significantly different to England**



**173**  
teenage conceptions (2016)

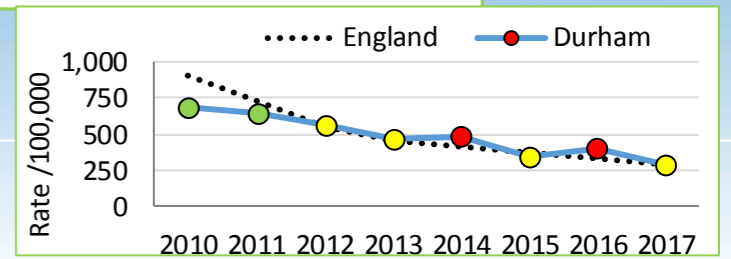
**58%**  
young people gain 5 good GCSEs

This has been rising over time, **not statistically significantly different** to England or the North East.

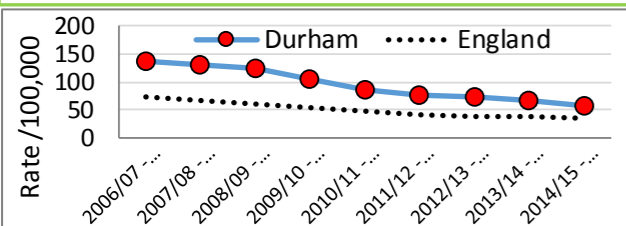


**Around 130**  
first time entrants to the Youth Justice system

**294 per 100,000.** This is **not statistically significantly different** to England or the North East, and has been reducing over time.



**56.2 per 100,000.** Decreasing trend locally and nationally. **Statistically significantly higher** in County Durham than England

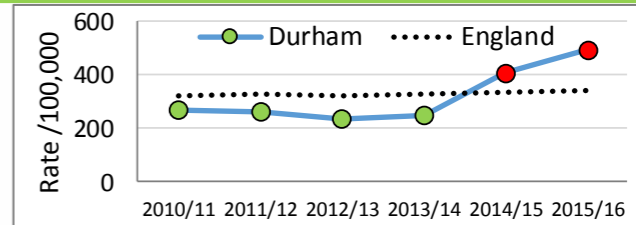


**196**  
under 18s admitted to hospital for alcohol specific conditions

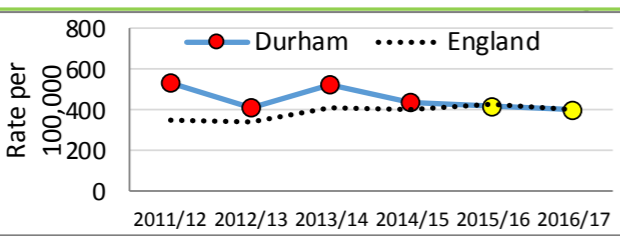
**26,231** aged 12-16  
**11,561** aged 17-18

Over **8,400** A&E attendances (15-17 years)

**495 per 100,000.** Now **statistically significantly higher** than England and the North East.



**401 per 100,000.** Decreasing trend locally and the rate is now **not statistically significantly different** to England

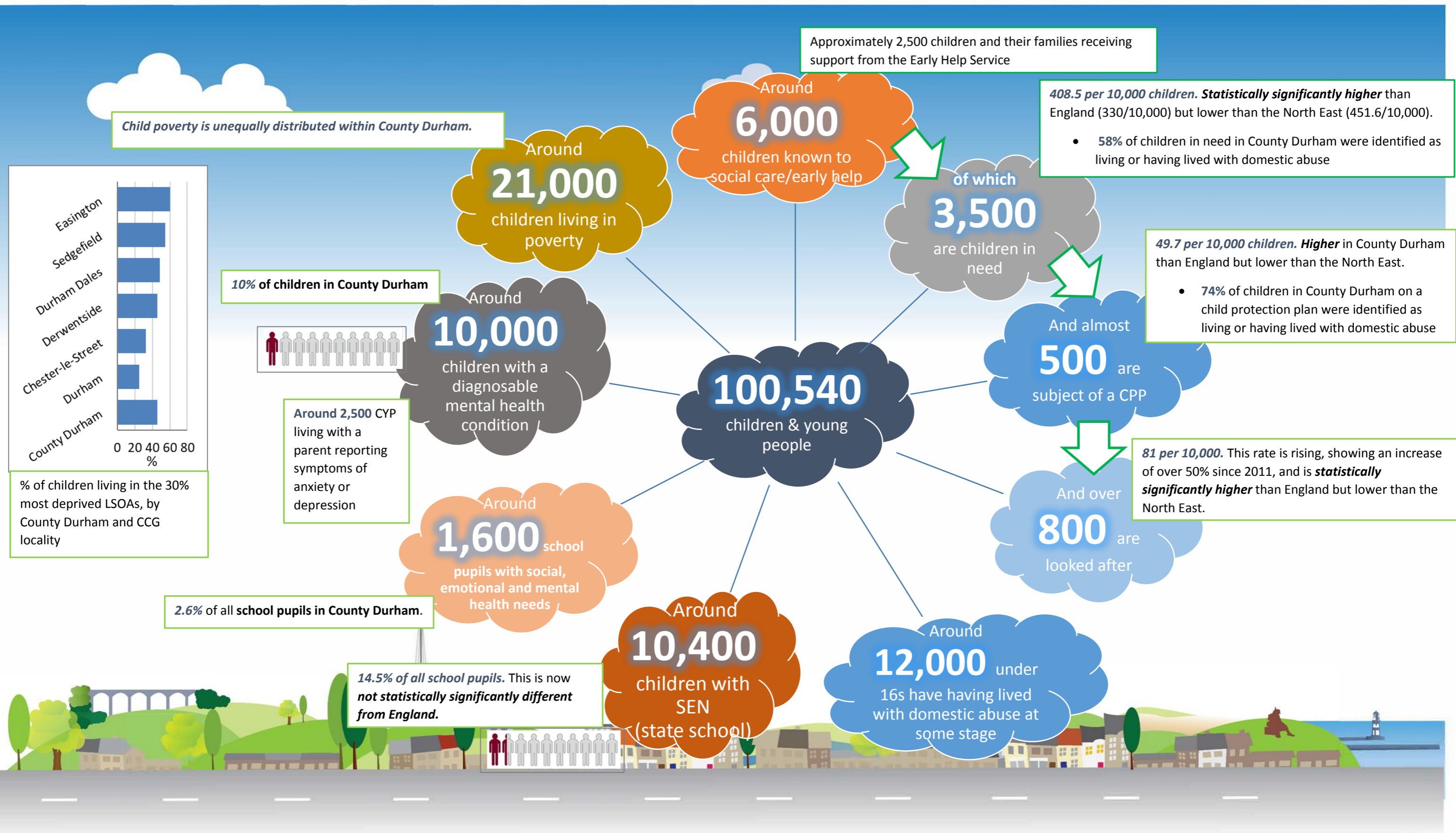


**216**  
hospital admissions a year as a result of self-harm

Around **6%**  
16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training

That's around **600 young people aged 16-17.** **Not statistically significantly different** to England or the North East.

# Vulnerability: The scale of the challenge

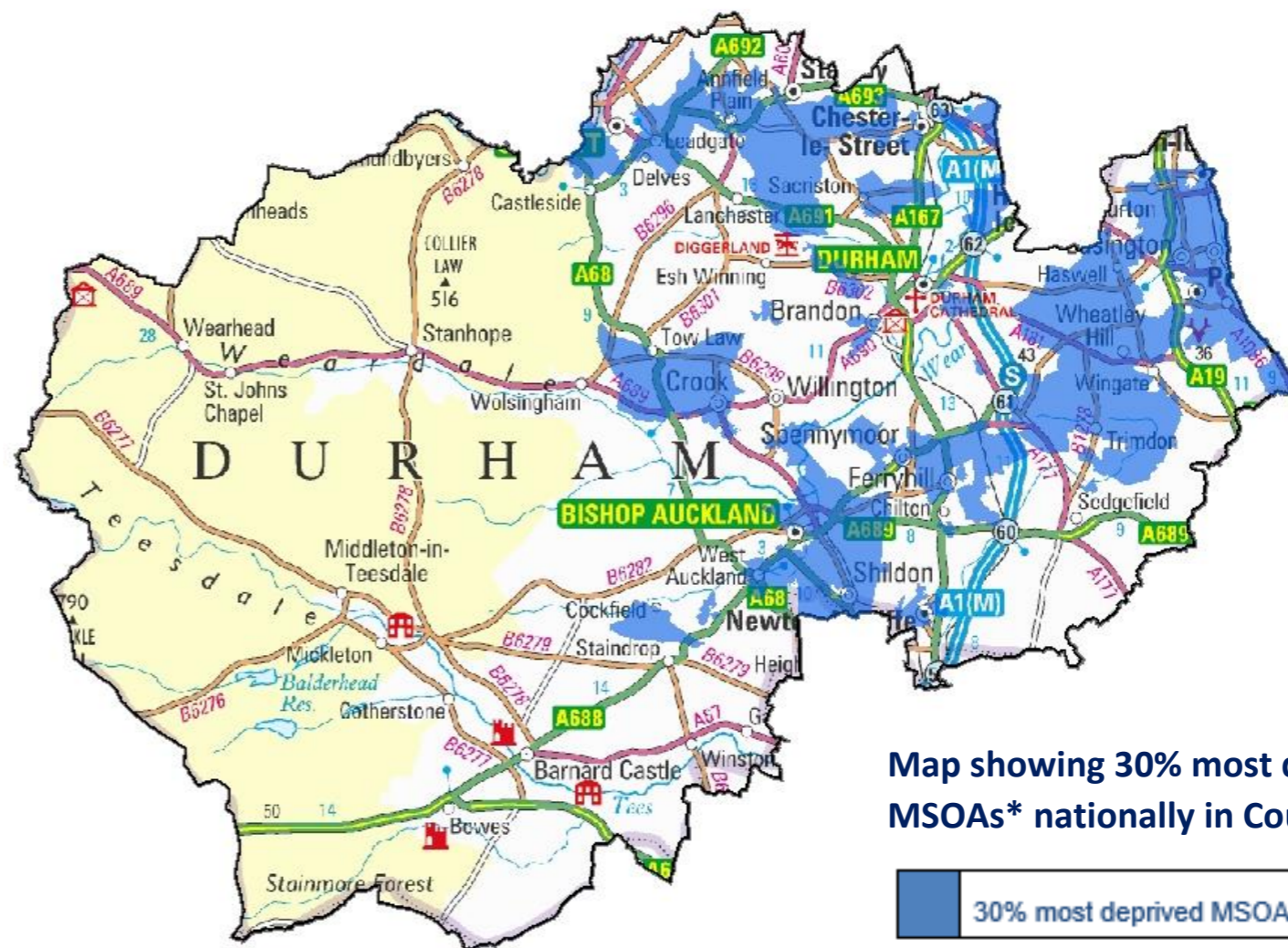


# Measuring inequalities within County Durham

Within County Durham there is a social gradient to many health and wellbeing outcomes across the lifecycle, from pre-birth, throughout childhood and adolescence

## In the more deprived areas of County Durham we know that:

Life expectancy is shorter	<b>7.7</b> years shorter for men	<b>7.1</b> years shorter for women
Healthy life expectancy is shorter	<b>13.8</b> years shorter for men	<b>14.5</b> years shorter for women
Fewer mothers breastfeed for longer	The gap between most and least deprived at 6-8 weeks	<b>100%</b>
More mothers are smokers when they have their baby	4 out of 5 areas with the highest prevalence	are in the <b>most deprived 10%</b>
More children have excess weight	gap between most and least deprived for 4-5 and 10-11 year olds	<b>20%</b>



Map showing 30% most deprived MSOAs\* nationally in County Durham

30% most deprived MSOAs

\* Middle Super Output Area – a small area statistical geography with an average population of around 7,500 nationally. There are 66 MSOAs in County Durham.

## Implications for improving life in County Durham

### Pre and post birth

- Reduce the number of mothers who smoke
- Increase breastfeeding
- Increase services for perinatal mental health

### Early years and primary school

- Increase attainment levels for all children
- Improve mental health
- Improve dental health
- Reduce the number of hospital admissions for unintentional injuries
- Reduce the number of children who are overweight or obese

### Secondary school and Transitions

- Improve educational attainment
- Look at A&E attendances
- Reduce hospital admissions for alcohol related attendances
- Reduce hospital admissions as a result of self-harm
- Improve mental health and wellbeing
- Continue to reduce teenage conceptions
- Reducing offending by young people

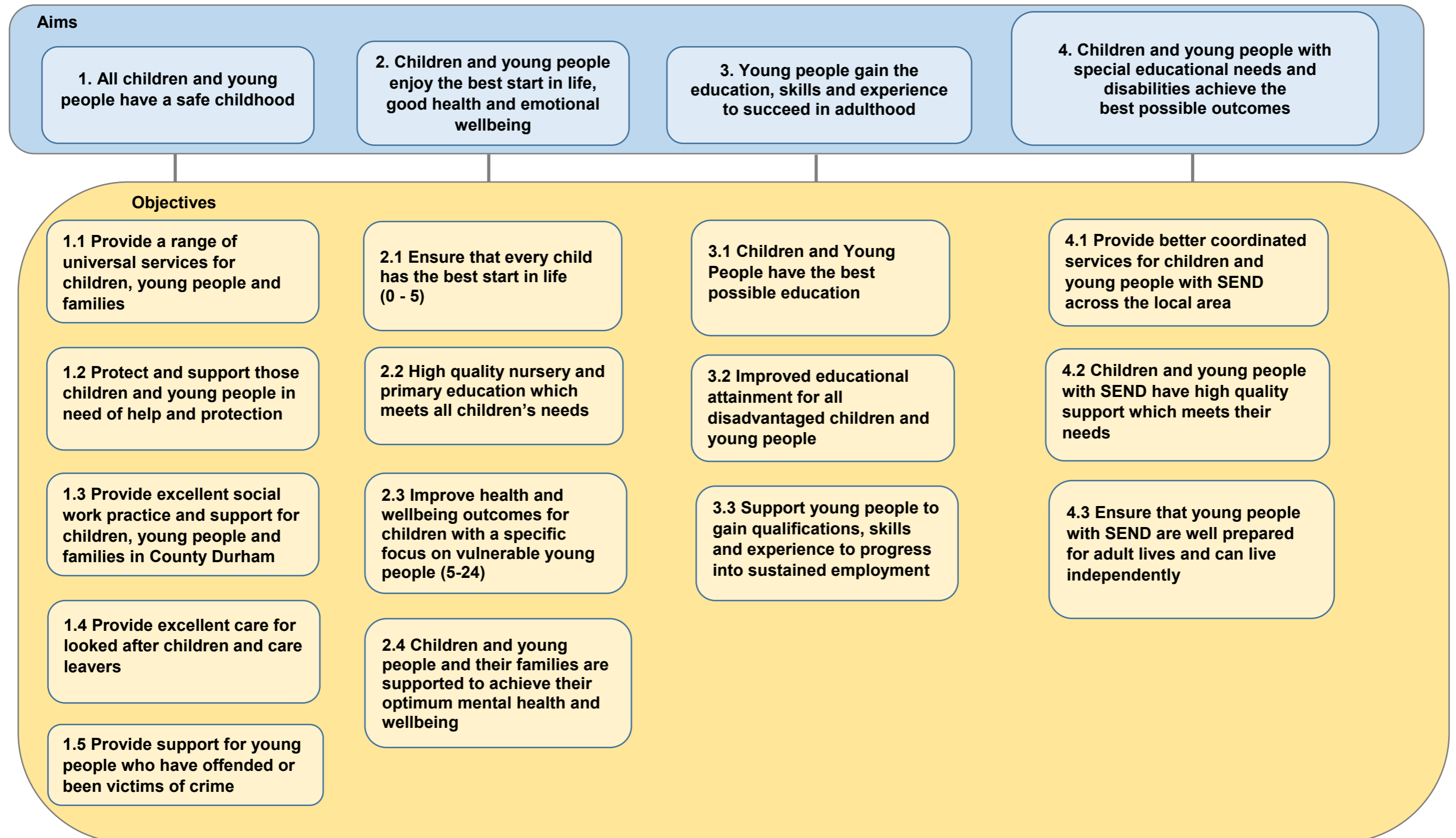
DURHAM INSIGHT

Insight and Intelligence to inform.

[www.durhaminsight.info](http://www.durhaminsight.info)

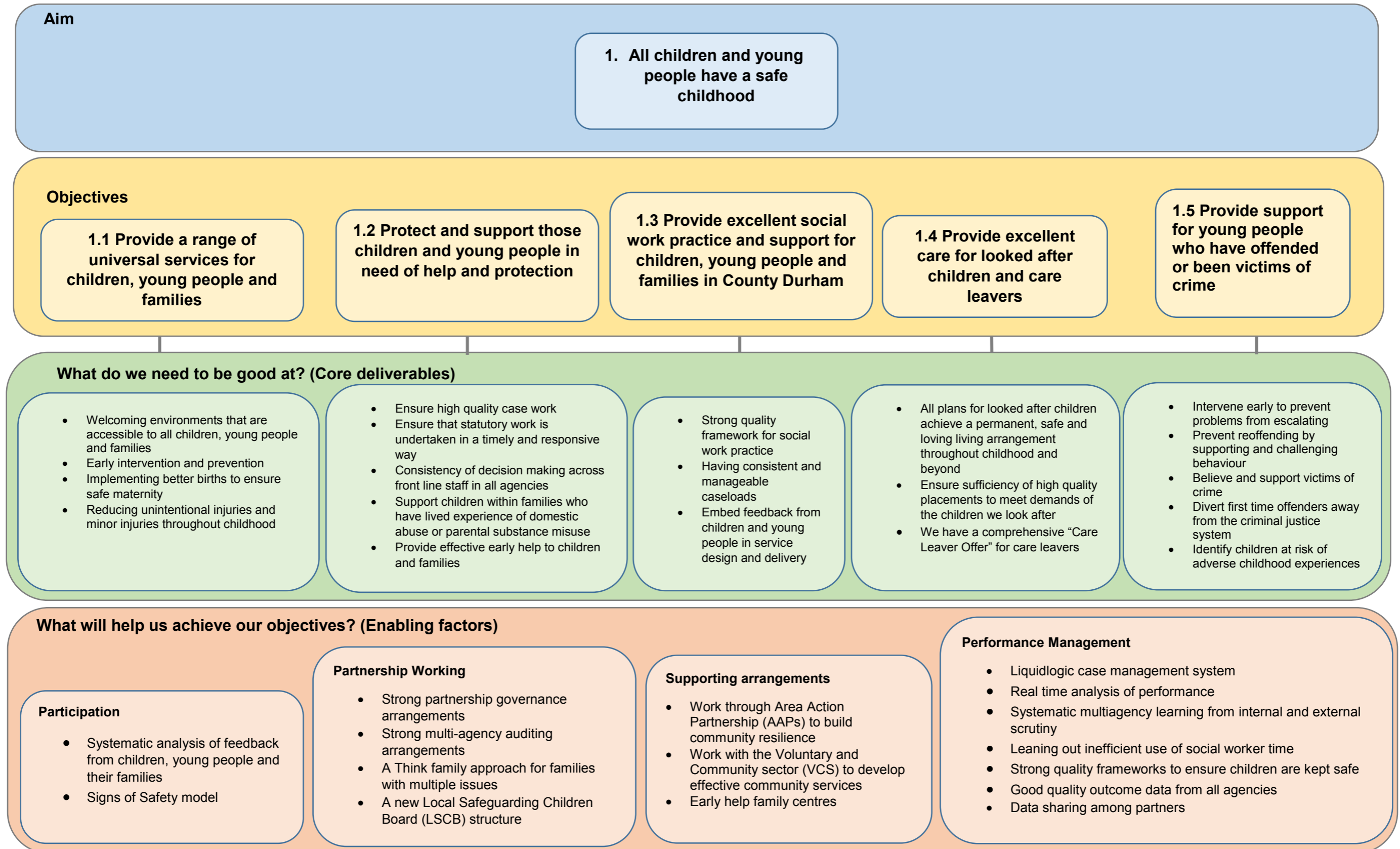
## County Durham Children and Young People's Strategy

**Vision:** County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.



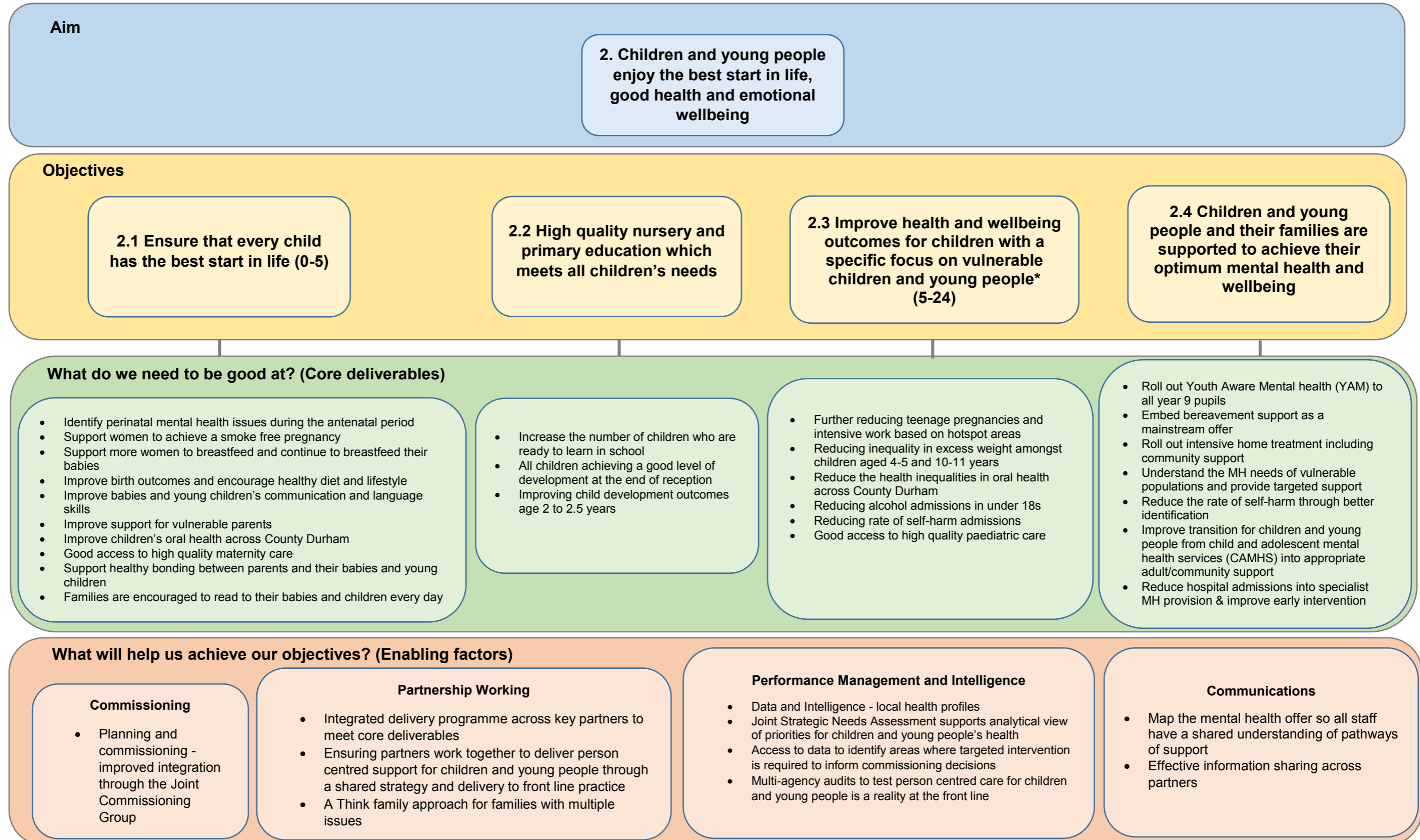
## County Durham Children and Young People's Strategy

**Vision:** County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.



## County Durham Children and Young People's Strategy

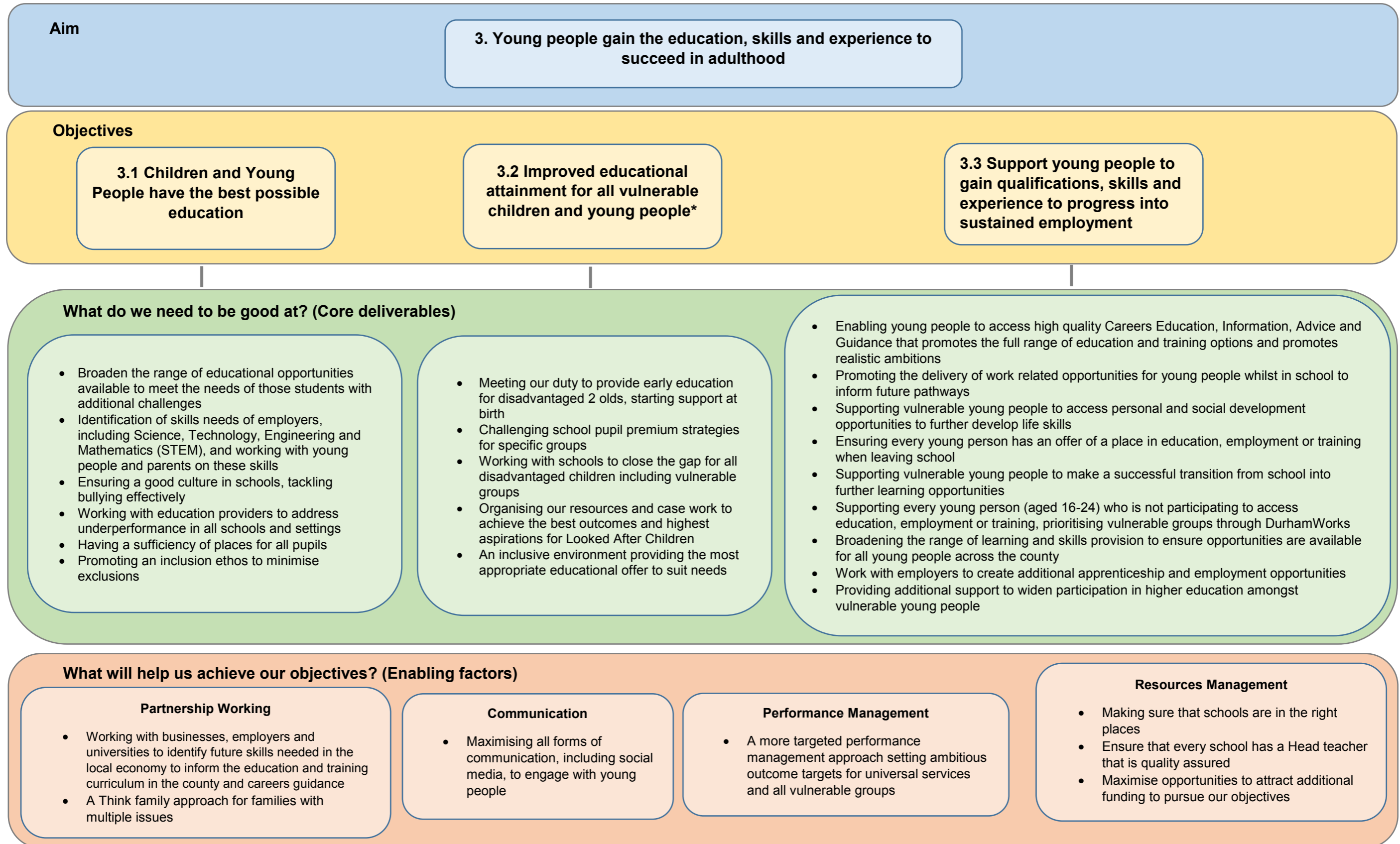
**Vision:** County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.



\*Vulnerable children and young people include looked after children and care leavers, children on a child protection plan, young carers, children and young people being supervised by the youth offending service, children and young people being home educated and children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

## County Durham Children and Young People's Strategy

**Vision:** County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential.



\*Vulnerable children and young people include looked after children and care leavers, children on a child protection plan, young carers, children and young people being supervised by the youth offending service, children and young people being home educated and children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities



## County Durham Children and Young People's Strategy

**Vision** County Durham will be a great place for children and young people to grow up in and for Durham to be a place where all children are healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential

### Aims

**4. Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes**

### Objectives

**4.1 Provide better coordinated services for children and young people with SEND across the local area**

**4.2 Children and young people with SEND have high quality support which meets their needs**

**4.3 Ensure that young people with SEND are well prepared for adult lives and can live independently**

### What do we need to be good at? (Core deliverables)

- Embed and maintain a joint commissioning cycle that improves access to integrated support in Education Health and Care
- Provide families with information about Local Area Services through improvements to the Local Offer and its communication
- Ensure 'High Priority Indicators' capture relevant data and key performance info across Education, Health and Social Care
- Improved engagement with children and young people, parents and carers to inform policy and service quality
- Co-production of an updated SEND Strategy (2019-2022) which is regularly reviewed

- Develop a shared vision for inclusion education of young people with SEND that raises the confidence of providers and parents
- Improve the access to social activities achieving greater opportunities for social inclusion of young people with complex needs
- Develop the current Enhanced Mainstream Provision in schools to support young people where there identified gaps in provision
- Create new Enhanced Mainstream Provision to specifically support young people with autism in KS3
- Ensure the workforce is well equipped to effectively support children and young people with SEND
- Improved Education Health and Care opportunities for Children and Young People and their families on the autism spectrum
- Ensure a greater sufficiency of education places and use of SEND provision in County Durham

- Develop improved pathways into adulthood to support better outcomes for young adults with SEND
- Work with a range of partners to enhance supported internship opportunities
- Working with families and young people to determine when an Education, Health and Care Plan should be maintained

### What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling factors)

#### Strategic Leadership and Governance

- Strategic and operational approach to co-production across the local area
- Service user feedback informs service design
- Regularly updated needs assessment for children with SEND

#### Partnership Working

- Strong strategic governance for joint commissioning, operational partnerships and quality improvement
- A Think family approach for families with multiple issues
- Effective democratic scrutiny and monitoring of SEND matters by multiple agencies
- Effective governance procedures for commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND

#### Partnership Performance Management

- A SEND scorecard across education, health and care providers
- Ensure that performance is better captured across multiple services and that all providers are SEND compliant
- Improve analysis of needs and outcomes for CYP with SEND across education, health and care providers to better inform commissioning
- Benchmark SEND reform implementation

## How will we measure success?

We aim to bring the whole resources of local public services and the voluntary sector to work with children and families to improve the life chances of our children and young people. Our aspiration is for County Durham to be a great place for children and young people to grow up in.

## Delivery Framework

There is a delivery framework underpinning the strategic aims and objectives which includes detailed action plans and programmes for improvement as follows:

- **Aim 1: All children and young people have a safe childhood:** A 12-month plan to improve our social work and support services has been developed. The eighteen actions in this plan are being monitored through a Quality Improvement Board and the Integrated Steering Group for Children. This plan takes into account the ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) framework which is produced by Ofsted and focuses on how a local area provides services to help care and protection of children and young people.
- **Aim 2: Children and young people enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional wellbeing:** This outcome will be monitored by three programmes namely; Healthy Child Programme Group, Children and Young People's Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience Local Transformation Plan (CYP MH LTP) and Best Start in Life programme. Detailed action plans will support this work.
- **Aim 3: Young people gain the education, skills and experience to succeed in adulthood:** This outcome will be measured through our Strategy for Schools and associated plans and through our shared partnership Participation Plan. In addition, progress towards the achievement of DurhamWorks targets is reviewed by the DurhamWorks Strategic Group on a quarterly basis.
- **Aim 4: Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities achieve the best possible outcomes:** The SEND written statement of action, written in response to the area wide inspection of these services undertaken late 2017, is monitored through the SEND Quality Improvement Board and the Integrated Steering Group for Children. This work will be taken forward through the new SEND strategy and accompanying action plan.

## Monitoring and Review

Each delivery framework will be monitored through the governance framework at Appendix 3 and below using a range of performance indicators and actions (each of the sub groups will have a delivery plans and be responsible for the delivery of those plans). The delivery framework will be subject to an annual refresh to ensure that actions and measures are current. The strategy itself will be subject to a fundamental review every three year where the outcomes and objectives are revisited and the strategy will be rewritten to ensure that it is current and reflects the strategic environment.

## Scrutiny of Progress

Working together to safeguard children requires us to have multiagency assurance arrangements to judge the effectiveness of how we safeguard and promote the welfare of all

children in the county. Our scrutiny arrangements cover all local safeguarding partners and comprise:

- The local safeguarding children's board (LSCB) which oversees partnership safeguarding
- A programme of multi-agency and single agency audits
- Feedback from children, young people and families
- Partner feedback
- Review and analysis of performance
- Political oversight through the council's cabinet
- Independent scrutiny through the children and young people's overview and scrutiny committee
- Corporate parenting panel
- Peer support and challenge through the sector lead improvement and partners in practice programmes
- Continuing monitoring and learning from external inspection, serious case reviews

By 2022 we want to see:

- ✓ Reduced impact of poverty on children and young people's lives
- ✓ More children and young people from County Durham accessing apprenticeships and higher education opportunities including those from vulnerable group e.g. those with SEND
- ✓ More County Durham young people obtaining high quality jobs
- ✓ Fewer children and young people in need of high level safeguarding interventions, through early help
- ✓ Our more vulnerable children and young people living safe and healthy lives, achieving well and making successful transitions to adulthood.
- ✓ Improved learning opportunities through an inclusive education system
- ✓ Reduced teenage pregnancies
- ✓ Reduced levels of childhood obesity
- ✓ Reduced impacts of youth offending on young people's lives

Examples of key performance indicators supporting these ambitions include:

- Percentage of all school pupils eligible and claiming for Free School Meals
- Percentage of 16-17 year olds in an apprenticeship
- Percentage of children who are Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET)
- Rate of children with a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 population
- Rate of looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 18
- Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation/EET
- Gap between the average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and the average Attainment 8 score of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (at KS4)
- Percentage of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who have had the required number of health assessments
- % mothers smoking at time of delivery
- Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks and initiation
- Prevalence of First Entrants to Criminal Justice System aged under 18
- Reduce numbers of children with SEND educated out of county
- Lower exclusion rates of young people particularly those who are vulnerable

## **Appendix 1: Opportunities for children, young people and families to get involved**

### **Investing in Children (IIC)**

- IIC promote the rights of children and young people. They provide research and participation services to organisations that work with children and young people and share their commitment to their human rights. They support a range of groups including:
  - Disabled young people from County Durham called the eXtreme group, who engage with commissioners, service providers and parents/carers to develop and improve services for children with SEND across the county.
  - Children in Care Council (CICC) for County Durham. CICC work with Durham County Council to raise the issues of children and young people and make changes to improve services for anyone living in care across the County. All children and young people that are looked after in County Durham are automatically members of the CICC (Children in Care Council) and can take part in discussions and issues raised.

### **Making Changes Together**

- Making Changes Together is a parent/carers forum. A group of parent carers who work with professionals to influence and improve services to children and young people (0-25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities in County Durham.

### **Student Voice Survey**

- The Student Voice Survey, which takes place every two years, is the result of engagement with Primary and Secondary school children across the County, giving children the opportunity to inform decision makers about how they live their lives. It is designed to provide schools with an evidence base to use in their OFSTED 'Self Evaluation form', and to provide the Children and Families Partnership with a robust data set which can be used to inform service planning and policy.

### **Bridge Young Carers service**

- The Bridge Young Carers service support children, young people and their families who have a challenging caring responsibility. They work in local communities to ensure that children and their families benefit from all the local services available to them.

### **Care Leavers Forum**

- The Care Leavers Forum provides an opportunity for care leavers to meet to discuss issues which are important to them. The Forum provides space for them to look at

areas of their lives which could be improved by making changes to the services they receive.

### **Humankind**

- Humankind delivers a mix of services to help people in crisis with areas of their lives such as housing, education, employment, training, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, young people and families, and clinical support.

### **Durham Children and Young People's Network on Facebook**

- Provides an interactive social networking service for children and young people with a special educational need or disability, up to the age of 25 in County Durham.

### **Looked After Children young people's service**

- The service is for children in public care, who are placed with foster carers, in residential homes or with parents or other relatives.

### **Area Action Partnerships (AAP's)**

- There are 14 AAP's in place across County Durham to give people a greater choice and voice in local affairs. The AAP's allow people to have a say on services and give organisations the chance to speak directly with local communities. By working in partnership, we help ensure that the services of a range of organisations - including the county and town and parish councils, police, fire, health, and voluntary organisations - are directed to meet the needs of local communities and focus their actions and spending on issues important to these local communities.

### **Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) engagement**

- This is engagement with groups of GPs and other health care professionals who have the responsibility for commissioning health and care services in their area, in partnership with local authorities and local communities.

### **Mini police, volunteer police cadets and police apprentices**

- The mini police scheme provides an interactive volunteering opportunity for 9 to 11-year-old children. The Mini Police support the force priorities, through participation in community engagement events. The junior police cadets, for children aged 11 to 13, bridges the gap between the Mini Police and the Intermediates, enabling children to stay on as a police volunteer from nine to 18.

## Appendix 2 - Services for Children in County Durham

There are a vast range of services provided across the County by public services, the private and voluntary sector. The aim of this section is not to list them all but provide an overview.

Local services for all children and young people include:

- Schools and nurseries
- Sports and leisure activities and facilities
- Libraries
- Arts and cultural activities
- Green spaces
- Transport
- Communities
- Police
- Health care
  - Primary Health care
  - Specialist Health care including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and hospitals
- Social care and specialist services for those needing extra support

### How are services provided?

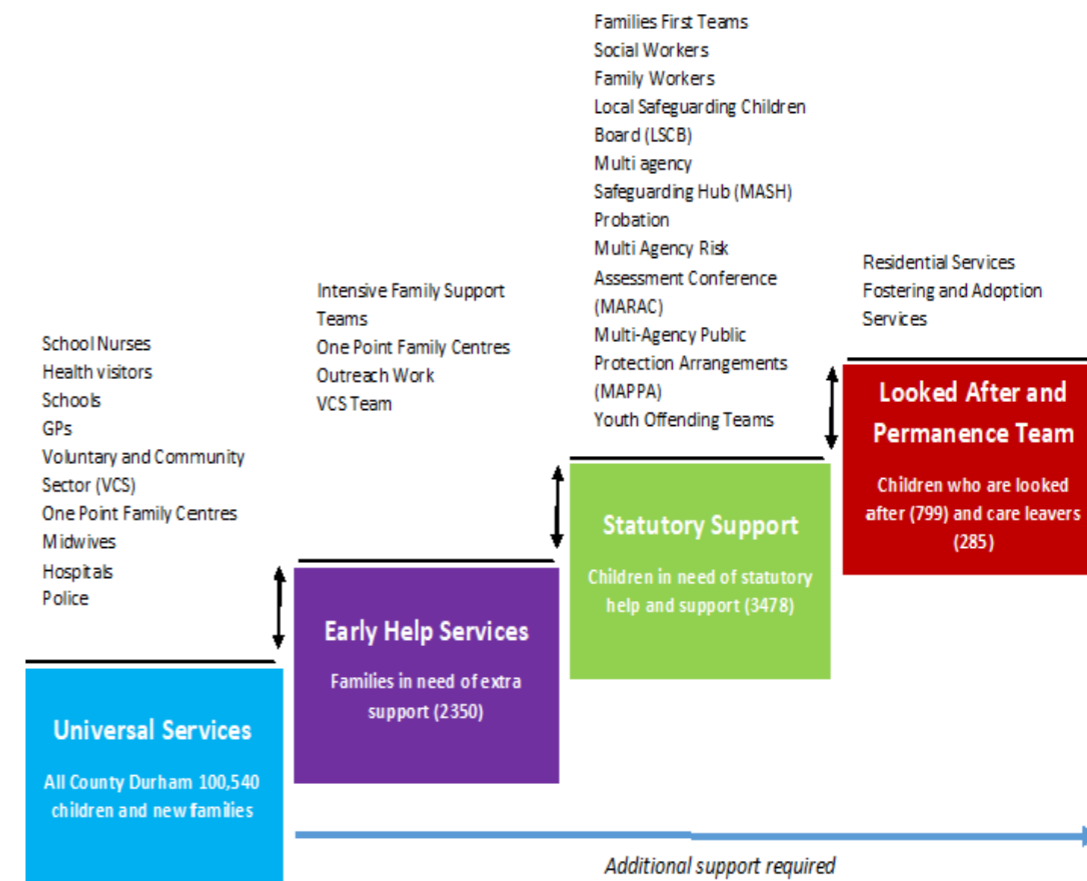
Our services cover all children and young people in the county with extra services for those with additional needs across health, education and social care.

Where there is a child safeguarding issue all partners work together within the model for services for children, outlined below, to deliver services to protect children and young people.

### Future Health and social care integration

With the intention to create an integrated health and social care plan for County Durham there is the opportunity to look at how money and resources are best managed in a collaborative way to reduce duplication and maximise the effectiveness and quality of service offer.

## Model: Services for Children's Social Care (including key Partnership input)



\* Figures as at July 2018

### Key

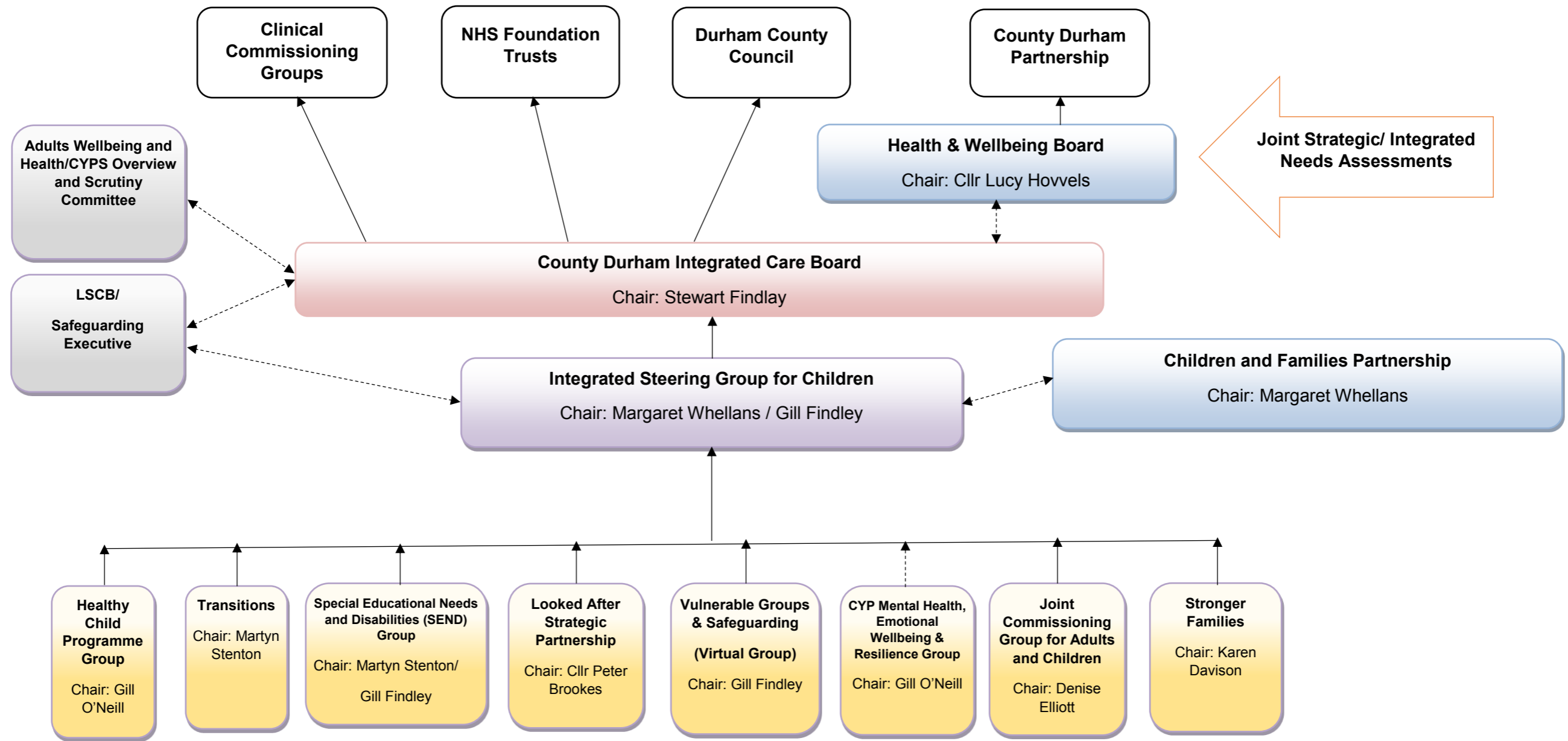
**One Point Family Centres** provides a variety of free advice and support and a range of activities from children and their families.

**Families First Teams** are multiagency locality-based teams providing a range of services from early help to safeguarding

**MARAC** provides a mechanism for partners (including social workers, health and police) to work together to ensure children are safe.

**MAPPA** are a set of arrangements to manage the risk posed by the most serious sexual and violent offenders.

**Appendix 3 – Governance structure**



**KEY:**

Direct Accountability ———

Reporting Relationship - - - - -

## With thanks to the following partner organisations

  
*Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys   
NHS Foundation Trust

County Durham and Darlington   
NHS Foundation Trust

  
England

  
Harrogate and District  
NHS Foundation Trust

  
North Durham  
Clinical Commissioning Group

 **Durham Constabulary**  
Altogether Better Policing

 **Durham**  
County Council