



North East and North Cumbria
Child Health & Wellbeing Network

**Executive Summary of
Professionals' Survey**

April 2019



Foreword

We are proud to be part of a small but growing piece of work in the North East and North Cumbria that plans to make a real difference to children's services. Our evolving hypothesis from our logic model is detailed below:

We believe all children in the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) should be given the opportunity to flourish and truly reach their potential and be advantaged not disadvantaged by geography and organisational structures.

It gives us great pleasure to see the responses to our Child Health and Wellbeing Survey given deserved attention with full analysis and a suite of helpful documents to share with all sectors in our system:

- An executive summary for the high-level cascade of key findings;
- A summary of the good practice examples shared within the survey;
- A detailed report, developing themes identified through the analysis; and
- The appendices to reference the helpful feedback and suggestions – these will be used throughout our evolving work when task to finish groups commence vital work based around our agreed priorities.

We were overwhelmed that 557 professionals that support children, young people and families took the time to share their perspectives from across the different sectors – it's priceless and gives extra weight to the importance of this process to support the development of our priorities. Since this data was first analysed in February 2019 the core priority areas have been reviewed alongside the emerging national priorities and national framework examples. A priorities wheel has been developed to share with children, young people and their families for their feedback to influence the next iteration of what our priority focus should be. The children, young people and families version of the questionnaire has also been shared across the system to cross-reference their feedback alongside the professionals.

From our cross-reference to date we are pleased to see that mental health and children with additional needs are a consistent priority and in line with national and other regional examples, whereas the priority focus on poverty, obesity (now titled physical activity and nutrition) and preconception to parenthood are a specific focus highlighted within our region, which ensures we can develop a network based on our specific priorities. In addition to the defining priorities work, the rich data in the survey will continue to be referenced as the work streams develop and the work matures. The data is helpfully categorised by some sectors and geographies, making it useful for local improvement work and analysis.

We hope that whatever sector or background you are from that you find benefit from the sharing of these reports and you are pleased to see that your contributions are actively influencing our work to give children, young people and families better outcomes within the North East and North Cumbria.

Dr Mike McKean

Clinical Director Children's Services - The Great North Children's Hospital

Clinical Lead for Child Health and Wellbeing – Integrated Care System



Executive summary

This report summarises the independent evaluation of the North East and North Cumbria Child Health and Wellbeing Network¹ Child Health and Wellbeing Survey 2019. The aim of the survey was to provide a point of reference for the Child Health Network Steering Group, stakeholders, and wider community of healthcare professionals, to help them develop their future programme of work and support, with a specific focus on:

- Understanding priorities across the system;
- Understanding challenges and benefits to partnership working;
- Growing the network; and
- Identifying examples of good practice.

Although this report is a standalone summary, it is supported by a detailed analysis report and appendices. The detailed report provides a breakdown of the results by area of work and geography.

Highlights:

- 557 professionals from across the North East and North Cumbria contributed to this survey.
- A wide range of professional groups and sectors were represented from across the four Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs).
- Certain sectors, such as housing, business and faith groups were under-represented.
- The voice of the child, young person and family was not included and is being gathered in a separate piece of work.
- There is a clear steer from the findings of the top priorities: **mental health, poverty and children living in low income families, and children with additional needs.**
- These priorities are reflected in the report analysis by sector and ICP areas.
- These priorities have been fed into the first draft of the Network's priority model.
- The top driver for change, identified by respondents, was the **'increasing recognition that there needs to be a more integrated approach at local level that makes use of all available assets'**.
- The highest ranked barriers to successful cross-sector working, and which need to be addressed, were **no clear method (to work together as a system), lack of data sharing, and lack of shared finances.**
- There was strong support for all the benefits to successful cross-system working listed in the survey, and in particular the **achievement of better outcomes and utilisation of existing resources** as important drivers for the Network to focus upon.
- Many examples of **good practice** were shared and the reasons for their success given. The top two themed reasons were **the presence of strong leadership, shared vision and values, and clarity of purpose, goals and objectives and commitment and enthusiasm, together with willingness to change/ work together from all those involved.**
- The survey has positively increased the Network's profile, contacts and membership.
- Its messages and learning contained in a suite of four documents will be used in the future work of the Network and made freely available via its website, for those within the system.

¹ Hereafter referred to as "the Network"



Findings

Between January and the end of February 2019, 557 professionals (some of whom were also parents and family carers of the region's children) completed the questionnaire. The greatest number of respondents (56%) were from the health sector. Six percent were from social care and 10% from both the voluntary sector and education. Seventeen percent of respondents defined themselves as belonging to a group that was not one of the options on the survey ('other'). These included 27 people from local government/authority services such as health visiting, public health and children's services, and 14 from health and social care services and therapies. Only 1% of respondents were from the non-statutory sectors such as faith groups, local business and housing. A full breakdown of survey respondents is in the detailed report.

The survey covered four integrated care partnerships (ICPs).² The largest number of respondents worked in the North ICP. The distribution of respondents broadly reflects the respective populations and expected number of professionals delivering services and care in that ICP area.

ICP and area (n = 550)	%	Number of respondents
North Cumbria (covering Cumbria County Council geography)	17%	93
Central (covering South Tyneside, Sunderland and County Durham Council geographies)	18%	98
South (covering County Durham, Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and North Yorkshire Council geographies)	27%	150
North (covering Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle and Gateshead Council geographies)	39%	216
All	8%	42

The survey was developed by members of the Child Health Clinical Network Leadership Team. The detailed report describes the findings of all responses. For the purpose of this executive summary, the following charts summarise these under the four key areas:

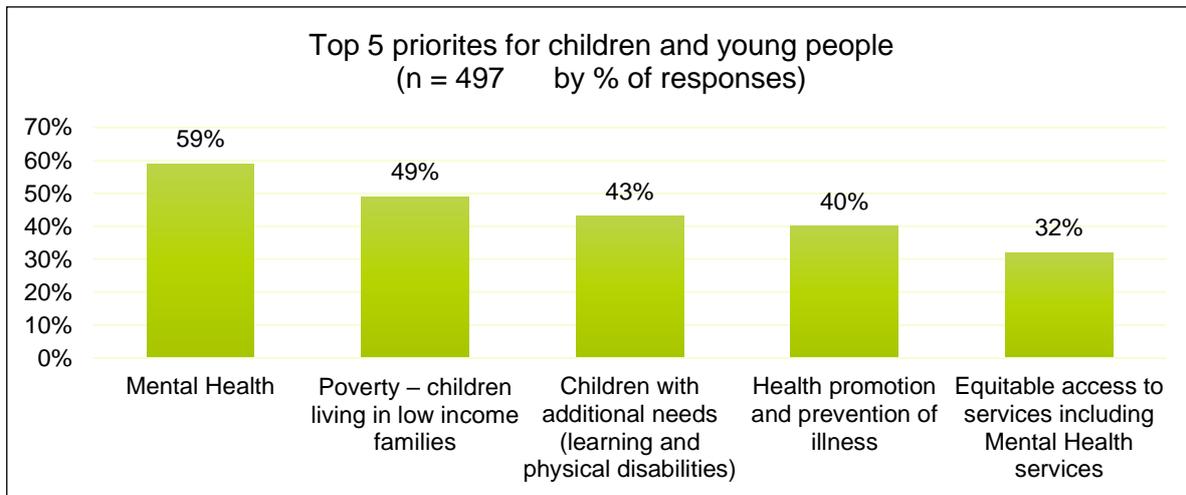
- a) Priorities for children and young people (up to 18 years of age);
- b) Drivers for change;
- c) Barriers to cross-system working in child health and wellbeing;
- d) Benefits to cross-system working; and
- e) Good examples of child health and wellbeing partnership working currently in place and reasons for their success.

² North Cumbria, Central, South and North



a) Priorities for children and young people

Respondents selected the following five most important priorities for children up to the age of 18 (from a list of 27 options):

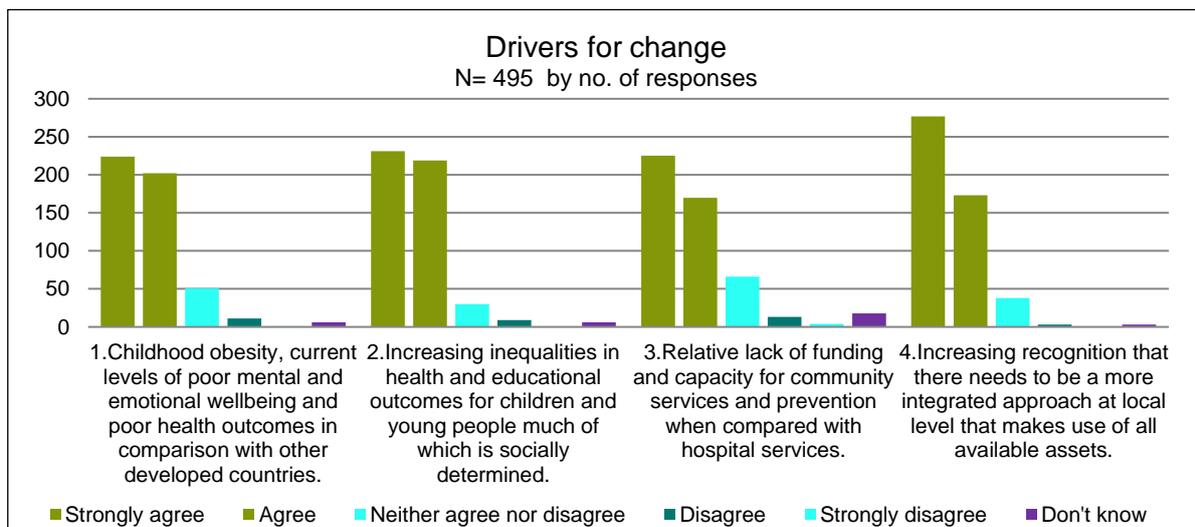


The following were also rated as priorities by more than 1 in 5 respondents:

- Wellbeing and resilience;
- Increasing early intervention services;
- Better joined up services; and
Better support for families and carers.

b) Drivers for change

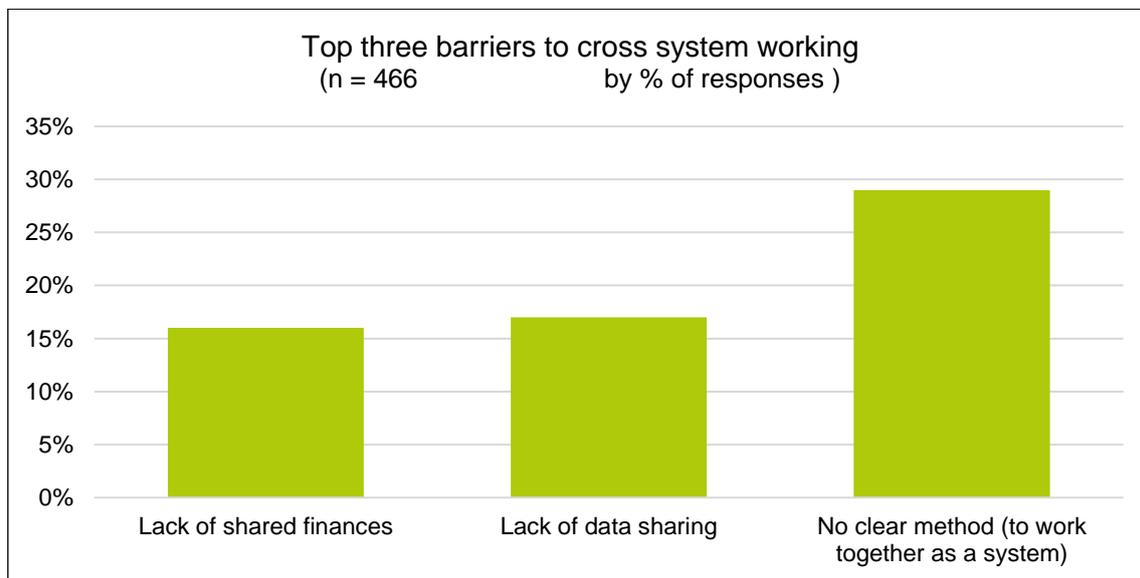
The Network defined four key sets of drivers for change and asked respondents to agree or disagree whether these drivers for change applied to their local area. Respondents strongly agreed that these four drivers for change applied in their areas. The top driver for change was the ‘increasing recognition that there needs to be a more integrated approach at local level that makes use of all available assets’.



c) Barriers to cross-system working in child health and wellbeing

Most respondents selected the following three barriers to successful cross-sector working (from a list of seven options):

- No clear method (to work together as a system);
- Lack of data sharing; and
- Lack of shared finances.

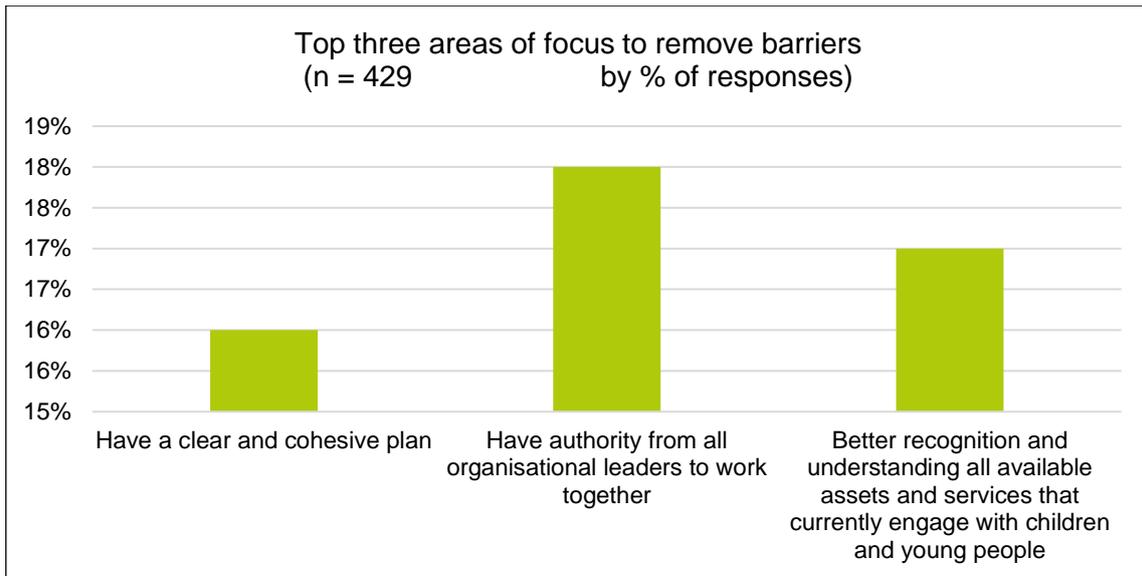


The most common additional barriers, identified by around a third of respondents, were:

- Finance, funding and resources;
- Recognition and understanding of professional roles, skills, services, stakeholders;
- Lack of strategic and/ or local vision, coordination, approach or integration;
- Capacity and demand issues;
- Communication and information sharing.

Respondents selected the following three options on which the Network should focus to address these barriers (from a list of ten options):

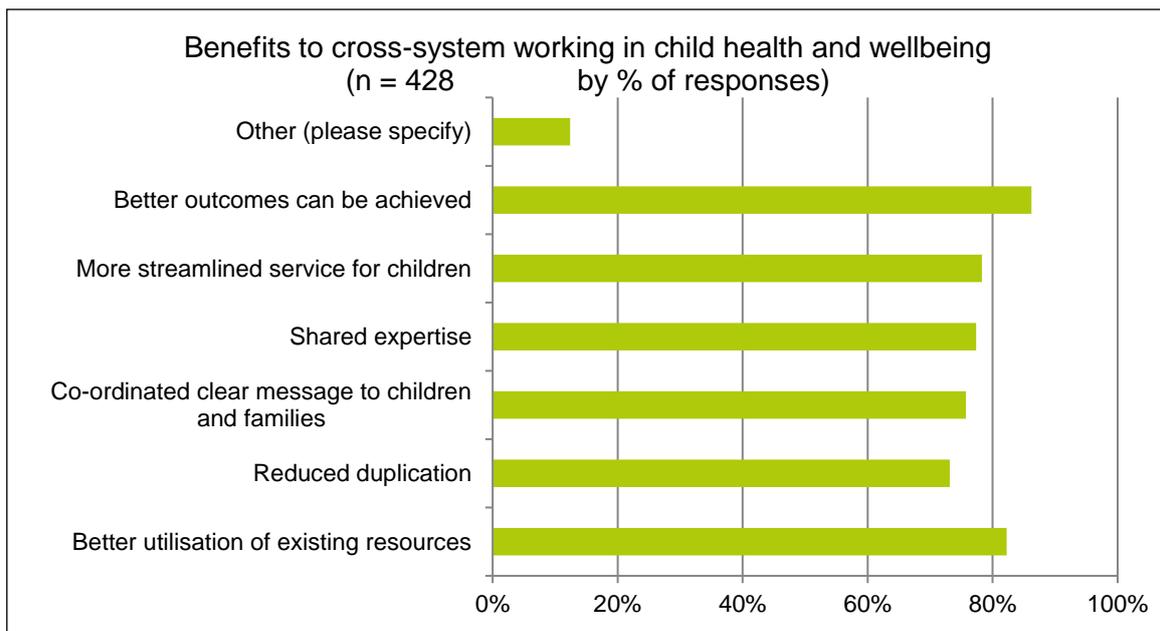
- Authority from all organisational leaders to work together;
- A clear and cohesive plan; and
- Better recognition and understanding all available assets and services that currently engage with children and young people.



d) Benefits of cross system working in child health and wellbeing

Respondents responded fairly equally to a list of six benefits to successful cross-system working:

- Better utilisation of existing resources
- Reduced duplication
- Co-ordinated clear message to children and families
- Shared expertise
- More streamlined service for children
- Better outcomes can be achieved
- Other (please specify).





e) Examples of good, current partnership working in child health and wellbeing

Respondents cited 157 examples of good practice in partnership working in child health and wellbeing. Twelve themes emerged, the most commonly cited of which were:

- The presence of strong leadership, shared vision and values, and clarity of purpose, goals and objectives;
- Commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to change/work together; and
- Genuine communication, engagement and involvement and sharing of information.

These examples together with the reasons for their success provide a rich source of intelligence and starting point for the collation and sharing of good practice in this area. These can be seen in both the appendices of the detailed report and Examples of Child Health and Wellbeing Partnership report.

Summary

To summarise, the aims of this survey were to:

- Understand priorities across the system;
- Understand challenges and benefits to partnership working;
- Grow the network; and
- Identify examples of good practice.

The results highlight the priorities of most importance for the 557 respondents and what their perceptions are of the challenges and benefits to partnership working for child health and wellbeing. A long list of examples of good practice will be shared in a separate document. Undertaking the survey itself has naturally grown the network of people keen and interested in child health and wellbeing.

The survey highlighted the challenge of ensuring coverage and representation across all professions and sectors, both public and private, and how professionals categorise themselves.



Next steps

The survey results have identified some complex topics, likely to require significant transformational change. The Network will:

- **Continue to develop a robust network membership** to ensure an active and comprehensive membership representative of the system, with clear governance and region with clear processes to access and utilise place-based connections.
- **Conduct a stocktake of existing services** and examples of national and international best practice to effectively store and share.
- **Secure the children and young person's view.** Actively reach out to children and young people to gather perspectives on this work through those already connected with CYPF, and skilled at both gathering and sharing their perspective.
- Ensure the **draft priority model** (based on feedback from across the system and national examples and national direction) is discussed with children and young people across the region, and is looked at in line with the Health and Wellbeing priorities before seeking across-system sign up.
- Develop **the supporting framework** to drive this work forward.

The survey has provided an excellent springboard to direct the network and a rich seam of data which will continue to be referenced as the workstreams develop and the work matures. The categorisation of the data by sector and geography makes it useful for local improvement work and analysis. The findings are freely available to ultimately promote and support integration and partnership working to achieve better outcomes for the children of the North East and North Cumbria.

'We must put children and young people at the heart of everything we do. We need to create passion to do the very best for them and of course what better way to do this than get them to develop the agenda for us'.