



# Children and Young People's Plan

March 2015 - March 2017

**Central Bedfordshire  
Children's Trust**



# Welcome to the Children and Young People's Plan for Central Bedfordshire

(March 2015 – March 2017)

Our vision for children and young people growing up in Central Bedfordshire is:

***We want every child in Central Bedfordshire to enjoy their childhood and have the best possible start in life. We want every child to do well in education, make friends and build strong relationships with their family. As young adults, we want every young person to have the knowledge, skills and qualifications that will give them the best chance of success, so that they are prepared to take their full place in society as a healthy, happy, contributing and confident citizen.***

This plan sets out the shared vision for children, young people and their families and shows how we plan to achieve it. We know that most children and young people in Central Bedfordshire enjoy their childhood and go on to be confident and successful young adults – we want to make sure that we maintain this and improve the outcomes for those vulnerable children and young people who are not doing as well.

There are more detailed strategies and plans which support the priorities in this plan. Further information is available at [www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk)



# Improved educational attainment and progress

## Outcomes

Improved achievement and progress

The right skills to be work ready

Excellent behaviour

Well led and managed schools

Outstanding teaching and learning

**Cross Cutting: Early help for all who need it**  
**Put children and young people at the centre of everything we do**  
**Multi-agency learning and shadowing opportunities to promote shared understanding of work**  
**Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities fulfil their aspirations and potential**

## The way we will do this

### Partners will work together to:

- develop and deliver the school readiness partnership plan and give every child a good start in communication, language and literacy skills
- actively promote health and wellbeing through a whole school approach
- narrow the gap and improve the achievement of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people – especially those receiving Free School Meals and those who are looked after
- achieve top results in key stage tests, including GCSE (or equivalent) results including English and Maths
- ensure assessment without levels and new datasets are understood by schools and inform practice
- provide early high quality independent career advice and work experience opportunities so that young people understand what their career options and choices are
- give young people the right opportunities to continue in education or training until they are 18, including apprenticeships and traineeships, so that employers feel young people have the skills they need for work
- help those aged 13-16 at risk of becoming NEET and those aged 16-19 who have become NEET to get the education, training and employment they need
- actively promote the participation of all young people in the development, delivery and evaluation of services – including targeted youth work, volunteering opportunities and careers information, advice and guidance
- commission school to school improvement to raise standards, build capacity and develop world class governance
- spend £103m building new schools with inspirational learning environments and spaces for community use
- make sure the education workforce is robust in identifying and responding to safeguarding issues and that successful leadership development and support is provided where it is needed

Measuring our success	Targets
• Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the Early Years Foundation Stage	64%
• Attainment of underachieving groups, and narrowing the gap for disadvantaged pupils*	*
• Top quartile for the percentage achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths (target reflects rank out of 151 local authorities)	38
• Percentage of schools and colleges judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding/Good	90% 124/138 Every school a good school
• Pupil absence and exclusion*	*
• Percentage of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	In top 25% of local authorities
• Percentage of care leavers in education, training or employment (ETE)	Narrow the gap
<b>Children and young people's voice</b>	
• Annual Report showing children and young people's engagement and participation in the shaping of services	Narrative shows improvement

*\*Measures and targets to be detailed in Children's Trust Board Quarterly Performance Framework*

# Protecting vulnerable children and young people

## Outcomes

Happier and safer as a result of help received

Children and young people in care have safe and stable homes

Young people are diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour

**Cross Cutting: Early help for all who need it**

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**Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities fulfil their aspirations and potential**

## The way we will do this

### Partners will work together to:

- make sure children and young people get the right help at the right time and that key early help and safeguarding services are working well together, improving locality working with schools and link workers
- target our resources on effective outcomes at the earliest possible stage of the child's process through the child protection system
- provide safe and stable homes for children and young people when parents are unable to look after them and where appropriate help children and young people to be adopted as quickly as possible
- focus on tackling the issues with children in dangerous settings and families where domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health are safeguarding issues
- implement the recommendations of the Child Sexual Exploitation review and agree a set of performance measures
- reduce youth offending and help young people to get back on track
- co-ordinate, monitor and challenge safeguarding work through the Safeguarding Children Board
- learn from the outcomes of serious case reviews, multi agency case reviews and audits and change our practice as necessary
- ensure we have a stable and sufficient children's workforce which is confident in, and alert to, identifying and responding to safeguarding issues and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- make sure that social workers have the skills and knowledge to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people in line with social work reforms

Measuring our success	Targets
• Percentage of referrals that led to assessments	75%
• Percentage of children's social care assessments within 45 working days of start	90%
• The percentage of looked after children aged under 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years, who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption	70%
• Percentage of cases where children became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time where domestic violence was a factor	Year on year reduction from 64%
• Percentage of assessments which have Domestic Violence as a factor	No target
• Reduction in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17	-5%
• Re-offending rates amongst young people	TBC
• Average time in days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted	Achieve National Target
• Percentage of looked after children adopted	15%
<b>Children and young people's voice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report showing children and young people's engagement and participation in the shaping of services</li> </ul>	Narrative shows improvement

# Early help and improving life chances

## Outcomes

High quality early years and child care

Positive, confident parents and carers

Young carers identified and supported

High aspirations for young people and their families

Children and young people with disabilities are supported to achieve their aspirations

More families in work and fewer children living in poverty

Troubled families are supported

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**Put children and young people at the centre of everything we do**

**Multi-agency learning and shadowing opportunities to promote shared understanding of work**

**Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities fulfil their aspirations and potential**

## The way we will do this

### Partners will work together to:

- reduce the numbers of children living in low income households by implementing our child poverty strategy
- give every child the best support and interventions to be 'ready for school' in Year R
- make sure there are enough good quality early years childcare providers to offer the 15 hour free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds and meet the needs of working parents
- assist Gypsy and Traveller parents with their children's' development through outreach work in Children's Centres
- provide more early and integrated support for children through the improved use of the Early Help Assessment, evidence based programmes and by working together in virtual locality hubs
- develop Education, Health and Care Plans to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, ensuring access to a range of local opportunities and support as they move into adulthood
- identify and support young people as carers and prevent inappropriate and excessive levels of caring
- deliver parenting support programmes to improve parents' skills, confidence and family relationships
- support teenage parents through the local Teenage Pregnancy Support Pathway and the Family Nurse Partnership Programme
- analyse gaps and work with parents on the co-production of services for children with disabilities (aged 0-25)
- tackle the following issues in families as part of the Supporting Families Programme: antisocial behaviour or crime; poor school attendance; workless adults or young people NEET; and families with Children in Need plans or Child Protection plans in place; domestic violence or abuse in a household; long term (mental or physical) health problems including substance misuse, or known to Early Help.
- know our vulnerable local communities and families and work through Children's centres to reach them and deliver services that have a positive impact
- improve the use of the Early Help Assessment through training and address the key training priorities arising out of our focus on the child's voice and journey

Measuring our success	Targets
Percentage of children in low-income families	10% by 2020
Number of people in employment (Aged 16 to 64)	5% above national average
% of children participating in the 2 / 2½ year health review	Baseline year
Number of enquiries to the Access and Referral Hub	No target
Number of Early Help Assessments received	No target
% of children achieving a good level of development at the Early Years Foundation Stage	64%
Number of disadvantaged 2 year olds placed in early education / childcare	In line with National target
Percentage of early years and childcare settings judged by Ofsted to be Outstanding and Good	Improving trajectory – every setting a good setting
Percentage of under 5 year olds from the 40% most deprived LSOAs engaged with Children's Centres	Baseline year
Supporting Families Programme is meeting nationally set target (National Troubled Families Programme)	1090 families progressed over 5 years
Parenting Measure TBC	TBC
% of participants in the Aspire Programme reporting improved aspirations and self esteem	85%
Number of young carers identified and offered support	TBC
<b>Children and young people's voice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Young carers feel supported</li> <li>● Annual Report showing children and young people's engagement and participation in the shaping of services</li> </ul>	100% Narrative shows improvement

# Being healthy and positive

## Outcomes

Children have the best start in life

Improved mental health for children, young people and their parents

Better health outcomes for looked after children

Fewer young people engaging in risky behaviours

Children and families developing lifelong healthy lifestyles

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## The way we will do this

### Partners will work together to:

- ensure a healthy start to life by: improving early access to antenatal care; identifying and addressing perinatal mental health issues; reducing smoking and obesity in pregnancy; promoting and supporting breastfeeding; promoting safe sleeping
- review the perinatal mental health pathways and implement services to ensure effective support for mothers
- reduce children and young people's smoking, alcohol and substance misuse by increasing knowledge of the harmful effects and ensuring accessible, effective interventions are in place
- ensure children have their age appropriate immunisations and vaccinations
- strengthen and develop interventions to build children and young people's resilience in schools
- reduce teenage pregnancy in all wards by continuing to increase access to sexual health services and high quality sex and positive relationship education
- ensure children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have access to timely, high quality health assessments
- deliver prompt and timely support for children, young people and families with emerging mental health problems with a focus on self harm, including eating disorders, and ensure ongoing treatment and support where needed
- make sure that health and wellbeing services meet the needs of looked after children and care leavers
- reduce childhood excess weight through targeted, family-based intervention programmes and supporting schools to provide high quality physical activity, healthy eating guidance and implement school travel plans
- outcomes from the new mental health contract are further developed to take a whole system approach
- ensure that there are appropriate systems in place for children, young people and families to be able to feed back their views on their health and wellbeing needs, and services provided and increase participation in health and wellbeing surveys

## Measuring our success

## Targets

% Mothers smoking at the time of delivery	13%
% Mothers initiating breastfeeding	80%
% Mothers still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	50%
Perinatal mental health measure - tbc	TBC
Prevalence of excess weight in 4-5 year olds (Year R) and 10-11 year olds (Year 6)	% year on year reduction
Hospital admissions as a result of self harm (10-24 years)	TBC – based on Child Health Profile in 2015
Hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions (under 18)	TBC – based on Child Health Profile in 2015
Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years)	TBC – based on Child Health Profile in 2015
Reduction in the number of conceptions per 1,000 teenage girls (aged 15-17 years)	<23.2 (2013)
% Looked After Children (LAC) who have had an annual Health Assessment	100%
% children and young people reporting a reduction in alcohol and/or drugs usage 3 months following the end of a Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention	TBC – local services contract
LAC have better mental health, as measured by the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire	13
Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 (15-24 year olds)	2,300
<b>Children and young people's voice</b> SHEU (Schools and Students Health Education Unit) survey self esteem score Children's views on health, lifestyles and related behaviour through the SHEU survey Annual Report showing children and young people's engagement and participation in the shaping of services	In line with comparators Narrative shows improvement







# Central Bedfordshire Children's Trust

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