

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN HEADLINES

Version 1.9

Vision

The Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) wants children and young people to grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive families and carers.

We want them to have the best health, education and opportunities to enable them to reach their full potential.

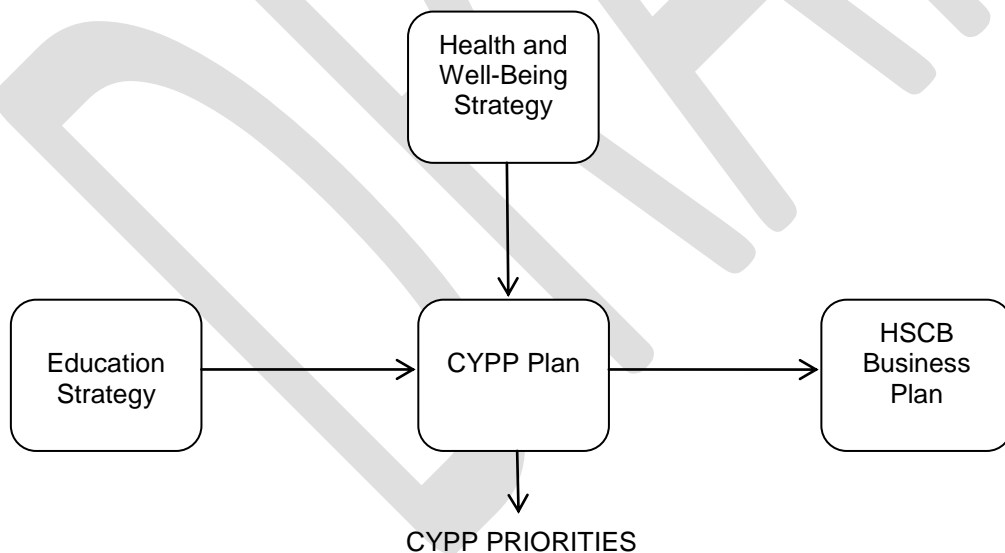
Our main priority is to keep children and young people safe and give them the best start in life.

By March 2018 we want to have good safeguarding services in all agencies and to have local education and health outcomes within the top 25% nationally.

Context

The Children and Young People's Plan provides the multi-agency strategy for addressing children, young people and their families in Herefordshire, identified through the Health and Well-being Strategy and needs assessments.

Education plays a fundamental part in the lives of children and young people and to specifically address education issues in Herefordshire an Education Strategy has been put in place. Likewise, with respect to the safeguarding needs of children and young people, the Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan provides the strategic priorities for services.



Delivery

To deliver this vision we will:

- Listen to the voices of children and young people as to their needs and how to meet them

- Work collaboratively with individuals, families and communities to develop capability and resilience
- Target the services we provide on priority need groups of children, young people and their families
- Ensure that the services we provide produce the outcomes we intend, based on evidence of effectiveness, including cost effectiveness
- Share information across the Partnership to ensure co-ordinated smarter working and more effective delivery of services
- Develop a skilled children's workforce that has ownership of the vision of the Partners to this Plan
- Use technology in innovative ways to enable children, young people and families to help themselves, and to engage children, young people and their families in the full range of advice, information, and services offered by the Partners.

At the time of significant pressure on public finances the Plan recognises the need for services to make budget savings whilst also fundamentally changing the way services are delivered, enabling children, young people, families and communities to exercise more choice and control over their lives. There will be opportunities to use our resources differently and to access funding streams at a national and local level. At the same time the Partnership will be planning for substantial reductions in some funding streams over the life of the Plan.

The Voice of Children and Young People

The Partnership is committed to improving services by listening to and acting on the Voice of the Child. We will be continuously asking children, young people and families to help us develop the Children and Young People's Plan. Participation People are supporting us to set up a proactive network of organisations and individuals to help us do this. The Voice of the Child Network will capture the views of children, young people and families through a variety of methods. These views will feed into strategy, policy and budgeting decisions.

Priorities

We have six priorities:

Early Help

We want to improve the early identification and response to some critical issues that affect the development of children and young people. This will include work to break the cycle of inter-generational inequality. This means a whole family approach and culture across the Herefordshire Partnership, working collaboratively with the whole family to:

- improve physical and mental ill health (of both children and their parents and carers),
- reduce crime and anti-social behaviour,
- reduce worklessness,
- reduce domestic violence and
- tackling the effect of poverty on children's outcomes

We will put in place targeted models of effective intervention which will work alongside and with universal services, with a clear lead worker for each family who will co-ordinate those services to meet their needs.

We intend to reduce the need for children and families to need help and intervention from statutory services and to work with families who are stepping down from statutory interventions to enable them to effectively work with universal provision.

By March 2018 we will have provided early help to 600 families. This will enable us to access and invested (from the Government's "Troubled Families" initiative) £1.8m of new funds to continue this work.

0-5 Early Years

There are 9,800 children aged 0-5 years in Herefordshire. We will reconfigure £3.5m to deliver early years services including children centre services, Health Visiting and School Nursing to improve the health, well-being, developmental and educational outcomes of children aged 0-5 years. These services will be better configured with community and adult services. By March 2018 we will have:

- Improved childhood immunisation rates (especially MMR)
- Reduced tooth decay in the 0-5 year olds
- Continue to improve breast feeding prevalence at initiation and 6-8 weeks after birth
- Increased the numbers of children that are ready for school at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to make a successful transition to school, with children rated as achieving a good level of development increasing from 60% to 80%.
- Reduced the educational achievement gap between children in receipt of free school meals and other children to 5%
- Provided more effective (evidenced-based) supports to mitigate the effects of poverty, inequality and disadvantage through the provision of high quality early education and childcare and the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 years
- Delivered the national childcare offer with respect to free pre-school places

Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

There are an estimated 8,620 children and young people that require support with their mental health or emotional resilience. The CYPP will make improvements so that children, young people and their families are identified and supported to access help in a timely manner. We will transform the volume and quality of the £1.4m of services available and be part of the development of an integrated all age pathway for mental health. We will:

- Improve the availability and quality of information available on mental health and well-being to children, young people and their families so they can have more control over their own lives

- Improve professionals' (eg GPs, teachers) knowledge and awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental health, tiers of need, thresholds and referral pathways to needs led care
- Improve collaboration between service providers in the identification and response to emotional health, well-being and mental health need.
- Deliver the Crisis Care Concordat and its action plan to ensure that no young person with a mental health need is detained in police custody and that 24/7 support is available in the event of a mental health crisis.
- Improve the experience of young people transferring from young people's mental health services to adults' by making it person-centered.

Identify the opportunities to improve access to specialist support so that young people with early psychosis and those requiring home treatment or rehabilitation as an alternative to hospital admission can maintain their daily lives in Herefordshire.

Children and Young People in Need of Safeguarding

We will continue to develop a continuum of provision that can effectively identify and respond to safeguarding risks and needs ranging from the initial signs of the call for early help to a range of evidence-based interventions for a variety of complex situations. By 2016/17 we aspire to be judged by Ofsted as providing good services and to sustain this judgement through the life-span of this Plan for the council and the other safeguarding partner services.

Priorities for service development through to March 2018 include reconfiguring £1.1m of services to provide:

- Specialist intervention services on step-down from statutory provision (child in need or child protection plan) to early help and universal services
- Crisis intervention for those children and young people on the edge of care
- A Family Intervention Project to respond to the therapeutic safeguarding needs of children and young people and their families
- A Care Placement Strategy which includes intensive therapeutic support services to achieve £2.8 million of savings and £5 million of cost avoidance and improve the permanence planning for 48 children between late 2014 and the end of 2019
- A looked after children support service to provide supervised contacts, assessments and family group conferencing services to children in the care system
- Better identification of and support to children from other Local Authority areas placed in Herefordshire
- Developing further the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to include police services and adult services

Addressing Challenges for Adolescents

To effectively manage the behavioural, emotional and social needs of young people that may otherwise jeopardise their successful transition to adulthood. We will by March 2018:

- Put in place integrated young people's and youth offending services that have a better understanding of the drivers leading to offending and re-offending and reduce the number of entrants (first time and repeat) into the anti-social behaviour and youth justice systems.
- Develop a restorative justice strategy for the County and embedded practice within youth justice and children's homes settings.
- Reduce the incidence of young people's health being compromised (eg by not accessing health services, the misuse of substances, teenage pregnancy)
- Ensure effective behaviour management skills and supports are available to families, carers, schools, youth and leisure service providers to enable children and young people to maximise their potential.
- Develop a 16+ service to meet the needs of care leavers and other adolescents known to social care.
- Identify, prioritise, support and reduce those young people not in education, employment and training (NEET), including those who are young parents.

Children and Young People with Disabilities

There are approximately 5,000 children and young people who have a special educational need and/or disability in Herefordshire. The Partnership will:

- Promote and enable access to universal opportunities and services for children with disabilities and their families
- Provide a seamless and straightforward integrated pathway to provide multi-disciplinary support to disabled children and young people from 0 to 24 years.
- Establish a pathway for those moving into adulthood (15+ years) with a particular focus on those with significant and complex needs. This will be facilitated by a £250K investment in a dedicated transitions team that will yield a financial return of £350K.
- Develop education and learning opportunities for 16+ to reduce the need for residential placements
- Enhance the local support for families, including family-based respite services by ring fencing existing budgets and reinvesting these resources
- Develop personal budgets and personal health budgets to enable families to exercise more control over their lives, within the budgets available.

Next Steps

The Plan is currently in the process of being authorised by the governance processes of the contributor agencies to the Partnership. This will be completed by the end of September 2015. Work is underway developing business plans to activate the Plan's priorities for 2015-16, some of which are already in place and taking effect.