

Herefordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2015 - 2018



Contents

Introduction	3
Why we need a plan	4
Herefordshire...Setting the scene	6
Our vision for the future	7
Our priorities	8
● Priority one: Early help	9
● Priority two: 0 to 5 early years	11
● Priority three: Mental health and emotional wellbeing	13
● Priority four: Children and young people in need of safeguarding	15
● Priority five: Addressing challenges for teenagers	17
● Priority six: Children and young people with disabilities	19





Introduction

As a partnership we are committed to ensuring that the children and young people of Herefordshire have the best start in life and grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive family environments.

Our Children and Young People's Plan is closely linked with the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and provides the basis for all partners working to address issues relating to children, young people and their families in Herefordshire.

Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership

Why we need a plan

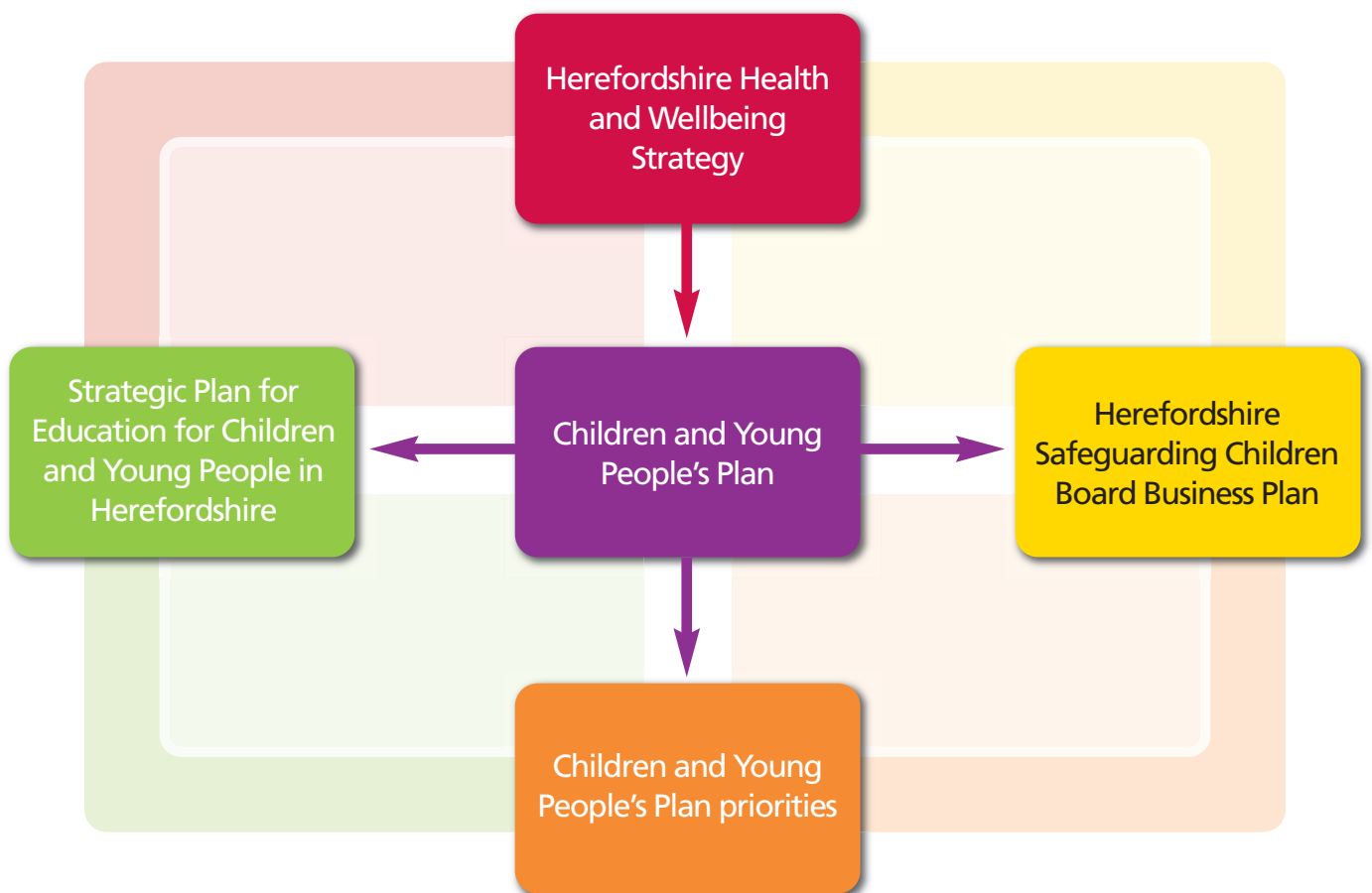
Herefordshire has a Children and Young People's Plan to ensure that the needs and priorities of the county's children and young people are effectively met. They are given the best start in life to enable them to grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive family environments.

The plan, which is developed and delivered by the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP), provides the basis for all partner agencies working to address issues which affect children, young people and their families, including education and safeguarding.

The plan is an integral part of the Herefordshire

Health and Wellbeing Strategy and incorporates its priorities for children and young people. . .

- Starting well with pregnancy, maternal health and smoking in pregnancy
- Immunisations for 0 to 5 year olds, breastfeeding, dental health and pre-school checks
- Children with disabilities
- Young offenders
- Young people not in education, employment or training
- Looked after children



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The plan also enables the partnership to:

- Develop universal services to meet the needs of children and young people
- Facilitate continued access to universal services where children and young people have additional needs
- Manage demand by continuously engaging with children, young people and their families to provide appropriate early help
- Ensure the development and communication of an appropriate range of effective evidence-based services for children, young people and their families living in Herefordshire

- Re-position prevention and early intervention strategies and services to those with greatest risk and need
- Ensure the child or young person is at the centre of any service delivery
- Have services in place which are respectful of age, language, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and culture
- Improve integration across agencies in regards to service provision, delivery and management

This is an overview of our plan, the full strategic version is available on the council's [Children and Young People's Partnership webpage](#).



Herefordshire...Setting the scene

In Herefordshire in 2015, we have:



All figures are correct as at 1 September 2015

Our vision for the future

We want all children and young people in Herefordshire to have the best start in life and grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive family environments.

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

By March 2018, we aim to have good safeguarding services across all agencies and local education and health outcomes which are within the top 25% for the country.

To deliver our vision we promise to:

- Listen to the voices of children and young people about their needs and how we can meet them
- Work with individuals, families and communities to develop capability and resilience
- Target our services towards those priority groups of children, young people and their families with the most need
- Ensure the services we provide deliver the intended outcomes based on evidence of effectiveness
- Share information across the partnership to ensure smarter co-ordinated working and the effective delivery of services
- Develop a skilled children's workforce that has ownership of the partnership's vision
- Use technology in innovative ways to enable children, young people and their families to not only help themselves but also to engage with them about the full range of advice, information and services offered by partner agencies across the county

We recognise that during a time of significant financial pressure on public services, savings will need to be made within children and young people's services. We also must fundamentally change the way services are delivered to enable children, young people, families and communities to exercise more choice and control over their lives.

There will also be an opportunity to use our resources differently whilst accessing local and national funding streams, such as the troubled families programme. The partnership acknowledges that substantial reductions will be made within some funding streams during the life of the plan.

At the time of publication (September 2015), partners identified that they spend £18million on the six priority areas (see pages 8 - 20), however it is anticipated that service redesigns and savings will reduce this to £14million.



Our priorities

1

Early help

Improve the early identification and response to critical issues affecting children and young people's development



2

0 to 5 early years

Improve the health, wellbeing, developmental and educational outcomes of children aged 0 to 5 years



3

Mental health and emotional wellbeing

Improve how we identify and support children, young people and their families to access help and services



4

Children and young people in need of safeguarding

Improve how we identify and respond to safeguarding needs and risks



5

Addressing challenges for teenagers

Improve how we support young people's behavioural, emotional and social needs to ensure successful progression into adulthood



6

Children and young people with disabilities

Improve our range of services and education and learning opportunities



Priority one: Early help

We will improve the early identification and response to critical issues, such as anti-social behaviour and domestic violence, which affect the development of children and young people to ensure we're helping the most vulnerable families as early as possible.

Our approach will be to work with the whole family to address issues and concerns, including inter-generational inequality, to:

- Improve the physical and mental health of children and their parents / carers
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduce worklessness
- Reduce domestic violence
- Tackle the effect of poverty on children's outcomes

We will put targeted models of effective intervention in place which will work in conjunction with universal services. This will include a clear lead worker for each family, who will co-ordinate relevant services to meet the family's needs.

By March 2018, we will have provided early help to 600 Herefordshire families. This will enable us to access an additional £1.8million of funding from the government's troubled families programme to continue our early help and intervention work.

Priority one

What we aim to achieve

Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour:

- A 50% reduction in the number of recorded offences and a 60% reduction in the number of incidences of anti-social behaviour
- No siblings of young offenders have engaged in anti-social behaviour and / or criminal activity and do not enter the youth justice system

Children who have not been attending school regularly:

- Each school age child in the family has attended school for at least 90% of sessions and has fewer than three fixed term exclusions

Children who need help:

- Eligible families use the nursery place scheme for two and three year olds and attend 85% of their sessions
- A safeguarding plan is de-escalated, for example from child protection to children in need to common assessment framework, with no re-referral to social care within six months
- Children are making good progress at school or a good / expected level of development in early years
- Parents report improved confidence and competence in parenting and continue to take part in a wider range of community activity

Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness:

- An adult or young person within the family has secured and maintained a job for three or six months; made progress to work through a volunteering placement, apprenticeship, traineeship or further accredited learning; achieved a qualification
- The family has reduced its debt or risk of financial exclusion, for example council tax or housing arrears, and is accessing eligible benefits including free school meals

Families affected by domestic violence and abuse:

- A reduction in domestic violence or abuse within the family for at least six months; they are actively engaging with support services, such as West Mercia Women's Aid; the perpetrator successfully completes a perpetrator programme

Parents and children with a range of health problems:

- The family is registered with a local GP and dentist and has attended a check-up in the last 12 months
- Children have received the age appropriate health immunisations / vaccinations
- A family member has engaged with a stop smoking programme; a drug / alcohol treatment programme; a healthy weight programme
- Pregnant women are under the care of a midwife and have had an antenatal assessment
- All children aged two and a half years will have received an ages and stages health assessment

Priority two: 0 to 5 early years

There are 9,800 children aged 0 to 5 years in Herefordshire and we will utilise funding available (£3.5million in 2015) to deliver early years services including children's centre services, health visiting and school nursing to improve their health, wellbeing, developmental and educational outcomes.

We will ensure that these services are better configured with existing community and adult services and by March 2018, we will have:

- Improved the county's childhood immunisation rates, especially for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
- Reduced tooth decay
- Continued to improve breastfeeding rates not only from birth but also six to eight weeks afterwards
- Increased the number of children who are ready for school at the end of the early years foundation stage, so they make a successful progression to school
- Increased the number of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the early years foundation stage 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 and evidenced-based support to ease the effect of poverty, inequality and disadvantage through the provision of high quality early education and childcare and the healthy child programme
- Delivered the national childcare offer in relation to free pre-school places

Priority two

What we aim to achieve

- A reduction in dental decay by age five
- 95% of 0 to 5 year olds have received their routine immunisations
- An annual reduction in the number of five year olds who are overweight or obese
- A reduction in hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries to 0 to 4 year olds
- A reduction in the number of pregnant women who smoke at the time of birth
- An increase in the number of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the early years foundation stage from 60% to 80%
- An increase in the number of children who are eligible for free school meals achieving a good level of development at the end of reception class from 34% to 60%
- The gap between children who have and haven't received free school meals will have reduced from 25% to less than 5%
- An increase from 86% to 95% in the number of early years settings judged by Ofsted as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'
- High quality free nursery places for two year olds in line with agreed government targets with those identified as being disadvantaged encouraged to access 15 hours of nursery entitlement
- All two to four year olds with children in need or child protection plans are registered with a nursery and are accessing their allocated 15 hours of nursery entitlement
- The implementation of the Nursery Education Fund Policy to provide high quality, accessible and flexible provision and an efficient, quick and easy to use online payment process
- Information and guidance for childcare providers, practitioners and parents is comprehensive, accurate, up to date and easily assessable online
- Children's centre services are targeted towards those who are disadvantaged; are better integrated with health visitors and rated as 'Good' by Ofsted
- An annual reduction in the number of children under 16 years old living in poverty

Priority three: Mental health and emotional wellbeing

There are an estimated 8,620 children and young people in Herefordshire that require support with their mental health or emotional resilience and the partnership will make improvements so that they and their families are identified and supported to access help in a timely manner.

The partnership is looking to transform both the volume and quality of the £1.4million services available along with being part of the development of an integrated all age pathway for mental health.

To deliver this, we will:

- Improve the quality and availability of information on mental health and wellbeing to children, young people and their families to enable them to have more control over their own lives
- Improve professionals' knowledge and awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental health and referral pathways, including GPs and teachers
- Improve working relationships between service providers in identifying and responding to emotional health, wellbeing and mental health needs
- 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 transferring from young people's mental health services to adult services by focusing the process on the individual
- Identify opportunities for improving access to specialist support so young people with early psychosis or those requiring home treatment / rehabilitation instead of hospital admission can maintain their daily lives

What we aim to achieve

- An effective and integrated care pathway for children and young people in need of mental health support
- Low numbers of young people accessing Tier 4 specialist services (those with the most serious problems)
- A skilled workforce that champions early identification of mental health issues and ensures children, young people and their families are treated with compassion, respect, dignity and without stigma or judgement
- Improved availability and capacity of Tier 1 and 2 services which offer early intervention for children, young people and their families (including GPs, teachers and mental health workers)
- Children and young people telling us that they know how to look after their mental health and that support is accessible
- Improved evidence-based interventions which are delivered in young people friendly settings, with an increase in the quality of provision

Priority four: Children and young people in need of safeguarding

We are continuing to develop a range of services which can effectively identify and respond to safeguarding needs and risks from the initial call for early help to evidence-based interventions for a variety of complex situations.

By 2016/17, we aim to be Ofsted rated as providing 'Good' services and will sustain this throughout the life of our plan.

We aim to ensure we provide:

- Specialist intervention, early help and universal services for those children and young people whose welfare needs safeguarding
- Crisis intervention for those children and young people on the verge of needing care
- Support for those young people with enduring long terms needs as they move into adulthood
- A family intervention project to respond to the therapeutic safeguarding needs of children, young people and their families
- A Care Placement Strategy which will include intensive therapeutic support services designed to save £2.8million over the next five years to improve the stability of care planning
- A looked after children support service to provide supervised contacts, assessments and family group conferencing services for children in the care system

- Better identification of and support to children from other local council areas who are placed in Herefordshire
- A further developed Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to include police and adult services

What we aim to achieve

- An increased ability to offer effective early help within universal provision to remove the need for subsequent safeguarding intervention
- An increase in the number of young people who are identified as being at risk of / being sexually exploited
- A reduction in the number of children and young people requiring a child protection plan for two years or more / on more than one occasion
- A reduction in the overall number of children and young people needing to be looked after
- A reduction in the number of children in need who then go on to be looked after
- Stable and continuous support for those with enduring needs especially as they move into adulthood
- Young people who are being supported to move into adulthood fully understand the plan in place and support its delivery

Priority five: Addressing challenges for teenagers

The county's young people are entitled to develop, learn and achieve in settings that enable their successful progression into adulthood. We need to ensure that we're effectively supporting the behavioural, emotional and social needs of young people which could otherwise jeopardise their progression.

To help us achieve this by March 2018, we will have:

- Developed integrated young people and youth offending services which have a better understanding of the factors which lead to offending and re-offending and reduced the number of first time and repeat entrants into the anti-social behaviour and youth justice systems
 - Developed a restorative justice strategy for Herefordshire and embedded the practice within the youth justice system and children's homes settings
 - Reduced the number of young people whose health is being compromised for example by not accessing health services, misusing substances or teenage pregnancy
 - Effective behaviour management skills and support available for families, carers, schools and youth and leisure service providers to enable children and young people to maximise their potential
- Developed a 16 plus service to meet the needs of care leavers and other teenagers known to the social care system
 - Identified, prioritised, supported and reduced the number of young people not in education, employment and training (NEET), including those who are young parents

What we aim to achieve

- We will have fewer children and young people who have been excluded from school on a permanent or fixed term basis
- We will sustain the April 2015 levels of first time entrants into the youth justice system
- There will be fewer children and young people placed in custody as a result of offending behaviour; fewer placements in specialist educational settings due to challenging behaviour and fewer placements in residential facilities for behaviour management needs
- Any anti-social behaviour involving children and young people will primarily be addressed through restorative justice approaches
- We will have more young people in education, employment or training
- Reduced rates of re-offending among young people subject to court ordered intervention
- The number of young people smoking, drinking and misusing substances will have reduced
- Specific targets will be developed as part of this work

Priority six: Children and young people with disabilities

There are approximately 5,000 children and young people in Herefordshire with disabilities, including special educational needs and autism. Our vision is that they will be healthy, safe and achieving well and will go on to lead happy and fulfilled lives with choice and control.

In order to deliver our vision, we will:

- Enable and promote access to universal services and opportunities for children with disabilities and their families
- Ensure a seamless and straightforward integrated pathway to provide multi-disciplinary support to disabled children and young people from 0 to 24 years old
- Establish a pathway for those moving into adulthood (15 years old plus) with a particular focus on those with significant and complex needs. This will be funded by an investment of £250,000 which in turn will ultimately help to achieve savings of £350,000
- Develop education and learning opportunities for those aged 16 plus to reduce the need for residential placements
- Enhance local support for families, including family-based respite services, by retaining existing budgets and reinvesting our resources
- Develop personal budgets and personal health budgets to enable families to exercise more choice and control over their lives within the budgets available

Priority six

What we aim to achieve

- Clear advice, signposting and information to enable children, young people and their families to make informed choices and take more control of their own lives, with an appropriate level of support to arrange education, training, social, leisure, housing and employment opportunities
- Effective early support to prevent needs escalating and a reduction in the number of families that ultimately enter the children in need, child protection or looked after child systems
- A 'whole system approach' for children and young people with disabilities from 0 to 25 years old, including across major progression points such as moving into adulthood. This will ensure we deliver seamless and straightforward pathways and support from both the child's and family's point of view
- Less duplication of effort by streamlining assessments, sharing information and delivering services with better integration
- A shared understanding of need at both the individual and population level
- Services which are judged to be 'Good' by relevant regulatory agencies, such as Ofsted
- Delivering services within the available resources:
 - 10,500 hours of daytime short breaks for 100 children and their families
 - 450 children supported by a co-ordinated education, health and care plan
 - 200 families supported by an improved children with disabilities team



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