

# Children and Young People's Plan 2015 - 2018



# Herefordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2015 - 2018



## OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

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.

- **Safeguarding** - part of our collective approach for children and family
- **Early help and prevention** – partnership approach, more than children's wellbeing directorate; key to long term shift in use of resources and improvements in outcomes

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



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### 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



# 1

## Early help

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



### Key achievements:

- Early help strategy agreed by full Council and the children and young people's partnership
- 274 families benefiting from the families first / troubled families programme
- A whole partnership approach being established with other strands of the partnership's work
- Significant engagement of public and providers in early years around the early help approach

### Ongoing focus:

- A clear shared understanding of what 'early help' means and the approach to be taken
- Build on current work across the partnership and supporting practitioners by developing family network meetings
- Systems for data capture and analysis to support work with children and families
- Tools, processes and training to enhance understanding barriers to development

# 2

## 0 to 5 early years

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



### Key achievements:

- In 2016, the percentage of pupils at the end of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) achieving a good level of development in Herefordshire was 71.7%, exceeding the England average of 69.3%. We are in the top quartile of all English local councils
- Great progress has been made in the percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development in Herefordshire. There has been an improvement of 11.8 percentage points from 2014 to 2016, which exceeds both the improvement seen at regional (8.7 percentage points) and national levels (8.9 percentage points)
- Herefordshire's children's centre services have undergone an intense period of improvement and re-design. Service delivery focuses on our most disadvantaged children and work is targeted around those most in need. Analysis and co-ordination of need within a community means interventions and support are delivered through outreach and closer partnership links with other providers and health ensure improved outcomes

### Ongoing focus:

- To improve the oral health outcomes for children and young people and reduce oral health inequalities in Herefordshire
- Tooth decay is the most common oral disease affecting children and young people in England, yet is largely preventable. Poor oral health can affect children and young people's ability to sleep, eat, speak, play and socialise with other children. Other impacts include pain, infections, poor diet and impaired nutrition and growth. In Herefordshire, we need to improve the oral health of our 0 to 5 year olds to ensure the best possible start in life
- Further development of children centre services, health visitors work and wider health and wellbeing community support

# 3

## **Mental health and emotional wellbeing** Improve how we identify and support children, young people and their families to access help and services



### **Key achievements:**

- A review into special educational needs and disabilities by the CQC and Ofsted in September 2016 acknowledged the low waiting times and flexible provision by CAMHS
- A new emotional wellbeing programme of work led by CLD Trust, which supports young people before mental health develops, including information, resources, workshops and individual support. The Strong Young Minds programme has opened up access in schools and community settings to reach young people earlier, with the learning informing our approach to early intervention and children and young people engagement
- Healthwatch hosted a 'Question Time' style event at Hereford Sixth Form College in June 2016, which focussed on mental health services, people's changing attitudes and priorities. 86% of attendees voted that their understanding of mental health was better following the event
- The level and breadth of engagement by children, young people, their families, local organisations and communities has been developing since 2014, including the development of the young people wellbeing ambassadors, who led on a countywide conference in October 2015. They're championing a wider conversation about mental health awareness and what children and young people need as part of the transformation plan throughout schools, colleges and events

### **Ongoing focus:**

- The group has a number of task and finish groups such as workforce development, a toolkit for schools, CYP-IAPT and young people in a mental health crisis. We warmly invite people and organisations to participate
- We are making changes to the accessibility of urgent mental health assessments, moving towards seven days a week. This will help children that present at A&E in mental health distress
- The partnership is designing multi-agency pathways, such as infant attachment, so services wraparound a child, young person and family to provide co-ordinated care

# 4

## Children and young people in need of safeguarding

Improve how we identify and respond to safeguarding needs and risks



### Key achievements:

- Improved response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) across the county. 92 young people have been identified as being at risk of CSE over the past year, however 52 are now deemed to be no longer at risk and 26 remain at high risk
- An increase in the number of foster carers recruited by the council. An overall net increase of 15, which bucks the regional trend
- We have fewer children at risk of significant harm in Herefordshire. There were 288 at risk a year ago, now it's reduced to 114
- An improved 16 plus team which effectively supports young people as they transition into adulthood. We now have 145 young people supported by the team

### Ongoing focus:

- We will develop a wider range of accommodation for older looked after young people and care leavers
- We will increase the self-confidence of our staff through the introduction of a three year staff development programme

# 5

## Addressing challenges for teenagers

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



### Key achievements:

- A reduction in young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). We have reduced our annual NEET figure by 1.7% to bring us more in line with national averages
- Sustained work around reducing first time entrants into the criminal justice system, with the Herefordshire figure falling significantly since 2012
- A reduction in exclusions, with both fixed term and permanent exclusions performing better than the England and statistical neighbour average. Fixed term exclusions in Herefordshire are at 4.99% in comparison to the England average of 5.99% and our statistical neighbour average of 7.51%

### Ongoing focus:

- Restorative justice within the criminal justice system has been embedded and is becoming standard practice. Across Herefordshire, we want to see lessons learned taken out into a wider context and utilised in schools, residential placements and community groups. This will be a multi-agency approach led by the early help and adolescents with challenges groups
- The accommodation strategy is gathering pace and the adolescents with challenges group is working in partnership with social care and housing services to ensure it meets the needs of our vulnerable young people



# 6

## Children and young people with disabilities

Improve our range of services and education and learning opportunities



### Key achievements:

#### Education, health and care (EHC) plans...

- More than 90% of EHC plans are now being delivered within the timescales and all parents and carers are being offered a range of co-production options
- We're on track to deliver all conversions of statements to EHC plans by April 2018
- Parent quote: "Fantastic SEN support, genuine co-production and person centred. Very pleased with (our) EHC plan"

#### Short breaks...

- The short break offer has been significantly re-modelled following an extensive consultation exercise with children, families and service providers, with an improved offer now available
- Parent quote: "I didn't think the council could do it, but you proved me wrong" (in relation to the growing short breaks sleepover service delivered by the council's fostering team, which has five carer households providing 250 nights a year for six disabled children)

#### Post 16...

- We have an improved offer with 14 young people with significant learning difficulties opting for the New Horizons local provision. We've also introduced the first supported internships and have six young people enrolled (four at Wessington Court Farm and two at Hoople)
- Parent quote: "My son loves the college and I think without it, he would not be the lovely man he is today. Thank you to everyone"
- Student quote (when asked what he enjoyed): "Everything. It's good and it's been fun"

#### Special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) inspection...

- We had an overall positive inspection of arrangements for children with SEND in Herefordshire
- SEND inspection letter quote (December 2016): "Leaders have a strong sense of purpose and aspiration to improve outcomes for children and young people who have SEND, meaning that partners are taking increasingly effective action"

### Ongoing focus:

- Ensure all agencies actively embrace the SEND reforms themselves, including their responsibility to provide accurate information into the education, health and care planning process
- Develop the integrated pathway for disability to provide a 'tell it once approach' by offering families the opportunity of having a link worker
- Improve... the local offer and other tools for getting the right information to families, when they want it
- Extend the range of options at post 16 for young people with SEND, so they are confident in their preparations for adulthood
- Thoroughly review the suitability of the community health services for children with SEND to support re-commissioning