

Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan

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Foreword

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

This plan sets out our shared vision for children, young people and their families in Central Bedfordshire and it 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 achievements and outcomes for those children and young people who are not doing as well.

We have set out in this plan those things we think are important to focus on over the next eighteen months. It is not a detailed account of all we plan to do but it does set out those things we think are critical to achieving our vision. There are a large number of more detailed strategies and plans which support the priorities set out in this plan.

We would like to thank all those that have been involved in the development of the plan. In particular the more than 4,000 children and young people who were asked what they think is important. Their ideas and priorities have helped to shape this plan. We look forward to working with children, young people, their families and those involved in delivering services for them, to tackle our challenges and celebrate our successes.

**The Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People Trust Board
On behalf of the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Trust**



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*Working Together
to Safeguard Children*



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Introduction

In 2003 the Government launched 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' which set out a new way of thinking about how services for children, young people and their families are delivered. The result was the Children Act 2004 which provided the legislation for this new approach and which outlines the five key 'Every Child Matters' outcomes for all children and young people, whatever their background or circumstances. They are:

To be healthy

Enjoy good physical and mental health and live a healthy lifestyle

To stay safe

Be protected from harm and neglect and grow up able to look after themselves

To enjoy and achieve

Get the most out of life and develop broad skills for life

To make a positive contribution

To the community and society and not offend or behave in an anti-social way

To achieve economic well-being

Overcome disadvantages and achieve their full potential in life

The Children Act 2004 Section 10 requires that all local authorities with a children's services responsibility should make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and relevant partners with a view to improving the well-being of children and young people in the area. The Act establishes the Local Authority as the lead and accountable partner in such arrangements.

The expectation is that these arrangements, commonly known as Children's Trusts, should have been in place in all Local Authorities by the end of 2008 and that partners involved in Trusts should work together to develop a Children and Young People's Plan.

As a new unitary Authority we have set up our new Children and Young People's Trust. At its first meeting in April 2009 the Trust Board agreed to put in place the following arrangements to develop and implement our first Children and Young People's Plan:

- a Trust Board – made up of the strategic leaders of all partners and acting as the Executive of the Trust, agreeing and owning the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and any other relevant strategies;
- a Commissioning Executive - made up of those people who commission services from across the partners whose job is to understand the needs of children, young people and their families, work with partners to plan services around these needs and identify the best providers to deliver the services; and
- five Every Child Matters Outcome Delivery Groups – made up of key professionals from across the Trust involved in delivering services relating to the five Every Child Matters outcomes to make sure that services are delivered according to the agreed priorities.

There are also a number of partnerships and groups which the Trust has links with and which will help to deliver the priorities in the plan, including the Local Strategic Partnership, the Local Safeguarding Board, the Community Safety Partnership, the Healthier Communities and Older People Partnership and the Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership.

Our vision for Children and Young People in Central Beds

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 at school, make friends and build strong relationships with their family. By the age of 19, 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 happy, healthy, contributing and confident citizen.

Living in Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire is home to approximately 252,100 people. Around 137,000 (54.4% of the population) people live in the towns with 36,540 in Leighton Linnsade, 35,070 in Dunstable, 17,000 in Houghton Regis, 16,640 in Biggleswade, 13,310 in Flitwick, 11,690 in Sandy and 6,900 in Ampthill.

Around 63,000 children and young people between the ages of 0-19 live in Central Bedfordshire and by 2021 it is forecast that there will be about 2,000 more children aged under 16. The number of births in Central Bedfordshire has been around 3,000 for the last three years. The birth rate is slightly lower than the England and East of England rates and Central Bedfordshire's proportion of low birth weight babies is slightly lower than the East of England average.

Age range of children and young people population in Central Bedfordshire, 2007

0 – 4	15,400
5 – 9	15,300
10 – 14	16,100
15 - 19	16,200

*ONS – estimates June 2007

Central Bedfordshire is generally an affluent area and many children and young people in the area enjoy a very good quality of life and have excellent prospects in relation to both their own future happiness and their contribution to their communities. The health of our children and young people compares well with the East of England, and to England as a whole. Achievement across the age range from Early Years Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage 4 is above national averages. None of our schools is in an Ofsted category of concern and we are on track to have 100% of extended services in schools by 2010. The percentage of school leavers going onto higher education is above the regional and national average and we have low numbers of young people that are not in education employment or training (5.9%).

We know however, that there is a significant minority of children and young people for whom outcomes are much worse than those of the rest.

In terms of overall deprivation, in 2007 none of the areas in Central Bedfordshire were in the top 20% most deprived in England. However, for some individual aspects of deprivation (such as education, crime and income) communities in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Flitwick and Sandy do fall into the worst 10% nationally.

We do also have some pockets of deprivation, and in total nine areas in 2007 were in the top 20% most deprived in the East of England and three of these were in the top 10% in the region. This means that around 27% of children in Central Bedfordshire live in low income or workless families and we know that children from poorer backgrounds are doing less well. In

some areas up to 50% are living in low income families:

% and number children in low income families

Tithe Farm	50%	750
Parkside	49%	670
Manshead	47%	590
Northfields	40%	705
Houghton Hall	38%	670
Planets	34%	420
Plantation	32%	415
Dunstable Central	31%	310
All Saints	30%	315
Biggleswade Ivel	30%	515
Sandy Pinnacle	30%	550

What children and young people said

More than 4,000 children and young people helped shape the priorities in this Children and Young People's Plan. More information on how we did this set out in Appendix B and here are some of the things that children and young people said was important to them:

Be healthy

Children and young people wanted more opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles and felt that better play facilities in school grounds and more sports activities would help achieve this. They also asked for healthier and nice school meals.

"More stuff on healthy lifestyles"

"More accessible contraception coz some places want all your details if you ask for it"

Stay safe

Children and young people wanted safe areas to live and play and they wanted action to stop bullying out of school. They also felt it was important to stop bad behaviour and crime in their areas and for children and the Police to have more opportunities to talk.

"Stop big groups of young people walking around at night"

"Stop gang culture"

Enjoy and achieve

Help to do better at school was something that children and young people wanted and they also wanted more rewards for behaving and doing well at school.

"After school club to help us with Maths and English"

"Young people's celebration - like Young People of the Year Awards"

Make a positive contribution

As mentioned above, children and young people want more rewards for behaving and doing well. In particular they wanted to see good things about young people in newspapers and the media. They also felt that they needed more things to do, such as more groups and clubs to join and play schemes. Cheaper transport to get to places was highlighted as an issue and children and young people were concerned that those families who might need help to pay for activities for their children were given support.

"More music concerts - stuff for us to do, could have stalls on drug and alcohol too."

"Good website that says all the stuff you can do and is up to date."

Achieve economic wellbeing

As mentioned above, children and young people thought there should be help for families who need it to pay for activities. They also thought that there should be more job opportunities for young people.

"We need more help on what we should do after leaving school"

We will be developing a children and young people's summary version of the plan so that they can easily see what we plan to do and also to show that we have listened to what they told us.

Our priorities

Cross cutting priorities

In order to deliver the priorities set out in this plan there are a number of issues and programmes that underpin the work of all the partners. These cross cutting priorities will all have separate plans in place, linked to the Children and Young People's Plan and overseen by either an Every Child Matters Delivery Group or the Commissioning Executive. We will need to work together on the following to make sure we have the right building blocks in place and address the priorities in a co-ordinated way:

Improve prevention, early identification and intervention

Recognising as early as possible when children, young people and their families need advice and support is one of the most effective ways of improving outcomes and it is a key cross cutting priority for the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Trust. This work will be monitored and reported through the 'Stay Safe' Delivery Group. To support this work we will:

- Implement an effective strategic plan to develop high quality, locally delivered, integrated services
- Ensure earlier identification and intervention supported by a multi-agency workforce development programme
- Implement further development of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and associated local practice initiatives
- Develop a "Think Family" programme
- Build on the success of our Early Years services and develop children's centres and our support for new parents and very young children
- Intervene earlier and support those children, young people and families we have identified as being at risk: children and young people with mental health problems, children where domestic abuse is a factor, disabled children, looked after children, young carers, gypsy and travelling communities, asylum seekers and homeless children, young offenders, teenage mothers; and
- Provide enhanced services for families where children and young people have been identified as being at risk of entering the care system

What success looks like

- Local delivery of integrated services based on common processes, outstanding practice, strong partnerships and clearly identified pathways
- Children, young people and families access appropriate services to meet their needs and lead to better outcomes.

This approach will be supported by an effective common process for working with children, young people and families – the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). We are reviewing our use of the common assessment framework, the Development of the Lead Professional Role and the design and operation of multi agency panels to support this approach.

Reduce child poverty

Children who grow up in poverty are less likely to get qualifications or go on to higher education, and are more likely to become young parents. People with low levels of educational achievement can expect to be less employable, therefore poorer, therefore less healthy and probably less likely to participate in civic activity. The kinds of people who are less likely to be employed are also more likely to be involved in crime, to have shorter life-spans and to have less fulfilling family lives. Whole families can be locked into cycles of deprivation.

Our long term aim is to reduce the number of children living in poverty in Central Bedfordshire. This is a key priority that will be monitored and reported through the 'Economic Wellbeing' Delivery Group and led out of the Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership of the Local Strategic Partnership. We aim to provide support to children, young people and their families who need assistance in improving their quality of life, particularly with regard to housing, transport, parenting and early year's intervention. To deliver this priority we will:

- Develop a child poverty strategy.
- Commission services to improve people's economic well-being so that they are accessible to those families with the greatest need.
- Provide stable accommodation for those under threat of homelessness.
- Provide subsidised transport and services for children, young people and their families.
- Learn from other agencies who are good at supporting families.
- Increase the number and use of our children's centres.

What success looks like

- Reduce the levels of child poverty (NI 116, LAA priority).
- Increase the range and availability of discounted services.
- Reduce the levels of homelessness.
- Increase the take up of childcare by low income working families.

Develop a locality based approach to delivering integrated services

In order to develop a locality based approach to delivering integrated services, partners will work together to identify and agree the need for co-located services, identify the priority services for re-configuration and develop plans to ensure we have integrated processes and information sharing to support this approach.

We have an ambitious agenda to deliver a wide variety of services for children and young people that are working together in local communities. Health, education and social care services will be set up as multi agency teams that use integrated processes and systems and a broader 'Think Family' approach.

This way of working will be more responsive to local need and will make it easier and simpler for children, young people and their families to access a variety of services in their own locality.

Developing the Children's Trust

As a new unitary area and a new partnership we have identified a number of things we need to do to strengthen partnership working so that we are well equipped for jointly delivering our priorities. A Trust Development Plan will be overseen by the Trust Board and to deliver this priority we will:

- Make sure we have the right people and partners involved in the Trust and that they have appropriate training and information;
- Make sure we are clear about our links and arrangements with other partnerships;
- Make sure that we are clear about what success looks like and that we monitor our progress and challenge each other;
- Develop the Trust Board, our Commissioning Executive and our Delivery Groups; and
- Develop a communications strategy so that everyone knows what the Trust stands for and what it offers and so that children, young people, families and partners all feel informed.

Increase opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in influencing the decisions that affect their lives and well-being

This is a key priority that will be monitored and reported through the 'Make a positive contribution' Delivery Group. To deliver this priority we will:

- Develop a comprehensive youth engagement and consultation plan which leads to increased opportunities for children and young people to play an active part in influencing the decisions that affect their lives and well-being.
- Further develop young people's active involvement in service design, delivery, and evaluation in relation to all providers through initiatives that develop their skills and abilities to inspect services and make valid contributions to the development of services that affect their lives.
- Build on the Young People's grant giving initiative, increasing young people's involvement in decisions about how funding is spent, and encouraging them to become involved in activities that increase opportunities for participatory budgeting activity. We want more young people to apply for the 'street cred' funds (Youth Opportunities Fund), particularly targeting the development of activity on Friday evenings and weekends.

What success looks like

- Young people believe that they can influence service delivery.
- A diverse range of inclusive mechanisms in place that demonstrate children and young people's involvement, voice and influence in decisions that affect their lives and well being, including comprehensive engagement in democratic processes and service design and delivery.
- Engagement and consultation with young people is centrally planned and co-ordinated ensuring communication is a two-way process and avoiding duplication.
- Raise awareness and interest in democracy, annually increasing the numbers of young people voting in youth cabinet elections.
- Have well established and promoted feedback mechanisms in place for children and young people.
- Children and young people are actively involved in service assessments.

Develop Strategic commissioning

Robust commissioning arrangements are seen as being increasingly important in making sure that services are effective, offer good value for money and improve outcomes for children and young people. During 2009 we will agree a Strategic Commissioning Framework that sets out how we will work together to commission cost effective, high quality services. This is a key priority for the Commissioning Executive.

Develop an integrated workforce which is ambitious for all children and their families and expert in its practice

Workforce development is the key to providing the right staff with the right skills to provide high quality services and transform outcomes for children, young people and their families. We are developing a workforce development strategy to ensure that we identify key areas of development and then put in place programmes to ensure new ways of working across all agencies. This is a key priority that will be monitored and reported through the 'Enjoy and Achieve' Delivery Group. To deliver this priority we will:

- Establish and promote a shared identity, vision, language, practices and services across the Children's Workforce.
- Develop integrated working and a single staff development framework based on a single needs analysis.
- Increase the use of Training hubs for learning in each area of Central Bedfordshire.
- Put safeguarding at the forefront of Workforce Development.

What success looks like

- Regular self assessment shows progress towards integrated working.
- The Children's workforce has shared goals, common language, flexible working practices and works within a common ethos.
- There is a common career development and qualifications framework that encourages movement across the Children's Workforce.
- Local needs for the recruitment, development and reform for the children's workforce are effectively identified and development programmes are matched explicitly to need.
- A single directory of workforce development has been compiled and made widely available, signposting both multi-agency (generic) and role specific development opportunities.

Develop the Family and Youth Information Service

Knowing what is on offer and where families can get help and information was a key issue that emerged during our consultation with children, young people, their families and our partners.

To address this we are planning to develop a Central Bedfordshire Family and Youth Information Service for children, young people their parents and carers and the professionals who work with them.

The information service will be key to achieving positive outcomes for children and young people so that information on choices, options and activities, rights and responsibilities is freely available. The service will meet statutory responsibilities for the provision of information placed upon us by legislation,

and will be available to as many people as possible through a wide range of media; for example paper publications, websites and web based services, telephone advice lines, outreach, and consultancy and support services to professionals working within frontline services.

This is an innovative approach which combines the Connexions information and publications team and the Family Information Service to provide a broad based service that can grow and develop to meet the needs of Central Bedfordshire's Children and Young People through the introduction of additional data for example, sections on positive activities and specialist Learning Difficulties and Disabilities provision are planned for 2010.

This is a priority that will be monitored and reported through the Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Group.

Equality and diversity

Equality is a Trust priority. The following equality and diversity principles have informed the development of the plan throughout the process.

- All learners and potential learners are of equal value.
- Consideration will be given to differences of life-experience, outlook and background, and in the kinds of barrier and disadvantage which people face.
- Employment practices will benefit all members of the workforce, for example in recruitment and promotion, and in continuing professional development.
- The plan will promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, positive interaction and good relations between groups and communities and mutual respect and good relations between boys and girls, women and men.
- The plan will help foster greater cohesion, and greater participation in public life.
- Current inequalities and barriers will be addressed and reduced.

In developing the vision and priorities for the Children and Young People's Plan each of the Every Child Matters Delivery Groups considered a wide range of national equality evidence and identified groups or individuals that may have particular needs that are not being met by mainstream services.

The following groups of children who are vulnerable and who may not have prospects for good outcomes across the Every Child Matters outcomes were identified as a priority for the Trust: children and young people with mental health problems, children in homes where domestic abuse is a factor, disabled children, looked after children, young carers, gypsy and travelling communities, asylum seekers and homeless children, young offenders, teenage mothers and children from disadvantaged communities.

Delivering services that support these children and young people and assessing their progress is a key priority that will be monitored and assessed by all the Delivery Groups as part of the ongoing Equality Impact Assessment process.

Be Healthy

What we know

Health and wellbeing of children in Central Bedfordshire generally compares well to the rest of the East of England, and to England as a whole. In 2008/09:

- 77% of women in Bedfordshire* accessed antenatal care within 12 weeks of pregnancy (against a target of 80%).
- 15% of pregnant women in Bedfordshire* were reported to be smoking at time of delivery.
- 72% of women in Bedfordshire* initiated breastfeeding after delivery (against a target of 75%).
- 40% of women in Central Bedfordshire were still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks after delivery (against a target of 39%).
- All immunisation targets were met except for MMR at age 5 years which was 72% against a target of 76% for Central Bedfordshire.
- 72% of schools in Central Bedfordshire have achieved National Healthy Schools Status.
- In 2008/09 Central Bedfordshire recorded 8% of children in the Reception school year as obese, and 14.3% of children in school year 6 as obese.
- Central Bedfordshire showed a teenage conception rate of 28.5, based on 2004-6 data. There is on average a 2 year time lag with this data set from the Office for National Statistics. However local intelligence suggests that teenage conception rates remain of concern in Central Bedfordshire, with particular 'hot spot' areas in Houghton Hall, Manshead, Tithe Farm, Parkside and Heath and Reach.
- In 2008/09 Bedfordshire* screened 16.4% of 15-24 year olds against a 17% target. In 2009/10 Central Bedfordshire will screen 25% of 15-24 year olds.
- In 2008 16% boys and 18% girls in Central Bedfordshire were reported to be smoking occasionally or regularly.
- Data suggest levels of drug use remain relatively stable amongst young people, with slight increases or decreases across the 4 year period from 2004-2008.
- Alcohol use has tended to remain stable with slight increases recorded in 2006. For example, those drinking between 4-20 units was recorded at 32% in 2004, increased to 39% in 2006 and fell again to 33% in 2008.
- The following have been identified as children in vulnerable circumstances who may have poorer health outcomes: children and young people with mental health problems, disabled children, looked after children, young carers, gypsy and travelling communities; asylum seekers and homeless children.

*Central Bedfordshire data not currently available

What we are going to do

Priority 1: Ensure a healthy start to life - including early access to antenatal care, reducing smoking and improving nutrition in pregnancy, promoting breastfeeding and increasing immunisation and vaccinations.

Strategic actions

- Improve choices for women to book by increasing numbers of midwifery led and community based booking clinics.
- Promote multi-agency approaches to improved ante, peri and postnatal care for women, making use of acute and community healthcare services and Children's Centres.
- Improve antenatal and postnatal breastfeeding support, through the implementation of the Healthy Child Programme and targeted programmes of work such as peer counsellors.
- Achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly status in the community.
- Expand stop smoking services for pregnant women, both through the Bedfordshire Stop Smoking Service and increased training provision to maternity and Children's Centre staff
- Support women to prevent re-starting smoking after delivery.

What success looks like

- Increase in the number of women accessing antenatal care within 12 weeks of pregnancy to 85% in 2009/10.
- Increase in breastfeeding initiation to 77% by 2009/10 and the continuation of breastfeeding to achieve a 6-8 week breastfeeding rate of 41% 2009/10 (NI 53).
- Reduce smoking during pregnancy to 15% or less in 2009/10.
- Achieve childhood immunisation rates in line with national NHS Vital Signs targets.

Priority 2: Ensure children and young people are able to make responsible decisions in relation to drugs, alcohol, and sexual health.

Strategic actions

- Ensure services are targeted in line with identified need, particularly teenage pregnancy services.
- Improve the quality of Personal, Social and Health Education in schools.
- Enhance our family services, particularly services for young parents and those affected by drugs and alcohol issues and support the delivery of parenting programmes which address harmful and risky behaviours.
- Improve the quality of specialist drugs/alcohol treatment, particularly planned discharges.
- Roll out new locality sexual health services across Central Bedfordshire.
- Continue to increase uptake of chlamydia screening services.

What success looks like

- Reduce smoking rates among young people from 13% to 9%, and stop young people from starting to smoke in 2009/10.
- Reduce numbers of young people misusing substances, including drugs and alcohol to 11.85% in 2009/10 (NI 115, LAA priority).
- Reduce the teenage conception rate to 23.2 per thousand (NI 112).
- Increase rates of Chlamydia screening for 15 to 24 year olds to 25%.

Priority 3: Promote, protect and treat the mental and emotional health of children and young people.

Strategic actions

- Further develop and integrate early intervention services to ensure prompt and timely support for children and young people with emerging mental health problems.
- Continue to develop the knowledge and skills of all those working with children and young people.
- Develop services for children and young people with complex mental health needs.
- Align Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) and Children's Learning Disability Services.
- Support the delivery of parenting support programmes with a focus on improving the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

What success looks like

- To improve the effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services, as rated through the self assessment framework. In 2008/09 a score of 13 was achieved, against a target of 13. The 2009/10 self assessment target is 15. (NI 51, LAA priority).

Priority 4: Support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles including reducing smoking and childhood obesity and increasing physical activity and healthy eating.

Strategic actions

- Promote the Change 4 Life programme to all communities.
- Increase the capacity of childhood obesity management programmes.
- Expand current 0-5 years healthy living programmes.
- Develop and deliver new childhood obesity prevention programmes.

- Deliver the National Child Measurement Programme to regional and national targets.
- Provide a range of programmes within the extended services communities to give parents the skills and information they need to better manage their children's healthy weight.
- Support the further roll-out of the National Healthy Schools programme.
- Ensure the delivery of 2 hours of physical activity per week in schools, moving towards 5 hours per week where possible.

What success looks like

- Reduce levels of childhood obesity to 13.6% (NI56, LAA priority).
- 75% of schools in Central Bedfordshire to achieve National Healthy Schools status by December 2009 (local indicator).
- Increase take up of school lunches (NI 52).
- All schools delivering 2 hours per week of physical activity (NI57).

Priority 5: Transform services for disabled children.

Strategic actions

- Ensure the delivery of the Aiming High for Disabled children programme, in particular the transformation of short break services in line with the national indicators, priorities and timescales.
- Ensure that the strategic objectives of Better Care; Better Lives are implemented.
- Improve data available on numbers of disabled children and types of disability.
- Continue the roll out of the Early Support programme for disabled children 0 – 5 years
- Deliver the Transition Improvement Plan to provide a smooth transition into adulthood.
- Ensure parents, disabled children and young people are fully involved in the shaping and delivery of services.
- Develop the workforce to deliver transformation.

What success looks like

- Positive response from parents to the NI54 indicator on parental satisfaction (NI 54).
- A substantial increase and step change in short break provision which offers a range of options so that every disabled child and family can be offered a short break by 2011.
- Improved access to services for disabled children and young people.
- Clear plans for children and young people with palliative care needs and those requiring end of life care.
- Transparent transition pathway in place for all disabled young people older than 14.

Be Healthy – supporting plans

- A Healthier Bedfordshire
- NHS Bedfordshire Maternity Strategy
- An Alcohol Strategy for Central Bedfordshire

Stay Safe

What we know

- The majority of children and young people feel safe.
- 15% of boys and 13% of girls said they had been the victim of violence or aggression in the last 12 months in the area where they lived.
- 35% of girls report feeling they are afraid of going to school because of bullying compared to 16% of boys.
- 3,000 contacts in Bedfordshire for whom domestic violence has been recorded by children's social care.
- Above average rates of death for young males under 15 per 100,00 compared to England and the East of England.

What we are going to do

Priority 6: Protect children and young people from harm by providing a co-ordinated and effective safeguarding process.

Strategic actions

- Work closely with Trust partners to establish processes for identifying and responding to children whose safety is, or is likely to be, compromised.
- Establish a separate and effective Local Safeguarding Children Board by 2010.
- Engage with and deliver Central Bedfordshire's aspect of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) safeguarding programme (ESP) so that high quality, evidence based safeguarding practice is consistently delivered.

What success looks like

- The new Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board is functioning effectively.
- The children's workforce is configured and trained to meet the Trust's safeguarding objectives, co-operating in a consistent, responsive and effective manner.
- Children and young people report feeling safer and know how to access help from a trusted source should it be needed.
- Inspections of Safeguarding services result in positive judgements about the effectiveness of those services.
- Reduce the percentage of referrals of children in need that led to initial assessments from 83.8% in 2008/09 to 80% (NI 68).
- 85% of initial assessments within seven working days of referral (NI59).
- Ensure that 100% of child protection cases which should have been reviewed during the year were reviewed (NI 67).

Priority 7: Reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

Strategic actions

- Align activity which is intended to reduce the impact of domestic abuse within the LSCB business plan and Community Safety Partnership Domestic Abuse plan.
- Integrate research and best practice into multi-disciplinary training programmes so that the workforce is equipped to identify and respond to children exposed to domestic abuse.
- Review the multi-agency Domestic Abuse protocol.
- Develop and commission an appropriate range of services to respond to and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.

What success looks like

- Clear identification of children and young people in situations of domestic abuse receiving an appropriate, timely and effective response.
- Children and young people report that they feel safer.

Priority 8: Reduce the incidence and impact of bullying on children and young people.

Strategic actions

- Further develop the Anti-Bullying Strategy to include out of school bullying.
- Incorporate bullying awareness into the Workforce Development Strategy.
- Align the anti-social behaviour strategy and anti-bullying strategy to ensure early identification and response.

What success looks like

- Children and young people report feeling safer.
- The incidence of bullying reduces.

Stay Safe – supporting plans

- Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Anti-Bullying Strategy
- Workforce Development Strategy

Enjoy and Achieve

What we know

- Most children up until the age of 7 are doing well and achieving at Key Stage 1 with 80 out of 95 Lower schools currently seen as good or outstanding.
- On track to have 100% of extended services in schools by 2010.
- The performance of children and young people at the ages of 11 and 16 is improving, however, overall they perform less well than those in other areas.
- 15 out of 35 middle, primary and upper schools are seen as good or outstanding.
- The rate of fixed term exclusions is increasing.
- Children in certain groups do not achieve as well as their peers (boys, some ethnic minorities, children who are looked after and children on free school meals).
- Contact with nature, access to the countryside and outdoor activities, play, sport and leisure all have significant and beneficial impacts on families, children and young people.

What we are going to do

Priority 9: Transform teaching and learning and strengthen leadership to ensure that every school and early years' setting is at least good.

Strategic actions

- Review support services to ensure schools and early years settings have effective, targeted support where it is most needed with a focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Increase the percentage of schools and early years settings judged to be good or outstanding.
- Ensure that all schools and settings are safe and that children and young people can make informed decisions.
- Strengthen leadership in schools and early years settings through effective self-evaluation and challenge.
- Ensure that children and young people enjoy their learning.
- Develop and implement a vision for future learning in Central Bedfordshire expressed through the 0-19 Strategy for Change which has an innovative, engaging and continuous curriculum centred on the individual needs of the learner and which promotes health and well-being, harnesses new technologies, is community-focused, global and enables achievement and enjoyment.
- Develop a shared approach to teaching and learning which ensures that children and young people experience effective transitions within and between each place of learning.

What success looks like

- Support is deployed in proportion to need, it is pre-emptive and has a positive effect.
- Increase the percentage of upper schools judged as good from 50% to 80% by 2011.
- Increase the percentage of middle/primary schools judged as good from 43% to 72% by 2011.
- Increase the percentage of lower schools judged as good from 84% to 86% by 2011.
- No schools in special measures (NI 89).
- Increase the percentage of secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour from 82% to 91% by 2011 (NI 86).
- Children and young people recognise when they are at risk and can make informed and safe decisions.
- Increase to 80% Ofsted judgements on effective leadership and management in schools and/or schools' capacity for sustained improvement.
- Improve attendance rates by keeping the persistent absence rate below 4.76% (NI 87), improving exclusion rates (NI 114) and making sure more 16-18 year olds are in full-time education, training or employment (NI 117).
- School Improvement Partners and learners report that learning is continuous and builds on prior learning.
- Assessment practices and tracking of success are effective and helping to raise achievement for young people.

Priority 10: Raise achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances.

Strategic actions

- Develop a culture for learning which is based on high aspirations for all, is inclusive and accessible, celebrates success and diversity, promotes community cohesion, promotes participation, is safe for risk-taking, promotes quality teaching, learning and assessment, harnesses technology wisely and which raises levels of achievement for all.
- Develop collaborative approaches to leadership and learning for the benefit of all learners.
- Develop high quality learning environments, approaches to teaching and learning and programmes of learning which are accessible to all and in which day-to-day teaching is at least good.
- Promote a supportive, caring climate for learning to improve enjoyment of learning for all and to reduce levels of unacceptable behaviour and persistent absence.
- To promote social and emotional health and well-being.
- Improve the core skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT by supporting schools in developing effective strategies and teaching approaches geared to narrow achievement gaps.
- Develop and commission a range of targeted, early-intervention strategies/programmes to ensure all learners make progress, attend regularly, participate in learning and enjoy their learning.

What success looks like

High levels of learner satisfaction and well-being.

- More than 75% of young people report that they have good relationships (NI 50).
- Ofsted scores of more than 75% for effective leadership and management, promoting well-being, community cohesion and equality.
- Healthy schools targets are met.
- Increase the percentage of secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour from 82% to 91% by 2011 (NI 86).
- Persistent absence rate below 4.76% (NI 87).
- No schools judged as requiring special measures (NI 89).
- A shared understanding and models of collaborative leadership that are used and developed across schools and phases.

Learners learn effectively and make at least 'good progress'.

- At least 86% of young people achieve 2 levels of progress Key Stage 1-2 in English (NI 93).
- At least 89% of young people achieve 2 levels of progress Key Stage 1-2 in Maths (NI 94).
- 100 pupils take up the 14-19 Diplomas offered (NI 90).
- Scores of more than 75% for Ofsted judgements in relation to the quality of learning and progress for pupils' and the quality of learning and progress for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- 82.3 % of children achieve at least 78 points across all 6 areas of learning at the Early Years Foundation Stage (NI 72).
- 82% of young people achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (NI 73).
- 56% of young people achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent inc. English and Maths (NI 75).
- No schools with fewer than 55% of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (NI 76).
- No schools with fewer than 30% of pupils achieving A*-C inc. English and Maths at GCSE (NI 78).
- 76% of young people achieve a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 (NI 79).
- 52% of young people achieve a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 (NI 80).
- Reduce the inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 by the age of 19 to 21% (NI 81).
- Reduce the inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 by the age of 19 to 60% (NI 82).
- 55% of young people achieve 2 or more A*-C grades in Science GCSEs or equivalents (NI 84).
- Increase the number of young people taking physical sciences post-16 – Physics (2008 = 109), Chemistry (2008 = 100) and Maths (2008 = 148)(NI 85).
- 1414 learners achieve a Level 1 qualification in Literacy (NI 161).
- 311 learners achieve a Level 1 qualification in Numeracy (NI 162).

Children and young people who are underachieving, disadvantaged in vulnerable circumstances, looked-after, at risk of exclusion and gifted or talented make at least the expected level of progress for their age and situation.

- Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest (target: between 32-35) (NI 92).
- 2 out of 5 children in care reach level 4 in English at Key S2 (NI 99).
- 2 out of 5 children in care reach level 4 in Maths at KS2 (NI 100).
- 3 out of 21 children in care achieve 5 A*-C GCSEs or equivalents at Key Stage 4 including English and Maths (NI 101).
- Reduce the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2 and KS4: KS2 = 20%; KS4 = 23% (NI 102).
- Reduce to 48% the gap between pupils who are identified as having special educational needs who achieve the expected national curriculum level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 and pupils who have not been identified as having special educational needs.
- Reduce to 41% the gap between pupils who are identified as having special educational needs who achieve 5 A*-C including English and Maths (NI 105).
- Reduce the gap in attainment at Key Stage 2 between all pupils and Black and Minority ethnic groups: Gypsy, Roma Travellers = 30%; Any other white = 72%; White/Black Caribbean = 75%; Black and White African Combined: 75% (NI 107).
- Reduce the gap in attainment at GCSE level for Black and Minority ethnic groups: Gypsy, Roma, Traveller = 25%; Any Other White = 63%; White/Black Caribbean = 45%; white and Black African Combined = 0%(NI108).

Priority 11: Improve engagement and enjoyment for all children and young people

Strategic actions

- Improving extended school services, out of hours learning, and a wide range of outdoor recreational and play activities and opportunities including volunteering.
- A programme of positive, out-of-hours/extra-curricular activities for children and families that involves innovative approaches to learning, play and recreation at a range of localities.
- Pyramids of schools to produce comprehensive development plans for out-of-hours learning and positive activities and submit these to the LA along with regular financial breakdowns of spend to date.
- Develop Playing for Success study support programme within Central Bedfordshire.
- Providing effective support for children who are not engaged with learning and are at risk of exclusion.
- Review support for the most vulnerable children and young people, developing and implementing an effective integrated service structure including locality based resources such as short stay schools or other effective interventions for children who are not engaged with learning and who are at risk of exclusion.
- Establish and strengthen behaviour and attendance partnerships within four geographical localities.
- Develop parental involvement from the start regarding support and consultation structures.

What success looks like

- 85% of schools meet the full core offer of extended services by Sept 2009 and all schools meet the full core offer by 2010.
- There is an increased range of opportunities within the community for **all** children and young people, including those with disabilities.
- All pyramids have a development plan in place that is being implemented, monitored and evaluated.
- Study support programmes are available including the establishment of Playing for Success hubs.
- Roles and responsibilities at all levels are understood resulting in improved behaviour with the number of exclusions reduced and improved attendance and reduction in number of NEETs.
- Guidance, support materials and directories of behaviour support are agreed, published and well-received by schools; Attendance rates (NI 87 Persistent absence rate below 4.76%), the number of 16-18 year olds in full-time education, training or employment (NI 117) and permanent exclusion rates (NI 114) show good improvement; Children and Young People respond positively to local and national surveys about the provision.

- Parent involvement is well established and all families and children have early access to intervention so behaviour and learning is improved and children are engaged in learning in mainstream settings.

Enjoy and achieve – supporting plans

- Transforming Learning/Building Schools for the Future (Business Transformation Project)
- Locality Based Services (Business Transformation Project)
- Workforce Development Strategy (Business Improvement Project)
- E-Learning Strategy
- Behaviour and Attendance Plan

Make a Positive Contribution

What we know

- Children and young people were allocated £600,160 in grants for positive activities resulting in 82 new projects across Central Bedfordshire over the last three years.
- Anecdotal evidence of a wide range of activities on offer for children and young people, however there is a need for greater co-ordination and marketing of these opportunities.
- There is a perceived gap in provision for 8-12 year olds in relation to positive activities.
- Children and young people with special education needs or a disability and those who are young carers, looked after or from particular communities are often unable to access universal provision.
- Costs and transport constraints stop some young people from accessing provision.
- Offending behaviour by young people has significantly reduced over the past 5 years.
- There are still too many young people in custody – 18 custodial events relating to 15 young people in 2008/2009 was a custody rate of 10.1%.

What we are going to do

Priority 12: Develop and promote children and young people's positive contribution to communities across Central Bedfordshire.

Strategic actions

- Develop a positive image campaign to promote and champion children and young people's achievement and contribution to their communities.
- Offer and promote positive activities for children and young people at key times including Friday evenings and weekends.
- Create opportunities for young people to engage in volunteering.
- Improve access to a range of high quality outdoor formal and natural play spaces.

What success looks like

- Positive images of young people on display consistently across partner agencies and within the wider community.
- Young people have a wide range of easily accessible volunteering opportunities.
- Relevant and meaningful youth provision across Central Bedfordshire on Friday evenings and weekends.
- Increase the percentage of year 10 students participating in positive activities from 73.9% to 77.9% by March 2010 and 82.9% by March 2011 (NI 110 – LAA priority).

Priority 13: Reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour.

Strategic actions

- Reduce re-offending rates amongst young people.
- Reduce first time entrants into the Youth Justice System.
- Reduce the high level of custodial sentences.

What success looks like

- Achieving national and local targets relating to youth offending.
- Perception of crime reduced.
- To meet the national custody rate target of 5% - this would require 8 young people less to be sent to prison during 09/10.
- Sustain the successful development of Junior Youth Inclusion Projects aimed at vulnerable and challenging young people aged 8 -13.

Priority 14: Promote and provide activities and information for all children and young people and their families, ensuring that the hard to reach and those with disabilities can take part in mainstream activities.

Strategic actions

- Increase children and young people's participation in positive activities.
- Enhance and further develop accessible information, advice and guidance provision for children, young people and families and the professionals who work with them, through the design and development of the Central Bedfordshire Family and Youth Information Service.
- Ensure the quality of information provision through the development of a comprehensive, informative, advice and guidance strategy which meets national standards.
- Develop integrated working between providers to enhance existing opportunities for children, young people and families as part of the leisure and culture strategy.
- Develop and promote play, leisure, sport and cultural opportunities for children and young people of all ages and in particular those aged 8-12.
- Shape and deliver services in our youth and leisure centres, creating a welcoming and inclusive approach for children and young people with disabilities and special needs.

What success looks like

- Increase the numbers of young people participating in positive activities from 73.9% to 82.9% in 2011 (NI 110 – LAA priority).
- Accessible delivery mechanisms offering information, advice and guidance within local areas such as One Stop Shops, online and telephone advice services.
- Increased number of children and young people with disabilities and special needs using youth and leisure provision.
- Positive activity through Integrated Youth Support Provision supports young people's attainment and personal development through accredited awards.

Priority 15: Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting.

Strategic actions

- Strengthen communities through innovative family and community involvement.
- Implementing Think Family reforms across Children, Health and Adult services, developing protocols across Children's, Health and Adult services for identifying, referring and planning how the needs of other family members can be met alongside those of their client.
- Delivery of Parenting Early Intervention Programme.
- Support and maintain existing parenting support services.
- Delivery of the strengthening families 10–14 and Triple P parenting programmes across Central Bedfordshire.
- Start up and delivery of the Family Intervention Project, providing intensive support to families in the greatest difficulty with children at risk of offending.

What success looks like

- Increased number of parents completing parenting programmes or individual casework support.
- Improvements in parents and their children communicating effectively and respectfully. Parents demonstrating positive parenting and problem solving skills with greater belief in their competence.
- Parents surveyed reporting sustained benefits.
- 150-200 parents participating in evidence based parenting programmes annually.
- Increased number of parents (particularly fathers) participating in parenting programme demonstrating improvements in:
 - their knowledge and understanding of child development and behaviour;
 - positive parenting and problem solving skills and greater belief in the competence.

Make a positive contribution – supporting plans

- Integrated Youth Support Plan.
- Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy.
- Not in Employment Education or Training Strategy.
- Community Strategy.
- Cultural Strategy.
- Youth Offending Service Plan.
- Parenting Support Plan.
- Plan B plans.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

What we know

- Children from poorer backgrounds are doing less well and are more likely to die from an accident in childhood, have low educational achievement, turn to crime, be poor as an adult and raise their own children in poverty.
- 27% of children in Central Bedfordshire live in low income families and 12% live in workless families. In parts of Houghton Regis and Dunstable between 45% and 50% of children live in low income households.
- The inequality gap at age 19 for achievement at either level 2 (GCSE or equivalent) or level 3 (A level or equivalent) places Central Bedfordshire in the bottom quartile.
- Low levels of young people going on to higher education in Tithe Farm (7.9%), Parkside (10.5%), Biggleswade Stratton (11.7%) and Sandy Pinnacle (12.8%) compared to England (24.3%). Northfields, Dunstable Central, Manshead, Planets and Houghton Hall also fall below the England average.
- Around 6% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- 66.7% of care leavers in employment education and training which is above the national average (64.9%) but below the region and comparator authorities (68%).

What we are going to do

Priority 16: Develop a locality approach in reducing the number of young people Not in Employment Education (NEET) or training, targeting those areas with the highest NEET levels.

Strategic actions

- Develop one stop shop multi-agency settings in our four priority areas.
- Identify needs and interests of NEET young people and work with employers, colleges and training providers to develop appropriate opportunities.
- Ensure all young people receive a comprehensive and high quality programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance to support effective decision making in relation to learning and/or work.

What success looks like

- Reduce the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training from 5.8% to 5% by 2011 (NI 117, LAA priority).

Priority 17: Work with employers, colleges and schools to increase the range and quality of local training, volunteering and job opportunities.

Strategic actions

- Co-ordinate the promotion of local job opportunities.
- Increase the range of services in school settings.
- Provide increased training and work experiences for 14-16 year olds.
- Develop our workforce's ability to serve our customers.
- Develop apprenticeship opportunities within public services.
- Work with adult services to enable vulnerable groups of young people make a smooth transition to adulthood through more informed choices and opportunities to benefit from an enhanced range of education, employment and training.

What success looks like

- Provide more jobs, volunteering and training opportunities.
- Increase the number of apprenticeships available.

Priority 18: Inspire our most vulnerable young people to raise their aspirations and provide integrated support particularly to care leavers, young offenders, young carers, young people with physical and learning disabilities, gypsy and traveller children and teenage parents.

Strategic actions

- Provide support to parents of excluded children.
- Consult children and their families at regular intervals.
- Develop information sharing protocols with colleges and training providers to improve transition support at 16+.
- Ensure that as young people with a disability move into adulthood, they have access to the same life opportunities as everyone else.
- Actively engage with Aim Higher to raise the aspirations of young people.

What success looks like

- Every child leaving care has a pathway plan.
- Improved achievement of level 2 and 3 qualifications of vulnerable young people.
- Increased entrants into higher education.
- Increased number of care leavers and young offenders entering NEET category.
- Multi-agency transition plans for vulnerable young people moving into adulthood.

Achieve economic wellbeing – supporting plans

- Child poverty strategy
- Strategy for change
- Homelessness strategy
- Workforce strategy
- Economic strategy
- Cultural strategy

Appendix A: Managing our performance and resources

Delivery plans for each of the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan will be developed, managed and delivered through the five Every Child Matters Delivery Groups. These will set out the lead partner, strategic actions, the milestones and deliverables, the resource requirements (financial and human) the risks and the performance measures.

Every quarter the Delivery Groups will review progress and the Leads of the Delivery Groups will report on their performance to the Trust Board. A basket of critical success measures will be identified by each of the five Delivery Groups and these will form the basis of the quarterly reporting. Each Delivery Group will also identify a key priority indicator which will provide a particular focus for partnership working for the Trust and the Delivery Groups.

The Trust has also endorsed the following Local Area Agreement indicators as key priorities for the Children and Young People Plan.

- NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services – managed through the Be Healthy Delivery Group;
- NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 – managed through the Be Healthy Delivery Group;
- NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities – managed through the Make a Positive Contribution Delivery Group ;
- NI 115 Substance misuse by young people – managed through the Be Healthy Delivery Group; and
- NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) – managed through the Achieve Economic Well-being Delivery Group.

The Trust will be accountable to the Local Strategic Partnership for these National Indicators (NIs) which will be monitored by the Government through Go East.

The Trust Board also has an interest in influencing and monitoring a number of other Local Area indicators which are led by other Thematic Partnerships of the LSP but which are part of the broader families' agenda for Children's Trusts. These include:

- a. NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher;
- b. NI 8 Adult participation in sport;
- c. NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty (a local indicator in the Local Area Agreement);
- d. NI 198 Children travelling to school - mode of travel usually used; and
- e. NI 123 16+ current smoking rate prevalence.

As a new unitary area the performance framework includes a number of national and local indicators for which partners do not have either baseline or trend data. The Delivery Groups will be working to establish baseline information for these indicators so that partners can agree targets for future years. These will be agreed when the Children and Young People's plan and the delivery plans are reviewed.

Appendix B: Consultation with children and young people

The consultation with children and young people was conducted in 3 stages

Stage 1:

We asked a number of youth groups 'what they would like Central Bedfordshire to do for them'. Groups varied and included: Hurricane, Connexions Teenage Pregnancy group, Potton Travellers, Young Carers, Urban dance groups, Looked After Children, Youth Cabinet, African Caribbean and various disability groups. This exercise allowed the children and young people to say what they feel is a priority for them.

The total number of children and young people consulted was 550.

Stage 2:

Following on from stage 1, we then collated all of the answers and produced a questionnaire that was then taken into 3 lower schools (Meppershall, Hadrian and Robert Peel) 3 middle schools (Parkfields, Burgoyne and Edward Peake) and 3 upper schools (Stratton, Samuel Whitbread and Sandy). Using a voting system the children and young people were asked to vote for their 1st and 2nd choice on what service providers should do for them. The second stage was fun and interactive, with the children, young people and teachers being able to see the results straight away.

The total number of children and young people consulted was 1050.

Stage 3:

To test that we had understood children and young people's priorities we then organised a final consultation exercise. Based on what the children and young people said in stage 1 and stage 2, we then produced a questionnaire which set out 'What young people have told us' and 'What we are going to do'. The main aim of the consultation was to clarify that we understood what the children and young people of Central Bedfordshire were saying to us. Stage 3 involved visiting different lower, middle and upper schools. Schools who took part in stage 3 included: Potton Lower, St Georges Lower, Thomas Johnson Lower, Southill Lower, Hitchmead Special School, Henlow Middle, Arnold Middle, Holmemead Middle, Redborne Upper, Vandyke Upper, Queensbury Upper and Harlington Upper, 2670.

In addition to this we had 81 responses online.

The total number of children and young people consulted with were **4351**.

By undertaking three different stages of consultation we have achieved both qualitative and quantitative results from children and young people who live or go to school in Central Bedfordshire. All of the results have been broken down further into: gender, demographical area, schools and ethnicity.