

### **Central Bedfordshire's Children and Young People's Plan – Achieve Economic Well Being**

#### **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 are in employment education and training which is above the national average (64.9%) but below the region and comparator authorities (68%).

#### **What we are doing**

**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 in education, employment or training.
- 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