



Children and Young People's Plan 2019 - 2022



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce Warrington's Children and Young People's Plan. The 2019-22 plan sets out our aspirations for children and young people in Warrington and the local partnership's commitment to working together alongside children and families to create real and lasting change.

This document is an overarching plan for all services which affect children and young people in the borough, based around five strategic outcomes. We want our children and young people in Warrington to:

1. Stay safe
2. Live in settled families
3. Get the best from school and college
4. Be healthy
5. Have successful adult lives

In recent years, we have worked together to make a real positive difference to children and young people's lives. This plan builds on that success and aspires to be more ambitious and innovative for our children.

We want to put children and their experiences at the heart of all we do in Warrington. Children's voices and those of their families have informed this plan and will continue to vitally shape how we deliver services across the borough.

We recognise that there are inequalities in parts of the borough and some young people do not enjoy the same opportunities and outcomes as others. The Children and Young People's Plan is driven by a shared determination to address these inequalities and ensure all children and young people in Warrington are supported and championed to fulfil their potential.

The current pressures we are experiencing through reduced public funding, heightens our need to be innovative in the ways we work. It is increasingly important that we work closely and collaboratively towards our goals, with clear priorities upon which to focus our resources. The Children and Young People's Plan, together with the partnership implementation plans, sets out this shared vision and delivery programme.



Cllr Matt Smith,
Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children's Services

Introduction

We are proud of our children in Warrington and determined alongside families and carers to ensure they have the best start in life and every opportunity to enjoy their childhoods and grow into happy, independent and successful adults.

Children and young people 0 to 18 years old make up 23% of Warrington's population. Compared to many others, most children and young people in Warrington do well, for example, they:

- Live in families that work – employment rates are high (76.3%) and above the national and regional averages
- Do well at school – 46.6% of pupils achieve a standard pass (grade 9 to 5) at GCSEs in both English and maths (compared to 41.2% in the North West and 43.5% in England)
- Are healthy – Less children in Year 6 are classified as obese (17.3%), better than the average for England

Warrington is relatively prosperous and has a positive current and future economic profile, however this masks pronounced inequalities in 20 specific neighbourhoods mostly concentrated around the town centre, which fall within the 10% most deprived nationally.

Our challenge and ambition is to ensure that children and their families living in the whole Borough including the most disadvantaged areas do well and have the same life chances and opportunities.

We are therefore targeting our interventions to close the outcome gap for more vulnerable disadvantaged children and young people.



Children and young people's plan 2019 – 2022

We have listened to what local partners and young people think is important for children and young people in Warrington. What we heard is now set out into clear vision, priorities and strategic outcomes for the next three years.

The local partnership will work together to ensure we are progressing against the plan, reducing inequalities and getting the best outcomes for children and young people in Warrington.

Vision and ambition

Our vision is to ensure that:

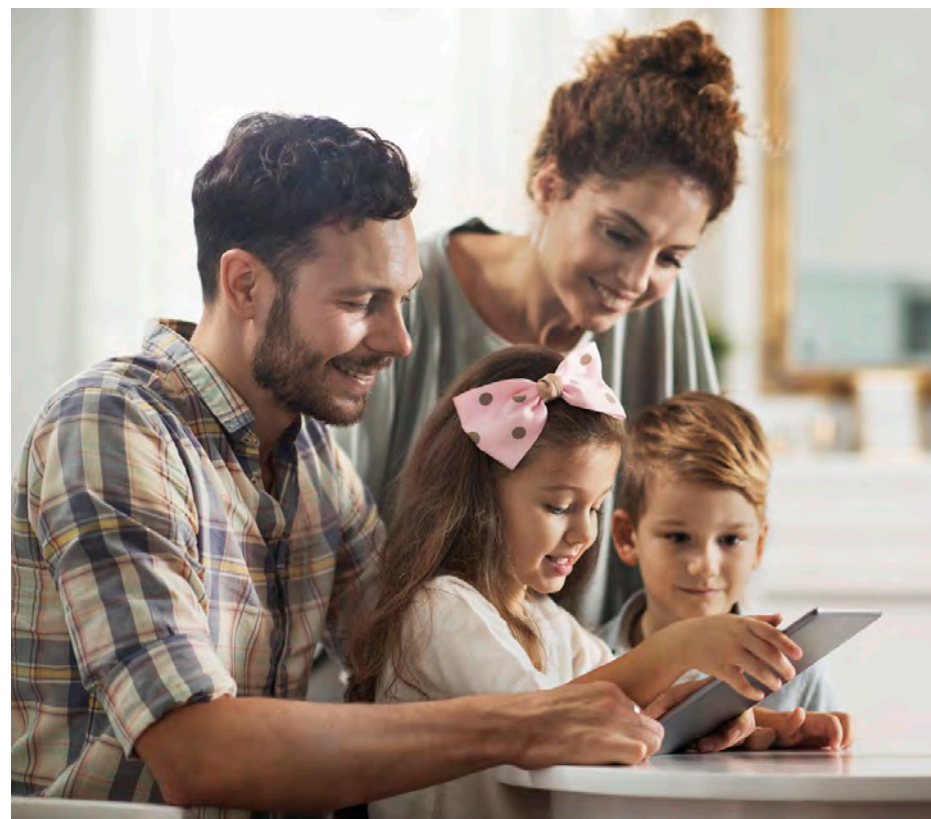
“Every child and young person in Warrington is safe, healthy and has the opportunity to reach their potential”

Our ambition is to have a borough that works for all children and young people. We are committed to closing the outcome gap for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds.

We want children and families to receive the right help and support at the right time, with support being provided as needs emerge to avoid escalation.

We want children and families to benefit from high quality, purposeful relationships with professionals from across the partnership that create opportunities for change.

Our ambition is for children to be put at the heart of all we do and for children's voices to help shape decision making and development of services.



Priorities

1. Help young people and their families to live in safe, supportive environments and as independently as possible.
2. Provide access to quality care, support and learning provision
3. Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected by providing early intervention and immediate help for children where needed
4. Improve educational attainment for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes
5. Improve physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing
6. Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours
7. Ensure children and young people are educated, skilled and able to make a positive transition into adulthood
8. Ensure the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) are met

Our strategic outcomes for Warrington's children

We want children and young people in Warrington to:

1. Stay safe
2. Live in settled families
3. Get the best from school and college
4. Be healthy
5. Have successful adult lives

Our aspirations

1. Close the attainment and progress gap for the most vulnerable young people, including children in care and care leavers
2. Safely reduce the numbers of children in care
3. Ensure there is a common understanding of, and response to, neglect across the partnership



Our Values and behaviours

As a partnership we work together through our shared values and behaviours for the best interests of children and young people.

Our Values

We value the **relationships** that we have with children and their families. To that end:

- We treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- We are open and honest about the expectations we have for children and young people and the changes that are needed.
- We are clear about our offer of support and we keep the commitments we make to children and their families.
- We listen and respond to the concerns of everyone we work with.
- We work in the best interests of children and their families.

We value good **communication** which means:

- We are approachable and accessible.
- We communicate with each other in a professional and appropriate manner.
- We trust the people we work with.
- We share information with the appropriate people in a timely manner.

We value the **people** we work with, which means:

- We take the time to support each other.
- We have an open door policy.
- We actively show appreciation of each other's work and contributions.
- We value feedback and use it to improve the quality of our work.



Our behaviours

- We are curious and ask purposeful questions, with a focus on the root causes of the child and family's difficulties.
- We work alongside families helping them to solve problems and create change for themselves
- We approach families with empathy, compassion and creativity using relationships for positive change
- We are respectful and think about the situation from the child and family's perspective
- We intervene in a timely way and act decisively to achieve permanence for all children
- We are reflective and use critical thinking to evaluate and analyse the needs of the child and the family's capacity to change/meet the child's needs
- We use a range of approaches to elicit the views of children and families, whose voices are heard and are central to decision making and service development
- We build skilful and influential working relationships with other professionals and agencies
- We make good use of supervision to reflect on practice, planning and decision making skills
- We understand our legal and statutory responsibilities and execute these in children's best interests
- We take appropriate responsibility for our conduct, practice and learning.



What will we do?

Stay safe

To ensure Warrington children and young people feel safe and their welfare promoted and safeguarded, we will:

- **Provide support to children and families at the right time**, in the right place to prevent abuse and neglect and unnecessary escalation.
- **Safely reduce the number of children who are in care** and on a child protection plan by providing support at an earlier stage.
- **Reduce the number** of children experiencing domestic abuse or parental substance misuse.
- Protect children and young people from **contextual safeguarding risks and exploitation**, including child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, female genital mutilation and radicalisation.
- Reduce the number and frequency of children who go **missing from home and missing from education**.
- Reduce the number of children and young people who receive **unintentional childhood injuries**.
- Reduce risk to young children of 'lay over' by **promoting a safe sleeping campaign**.
- Prevent young people becoming homeless by **providing safe and secure accommodation with support services**.
- **Help to tackle hate crime** by increasing young people's awareness and improving reporting.

Live in settled families

To help Warrington children and young people live in settled families and environments, we will:

- Focus help where it is needed to **ensure parents are able to meet children's needs** and can access support to support them to address any difficulties.
- Provide targeted support to children at the **edge of care** to ensure only those children who need to be in care are in care.
- Where children are unable to live with their birth parents, support **extended families and networks** to find family solutions to meet their children's needs and provide a stable family life without, where possible, statutory interventions.
- Promote **family based care for our children in care**. Reduce the reliance on residential care, reduce placement moves and secure early permanency for children whose plan is to remain in longer term foster care.
- Where children enter **residential care**, ensure their care is of high quality with a relentless focus on meeting their needs and driving improved outcomes.
- Ensure legal permanency is achieved for our children in care, underpinned by a commitment to **permanency being our obsession**. Promote special guardianship orders and adoption where appropriate.
- Ensure we have sufficient local placements for children in care to enable children to have **consistency of education** when entering care or changing carers.

Get the best from school and college

To make sure Warrington children and young people get the best from school and college, we will:

- Continue our **focus on learning for all** – support our schools and colleges to provide an excellent learning provision to enable all of Warrington’s children to enjoy, attain and achieve their potential
- Support all schools in Warrington to be **rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.**
- Support every school to be an **SEND school** and every teacher to be an SEND teacher
- Focus on **school readiness in early years** to ensure all children are ready to attend school.
- **Close the gap in educational progress** for vulnerable groups of young people such as children with SEND, children on free school meals and children in care.
- Enhance the support available to pastoral staff within schools and colleges to help them to further embed **trauma informed practices** and embed features of **systemic relationship based practice.**
- Support schools to prepare for and deliver the new statutory **PSHE programme.**
- Encourage schools to offer learning in the growth areas of **science, technology, engineering, maths, digital skills and creativity** to support young people to work in the emerging industries in Warrington in the future.

- Create meaningful **work placements and apprenticeships** for all young people, especially for our SEND young people and care leavers
- Provide support to children and young people who are **persistently absent** from school to help them go to school regularly
- Support children in care so that more **care leavers are in education, training or employment** when they reach 19 years
- Ensure **young carers are supported in schools** so they are able to achieve their potential and have access to education, training or employment opportunities.
- Provide support to **children and young people who are being bullied** and ensure schools and colleges have effective anti-bullying procedures in place.



Be healthy

To support Warrington children to enjoy good physical and mental health, lead active healthy lifestyles and develop emotional resilience, we will:

- Improve children and young people's **knowledge of healthy lifestyles** and help increase participation in activities that improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Build resilience and self-esteem to enable children to make **healthy lifestyle choices**, e.g. about drugs and alcohol.
- Promote **healthy relationships and sex education programmes** and encourage open and honest conversations about relationships, sexual health and sex.
- Address the **emergence or escalation of mental ill health** in children and young people by active health promotion and early intervention within the community.
- Ensure that all services working with children and young people with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) will provide **integration and personalisation of care** which is outcome focused.
- Ensure that all children and young people with a **long-term health condition** (physical or mental health) are supported within their home, school and communities and are empowered in self-care and with the transition to adulthood.
- Ensure all children in care, regardless of placement, receive **robust health services and assessment** to ensure their health needs are met.



- Ensure young carers are **protected from inappropriate levels of caring** and their emotional wellbeing is supported.
- Work towards the government's commitment to **halve childhood obesity by 2030**.
- **Reduce the number of young people who smoke** in line with the Public Health England's Tobacco Control Plan Delivery Plan.
- Deliver a **new innovative and digital sexual health service** to improve sexual health and wellbeing outcomes in young people.
- **Promote good mental health**, prevent mental health problems and improve the lives of pregnant mothers and young people living with and recovering from mental illness.

Have successful adult lives

To make sure Warrington children are prepared for successful adult lives, we will:

- Ensure that all children and young people are prepared for **adult life and citizenship** and have the necessary skills for employment.
- Ensure that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have **opportunities for training and employment**.
- Build children's and young people's **confidence, resilience, social skills, communication skills and social capital** to equip them with lifelong skills from the earliest years of life.
- **Celebrate the diversity Warrington's children and young people**, ensure their talent is recognised and all are supported to achieve their aspirations.
- For children with SEND, SEMH and children from other disadvantaged groups, ensure there are **proactive, timely, transition arrangements to ensure continuity of support and care into adult services**.
- Ensure children in care are supported to **prepare for independence** and have good relationships with carers and others in their network that continue into adulthood.



How we'll know if we've made a difference

Key indicators

The progress made by local partners and the success of this plan will be monitored against a number of key indicators:

1. Number of children looked after
2. Number of children and young people subject to a child protection plan
3. Number of parents experiencing a second or subsequent instance of having a child or children enter care
4. Number of children and young people with a child in need plan
5. Attendance at primary and secondary schools
6. Number of fixed-term exclusions from primary and secondary school
7. Closing the gap:
 - Percentage of children ready for school
 - Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths at the end of Key Stage 2
 - Progress 8 score for Warrington at the end of Key Stage 4
 - Percentage of students achieving a level 3 qualification at age 19
 - Number of young people who are not in employment, education, or training, or whose status is 'not known'
8. Destinations of young people with special educational needs and/or a disability when they leave school
9. Progress against measures in the Future in Mind dashboard
10. Prevalence of children at age 11 who are a healthy weight
11. Number of children missing from home
12. Number of children missing from education
13. Proportion of young offenders who re-offend
14. Hospital admissions due to substance misuse
15. Hospital admissions due to unintentional or deliberate injuries

Implementation Plan

An Implementation Plan will be monitored alongside the Children's and Young People's Plan 2019-22. This will outline in detail how we will carry out the plan as a partnership group and who will be responsible.

The Warrington Early Help Partnership and Warrington Safeguarding Partnership will be responsible for ensuring progress against the Implementation Plan and reviewing the impact of the Children's and Young People's Plan 2019-22.