

INTERIM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2021-2022



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INTRODUCTION

Bradford District partners are proud to serve the youngest and one of the most diverse places in the country. We have a shared commitment to making the district a great place to be a child and a young person. Our intention over the next five years is to become child friendly and a place where every child has the opportunity and support to reach their full potential.

This interim plan, ready for sign off, is set to run to March 2022. During this period we will be undertaking joint consultation and engagement with all stakeholders across our District to support development of our five year Children and Young People’s Plan in conjunction with our journey to become a child friendly place.

We want to put the voice of the child and children’s rights at the heart of the decision making and delivery of all that we do. We will support children to be healthy and well, we will reduce inequalities in educational attainment. We will listen to how children and young people are doing in terms of their happiness, their health and wellbeing, their feelings about where they live, their educational achievement and skills, their hopes for adult life.

We have drawn on evidence provided by our research partners, engagement with young people during the pandemic and consultation with some of our key partners to develop this interim plan.



“ We need to ensure that children are at the heart of our recovery ”

We have challenges to overcome if we are to ensure our children can thrive physically, intellectually and emotionally so that all our children can have a good home life and achieve throughout their lives in education, in work and be as healthy and financially secure as possible.

The pandemic has had an impact on all children but especially on those who are vulnerable— from family and social life, access to food, mental health, through to remote learning. This is also why it is so important for us to conduct a full consultation on our plans as we come out of the pandemic. We need to ensure that children are at the heart of our recovery and that everything we do is fair and inclusive.

The fundamental challenges we faced before the pandemic are the same ones we faced throughout it, and beyond. And our fundamental strengths remain.

The following sections within this plan will present ‘About Bradford, ‘What our young people have said is important to them’, our strengths, the principles that underpin this plan, our strategic aims, our priorities to meet those aims and finally the actions we intend to continue or that we will take during this interim period to ensure all our children have the best start in life and the opportunities and support to reach their full potential.





ABOUT BRADFORD

Bradford is one of the youngest, most diverse cities in England. Our young people and our diversity are a huge asset. Our children and young people grow up in a District with so much to offer. It is a District:

- Rich in social, cultural and geographical diversity: one third of our population are from Black and Asian Minority Ethnic communities and over 150 different languages are spoken. The District includes the city of Bradford itself, the large town of Keighley and a number of smaller towns and villages, many with their own strong and distinctive identities
- Of outstanding landscapes, historically important architecture, a rich heritage and vibrant contemporary cultural scene. Ilkley Moor, Haworth and Brönte Country, Saltaire World Heritage Site and the National Science and Media Museum in the city centre, amongst a host of other sites, attract 10 million visitors a year
- With an economy worth £9.5 billion, the 11th largest in England, and a strong, broad-based, innovative and entrepreneurial business community. And we are one of the most internationally connected cities in the UK
- With a strong and committed network of voluntary and community organisations with an estimated 30,000 regular volunteers and 100,000 occasional volunteers. The spirit of our communities is a tangible asset that we want to work on more with people in the future to develop and deliver our shared objectives
- Where our public services and the voluntary and community sector have a strong track record of working together in mature and effective partnerships and the District's work to bring communities together and promote participation is among the most innovative to be found anywhere in the world
- Where we have some excellent assets to help us: the expertise of Born in Bradford, award winning youth and social cohesion projects, integrated careers and vocational skills programmes, the University of Bradford's achievement as the number one UK University for social mobility and fantastic programmes such as Better Start Bradford, Act Early, JU:MP and the Bradford Education Opportunity Area.

WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SAID IS IMPORTANT TO THEM

Throughout the pandemic we have been engaging with our young people with the aim of supporting them to maintain their development, remain healthy and well and stay connected with education, training and work.

HEALTH

- Greater recognition of mental health issues and better support
- Increase availability of support services
- More community support e.g. youth cafes

EDUCATION

- More vocational education, better preparation for work in schools
- Alternatives to school behaviour policies such as isolation
- Wider curriculum that recognises subjects such as art and places less emphasis on exam grades

EMPLOYMENT

- Greater support with making the transition from school to work – information, guidance, employers recognising skills

PARTICIPATION AND VOICE

- Young people want more involvement in decision making with councillors and service providers
- They want to see evidence that consultations have impact

COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND SERVICES

- Young people would like more services in their local community and particularly youth services that develop their social networks and connections

INCOME AND JOBS

- Aspirations are low because jobs are low paid
- Employer recruitment practices should focus on competencies/ skills not time/experience
- Families lack resources to support young people and access to basic services such as transport limited by affordability

COHESION/SAFETY

- To live in safe spaces, free from fear of crime and intimidation and with greater community cohesion



OUR STRENGTHS

1. We are the youngest city in the UK and the District has one of the most diverse and vibrant populations. Our children and young people are our greatest strength.
2. We have some excellent assets in the District to help us: the expertise of Born in Bradford (BiB), award winning youth and social cohesion projects, integrated careers and vocational skills programmes, the University of Bradford's achievement as the number one UK University for social mobility and fantastic programmes such as Better Start Bradford, JU:MP and the Bradford Outcome Area. All of these in a diverse, vibrant District of outstanding natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and entrepreneurial innovation;
3. The pandemic has shown the central importance and strength of Bradford's public services and local partnership working and how Bradford excels in partnership working and provision.

Both the challenges we face and the strengths we build on have shaped the priorities in this plan.

FIVE PRINCIPLES THAT RUN THROUGH THE PLAN

- 1 The voice of the child:** The plan sits within our overall ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly District. This means placing the voice of the child and a children's rights approach, as fully articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), at the heart of everything we do. It is a foundational right which recognises children's agency – the ability to act - and their rights to be involved in determining decisions made about them and policies which affect them. It is summed up in the phrase "nothing done to us, without us". A recent example of this is the creation of the Schools Pandemic Recovery Summit which resulted in young people producing the Manifesto – a statement of the key principles and aims young people want schools and education to follow.
- 2 Prevention and early intervention:** The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being – from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status. The Act Early programme, with its focus on early interventions to promote healthy places, livelihoods and learning shows this.
- 3 A whole families approach:** Ensuring our children and young people have the best start in life means ensuring their home environments provide the love, care, safety and support essential to thrive. This means supporting and working with the whole family to address the issues which can prevent children and young people from thriving.
- 4 Inclusion and equality:** Our children and young people can only maximise their life chances if they are free from discrimination, included in their communities and treated equally regardless of their background, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, beliefs and cultures. This means making a real commitment to the fundamental moral equality of all our children and young people and their equal entitlement to recognition, non-discrimination and respect.
- 5 Partnership working and collaboration:** We can only maximise our children and young people's life chances by joining up our policies so that they work together and partners work collectively across the public, private and community sectors. It is only if we work across organisations, systems and communities at all levels that will we eradicate long-standing inter-generational inequalities in health, prosperity and well-being.

OUR SIX STRATEGIC AIMS



1. Good Start and Great Schools

We want to give all our children and young people the best start in life by providing high quality early years' education for all and creating a long-term, sustainable improvement in school attainment. Education and schooling should be an engine of opportunity that maximises our children and young people's talents and abilities to their fullest extent and prepares them for successful transitions into adult life, whatever their background.



2. Better Health, Better Lives

We want all our children and young people to enjoy the prospect of safe, long, happy and fruitful lives by improving their health and socio-economic wellbeing.



3. Better Skills, More Good Jobs and a Growing Economy

We want to ensure all our children and young people grow up in families free from the scarring effects of poverty on life chances and to ensure they can make successful transitions into skilled and valued jobs and further/higher education.



4. Safe, Sustainable and Active Communities

We want to make Bradford District a place where all children and young people feel safe and nurtured in their communities, where decent homes and accessible services are provided, where our cultural diversity is celebrated and where everyone can play an active role in their community. We want safe, sustainable and inclusive communities where all our children and young people are proud to call the District their home and to value its unique heritage and environment.



5. Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable and Supporting Families

We want to ensure that our most vulnerable and marginalised children and young people are protected from harm, and that they and their families are provided with the services and support to enable them to secure their rights to maximise their potential to the fullest.



6. Participation and Voice

We want to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard and that they are actively engaged in the decision making process which determine the policies and strategies which set the contexts in which they live their lives. This means adopting the "nothing done to us, without us" approach.





THE ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE

There are 24 priorities across our six aims. We have a wide range of actions to ensure we meet our aims and priorities.

Actions we will take are divided into Living with COVID-19 and Building a Better Future. This reflects the current framing of the Council Plan.

Our actions and ambitions are wide ranging and include:

- Developing a 0-5 Early Years Programme and an Early Childhood Services Outcomes Offer;
- Implementing our Children's Services Improvement Plan;
- Continuing the final year of the Bradford Opportunity Area programme to improve educational attainment in our most disadvantaged schools. This includes developing a tuition programme for 600 disadvantaged year 11 pupils to improve their KS4 maths results;

- Reviewing and refreshing our District wide consultation, engagement and participation strategy for young people;
- Developing our 5-year plan for integrated careers and technical education (CTE) for all our young people through the Bradford Pathways Model;
- Working closely with our partner organisations such as the NHS, schools and voluntary sector to develop mental health services for young people.

As we develop our five-year plan in alignment with our Child Friendly programme ambitions, the actions in this interim plan will be reviewed and updated.

Bradford District's Interim Children and Young People's Plan 2021-22 on pages 10-15 provides details of our ambitions, priorities, actions and success measures.

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

Up to the end of March 2022 we will progress against the actions within this interim plan at Table 2. Following extensive consultation and engagement, we will develop our new plan for implementation from April 2022. As part of the process of developing the new plan, we will assess and review actions and progress in this interim plan. This may result in some actions ceasing, others remaining the same and the addition of new actions.

If all the actions in this plan remained the same, at the end of the five year period success would be:

- Every child to start out with the foundations for good health and wellbeing throughout their lives. We will have a 0-5 prevention and early help offer for families from birth to starting school. This will offer integrated and high quality early years care for all. It should help families provide warm, supportive and nurturing environments and ensure access to early play and learning opportunities for all children, especially those most in need. Success here will lead to a higher percentage of children starting school with a good level of development and succeeding in school
 - More of our children educated in good or outstanding schools, with high attendance rates, increased educational attainment and most importantly a reduction in the educational attainment gap between the most and least advantaged
 - Our young people making successful transitions into adult life; to reach adulthood with a sense of belonging, purpose, wellbeing and the skills and resilience they need to succeed. This means higher numbers of young people in school getting access to vocational courses in schools, more apprenticeships, higher attainment at Level 3 and a reduction in the numbers of young people not in education, training or employment
 - Our young people enjoying healthy childhoods which lay the foundations for long and healthy adult lives. This means they need to live in communities which promote healthy living and have services to support those in need. This will be reflected in lower obesity rates, increased physical activity, better support services for young people with mental health problems and fewer families living in poor housing
- Our communities to be safe, inclusive and sustainable. This will be reflected in lower crime rates, increased sense of community safety, better housing conditions, development of green spaces, parks and play facilities, the development of a full cultural engagement strategy and movement toward integrated local service provision
 - Our young people to have a voice through newly created participation and engagement structures. These may include new political engagement forums for children and young people, such as: citizens' juries, local community impact assessments, a youth council and youth overview and scrutiny committee
 - Positive and regular activity out of school hours will be available that has been consulted on with children and young people



AIM:

Good Start and Great Schools



OUR AMBITION:

We want to ensure all our children and young people grow up in families free from the scarring effects of poverty on life chances and to ensure they can make successful transitions into skilled and valued jobs and further/higher education

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

- Ensure our children can continue their education in safe and secure ways throughout the pandemic
- Provide a high quality early years service for all and ensure all our children start school ready to learn
- Reduce the educational attainment gap and ensure no child is left behind
- Raise the level of school attendance and reduce the impact of school exclusion

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE:

Living with COVID-19. We will:

Implement the Education Covid Recovery programme which includes:

- Running additional Maths and English catch up sessions to improve GCSE attainment
- Widening access to digital education for the most disadvantaged children through improving connectivity and access to devices
- Establishing a family therapeutic service

Develop a strategy that will set out our approach at all ages and key stages of delivery and pull together key strands, including: school attendance, mental health and well-being, direct learning, classroom delivery, and one to one support for young people.

Support schools with clear infection control and response procedures to protect their staff, pupils and families.

Ensure children and young people have the equipment and support to learn flexibly (including at home).

Help ensure that the District has a sufficient provision of childcare and that service providers are supported to continue to operate under the COVID-19 restrictions.

Building a Better Future. We will:

Develop a 0-5 Early Years Programme and an Early Childhood Services Outcomes Offer. As part of this work, we will deliver a prevention and early help offer for families (to support children and young people from conception to 5 years. All schools will have an Early Health Coordinator (there are X in place now). Families in need of support will have a single lead professional, based around schools, who will co-ordinate inter agency support. There are 4 locality Family Hubs developing integrated local offers based on inter agency working.

Build Covid recovery around the Manifesto statement of key principles and aims developed by our secondary school young people (see insert)

Improve educational attainment at all key stages and reduce the attainment gap between the poorest and wealthiest in our community. As part of this we will continue the final year of the Bradford Outcome Area programme, which works with schools in the most deprived areas of Bradford District, with a particular focus on:

- Supporting a further 17 schools to improve their Ofsted grading through a school improvement programme
- Developing a tuition programme for 600 disadvantaged year 11 pupils to improve their KS4 maths results
- Develop further parental engagement programmes and expand the network of parent champions; local residents (who are themselves parents) who understand the barriers faced by parents in their communities and are a source of creative solutions to improving children and young people's attainment

We will develop legacy plans from the work of Bradford Opportunity Area programme.

Raise the level of school attendance and reduce the impact of school exclusions.

Develop the support services available both inside and outside of school to ensure our most vulnerable and at risk children and young people are fully supported.

As a good and responsible corporate parent, support our children and young people in care to achieve their full potential in education and learning.

OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Established 0-5 Early Years Programme
- The percentage of children starting reception with a good level of development
- School attendance and absence statistics
- School exclusion statistics
- KS1, KS2 and KS4 school attainment statistics

AIM:

Better Health, Better Lives



OUR AMBITION:

We want all our children and young people to enjoy the prospect of safe, long, happy and fruitful lives by improving their health and socio-economic wellbeing.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

- Reduce Covid infection, morbidity and mortality rates
- Support the mental health and wellbeing needs of children and young people and their families
- Work to address the underlying causes of poor health, in particular the strong link between poverty, inequality and poor health by adopting an ecological public health approach
- Promote active and healthy places, livelihoods and learning
- Increase physical activity rates to reduce childhood obesity rates and promote well being
- Improve children's oral health
- Increase physical activity levels

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE:

Living with COVID-19. We will:

Ensure robust control measures are in place to reduce infection rates and prevent future outbreaks of COVID-19 – including Test and Trace, information, advice and guidance for residents and service providers; and to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks swiftly and effectively.

Building a Better Future. We will:

Work closely with our partner organisations such as the NHS, schools and voluntary sector to develop mental health services for young people. This will include:

- Implementing the findings from the systems wide review of children and young people's mental health in Bradford and Craven
- Introducing new pathways for mental health services including single referral forms and multi team triage
- Developing community support networks. For example, we will create community mental health champions to work with children and young people on developing services.

Develop measures to support food security and access to health meals by:

Work to reduce income and health inequalities by implementing our anti-poverty and equalities strategy

Continue to improve the quality of housing for our poorest communities and engage on an extensive insulation and energy efficiency renovation of our housing

Prioritise tackling the rise in childhood obesity and promote healthy and active lifestyles for our young people by drawing on the emerging findings of Act Early to inform the development of policies which promote healthy places, livelihoods and learning

Work with partners (including education providers, NHS, the Police and the voluntary/ social sector) to shift budgets to prevention and early intervention. As part of this work, we will deliver a prevention and early help offer for families both to support children and young people from conception to 5 years and across the 0-19 age range based on the integration of health and social care services and targeted at those most in need.

We will draw on the emerging findings of Act Early to inform the development of policies which promoted healthy places, livelihoods and learning.



OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Life expectancy and health life expectancy statistics
- Infant mortality and low birth weight statistics
- The percentage of children who are obese in Year 6 (end of primary)
- Childhood activity levels
- The percentage of 5 year olds free from obvious dental decay
- The percentage of spend on early interventions to increase as proportion of overall spend
- Increased access to community mental health services for young people and reduced waiting times
- Appointment of community mental health champions

AIM:

Better Skills, More Good Jobs and a Growing Economy



OUR AMBITION:

We want to ensure all our children and young people grow up in families free from the scarring effects of poverty on life chances and to ensure they can make successful transitions into skilled and valued jobs and further/higher education

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

- Ensure all children and young people are provided with access to goods and services which minimise the impact of poverty on their lives
- Develop an integrated and coherent careers and technical education offer that allows young people to pursue vocational pathways alongside more traditional academic pathways
- Provide access to high quality careers education, information and guidance. Our young people must have access to training, apprenticeships and careers information, advice and guidance if they are to make successful transitions into decent and meaningful jobs in a sustainable economy

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE:

Living with COVID-19. We will:

We will ensure Bradford District's businesses, schools and further and higher education providers have access to support to help them innovate and adapt to the challenges of COVID-19.

Building a Better Future. We will:

Continue to develop our 5-year plan for integrated careers and technical education (CTE) for all our young people through the Bradford Pathways Model. This will include:

- Mapping provision for all young people and conducting a vulnerable young people review
- Further developing and expanding our Industrial Centres of Excellence (ICE) so that our young people have access to high quality vocational education courses as part of an integrated 14-19 vocational curriculum offer across the District
- Further developing our a single, coherent all-age careers offer, bringing together existing provision and resources under a unifying brand accessible to all our residents. The first step will be to establish an Information Advice and Guidance partnership of all interested parties
- Continuing to develop our careers advice and guidance offer for all young people through 'Connexions Bradford Digital' – our online information, advice and guidance service for those aged under 19.
- Providing an integrated and agile support programme for young people who are not in education or work, for example through basic skills courses and provision of coaching and mentoring through services such as "Bradford Employment Hub" which supports people age 15+ into work, apprenticeships and other learning and training opportunities
- Exploring the potential to pilot a national approach to youth employment and skills that integrates employment support programmes offered by a range of partners such as DWP to provide specialist employment support for all 16-24 year olds
- Developing the Council's apprenticeship and work experience programme - with the aim of getting 10% participation from Looked After Children and a further 10% from those with special education needs
- Increasing the number of our young people achieving Level 3 qualifications and develop a community learning programme so that all our young people have opportunities to develop the soft skills essential to making successful transitions and to have these skills recognised.

OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Growth in the number of ICE programmes and numbers of young people participating in ICE programmes
- Numbers of young people securing apprenticeships
- Percentage of young people achieving NVQ Level 3 Qualifications or above
- Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training
- Creation of an integrated careers education, information and guidance service with digital platform
- Completion of a map of provision and review of vulnerable young people

AIM:

Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities



OUR AMBITION:

We want to make Bradford District a place where all children and young people feel safe and nurtured in their communities, where decent homes and accessible services are provided, where our cultural diversity is celebrated and where everyone can play an active role in their community. We want safe, sustainable and inclusive communities where all our children and young people are proud to call the District their home and to value its unique heritage and environment.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

- Ensure our communities are safe places for children and young people
- Ensure our communities are healthy and sustainable for children and young people to live in
- Ensure our children and young people have access to decent homes
- Ensure our communities provide opportunities for all our young people to participate in the social, leisure and cultural lives of their communities
- Ensure that our children and young people have safe, clean attractive and accessible places and spaces where they can play and be physically active

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE:

Living with COVID-19. We will:

- Ensure all our community facilities and services are Covid secure
- Reduce social isolation as a result of COVID-19 and support the building of community resilience and cohesion
- Ensure children and young people have access to the support that they need.

Building a Better Future. We will:

- Move toward more localised service provision and planning underpinned by a vision of the 15-minute City. This means developing more sustainable communities that protect green spaces, reduce levels of air pollution and promote healthier lifestyles through making walking and cycling more realistic travel options. The 15-minute City is a city in which most services and facilities are within a 15-minute walk
- Develop a cultural engagement strategy for all our children and young people to form part of our 2025 City of Culture bid. We will extend the opportunities for cultural and social enrichment within local communities through, for example, developing sports, arts, and theatre and music engagement activities. Our communities should offer young people a rich cultural life

- Improve the poor quality of housing stock, particularly in the private sector, by working with owners and landlords encouraging and supporting them to bring properties into good repair, including empty homes
- Connect our communities, both digitally - a third of the poorest households lack access to fast broadband services - and through green transport links that allow them to move around the District and connect with family, friends and the wider life of the District
- Develop and extend our innovative social cohesion and community safety programmes such as the Schools Linking Network and Operation Steerside
- Continue to develop our youth service provision for our children and young people so that there is District wide youth service offer and provision of community outreach youth services
- Work with partners in the voluntary and community sector and the National Citizenship Service to develop a district wide social action programme which creates a rich programme of community projects, volunteering opportunities and social benefit projects to provide young people with meaningful opportunities to engage in their communities. This can be linked into the social learning plan
- Continue to develop our green spaces so that they are safe, accessible and attractive for children, young people and families to play and be active in.

OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Crime and public health statistics
- The percentage of people from different backgrounds who get on well together (Data Sources: PCC Your Views Survey for local)
- Development of a children and young people cultural engagement strategy and social action programme
- The number of young people actively participating in their communities
- The proportion of Council commissioning spend on charity and voluntary sector contracts
- Clean air pollution levels
- Increased access to community mental health services for young people and reduced waiting times

AIM: Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable and Supporting Families



OUR AMBITION:

We want to ensure that our most vulnerable and marginalised children and young people are protected from harm, and that they and their families are provided with the services and support to enable them to secure their rights to maximise their potential to the fullest.

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

- Improve outcomes for our most vulnerable and marginalised children and young people
- Develop integrated family support services



ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE:

Living with COVID-19. We will:

- Monitor and assess the impact of Covid on our most vulnerable and marginalised children and young people
- Provide support for vulnerable young people to cope with the psychological and emotional impact of the pandemic on them where required
- Ensure provision of services that are Covid secure and protect the rights of our most vulnerable children and young people

Building a Better Future. We will:

Draw on the findings from the Children's Rights audit to identify the key disadvantages and barriers our most vulnerable and marginalised young people face and use these findings to draw up a comprehensive rights action plan

Continue to implement the Children's Service Improvement Plan that will ensure our Children's Services moves out of special measures and provides the protection and support services which will protect our most vulnerable children and young people. Specifically, we will improve:

- Arrangements for the early identification, assessment and response to children and young people with additional/multiple needs;
- The quality of social work practice and care;
- The integrated front door service;
- Outcomes for children and young people in care;

We will also:

- Set up a specific participation and voice consultation group for children and young people known to social services to ensure their voice is at the heart of service provision
- Improve the quality of care and support available to Black and Asian Minority Ethnic community children and young people and increase their access to and engagement with services
- Develop an e-learning support programme to help parents of children and young people with mental health problems to develop their own resilience and their children's
- Develop a specific careers and vocational education support and transition pathway for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans
- Develop tailored support and provision for children with SEND and learning difficulties both within the classroom and outside of schools
- Continue to use the Council's apprenticeship programme to provide 10% of our apprenticeship places for LAC and 10% for those with learning difficulties
- Develop a family and trauma based support approach for Refugee and Asylum seeking children and young people and for children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse

OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Achievement of Good Ofsted rating for Children's Services
- Percentage of children and young people in care whose emotional wellbeing is a cause for concern, % 0-19
- Percentage of infants meeting developmental milestones at 24-month review
- Percentage of contacts and referrals responded to within 24hours by the Integrated Front Door Service
- Black and Asian Minority Ethnic community access to and engagement with services

AIM:

Participation and Voice



OUR AMBITION:

We want to ensure all our children and young people grow up in families free from the scarring effects of poverty on life chances and to ensure they can make successful transitions into skilled and valued jobs and further/higher education

OUR PRIORITY AREAS:

- Ensure our children can continue their education in safe and secure ways throughout the pandemic
- Provide a high quality early years service for all and ensure all our children start school ready to learn
- Reduce the educational attainment gap and ensure no child is left behind
- Raise the level of school attendance and reduce the impact of school exclusion

ACTIONS WE WILL TAKE:

Living with COVID-19. We will:

- Continue to run a programme of Covid 19 ambassadors
- Continue to use our youth services to engage informally with young people through methods such as “garden gate” consultations
- Draw on the on-going research conducted by Born in Bradford on the impacts of Covid 19 to inform the development of our policies and service provision for children and young people

Building a Better Future. We will:

- Review and refresh our District wide consultation, engagement and participation strategy for young people. This will be part of our bid to become a UNICEF Child Friendly District and link with our broader equalities strategy, Children’s Services Improvement Plan and cultural engagement strategy being developed for 2025
- In collaboration with our children and young people and as part of our bid to become a UNICEF Child Friendly District, conduct an extensive children’s rights audit. This will assess how all our strategies, plans, spending and service provision supports the realisation of children’s right
- Create a new post Covid engagement infrastructure and ensure our most vulnerable and marginalised groups have a range of mechanisms for expressing their voice. This will include setting up participation and voice groups for particular vulnerable groups where they do not exist or are not working effectively

- Work toward creating new political engagement forums for children and young people, such as citizens’ juries, local community impact assessments, a youth council and youth overview and scrutiny committee. The aim is to give children and young people political voice and representation within the Council and across the District.



OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- New engagement and participation strategy for all young people
- New engagement forums created
- Rights audit completed
- Continuation and development of youth ambassadors programme

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