

Working together to reach your goals



**Buckinghamshire Children
and Young People's Trust**

Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014

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WELCOME

We are pleased to introduce the Children and Young People's Plan for 2011-2014.

The Children and Young People's Plan is the single, overarching, strategic plan for all services affecting children and young people across Buckinghamshire. The main organisations working with children and young people have come together to produce this Plan which sets out what we will do to make sure that every child and young person can:

- Be Healthy.
- Stay Safe.
- Enjoy and Achieve.
- Make a Positive Contribution.
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing.

The experiences and chances that Buckinghamshire children and young people have will shape their lives. Listening and acting on the voice of our children and young people is central to the planning and delivery of services in Buckinghamshire. We have worked closely with children, young people and families to find out what they want from our services and we will take action to address the matters they have raised.

The Plan takes account of legal requirements and guidance for Children's Services and includes a thorough review of local needs. It does not include everything we will be doing, but concentrates on the priorities and actions which we believe will make the biggest difference to children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

One of our strengths is the way organisations work together across the county. We share the determination and commitment to provide high quality services that give children and young people the best possible chances in life, especially for those who are most vulnerable. To this end we will ensure that we have a well led and trained workforce with the right knowledge, skills and understanding.

Valerie Letheren,
Cabinet Member
for Children's Services.

Mike Appleyard,
Deputy Leader and Cabinet
Member for Education and
Skills.

Sue Imbriano,
Strategic Director
Children and Young People's Services.

INTRODUCTION

The Children and Young People's Plan shows how Buckinghamshire services for children and young people are acting on the requirements of the *Children Act 2004* and takes account the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989*.

In August 2010 the Government published a paper called 'Reform of Children's Trusts'. This paper recognised the essential role strong, multi-agency partnerships and joint planning have to play and was very much focused on the local reform of Children's Trusts, rather than their abolition.

The Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust Board considered the Government's paper and welcomed the ability to have a more flexible approach to Children's Trusts and Plans.

There was unanimous agreement by the Board regarding the importance of having a multi-agency approach for children and young people's services in Buckinghamshire and it was agreed to:

- Have a Trust Board and encourage all relevant partners, including schools, to actively participate in this.
- Maintain and develop the Buckinghamshire Trust Model, recognising in particular the role that the Local Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Boards have to play.
- Develop a Children and Young People's Plan for 2011-14 and that this would be a more targeted plan focusing on the most vulnerable.

This Plan takes forward the work of the Trust as agreed above.

The full Trust Model for Buckinghamshire is available at:

http://www.buckspartnership.co.uk/assets/content/Partnerships/CYPT/cypt/trust_struc_oct.pdf

The Plan also links to a range of partner plans detailed on pages 31 to 33.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST

The Children and Young People's Plan is the responsibility of all those in Buckinghamshire who provide services for children and young people from 0-19 years, or up to 24 years for those leaving care or with learning difficulties. It is the basis of our commissioning priorities for Buckinghamshire.

Commissioning means arranging for appropriate services to be provided to a group or to an individual. It is the process for identifying local needs and finding the best provider to offer services which meet those needs.

The processes involved are complex, particularly when meeting the needs of a local population.

The Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust was set up in 2006 to coordinate all of the services that support children and young people in Buckinghamshire – Health Services, Education, Police, Councils, Voluntary Organisations, such as charities, and many other organisations. These services join up through the Trust to plan and work together. The Children and Young People's Trust Board members are responsible for making sure that their organisation plays a full part in supporting the work of the Trust. This includes taking action as part of the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.

The role of the Children and Young People's Trust is to:

- Focus on the child, the parent and the family.
- Lead change across Buckinghamshire by ensuring a professional understanding between services and organisations.
- Plan and ensure that the right services are provided, where they are needed.
- Ensure there is an appropriate and effective workforce trusted by children, young people and their families.
- Develop high quality leadership within and across services that delivers excellent practice.

The Trust has a key role to play in promoting self determination, self reliance and ambition. This Plan sets out the ways we aim to achieve this and, in doing so, strive for excellence for all children and young people.

The lives of children and young people can be changed for the better through the use of local services and initiatives provided by many different organisations working together in partnership. The Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust has worked with children, young people and their families to create a shared vision for children and young people in the county.

Children and Young People's Trust Vision Statement

This vision has come from the professionals working with children, young people and their families.

"In Buckinghamshire we want all our children and young people to have the best start in life and to be able to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, and to be able to make a positive contribution to their communities and to society. Our aim is to ensure access to a range of universal services as well as developing more targeted services to meet their specialist needs."

Children and young people have also told us what is important to them.

This is what children said:

"As children in Buckinghamshire we want to feel safe, be healthy and live in a county which has less pollution and is more environmentally friendly. To be safe we need more safe routes to school and we would also like to feel safe when we are walking around, crossing roads and playing outside. Lots of children don't want to go to school because they don't feel safe and we would like more security and CCTV in all schools so none of us get injured. Also, more protection, help and support against cyber bullying.

Another way to help children is healthy living. We would like more cycle paths and activities before and after school to stop kids from just sitting around the house. We would be thankful if we had more equipment in our local parks to help us keep in shape. We would also like these to be well maintained and have a specific area for us to play, where older people don't hang out. Finally, we would like our parents to work less so that we could spend more time with them."

Produced by children from Brushwood Junior School, Chesham.

Young people made this statement:

"As young people living in Buckinghamshire we want a safe and friendly community with a greater police presence, and more advice on bullying, drugs, alcohol, smoking and sex education.

There should be something for everyone to do which is local and good value for money. We want to be able to travel on public transport which is affordable and reliable to give us freedom to get around.

In the current climate it is important to have more information about careers and job opportunities as well as financial planning skills to help us in the future.

Young people should have the right to have their say and be listened to without being stereotyped."

Produced by young people from Hazelmere Youth Centre, Bucks Youth Cabinet and Apprentices from Children and Young People's Services, Buckinghamshire County Council.

Local Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Boards

Following the review of Children and Young People's Trust arrangements in Buckinghamshire, the Trust Board has established three Local Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Boards. These cover the following geographical areas:

- Aylesbury, Buckingham, Wendover and Wing.
- Chiltern and South Bucks.
- Marlow, Wycombe and Ridgeway.

The role of the Local Boards is to identify local priorities and issues linked to the Children and Young People's Plan and to develop, coordinate and take forward solutions. They will engage children, young people, families and the wider community through their work, identify gaps in service provision and provide two way communication with the Trust Board.

The Local Boards are made up of representatives from a wide range of different services and organisations including Schools, Health Services, Children and Young People's Services, District Councils, the Police, Children's Centres, Connexions and Voluntary Organisations.

Local Board members will link in with other groups and agencies that they have involvement with and will use Task and Finish Groups as appropriate to complete pieces of work, drawing on existing projects where appropriate. This approach will turn plans into something meaningful at a local level and will ensure consistency and the joining up of priorities and resources.

The three Local Trust Partnership Boards met formally for the first time in December 2010 and now meet on a monthly basis. The Chair of each Local Board sits on the Trust Board.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

All of the partners in the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust, including children and young people, have agreed the core beliefs and five priorities, which will be the focus for working together.

Core Beliefs

The Children and Young People's Plan has two core beliefs which run throughout the Plan. These are:

- Improving the safety of all children and young people. Safety is fundamental – if children and young people are not safe, they cannot be happy, healthy, achieve or reach their full potential. We want to keep children and young people safe from neglect and abuse, accidents, bullying, crime, anti-social behaviour and provide a safe and stable home environment.
- Tackling Child Poverty to contribute to breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty so that the gap in educational, physical and emotional achievement is narrowed between better and less well off families.

Priorities

1. **Closing the Gap** - working with the children and young people that most need extra support - to improve their learning at school/college, and their understanding of how to be healthy and where to get help if they need it.
2. **Transitions** – providing extra support to children and young people at times of change in their lives, such as:
 - starting at an early years setting or school
 - changing school
 - moving from secondary school to further education, training or employment
 - when family arrangements change (e.g. when parents separate or a parent dies).
3. **Early Intervention and Secondary Prevention** – providing help to children, young people and their families as soon problems begin, to stop things getting worse or out of control.
4. **Family Focus** – providing individual help and support to a family so that they can provide the best home for their children.
5. **Children and young people's involvement in decision making** – using the opinions and ideas of children and young people to make sure the services provided for them are what they really need.

The Children and Young People's Trust recognises the importance of active lifestyles in equipping children and young people for the future. This theme is incorporated across the five key priorities.

Indicators

The Plan contains a number of indicators and targets under the five priorities which can be accessed at:

http://www.buckpartnership.co.uk/assets/content/Partnerships/CYPT/cypt/CYPP_2011_14_indicators.pdf

Further information on each of the five priorities is given on pages 16 to 27.

How were the priorities identified?

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) places a duty on upper tier local authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). JSNA is a process that identifies the current and future health and wellbeing needs of a local population. It informs the priorities and targets set by local partnership agreements and leads to agreed commissioning priorities that will improve outcomes and reduce a range of inequalities such as health and educational attainment.

As a result, the current and future health, care and well-being needs of the people of Buckinghamshire have been researched. The findings are described in the JSNA. This assessment has been used to inform this Plan.

To access the JSNA go to:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/health_wellbeing.page

A range of documents fed into the JSNA including:

- Tell Us Survey 4 (2009)

http://www.buckpartnership.co.uk/assets/content/Partnerships/CYPT/participation/tell_us_results.pdf

- Buckinghamshire County Council Children and Young People's Residents Survey (2010).

<http://bucksconsultation.buckscc.gov.uk/bucksccp/UploadedFiles/CYP%20Topline%20Report.pdf>

- Child Poverty Needs Assessment (2010).

<http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/partnership/CYPT/Child+Poverty.page>

A specific consultation was carried out with 200 children and young people to ask their views on the five priorities of this Plan. This can be accessed at:

http://www.buckspartnership.co.uk/assets/content/Partnerships/CYPT/participation/CYPP_2011_14_Report.pdf

A 'Day in the Life' Project

The 'Day in the Life' Project involved qualitative research with six vulnerable children and young people to form a better understanding of their lives and the challenges they face.

This work has been a key driver in terms of the development of the Children and Young People's Plan, highlighting what we are doing well and defining areas for improvement.

This research is not a representative sample of children and young people in Buckinghamshire but is targeted to help us gain real insight into some of our biggest challenges. The children and young people had the chance to tell their own stories in their own words.

Emerging from across the whole research project are a number of wider insights. These point to key areas for review and innovation as well as potential new ways of working for the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust.

The key high level insights are:

Social Care v Social Networks

How can the care system support social networks and avoid destabilising the positive support structures in children and young people's lives?

Translating the System

How can we ensure the language and processes we employ are more child/young person friendly?

Change Makers

How can Trust members support their staff in having meaningful relationships with children and young people and unlock their potential?

The qualitative research and emergent insights confirms the need to develop a *Family-centric approach* to children and young people, that helps to support their wider networks, increase access to resources and develop new capabilities.

The key insights have been linked to the five priorities of this Plan and examples of this are given on pages 16 to 27.

If you would like to request a copy of the full report please contact cyptrust@buckscc.gov.uk

Please note access to this report is restricted due to the sensitive nature of some of the information contained within it.

CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

Background

The Child Poverty Act 2010 places a statutory duty on local authorities and their partners (e.g. Health Authorities, Police Forces, Youth Offending Service, Probation, Transport authorities, District Councils and Job Centre Plus) to conduct and publish a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and to produce a Strategy to tackle Child Poverty in their area.

It is recognised that poverty affects people in many different ways and that there is no one single cause of poverty. Employment opportunities, transport and childcare availability as well as a child's experience of education, family and community life all contribute. These factors are known as the 'drivers' of poverty and form what is known as 'building blocks'. It is critical that organisations work together across all of the building blocks to find ways of tackling child poverty at a local level.

The “Even in Bucks...Child Poverty Local Area Needs Assessment” (September 2010) is a statistical analysis of the extent and nature of child poverty locally. It concluded that despite the county's overall affluence, poverty is a significant issue with 10.5% of children and young people aged 0 – 19 years living in poverty amounting to some 12,000 individuals (latest Department of Work and Pensions data, 2008).

A Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan have been drawn up under the direction of the Buckinghamshire Strategic Partnership and came into force in April 2011. The Children and Young People's Trust Board oversee its implementation as tackling child poverty is a core belief in this Children and Young People's Plan.

The Strategy's vision is: **BREAK THE CYCLETO CLOSE THE GAP.**

There are a set of priorities and outcomes to tackle child poverty locally included in the Strategy. These were identified by people from many organisations working with families across the county at a workshop for practitioners. However, this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all local activity to tackle child poverty and the detail of implementing the Strategy will be developed with partners from April 2011 onwards.

The priorities are to:

- Increase parental employment among families in poverty, particularly lone parents, those with health issues and those from minority ethnic groups and maximise their incomes.
- Reduce the health and housing inequalities of families in poverty.
- Build community resilience.
- Improve career advice and opportunities for children and young people in poverty.

The full strategy can be seen at:

<http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/partnership/CYPT/Child+Poverty.page>

Consultation

During November 2010 we asked partners about the priorities and activities identified at the practitioner workshop. There was a good response from community group leaders, members of the Buckinghamshire Strategic Partnership, Children and Young People's Trust, parents attending Children's Centres, local service leads for domestic violence issues and practitioners.

In addition, 198 children and young people aged 4–25 years were consulted with and Head Teachers of schools in the most deprived areas of Buckinghamshire attended an event looking at child poverty and inequality of achievement.

Consultation is an ongoing feature of the child poverty work. During 2011-12, in addition to those above, we aim to involve practitioners and users of financial and employment support services as well as community groups through Community Impact Bucks and Local Area Forums.

Performance Monitoring and links to other key documents

As the work progresses we will develop measures to see what impact the activities of local organisations are having on levels of child poverty across the county and this will be reported to the Children and Young People's Trust as part of monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan.

There will also be an electronic link to the Child Poverty Strategy from:

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Local Areas Plans.
- Local Transport Plan.

TACKLING DISADVANTAGE

The Children and Young People's Plan has as one of its guiding principles the Equality Duty placed on all public authorities to embed equality considerations into the day to day work that we do with children and young people and their families, so that we can tackle discrimination and inequality and contribute to making society fairer.

The Equality Act 2010 sets "protected characteristics" (more commonly referred to as the equality strands) to identify the grounds on which protection against discrimination has been enacted. They are:

- Age.
- Disability.
- Gender reassignment.
- Marriage and civil partnership.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Race (colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin – and power to introduce regulations to include caste).
- Religion or belief (including lack of belief).
- Sex (gender).
- Sexual orientation (heterosexual, gay, lesbian and bisexual).

The Equality Duty therefore helps us to deliver on our statutory duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups.
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

New Positive Action provisions will allow those working with children and young people, including schools, to target measures that are designed to alleviate disadvantages experienced by, or to meet the particular needs of, pupils with particular protected characteristics. The priorities set out in the Plan will therefore enable us at a Trust level to work in partnership to eradicate the effects of disadvantage resulting from having a protected characteristic.

We are aware that many children and young people are also vulnerable as a result of their low socio-economic status. The Children and Young People's Plan will endeavor, through links with the local Child Poverty Strategy, to focus resources on our Equalities Duty to ensure equality of opportunity between different groups and increase life chances for all.

Children and Young People in Special Circumstances

This Plan has a particular focus on those who are vulnerable to not achieving the five key priorities.

Research has shown that for some children and young people, access to services can be a particular problem. These cases are often those which require a high degree of multi-agency working and affect those who are at most risk of achieving poorer outcomes than their peers. These children, young people and their families, tend to be “lost” between agencies and are therefore not in receipt of services, even those that are universally provided.

The list below identifies the key groups in Buckinghamshire that have been identified as falling within this category and as a result are less likely to achieve the key priorities within the Plan:

- Looked after children and young people (including those living outside of the county) and those receiving after care.
- Children, young people and families who have experienced homelessness and who are living in temporary accommodation, and children who have run away from home or care.
- Children exposed to domestic violence, family conflict and/or family breakdown.
- Children and young people living in areas of deprivation.
- Children and young people with special needs and/or disabilities.
- Children and young people who suffer from sexual exploitation;
- Children and young people of parents/siblings with specific health needs e.g. Young Carers and those with mental health problems.
- Children and young people of problem drinkers or substance misusers.
- Children and young people who have been excluded from school, are truanting, or are otherwise missing school.
- Young people over 16 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- Teenage parents and their children.
- Some children and young people from some minority ethnic groups including Gypsy Traveller communities.
- Young offenders and young victims of crime.
- Children and young people who are ill or with complex health needs, including those being treated outside of the county.
- Children and young people subject to hate crimes.

It is recognised that children and young people may fall within more than one of these groups thus making their needs potentially more complex. It is also recognised that children and young people may move in and out of ‘vulnerability’ at different points in their lives and acknowledged that people within these groups may well be achieving the priorities within the Plan.

CLOSING THE GAP

We will work with those children and young people that most need extra support - to improve their learning and development in early years settings and at school/college, and to increase their understanding of how to be healthy and where to get help if they need it. This is an important area for staff to undertake their role as change makers and to adopt a Family-centric approach as identified in the Day in the Life Project findings.

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them” Earvin “Magic” Johnson

Why are we doing this?

There are key groups with poorer emotional and physical well-being, poorer educational attainment and fewer opportunities in life as a result. This priority aims to support poorer children/young people or those affected by special circumstances by helping them to achieve at school/college and be healthy.

What are we going to do?

1. Implement the strategy for closing the gap in early years educational achievement:
 - Develop the quality of the service provided for children up to 5 years old (known as the Early Years Foundation Stage).
 - Support Early Years Foundation Stage staff to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities through gaining Early Years qualifications from NVQ Level 2 through to post-graduate level.
 - Work locally through the 0-7 Alliance to improve the progress of individual children and provide support as they move from early years settings to school.
 - Deliver the Early Years provision of free entitlement to 2 year olds from disadvantaged families.
 - Continue to provide 35 Children’s Centres across the county.
 - Implement the outcomes from the Dame Claire Tickell Review of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
2. Implement the strategy for closing the gap in school/college:
 - Provide extra support for school/college to improve the quality of learning and teaching.
 - Provide individual support to pupils, to improve their confidence and progress at school/college.
 - Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs and interests of all learners, and motivates and inspires pupils to do their best. This includes the opportunity for all pupils to study for the new English Baccalaureate, if appropriate.
 - Reduce the number of children and young people absent or excluded from school.

3. Implement the strategy to improve the quality of learning for children aged 11 -19 (to 25 for learners with a learning disability assessment Section 139a) and offer high quality education and training opportunities and appropriate supporting services which will:
 - Support the delivery of the Strategic Area Network (SAN) targets as expressed by schools in Buckinghamshire. These are:
 - To improve attainment and achievement.
 - To develop vocational learning opportunities.
 - To develop curriculum collaboration.
 - To develop the quality of learning for all learners.
 - To share good practice across the SAN.
 - To develop specialist support for the vulnerable.
 - Provide sufficient quantity and high quality of learning provision and supporting services which meet the needs of young people.
 - Ensure young people have a wide range of progression opportunities into further education, higher education, and meaningful employment.
 - Develop learning provision which is clearly matched to the needs of the local, regional and global economies and the needs of employers.
 - Ensure learning provision for young people with a learning difficulty and/or disability are fully integrated with care and support packages.
 - Where integrated packages of support and education are required to meet a young persons needs, encourage those providers with the relevant expertise to work together.
Develop individualised learning and support packages targeted at young people both at risk of disengagement and those who are not in education, employment or training.
4. Strengthen the support offered to children and young people in public care, as part of the statutory role of the Local Authority as a *corporate parent*:
 - Ensure children in care under 5 years old are accessing high quality Early Years Foundation Stage provision.
 - Monitor the educational progress of children in care.
 - Provide additional support for individual children, such as a specialist subject tutors or a personal mentor, in line with their particular needs.
 - Develop good partnerships with appropriate schools staff (known as Designated Teachers) and provide training on the care system and the needs of children in care.
5. Improve the knowledge of children, young people, parents and carers about how to be healthy:
 - Provide information and advice through the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service.

- Through the actions to reduce childhood obesity (*more information under the priority called Family Focus*).
- Through actions in line with the national Child Health Strategy (*more information under the priority called Early Intervention and Secondary Prevention*).
- By working with Bucks and Milton Keynes Sports Partnership to promote the importance of physical activity.
- Through the work of Health Visitors, Midwives and Children's Centres.

We expect that this will mean:

- Every child is supported to fulfill their potential, with a focus on their individual needs.
- Extra support is given to children who are not doing as well as they could do. This will help improve their results at school, so they are similar to those of other pupils. This could include, for example, children from disadvantaged families, black and minority ethnic backgrounds, boys with their writing, summer born pupils and children in care. In particular, the extra support given to pupils eligible for the new Pupil Premium (those receiving free school meals, children in care, and those whose parents are serving in the armed forces) helps to raise the results of this group.
- More children in Early Years Foundation Stage settings will reach the expected level of personal, social and emotional development, communication, language, literacy skills and physical development.
- Improved progress for children from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11) in English and Maths.
- More 11 year olds will achieve the nationally expected level in English and Maths.
- Improved qualifications and examination results for children aged 14-19.
- More secondary school pupils will achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE, including English and Maths.
- More 16-18 year olds are in some form of education, training or employment.

97.97% of children and young people consulted agreed with this priority.

FAMILY FOCUS

We will provide individual help and support to families to help them provide the best home for their children.

“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings” - Hodding Carter

Why are we doing this?

Children and young people are part of families. We want to ensure that services work together to help the whole family. Research suggests that “Good, high quality, timely support for parents as their children grow up is likely to improve [children’s] health, social and educational development and well-being”. We want to ensure that there is appropriate support so that parents can fulfil their parenting role.

The Day in the Life Project findings stress the importance of a Family-centric approach, with specific reference to the importance of maintaining social networks and using language that people can easily understand and act on.

What are we going to do?

1. Deliver our Parenting Strategy:
 - Work with parents who are known to put children at greater risk, such as parents who are offenders, in prison, involved in domestic abuse, have mental health problems or misuse drugs or alcohol.
 - Support parents to be involved in their child’s learning, including school attendance and offering support and information.
 - Provide support and guidance to new parents.
2. Ensure information, advice and assistance is available to families through the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service. This will include information on positive activities, such as clubs, sports, physical activity and leisure and cultural activities.
3. Extend short break provision for severely disabled children and young people, including focusing on those who have:
 - complex health needs
 - autism combined with other impairments
 - severely disabled young people aged 14+
 - children aged 11+ with lifting and handling needs
 - disabled young people with challenging behaviour
 - severely disabled children under 5.

Short breaks should include specialist services, targeted services and supported access into universal services, providing opportunities for young people to have social activities and new experiences and to participate with their siblings.

4. Provide parenting programmes for families who have experienced domestic abuse.
5. Further work around domestic abuse:
 - Provide *Freedom* programmes for women (adults and young people) who have been involved in domestic abuse.
 - Provide specialised Therapeutic Play Groups / Parent and Child Support sessions for families who have experienced domestic abuse within their families.
6. Implement the recommendations of the Buckinghamshire Obesity Strategic Framework 2010 – 2013:
 - Support the delivery of a school meals service in all schools with a sustainable demand, with resources targeted towards the most disadvantaged areas.
 - Focus on those children and young people doing little or no physical activity and encourage them to do so.
 - Make sure that activities that will influence family lifestyles, including sports and physical activity, are available through a variety of channels.
 - Provide consistent health messages and information in locations where the public expects to find them.
 - Staff working directly with children and families are able to identify those families at risk of obesity and offer appropriate advice/signpost families to services as required.
7. Addressing childhood poverty through the Buckinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy. See pages 12 and 13 for more information.

We expect that this will mean:

- Parents/carers know that a wide range of easily accessible information, support and advice is available to them which will help them in their role and to meet their needs. It will be provided through the web, by telephone and outreach staff in the community.
- Parents/carers are able to use parenting support at appropriate times and stages to meet their needs.
- Children's Centres across the County are offering support and services to families with young children.
- Parents/carers of disabled children are involved in service planning and help to ensure that short break services are planned based on local needs and are culturally appropriate to meet the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of disabled children and their families.

- Parents/carers of disabled children will have access to an expanded range of short break services, including more activity-based short breaks at weekends and in the holidays, and more home-based breaks.
- Support will be available for families involved in domestic abuse at an early stage.
- Non-abusing parents will have an increased understanding of the effect of domestic abuse on their children, so that they can develop ways of thinking and behaving to protect themselves and their children.
- Children and the non-abusing parent who have experienced domestic abuse will have a safe environment to explore their feelings so that all family members are able to move forward.
- Support Young Carers.

94.92% of children and young people consulted agreed with this priority

EARLY INTERVENTION AND SECONDARY PREVENTION

“Children are our most valuable natural resource” - Herbert Hoover

We will help children, young people and their families as soon problems begin, to stop things getting worse or out of control.

Why are we doing this?

The Munro Review has recommended that the Government should place a duty on local authorities and statutory partners to secure the sufficient provision of local early help services for children, young people and families.

We want to focus on those children and young people who are vulnerable and whose needs have not yet been recognised or met. We want to help them and their parents or carers, to be better informed about the risks they may face, and offer support to solve problems or make changes. This is a key area for staff to undertake their role as change makers, as identified in the Day in the Life Project findings.

The *Common Assessment Framework* (CAF) is a key tool to enable people from a range of agencies to work together in an integrated way to reduce duplication and ensure that those who might fall through the net have their needs recognised and supported in a timely way. It aims to identify children and young people who may have additional unmet needs at an early stage, so support can be offered at the earliest possible point, and they and their families can work with the services they need to secure better outcomes and to develop resilience.

This Framework was introduced in Buckinghamshire in 2008. External Lessons Learned Reviews were conducted in 2008 and 2010 and they found that this way of working was becoming increasingly effective but that:

- Communication needed development.
- There must be a greater emphasis on the voice of the child or young person being heard in the process.

What are we going to do?

1. Build on the three new Local Children and Young People’s Trust Partnership Boards to ensure that local strengths and needs are identified and that all services continue to work in an integrated way using the CAF as the universal assessment tool.
2. Implement the outcomes from *The Munro Review of Child Protection*.

3. Implement the outcomes from *Early Intervention: the next steps, An Independent Report to Her Majesty's Government Graham Allen MP*.
4. Implement the national Child Health Strategy in Buckinghamshire:
 - Mothers and fathers are provided with the information they need to help their children lead healthy lives.
 - The right services are in place to meet the specific health needs and expectations of children and their families.
 - Extra support is provided for those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.
5. Support young people with specific needs:
 - Develop the effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services by:
 - Oxford/Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust operating the service.
 - Joint budget combining funds from NHS Buckinghamshire and the County Council.
 - Support children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.
 - Reduce the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 by:
 - supporting the most vulnerable 8-15 year olds as part of a whole family support package; and
 - working in schools/colleges to help children and young people with their emotional development, and to identify alternative methods of dealing with problematic behaviour.
6. Implement the Action Plan for the Children and Young People's Services Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children 2011.

We expect that this will mean:

- The lives of children and young people, and their families, will be improved by the support they receive at an early stage of an issue, or the information they receive which helps stop an issue occurring.
- Families will develop the skills to manage difficulties and to recognise if they need additional support.
- Young people understand about sex and relationships.
- Fewer primary school children who are overweight.
- Children understand how to live active and healthy lives, through better information about healthy eating, opportunities such as school meals and information about sports, play facilities, clubs etc.
- Children are offered help to tackle problems at the earliest possible stage.
- Support will be provided in a coordinated way from a range of local services.

- Young people do not go on to offend or become involved in anti-social behaviour.
- Parents are more able to cope with the behaviour of their children.
- Timely assessments for children and young people who have been identified as needing support, so that assistance can be given at the earliest possible point.
- Timely reviews for children and young people to ensure the range of support offered is meeting their needs.

95.43% of children and young people consulted agreed with this priority.

TRANSITIONS

We will provide support to children and young people at times of change in their lives (known as *transitions*), such as:

- starting school
- changing school
- moving from primary to secondary school
- moving from secondary school to further education, training or employment
- when family arrangements change (e.g. when parents separate or a parent dies)
- Moving from children's to adult services.

“When I approach a child, he inspires me in two sentiments: tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become” - Louis Pasteur

Why are we doing this?

We want to recognise the key events where children and young people may need support to manage significant change.

We will reduce the number of children whose needs are overlooked, or where support is discontinued, as they move through different phases of their lives from birth to further education/employment.

Bereavement, family breakdown, and ill health are events which affect many children and young people and we want support to be available to those who are finding difficulty in adjusting to these changes in their circumstances. This is a key area for staff to undertake their role of supporting families to maintain, or establish new, social networks, as identified in the Day in the Life Project findings.

What are we going to do?

1. Review, develop and improve the way transitions in school for vulnerable children are supported.
2. Develop a support network for children and young people experiencing loss, such as when parents divorce or a parent dies.

We expect that this will mean:

- Children and young people feel supported at specific times in their lives.
- Pupils will maintain their educational progress at times of change.
- Young people will make an effective transition from school to further study or employment.
- Vulnerable children will receive specific help at key times of transition in school.

91.37% of children and young people consulted agreed with this priority.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

We will use the opinions and ideas of children and young people to make sure the services provided for them are what they really want.

“Every child should be listened to, no matter how difficult they are to talk to” - Girl, 15

Why are we doing this?

The Children Act 1989 determines the duty for local authorities to consider the wishes and feelings of children when adults make decisions about them.

In December 1991 the UK Government signed up to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Article 12 in the Convention outlines the right for children to give their opinion on all matters affecting them. This includes decisions made in their families, education, public services and decisions made in local and national policies.

The Children and Young People's Trust Board has agreed to support in principle the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (December 2007).

Children and young people can be involved in decision making in a number of ways:

- Decisions about services that affect them specifically as individuals (e.g. Looked After Children reviews, Special Educational Need reviews).
- Decisions about services which are of general interest or relevance.
- They bring an important and useful dimension to processes such as planning and reviewing what we provide.

While more children and young people in Buckinghamshire have been listened to than previously, there is still more we can do to make sure that children and young people have a real say in making decisions about the services that are provided to them. They can also play a key role in making sure we use language they understand, as identified in the Day in the Life Project findings.

What are we going to do?

- Increase the effectiveness of the Participation Network by involving more children and young people, and by training staff to effectively work with children and young people when gaining their views and opinions.
- Ensure that children and young people have the opportunity to participate in decision making across the Children and Young People's Trust.
- Support the involvement in decision making of children and young people who are looked after, disabled or from minority ethnic groups including Gypsy Traveller communities.

- Work with schools and early years settings on the UNICEF *Rights Respecting Schools Award*, where children and young people learn about their rights and responsibilities.
- Ensure information on positive activities for young people is publicised and available through the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service.
- Further develop the 'We do Care!' Children in Care Council to ensure the views of looked after children and those using after care services are heard.
- Deliver the School Linking Network and Model United Nations Projects.

We expect that this will mean:

- More children and young people will put forward their opinions and ideas.
- Children and young people will feel listened to and included in decision making which affects them.
- Children and young people will be aware of their rights and their responsibilities.
- Children and young people's self confidence will improve, through the experience of taking part.
- Services will better reflect the needs of children and young people.

97.46% of children and young people consulted agreed with this priority.

MEASURING OUTCOMES

Introduction

Recording the impact and the positive outcomes for children and young people as they happen enables us to monitor our progress and achievements in meeting the five priorities as identified and agreed in the Plan:

Why measuring outcomes is important?

Monthly reports are produced showing the outcomes that have been recorded, both from professional perspectives and from children, young people, parents and carers. These reports are shared with the Children and Young People's Trust Board.

The information recorded is used:

- To inform planning on how to achieve outcomes in specific areas.
- To inform the various annual reports on specific programmes/initiatives.
- To review and improve our own processes.
- As evidence for inspections.
- To celebrate the achievements of children, young people, staff, parents and carers.

Monthly reports are published on the Children and Young People's Trust Website and can be viewed [here](#)

Where to find the forms?

The staff form can be accessed on line and is available at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/outcomes

The children's and young people's forms can be accessed on line and are available at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/proud

The parent/carers form can be accessed on line and is available at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/parentoutcomes

Hard copies of all the forms mentioned above can be requested from cyptrust@buckscc.gov.uk or by calling 01296 387657.

WORKING TOGETHER

Working together is a key factor in tackling many of the challenges facing Buckinghamshire. Partnership arrangements in Buckinghamshire are well established and there are many excellent examples of joint working.

Working within local communities will play an important role in the planning and delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan. It is essential that services are based on the needs of local families in each community, and that the services to local families work effectively together.

The contribution made to the lives of children and young people in Buckinghamshire by staff in the many support services, by the voluntary youth sector and by schools, colleges and early years settings should be recognised. These staff make vital contributions to the lives of children and young people every day, as well as having important links with parents, carers and their communities. The importance of staff as Change Makers is identified in the Day in the Life Project findings.

We need to ensure that the priorities for improvement identified in this Plan are reflected in the plans of all partners and within individual settings, such as schools and colleges.

Links to key partner plans are given on pages 31 to 33.

THE PLAN IN ACTION

A key driver to implementing the Children and Young People's Plan is to enable effective commissioning of services.

The Children and Young People's Trust will continue to implement its Joint Commissioning Strategy to support the delivery of the Plan and build on the successes of previous years in our commissioning approach.

It is very important that all those involved in service delivery to children, young people and families have the opportunity to contribute. This joint working includes the pooling of funding and/or staffing, if appropriate. The Trust partner organisations have identified resources from their budgets to enable the effective implementation of this Plan.

Delivery Plans will be drawn up for each Priority in the Children and Young People's Plan and will include timescales and targets for achievement. Each Delivery Plan will be the responsibility of a named person, called the Target Owner, supported by relevant partners. It is essential these are delivered in partnership in order to ensure the most effective outcomes for children and young people.

Each Delivery Plan will set out how individual partners will contribute to the various priorities and targets (including funding or staff) and demonstrate links to the Day in the Life Project findings. They will also show how children, young people and their parents/carers will be involved. Other resources, including buildings, are also part of the Delivery Plans.

A six-monthly monitoring report will be presented to the Children and Young People's Trust Board. Where progress is slower than expected, the Board will challenge relevant partners and agree arrangements to get back on track.

We are inspected and judged on whether we are achieving our priorities for children and young people. A clear performance framework is essential to ensure that the goals of the Children and Young People's Plan are met. It will also allow us to identify, at the earliest opportunity, where more work is needed. This process must involve children, young people and their families at all stages.

The Plan contains a number of indicators and targets under its five priorities which can be accessed at:

http://www.buckpartnership.co.uk/assets/content/Partnerships/CYPT/cypt/CYPP_2011_14_indicators.pdf

PARTNER PLANS

Amersham & Wycombe College

Strategic Plan 2010-2013 - <http://www.amersham.ac.uk/about/our-priorities/>

Aylesbury College

Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 - <http://www.aylesbury.ac.uk/Resources/user/Vision/Aylesbury%20College%20Strategic%20Plan%202011-2020.doc>

Aylesbury Vale District Council

Sustainable Community Strategy for Aylesbury Vale 2009-2026
<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/community-living/community-planning-partnerships/aylesbury-vale-community-plan/>

Young People's Improvement Plan and Community Development Plan
<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/leisure-culture/youth-development/>

Buckinghamshire County Council

Sustainable Community Strategy for Buckinghamshire 2009 – 2026
http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/assets/content/Partnerships/BSPP/docs/bsp_scs_visual_county.pdf

Corporate Plan 2011 - 2013
http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/corporate_plan/our_vision.page

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board

Business Plan – <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/bscb/information>

Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service

Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2011-12
http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/community_safety/youth_offending.page

Chiltern District Council

Sustainable Community Strategy for the Chiltern District 2009 – 2026
http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/chilternpartnership/downloads/Chiltern_Sustainable_Community_Strategy.pdf

Chiltern District Council Key Objectives 2010 - 2012
http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/downloads/Council_Key_Objectives_2010-12_3_.pdf

Chiltern District Council Community Cohesion Plan 2010 – 2012
[http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/downloads/CommunityCohesionReport_\(FINAL\)_2.pdf](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/downloads/CommunityCohesionReport_(FINAL)_2.pdf)

Connexions

Delivery Plan
<http://www.connexionsbucks.org.uk/content/connexions-delivery-plan>

Jobcentre Plus

Business Plan – **Link not available yet**

NHS Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Cluster

Link not available yet

Buckinghamshire Obesity Strategic Framework 2010 – 2013.
Link not available yet

South Bucks District Council

Corporate Plan 2010-2020
http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2010/c/corporate_plan_2010_2020_internet.pdf

Sustainable Community Strategy for South Bucks District 2009-2026
http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2009/s/south_bucks_sustainable_community_strategy.pdf

Thames Valley Probation Service

Three Year Business Plan 2011-2014
<http://www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk/pages/about/documents/ThreeYearBusinessPlanApril2011-March2014Version2.0.pdf>

Strategy, 2009 - 2012
<http://www.thamesvalleyprobation.gov.uk/pdfs/TVP%20Strategy%202009%20-%202012.pdf>

Thames Valley Police

Link not available yet

Voluntary Sector

Voluntary sector organisations reach a wide variety and large number of young people in Buckinghamshire and are represented on the Board by Action4Youth, which incorporates the members of the previous Buckinghamshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services. Over 60,000 young people attend organisations within our membership, supported by more than 8,000 volunteers. We all support the principles underpinning the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Plan and work to improve the health and well-being of children and young people in the county. Through the following link to Action4Youth's website, you can access the contact details of all our members and thus reach each organisation's plans:

<http://www.action4youth.org>

Wycombe District Council

Sustainable Community Strategy for Wycombe District 2009 – 2026

<http://www.wycombe.gov.uk/council-services/community-and-living/sustainable-communities-strategy.aspx>

Corporate Plan – **Link not available yet**

Young People's Learning Agency

Young People's Learning Agency Annual Plan 2011/12

http://readingroom.ypla.gov.uk/ypla/ypla-Annual_Plan_2011-pl-Jul11-v1.pdf

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about this Plan or for queries relating to the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust please contact:

Children and Young People's Trust Delivery Unit,
Commissioning and Business Improvement,
Children and Young People's Services,
Buckinghamshire County Council.
4th Floor, County Hall,
Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

01296 387657 or cyptrust@buckscc.gov.uk

The Children Act 2004 -

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2004/ukpga_20040031_en_1

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child -

<http://www.unicef.org/crc/>

Leaflet explaining how the five Every Child Matters outcomes map against the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child -

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/32016.pdf>

Local Authority role as Corporate Parent -

http://www.buckpartnership.co.uk/partnership/CYPT/Being_in_care/lac_home.page

Freedom Programme - <http://www.freedomprogramme.co.uk/freedom-programme.php>

Common Assessment Framework -

http://www.buckpartnership.co.uk/sites/partnership/CYPT/Local_Delivery/integrated_processes.page

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools -

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Education/Rights-Respecting-Schools-Award/?gclid=CMvnk56406gCFcoa4QodvkYOgw>

The Dame Clare Tickell Review of the Early Years Foundation Stage -

<http://www.education.gov.uk/tickellreview>

The Munro Review of Child Protection -

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>

Early Intervention: the next steps, An Independent Report to Her Majesty's Government by Graham Allen MP - <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/early-intervention-next-steps.pdf>