

North Tyneside

Children and Young People's Plan

2021 – 2025

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Foreword

Welcome to the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2025, which sets out the strategic framework and partnership priorities to ensure that all children in North Tyneside are able to achieve their full potential.

Our collective vision for children and young people in North Tyneside is:

“Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or disabled, are ready for school, ready for work and life, cared for and supported.”

This is a key strategy for the North Tyneside partnership to deliver the priorities set out within the Our North Tyneside Plan. It is based upon a detailed understanding of our successes, the challenges that we continue to face, and the clear feedback from children and young people about what is important to them.

This is the third Children and Young People's Plan that the partnership has produced. Through the lifetime of the previous strategies, we have worked together as a partnership to support children and young people to be ready for school, work and life, as well as being safeguarded and supported if required.

The strategy will cover a period of change and opportunity in the way that the partnership works. This includes the formation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, which has set out ambitious plans to develop an inclusive economy and an Education Challenge, and the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements that we have established in line with our duties under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Inevitably, the context within which we all work will be impacted by the ongoing presence of Covid-19, meaning we need to understand how need has changed as a result and how we need alter and adapt our approach to working with children and young people.

Regardless, our vision and focus remain the same – ensuring children are safe, happy, healthy, with opportunities and a voice.

1. Introduction, Strategic Vision and Context

The Our North Tyneside Plan sets out the strategic objectives for North Tyneside. It has been developed with the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership (NTSP) and is the key driver for the work of the partnership.

The Our North Tyneside Plan focuses on three areas:

- Our People
- Our Places
- Our Economy

The Children and Young People's Plan is a key mechanism by which we deliver the objectives linked to 'Our People'. It focuses on delivering improved outcomes for all children and young people up to the age of 19 years, and those young people aged up to 25 years who are care leavers, have special educational needs or a disability and live in the borough.

Our vision for children and young in North Tyneside is:

“Making North Tyneside an even greater place for children and young people to thrive; where all, including those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or disabled, are ready for school, ready for work and life, cared for and supported.”

To achieve our vision, we will focus on the 5 outcomes that children, young people and their families tell us matter most to them:

1. I am Safe
2. I am Healthy
3. I am Happy
4. I have Opportunities
5. I have a Voice

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all of our communities, and its ongoing presence will continue to do so. In North Tyneside, we have continued to provide services across the partnership, with multi-agency arrangements continuing and work with children and families being delivered using virtual methods where face-to-face contact has not been possible. Schools have worked incredibly hard, in collaboration with key partners, to ensure they were able to provide places for vulnerable children and those of key workers. This work continued to ensure that schools were able to fully open safely from September 2020. However, the national lockdown announced in January 2021 required schools again to alter the way in which they operated and continued to educate children in the borough. The impact of the pandemic has increased rates of poverty across families in North Tyneside and, whilst some measures such as the Poverty Intervention Fund will help us support those families, we know this is likely to have a long-term impact on children and families. Similarly, mental health issues for our children and young people are likely to increase and require us to harness the work already underway in North Tyneside to an even greater extent.

Alongside this, financial constraints and funding reductions across agencies continue to challenge the way we work. For the local authority, central government funding had reduced by approximately 51% since 2013/14. This provides a continued impetus to find new ways of working within each partner agency, and across the partnership, to ensure we continue to deliver high-quality services and improve outcomes for our children and young people.

2. Demographics and Demand

North Tyneside has a current population of 205,985, which is expected to increase by 2% by 2030, with much of this increase in the over-65 population. Our 0-18 population is 43,415 (around 21% of the borough's total population).

Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 8.7% of all children living in the area, which is lower than the national average.

North Tyneside is the least deprived of the five Tyne and Wear municipal areas. However, whilst there are some areas in the 10% least deprived nationally, there are other areas of significant deprivation. This is illustrated by the fact that a child born in one part of the borough can expect to live 10 years less than a child born in another part of the borough. The 'disadvantage gap' can be seen from a very young age across a range of issues, including in the rate of childhood obesity which doubles from Reception (1 in 10) to Year 6 (1 in 5). The increase is even more significant for boys living in more deprived communities.

Just under 5,000 children and young people in North Tyneside schools have identified special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) – 3,542 (11% of the school-age population) children in our schools have a SEN Support Plan and 1,265 (4.1%) have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The total number of North Tyneside children, including those educated out of borough, having an EHCP stands at 1,827. For our cohort of children and young people with SEND, we have seen a sustained increase in those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) identified as their primary need.

Approximately 900 families in North Tyneside receive early help support at any time, either through a plan led by local authority Family Partners or by other partner agencies, usually schools.

Contacts to our multi-agency front door service average around 12,000 per annum, with an increasing proportion having needs met through a multi-agency early help response. During the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst most authorities have seen a sharp reduction in the number of referrals made to social care, demand levels in North Tyneside have remained stable. Around 500-600 children in North Tyneside have a Child in Need Plan at any time, and around 150-175 children have a Child Protection Plan, although the number of CP Plans were at their highest during the height of the pandemic in 2020.

Numbers of children in care in North Tyneside have remained relatively stable for a number of years, between 290-310. At the end of 2019/20, North Tyneside's rate of children in care was the lowest in the north east. The majority of children in our care live with North Tyneside foster carers.

3. Recent Achievements

The Children and Young People's Partnership is comprehensive, robust and mature, which has enabled us to deliver a range of significant service developments and improvements in recent years. These include:

- Children's services were **judged Outstanding by Ofsted** in March 2020, noting that "strategic partnerships are mature, well-developed and highly effective"
- We have continued to successfully deliver the **Troubled Families programme** in North Tyneside, which is fully embedded into our multi-agency early help offer in the borough. We have successfully 'turned around' 1,500 families, demonstrating improved outcomes across a range of indicators
- Through our continued focus on promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention issues, we have entered into a long-term, **strategic partnership with Barnardos** to develop new and innovative solutions supporting children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Establishment of schools-led, peer-to-peer, exclusion panels, as part of a borough-wide **Keeping Children in School** programme, which have contributed to improved exclusion and attendance rates
- Strong partnership working is also visible in the broader approach to **tackling deprivation** in North Tyneside, which started in Chirton and Riverside Wards and has now been extended to Howdon and Wallsend
- Our multi-agency **Keeping Families Connected** service, funded by DfE innovation funding, has effectively supported a reduction in entries to care, stabilisation of existing placements, and reunification where possible.

The impact of the range of work we have delivered across the partnership over recent years is evident in a number of strong indicators:

- **72% of children reached a Good Level of Development** at the Early Years Foundation Stage in 2019, improved by 24% since 2013
- 8 in 10 young people attending a **school that is judged as Good or Outstanding** by Ofsted
- **School attendance and exclusion rates** have reduced and are lower than national averages
- 2.8% of 16 and 17 year olds are **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)** at June 2020, which is an improvement from 4.1% in 2013/14
- **Referral and re-referral rates** to children's social care have been lower than national, regional and statistical neighbour averages for many years
- The **rate of children in care in North Tyneside** was the lowest in the north east region at the end of 2019/20

4. Strategic Outcomes and Priorities

In 2019, the 5 Is Outcomes Framework was adopted to ensure a child-centred focus for all the work we do across the partnership, based on feedback from children and young people about what is important to them.



Despite the many significant achievements that the partnership has delivered in recent years, there remain many challenges that we continue to be focused on. Alongside the changing need and demand that we expect as a result of the impact of Covid-19, our understanding of our challenges and what is important to children and young people have informed the priorities and actions set out in this strategy.

The priorities and deliverables set out in this strategy are aligned to the strategic outcomes we want to see for children and young people.

I am Safe	I am Healthy	I have opportunities	I have a voice	I am Happy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early help • Contextual safeguarding • Neglect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce smoking in pregnancy • Narrow the gap • Childhood obesity • Alcohol misuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow the gap in attainment • Ensure the right support for children with SEND 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase active participation • Ensure children and young people's input to learning reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen resilience and emotional wellbeing

I am Safe: *safe and free from harm and neglect*

Priority 1.1: Ensure children and young people are living safely

Why is it important?

We want to ensure that children and young people are living safely and, where they do need to be in the local authority's care, we want to ensure they are close to home and we are actively supporting them to improve their outcomes. Whilst we have worked successfully together to provide an effective early help and multi-agency response where concerns are raised, we know that new challenges are presenting that require a partnership response.

Contextual safeguarding, where factors outside of the traditional family home can cause young people to participate in a range of risky behaviours, is an increasing concern. We know from our analysis that neglect remains the biggest factor in referrals to social care, and this has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic.

And, whilst North Tyneside has a well-established and effective multi-agency early help model, we want to expand and develop this model even further, as we know prevention is the best solution to the challenges faced.

What will we do as a partnership?

Our new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, via our Safeguarding Executive, will lead the development of safeguarding approaches and practice in the three key areas of: Early Help; Neglect; and Contextual Safeguarding.

We will:

- Develop and implement a new Prevention and Early Help Strategy and associated delivery plan
- Review and re-launch new strategic and operational Missing, Slavery, Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) partnership arrangements
- Launch a new multi-agency Adolescent Service
- Develop new partnership tools to identify and respond to risks around exploitation and contextual safeguarding
- Review and refresh the North Tyneside Neglect Strategy
- Launch a borough-wide communications campaign regarding neglect
- Review and develop new practice guidance regarding working with children, young people and their families where there is neglect

How will we know we've made a difference?

- Reduction in repeat referrals to early help
- Reduction in early help cases that step up to social care
- Reduction in those supported through early help, child protection or in care due to neglect
- Reduction in the number of missing episodes and children and young people that go missing

I am Healthy: *choosing healthier lifestyles*

Priority 2.1: Supporting children to have a healthy early childhood

Why is it important?

The majority of children in North Tyneside enjoy a healthy early childhood. However, issues such as smoking during pregnancy, babies born with low birth weight, and babies not being breastfed can have a negative impact on a child's healthy life chances. Progress has been made in these areas in recent years - for example, rates of smoking amongst pregnant women have improved but remain too high; while breastfeeding rates have also improved but remain below the national average.

The evidence regarding the importance of early years is clear. When someone doesn't have a healthy early childhood, it leads to gaps which widen throughout a child's life; for instance, 40% of the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and others at the age of 16 is present even before children start school.

There are four main areas of focus within this priority:

- Narrowing the gap in health and wellbeing outcomes
- Reducing smoking in pregnancy
- Tackling childhood obesity
- Tackling the impact of alcohol in childhood

What will we do as a partnership?

We will:

- Provide universal health visiting to all families, promote uptake of 2- and 3-year offer, and provide targeted parenting support programmes in areas of greatest need
- Implement a plan and pathways which includes antenatal interventions, access to good quality stop smoking services and promotes smoke-free homes
- Develop and implement a healthy weight action plan that:
 - Promotes healthy weight through pregnancy
 - Promotes breastfeeding and improve rates of initiation and at 6-8 weeks
 - Focuses on healthy weaning and reducing sugar consumption in early years
 - Delivers the National Child Measurement Programme
 - Promotes physical activity, use of parks, wagon ways and outdoor space
- Develop a plan which promotes an alcohol-free childhood which incorporates alcohol free pregnancy, supports children of alcohol-dependent parents, and supports young people who misuse alcohol

How will we know we've made a difference?

- Reduce prevalence of smoking in pregnancy to 6% by 2025
- Prevention of any further rise in childhood obesity by 2025.
- Increased initiation of breastfeeding and continuation at 6-8 weeks

- Increased access of adults to treatment who are dependent on alcohol and living with children

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I have Opportunities: *learning and developing skills for life and work*

Priority 3.1: Narrow the gap in educational outcomes

Why is it important?

North Tyneside has a very good education offer for most pupils; 8 in 10 pupils in the borough attend a Good or Outstanding school, and the majority of attainment measures compare well with national comparators.

However, there continues to be a persistent gap in educational attainment between disadvantaged pupils, such as those receiving free school meals, and other non-disadvantaged pupils in the borough. This gap gets wider as pupils move through the education system. The overall average for pupils in North Tyneside, achieving grade 4 or higher in English and maths GCSEs, was 65%. For the non-disadvantaged cohort, this increased to 72%, which was 1% higher than their national peers. However, this reduces to 44% for North Tyneside's disadvantaged cohort. The impact of Covid-19 is likely to have, and continue to, exacerbate this gap further.

What will we do as a partnership?

A new Education Strategy, developed through engagement and consultation with schools and a range of other partners, will take forward this priority. As part of this strategy and associated implementation plan, we will work in partnership to implement specific strategies to support the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils, including:

- A focus on early reading, with every nursery being supported to focus on phase 1 phonics
- Increased focus on Pupil Premium strategies and the identification of barriers to learning
- Improved literacy delivery across the curriculum alongside a strengthening of reading cultures in schools
- Improved academic transition practices so that student starting points, potential and specific needs are identified and prepared for before arrival in year 7

How will we know we've made a difference?

- Reduced gaps in speech, language and communication attainment at the end of EYFS
- Reduced gaps in reading achievement and greater consistency in our results at all stages

Priority 3.2: Ensure the right support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs

Why is it important?

North Tyneside, like many areas nationally and regionally, has seen a significant increase in the numbers of children with an identified Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

Children and young people with SEND in North Tyneside achieve good outcomes compared to national averages. This can be seen in educational attainment across the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, as well as the rate of young people with SEND who are in education, employment or training.

Despite this, we know we need to do more as a partnership to provide the right level of support at the right time, through an inclusive approach across education, health and care to respond to increased demand, pressures on school places, and – most importantly – our desire to support every child and young person to fulfil their potential.

What will we do as a partnership?

Through the SEND Strategic Board and supporting governance, we will:

- Embed the graduated approach to supporting children and young people with SEND in school
- Launch and embed a new SEND Inclusion Strategy, with a clear understanding of local need, priorities, and how these will be met
- Develop a new multi-agency early help model for SEND, to strengthen the early identification of need and deliver the right support at the right time
- Launch and embed a new Autism Strategy and develop an effective multi-agency response for children and young people with autism

How will we know we've made a difference?

- Increasing proportion of children and young people with SEND supported through early help and SEN Support Plans
- An increasing proportion of children and young people with SEND in mainstream education
- Continued strong educational attainment and education, employment and training outcomes for children and young people with SEND

I have a voice: *an active citizen with a voice and influence*

Priority 4.1: Support children to be active citizens

Why is it important?

North Tyneside wants to be a place that listens, cares and is ambitious for our residents. This starts with our children and young people. Our strategy, outcomes framework, and priorities are all informed by what children and young people have told us are important to them.

This priority is aimed at ensuring the delivery of our strategy, priorities and ongoing service developments across the partnership are all based on feedback from children and young people.

We have many very positive examples of listening to children and young people and ensuring our services are shaped by their aspirations – including a Children in Care Council described as “exceptional” by Ofsted and the recent development of a SEND Youth Forum.

We want to embed this through everything we do, ensuring that children and young people are able to tell their stories, help us to test services, and provide us with ongoing challenge.

What will we do as a partnership?

We will:

- Commission an annual borough wide survey of children and young people in order to better understand their needs, experiences, vulnerabilities and any threats they face
- Embed our SEND engagement and co-production strategy, ensuring the voice of the child is evident throughout everything we do
- Deliver a project to engage every child in our schools to understand the impact of poverty on children and young people
- Via our Quality of Practice Group in our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, consult and develop a proposed strategy and plan for delivering a shift in practice
- Continue to work with our Children in Care Council to have a conversation with every child in care to understand their experience
- Deliver the national New Belongings project to understand, and act upon, the views of care leavers about support they receive in North Tyneside

How will we know we've made a difference?

- We will make progress and deliver improved outcomes in the areas that children and young people tell us are important to them
- All service developments will be able to clearly set out how they have been informed by the views of children and young people

I am happy: *resilient, enjoying life and having fun*

Priority 5.1: Develop resilience, confidence and independence in children and young people

Why is it important?

All children and young people in North Tyneside should enjoy happy, confident childhoods. We want them to grow into resilient adolescents and adults, be able to cope with the demands of daily life, and be equipped to contribute to life in the borough.

Positive early experience is vital to ensure children have good life chances and are resilient. Mental health conditions affect about 1 in 10 children and young people and it is estimated that 75% of mental health problems in adult life, excluding dementia, start before the age of eighteen.

Locally young people, through the “Make Your Mark” campaign, voted for young people’s mental health to be their top priority which aligns with the findings from the recent MH2K youth-led project which explored mental health.

This objective will be delivered through the North Tyneside Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing partnership, which is working toward the vision of all children, young people and their families achieving their optimum mental health and emotional wellbeing.

What will we do as a partnership?

We will:

- Review the current strategy and action plan and develop a clear vision to promote mental and health and wellbeing in children and young people in North Tyneside which focuses on:
 - promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
 - improving access to support
 - services for high risk and vulnerable groups
- Promote a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing across all education settings
- Develop a model of peer support across North Tyneside

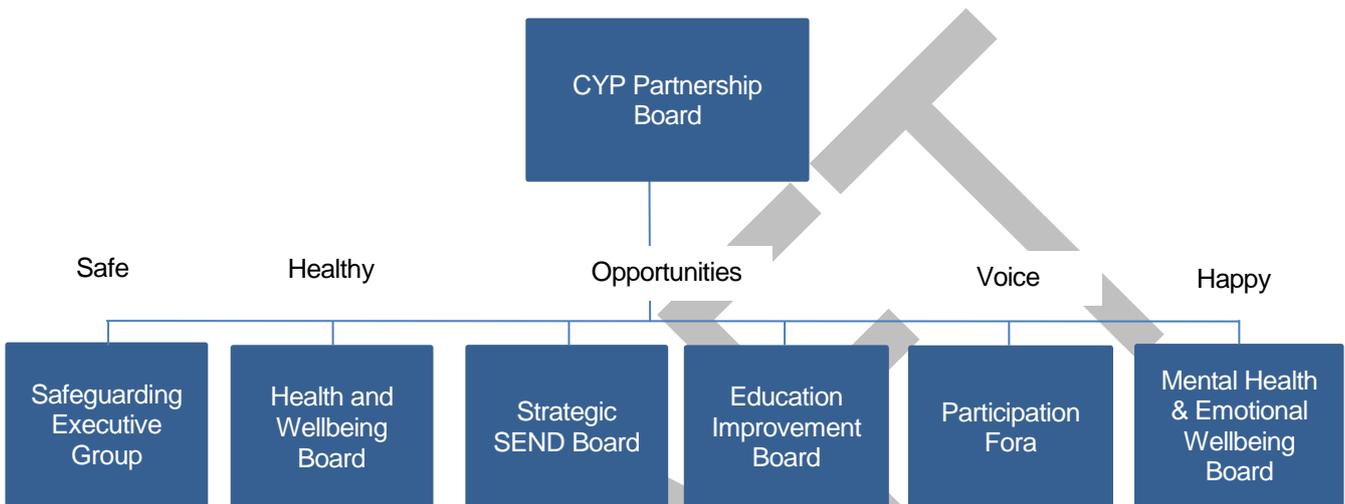
How will we know we’ve made a difference?

- Continued improvement in self-reported wellbeing in the biannual local mental health and wellbeing survey
- Fewer referrals into specialist mental health services
- Fewer children and young people with emotional and mental health issues being noted as their primary special educational need

5. Governance and Delivery

The Children and Young People's Partnership is the strategic mechanism by which partners come together to address the biggest challenges facing the borough's children, young people and their families.

The diagram below sets out the key strategic boards and fora that will oversee delivery of this strategy.



Underpinning this strategy will be an implementation plan to take forward delivery of the key priorities and actions. Respective priorities will be overseen by the boards shown above, linked to the partnership's outcomes framework.

Quarterly reports will be presented to the CYP Partnership Board to update on progress, with particular focus on a certain priority at each meeting.

6. Outcomes Framework

Our outcomes framework is based on five key statements that children and young people have told us are important to them. At a strategic level, we have a small number of indicators that will tell us whether we are meeting these outcomes for children and young people in North Tyneside. Individual priorities and projects will have a range of other indicators that will demonstrate success; however, below are the indicators across the strategic partnership that we are most focused on.

Safe	Healthy	Opportunities	Voice	Happy
<i>Safe and free from harm and abuse</i>	<i>Choosing healthier lifestyles</i>	<i>Learning and developing skills for life</i>	<i>An active citizen with a voice & influence</i>	<i>Resilient, enjoying life and having fun</i>
Key Indicators				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of early help (repeat referrals, step-up to social care) • Stability of children in care placements • Child Protection Plans with neglect as primary factor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood obesity • Smoking in pregnancy • Access to treatment for alcohol-dependent parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 GCSEs grade 9-4, incl. maths and English • 16-18 year olds in education, employment or training • Attainment measures across EYFS, KS2 and KS4 for children and young people with SEND 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in EHC assessments and reviews • Participation in social care assessments and reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-reported mental health • Rate/number of SEN Support Plans and EHCPs with SEMH as primary need • Referrals to mental health services

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