

Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	18 July 2023
TITLE:	Change for Children and Young People 2023-2028 Birmingham’s Children and Young People Plan
Organisation	Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership
Presenting Officer	Colin Michel, Interim Director of Strategy and Partnerships

Report Type:	Information
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1. Purpose:

- 1.1. This report summarises progress that Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership has made to commence work on a strategic programme to deliver the ambition and outcomes of Birmingham’s Children and Young People’s Plan (‘the Plan’).
- 1.2. The briefing outlines governance, actions, and enabler work that form the core of the Plan, highlighting progress, work in development, and forward plans.

2. Implications (tick all that apply):

Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	y
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	y
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	y
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	y
	Getting the Best Start in Life	Y
	Living, Working and Learning Well	y
	Ageing and Dying Well	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		y

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Note progress made by Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership, and the governance arrangements set out in paragraphs 4.11 to 4.21.

4. BACKGROUND

Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership

- 4.1. Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership (‘the Partnership’) includes Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children’s Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Police Force, and Birmingham Voluntary Services Council.
- 4.2. In early 2022, the Partnership agreed to produce a five-year Children and Young People’s Plan for Birmingham to forge and sustain collaboration – across all Council directorates, between partners and across the sectors of our city – to improve outcomes for all our babies, children, and young people.
- 4.3. The Partnership also submitted an expression of interest to join the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative to reinforce our commitment to the rights and life chances of Birmingham’s children and young people. UNICEF UK invited Birmingham to join the initiative in April 2023, and an MOU and contract for support was signed on 21 June 2023.

Change for Children and Young People 2023-2028

- 4.4. Since early 2022, the Partnership has collaborated to create a strategic framework (see appendix) for the Plan, including shared ambition, outcomes, values, principles, commitments, collective actions, and enabler workstreams.
- 4.5. This framework has been designed in consultation with professionals from across sectors and disciplines, and through engagement with children, young people, and families.
- 4.6. Birmingham Children and Young People’s Plan is named *Change* for Children and Young People 2023-2028 (see appendix) because during the next five years, the Partnership is committed to forging strong collaboration across the Council, and with wider public, private, and voluntary sectors to change the conditions in which Birmingham’s babies, children, and young people grow up.
- 4.7. The need for change in how we work with and on behalf of babies, children, young people, and families has been reinforced by listening to their views and experiences, and through codesign sessions with professionals from across the Partnership.

Purpose and delivery of the Plan

- 4.8. The Plan is the overarching strategic framework for improving outcomes for babies, children, and young people in Birmingham, and sets out what the Partnership will do together over the next five years. The Plan includes high-level outcomes based on strategic needs analysis and on our engagement with children, young people, families, and professionals. Insight and engagement have given us a sense of how our babies, children, young people are struggling, and the most effective actions that the whole Council and our partners can take to support them to thrive.
- 4.9. The Plan sits under Birmingham City Council's Be Bold Corporate Plan 2022-2026, and Birmingham and Solihull's Integrated Care System ten-year plan. As such, the Plan serves as a whole-place strategy and requires the involvement of all Council directorates, and engagement across the sectors of the city.
- 4.10. Delivery of the Plan will be through collective action plans, which will focus on tracking and improving outcomes for all, tackling deep structural inequalities, and collaboration to target support for our most vulnerable babies, children, young people, and their families.

100 Brilliant Days

- 4.11. The Plan has been launched with a communication campaign called 100 Brilliant Days, led by the Council with support from communication leads from across the Partnership.
- 4.12. The campaign has been designed with four core aims:
- to celebrate services delivered by the Council and our partners all over the localities of the city, using social media to share examples of positive work with and on behalf of babies, children, young people, and families,
 - to set the tone for strength-based and collaborative approaches with all Council directorates and with partners, stimulating ideas and opportunities for whole-place approaches to delivery for the next five years,
 - to lay the foundations for a partnership communication strategy that will support future campaigns, raise the profile of our Plan, and engage Council directorates and strategic partners across sectors in a collaborative place-based approaches to tackling the city's 'Grand Challenges,' with a sharp focus on unemployment, cost-of-living emergency, safety, domestic abuse, wellbeing.
 - to promote the discovery and development phases of UNICEF Child Friendly City, putting the rights, voices and life chances of our babies, children, and young people at the heart of everything we do in Birmingham.

4 ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

- 4.13. Between November 2022 and April 2023, the strategic framework was presented and approved at the following meetings:
- Council Extended Corporate Leadership Team, 7 Dec 2022

- Council Children and Families Leadership Team, 15 Dec 2022
- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4 Jan 2023
- Council Corporate Leadership Team, 27 Feb 2023
- Council Cabinet, 21 Mar 2023
- Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board, 4 Apr 2023
- City Council, 18 Apr 2023

4.14. Children and young people have given their time and voices to help develop the Plan. The Partnership is accountable to them, as well as to Council leaders and partner governing bodies, for how successful we will be in achieving its ambition. In addition to publishing an annual progress report, we will seek the views of children, young people, and their families. This ongoing engagement will inform planning, delivery, and evaluation throughout the life of the Plan, as a crucial part of our commitment to the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative.

4.15. The Partnership plans to publish an updated version of the plan in Spring 2024 containing our UNICEF Child Friendly City action plan, following the initial discovery phase of initiative. Council Cabinet will be asked to approve this updated version of the Plan.

Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board

4.16. Since April 2023, following adoption of the strategic framework, governance arrangements for Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership have been refreshed. The Partnership aims to build on strengths of existing governance, rather than proliferate new meetings.

4.17. Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board, which met every six weeks during 2022, moved to a quarterly meeting starting April 2023. The Board will provide assurance and scrutiny of the progress and delivery of the five-year plan.

4.18. The Board will uphold the values, principles, commitments of the Partnership. Members of this group are chief and executive officers from core partner organisations and include the Independent Chair of the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Council’s Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families.

4.19. Progress reports will also be monitored by Birmingham’s Health and Wellbeing Board, with quarterly written reports commencing July 2023, with an annual verbal update and accountability report due in March 2024.

4.20. This will offer Health and Wellbeing Board a line of sight to progress against an integrated outcomes framework being driven by the collective leadership of the Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership.

4.21. The Plan has been designed in strategic alignment with Council Be Bold outcomes priorities and aims to forge collaboration to tackle the city’s ‘Grand Challenges’. The Plan has great potential for deeper collaboration across

strategic partnership work such as Digital City, Cost of Living Emergency, Early Intervention and Prevention, Future City 2040, etc.

- 4.22. Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families, who will continue to report to BCC Cabinet on the progress of the Plan. This will include a report to Cabinet, due March 2024, incorporating the UNICEF Child Friendly City Action Plan, developed through discovery and development phases of the initiative.
- 4.23. Joined-up work with BSOL Integrated Care board to align Health Equity Collaborative with UNICEF Child Friendly City action plan, also agreed by BCYPP Board. This will support development of an integrated outcomes framework for CYP. Framework development is scheduled to continue until March 2024, when the Plan will return to Cabinet in an updated version of the Plan, incorporating the outcomes framework and CFC action plan.
- 4.24. Board members from partner organisations will take accountability reports on the delivery of the Plan through their own governance Boards.

The Partnership Strategic Implementation Group

- 4.25. The Partnership Strategic Implementation Group will provide oversight of the implementation of the collective actions and enabler workstreams of the Plan, and of Birmingham’s commitment to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City.
- 4.26. Members of this Group are deputy and lead officers with delegated authority to drive the actions of the plan, and to tackle system-wide issues. This Group will meet six times per year and had its first meeting on 16 May 2023.
- 4.27. The Board will hold this Group to account for delivery of the ambition, outcomes, collective actions, and enabler workstreams of the Plan. This Group aims to build on the learning from the Partnership Operational Group, which met during the pandemic, as a forum for collaboration and collective action on recovery.
- 4.28. The Group will provide and scrutinise reports about the delivery of collective strategic actions, which are:
 - **Creating an inclusive city** where all our children and young people can connect with meaningful opportunities and thrive.
 - **Building safety with children, young people, and families** at home, and in places outside of home.
 - **Joining up our offer in local places** so children, young people and families connect with help they trust throughout the life-course.
- 4.29. The group will further:
 - Monitor progress of the collective actions in contributing to the cross-cutting theme of **acting together to break down barriers of poverty and inequality** faced by Birmingham’s children, young people, families, and communities, scrutinising impact via data analysis and insight reports.
 - Provide leadership that improves coordination and collaboration across the Partnership for enabler work on:

- Data, insight, and evaluation.
 - Strategic communication and engagement,
 - Voice, participation, and coproduction.
 - Practice, quality, and professional development.
- Invite strategic partners and policymakers from across sectors of our city and, where appropriate, the West Midlands region to collaborate in developing collective strategic action that promotes the rights of children and young people, and improves their life chances,
 - provide collective leadership, challenge, support, and problem-solving.
- 4.30. The Group is chaired by Suzanne Cleary, Chief Officer for Strategy and Partnerships from Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust.

Inclusive City Steering Group

- 4.31. Partners have agreed to form a Steering Group to drive this collective action. The purpose of this group is to secure collaborative delivery for:
- The development of a strategic framework to improve and promote voice, participation, and coproduction with children and young people across the Council and the Partnership.
 - Tackling structural inequalities, with a sharp focus on anti-racism, disparities, and disproportionality across the Council and the Partnership.
 - The cocreation and delivery of a partnership approach to ‘Building up Opportunities,’ in response to [‘Breaking down Barriers’](#) report, which set out ten recommendations to support young people into employment.
 - Forging collaboration across Council and sectors in alignment with whole-place strategies for digital inclusion, and all-age approaches, such as the ten-year framework for change for learning difficulties and autism.
- 4.32. Birmingham’s Inclusion Strategy 2023-2028 in partnership with schools, settings, and services across the city: cocreating an implementation plan, including, and not limited to:
- An Inclusion Charter for Birmingham,
 - Whole system graduated approach for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and inclusion, from early years to post-16, and at each level of need,
 - Practice foundations for SEND and inclusion with knowledge, skills, and best practice for all our schools and settings,
 - Relationships-based practice for early support and prevention in schools and settings for all children and young people,
 - Recognising and responding to children and young people’s needs, strengths, and vulnerabilities at the earliest possible point,
 - Wraparound support for transitions: all children and young people to make positive transitions between settings,

- Joining up and improving targeted support for identified groups, including community-around-the-school response in localities,
- Disproportionality and anti-racism in schools and settings,
- Voice, participation and coproduction with children and young people in schools and settings,
- Parenting, family, and community engagement strategies.

4.33. This Steering Group will be chaired by Helen Ellis, the Council Director for SEND and Inclusion, and the multi-agency membership will include relevant partners, including representation from across Council directorates and from schools and settings in the education sector.

Building safety with children and young people

4.34. In April 2023, the Board recommended a review of the governance arrangements and work programmes of Birmingham’s Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, and West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership.

4.35. One driver of this review was report from the Ofsted inspection of Birmingham’s Children’s Services, which noted that the partnership response to domestic abuse requires improvement.

4.36. The aims of this review will be to support collaboration between these partnerships and to:

- Investigate the impact of and interconnections between domestic abuse, racism, structural inequalities, school exclusion, exploitation, violence, and related social harms in the lives of children and young people in Birmingham.
- Identify opportunities to enhance collaborative working and coordination of partnership responses to these critical and interdependent issues, with a focus on opportunities to enhance prevention and early support.
- Cocreate recommendations for refreshing arrangements for strategic leadership, accountability, and collaboration on adolescent safeguarding, and strengthening safety with young people, their families, and communities.

4.37. A workshop has been scheduled for 13 October with expert input from researchers [Dez Holmes](#) and [Luke Billingham](#). The workshop will be titled ‘Strengthening safety with young people, families, and communities,’ to emphasise the strong foundations of strategy and practice already in place for tackling exploitation and violence, and to underline place-based and collaborative approach.

4.38. The workshop will invite leaders from safeguarding children, safeguarding adults, and community safety partnerships to explore the implications of:

- Understanding violence from a social harm perspective,
- Valuing adolescent identities and lived experience in the contexts of place, virtual spaces, peer groups, families, and communities,

- Upholding children and young people’s rights, strengthening voice, participation, and influence of young people across our whole system, to
- Designing a service system that sustains enduring relationships with young people to strengthen safety, prevent harms, and tackle structural inequalities.

4.39. This piece of work is co-sponsored by Sue Harrison and Penny Thompson as respective chairs of Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership and Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership.

4.40. The outcome and recommendations of the workshop will be shared with the Strategic Implementation Group in July, and an update report will be prepared and shared with Partnership Boards, including Health and Wellbeing Board.

Joining up the offer

4.41. In April 2023, the Board identified an opportunity to develop a whole-system view of locality working, with a focus on improving early support and prevention, especially in relation to safety and inclusion. There are several concurrent strands of work in scope, including and not limited to:

- Substantial partnership work on early support, including strong community navigation offer delivered by voluntary sector organisations, and locality working structures overseen by the Early Help Partnership Board,
- the recently formed Family Hubs Board, which oversees the delivery plan for the DfE (Department for Education) investment in Family Hubs Start for Life programme,
- commissioning and delivery of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme,
- implementation of SEND and Inclusion Strategies, with objectives of improving ‘community-around-the-school’ approach to early support and prevention, and multi-agency programme delivered through localities, to strengthen foundations of relationships-based, inclusive practice.
- Early Intervention and Prevention programme, led by Adult Social Care, which contributes as asset-based community development approach to the strengthening of our early support system, with a focus on civil society and community-based delivery.
- Birmingham integrated neighbourhood framework, which aims to create integrated care, and help keep people safe and well in their own homes.
- Birmingham Digital Inclusion Strategy, which includes the goal of city-wide, locality based and online education sessions to enable a person to develop their digital skills, increasing confidence, motivation, and well-being.
- Local Government Association and [Locality review](#) of strategic relationships between councils and their voluntary and community sector partners.

4.42. Action on locality working will be coordinated by the Inclusive City Steering Group and overseen by the Strategic Implementation Group.

4.43. Family Hubs Programme Board also reports to the Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board to maintain line of sight.

5. ENABLER WORKSTREAMS

- 5.1. The partnership enabler workstreams have been designed in the programme to support effective coordination and collaboration.

Data, insight, and evaluation

- 5.2. An insight project for the five-year plan has been approved by the Board, and is being led by the Insight, Policy, and Strategy team within the Council Strategy, Equality and Partnerships directorate.
- 5.3. The initial project objective is to develop data and insight tools that measure the difference we are making to outcomes and to monitor the delivery of collective actions in the five-year plan. This includes insight dashboards and opportunities for collaboration known as insight communities.
- 5.4. During 2023, an integrated and rights-based outcome framework is in development for the Plan, which will be supported by the Child Friendly Cities and Communities team at UNICEF UK. The development of the outcome framework will be supported by the work programme of the Health Equity Collaborative and facilitated by joined-up collaboration between the Council and Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board. This joined up approach to data, insight, participation and intervention has been sponsored by members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board from the NHS and Council.
- 5.5. The team has begun with the development of an insight dashboard for SEND and Inclusion, not least as the local area anticipates inspection of SEND services within the next year. This will be followed by development of a dashboard for collective action on building safety.
- 5.6. Thematic analysis has also been undertaken of the views of 899 children and young people, who responded to a survey undertaken in early 2023. The initial findings of this analysis were reported to the Strategy Group on 16 May, and the final report will be shared with the Partnership Board on 27 June.

Communications

- 5.7. 100 Brilliant Days was conceived as a simple idea to support a collaborative approach to disseminate media content that highlights positive messages and stories about services for children, young people, and families across the city.
- 5.8. Since April 2023, the campaign has created opportunities for a wide range of partners to share information, promote their offer, and celebrate strengths.
- 5.9. Early feedback from partners since the start of the campaign began has been positive. Regular updates provide data on social media reach across different platforms, and highlight interesting content amplified by the campaign. Reports have been circulated with the Children and Families directorate, and plans are in place to share more widely with partners.
- 5.10. The graphic designed version of the Plan (appendix 2) has been shared in tandem with refreshed Partnership webpages, which have been designed to hold information about the Plan and about Birmingham's commitment to the UNICEF

Child Friendly City initiative. The Plan and information about the UNICEF initiative will be promoted via the 100 Brilliant Days campaign, with support of Council and partner communication leads.

- 5.11. A celebration event is scheduled to take place on 13 October 2023 at Birmingham Rep Theatre, to mark the achievement of schools achieving UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award. The event theme will be 'Looking back, looking forward' and will focus on the history of children's rights in Birmingham, UK, and the world. The format of this annual event will follow precedent from recent years, and as such, schools have been invited to submit an expression of interest to create and present a performance for the event.
- 5.12. A partnership strategic communications group met on 17 March. The group secured representation from across partner organisations and supported partner involvement in the 100 Brilliant Days campaign. Partners agreed to meet at least quarterly to develop a communication strategy for the Partnership, and to collaborate in joint campaigns that support the ambition of our plan, and to engage wider public and private sector in collective responses to the city's 'Grand Challenges'.
- 5.13. The group will meet again in late July to review shared communication priorities, which will include focus on cost-of-living emergency, unemployment, domestic abuse, mental health, and work to strengthen safety with children, young people, families, and communities.

Voice, participation, and coproduction

- 5.14. Partners have identified an opportunity to develop a strategic approach to voice, participation and coproduction of children and young people across Council directorates and the sectors of the city.
- 5.15. As we begin the Child Friendly City initiative, UNICEF UK will work alongside us to support development of a partnership strategy and a network approach to voice, participation and coproduction. A draft MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and contract for services was signed by the Council and UNICEF UK on 21 June.
- 5.16. Following the launch of the strategic framework of the Plan in April 2023, requests have increased from Council directorates to engage with children, young people, families, schools, and settings to gain voice and participation in Council policy and planning.
- 5.17. Commonwealth Games Legacy funding has also been secured for a test and learn project to support young people to become Young Ambassadors, currently led by the Council Youth Service. This project was initiated in April.
- 5.18. Further opportunity has been identified as part of the cost-of-living emergency programme to take a proactive approach to tackling poverty, by involving more young people in the design of future skills and employability programmes.
- 5.19. The Inclusive City Steering Group will be responsible for securing next steps, including the development of a business case for further investment in this vital area of work. A strategic framework is in development for this substantial area of

work, with detail on expectations of partners, support package from UNICEF UK, opportunities for collaboration, and interdependencies.

Practice, quality, and professional development.

5.20. A golden thread of the Plan is to implement relationship-based approaches across the children and young people’s services system. Scoping work has begun on the development of a blended practice framework for shared language, values, and principles, with emphasis on approaches that are trauma-informed, developmentally sensitive, anti-discriminatory, and policy for creating inclusive cultures in schools, settings, and services.

5.21. The following opportunities for constructive collaboration in practice, quality and professional development have been identified:

- Priority action for implementation of five-year SEND and Inclusion Strategies,
- Alignment with trauma-informed learning and development offered to schools and settings via BCC Children and Families improvement plan
- Learning from and alignment with Birmingham Children’s Trust practice framework, *Connections Count*, with the potential to disseminate practice approaches across education, and community services,
- Alignment with the relevant learning and development workstream of the Family Hubs Programme.

5.22. This enabler activity will initially be led by the Inclusive City Steering Group, as part of the implementation of the Inclusion Strategy, and will work to secure appropriate arrangements to take forward this enabler workstream.

6. Compliance Issues

6.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

6.2. The Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board will publish an annual accountability report, including a ‘you said, we did’ chapter prepared for and with children and young people. This annual report will be provided each year, throughout the duration of the plan to 2028, and from 2024, following approval by UNICEF UK Committee and Council Cabinet, this will also incorporate our report on the Child Friendly City action plan.

Appendices

Change for Children and Young People 2023-2028

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

- Colin Michel, Interim Director Strategy and Partnerships, Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership