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Birmingham Children & Families

VISION FOR ALL PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN OUR CITY

Birmingham Children's Partnership



Partners' commitment

- Birmingham is proud of being a **young** and **super-diverse** city.
- We will **help families to help themselves**, and be **resilient** in their **communities**.
- We will **invest in early help** to lift families out of **poverty** and support their **needs**.
- So every child and young person has a **bright future**.



Thank you to young researchers Adam, Bianca, Ellie, Haider, Harjeet, Kaiara, Manveer, Maryam, Saleha, Syed and the 3,829 children & young people who contributed to this vision

Children and young people worked together to tell us about their experience & vision for the city

Children & young people's vision for the City

3,829 children and young people took part in surveys and workshops. They were asked what are the top five things you want for Birmingham. This is our vision for the city:

- Safer (83%)
- Less poverty (73%)
- Clean (57%)
- Happier (41%)
- Community spirit (41%)
- Green parks & spaces (41%)
- Eco-friendly (40%)

Safer
Cleaner
Connected

Priorities

Children and young people would invest the most in the following outcomes and services. This gives us our priorities and informs Birmingham's Big Ideas:

- Reduce poverty (69%)
- Create more and better jobs (54%)
- Access to health services (53%)
- Ending bullying (51%)
- Being happier (50%)
- Better education opportunities (47%)
- Better public transport (42%)
- Knowing who to talk to about a problem (36%)
- Cultural awareness (35%)
- Healthier lifestyles (33%)

Reduce Poverty
Access to Health Services
More & better jobs

Experience in life

Children and young people were asked about their lives, and if they or someone close to them had experienced the following:

- Death of someone close (34%)
- Long-term family illness (22%)
- Bullying (22%)
- Domestic abuse (17%)
- Not enough money for essentials (16%)
- Drug usage / addiction (14%)
- Knife crime (13%)
- Caring for family (12%)
- Alcohol usage / addiction (11%)
- Involvement in other crime (7%)

Death

Illness

Bullying

NO
money

Domestic
abuse

Experience in life

Uni and job isn't the only route but other routes are being advertised... There should be more support for Young People starting businesses.

Generally quite happy but Covid has had an impact on the way I live my life.

I love Birmingham City but some areas do seem deprived of opportunity and filled with violence and crime. There's a clear difference in the amount of money put into some areas such as Sutton Coldfield compared to Aston. It would be more helpful if more money was put into these areas to reduce the gap in money between different areas of Birmingham and also help young people not make bad choices such as participating in crime and violence.
Male, age 15

I am satisfied with my life, because I was able to get into a good school for my A levels and all I have to do now is to work hard to achieve my goals and I am very optimistic about the future.

I take steps to ensure my safety. If I went to town now I would be very aware of where I was and what I was doing. The class divide can be a problem.

I like that there are some teachers that are very good who personally, I think will make my education the best it can be.

If we can set a goal to end poverty by 2040. We want there to be no need for food banks. There is a lot of poverty at the moment. You can see a lot of homeless people in the city centre in particular.

All I want is a small reminder that I'm valued, loved and supported. Organisations you can go to and call for mental health problems whenever you need.
Male, age 15

Our generation is not going to tolerate racism and we don't want our city to be that way. There is a big problem with normalised racism. Homophobia is normalised. "That's so gay" is used too often and the wealth divide is a problem."
Male, age 15

Because of my mental illnesses it is impossible for me to work or study at the moment. It is a struggle to look after myself and keep myself safe every day.

I know the youth centres exist, but have no idea how to find them.
Female, age 13

Nowadays, with the knife crime, you're scared to come out your houses without the idea of getting stabbed, shot and for us girls, Even getting raped!

Wouldn't it be amazing if Birmingham was known for how clean it was and how good it was at recycling and reusing / up cycling. Wouldn't it be even better if young people helped everyone do this?"
Non-binary, aged 21

I'm just a bit down at the moment and quite stressed out with schoolwork but I know that I should be grateful and am grateful for the fact I have a loving caring support environment.

Outcomes

For children and young people to have a **bright future**, we need to prioritise the outcomes that are most important to them. From nearly 4000 surveys and interviews, children and young people said:

Children and young people say **YES** to:

- Good jobs
- City feels safe
- Physical and mental health
- Good education and opportunities
- A home for every family
- Clean, green and eco friendly
- Happy and inclusive

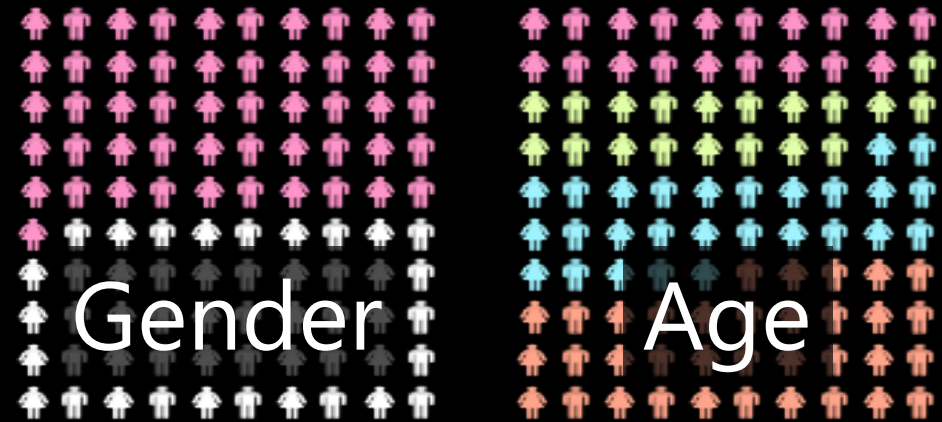
Children and young people say **NO** to:

- Poverty
- Bullying
- Racism
- Domestic abuse

Birmingham as a village

Birmingham is a vibrant and diverse place, but there is also hidden need. If Birmingham were a village of 100 children and young people, this is how we'd look:

- **51** children are boys, **49** are girls
- **19** children would be aged 0-4,
19 aged 5-9,
27 aged 10-17 and
36 aged 18-25
- The village has the following ethnicity:
53 White British, **14** Pakistani, **7** Other ethnicity, **6** Indian, **5** White other, **4** Black Caribbean, **4** Mixed ethnicity, **3** Bangladeshi, **3** Black African, **1** Chinese



Birmingham as a village

Birmingham is a vibrant and diverse place, but there is also hidden need. If Birmingham were a village of 100 children and young people, this is how we'd look:

- **62** children are happy, but
- **41** children grow up in poverty and deprivation, before Covid-19. In three localities more than half are in poverty
- **19** children are in a household with at least one of the following needs at an acute level: mental ill-health, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse
- **24** children suffer from a diagnosable or lower level mental health need



This is how we can all
make things better for
Birmingham children & families

Birmingham's BIG IDEAS

1. Be a child friendly city

We celebrate our youth and super-diversity, value our children and young people, and we are a Child Friendly City.

2. Invest in early help

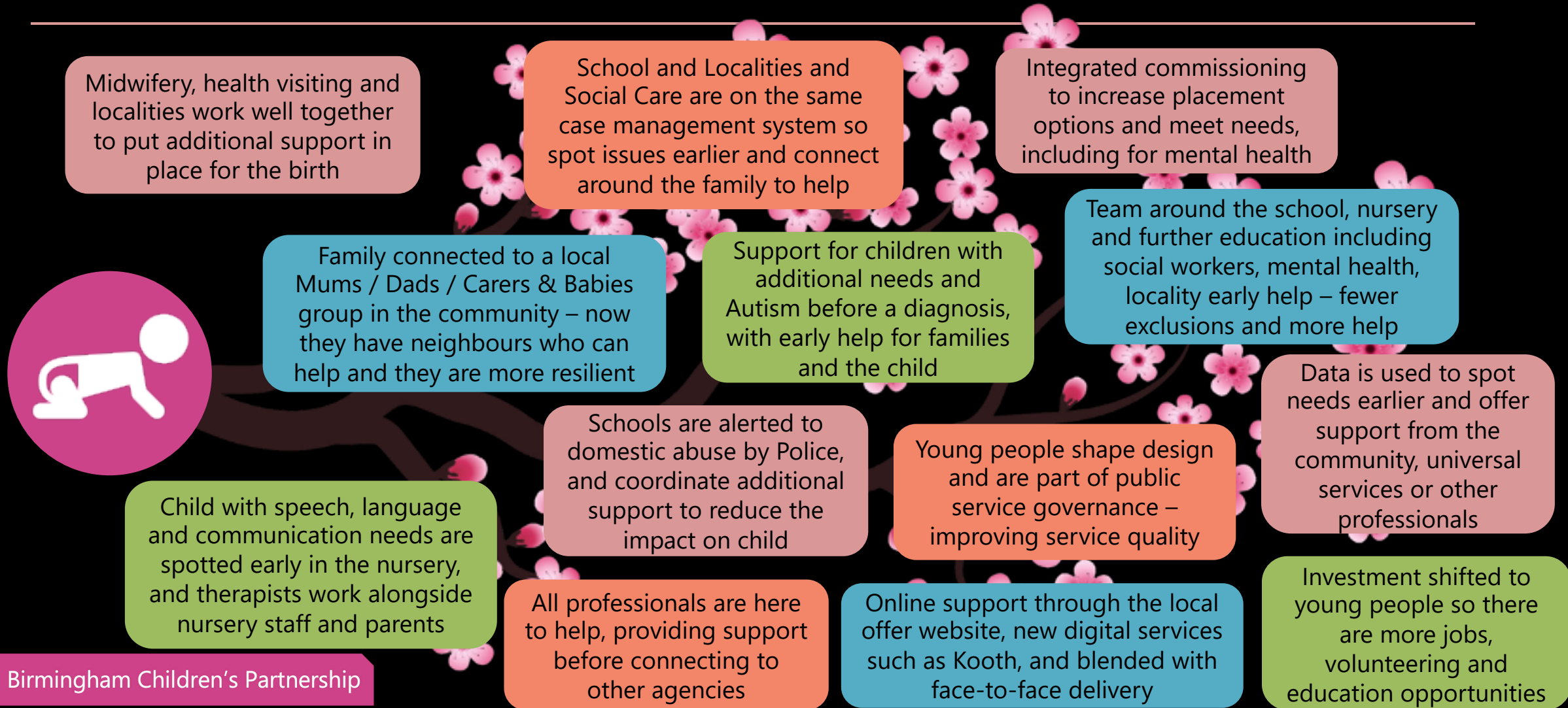
Early help is everyone's business, and the responsibility of all professionals. We are investing to support families before their needs get worse.

3. Lift children out of poverty

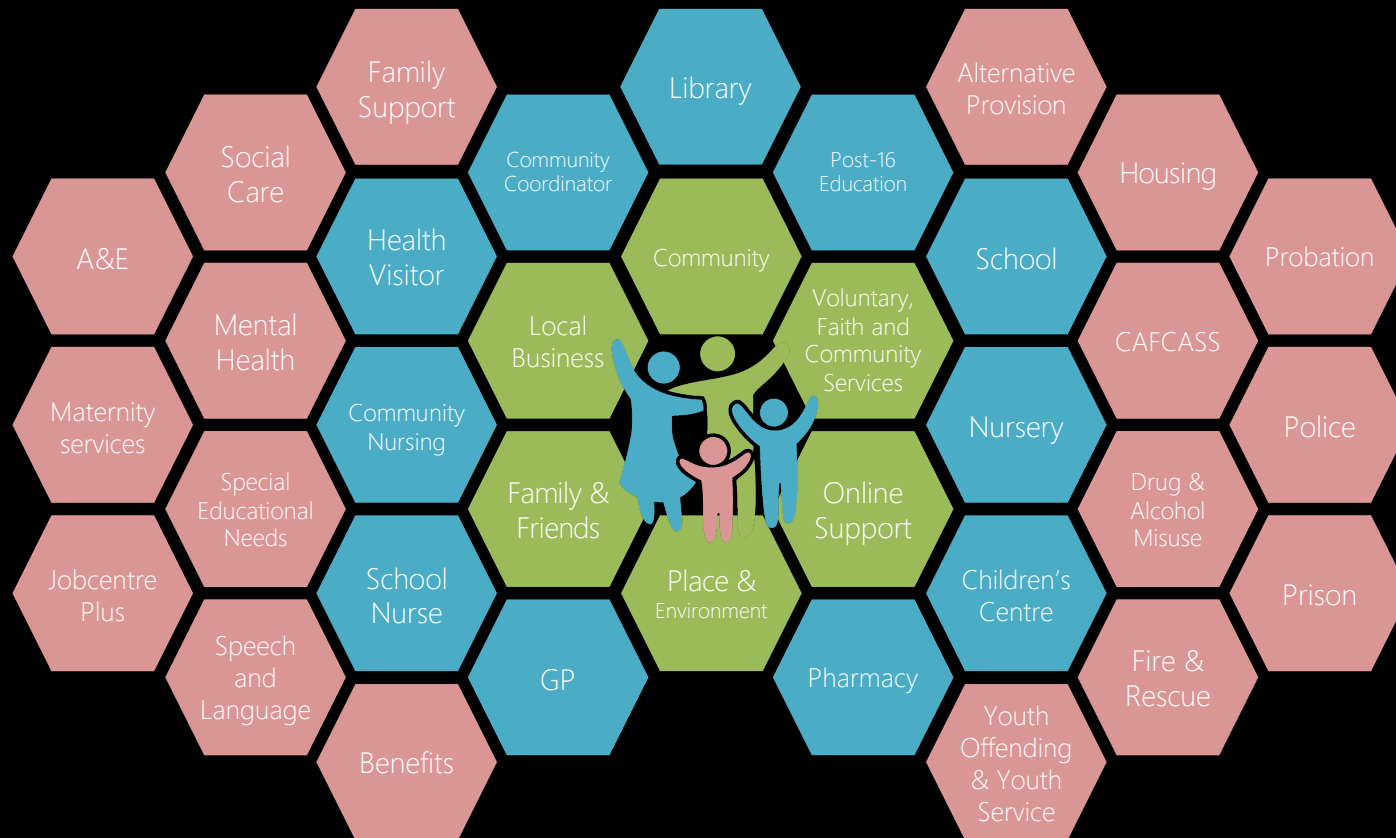
Through this investment we will reduce the number of children growing up in poverty, invest in jobs, education and outdoor spaces, and reduce needs such as mental ill-health, substance misuse and domestic abuse.

So every child and young person has a bright future

What will feel different



So what is early help?



- By early help we mean **the total support that improves a family's resilience and outcomes, or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse.**
- So this picture shows the early help system. The most important parts are in green: **friends, family** and the **community** that keep us all resilient. **Universal services** such as schools and GPs are shown in blue, and in pink we have more **acute services** that dip into early help.
- 50,000+ people work in early help in Birmingham.



How can we all contribute?

1. Big increase in early help for families
2. Early help is everyone's business
3. Working in localities
4. No referrals for early help: Connect around the family
5. Team around schools, nurseries & further education
6. Community, faith and voluntary Sectors
7. Shared case management

How can we all contribute?

The changes described in this vision will only work if we all take action. There are thousands of small things we need to improve, but we've picked out seven for now:

1. **Big increase in early help support** that families can access, from their community, through education settings and online.
2. **Early help is everyone's business** (inc teachers, police, health visitors, therapists, GPs, housing), and the responsibility of all professionals. Our shared culture is to be curious and consider the whole needs of the family, act straight-away to improve outcomes, and connect to other professionals if needs are complex.
3. We will all (well nearly all) **work in localities**, so we can get to know the community, build relationships with other professionals, and understand local resources that help families.
4. **No more referrals for early help.** As professionals we connect around families and maintain the relationship, even if a family's needs go up or down. Referrals continue for safeguarding concerns as usual.
5. New **teams around schools, nurseries** and **further education**, with named professionals such as from social care and mental health. So teachers have someone to call and talk over a family's needs.
6. We are building **capacity** and more **support** in the **community, faith** and **voluntary sectors** – and connect the most vulnerable families to this new capacity. Each outcome plan will have something from the community to help them.
7. There will be a **shared case management** system that connects all professionals supporting early help, so families tell their story once, we share data and connect around families.

What can you do to help?

What changes can you make in your role?

How do you support children and young people?

Can you have a different conversation with a family or give more help?

Principles to work together

1. Build relationships and more compassion
2. Connections, localities and communities
3. Whole family working and co-production
4. Share data and intelligence
5. Invest in early help
6. Trust



Principles to work together

These are our six principles for the changes:

1. We focus on **relationships** and bring even more **compassion** to our processes and service delivery
 2. Services and systems are **connected** around families: multi-agency teams are based in **localities** and professionals are part of the **community**
 3. Frontline practice embraces **whole family working** and **co-production** with families
 4. We **share data and intelligence** to help target those most in need
 5. We collectively **rebalance investment from acute services to early help** for children and families, and
 6. Leaders at all levels **trust** each other, we solve problems as a system and share risks.
- Whilst there is a lot going on, we don't want this to feel like a big transformation. It's just **1000 small steps** that we are all taking together, which is why it's so important that everyone contributes.
 - This vision for children and families is shared with the Birmingham City Council Early Intervention Programme and Sustainability and Transformation Plan for the health and care system.
 - We will always need to support acute need, but we can reduce this and invest more in early help. If we don't change, we will keep getting the same outcomes, and continue to spend **£377m each year on late interventions**.

Big actions partners are taking



Bits & bobs

From Birmingham with Love

Everyone is going through a tough time with Covid-19 and lockdown. For many families, a little more help will make all the difference. Here are some of the early help resources that professionals can share with all families...



Online parenting course. We've pre-paid for every parent, grandparent and carer in Birmingham to access £88 of [online courses](#). Just enter the code "COMMUNITY" at the top of the page to claim. Learn about how your child (from bump to 19) develops, and get tips to manage their behaviour.



Mental health support. In these difficult times we have to look after our mental health. For young people aged 11-25 there are forums, guides and counselling available at [Kooth](#). If your child 0-25 needs support, get in touch with Pause by calling 0207 841 4470 or [email](#). Adults can get support from [MIND](#) by calling 0121 262 3555. Or for urgent help call [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) on 0300 300 0099. And remember to stay [active](#).



Financial help. If you've lost your job, or are struggling for food or rent there are services that can help. [Local welfare provision](#) can make a big difference if you are in a crisis and need food, fuel or basic white goods. [Discretionary Housing Payments](#) may be able to help with rent. And there are [food banks](#) across Birmingham that are here to help.



Domestic abuse. For women and children affected by domestic abuse please see [guidance](#) or confidentially contact [Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid](#). For Men, please contact [Respect](#). Also [Ask for ANI](#) and the [Safe Spaces](#) scheme where victims can access help through pharmacies.



Problems with drugs or alcohol. A new, discrete app called Staying Free is available on Android or Apple. Use the code "birmingham11" for pre-paid access. To speak to someone call [Change Grow Live](#).



Bereavement support. It's a terrible time to lose a loved one — you can get help by calling 0121 687 8010 or from [Cruse](#).



Early help for families. If anyone in your family needs more help, from public services or community groups, then please contact our [voluntary sector Locality Leads](#). We have ten areas which can connect you to support across the city.

If you are worried about a child, please call Birmingham's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888. In an emergency, including child abuse, contact the Police on 999. You can also [chat](#) to the Police.

1. I trust the professionals working with me and my family — they understand us better

2. We only tell our story once. I get offered help much earlier now and everyone works together. There is someone in my life listening and caring for me and my family, and appreciating our strengths

3. I set the outcomes in my family plan with my lead practitioner. I know how to improve our lives, navigate the system and get support if there are problems. Improving outcomes make a difference to our lives

4. When things get tough, I know the relationships I have with my friends and community will help me

FAMILIES

1. Local leaders trust each other and share responsibility to improve all outcomes for the place and population across the life course, with evidence and quality assurance of collective impact

2. Trust is underpinned by governance with shared responsibilities, e.g. Combined Authority, Public Service Board, Alliances

3. Local coordination of the family support system ensures needs are met, often matchmaking between demand and local resources and assets

4. There is an ambitious strategy that is transforming the local families support system and reducing demand to acute services. Prevention focussed initiatives are coordinated and seen as interdependent, such as crime, serious violence, child poverty, obesity, integrated communities

LEADERS

1. In my community and networks, people know each other better and look out for how they can help

2. Our community and public services agreed to work together to promote and develop community resources, spaces and activity

3. There are local projects and groups in our neighbourhood, connected to family support services. Businesses play an important role in the community

4. We help to design our local services. Any work with my community or family is done in partnership

COMMUNITIES

1. There is a professional family support service. Whole family working is the norm for all people-facing public services through a shared practice model. And early help and family support is seen as everyone's responsibility

2. Public services work together in integrated hubs based in the community with a common footprint

3. Universal services such as schools and nurseries are supported to help local families and vulnerable people, with access to intelligence and common case management across the early help system

4. Data sharing across partners enables joint intelligence and risk-based analysis of families' needs, including finding and offering support to families with hidden needs

WORKFORCE

Family Outcomes

This is the Central Government vision for early help.

It's their first vision in ten years and we are delivering this in Birmingham.

Ten localities

Sutton Coldfield Broadly a well-resourced area with low levels of deprivation in comparison with the rest of the city, one estate Falcon Lodge where need is higher. High level of adopted children. Emotional and mental health issues also a concern. Large volunteer base and faith groups.

Perry Barr Many newly arrived communities including Romanian, Polish, African, Afghan and Iraqi. High transient population. Houses with more than one family, informal arrangements. High levels of domestic abuse and poverty. Strong food networks and faith based community spaces.

Ladywood Significantly young and diverse population with 75% BAME and many new arrivals. Ladywood includes the city centre and is the second most deprived – unemployment and debt are key issues. Strong community links and many voluntary and community groups applying for grants to support local families.

Edgbaston Wide disparity but with poor estates and wards in the West, and large number of families in temporary accommodation on the Hagley road. Good links with churches but no mosques. Partnerships are well developed.

Northfield Long term area of high need compounded by Rover factory closure. Digital poverty, higher needs highlighted by IDACI index. Families have low expectations. Some concern about racism, broadly white population with small groups of BAME communities. Northfield community partnership supporting a large number of families.



Erdington Mid-ranking in terms of deprivation. Police 'impact area'. Regeneration in parts but family needs remain high, hidden issues even if housing looks good. Mental health a concern and Kooth is popular. Established partnerships and strong youth offer.

Hodge Hill The most deprived locality in the city, and not just in particular wards. Huge diversity in the West of the area, predominately white working class in the East of the locality. Families won't travel across the locality. Concerns about honour-based violence. Other concerns about violence and anti-social behaviour.

Yardley Mid-ranking in terms of Birmingham deprivation, but high when compared nationally. Concerns about domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, parenting neglect, with diverse communities. Need to build links with grass-roots groups.

Hall Green Broadly high need in North of locality, diverse community, and wealthier in South with need more hidden. Infant mortality and SEND issues a concern. LGBTQ issues and barriers. Strong Islamic organisations in the area, good outreach through Unity FM.

Selly Oak Mixed locality, Bournville wealthier but Druids Heath and Billesley with high needs. Some estates with significant needs, generations of unemployment. Low confidence, trust, not asking for help. Youth crime a concern. Mental health also of concern locally with people not accessing services. Strong links between Malachi and schools. Some links to churches and Jewish community.

Links and helpful contacts

The following are helpful links to guidance and resources:

- [**Safeguarding**](#) – the Local Safeguarding Partnership website. If you have a safeguarding concern about a child or young person please call 0121 303 1888
- [**Right Help, Right Time**](#) – essential guide for anyone working with children and young people in Birmingham. Guidance and a framework including thresholds of need agreed across the partnership.
- **Early Help Handbook** – additional guidance on early help for everyone working with children and young people.
- [**Local Offer**](#) – advice, guidance and signposting to all services and resources for children, young people and families in the city.
- [**Bennie's Babbies**](#) by Cold War Steve