



# CHANGE FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE: 2023-2028



**BIRMINGHAM  
CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
PARTNERSHIP**

# CHANGE FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

## Introduction from Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership

We are delighted to share Birmingham's five-year Children and Young People's Plan. This plan sets out the strategic actions we will take together to achieve our bold ambition: to make Birmingham a great place to grow up for all our children and young people.

We want all our babies, children, and young people to be healthy, safe, confident, included, happy, respected, and connected to meaningful opportunities so they can thrive as they prepare for adulthood.

We will only achieve our ambition if we put Birmingham's children and young people at the heart of everything we do. Our plan has been developed in collaboration with children and young people and contains hopes and challenges that matter most to them.

We are proud to join the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities programme, committing to put the rights of children and young people at

the heart of our plan, and to design and deliver our action plans with children and young people. Our plan is based on analysis of our successes and opportunities, as well as our understanding of the challenges we face together. Birmingham is a city with boundless potential, but too many of our children and young people face significant disadvantages, and do not benefit from the opportunities our city has to offer.

We know that we must tackle together these deep-seated structural inequalities if we are to improve life chances for our most vulnerable groups of children and young people. As we continue to improve our insight from data analysis and best available evidence, our plan will focus on improving the help we offer to children, young people and families who face significant disadvantage.



Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership includes the Council, NHS, Police, and Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC), and we work with the education sector, the wider public sector, the private sector, and with our families and communities.

We believe in the power of relationships. Our plan is about building and sustaining good quality relationships with children, young people, their families, and communities. It's about compassionate, inclusive leadership, and forging effective collaboration between professionals.

As a partnership, we are committed to combining our skills and resources across organisations and sectors to better understand and tackle the issues across our city.

Together, we will build trust and overcome deep-rooted challenges.

Together, we will lead a collaborative learning approach to make real system change happen.

Together, we will make Birmingham a great place to grow up for all our children and young people.

**Signed by the members of the Birmingham Children & Young People's Partnership Board:**

# INTRODUCTION FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

## BIRMINGHAM: A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP

### CONFIDENCE

“Professionals that we can go to for help with our problems.”

“Reduce stigma about getting support for at school.”

### SAFETY

“Safer streets are very important. Crime rates are very high, for anyone at all, going out alone seems like a dangerous journey and many may not be allowed to go out alone because of the danger. Improved safety would also save many lives.”

### CONNECTION

“We need more free activities and places to go that are closer to where we live, so we don’t have to travel far.”

“Create more work experience and job opportunities for young people.”

### RESPECT

“No more bullying at school”

“Take children and young people’s views seriously and support us to get involved in decisions.”

### HEALTH

“More help for mental health before our problems get worse.”

“More young people are realising that they are neuro-divergent – we need support.”

### INCLUSION

“Help more children and young people feel included in opportunities and events.”

“Tackle racism!”

As young people living in Birmingham, we believe that feeling safe, respected, and included in our city is crucial. In this plan, we want to share our perspectives, which have been gathered from different groups of young people. We strongly believe that confidence is vital for us to thrive. We should not be degraded or questioned in our right to be included and respected by others.

Safety is a big concern for us. We should feel safe and comfortable when accessing services that can provide us with help. We should not fear violence or harm when going outside, as it impacts our physical and mental health.

Inclusion is another big idea for us. We want to feel like we belong in our city and are part of something. This could be through youth groups or other opportunities to get involved. We also think it’s important to have easy access to health services.

We know that the challenges of the pandemic, cost of living crisis, and impact on our education have affected our well-being, including our mental health. We urge professionals, families, and the city to work together in addressing these issues and offering more opportunities for us to progress. We want to be actively involved in decision-making processes that affect our lives. This plan emphasises the need for collective efforts to make Birmingham a safe and inclusive city for all children and young people.

We hope that the plan will help make Birmingham a great place for all children and young people to grow up. We want our voices to be heard, and we hope that our ideas will be taken seriously.





ONE PARTNERSHIP  
WITH ONE SET OF  
PRIORITIES

## OUR AMBITION & OUTCOMES



We are **THRIVING**,  
because we are...



**CONNECTED** to meaningful opportunities and we are prepared for adulthood.



**CONFIDENT** to connect with help we can trust at the right time, right place.



**INCLUDED** and get the most we can from our home, school and community.



**HEALTHY** as possible and nurtured throughout our life course.



**SAFE** at home, and in places and spaces outside of our families and schools.



**HAPPY** and **RESPECTED** Our voices and lived experience matter.



# BIRMINGHAM'S ACHIEVEMENTS

We think that Birmingham has lots to be proud of in what we have achieved with and for children and young people



## We are RESPECTED.

UNICEF RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS AWARD

210 of Birmingham's education settings have achieved the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award

More than 103,800 children and young people have benefited from attending a school involved in the RRSA programme.

Source: UNICEF



## We are CONFIDENT.

**Young people make educational progress**  
In 2021, 51.20% of 15-year-old pupils from state funded schools entered higher education.

6.8% above the England average.

61.70% of young people studying at the age of 16 attained a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.

2.2% above the England average.

Source: Department for Education



## WHAT MAKE BIRMINGHAM A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP?

Things that children and young people have told us about our city

"Range of different cultures living side by side, mostly getting along well. The range of leisure activities from shopping centres, sports, parks, and activity centres"

"It is a very happy and fun community to live in"

**"A super-diverse city!"**

"It's a welcoming city. Not as crowded as London. There are some nice places. Lots of fun activities for children. Great museums and places to go."

**"The city is alive!"**

Source: survey with 899 children and young people 2023



## We are INCLUDED.

### Secondary Phase Transfers

The rate of Secondary Phase Transfers completed by the 15 February deadline has significantly increased:

0% in 2021,  
98.82% February 2022  
99.4% in February 2023.

These transfers are when children with special education needs, and their families know what secondary school they are going to attend at the next stage of their education.

Source: Birmingham City Council and Department for Education



## We are SAFE.

### Improvements in the Children and Young People's Travel Service

Since September 2021 when the percentage of eligible students accessing Transport support was 88.25%, significant improvements have been made in the way students are identified as needing transport and added to routes and our figures are now consistently above 99% each month.

Source: BCC

## Stronger Families

Birmingham Children's Trust Stronger Families programme is a collection of services designed to support children to stay in, or return to, their families. In the year, 62 children have returned from care to their families, and 370 children have been supported to stay with their families when there was a risk of harm or family breakdown, and they have gone on to need lower levels of support than had been the case

Source: Birmingham Children's Trust

# WHAT WE KNOW

Here are some data about what we know about children and young people in Birmingham:



# OUR VALUES



## OPENNESS

We are open and honest as with each other, and with children, young people, families, and communities



## INTEGRITY

We take responsibility for our actions, and we keep the commitments we make to partners and to children, young people, and their families



## BOLDNESS

We support and challenge each other to take risks and we committed to action, and making things happen



## COLLABORATION

We value the contribution made by all our partners, we build and maintain good quality relationships with children, young people, and families



## LEARNING

Our partnership will achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people if we create opportunities to learn together as a system

# HOW WE WILL WORK

As a partnership,  
all our work together is  
underpinned by our shared  
values and principles.

## Children and young people are at the heart of everything we do

We are committed to creating opportunities for children, young people, and families to participate fully in the codesign of services throughout everything we do. We will continue to refine and adapt our plan in response to views and lived experience of children and young people.

## We are ambitious for every child and young person in Birmingham

We will work together to improve universal help and early support. We know we must tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for our vulnerable groups. We will make use of the best available data and evidence. Our plan will focus on children and young people who face outcome inequalities, and we will tackle racism and disproportionality.

## We are one partnership, with one set of priorities.

The shared ambition of our plan is to make Birmingham a great place to grow up. We are taking a place-based approach to deliver this ambition, and we know as system leaders that we must forge effective cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary collaboration around agreed and collective strategic actions. Our organisations have different transformation plans, but we work in unison toward our shared ambition.

## We are relationship based & restorative in our approach.

We invest in relationships. We work with respect and compassion with children, young people, families, communities, and professionals.

We create inclusive organisational cultures. We are proactive in reaching out to children, young people and families who need support.

We are aware of and responsive to trauma & adversity. We use restorative responses to conflict and harm.





# OUR PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

## We will provide bold system leadership.

Our children, young people and families face complex change and challenges. To respond effectively alongside them, and to make Birmingham a great place to grow up, we will work together as leaders across our disciplines and sectors.

In this way, we will set the example for colleagues across all our organisations to collaborate in decisions and actions that will improve outcomes. We will provide bold system leadership that changes the conditions of our children and young people.

## We will hold each other to account with support, oversight, and challenge.

We will be driven in all our work by our determination to improve outcomes for children and young people, to tackle the system conditions faced by families and communities, especially in relation to poverty and structural inequalities.

As partners we will actively support and challenge each other to collaborate on the practical steps we need to take to achieve the change.

## We will base our offer to children and young people in the best available evidence.

We know that the effects of disadvantage and adversity in early life can be negative, but we also know that these effects are not universal or irreversible.

We will draw on available evidence, and we will test programmes of support, and learn from the findings.

## We will know what difference we make.

We believe that help and support can substantially improve the life changes of our children and young people, if it is delivered to the highest standard with the families who need it most.

We will make use of data, evidence and seek the voice and lived experience of children, young people, and families to understand whether and how our offer has been effective in improving outcomes. We will use this information to influence future decisions and to refine our plan.





CONNECTED



RESPECTED



CONFIDENT



INCLUDED



HEALTHY



HAPPY



SAFE

## OUR COLLECTIVE STRATEGIC ACTIONS

### JOIN UP OUR OFFER

in local places so our children, young people, and families can connect with help and support they trust throughout the life-course

### CREATE AN INCLUSIVE CITY

so all our children and young people can connect with meaningful opportunities and thrive

### BUILD SAFETY

with children, young people, their families, and communities at home and outside of home

Act together as partners to tackle poverty and inequality faced by our children, young people, families, and communities.



# CREATE AN INCLUSIVE CITY

so all our children and young people can connect with meaningful opportunities and thrive

## What we will do

- Connect our families, babies, children, and young people with joyful things to do, such as arts, heritage, sport, and leisure
- Create safe, happy, welcoming, and inclusive places to learn and grow.
- Support and empower children and young people to develop strong voices, get involved, influence decision-making, setting them up as confident adults.
- Respond effectively to babies, children, and young people with SEND and to those with additional needs, identifying those needs at the earliest possible point.
- Create inclusive cultures in our organisations and services, and reduce exclusion from education settings.
- Support our workforce to use relationship-based approaches in their work with babies, children, young people, and their families.
- Increase diversity and build cultural competence across all parts of the children and young people's workforce.







“Safer streets are very important. Crime rates are very high, for anyone at all, going out alone seems like a dangerous journey and many may not be allowed to go out alone because of the danger. Improved safety would also save many lives.”

# BUILD SAFETY

with children, young people, their families, and communities at home and outside of home

## What we will do

- Take place-based and life-course approaches to building safety with children, young people, families in physical and virtual spaces, at home and outside of home.
- Help children and young people to connect with support, safeguarding and protection from harm, wherever and whenever harm is happening.
- Build safety with children, young people, and families where there is harm from domestic abuse and substance misuse.
- Help and support young people as they transition to adulthood including those with SEND and additional needs.
- Design structures across our partnership so that children, young people, and families can build enduring relationships that help to keep them safe.
- Vaccinations and immunisations.





# JOIN UP OUR OFFER

in local places so our children, young people, and families can connect with help and support they trust throughout the life-course

## What we will do

- Design integrated service systems, so professionals from different services can work together effectively, and families can connect with help and support they trust when and where they need it.
- Offer help and support close to where children, young people and families live, whether at school, in children's centres, libraries or community buildings.
- Connect families to help and support that improves outcomes for babies, children, and young people, from preconception, through early years, childhood, and adolescence, and into young adulthood.
- Improve our digital offer, so that children, young people, and families can connect with digital information, advice, and support.







## INCLUSIVE CITY

### How we will know we are making a difference

- 2-year-old children benefitting from funded early education
- 3- and 4-year-old taking up some free education
- Children achieving a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage (including FSM and SEN)
- Children achieving expected standard across all early learning goals at foundation stage
- Percentage of new educational health care plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks, excluding exceptions
- KS2 attainment - attaining at least the expected level against Reading, Writing and Maths
- Attainment and Progress 8 (all, disadvantaged and SEN pupils)
- Overall absence rate Primary and Secondary
- Fixed period exclusions – Primary, Secondary, Special School, and LAC and CIN
- Attainment of level 2 and 3 qualifications by the age of 19
- KS4 pupils with SEN support going to, or remaining in education and employment / training

## BUILD SAFETY

### How we will know we are making a difference

- Prevalence of obesity – Reception and Year 6
- Percentage of physically active children and young people
- Access to parks and greenspaces (distance from home)
- Re-referral to children's social care within 12 months
- Children who become the subject of a Child Protection plan for a second or subsequent time within the last 2 years
- Children in care experiencing three or more moves within a year
- Children in need subject to a Child Protection Plan who are persistent absentees (6 half term)
- Number of children who have been adopted in year or who leave care
- Average time between a child coming into care and being placed with an adoptive family
- First time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 children)
- Youth violence crime exploitation location count in Birmingham
- Domestic Abuse rate over 16
- Under 18s conception rate

## OUR OFFER

### How we will know we are making a difference

- Total numbers of families in Bed and Breakfast over 6 weeks
- Care leavers in suitable accommodation
- Early Help Plans
- Number of children and young people with EHCP awaiting specialist placements for more than 12 weeks
- Workless households
- 19- to 21-year-old care leavers in education, employment, or training
- NEET and NEET rate (ages 16-17) Unknown
- Youth unemployment levels 18 to 24
- Proportion of people with a learning disability living in their own home or with family
- Long-term support needs of younger adults (aged 18-64) met by admission to residential and nursing care home
- Infant mortality rate
- Children aged 2-2 1/2 years receiving AQA-3
- Hospital admissions for asthma under 19 years
- Hospital admissions - substance misuse, self-harm, mental health, alcohol-specific conditions





# GOVERNANCE & ALIGNMENT

Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership Board will oversee the progress made in the delivery of our plan, so that we know the difference we are making.  
An annual report will be published in each year to report on the progress made throughout the duration of plan.  
This report will include a ‘you said, we did’ section in response to the views of children and young people.  
The plan has been developed in alignment with the following Boards, strategies and plans:

Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care Board – Place Board	Birmingham City Council Corporate Plan 2022-2026
Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board	Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System Ten Year Masterplan
Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership	Learning Disabilities and Autism 10 Year Framework for Change
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership	Birmingham SEND Strategy 2023-2028 – link when available
Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board	Birmingham Inclusion Strategy 2023-2028 – link when available
Birmingham Reducing Violence Board	Birmingham Domestic Abuse Strategy
West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership	





## Contacts details



**BIRMINGHAM  
CHILDREN &  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
PARTNERSHIP**