

# Nottingham City Children and Young People's Plan

## 2021-2023

### DRAFT ONE - FOR CONSULTATION

**As Chair of the Children's Partnership Board, I am proud to say that our Children's Partnership remains strong and committed to improving the lives of Nottingham's children, young people and families.**

**I am delighted to present this refreshed plan, which is written to reflect the views of Nottingham's children, young people, families and communities.**

**Whilst our vision, values and priorities remain similar to those in our last plan, we've used 2020 as an opportunity to stop, reflect and engage with children and young people. Developing this plan in the context of a global pandemic and thinking about other societal changes, like the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement, has made us think about where we want to focus our energies as a partnership.**

**We remain ambitious for children and young people in Nottingham City. We will continue to act in the best interests of all children, particularly for those who are vulnerable or who may be more isolated, including children with special educational needs and disabilities, young carers or those who need help and protection.**

**This plan sets out how we will work together over the next two years to make a difference for children, young people and families. We know that reductions to public sector spending and increased demands on all partners are likely to make this a challenging time for us all. This makes it more important than ever that partners come together to keep children and young people at the heart of all that we do.**

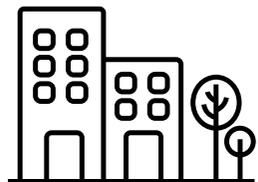


Councillor Cheryl Barnard,  
Portfolio Holder for  
Children and Young People and  
Joint Chair of the  
Children's Partnership Board





**Nottingham has circa 333,000 residents, with over 69,000 children (under 18)**



**There are 46,869 pupils in Nottingham schools. 16% of the school age population have special educational needs or disabilities.**



**58.5% of children live in families where no adults work or where those who are in work earn an income low enough to receive tax credits.**



**Three of 10 of the City's areas (LSOAs) are in the worst 10% nationally for health deprivation and disability. Just under 2/3rds are in the worst 20%.**

## **Views of children and young people:**

We've taken every opportunity to engage with children and young people and get their views, including an engagement session between representatives of the Youth Cabinet and members of Children's Partnership Board in January 2020 and a Youth Leadership Conference in November 2020.

### **Young people have told us about the things that they are proud of about Nottingham:**

Nottingham is a tolerant city, that values diversity.

There are lots of opportunities to access entertainment, arts and culture.

Public transport is affordable, provides good coverage and is safe.

### **They've also told us about what they'd like to see more of:**

Safe places for children and young people to go.

Opportunities to get involved and participate, developing wider life skills.

Pathways for young people into vocational provision, apprenticeships, college or work.

Work to tackle inequality and discrimination, including development of a more inclusive, decolonised curriculum

Support to meet emotional and mental health needs.

Use of digital and tech-enabled methods of communicating with, and supporting, young people

### **Our Vision:**

A city where every child can enjoy their childhood in a warm and supportive environment, free from poverty and safe from harm; a city where every child grows up to achieve their full potential.

### **Our Values:**

- 1) Children and young people are at the heart of all that we do.
- 2) We will listen to, and act on, the views of children, young people and communities.
- 3) We will work to ensure that children, young people and families can access the right help at the right time.
- 4) We will work to build strong relationships with children, young people and families, based on trust and respect.

**Children, young people and families in Nottingham will be:**

**Happy and  
Healthy**

**Safe and  
Supported**

**Learning and  
Achieving**

**Heard and  
Included**

## Happy and Healthy:

From pregnancy and throughout the life course babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Giving children the best start in life is key. Improving maternal health and ensuring parents can access good antenatal and midwifery care is vital to this. Helping families to develop positive habits early in a child's life will help to keep them safe and help to form good attachments.

Ensuring that children's physical health needs are met will help to address known challenges for Nottingham's children, including childhood obesity and poor dental health.

Good mental and emotional wellbeing underpins so much of our lives. We will work to ensure that children, young people, parents and carers are able to access the support they need to meet their mental health needs.

Parental misuse of drugs and alcohol can shape children's experiences of family life and when children misuse substances the impact can be life-long and life-changing.

## Happy and Healthy Priorities



**Improving the health and wellbeing of parents and babies**

**Improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of children,  
young people and families**

**Improving the physical health of children and young people**

**Reducing the impact of substance misuse on children and  
young people**

## **Safe and Supported:**

Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective help and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.

Children and young people need strong families and wider networks of support to help them to thrive. Helping parents to develop good parenting skills and focussing on building healthy relationships within families will help to create safe and secure home environments.

Nottingham has a long history as an early intervention city and we remain committed to making a difference for children at the earliest opportunity to stop needs escalating. There are clear opportunities and challenges for early help services across the partnership so developing a clear vision and strategy for early help and intervention is a priority for the Children's Partnership Board moving forwards.

In 2018, we established the City's Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation Programme. This was in response to the tragic deaths of a number of young people in the City and an increasing awareness of child criminal exploitation and a growth in weapon-enabled crime. We will continue to prioritise work to tackle youth violence and exploitation.

## **Safe and Supported Priorities:**

**Helping parents and promoting healthy relationships**

**Intervening early to prevent needs escalating**

**Tackling Youth Violence and Exploitation**

**Promoting whole family approaches that tackle the causes,  
not the symptoms**



## Learning and Achieving:

All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.

Ensuring that children have access to early learning opportunities is a priority for the City. This will help them to develop speech and language skills, reach developmental milestones and get them ready for learning at school.

At the moment, this does not always happen and some children start school without the skills they need to achieve in line with their peers. This is why a focus on progress, as well as a drive to improve the attainment of children, is critical in Nottingham.

For children to learn and achieve, they need to attend school regularly. Reducing persistent absence and exclusion from school have been long-standing priorities for the partnership and will remain so.

Children and young people have said that they want to be able to access a broad and balanced curriculum, as well as vocational learning opportunities.

## Learning and Achieving Priorities



**Ensuring that children are ready for school**

**Ensuring all children make good progress and improving attainment and achievement**

**Improving attendance at school and reducing exclusions**

**Ensuring children and young people have access to a range of good quality educational opportunities to meet their needs**

## Heard and Included:

Ensuring that children, young people, families and communities have a voice is critical and working together to ensure those voices are heard and acted upon is a key responsibility of the Children's Partnership. In 2020, the Black Lives Matter movement and the global pandemic has refocussed everyone's attention on the structural inequalities in our society.

The long-term impact of Covid-19 is likely to widen the gaps and impact our most vulnerable children and families. Work to strengthen financial resilience, reduce the digital divide and promote cohesion in our communities will be a key priority moving forward.

Young people have told us how important it is that they have safe places to go and people to talk to. They City is lucky to have a wealth of voluntary and community organisations who do great work with children and young people. We will work together with these organisations, wherever possible, as a vital community resource.

Helping young people to make a successful transition to adulthood is our final priority. Accessing education, employment and training and other support can be a challenge. We will work together to think about pathways of support to help build the skills for success as an independent adult.

## Heard and Included Priorities



**Creating opportunities for participation, engagement and co-production**

**Promoting inclusion and tackling inequality and discrimination**

**Building community capacity and resources so young people have safe places to go and people to support them**

**Implementing Child Friendly Nottingham**

**Supporting young people as they transition to adulthood**