

Nottingham City

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2021-2024



# Foreword

As Chair of the Children's Partnership, I am proud to say that our 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 2020-21 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, and the particular challenges faced by disadvantaged and marginalised groups, has made us think about where we want to focus our energies as a partnership.

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 all partners come together to keep children and young people at the heart of all that we do. We remain ambitious for children and young people in Nottingham City. We will work in partnership with all partners, including parents and carers, to ensure that children and young people receive the help that they need as soon as it is needed.

Our approach will be graduated and proportionate. We will act in the best interests of all children, particularly those who are vulnerable or who may be more isolated, including children with complex needs, special educational needs and disabilities, young carers, those who need help and protection and our children in care and care leavers.

This plan sets out how we will work together over the next three years to make a difference for children, young people and families.



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

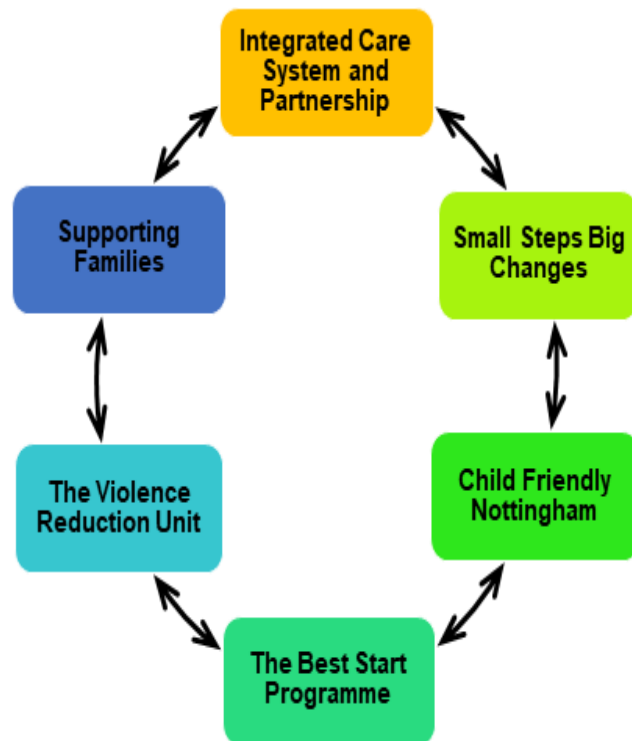
## The Role of the Children's Partnership:

The Children's Partnership brings together partners and programmes to make sure we have a whole-system approach to making things better for our citizens. The role of the partnership is to create a space for partners to share information, identify opportunities to integrate our work, support one another to change and transform the system and overcome the barriers and challenges we may face. The Children's Partnership works alongside other groups and Boards, who also have a role to play in keeping our children and young people safe (Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Partnership), healthy (Health and Wellbeing Board) and looking after children in our care (Corporate Parenting Board).

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets out the shared vision, values and priorities for partners. Representatives from partner agencies have agreed this plan and commit to ensuring that this informs other plans and strategies.

The CYPP is an overarching framework for our work. It will be supported by four key underpinning strategies and frameworks. They are:

- 1) Our Participation and Engagement Strategy
- 2) A Joint Commissioning Strategy
- 3) The Workforce Development Strategy
- 4) A Children's Partnership Performance Framework



## 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, a Youth Leadership Conference and surveys to find out about young people's experiences of Covid-19.

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

- Nottingham is a tolerant city, which 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 curriculum.
- Support to meet their emotional and mental health needs.
- Increased 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 ensure that children, young people and families can access the right help at the right time.**
- 3) We will work with, not do to, children, young people and families.**
- 4) We will listen to, and act on, the views of children, young people and communities.**

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

**Heard and Included**  
**Happy and Healthy**  
**Safe and Supported**  
**Learning and Achieving**

## Heard and Included:

**As our key partners, children young people and families will be listened to and involved in the decisions that affect their lives. We will work with children and families to build on strengths and help them to find their own solutions. We will create a culture of participation, engagement and co-production in Nottingham City.**

To ensure children, young people and families are heard and included we will work to:

### **1) Strengthen opportunities for participation, engagement and co-production**

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.

### **2) Understand the barriers to equality and inclusion and tackle discrimination and disproportionality.**

It is important that people have fair and equal access to help and opportunities. We will not tolerate discrimination in any form. We will challenge inequalities and disproportionality.

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.

### **3) Build community capacity and resources so young people have safe places to go and people to support them**

Young people have told us how important it is that they have safe places to go and people to talk to. TheCity 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 and the private sector, wherever possible, as a vital community resource.



#### 4) Support young people as they prepare for and transition to adulthood

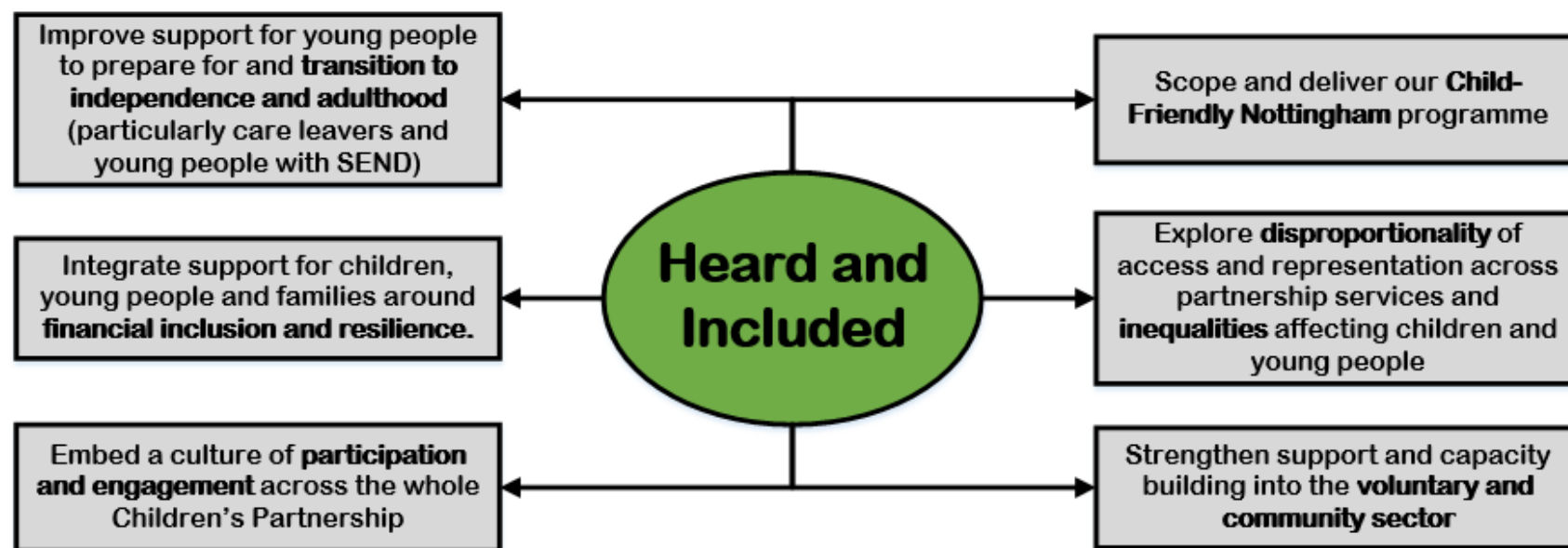
Helping young people to prepare for and make a successful transition to adulthood is our final priority. Accessing education, employment and training and other support can be a challenge. We will work together to think about pathways of support to help build the skills for success as an independent adult.

#### 5) Support children and young people with a Special Education Need and/or Disabilities (SEND) and their families

Nottingham City's Local Area partnership is ambitious to continue to improve outcomes for children and young people with a SEN and/or disability and their families; the co-production of services with families and listening to the voices of children and young people; and partnership working across all agencies to promote health, care and education needs of children, young people and their families.

#### Key actions to deliver:

Further actions and a more detailed delivery plan will be developed by the Heard and Included Sub Group.



## 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.**

To promote the happiness and health of children, young people and families we will work to:

### **1) Improve the health and wellbeing of parents and babies**

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. Through a strengths-based approach, parents and carers will be supported in their role as the early educator to help form the attachment needed for their child/ren to thrive.

### **2) Improve the emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and families**

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

### **3) Improve the physical health of children and young people and support children with long-term conditions.**

Ensuring that children's physical health needs are met will help to address challenges for Nottingham's children, including childhood obesity and poor dental health. Helping children and their families to manage long-term conditions, like asthma or diabetes, is also a priority.



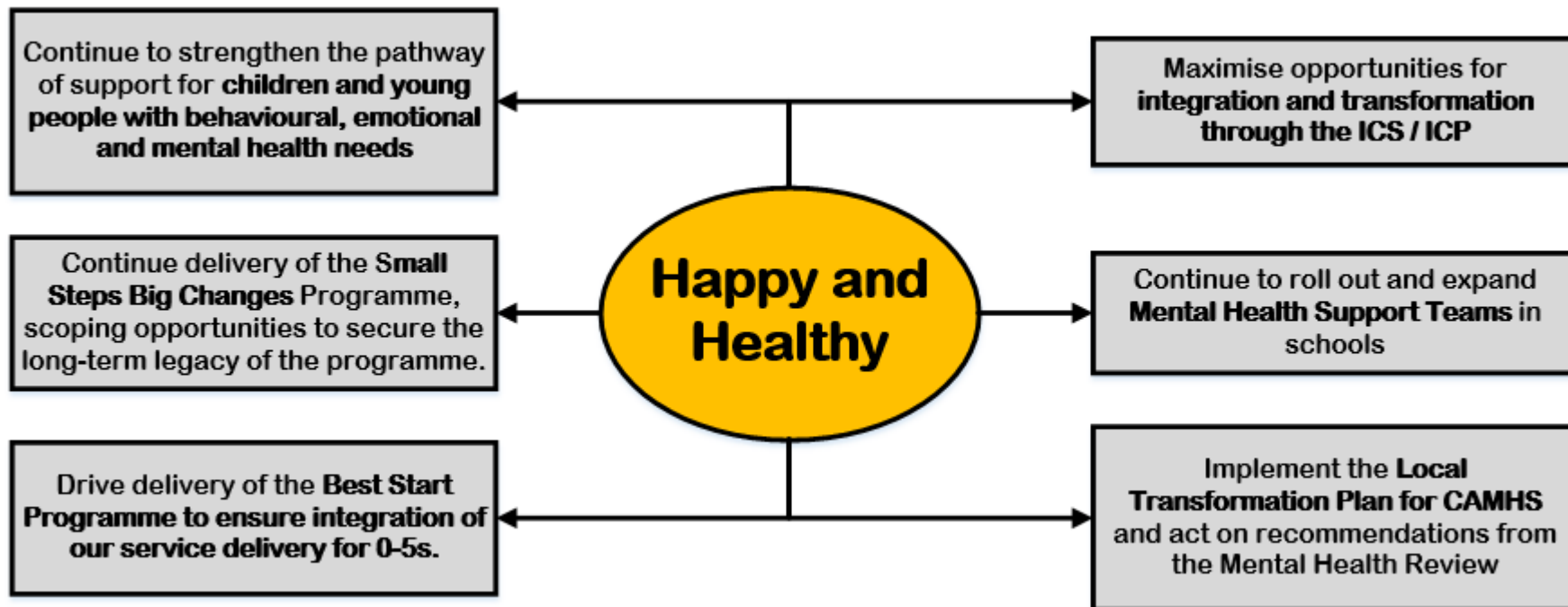


#### 4) Reduce the impact of substance misuse on children and young people

To minimise the impact of substance misuse on children and young people, all partners will work with parents and carers to understand the impact and to make achievable changes to their lifestyle.

#### Key actions to deliver:

Further actions and a more detailed delivery plan will be developed by the Happy and Healthy Sub Group.



## 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.**

Safeguarding children and supporting them to live safely at home is a shared priority and responsibility. The Children's Partnership Board works closely with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Partnership to ensure alignment of our plans and priorities to keep children safe.

To ensure that children, young people and families feel safe and supported we will work to:

### **1) Intervene early to prevent needs escalating**

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 moving forwards.

### **2) Help parents, promoting healthy relationships and embedding a whole family approach**

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

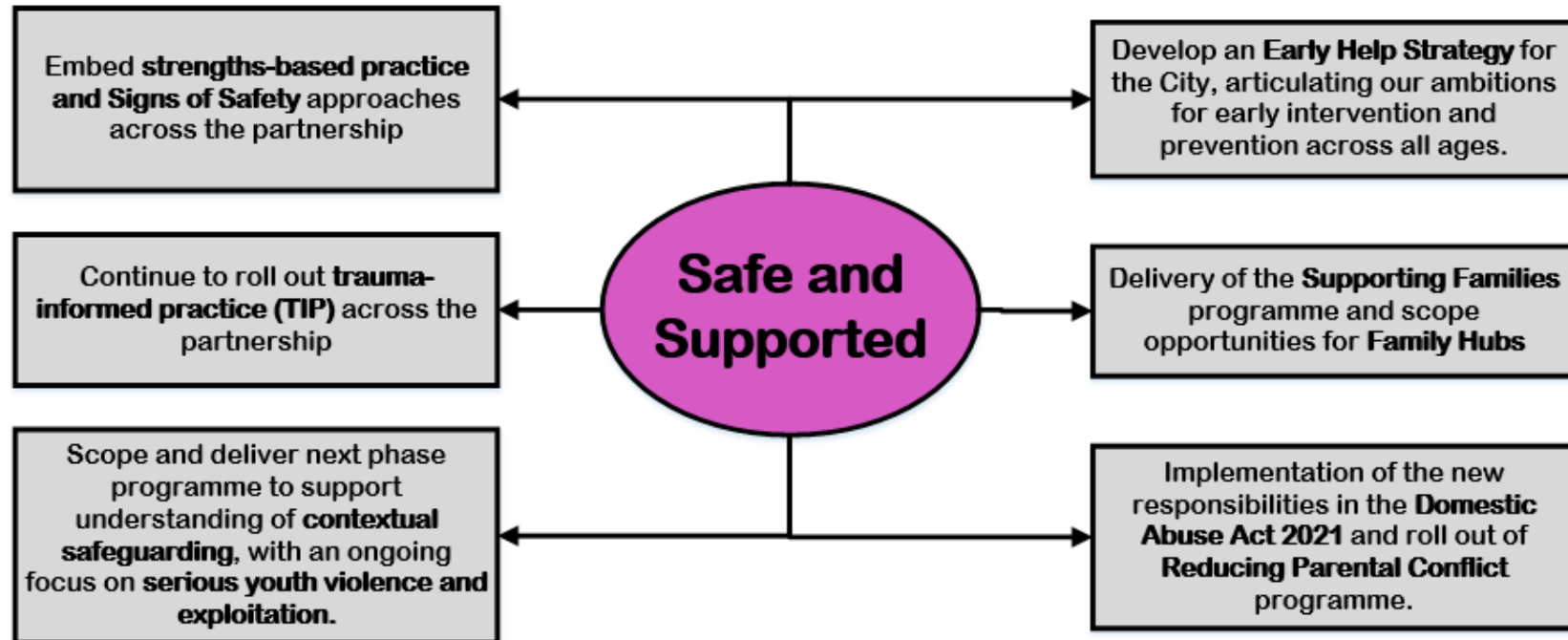
### **3) Embed contextual safeguarding and trauma-informed approaches**

We recognise that not all of the harm to children and young people happens in the home or within the family. Understanding the contextual risks that children face within their wider networks, online and in their community, will help us tackle extra-familial abuse, exploitation and crime. Understanding how trauma and adverse experiences impact life chances and working to design services and support that do not re-traumatise children, young people and adults is central to our next steps as a partnership.



## Key actions to deliver:

Further actions and a more detailed delivery plan will be developed by the Safe and Supported Sub Group.



## 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.**

To help children to learn and achieve we will work to:

### **1) Ensure that children are ready for school**

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.

### **2) Support all children to make good progress and improve attainment and achievement.**

We want all children to start school with the skills they need to achieve in line with their peers. We will focus on improving attainment, ensuring all children make progress and build resilience.

### **3) Improve attendance at school and reducing exclusions**

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.

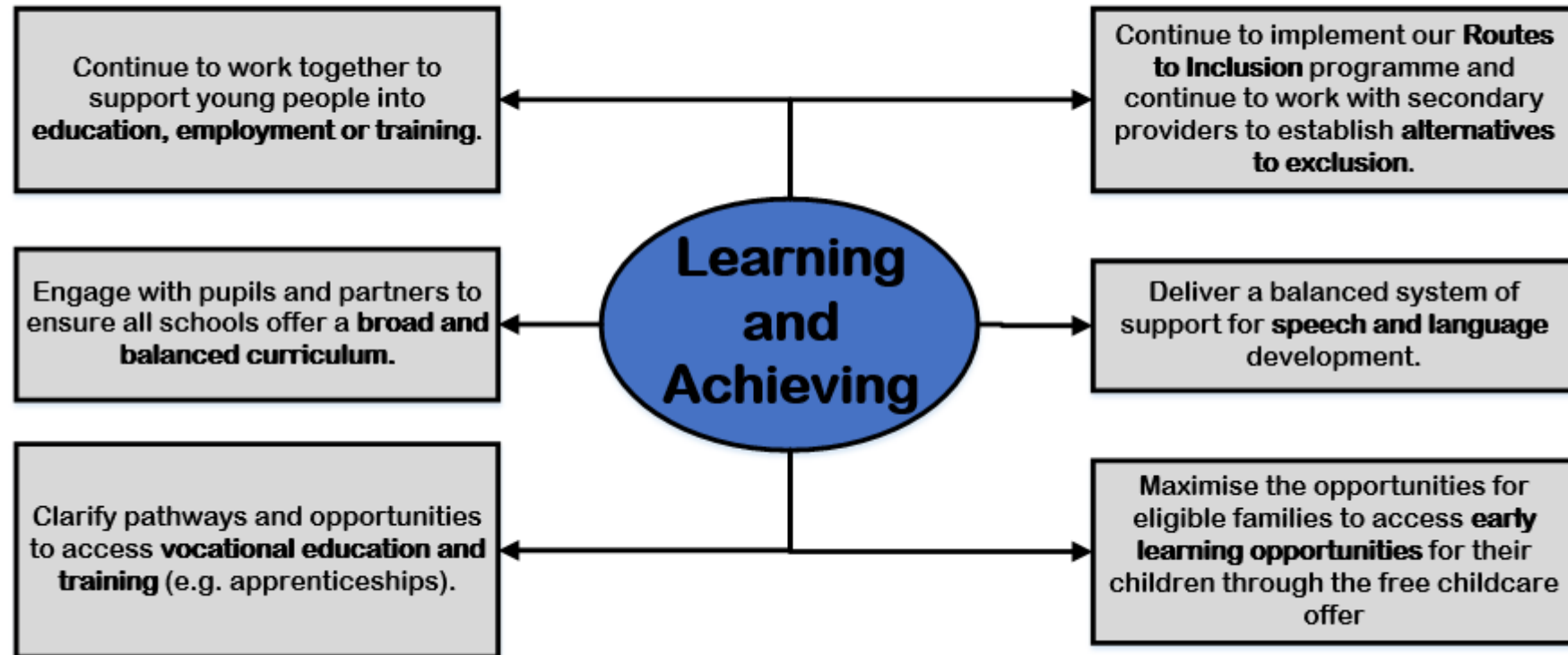
### **4) Ensure children and young people have access to a range of good quality educational opportunities to meet their needs**

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.



## Key actions to deliver:

Further actions and a more detailed delivery plan will be developed by the Learning and Achieving Sub Group.



## **How will we work together?**

The Children's Partnership will continue to meet every three months. It will be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People. Senior partners will be represented.

We will work to establish a sub-group for each themed area of our work, chaired by a partner agency. Sub-group meetings will also take place quarterly. Sub-groups will bring together the work and programmes that are being delivered, identify gaps and overcome barriers. They will work to develop and drive clear action plans to make a real and tangible difference for children, young people and families in Nottingham. Each sub-group will feed back into the Children's Partnership at each meeting.

Each sub-group will also contribute to the supporting strategies and frameworks to ensure that participation and engagement, development of the workforce, joint commissioning and a clear performance framework underpin all of our work.

We will work to increase the representation of our communities, parents/carers and children and young people to ensure that their voice is heard. We will work closely with the Youth Cabinet, Primary Parliament and maximise all other opportunities to hear the views and experiences of children and young people. Their voice will inform our delivery plans moving forwards.

We will strengthen our links as a partnership to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership and Corporate Parenting Board to make sure that our work is integrated with the wider opportunities to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Nottingham.