

Be Healthy

Stay Safe

Enjoy and Achieve

Make a Positive Contribution

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Gateshead Children & Young People's Plan **2006-2009** Executive Summary



GATESHEAD
STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP

Executive Summary

Introduction

By taking the time to read this plan we know that, like us, you are interested in the wellbeing of children and young people in Gateshead.

In our roles as Director of Children's Services and Lead Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People we strive with our parents, carers and partner agencies to realise our vision for children and young people in Gateshead, which is for them to be:

“Empowered and supported to develop to their full potential and have the life skills and opportunities to play an active part in society.”

This plan sets out our strategy for all children and young people in the borough aged 0-19 and includes:

- arrangements for care leavers and for young adults with learning disabilities up to the age of 25
- priorities for the next three years - 2006-2009

This plan is the result of positive partnership working with many agencies and organisations within the borough as well as:

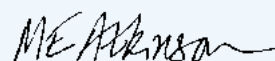
- **Listening** to the views of children and young people, parents and carers and professional staff;
- **Learning** from our review of services and from information from inspections; and
- **Looking** at our key performance measurements so we know what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

We hope you find this executive summary informative and look forward to hearing any views you may have on what we are doing now and in the future for children and young people living in Gateshead.

If you would like a copy of the full plan contact details are given at the end of this summary.



Councillor Catherine Donovan
**Lead Portfolio Holder for
Children and Young People**



Maggie Atkinson
**Director of Children's Services,
Gateshead Council**



What we are doing well

Our services for children and young people are rated amongst the best in the country with recent inspections putting us in the top performing areas in the country for the quality and effectiveness of the services we provide (CSCI – OFSTED – Star and APA ratings).

Education:

- GCSE results - we are the eighth best performing local authority nationally.

Performance:

- We have a consistently high performing Youth Offending Team that is currently the second best performing nationally against Key Performance Indicators.
- The Local Safeguarding Children Board is already in place.
- There are clear arrangements and agreements in place for how partnership work is carried out via the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Children's Trust.
- The teenage pregnancy strategy succeeded in reducing conceptions by 22% which exceeds the interim target reduction of 15%.

Awards:

- Gateshead Council is a Beacon Council for Healthy Communities and positive youth engagement.
- All but one of our schools have Healthy Schools Awards.
- Our Social Work Therapy Team and School Meals Service achieved a Charter Mark Award.
- The Nurse led ADHD child and adolescent mental health service won the national final (mental health category) Health and Social Care Award 2006.

Future investment:

- Nine new schools will be built by 2010.
- Ten new Children's Centres will be open by April 2006.

The BIG picture

In order to carry on the good work and to make sure that **every child really does matter**, we need to look at the big picture in Gateshead and address the following key challenges:

- **We want people to get the services they need, when and where they want them**

HOW? By developing locality multi-agency teams which will lead to more targeted and specialist services delivered as locally as possible.

- **We want to develop the 'Gateshead Offer'**

HOW? By identifying an agreed multi-agency 'offer' or basic entitlement of services which **all** children, young people and families will be able to access in Gateshead. This will help to join services together and enable children and young people to pass between those services safely and securely.

- **We want to develop more early intervention and preventative services**

HOW? By working within available resources and achieving the right balance between a broader safeguarding agenda and the need to ensure safe and effective child protection services.

- **We want to work with stakeholders to agree on the best model to deliver high quality, effective value for money services**

HOW? By reviewing current Children's Trust arrangements in Gateshead with particular reference to the balance between commissioning and direct provision of services to provide best value and highest quality.

Summary of Priority Outcomes

Ten key priority outcomes have been identified based on the views of children, young people, parents and carers and information about our performance. These are:

1. Children and young people feel safer in and have access to better parks, open spaces, activities and things to do. We will:

- Improve the number, quality and standard of parks and open spaces.
- Improve access, lighting and supervision around parks and open spaces.
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Improve access to information about cultural and leisure opportunities.
- Create young people only areas in community centres.

2. Children and young people feel safe from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

We will:

- Work with schools to establish baseline data around instances and types of bullying, discrimination and harassment and strategies used to combat these by encouraging and supporting schools to implement Vantage technologies' Sentinel database.
- Introduce a new Anti-Bullying Award for schools which requires a range of activities and measures to be implemented within each school community.
- Work with young people to understand experiences of bullying in and outside school and college.
- Use this information to develop a wide reaching Anti-Bullying Strategy which tackles bullying in all its forms, in and out of school and college.

3. Parents and carers are better equipped to bring up and promote positive outcomes for their children. We will:

- Develop a fully integrated, accessible schedule of both targeted and universal parenting programmes, including links with community and voluntary groups.
- Engaging proactively with fathers and male carers.

"Parents should have support with their children, this will help make places more safe"

4. Children and young people achieve high standards in education. We will:

- Motivate children and young people through experiences and opportunities that are broad based, personalised, relevant, inspirational, exciting, memorable and life enriching.
- Improve equality of access to the highest quality educational provision.

5. Parents, carers, children and young people can access more joined up and preventative services in their communities. We will:

- Expand extended schools and Children's Centre's provision.
- Introduce multi-disciplinary teams providing early intervention support for families.
- Improve how we work with, and build on, the effective work of the voluntary and community sector.
- Reduce use of high cost specialist services and provide more low cost preventative services.
- Provide broader safeguarding services to children and communities.

"People need to ask us what we want in our places because they keep putting things there that nobody uses"



6. More young people participate in, and achieve better results in, education, training and employment post 16, with a particular focus on looked after children, young offenders and children with disabilities or special educational needs. We will:

- Improve access to, and provision of, opportunities for education, training and employment, particularly for those 'hardest to reach'.
- Support the effective transition of young people with disabilities to adult services through person centred planning, a dedicated transitions team and individual budgets and looked after children through Pathway Planning.
- Improve post 16 attainment from our successful GCSE baseline.
- Ensure comprehensive and impartial advice and guidance is available for young people about post 16 education and training opportunities.

"I think people over 16 should be able to get a job because they will only end up on the dole"

7. Young people can access affordable housing that is appropriate to their needs and is of a decent standard. We will:

- Improve the condition of local housing stock through the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (Bridging NewcastleGateshead).
- Develop the existing licensing scheme for private landlords.
- Promote accommodation for looked after young people through the supported lodgings scheme and signposting of 24 hour provision.
- Increase the quality and choice of emergency accommodation options.

8. Children and young people lead healthier lifestyles. We will:

- Make sure children and young people have access to a range of options for physical activity both in and out of school and college.
- Improve the availability of nutritionally balanced school meals, along with providing good dietary and nutritional information in schools and college.
- Improve self-esteem starting with developing effective measures of self-esteem.
- Develop a core entitlement to sexual health advice and support.
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol, drugs and smoking through the implementation of the alcohol harm reduction strategy and smoking cessation strategies.

"Reducing obesity by healthy diets and increasing exercise improves self-esteem"

9. Children and young people, including those who are vulnerable or at risk, achieve their potential through inclusion where possible in mainstream education. We will:

- Implement the recommendations from the Special Education Needs Review.
- Achieve the correct balance between inclusive/integrated services and specialist provision.
- Reduce the numbers of young people in placements outside of the borough.
- Reducing reliance on statements of special education needs.
- Improving the monitoring of ethnic minority pupil progress.

"I would like support for my son to be able to attend mainstream education"

10. All services are fully accessible to children and young people from different backgrounds. We will:

- Work with young people from black and minority ethnic and Traveller communities to understand barriers to service provision.
- Improving the monitoring of children from Traveller and ethnic minority backgrounds so support may be targeted more effectively.
- Promoting the use of the racist incident reporting system to tackle racially motivated harassment.
- Building capacity through local community and voluntary groups to support children, young people and families from black and minority ethnic communities.

"If you exercise you can feel good about yourself"

"Stop murdering, stop people mugging, stop drinking and teach people to get jobs"

"Isn't it great the way tourists now visit Gateshead and more people from racial minorities have come to live here"



If you would like more information on the plan or would like to be sent more copies of the executive summary/plan please contact:
Alison Webster, Acting Children's Trust Manager on:

Phone: 0191 433 8215

Email: alisonwebster@gateshead.gov.uk

Website: www.gatesheadcyptrust.co.uk

Information

This information is available on request in large print, Braille, and audio tape.
Please ring 0191 433 3444.

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