

Wokingham Children and Young People Plan 2014-2016 'Promoting children's welfare and success, safeguarding children and strengthening families'



Foreword by Cllr Charlotte Haitham-Taylor Executive Member for Children's Services

Wokingham's Children and Young People's Plan is an overarching strategy for Wokingham under the supervision of the Wokingham Children and Young People's Partnership. It sets the direction and priorities for services for children, young people and families in the Borough for the next two years.

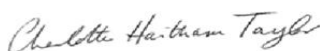
Our vision

"Children and young people feel listened to; they are safe and have the opportunity to live their lives to their full potential."

The Council and its strategic partners have a strong history of working together to improve outcomes for children and young people. We want to make an impact and improvements at a higher pace and with higher ambition. This plan, therefore, sets out to accelerate improvement and impact in the key areas for our partnership.

Although the Government no longer requires local areas to have a Children and Young People's Plan we are committed to driving improvement in children's services across the Borough. Indeed, the need to make a sustainable input requires us to have a plan which ensures money is targeted on those most in need, to give help as early as possible to prevent children and young people requiring more intensive, costly services, and to ensure our range of preventative services, information and advice is available to all children, young people, families and carers across the Borough.

This plan is not prescriptive and does not seek to capture every service or initiative. Instead, it provides a strategic framework for our priority local activity to ensure we accelerate our actions to improve outcomes.



Charlotte Haitham Taylor
Lead member for Children's Services

Our Local Picture – Wokingham working together



Child enjoying the new playground at Dinton Pastures

Wokingham needs assessment <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/socialcare/jsna/> sets out the profiles of the needs of children, young people and families in Wokingham. Wokingham is a small unitary authority with a higher number of children aged 0-4 and 0-19 living in the Borough compared to the average for the South East and the rest of England. In Wokingham, the number of children and young people aged 0 to 19 is 40,299 – 26% of the population. The Borough also boasts an above average life expectancy for both boys and girls. Coupled with planned future housing developments, we anticipate a continued increase in the number of children in the Borough over the next few years.



Wokingham Children in Care Council

Most of our children and young people achieve good outcomes and go on to lead successful lives as adults, but there are some who do not. In particular, children from poorer backgrounds often do not achieve the success of others. We need to be focused and innovative to make sure that we help and challenge them to achieve to their full potential. Priority areas of concern are set out on the next page.

Table 1: Key areas of Wokingham need

<p>Social isolation, deprivation and intergenerational poverty</p> <p>Wokingham has low levels of deprivation compared to other local authorities but there are some locally deprived and isolated pockets of deprivation within the community where families struggle. In particular, some families struggle with intergenerational poverty and live in what could be defined as 'hidden poverty.' This poverty largely relates to issues of access and aspiration for some of our families. Currently, only 50% of eligible vulnerable two year olds take up a place with an early years 'provider or child minder, which is an indication of a wider system concern that the most vulnerable families are not accessing the services that are available.</p>	<p>High usage of CAMHS and uncertain mental health outcomes</p> <p>We have high and increasing usage of both Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across the children population but with a relatively low number of Children in Care supported by CAMHS.</p> <p>There is a need to reduce the length of time children and young people have to wait from CAMHS initial assessment to receipt of service.</p> <p>Wokingham Borough scored significantly worse than the national average for the previous National Indicator relating to the emotional health of children.</p>
<p>Proportionally more Children in Need and children eligible for free school meals with Special Educational Needs</p> <p>There are more children with Special Educational Needs among the Wokingham Children in Need population, including Children in Care. Whilst there are relatively fewer children eligible for free school meals in Wokingham than seen nationally, it appears the percentage of these children with statements of Special Educational Needs is higher than seen elsewhere.</p>	<p>Too many Children in Care entering the system in adolescence</p> <p>Wokingham has proportionally fewer Children in Care than seen elsewhere and the numbers of children in need are relatively small. However, we recognise that we have a disproportionately higher number of adolescent males becoming looked after. As with wider Children in Need we have disproportionately more Children in Care with Special Educational Needs.</p>
<p>Disadvantaged children require early help</p> <p>There are some disadvantaged children who do not achieve a "good standard of achievement", measured through school readiness, the JSNA and the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The main difficulty for children eligible for free school meals is that these children start school at a disadvantage and the gap in performance does not decrease as the children progress through school.</p>	<p>Our system does not always effectively hold children who need support</p> <p>High numbers of initial contact to social care, low thresholds and an uncertain destination for a number of children who make contact with social care has led to high levels of re-referrals to social care. Early identification and intervention for all children is required where they need it, as well as effective integrated support for children with most complex needs.</p>

What we have achieved so far

In recent years we have worked hard to achieve good outcomes for children in the Borough. Our successes include:

- Improved Early Years Foundation results for children.
- Strong attainment and improved Key Stage 2, 4 and 5 results, building on a Wokingham context of higher than average national performance and achievement.
- Maintained the lowest percentage of young people (NEET) Not in Education, Employment or Training and one of the highest percentages of young people in learning compared to similar local authorities.
- Improved targeted support for vulnerable children and families through our Children's Centres, Family First programme and our targeted Youth Service which has led to a reduction in offending, including youth offending and rural crime.
- Reduced the number of Children in Care and a reduction in historical placements out of Borough.
- Increased the number of children who are accommodated locally and reduced the use of specialist boarding schools outside of Wokingham.
- Increased the number of stable placements of Children in Care, with a length of placement over two years.
- Improved our accountability to Children in Care through the development of our Corporate Parenting Board and commitments set out in our Children in Care Pledge; our Care Leavers Pledge; and our Foster Carer Charter.
- Implementation of multi-agency triage and assessment between Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Thames Valley Police and the Local Authority.



Head teacher Ginny Rhodes at the Wokingham Family First Conference

What we will do to improve outcomes for children and families

Our priorities, as agreed by the Children's Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board, are set out below:

Our priorities	
Priority 1	Refresh and renew our Early Help approach, building on what works well, empowering professionals to always keep child centred and designing service to enable excellent practice.
Priority 1a	As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, develop an integrated 0-5 offer across the Local Authority, health and early year's sectors to ensure that children are school ready, emotionally resilient and healthy.
Priority 1b	As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, review emotional health and wellbeing services including primary CAMHS to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people.
Priority 2	Ensure more Wokingham children have access to good or better schools and settings and focus on delivering improvements for those most at risk of poor outcomes through our school improvement offer and delivery of new Primary and Secondary provision.
Priority 3	Implement the changes required to deliver on the supported changes set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and go further to bring the child and family into the centre of assessment, planning and support processes.

How will we achieve our priorities?

The Wokingham Children's Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board will oversee delivery of this Plan, with scrutiny provided the Council's Executive and the Wokingham Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Providing excellent services for all children relies on the workforce responsible for delivering them. We have a dedicated and hard-working workforce spanning a number of areas, such as teachers, GPs, health visitors, social workers, librarians, youth workers, nurses and police officers, operating across a range of statutory, private and voluntary settings. Through this Plan we are committing ourselves to progress partnership workforce development, continuing our work which shows we value, respect and intend to invest in the children's workforce over the coming years.

Improving shared intelligence about the current and future child population between partner organisations will be key to ensuring our analysis of the overall demographic change and shifting patterns is leading our work, especially regarding the needs of vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Finally, we will develop new ways of consulting and engaging with children, young people and their families. Maintaining an ongoing dialogue with children, young people, parents and carers (including young carers), professionals and advocates will be vital in driving improvement, ensuring challenge and accountability, and ensuring that our priorities remain relevant.

Members of our Children's Partnership

- Judith Ramsden, Director of Children's Services, Wokingham Borough Council, Chair
- Stephen Madgwick, Clinical Chair, Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group
- David Cahill, Locality Director, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- Robert France, Chief Inspector Wokingham Locality, Thames Valley Police
- Clare Rebbeck, Wokingham Voluntary Sector 'Involve'
- Alan Stubbersfield, Head of Learning and Achievement, Wokingham Borough Council
- Brian Grady, Head of Strategic Commissioning, Wokingham Borough Council
- Felicity Budgen, Head of Social Care and Intervention, Wokingham Borough Council
- Caroline Norris, Head Teacher Colleton Primary School
- Nigel Matthias, Head Teacher Emmbrook School (Secondary)
- Darrell Gale, Public Health Consultant
- Sarah Wise, Head of Children and Families Wokingham, NHS

Children and Young People's Plan Action Plan 2014-15

The priority programme responds to the priority needs identified in the Wokingham Needs Assessment, consultation with children young people and families, statutory drivers and reflects current partnership action underway

Priority	Evidence for Priority	Key actions in our first year
<p>Priority 1 - Refresh and renew our Early Help approach, building on what works well, empowering professionals to always keep child centred and designing service to enable excellent practice.</p>	<p>Children in need often have poorer outcomes than their peers. <i>(JSNA)</i>.</p> <p>Wokingham has proportionally fewer children in need than seen elsewhere and the numbers are relatively small. This is also true for looked after children and children subject to a child protection plan. <i>(JSNA)</i>.</p> <p>Children eligible for free school meals are more likely to start school at a disadvantage and the gap in performance does not decrease as the children progress through school <i>(WBC)</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of multi-agency front door team - Bringing together a range of early intervention activity (September 2014). • Joint strategy agreed for children with disability including options promote integration for service delivery (December 2014) • Implementation of the WSCB Levels of Need for services for children in Wokingham (Apr 2014). • Monitoring impact of the Levels of need (Sep) • Integrated workforce strategy to deliver a skilled and motivated workforce across organisations (Apr 2015)
<p>Priority 1a - As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, develop an integrated 0-5 offer across the Local Authority, health and early year's sector</p>	<p>Despite overall good results in early years there are some disadvantaged children who do not achieve a "good standard of achievement", which is designed to measure school readiness. <i>(WBC)</i>.</p> <p>Children eligible for free school meals are more likely to start school at a disadvantage and the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Early intervention Strategy for 0-5's will lead to more joined up services for early years youngsters and their families, help more children be ready for school and narrow the gap in outcomes experienced by those at risk of being left behind • Multi agency and stakeholder consultation on 0-5 design (Jun-Sep) • Strategy agreed including resource shifts (Dec)

	gap in performance does not decrease as the children progress through school (<i>WBC</i>).	
<p>Priority 1b - As part of a renewed focus on Early Help, review emotional health and wellbeing services including primary CAMHS to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people.</p>	<p>Continued and increasing high usage of both Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and wider counselling and emotional health and wellbeing support services (<i>JSNA</i>).</p> <p>Partnership reviews Identify the need for all tiers of emotional health and wellbeing provision to work together as a better system, so that children and young people are identified early and access any support they need quickly at the lowest and least restrictive tier possible. (<i>JSNA</i>).</p> <p>Wokingham Borough scored significantly worse than the national average for the previous National Indicator relating to the emotional health of children (<i>JSNA</i>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree an integrated Wokingham CCG and Wokingham Borough Council emotional health and wellbeing strategy setting out how children and young people are able to access the right support at the right time (Sep); • Improve specialist CAMHS access and outcomes through local partnership working and monitoring and action (next measure Sep); • Recommission Tier 1 and 2 Emotional Health and wellbeing services (Apr 2015); • Continue to improve monitoring of impact, building on the outcome monitoring models developed by specialist CAMHS (next measure Sep).
<p>Priority 2 - Ensure more Wokingham children have access to the best education and focus on delivering improvements for those most at risk of poor outcomes</p>	<p>All Secondary Schools in the Borough good or outstanding (<i>WBC</i>).</p> <p>Some performance issues at primary and the attainment gap at KS2 and KS4 (GCSEs) between children eligible for free school meals and those who are not Children in need often have poorer outcomes than their peers. (<i>WBC</i>).</p> <p>There is a higher proportion of children with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise School Improvement strategy to ensure appropriate actions to address priorities identified in recent self-evaluation. A dual focus on inequalities where gaps between the achievement of the majority and vulnerable pupil groups are too wide and to increase the proportion of good and outstanding schools (December 2014). • Implement Primary and Secondary place strategies, delivering five new Primary Schools and a new Secondary School by 2016

	<p>special educational needs among the Wokingham children in need population. Whilst there are relatively fewer children eligible for free school meals in Wokingham than seen nationally, the percentage of these children with statements of special educational need is higher than seen elsewhere (<i>JSNA</i>) .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task-and-finish Headteacher group to sign off policy documentation (July 2014) • Heads' steering group established to ensure sustainable strategic focus (September 2014) • Revised data packs circulated to schools to aid their self-evaluations (September 2014) • Support for Headteacher groups put in place (December 2014) • Improved self evaluations evidenced (March 2015)
<p>Priority 3 - Implement changes required to deliver on the Children and Families Act 2014 and go further to bring the child and family into the centre of assessment, planning and support processes.</p>	<p>Section 26 of the Children and Families Act 2014 sets out statutory requirements for local authorities and clinical commissioning groups and other NHS bodies with a duty for the provision of services and facilities under the National Health Service Act 2006 for children and young people to make joint “arrangements about the education, health and care provision to be secured for children and young people with special educational needs for whom it is responsible and for those with disabilities”.</p> <p>Support for children in transition is particularly important for Wokingham – we have low numbers of children transitioning from childrens to adults services and recent service reviews suggest areas for improvement (<i>JSNA</i>) .</p> <p>There is a higher proportion of children with special educational needs among the Wokingham children in need population. Whilst there are relatively fewer children eligible for free school meals in Wokingham than seen nationally, the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Offer published online setting out Education, Social care and Health services available for children and families (Sep) • Education and social care personal budgets tested with EHCP cohort (July) • Arrangements for allocation of personal budgets across implemented (Sep) • Education and Healthcare Plans tested on cohort (July) • Education Healthcare Plans implemented (Sep) • Transition arrangements in place (Sep) • Transition action plan agreed (Sep) • Changes to transition services (April 2015) • Implementation of multi-agency front door team - Bringing together a range of early intervention activity (Sep). • Joint strategy agreed for children with disability including options promote integration for service delivery (Dec)

	percentage of these children with statements of special educational need is higher than seen elsewhere (<i>JSNA</i>) .	
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