

# **Bracknell Forest Children & Young People's Partnership Plan**

2018 - 2021

# Contents

Foreword	
Part One – Working together in Bracknell Forest	Page 3
Our Ambition	Page 4
Our Priorities	Page 5
How we work together to improve outcomes	Page 6
Where does this fit locally?	Page 6
Local strategies & partners	Page 7
Part Two – Our outcomes in detail	Page 8
Outcome 1 - We will strive to ensure all children are safe and protected	Page 9
Outcome 2 - We will work with partners to reduce the impact of poverty on our children	Page 10
Outcome 3 - We will encourage and promote resilience in children, families and their communities	Page 11
Outcome 4 - We will ensure every child has access to quality education, local to them, helping them to move into adulthood	Page 12
Outcome 5 - We will celebrate our children's success and their contributions – listening and learning	Page 13
Part Three – Delivering for Bracknell Forest	Page 14
How we will track outcomes	Page 15
Annual Priorities – Thematic Reviews	Page 16
Listening & Sharing Successes	Page 16

# **Part One: Working together in Bracknell Forest**

# Our Ambition

Our ambition is that all children in Bracknell Forest have the opportunity to realise their potential. We want to ensure that no child is held back by disadvantage, inequality or neglect.

We will work together as partners, combining our skills, expertise and resources in partnership to support children, young people and families. All partners within Children & Young People's Partnership Board will commit to the delivery of this strategy and work tirelessly to reduce the gap between those who are doing well and those who are doing less well.

In working together we will:

- Place children and families at the heart of our thinking, making decisions in their interests rather than those of the organisations we work within
- Use shared intelligence and information to target our efforts and our resources to where they are needed most
- Engage children and families in decisions, ensuring that their voices are heard and listened to
- Continually develop and transform services that children, young people and families need so that we have the services that meet local needs and that people are able to access them
- We will be open and transparent about the decisions and mistakes that we make as we strive to get things right

One child who is not able to achieve their potential is one too many. By working together it is our intention that all partners do their very best so that no child is left behind.

# Our Priorities

This section describes the five priority outcomes that partners in Bracknell Forest have identified as the most important things we will work together to improve for children and families. These outcomes are broad and reflect things that we want for all children, the strategy includes specific indicators that will measure the impact that we are having:

Outcome 1: We will strive to ensure that all children are safe & protected

Working with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and focusing on the risk of harm caused by parental neglect caused by mental health, substance misuse and domestic violence along with child sex abuse and exploitation

Outcome 2: We will work with partners to reduce the impact of poverty on our children

Poverty and poor childhood outcomes are closely linked. We will seek to tackle negative health and educational impacts on children growing up in areas of deprivation in the Borough

Outcome 3: We will encourage and promote wellbeing and resilience in children, families & their communities

Emotional resilience and wellbeing are recognised as challenges affecting a large section of families in the Borough. Developing our approach to recognising issues and promoting resilience will be a challenge for all services that work with families

Outcome 4: We will ensure that every child has access to quality education, helping them to move into adulthood

We will work together to ensure that all children receive a high quality of education and support to move into adulthood. We will ensure that children from all backgrounds and those who have had negative life experiences have the support they need

Outcome 5: We will celebrate our children's success and their contributions – listening & learning

We will ensure that children and families are involved in shaping the way that we work together. We will identify and encourage opportunities, in all settings, to celebrate the contributions of young people.

# How we will work together to improve outcomes

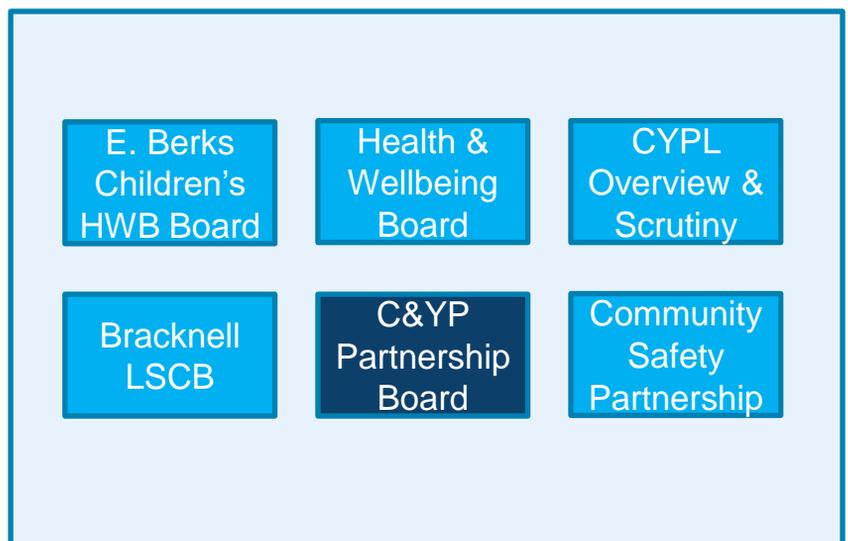
*“Partnership working in Bracknell Forest is a strength, at both the strategic and the operational level.” Ofsted 2017*

This Children & Young People’s Partnership Plan seeks to guide and align all local partners in the way that we collaborate to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. This document sets out the key priorities and ambitions that we will work together to deliver. The Children & Young People’s Partnership Board is the owner of this plan, and the primary body that oversees its implementation. The partners have committed that they focus on the following key principles in working together:

1. We will share information and priorities – working together to ensure that we consider the holistic needs of children and families
2. We will focus on what is most important – prioritising the outcomes, actions and agendas that matter most and have the biggest impact locally
3. We will work together to solve problems in a joined up way – ensuring that we tackle issues proactively and rigorously

## Where does this fit locally?

The Children & Young People’s Partnership Board works alongside, and in alignment with, a range of local strategic groups. The diagram shows the key groups that work together to support local children, young people and families



# Local strategies and partners

The partners to this plan have a range of existing strategic documents that provide the direction for the work that they do and their efforts to improve outcomes for all children, young people and families. These strategies often cover a wider area than Bracknell Forest, or a wider scope of support to children and families. They set the strategic context within which this plan fits. This plan, and the work of the Children & Young People's Partnership Board play an important role in understanding and coordinating the interaction of these plans to ensure they meet the needs of local families.

**LSCB Safeguarding Business Plan** - provides a framework to co-ordinate the work of partner agencies in fulfilling safeguarding responsibilities and ensure they do everything possible to safeguard children and young people

**Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Quality Strategy** – brings together all of the elements of work needed for community health services to achieve their quality goals and objectives over the next few years

**Bracknell Forest Looked After Children Commissioning Plan** – outlines plans to meet the current and future needs of children in care and to support them to achieve good outcomes and positive futures

**Bracknell Forest Council, Children, Young People & Learning Service Plan** - sets out the council's strategic priorities and the work that will take place to improve outcomes for children each year

**Seamless Health, Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy** - guides and directs health and social care service commissioners in the provision of the joined up health services that local people need when they become ill or need support

# Local strategies and partners

**Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan** - sets out priorities and how the force will deliver them. It outlines key changes that they will make over the next year to ensure that they continue to meet the policing needs in the future

**SEND Improvement Strategy** – describes how partners will work together with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families to achieve the best possible outcomes

**Frimley Health and Care System Sustainability and Transformation Plan** - sets out how social care and health services delivered by councils and health authorities will become a more integrated system fit for the future

**Bracknell Forest Council Plan** – Sets out the framework that underpins the work of the council as it transforms in order to achieve tough financial targets whilst continuing to deliver effective services

**Bracknell Forest Youth Justice Partnership Plan** - provides details of the governance arrangements for the Statutory Youth Offending Service and sets out the priority areas for delivery of local youth justice services within the available resources.

**East Berks Local Transformation Plan for CYP Mental Health & Wellbeing** – established the way that local partners will collaborate with children, young people and their families to design and provide the best possible services

# **Part Two: Our outcomes in detail**

# Outcome 1: We will strive to ensure all children are safe and protected

## **What we mean when we say this is our priority:**

All children have a right to feel safe and protected. By ensuring that all children feel safe we aim to provide an environment for them to flourish and thrive. The Board will work alongside the Safeguarding Board to ensure that partners work together to ensure all children are safe in the Borough.

We face key challenges in Bracknell Forest including an increase in drug related gang violence and increased awareness of sexual exploitation. Children also face additional challenges relating to online safety from bullying and exploitation.

## **What is happening in Bracknell Forest already:**

- The Local Safeguarding Children's Board hold partners to account, ensuring joint work through sub-groups such as Complex Sexual Exploitation
- The Family Safeguarding Model is the council's social care operating model bringing professionals together to keep children safe and families together
- Health visitors, school nursing and children's centres work together to ensure information is shared and children receive help when they need it
- A service to support children who go missing or at risk from abuse is backed up by multi-agency group that shares information and protects children at risk
- The multi-agency Youth Offending Service works to reduce negative outcomes for young people who have offended

## **How we will measure the impact that we are having:**

- We expect that fewer children require a child protection plan
- We will see fewer episodes of children going missing
- There will be fewer repeat referrals to children's social care
- Increased prosecution of perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse
- Increased rates of immunisation
- Reduction in the number of Domestic Abuse Notifications
- We will see fewer young people entering the Youth Justice System

# Outcome 2: We will work with partners to reduce the impact of poverty on our children

## **What we mean when we say this is our priority:**

Poverty can be a barrier to children realising their potential. Our aim is that no child is held back by aspects of poverty. This means that we will work together to prevent children from suffering disadvantage, unequal access to services, or reduced outcomes as a result of growing up in a household with a low income.

We will seek to ensure that we work together in a consistent way, considering the situation of the family, and avoiding a fragmented response.

## **What is happening in Bracknell Forest already:**

- Our new Whole Council Early Help Service brings together a range of services including housing and family support that focus on the whole family and their circumstances
- Our Troubled Families approach provided support to turn families around, ensuring they can access funds available to them and support them into employment
- The redevelopment of Bracknell Town Centre and the regeneration of the town is bringing increase economic prosperity to the Borough. Partners are working together to ensure that opportunities are available to the local population

## **How we will measure the impact that we are having:**

- We expect to see improved GCSE results for young people living in poverty
- We will narrow the development gap at Key Stages 1 & 2 between disadvantaged and other children
- We will see a reduction in the number of families evicted due to arrears
- We will see a reduction in the numbers of children from poor backgrounds who are not in Education, Employment or Training

# Outcome 3: We will encourage and promote wellbeing and resilience in children, families & their communities

## **What we mean when we say this is our priority:**

Wellbeing and resilience are key to enabling children and young people to achieve their full potential. Our aim is that all children and young people have the support, resources and self-esteem they need to thrive in the face of life's challenges.

By focusing on this outcome we are committing to work together to promote awareness and effective responses within all agencies. We will develop shared values and priorities across all of the services that support young people, and will work together creatively to develop a consistent system wide approach.

## **What is happening in Bracknell Forest already:**

- All schools have signed up to a mental health charter that was designed by our Youth Council
- All secondary schools host Substance Misuse sessions that provide specific information and advice to young people
- Kooth provide free on-line counselling and support for children and young people through mobile phones, tablets and desktop computers
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service provides specialist mental health support services for children and young people in the borough
- The Community Mental Health Team provides support to 16 and 17 year olds who are not long in full-time education

## **How we will measure the impact that we are having:**

- We reduce the incidence of school absence as a result of emotional wellbeing problems
- We will reduce the incidence of substance misuse amongst young people
- We will see a reduction in the number of referrals for specialist mental health services (Tiers 3 & 4)

# Outcome 4: We will ensure that every child has access to quality education, helping them to move into adulthood

## **What we mean when we say this is our priority:**

We will ensure that all children in the Borough have the opportunity to attend high quality schools that have strong leadership. We understand that progress is needed to ensure that schools are all of a high quality, that they have high aspirations for all children and that children are not left behind.

Our focus will be on all children, meaning that we will focus on inequality and inclusion. This will include ensuring that we have the right support available for each child, enabling them to gain qualifications and skills for life. This will include support at key transition stages to help young people at all stages of education.

## **What is happening in Bracknell Forest already:**

- The Borough has a new Learning & Achievement strategy that sets out the way that partners will work together to raise standards
- The council's Standards and Effectiveness Team supports schools to raise standards and increase quality
- Forest Learning Alliance works together to support high quality provision in local schools through collaboration, professional development and support
- Elevate Me provides help, advice and employment support to 16-24 year olds in Bracknell Forest
- Berkshire Sensory Consortium is a specialist education support service for hearing, vision and multi-sensory impairment

## **How we will measure the impact that we are having:**

- We will see increasing numbers of local schools and pre-school settings with good or outstanding Ofsted inspection results
- We will see a reduction in the number of young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training
- We will see improved attainment for young people at risk of being left behind including those with Free School Meals, who have Special Educational Needs & Disabilities and children in care

# Outcome 5: We will celebrate our children's success and their contributions – listening & learning

## **What we mean when we say this is our priority:**

We believe that the voices of children and young people need to be heard, and that we must listen to them when deciding on services for them. By working together we will do more to ensure that this is at the heart not just of our values but of our actions. We will seek feedback from children and young people in evaluating the impact of services and in designing new ways of working.

As well as listening to the views of young people, we will focus on providing opportunities to share successes and celebrating the achievements of young people in the Borough.

## **What is happening in Bracknell Forest already:**

- Bracknell Forest Youth Council gives young people a chance to shape priorities and campaign on the issues most important to them. Each year they hold a Take Over day – allowing young people to take decisions with senior local staff members
- Say It Loud, Say It Proud, our children in care council, gives young people the chance to hold senior leaders to account as well as designing and providing training to help adults to understand their experiences
- BOOM – Because Our Opinions Matter – is a group for children with disabilities that enables young people to feedback about the services they receive

## **How we will measure the impact that we are having:**

- We will see an increase in the proportion of roles within partner agencies that have young people on interview panels
- We will be able to provide evidence of the impact that the views of young people have had on key decisions and policies in the borough
- We will see an increase in the range and number of events held to celebrate the successes and achievements of young people

# **Part Three: Delivering for children & families in Bracknell Forest**

# How we will track outcomes

We will monitor the impact of this plan, and the collaborative work of partners, through ongoing monitoring and reporting of progress against the measures outlined for each of the outcomes above.

April 2018 the performance regarding these measures:

Outcome	Measure	April 2018
Outcome 1 - We will strive to ensure all children are safe and protected		
Outcome 2 - We will work with partners to reduce the impact of poverty on our children		
Outcome 3 - We will encourage and promote resilience in children, families and their communities		
Outcome 4 - We will ensure every child has access to quality education, local to them, helping them to move into adulthood		
Outcome 5 - We will celebrate our children's success and their contributions – listening and learning		

A dashboard containing latest performance for each of these measures will be discussed in each meeting. This dashboard will include benchmarking information to compare performance against other areas.

The board will ask for further analysis and narrative description of the causes and underlying performance. They will ask for representatives of partner organisations to provide a report for consideration, and to consider options for further collaborative work to improve outcomes.

# Annual Priorities – Thematic Reviews

Each year the partnership will agree a key priority to focus upon. This priority will be the focus of a detailed Thematic Review, that will be discussed at each meeting of the Board. The theme will be decided upon by all partners and will represent the area that is considered both a critical priority and one that requires concerted and coordinated activity from multiple partners to tackle.

The aim of the thematic reviews will be:

Develop understanding intelligence around local challenges, trends and progress

Review and analyse local activity, partnership working and its impact

Provide detailed insight into a range of performance measures that relate to the priority area

Consider the views of children, young people and practitioners on potential improvements

Each thematic review will lead to a range of recommendations that the Board will consider. This will in turn lead to the development of an action plan which will be monitored in subsequent meetings. All partners are committed to actively engage in this process and will commit time and resources necessary to delivering agreed priority activities.

## Listening & sharing successes

Our aim is that this plan will make a difference to every child in Bracknell Forest. Alongside analysis of the impact we are having, all partner are committed to asking children, young people and families for their view, opinions and suggestions for how to improve the way that we work.

Each year the Partnership Board will compile a report that summaries progress in meeting outcomes, celebrates success and shares feedback about suggestions from the people of Bracknell Forest.