

# Creating Opportunities

**A Joint Strategic Plan for Children,  
Young People and Families in  
Bracknell Forest 2014 - 17**



## Foreword

On behalf of the Children and Young People's Partnership, we are delighted to present to you ***Creating Opportunities - A Joint Strategic Plan for Children and Young People in Bracknell Forest 2014 – 2017.***

We believe that Creating Opportunities is our primary aim for children, young people and families and remains at the heart of what we do.

This plan identifies a small number of key priorities; areas we believe are really important in ensuring good outcomes for children, young people and families in the borough.

We aim to continue to improve our services, to work in a more coordinated way and ensure that additional help and support is available where it is needed.

We are proud of our children and young people and believe there is much to celebrate in terms of their achievements, their behaviour and their aspirations. We celebrate these achievements and hope that the example set by our young people will inspire others along the way.

We have undertaken significant consultation with children and young people and their views will inform not just the priorities and actions in this plan; but will be shared with a wide range of people who are responsible for planning and delivering services to children, young people and families.

We recognise that there are fewer resources available; however we aim to ensure that we can strike a balance between what we can realistically achieve and continuing to be aspirational for the future.

We believe that working together is the best way to achieve our priorities. We invite you to join us in ensuring success and in creating opportunities for children, young people and families in Bracknell Forest.

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## Contents

Introduction .....	4
Bracknell Forest Context.....	5
Children and Young People's Partnership .....	6
National Policy Drivers.....	7
Where Are We Now? .....	9
◦ Education Outcomes:.....	9
◦ Health Outcomes: .....	10
◦ Safeguarding and Child Protection.....	11
◦ Vulnerable Children and Young People .....	12
◦ Family and Parenting Support.....	14
◦ Tackling Child Poverty .....	15
Our Priorities in the New Plan.....	16
How We Identified These Priorities .....	17
Seeking the Views of Children and Young People.....	19
Workforce Development .....	20
Equalities .....	20
Monitoring Our Progress.....	21
Conclusion .....	23
Delivering the Priority Outcomes 2014 – 2017.....	24
Outcome Measures.....	33

## Introduction

*Creating Opportunities* is the defining statement of strategic planning for children, young people and families in the Borough, and is central to the work of the Children and Young People's Partnership.

**Section 10 of the Children Act 2004** places a duty on partners to cooperate to improve the wellbeing of children and young people. This plan provides the framework to achieve this goal.

The plan identifies key priorities for improvement which we believe can be achieved by working in partnership.

This plan is not intended to cover all the services delivered to children, young people and families across the wide range of partner organisations. It addresses key priorities for development where we feel that working together will make a difference.

Sitting underneath this plan will be delivery plans of partner agencies providing more detail on the way in which they support all children and young people.

The priorities in this plan have been identified through:

- Reviewing performance and inspection findings.
- Using data from our updated Children and Young People's Needs Analysis.
- Using the information set out in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment [JSNA].
- Undertaking a wide ranging consultation with children, young people, parents and carers, and partners in both statutory, voluntary and community sector services.
- Peer Challenge and local research.



*From My Bracknell Forest Art Exhibition*



## Bracknell Forest Context

Bracknell Forest lies 28 miles west of London, at the heart of the Thames Valley and within the county of Berkshire. The town of Bracknell was developed as a 'new town' after the Second World War initially housing families who relocated from London. Since its inception as a new town the population has grown from 23,408 in 1951 to 115,058 (ONS mid 2012 estimates based on 2011 Census)

Bracknell Forest contains six parishes, 18 wards and covers an area of some 109 sq km. Bracknell Forest Council is a small authority which gained unitary status when the former Berkshire County Council was split up in 1998.

The Borough's population is 115,058 of which 28,500 (25%) of the population is aged between 0 – 18 years.

There has been a decrease in the 0 – 14 age group as a percentage in Bracknell Forest from 21% in 2001 to 19% in 2011; this is still slightly higher than the national average which is 18%. There has been an increase in the 0 – 4 age group from 7,699 to 8,027; this increase has significance in terms of school place planning.

Bracknell Forest is one of the least deprived areas of the country (ranked 291 out of 326 local authorities in England on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010). Property prices and levels of car ownership are significantly higher than the national average and average free school meals eligibility remains relatively low in the national context 8.5% in January 2013.

These headline figures mask significant pockets of deprivation. Five wards in the borough have free school meal entitlements ranging from 11.9% to 17.3%. Poverty in Bracknell Forest has risen and is now 11.4% (as defined by the Department for Work and Pensions). Six wards in the borough have child poverty figures above the South East average of 14.6%, and one ward is above the England average of 20.1%.

The 2011 Census showed that 84.9% of the population of Bracknell Forest was 'White British' and the BME population was 15.1%. The presence of the Gurkha regiment at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst has led to a significant settled Nepali community in the Borough.

Since 2001 the proportion of school pupils from Minority Ethnic Groups has increased steadily from 6% to just over 17.9% in January 2013.

9.6% of pupils have English as an Additional Language (EAL) and 79 different languages are spoken in our schools, although many of these in very small numbers.

The % of pupils at the Early Years Foundation Stage achieving a good level of development was 58%, compared to 52% nationally.

In 2013 90.8% young people achieved 5 + A\* to C grades in GCSE, and 63.4% achieved 5+ A\* -C including English and mathematics. Both are above the England and South East averages for attainment.

The number of Bracknell Forest students who took A level examinations in 2013 has risen to 414 (366 in the previous year). 99% of these resulted in a pass grade, with the average points score increasing to 741.

Approximately 16,468 pupils are on roll in primary, secondary and special schools in Bracknell Forest. There is some cross-border movement of pupils between Bracknell Forest and neighbouring authorities, primarily Wokingham, Windsor and Maidenhead, Hampshire and Surrey.

## Children and Young People's Partnership

The Children and Young People's Partnership in Bracknell Forest represents the range of partners who deliver support and services to children, young people and their families in the Borough.

The CYP Partnership has a key role to identify and address issues that have an impact on the wellbeing of our children and young people.

The main vehicle for this has been through the development and delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **The Children and Young People's Partnership aims to:**

***“Enable all children, young people and families to lead healthy and fulfilled lives, to play an active role within their community and realise their aspirations and potential through the well coordinated provision of support and services”***

The **Partnership Board** is a small multi-agency group, responsible for ensuring the Plan is developed and that actions and working groups are progressed and monitored on a regular basis.

A number of working groups support the delivery of the priorities, and report progress directly to the Board.

More information on the Children and Young People's Partnership can be accessed at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknellforestchildrenandyoungpeoplespartnership>

### **Links to Other Partnerships**

The Children and Young People's (CYP) Partnership is clear that many of the priorities it has identified cannot be achieved in isolation and that the role of other strategic partnerships is crucial in ensuring successful outcomes.

The **Bracknell Forest Partnership** ensures that partners work together to identify common aims, and seeks ways to support joint working and commitment to achieving those aims.

<http://www.bracknellforestpartnership.org.uk/>

The **Community Safety Partnership** has a key focus on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and works in partnership with the Children and Young People's Partnership and the Local Safeguarding Children Board on jointly agreed safeguarding priorities, which include domestic abuse, e-safety and substance misuse.

<http://www.bracknellforestpartnership.org.uk/360>

The **Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)** is responsible for securing the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements and coordinating activity to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The LSCB

produces an annual report in which it highlights key messages to partners on ways in which safeguarding activity can be improved.

The LSCB also produces a Business Plan with a number of key priorities which are incorporated and linked to the CYPP priorities and to those of other partnerships where relevant.

<http://www.bflscb.org.uk/>

The **Health and Wellbeing Board** is a statutory board which is made up of people who work in social care for adults, children, young people and families, people who work in different parts of the health service and people who represent patients and those who use health and social care services. The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for producing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which identifies health and wellbeing priorities to inform commissioning of health services locally. These priorities link closely to the priorities in key Council and partnership plans. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy can be accessed at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/jointhealthandwellbeingstrategy>

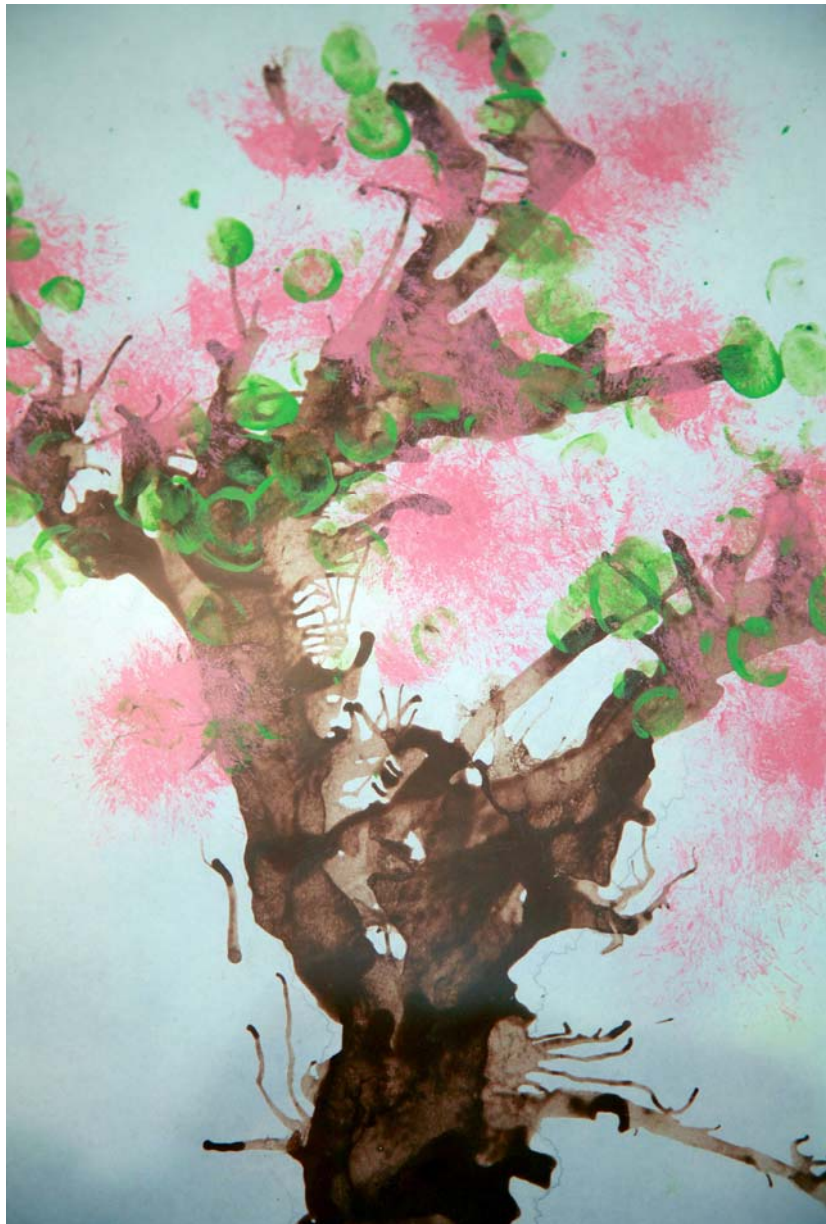
## National Policy Drivers

There has been a lot of activity nationally looking at a range of key legislative changes aimed at improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

The list below is a sample of the range of activity taking place and highlights some of the key areas of activity:

- Coalition policies to reduce the national financial deficit and costs of the public sector.
- The Welfare Reform Act 2012 which brings about changes to tax credits, child benefit and housing benefits.
- Changes to the health system including the abolition of the Primary Care Trusts, the creation of Clinical Commissioning Groups, the introduction of the Statutory Health and Wellbeing Boards and the transfer of Public Health responsibilities to local authorities.
- The Children and Families Bill which proposes the reform of Special Educational Needs and Learning Disability Assessments. The Bill also proposes quicker timescales for adoption and care proceedings, and introduces a statutory requirement to have a Virtual School Head in place for Looked After Children.
- The Family Justice Review which has led to significant changes to Court and Family Law, this impacts on the way in which local authorities and other partners are required to manage cases where there are care proceedings.
- Continued work on the reform of child protection following the Munro Review of Child Protection. This includes a focus on the journey of the child, early help and more effective joint working systems and processes.
- New statutory guidance on child protection Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013.
- Raising the age of participation for young people to remain in education or training until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday from 2015.

- More free early education places for two year olds who are looked after or who are entitled to receive free school meals.
- The NHS England Better Care Fund (formerly the Integration Transformation Fund) announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round, to ensure a transformation in integrated health and social care. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a single pooled budget to support health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas.



*From My Bracknell Forest Art Exhibition*



## Where Are We Now?

This section provides some information on where we think we are now and at the end of each section areas for development for 2014 – 2017 are identified.

### Education Outcomes:

Results from **Early Years Foundation Stage** (EYFS) data from schools and settings show above national average attainment at age 5. The percentage of pupils at the end of the EYFS (age 5) achieving a good level of development (expected or exceeding levels in the prime areas of learning plus literacy and mathematics) was 58% (52% nationally).

The **gap between the bottom 20%** of children and the average points score is 27.4%.

**Key Stage 1** (age 7) level 2 shows that results improved in reading 92% (89% in 2012) and writing 89% (86% in 2012) but fell back slightly in mathematics 91% (93% in 2012).

**Key Stage 1** level 2B+ shows that results improved in reading 82% (78% in 2012), and remained the same in writing 69% and mathematics 80%.

**Key Stage 1** level 3 shows that results improved in reading 33% (29% in 2012) and mathematics 25% (23% in 2012) and fell slightly in writing 14% (15% in 2012).

**Key Stage 2 (age 11)** level 4+ shows that attainment for all pupils in reading for 2013 is 88% which is the same as 2012. Writing is 87% in 2013 which is an improvement from the 2012 figure of 83%, mathematics is 85% in 2013 which is an improvement from 84% in 2012. A combined score for reading, writing and mathematics is 78% in 2013, which is an improvement from 74% in 2012. Grammar, punctuation and spelling is a new indicator in 2013 and the score is 74% which is in line with the regional and national average.

**Key Stage 2** level 5+ also shows an improvement in attainment from 2012 in writing (29% in 2013, 27% in 2012) and mathematics (41% in 2013 and 39% in 2012). Reading remains in line with last year (48%) and is above the national averages for 2013. Results in writing are slightly below the regional and national average.

**Key Stage 4** results show that the proportion of young people obtaining 5 or more GCSE grades A\* - C including English and mathematics increased to 63.4 % (61.4% in 2012). The proportion of young people achieving the other main measure of attainment at Key Stage 4 (5 or more GCSE grades A\* - C) has remained at over 90%.

Historically Bracknell Forest has had relatively high levels of permanent exclusions; however more recently with the introduction of the Fair Access Panel this trend has been significantly reduced.

The rate of permanent exclusions has also reduced significantly in 2012/13 (0.03% compared to 0.17% for 2011/12) which is a decrease of 23 pupils (28 to 5).

The School Places Planning process has been successful in ensuring that there were sufficient pupil places available in the borough.

## **Areas for Development 2014 – 2017**

- Continued focus on improving attainment for all pupils.
- Continued focus on improving attainment for Looked After Children.
- Improving attainment and outcomes of pupils who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium.
- Narrowing the gap for pupils eligible for free school meals.
- Narrowing the gap in the early years.
- Support children and young people with SEN and implement SEN reforms.
- Continued focus on reducing school exclusions and promoting positive behaviour in schools.
- Increase the number of schools rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- Implement the Education Vision and Values across all schools and partners who work with and support schools.

## **Health Outcomes:**

The health profile of Bracknell Forest shows that Bracknell Forest residents are healthier when compared to the national population.

The percentage of mothers smoking in pregnancy has declined from 16% in 2008 to 9% in 2013. Nationally, the percentage was lower than Bracknell Forest in 2008 but increased the following year (2009) and has remained higher over the last five years.

The conception rate has decreased significantly in Bracknell Forest since 1998. Conception rates in Bracknell Forest are lower than the national and the South East Region averages and are comparable to local authorities with similar levels of deprivation.

The uptake of some vaccinations aimed at children are significantly poorer than the national average, including in relation to Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR). Work is required across a range of organisations to raise awareness of the importance of vaccinations and make it easier for parents and children to access them.

2012/13 data shows that 19.3% of children aged 4 – 5 are classed as overweight or obese, this is significantly lower than the England average of 22.2%.

2012/13 data shows that 27.1% of children aged 10 – 11 are classed as overweight or obese, this is significantly lower than the England average of 33.3%.

The number of young people being seen within the substance misuse treatment service was 82 in March 2013. The number of young people successfully completing treatment still remains high at 75% compared to the national average of 65%. During 2012/13 a total of 26 young people who were misusing stimulants left the system having completed treatment.

In 2012 / 2013, 33 parents presented to drug treatment services which included 38% new presentations. In terms of alcohol 112 people who presented to treatment were parents which equates to 61% new presentations. In cases where parents are

presenting with alcohol or substance misuse issues there is close working between adult and children's services.

Overall the health of looked after children and care leavers is good, and the average % of children who have had their teeth checked by a dentist was 91% on 31 March 2013, and an annual health assessment was 97% on 31 March 2013.

In 2012 / 2013 there were 643 referrals received by the local mental health trust of which 537 were appropriate for a response from Tier 3 and Tier 4 Bracknell CAMHS, The majority of these referrals came from the Primary Health Care Team.

CAMHS reports that the number of referrals is increasing; in the first quarter of 2013 the number of referrals to CAMHS had increased by approximately 31% compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

The Educational Psychology Service has worked with all schools in the borough including College Hall Pupil Referral Unit and Kennel Lane School during the course of the academic year 2012/2013. They have provided consultation in relation to 634 children and worked directly with 204 children.

### **Areas for Development 2014 – 2017**

- Public Health are carrying out a review of the children's services they commission.
- A review and re-commissioning of sexual health services.
- Continued focus on reducing number of children who are overweight or obese.
- Work is required across a range of organisations to raise awareness of the importance of vaccinations and make it easier for parents and children to access them.
- Further development of services for children and young people with emotional health and wellbeing issues including CAMHS Tiers 1-4.
- Recommission Tier 3 CAMHS service.
- Continued focus on maintaining lower levels of teenage pregnancy.
- Continued focus on provision of young people's substance and alcohol misuse support.
- Provision of a specialist nurse providing targeted outreach support for vulnerable women.

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan can vary from month to month. Bracknell Forest has seen a significant increase in this area and on 31 March 2013 there were 112 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. This is higher than the number on March 31 2012 which was 82 children.

The categories of registration on 31 March 2013 showed that 50% of those subject to a Child Protection Plan were under the category of neglect, 41.1% under the category of emotional abuse, 6.3% under the category of physical abuse and 2.7% under the category of sexual abuse.

The number of children who are looked after by the local authority can vary from month to month. On 31 March 2013 the number of children who were looked after by the local authority was 103, this is a small increase on the 31 March 2012 where there were 100 children looked after.

The number of Children in Need (CiN) who are supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (this means they are not subject to a Child Protection Plan and not looked after, but that some support is being provided by the local authority) has increased and was 555 children on 31 March 2013, this was an increase on the previous year which was 484 children at 31 March 2012.

There were 1,829 incidents of domestic abuse incidents reported in 2012/13 this included 425 recorded crime, 1,404 where a crime has not been committed but the incident has been reported to police. Children were identified as being in the household in just over half (54%) of the domestic abuse incidents in 2012-13.

There were 49 children identified as victims of violence with injury offences and 57 without injury in 2012/13. This is a reduction of 42% and 31% respectively.

The number of sexual offences against u18 year olds has seen a reduction this year (-15% between 2011/12 and 2012/13).

The LSCB hosted a successful conference in June 2013 on the subject of neglect attended by over 200 people. Frank Field MP was a keynote speaker and a powerful drama on Child Sexual Exploitation was performed for the audience.

The LSCB Annual Report 2012/13 identifies key areas of achievement and activity over the past year and provides a number of key messages for partners.

#### **Areas for Development 2014 – 2017**

- Continued focus on reducing the number of children and young people subject to a Child Protection Plan, being looked after or a Child In Need.
- Continue to address neglect as a significant factor in Child Protection.
- Reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.
- Address the ongoing issues and concerns identified by young people in relation to bullying, including cyber bullying. Provision of appropriate advice, guidance and support for children and young people who have been affected by bullying.
- Provision of appropriate advice, guidance and support regarding e-safety issues and concerns.
- Further development of the CAF early help assessment and use of the Early Intervention Hub to provide coordinated early help support.
- Implement the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, and monitor outcomes for those affected.



## **Vulnerable Children and Young People**

There are four Children's Centres in Bracknell Forest with over 5,000 children registered (as at August 2013) which is two-thirds of all 0 – 4 year olds in the Borough.

In Bracknell Forest there were nearly 2800 pupils identified for the Pupil Premium either because they were eligible for free school meals (in the last six years), a service child or a looked after child.

During 2012 / 13 there were 273 assessments undertaken using the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). A new Family CAF was developed and introduced supporting more holistic early help assessment, and the new Early Intervention Hub designed to provide a forum for multi-agency coordination of early help cases considered 192 referrals from its launch in November 2012 to 31 March 2013.

The 2011 Census identified 592 young people aged between 0-24 years providing unpaid care. The service for Young Carers in Bracknell Forest is currently commissioned from KIDS who provide a range of support and activities.

In April 2013, 174 young people aged 16-18 were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Bracknell Forest; this is a reduction of 26 on the previous period. The level of NEETs has reduced as a result of more young people being supported into education, employment and training.

The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 of 10 – 17 year old population) for the year ending December 2012 was 42 young people, this is a reduction on the previous year which saw 61 young people as first time entrants.

At the end of March 2013 100% of eligible care leavers were in suitable accommodation, 78% in education, training or employment and 100% with a completed Pathway Plan.

In 2012/13 there were over 30,000 attendances by young people to youth settings. In the first six months of 2013/14 there have been over 16,500 attendances. The average number of young people attending each month is just over 1,200 and there were over 800 new attendances each month between April to September 2013.

## **Areas for Development 2014 – 2017**

- Support young people into appropriate education, training or employment and continue to reduce those who are NEET.
- Support for children with behavioural difficulties to remain within a school setting.
- Support young people who are looked after to achieve their full potential.
- Work with partners to identify and support young carers through improved assessment and joint working arrangements and Recommission support services.
- Continued focus on early help for young people at risk of offending.
- Continued support and development of Children's Centres to target and work with families in need of early help, or targeted services.
- Complete the Youth Modernisation Programme.

## **Family and Parenting Support**

### *Family Focus*

A key national programme aimed at reducing the number of families in difficulties is the Troubled Families Programme, locally known as “Family Focus”.

This is a three year initiative aimed at reducing the number of families who experience multiple problems and are often supported by a range of agencies at the same time. Some of the agencies involved include Citizens Advice Bureau, Bracknell Forest Homes, Educational Psychology Service, Children's Social Care, Education Welfare Service, Police and Youth Offending Service.

To date 235 families have been identified and engaged in the ongoing programme.

### *Structured Parenting Programmes*

The Behaviour Support Team provides support that aims to enable parents to become confident in their parenting and provide positive behaviour management skills to help them to effectively manage challenging behaviour. They provide specialist interventions in the home and also a range of parenting programmes.

The Behaviour Support Team received 123 referrals (87% from schools) in 2012-13 (academic year) and the main reason was for parenting support. Of the support offered by the Behaviour Support Team in the academic year 2012/13:

- 99 parents took part in universal programmes
- 113 parents took part in targeted parenting programmes during 2012/13

Children's Centre's provide activities for under 5s plus support and information for their families. In 2012-13 they ran 11 parenting programmes with 95 parents attending. The aim of these courses is to provide parenting support, early intervention support and support for those in a relationship where there is or was domestic abuse.

### *Family Group Conference*

Family Group Conferencing is a child focused, family meeting that aims to help families find their own solutions to difficulties they are experiencing, supported by a Coordinator. During the year 2012/13 there were 49 Family Group Conference referrals. This number has increased each year for the last three years and is proving to be a successful way to enable families to address their difficulties.

## **Areas for Development 2014-2017**

- Review family and parenting support services in the borough and implement any findings / recommendations from the review.
- Continue delivery of the Family Focus Programme and the extension of funding from the DfE to undertake more preventative work with families.
- Provision of more targeted outreach support through Children's Centres.
- Undertake local research on the Family Focus Project to determine impact of intervention.
- Further develop targeted parenting support programmes.

- Further development of targeted training in schools to improve engagement and outcomes for vulnerable families using the School Children's Vulnerability Tool.

### **Tackling Child Poverty**

The Bracknell Forest Child Poverty Strategy was developed in 2011 and was one of a number of strategies supporting the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan priorities. Since its development there has been good progress, however it is important to note that the strategy has been implemented during a period when the economic climate has been challenging for families.

#### **Some examples of progress include:**

- Work and skills courses and a range of activities determined jointly with referring agencies such as Job Centre Plus, Work Programme Providers. This includes agencies supporting people with issues around drugs and alcohol, mental health difficulties, young parents and those meeting the criteria for support under the Troubled Families Programme.
- During 2012-13 academic year 233 individuals undertook family learning courses focussed on improving literacy and numeracy skills aimed at helping people back into work.
- A range of staff have been trained to provide support and guidance regarding debt management and budgeting.
- An 11% increase in child-minders trained to provide an inclusive service for children with additional needs, as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Strategy.
- Bracknell Forest Homes and Bracknell Forest Council are working together with United Savings & Loans to introduce a Credit Union in Bracknell Forest. The Credit Union will enable local residents to borrow money at reasonable rates without turning to doorstep lenders and payday loan organisations. Local residents will also be able to take advantage of a unique budgeting system called a Jam Jar account that will assist with money management and prioritising key household bills.
- The Credit Union rolled out a number of surgeries before Christmas 2013, take up was very high. The formal launch of the Credit Union is taking place in March 2014.
- Increased access to local facilities through the Leisure Saver Scheme, during 2012/13 there were 6,794 visits to Leisure Centres by members of the scheme, of which around 660 were under 16.

#### **Areas for Development 2014 – 2017**

- Fully implement the Credit Union and monitor impact.
- Roll out of the two year old funding for disadvantaged pupils.
- Continued focus on uptake of free school meals for those eligible.
- Implementation of free school meals for Key Stage One pupils.
- Monitor the impact of the Pupil Premium on outcomes for pupils.
- Continue the provision of a range of learning opportunities for adults to improve employability.

## Our Priorities in the New Plan

In our plan for the coming three years we have six key priorities which provide the framework for partnership work.

These priorities involve all those organisations working with and supporting children, young people and families whether they are in a local authority, school, health service, police, or a private / voluntary setting.

### Outcome Priorities

<b>OP 1</b>	<b>Raise levels of attainment and pupil progress across all phases of learning for all pupils</b>
<b>OP 2</b>	<b>Improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing from conception to birth and throughout life</b>
<b>OP 3</b>	<b>Safeguard and protect children and young people</b>
<b>OP 4</b>	<b>Improve outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people in the borough</b>
<b>OP 5</b>	<b>Strengthen families through effective multi-agency coordination and support</b>
<b>OP 6</b>	<b>Reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people</b>

We believe that the priorities we have identified are those that are most important to children, young people and families in the borough. In order to secure effective outcomes in these priorities all partners working with children and young people will ensure the following principles underpin the work they do individually and in partnership with others.

- Supporting the child/ young person's journey through key life stages and ensuring support where needed.
- Active engagement of children, young people and families in the planning and delivery and evaluation of services.
- Prevention and early intervention systems are in place to provide effective early help.



## How We Identified These Priorities

### Reviewing Performance and Inspection Findings

Many of our services are regulated by Ofsted, including social care, schools, early years, family health and learning. Inspections are important as they provide external validation of the quality of the services that are provided to children, young people and families in the borough, and they include consideration of the ways in which partners work together to achieve positive outcomes.

All published Ofsted inspection reports in relation to Bracknell Forest can be found at:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/bracknell-forest>

### Children and Young People's Needs Analysis

Our Children and Young People's Needs Analysis enables us to consider a wide range of data and information on children and young people at borough, ward and at Lower Super Output Area [LSOA] levels. This provides a picture of where there may be difficulties, and to consider how we might target support or resources in those areas. The needs analysis is carried out to support the development of the Children and Young People's Plan priorities, and to provide information to partners to inform their plans. Information from the needs analysis has also been taken forward to use in the JSNA.

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknellforestchildrenandyoungpeoplespartnership>

### Joint Strategic Needs Assessment [JSNA]

The JSNA provides a much broader analysis of need, covering the total population of Bracknell Forest and has a particular focus on health and well-being. The JSNA is a joint activity between the local authority and health partners, and is intended to inform strategic commissioning of services to meet local need.

The JSNA identifies a range of priorities for action across a range of organisations and Departments including the local authority, police, NHS and Public Health many of which impact directly on children, young people and families.

An on-line version of the JSNA can be accessed at:

<http://jsna.bracknell-forest.gov.uk>

### Peer Challenge

A range of Peer Challenge activity by peers from other local authorities has taken place supported by the Children's Performance Board agenda. These Peer Challenges have required self assessment to be undertaken in key areas of activity, and Peer Teams have visited to carry out the Challenge which has involved the local authority services, and other key partners such as health and schools.

Bracknell Forest has hosted three Peer Challenge Visits:

- School Improvement Key Stage 2 – in 2011
- Educational Psychology – 2012
- Children's Centres – linked to early intervention and the interface between agencies – 2013

In October 2013 the Local Government Association were invited by the Director Children, Young People and Learning, to undertake a Safeguarding Practice Diagnostic (SPD). This process enabled a focus on specific areas of children's services and helped to identify some key strengths and areas for development.

The areas covered by the SPD included:

- Case records review
- Audit validation
- Review of contact and referrals
- Social work practice observation
- Information health check

The findings of the SPD have led to the development of an action plan, and some of the areas for development have been included within the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **Local Research**

### *LARC 5 Neglect Research:*

Bracknell Forest is one of nine Local Authorities (LAs) across England that participated in the Local Authority Research Consortium Round 5 (LARC5) during 2012/13. LARC is a sector-led research project where individual LAs carry out their own research within a national framework supported by National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and Research in Practice (RiP) researchers.

The aim of the research was to investigate how to effectively support families with different levels of need to engage with services across the early intervention spectrum within the overall framework of neglect. The findings have helped us to think about the support we offer to children, young people and families and have led to further work on family and parenting support which is included within the priorities in this plan.

The research report and other similar publications can be found at:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/index.cfm>

### *Building a Profile of Children in Need:*

This project had a specific focus on developing a profile of Children in Need (CiN), and was identified as an issue due to the rising number of children subject to child protection plans, and the sustained higher level of children who are looked after.

This report was developed using a range of methods:

- Research – making use of national, regional and local research to inform the analysis and content of the report.
- Regional and National data - making use of both regional and national data to provide benchmarking and comparative data within the report.
- Analysis of local data – making use of the information available for CiN.
- Analysis of a needs audit of 25 cases of CiN.

The findings of the report led to a series of recommendations being made and have also informed the priorities in this report.

### **Professional Focus Groups**

The Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Young People's Partnership Forum were asked to consider the priorities and to identify further actions that were needed to make further improvements against the priorities, and these have been incorporated into informing the priorities in the plan.

## **Seeking the Views of Children and Young People**

The Bracknell Forest Survey of Children and Young People 2013 was undertaken in partnership with The Children's Society. The survey used an online survey to gain the views of 2,500 children between the ages of nine and sixteen living in Bracknell Forest, with an additional 200 children and young people taking part in focus groups which explored further findings from the survey.

The survey questionnaire covered a wide range of aspects of children's lives and provides an important insight into children's well-being in Bracknell Forest.

### **Key findings from the survey:**

- Most children in Bracknell Forest aged eight to fifteen are relatively happy with their lives while around 8% of children have low overall well-being. This proportion is similar to the national average.
- Children's well-being declines with age. Also, children who say they are disabled or have difficulties with learning, those who are eligible for free school meals and those who are not living with their family are more likely to have low well-being.
- Children's levels of happiness with many aspects of their lives are similar in Bracknell Forest to the national average. Children in Bracknell Forest are happier than average with their prospects for the future, their money/possessions, and the amount of choice that they have, their home and their school. They are slightly less happy than average with their health and appearance.
- In terms of school and learning, children in Bracknell Forest appear to be relatively happy with most aspects of school life, and slightly happier than the national average with their relationships with teachers.
- Children in Bracknell Forest generally expressed positive views about their local area, on or above the national average.
- Around a quarter of the children surveyed said that they had been bullied in the last three months. This included bullying in school, going to and from school and in their local area, but also bullying online and through texting. Experiences of being bullied are linked with lower than average overall well-being.

We have ensured that these messages from our young people have been shared widely with all our partners so that they can consider the issues and respond appropriately to the views expressed.

The survey report can be found at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/bracknellforestchildrenandyoungpeoplespartnership>

## Workforce Development

Critical to our success is the need to increase the skill, confidence and competence of our children's workforce; ensuring that it is well-led and made up of people who are willing and able to work effectively in an integrated way across agencies. The Children's Workforce includes those who work directly with children, young people and their families, or are otherwise responsible for improving their outcomes.

There are five key areas for partners to focus on to ensure that the workforce is able to support the delivery of the priorities in this plan:

- Recruiting people with the right skills and qualities into the children's workforce.
- Developing and retaining more people within the children's workforce.
- Promoting strong leadership, management and supervision.
- Strengthening inter-agency and multi-disciplinary working.
- Developing the skills of the workforce in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

All partner agencies working with children, young people and families have a responsibility to ensure these are built into their workforce planning. The Council has a Pay and Workforce Development Plan.

A significant level of training is delivered on a multi-agency basis in particular training on the Common Assessment Framework and Assessment Skills, and the Safeguarding Training at all levels.

The LSCB Training Sub Group is responsible for the planning and delivery of the safeguarding training and reports on a regular basis to the LSCB.

## Equalities

All services are subject to equalities legislation, which ensures that when we are planning and delivering support to children, young people and families we take into account any additional needs that they may have and take steps to ensure they are not disadvantaged as a result.

Throughout the development of this plan we have worked hard to ensure that we have recognised a range of additional needs and have identified how we aim to support and meet those needs.

The Public Sector Equality Duty provisions came into force in April 2011. The Council has a general duty to pay due regard to:

- Advancing equality of opportunity.
- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Fostering good relations.



The Council and partners operate within the legislative framework for equalities and have appropriate equality plans in place.

‘Creating Opportunities’ will be one of a range of plans and strategies that will demonstrate the way in which the Council and its partners are achieving this duty.

## Monitoring Our Progress

The successful delivery of our jointly agreed priorities is reliant on all the partners who represent and work with children, young people and their families all playing their part.

We have identified key areas of activity to support the priorities and identified some measures of success. These are detailed in the next section on delivering the priority outcomes.

The Children and Young People’s Partnership will monitor progress through:

- Maintaining an overview of data and performance information.
- Receiving regular progress reports from the working groups supporting delivery of the plan.
- Ensuring effective liaison and engagement with other key Partnerships and Boards, specifically the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and the Community Safety Partnership.
- Outcomes of inspection activity across partner agencies.
- Ensuring we seek the views of children, young people and their families throughout the year.
- An annual review of progress against the priorities.

The Children and Young People’s Partnership will report progress regularly to the overarching Bracknell Forest Partnership, to ensure effective governance of the work, and to ensure we are able to continually inform ongoing policy and developments in the interests of children, young people and families.

We will also carry out an annual review of the plan to measure progress against priorities, ensure the priorities remain relevant and up to date and the ongoing views of children, young people and families are incorporated into the work that we do.



## Conclusion

This plan has been developed using a wide evidence base which includes a comprehensive analysis of the views of children and young people, detailed local research that includes the voice of parent / carers, and the views of partner agencies.

Performance data and needs analysis provide a good picture of what has been achieved, and areas where there is still work to do in order to continue to focus and improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

There are some key government initiatives which will shape and focus our work in the coming months and we are clear that we must continue to work in partnership in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for all.

We hope this plan tells our story so far and conveys a strong feeling of what it is like to live and grow up in Bracknell Forest.

We believe it is a great place to live and grow up in, but we know that this is not the same story for everybody. Some people experience disadvantage and are less likely to achieve good outcomes in their lives.

This plan is a way of ensuring we can provide the right level of support and encouragement to enable people to aspire to achieve better outcomes and life chances.

We have looked at those things that are positive; and also at areas for further development where we think we can do better. As we have said throughout the document the success of this plan in delivering the improvements is reliant on the strength of our ability to work in partnership, and we know we are starting from a strong foundation of working together.

This plan is being delivered over a period when resources and funding continue to be challenging and we recognise the need to be realistic in what can be achieved, we believe that working together will enable us to use the resources we have even better and help us to further focus on the important priorities for children, young people and families in the borough.

We will produce a summary version of this plan which will be for children, young people and families, this will be available on our website, and will be distributed to schools and other providers.

We look forward to being able to put this plan into action and reporting on our progress in a year's time.



*From My Bracknell Forest Art Exhibition*

## Delivering the Priority Outcomes 2014 – 2017

<b>Outcome Priority 1</b> <b>Raise levels of attainment and pupil progress across all phases of learning for all pupils</b>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
<b>1.1</b>	Education Vision and Values known across all schools and partners who work with and support schools.	Bracknell Forest Council –Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
<b>1.2</b>	Continue to work with early years providers to close the attainment gap.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
<b>1.3</b>	Provide sufficient school places to meet the changing patterns and demand.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
<b>1.4 a</b> <b>1.4 b</b> <b>1.4 c</b> <b>1.4d</b>	Increase the number of schools in the borough rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted. Continued focus on improving attainment for all pupils. Strengthen leadership across all schools and partnerships. Focus on assessment and tracking of pupils and use data to target support more effectively for vulnerable groups.	Bracknell Forest Council - Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement  Headteachers  School Governors
<b>1.5</b>	Support children and young people with special educational needs and implement SEN reforms arising from the Children and Families Bill.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement

<b>1.6 a</b>	Effective use pupil premium to support disadvantaged pupils in schools.	Headteachers
<b>1.6 b</b>	Monitor attainment of pupils in receipt of pupil premium.	Bracknell Forest Council - Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement
<b>1.7</b>	Continued focus on behaviour support and positive reduction in exclusions in secondary schools.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement
<b>1.8</b>	Continue to ensure access to life long learning opportunities for residents in the borough.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement Bracknell and Wokingham College
<b>1.9</b>	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support this outcome.	All agencies working with children, young people and families.
<b>Outcome Priority 2</b> <b>Improve physical and emotional health and wellbeing from conception to birth and throughout life</b>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
<b>2.1</b>	Complete a review of children's services health commissioning arrangements.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
<b>2.2</b>	Review and re-commission sexual health services.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
<b>2.3 a</b>	Continue to commission services for young people in relation to alcohol and substance misuse.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Drug and Alcohol Action Team

<b>2.3 b</b>	Continue to provide targeted information and support to young people in schools and other settings in relation to alcohol and substance misuse.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Headteachers
<b>2.4 a</b>	Continued focus on reducing number of children who are overweight or obese.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
<b>2.4 b</b>	Provide opportunities for children and young people to take regular exercise, in and out of school hours.	Bracknell Forest Council – Environment, Culture and Communities - Leisure Services  Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement, in partnership with schools.
<b>2.5 a</b>	Sustain low levels of teenage pregnancies, and increase awareness by young people of the risks involved.	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust – Sexual Health Services
<b>2.5 b</b>	Continue to provide targeted information and support to young people in schools and other settings in relation to teenage pregnancy and sexual health issues.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention  Bracknell Forest Council - Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health.
<b>2.6 a</b>	Recommission tier 3 CAMHS services	Bracknell Forest - Clinical Commissioning Group / NHS England
<b>2.6 b</b>	Further development of services for children and young people with emotional health	Central Southern Commissioning Support Unit



<b>2.6 c</b>	and wellbeing issues including CAMHS Tiers 1 – 4.  Continue to provide targeted information and support to young people in schools and other settings in relation to emotional health and wellbeing issues.	Bracknell Forest Health and Wellbeing Board  Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning - Learning and Achievement/Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Headteachers
<b>2.7</b>	Develop and implement a specialist nurse role to provide targeted outreach support to vulnerable women.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health  Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care
<b>2.8</b>	Raise awareness of the importance of vaccinations and make it easier for parents and children to access them.	Bracknell Forest Council – Adult Social Care, Health and Housing - Public Health
<b>2.9</b>	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support this outcome	All agencies working with children, young people and families.
<b>Outcome Priority 3 Safeguard and Protect Children and Young People</b>		
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Continued focus on reducing the number of children and young people who are supported by Children’s Social Care.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care
<b>3.2 a</b>	To launch the Guide to Neglect and promote through CAF and Safeguarding Training.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention

<b>3.2 b</b>	To continue to deliver the Symbol programme supporting parents where neglect may be an issue.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children's Social Care
<b>3.3</b>	Work with partners to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.	Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership: Thames Valley Police Domestic Abuse Forum Multi-agency DASC Project
<b>3.4 a</b>	Address the ongoing issues and concerns identified by young people in relation to bullying in all forms, including cyber-bullying and identity based bullying.	Bracknell Forest Council –Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement Headteachers Community Safety Partnership - E-Safety Group
<b>3.4 b</b>	Review Anti-bullying Strategy	
<b>3.5</b>	Further development of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and early intervention hub as a key strand of the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
<b>3.6</b>	Implement the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy, and monitor outcomes for those affected.	Local Safeguarding Board – CSE Group.
<b>3.7</b>	Continue to ensure the effectiveness of safeguarding for all partners working with children, young people and families.	Local Safeguarding Children Board
<b>3.8</b>	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support this outcome.	Local Safeguarding Children Board and all agencies working with children, young people and families.

<b>Outcome Priority 4</b> <b>Improve outcomes for all children and young people, especially the more vulnerable</b>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead agency</b>
<b>4.1</b>	Ensure children and young people who have behavioural difficulties are supported to remain in an appropriate educational setting	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement.
<b>4.2 a</b>	Provide additional / targeted support to children and young people who have English as a second language.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement.
<b>4.2 b</b>	Provide additional / targeted support to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds (e.g. on free school meals)	
<b>4.3 a</b>	Monitor health and education outcomes for children looked after and provide additional support where necessary.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
<b>4.3 b</b>	Monitor outcomes for care leavers and provide additional support where necessary	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust – LAC Nurse.
<b>4.4</b>	Continue to support young people who are NEET into appropriate education, training or employment and support those at risk of becoming NEET.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement. Adviza (formerly Connexions)
<b>4.5</b>	Work with partners to identify and support young carers through improved assessment and joint working arrangements and Recommission support services.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
<b>4.6</b>	Provide targeted support to young people at risk of offending.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children's Social Care

4.7	Continue to deliver support to children and young people with learning difficulties through the Aiming High programme.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children's Social Care
4.8	Provide targeted support to young people through youth service settings.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
4.9	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support children and young people from vulnerable groups	All agencies working with children, young people and families
<b>Outcome Priority 5</b> <b>Strengthen families through effective multi-agency coordination and support.</b>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
5.1	Provide targeted outreach support for families where there is a child under five through the Children's Centres.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
5.2	Continued delivery of the Family Focus Programme and the extension of funding from the DfE to undertake more preventative work with families.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
5.3	Review family and parenting support services in the borough and implement any findings / recommendations from the review	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement/Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
5.4	Continue to deliver a range of Parenting Support Programmes from universal through to specialist support.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention

<b>5.5</b>	Increase the number of families accessing Family Group Conference.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Children's Social Care
<b>5.6</b>	Continue to support and develop the Family support Adviser role within schools.	Headteachers
<b>5.7</b>	Continued delivery of the Family Nurse Partnership service.	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
<b>5.8</b>	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support children and young people from vulnerable groups	All agencies working with children, young people and families
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outcome Priority 6</b>  <b>Reduce the impact of poverty on children and young people.</b></p>		
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
<b>6.1</b>	Fully implement the Credit Union and monitor impact.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Bracknell Forest Homes
<b>6.2</b>	Roll out of the two year old funding for disadvantaged pupils. Monitor impact of additional funding on outcomes.	Bracknell Forest Council Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
<b>6.3</b>	Continued focus on uptake of free school meals for those eligible.	Schools  Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention
<b>6.4</b>	Implementation of free school meals for Key Stage One pupils.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and

		Learning – Strategy, Resources and Early Intervention Schools
<b>6.5</b>	Monitor the impact of the Pupil Premium on outcomes for pupils.	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
<b>6.6</b>	Provision of learning opportunities for adults	Bracknell Forest Council – Children, Young People and Learning – Learning and Achievement
<b>6.7</b>	Ensure workforce is equipped with skills to support children and young people from vulnerable groups	All agencies working with children, young people and families



## Outcome Measures

The activity of all those working with children, young people and families is measured using a range of indicators and reported nationally. A **selection** of these indicators is listed below, and will be monitored by the Children and Young People's Partnership. Progress against these will be reported in the first annual review of the Plan in 2015.

1	Number of children on protection plans on 31 March
2	Number of looked after children on 31 March
3	Number of children receiving Section 17 Support on 31 March
4	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placement
5	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement
6	Care leavers in suitable accommodation
6	Care leavers in employment, education or training
7	Number of families turned around through Family Focus Project
9	Number of CAF/ Family CAFs undertaken
10	Number of referrals to Early Intervention Hub
11	Schools judged good or better by Ofsted
12	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest
13	Percentage of children who achieve or exceed levels of attainment at the end of Foundation Stage as measured by the EYFSP in all of the Early Learning Goals for communication and language, physical development, personal social and emotional development, literacy and mathematics.
14	Achievement of pupils at all Key stages
15	Percentage of children looked after achieving 5 A(star) – C GCSEs at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)
16	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2.
17	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 4.
18	Rate of permanent exclusions from school
19	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap - achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold

<b>20</b>	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap - achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc English and Maths
<b>21</b>	Key Stage 2 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups
<b>22</b>	Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups
<b>23</b>	Key Stage 2 attainment for black and minority ethnic groups containing more than 30 pupils who achieve level 4 in writing
<b>24</b>	Key Stage 2 attainment for black and minority ethnic groups containing more than 30 pupils who achieve level 4 in maths
<b>25</b>	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
<b>26</b>	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)
<b>27</b>	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training
<b>28</b>	Under 18 Conception per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17
<b>29</b>	% Children classified as overweight 4 – 5 year olds % Children classified as overweight 10 – 11 year olds
<b>30</b>	% Children classified as obese 5 – 5 year olds % Children classified as obese 10 – 11 year olds

**N.B: Indicators may be subject to change during the year**