

Bedford Borough  
**Children's Trust**



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



*building bridges for brighter futures*

# Bedford Borough's Children's Trust

## Commissioning Strategy



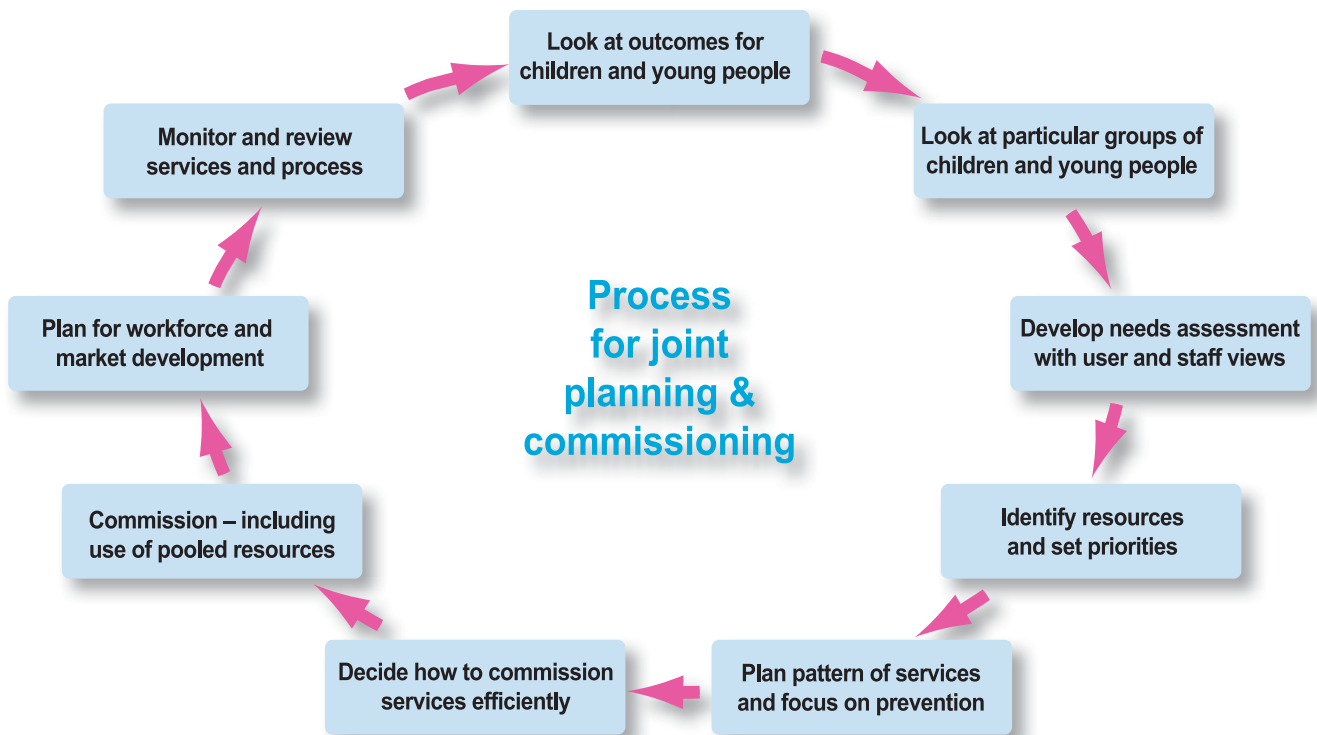
Commissioning Strategy 2009/2010

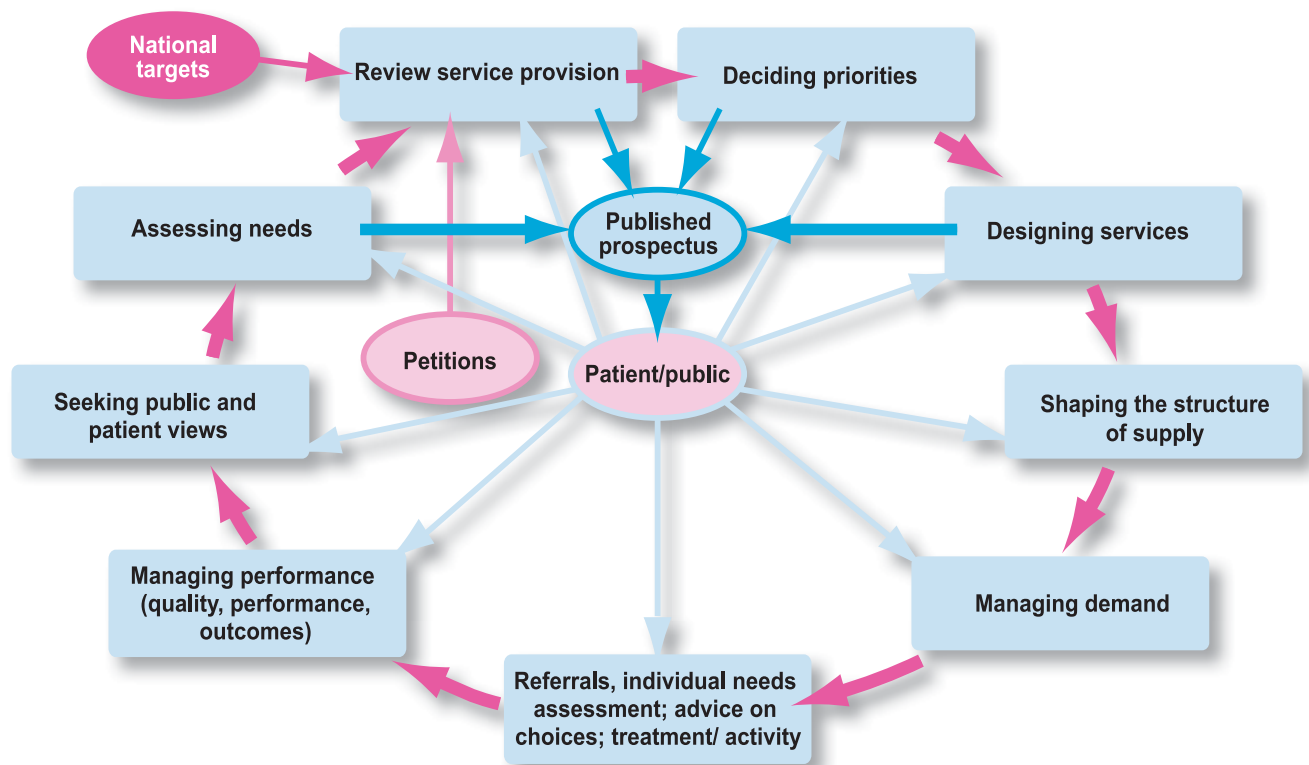
## Joint Commissioning Strategy

This strategy has been developed to ensure a shared understanding of the way in which Bedford Borough Children’s Services and Partner agencies will work together to commission services that are needed to fulfil our ambition and priorities for Bedford Borough children and young people. All partners will be expected to commit to the principles and processes for joint commissioning that are detailed in this strategy.

Joint commissioning is defined as the process of collaborating to specify, secure and monitor services to meet individual needs at a strategic level. This means we will work across service areas to identify needs, specify service requirements, decide whether to purchase or provide the services and then to procure or deliver them. This applies to all services whether they are directly provided by or purchased from the public, private, community or voluntary sector.

Bedford Borough Children’s Trust have adopted the Department for Children’s Schools and Families (DCSF) framework for commissioning services and will follow this model alongside the Department of Health (DH) commissioning framework as shown below.





## The key principles of the Executive Commissioning Board will be to:

- Listen and respond to the needs of children and young people
- Promote early intervention and preventative activities
- Deliver a tapestry of services at a locality level
- Ensure effective multi-agency approaches are embedded
- Promote sustainability
- Ensure value for money
- Promote flexible approaches to commissioning of services taking into account economic factors
- Base decisions on clear needs analysis
- Ensure a fair and transparent approach to commissioning of services
- Secure high quality provision through the most appropriate providers
- Support the third sector ensuring they have the right skills and support to deliver required outcomes
- Ensure equality and promote diversity
- Lead a strategic approach to workforce planning and development and our commitment to promote equality in the workplace in order to deliver high quality services.

## Overall Commissioning Priorities are to:

- Make services easier for children, young people and families to access
- Ensure integrated services have the capability to divert known priority groups from acute to preventative services
- Ensure service delivery is cost effective by reducing overlaps and duplication and creating economies of scale
- Ensure resources are focussed on the right priorities to ensure improved outcomes

The Executive Commissioning Board will establish commissioning intentions following the first meeting of the Strategic Implementation Groups (Healthy, Safe, Aspiring) once priorities have been agreed at the Trust Board. All commissioning will take into account:

- Budget availability
- Baseline data and direction of travel
- Needs of children and young people
- National, regional and local priorities
- Economic factors

## Performance Management

The role of the Executive Commissioning Board will be to maintain an overview of the total resource envelope from all partner agencies and ensure partners maximise all opportunities for improving outcomes for children and young people.

The Executive Commissioning Board will develop new ways of working that will support the achievement of improved outcomes through:

- Aligned budgets
- Pooled budgets
- Integrated working
- Co-location of teams
- Joint bids for new grants

The Strategic Implementation Groups will report activity and outcomes to the Executive Commissioning Board who will provide support and challenge to ensure better outcomes for children, young people and families.

