

Central Bedfordshire Childrens Trust

Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan - summary



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What is a Children's Trust and a Children and Young People's Plan

As a new unitary area we have now set up our Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Trust. This is a local partnership that brings together those organisations that work together to improve children's lives and deliver the best possible services for families.

The Government published its Children's Plan which aims to make sure that all children – wherever they live, whatever their background and whatever their age – are healthy, stay safe, enjoy life and achieve well at school and beyond, make a positive contribution to society and can achieve their full potential later in life.

The role of Children's Trusts is to turn this vision into reality and Central Bedfordshire's Children and Young People's plan sets out how we are going to do this.

Our vision for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire

We want every child in Central Bedfordshire to enjoy their childhood and have the best possible start in life. We want every child to do well at school, make friends and build strong relationships with their family. By the age of 19, as young adults we want every young person to have the knowledge, skills and qualifications that will give them the best chance of success, so that they are prepared to take their full place in society as a happy, healthy, contributing and confident citizen.

What children and young people said

We asked more than 4,000 children and young people what they thought was important to improve their lives and these are some of the things they said they want:

Be healthy

Children and young people want more opportunities to lead healthy lifestyles and feel that better play facilities and more sports activities would help achieve this. They also asked for healthier and nice school meals.

“More stuff on healthy lifestyles”

“More accessible contraception coz some places want all your details if you ask for it”

Stay safe

Children and young people want safe areas to live and play and they want action to stop bullying out of school. They also feel it was important to stop bad behaviour and crime in their areas and for children and the Police to have more opportunities to talk.

“Stop big groups of young people walking around at night”

“Stop gang culture”

Enjoy and achieve

Help to do better at school is something that children and young people want and they also want more rewards for behaving and doing well at school.

“After school club to help us with Maths and English”

“Young peoples celebration - like Young People of The Year Awards”



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Make a positive contribution

As mentioned above children and young people want more rewards for behaving and doing well. In particular they want to see good things about young people in newspapers and the media. They also feel that they need more things to do, such as more groups and clubs to join and play schemes. Cheaper transport to get to places was highlighted as an issue and children and young people were concerned that those families who need help to pay for activities for their children are given support.

“More music concerts - stuff for us to do, could have stalls on drug and alcohol too.”

“Good website that says all the stuff you can do and is up to date.”

Achieve economic wellbeing

As mentioned above children and young people thought there should be help for families who need it to pay for activities. They also thought that there should be more job opportunities for young people.

“We need more help on what we should do after leaving school”

What Central Bedfordshire's Children and Young People's Trust is going to do

We have considered what children, young people, parents have told us and we have also analysed local evidence in order to understand what is important in improving children, young people and families lives. We have now set out in our plan the things we plan to do and the following are the key building blocks we will put in place to deliver our vision and priorities:

- Recognise as early as possible those children, young people and their families who need advice and support;
- Support those children, young people and families who are struggling to make ends meet;
- Make sure that health, education, housing, police and social services are working together better in local communities to meet the needs of young people and their families;
- Make sure that there are more opportunities for children and young people to have a say in those things that affect their lives;
- Make sure that children, young people, families - and staff that work with them - have access to information on choices, options and activities through websites and publications; and



- Make sure that all those who work with children, young people and their families have the skills and knowledge to help them achieve their full potential.

Be Healthy Priorities

Priority 1: A healthy start to life – we are working to ensure more women have antenatal care and breastfeed their babies, and we aim to reduce the numbers of women smoking when pregnant.

Priority 2: Ensure children and young people are able to make responsible decisions in relation to drugs, alcohol, and sexual health – we aim to reduce the numbers of young people smoking and misusing substances such as drugs and alcohol; we aim to reduce teenage pregnancy and increase screening for sexually transmitted diseases.

Priority 3: Promote, protect and treat the mental and emotional health of children and young people – we will improve mental health services for children and young people.

Priority 4: Support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles – we will reduce the numbers of young people smoking and the numbers of children who are very overweight and increase physical activity and healthy eating.

Priority 5: Transform services for disabled children – we will improve access to services for disabled children and young people and increase the range and number of short breaks for all disabled children and their families.

Stay Safe Priorities

Priority 6: Protect children and young people from harm - we will work together to respond to children whose safety is at risk and make sure children and young people know how to access help should it be needed from a trusted source.

Priority 7: Reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people – we will put in place support for children and young people in situations where domestic abuse is happening.

Priority 8: Reduce the incidence and impact of bullying on children and young people – we will work together to reduce bullying out of school.

Enjoy and Achieve Priorities

Priority 9: Transform teaching and learning - we want all our schools and the places where children go for early years education to be at least good.

Priority 10: Raise achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances – we are aiming for all children and young people to do well and have good literacy, numeracy and computer skills.



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Priority 11: For all children and young people to enjoy going to school - we are aiming for all schools to offer a wide range of services such as out of hours learning and extra curricular activity and a wide range of leisure and play activities.

Make a Positive Contribution Priorities

Priority 12: Introduce a positive image campaign to promote children and young people's achievements and positive contribution to communities - offer things for young people to do, especially on Friday evenings and at weekends and make sure they know what is on offer; provide more volunteering opportunities and better access to good places to play.

Priority 13: Reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour – reduce the high level of young people in prison and reduce the number of young people offending for the first time or re-offending.



Priority 14: Promote and provide play, leisure, sport and cultural activities for all children and young people and their families – we plan to make sure that those that don't normally get involved and those with disabilities can take part in activities on offer and that they know what is on offer.

Priority 15: Strengthen and improve relationships within families by encouraging positive parenting – we aim to encourage more parents to take part in parenting programmes and develop their skills and knowledge.



Achieve Economic Wellbeing Priorities

Priority 16: Develop a one stop multi-agency approach to reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training - offer young people a high quality programme of careers information, advice and guidance.

Priority 17: Work with employers, colleges and schools to increase the range and quality of local training, volunteering and job opportunities – we plan to co-ordinate the promotion of local job opportunities, provide increased training and work experiences for 14-16 year olds and develop apprenticeships in the public services.

Priority 18: Inspire our most vulnerable young people to raise their aspirations – we plan to bring a wide range of services together to support care leavers, young offenders, young carers, young people with physical and learning disabilities, gypsy and traveller children and teenage parents to help them set their sights on achieving more.





If you want to know more

For more information about Children's Trusts visit

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

For more information about Central Bedfordshire's Children and Young People's Trust and Plan:

Visit: **www.centralbedfordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk**

Call: **0300 300 5265**

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