

Children and Young People Plan (2024-2027)

Portfolio Holder's Introduction

To Be Added

The purpose of our Children and Young People Plan 2024 - 2027

Our Children and Young People Plan 2024-2027 sets out our vision, ambition, and overarching priorities for the next three years. It is a partnership strategy with a shared borough-wide vision and shared ambitions which can only be achieved through harnessing the skills, knowledge, and shared resources across services in public, private, and third sector to meet the needs of our communities.

The Plan also reflects the shared partnership priorities from our One Stockport Borough Plan, 'One Stockport: One Future' and the Greater Manchester shared priorities for children and young people; and is aligned with other key strategy documents including the Stockport Council Plan and the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership Plan. The Plan also provides a focus on the children and families responsibilities set out in the Stockport One Health and Care Plan.

The Children and Young People Plan sets the context which underpins the various strategies and plans which sit beneath it.

How the Children and Young People Plan has been shaped

The ambitions and priorities in this plan have been shaped by engaging with stakeholders across the partnership through the Stockport Family Partnership Board and through the engagement sessions that have taken place to develop each of the strategies sitting beneath the plan.

The plan has also been shaped by listening to the young people of Stockport. The results of the Bright Spots survey for children in our care and care leavers has helped us to better understand their lived experiences and what matters to them. In addition, Stockport's Youth Alliance, Listen, chose 'One Future' as the focus of their first youth summit in February 2024. Over 150 young people from 15 secondary schools and colleges across the borough took part in the summit.

The following quotes from Stockport residents provide a flavour of the conversations which took place.

'I would like to see lots of opportunities where we live and where we grow up and to get the support we need' - Daisy, Student at Stockport Grammar School.

'I believe that future generations should live in a beautiful town, where everyone feels safe and everyone feels loved and it feels like a community' - Igor, Student at Stockport Academy.

You can read more about what young people told us at the Summit in the engagement report, published here: - [One Future Plan - One Stockport.](#)

Vision and ambitions

Our shared overarching vision is for Stockport to be the best place for all children to grow up happy, healthy, with confidence, ambition and surrounded by love, care, and kindness. We want all families to feel supported, confident, and resilient and connected to their community and we want all children to have the very best start in life and to thrive throughout their growing up and beyond.

Inclusion is at the heart of our Children and Young People Plan: most children and young people in Stockport live in settled families, are healthy, benefit from high quality education places and achieve well at school and college. However, there are still too many children and families experiencing specific inequalities which prevent them from reaching their potential.

Our practice is founded on the belief that every child and young person matters and matters equally. We will nurture, sustain, and further develop connections, relationships, and mutual support between ourselves and within our communities in Stockport to build a better future, where all children and young people are included in the success of their community, and no one is left behind.

Our big ambitions are:

Ambition 1 - we will work together to give families the help they need when they need it, so children and young people are safe and supported by their family networks

Ambition 2 – all children have the best start in life and are ready for school at the end of reception.

Ambition 3 – all children and young people can access and engage in education and achieve the best they can.

Ambition 4 – children and families with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.

Ambition 5 – all children, young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer.

Ambition 6 – all children and young people enjoy good emotional and physical health and wellbeing and can access co-ordinated robust and timely support based on need¹.

Ambition 7 – children in care and care leavers have safe, stable, and loving homes and are equipped with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life.

¹ Key ambition for NHS GM ICS as per *Putting health at the heart of Greater Manchester: Improving health and care in Greater Manchester 2023-2028* is to improve health and wellbeing. We want to help people stay well, detect illness earlier, increase physical activity and tackle obesity. We want to do more to identify and treat conditions which affect health outcomes, including long term conditions (asthma, diabetes and epilepsy) and mental health.

Stockport Family – integrated education, health, and care

Strengthening our integrated partnership working is at the heart of this plan. We know that improving outcomes for children, young people and families is complex and not something that can be achieved by any one service alone. We want to build on our relationships across NHS, Council, VCFSE to develop our social model for health alongside the delivery of great care working with children and their families.

We want to ensure that all services for children, young people and families work together so families get the help they need when they need it.

We also want to ensure our workforce are supported. We know that these are really challenging times for our education, health and care workforce working with significant pressures and recruitment and retention challenges. We will continue to ensure the conditions are optimal to support our workforce - promote integration, great partnership working and excellent employment practice.

A key component of the Neighbourhood and Prevention programme, the Stockport Family integrated model puts children and families at the heart of service delivery with an emphasis on prevention, early help, strengths and asset-based approaches, community capacity building and neighbourhood working. It aims to draw demand upstream giving the greatest potential for meeting needs earlier, developing the best conditions for children to thrive and resultant reduction in spend.

Services are organised around delivery footprints aligning delivery arrangements for children closer to where they and their families live, and where they learn, play and transition to adulthood. It enables children and families to receive services and support in the locations that make sense to them; providing better continuity of support and enabling the use of data to gain insight for a fuller picture of need and service provision in each locality.

We want to build on our current integrated offer to children and families. We want to:

- Further enhance our neighbourhood work between key partners in communities, building on our ongoing work to link support and services to the localities, schools, and settings where children live, learn and play;
- Build on the central role of schools and settings at the heart of our communities;
- Build on our programme of co-production with families so that services meet need based on lived experiences, feedback, and collaboration;
- Further develop our successful approach to restorative practice;
- Continue to pursue our commitment to a relentless focus on inclusion;
- Continue to work in partnership to support children and young people to keep themselves safe and intervene and protect if necessary to make Stockport as safe as possible for our children and young people.

Our approach and outcomes

Our approach is based on:

- Restorative, relational and trauma informed practice
- Prevention and early intervention
- Inclusion
- Integrated services
- Innovative practice
- Co-production

We want children and young people to be able to say*:

- I feel safe;
- I feel part of my local community;
- My voice is heard and acted upon;
- I enjoy good health and wellbeing;
- I am happy and have people I can trust;
- I am confident and able to reach my goals;
- The people who love and care for me are enabled to do this.

*Outcomes co-produced with children and young people.

Our shared principles for partnership working underpin our approach: -

- We are committed to every child;
- We recognise that a child's biggest influence is their family – we work together with children and families to build and repair relationships and support children and young people to live safely and happily within their families wherever this is possible;
- We are clear about what we are trying to achieve, and we are prepared to hold each other to account for our behaviours and performance.
- We discuss the hardest issues when they need discussing and make decisions.
- We set our own standards of performance and know that bringing about long-term improvement requires us all to focus on improving practice and the quality of our leadership.
- As a team, and through our collective endeavour, we are confidently addressing the most important issues which require our joint attention.

Stockport in 2024 – our challenges and opportunities

‘Stockport is an ambitious place. We want to be the best place to live happy and healthy lives, a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone, right across the Borough can be proud of.’ [One Stockport: One Future, 2024]

Over the last decade we have been hard at work turning this vision into a reality. We have many strengths: -

- Most children in Stockport live in settled families, are healthy, benefit from the sufficiency of high-quality education places and achieve well at school.
- Our nationally recognised Stockport Family model has been embedded since 2015 and brings together services for education, health, early help, and social care to ensure families are able to get the support they need when they need it. Our ambition is to take the Stockport Family model to the next stage in its development bringing more of our education, health, and care services together and aligning to the Family Hubs.
- We have successfully embedded a restorative culture as part of our approach to working with children and families and between professionals to support the development and maintenance of healthy relationships.
- Prevention and early help within the community is a key focus for us. In 2023 we redesigned and relaunched our family help offer to ensure children and families can access support at the earliest opportunity through a neighbourhood model with strong community connections.

However, we know that times continue to be hard for many people and that our borough is a place of stark inequality. Persistent inequality means that the life chances of many of our children are determined by their postcode and background and many families are caught in a cycle of multiple disadvantages.

- 15.8% of children and young people (0-18) are living in absolute poverty in Stockport with 20.7% (school age) receiving means tested free school meals. There are small areas of Stockport that rank within the 2% most deprived in England.
- In recent years birth rates have grown most rapidly in the more deprived areas of Stockport.
- Children living in poverty in Stockport on average do much less well in education and experience poorer health and life chances in comparison to their peers and children living in poverty nationally and in some neighbouring boroughs. These achievement and outcome gaps are significant, and we need to make more progress in reducing them.
- Across all our work, we need to make sure that we invest our resources in a way that is proportionate to the needs of the children and families we serve.

We know that for children and young people the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic was profound, and that those who experience the greatest disadvantage felt this impact the most: -

- We are only just starting to see the full impact of the Covid pandemic on educational attainment. Nationally children are starting school with reduced speech and language skills and three years after the full return to face-to-face school, levels of persistent and severe absence are still higher than pre pandemic levels (especially impacting secondary school pupils) and achievement levels are lower in primary schools than they were pre pandemic. These impacts are more significant for children who are already disadvantaged.
- The health and wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2022 found that the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's mental health was significant, with 8,100 children aged 5-15 reporting low wellbeing and 13.5% of 11–16-year-olds reporting that they felt 'their lives had been made much worse' by Covid restrictions. Children and young people with a probable mental health disorder were about twice as likely to report that restrictions had made their lives much worse.
- The data from our SEN teams also shows an increase in the number of children who have social, emotional, and mental health cited as a principal need on their education, health, and care plan; and school leaders have reported an increase in challenging behaviour.
- We have also seen a significant increase over the past five years in the number of children presenting with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The SEND JSNA completed in February 2024 found that around 17% of school age children in Stockport have an identified SEND need. The JSNA identifies a strong correlation between SEND and deprivation.

We also know that the current cost of living crisis has had, and continues to have, far reaching implications for families, with the borough's most vulnerable children, young people, and families, again feeling this most acutely.

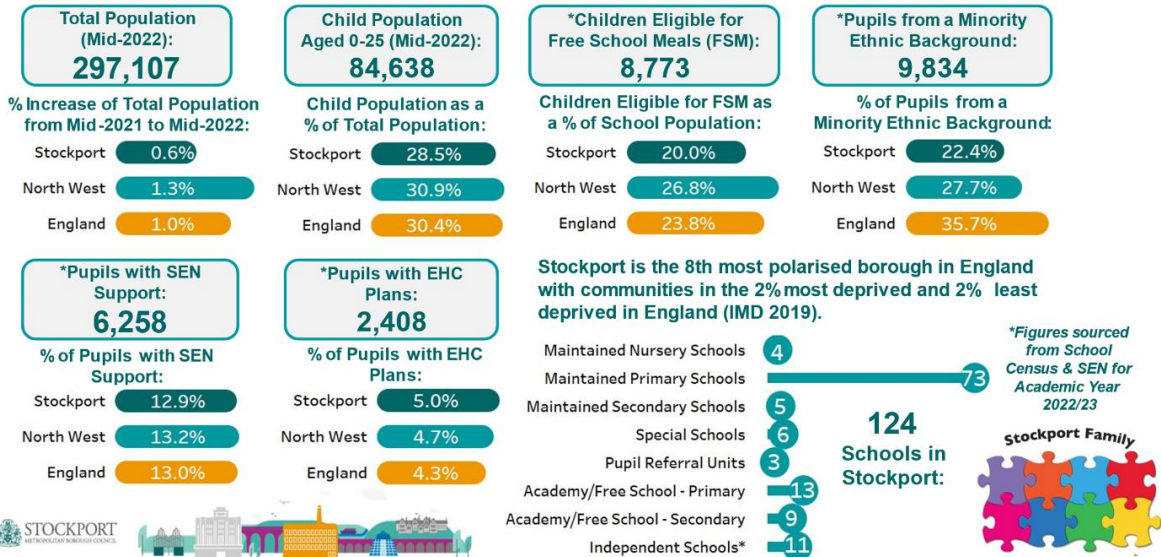
We are seeing continued and increased demand for our services, reflected in increased numbers of children needing to come into our care, and sharply increased demand for education, health, and care plans which has led to increased waiting time for diagnosis and support - placing increased pressure on children and families. In turn, this is resulting in increased costs to the system, requiring challenging prioritisation and decision making at a time when demand is increasing significantly.

In addition, Census 2021 data confirms that Stockport's communities are becoming increasingly diverse. We need to ensure that we understand the evolving needs of our residents and act decisively to address any inequality or discrimination, so Stockport is a welcoming place for everyone to live, work and succeed.

To meet these challenges our integrated model, Stockport Family, has never been more important. It is key to responding to, and meeting demand, and key to achieving our vision.

The data below provides a snapshot of Stockport in 2024. You can find more detailed information and the most up to date data by visiting our data portal [The Big Stockport Picture](#).

Contextual Information about the Local Area and Services for Children



Policy Framework

A raft of national policy statements have been published recently, setting out the Department for Education (DfE) and governmental vision for reform across children's social care, building on the findings of the [Independent Review of Children's Social Care](#) and [Stable Homes Built on Love](#).

[The Children's Social Care Reform Statement](#) sets out the Government's plans to transform children's social care, so that families get the help they need when they need it, children are safe and supported by their family network and children in care and care leavers have stable and loving homes. The statement sets out guidance in the following areas: -

[Children's social care reform national framework](#)

[Working together to safeguard children 2023](#)

[Transforming data](#)

[Championing Kinship Care - the National Kinship Strategy and fostering reforms](#)

Key to our early help development is the [Supporting Families](#) policy framework which sets out the objectives of Supporting Families in 2022 to 2025 for local authorities and partners. As well as [The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Our plan is built on the same principles, and we will ensure that our strategic priorities enable us to deliver the outcomes set out by the government, by drawing on the knowledge, skills, and expertise of our integrated workforce to meet children, young people, and families' needs. The long-established foundations of our Stockport Family model and strategic partnerships means we are well placed to deliver these.

Greater Manchester

This strategy is aligned with the seven priorities led by the Greater Manchester Children's Board.

Shared Ambitions - Having a shared vision, shared principles and set of priorities for Greater Manchester children and young people. This should be clear and explicit from the outset including our ambition to respond to what our children & young people are telling us and work with them at all stages.

CYP Voice - Commitment to incorporate the voice and rights of children and young people in decision making that affects the support they receive in the community and acute settings. Work to an agreed quality standard for children and young voice and co-production work in Greater Manchester.

Tackling Inequalities - Commit to understanding and responding to inequalities as part of our work to improve outcomes for children and young people. Seek to rebalance the resource allocated to support the needs of children and young people.

Resourcing and Commissioning - Commit to taking a partnership approach and longer-term view to resourcing our priorities through shared responsibility and transparency of available resources. Maximise opportunities for joint commissioning of specialist services at different spatial levels.

Early Intervention and Prevention – A commitment to early intervention and prevention at the universal and targeted level being central to our strategy for improving outcomes for children and young people and tackle inequalities.

Shared Leadership, Governance, Reporting and Accountability - Set up appropriate governance structure that has clear lines of accountability for shared priorities including a commitment to better understand and respond to variation across the city-region. This will need to operate effectively at Greater Manchester system, locality, and neighbourhood level.

Working Partnership with the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) Sector and the community themselves - Recognising the work of the VCFSE sector on improving health outcomes for children and young people is recognised and valued. Acknowledges that many of the solutions lies in communities themselves.

Innovation and Shared Learning - Commit to sharing and adopting innovative practice and sharing learning in the field of children and young people's health and wellbeing.

The Stockport Children and Young People Plan

Big Ambitions and Priorities 2024-2027

The following ambitions and priorities provide a roadmap to guide our approach to the delivery of services for children, young people, and families over the next three years. They are intended to build on our many strengths to help us achieve our vision and ensure we are in the strongest possible position to address the challenges we face.

In addition to our big ambitions, we have also identified some key areas of focus to ensure that our children and families thrive. These areas of focus cut across all our ambitions.

- Inclusion: every child must be included in the success of their community;
- Equality and diversity: we need to ensure that we understand the needs of our increasingly diverse communities and act decisively to address any inequality or discrimination;
- Literacy: reading is the key to learning and is critical to improving the life chances and wellbeing of our communities;
- Neurodiversity: we must do more to support children with Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Ambition 1 - we will work together to give families the help they need when they need it, so children and young people are safe and supported by their family networks.

The best place for children to grow up is in stable, loving homes with their families wherever it is safe to do so, and we are committed to a culture that puts them at the heart of decision making to achieve this. Our practice model of relational and restorative practice means we prioritise building relationships and seek to understand families' lived experience working with them in a non-judgemental, and trauma informed way so that this goal can be achieved whenever possible.

Where families are struggling and there is a risk of children coming into care ensuring that the factors impacting on parental capacity are recognised, understood, and appropriately responded to is critical. Our existing specialist services and interventions have a significant positive impact in empowering and enabling families so that they can stay together. Where that is not possible, we can do more to explore and secure a family led plan or alternative care arrangement for children within their extended family or network through excellent support to kinship carers.

Our priorities over the next three years are:

- We will ensure we have the right workforce and skills to meet the needs of our children and families. A workforce review will maximise impact on recruitment and retention so we can deliver the best services possible to our families aiming to have a valued, supported and highly skilled practitioner for every child who needs one.
- We will ensure our children's social care workforce have access to high quality training and support, so they work in a families' first way, understanding needs and risk factors and work in partnership with services to improve children and families' outcomes through effective intervention plans.

- We will build on existing edge of care and specialist interventions to enhance our trauma informed practice, and intensive support so that parents can care for their children, and families can stay and flourish together. We will pilot a collaboration between Stockport Families First and New Beginnings to test out a new approach to reunification to families, and prevention of entry into care for older children.
- We will expand our family group conferencing service so that we can support families to create their own plans of support to meet their needs and keep children safe. Where this is not possible, we will ensure that the family network is explored at the earliest opportunity so that children can have homes in their extended family and remain in their communities wherever they can.
- Where children are removed from their families we will endeavour to identify and provide support to parents so that they can recover from this loss and access help to reduce the risk of further children being removed from their care through our specialist programmes like COMMA and New Beginnings.
- We will continue to develop our support services for connected family and friend carers, so they are championed, supported, and empowered so that children have the best chance to grow up in safe, stable, and loving homes.

Ambition 2 - working together with families and communities, all children in Stockport will have the best start in life, be ready for school and lifelong learning.

Children starting school ready to learn and ready for lifelong learning, is fundamental to supporting good outcomes later in life. Getting it right in the early years presents the best early intervention opportunity. The journey to school readiness starts from pre-birth and continues to the age of five. It is developed through relationships and interactions in the home with parents and family members, in the early learning environment, and the wider community.

Our priorities for the next three years are:

- We will ensure seamless support for families with a focus on the first 1001 days of life.
- We will work with partners and resources available to develop and establish welcoming family hubs as a way to access the Start Well offer.
- We will ensure families have the information they need, when and how they need it by focusing on digital developments alongside face-to-face support.
- We will continue to empower the Start Well workforce to support integrated working and deliver quality services including sufficient early education and childcare.

- We will continually improve the Start Well offer by listening to the voice of families and through better use of data and resources, a clearer evaluation of 'what works' to improve outcomes, and the embedding of evidence-based practice.
- We will further develop leadership for change to share influence, responsibility and accountability for integrated delivery and early years outcomes.

This ambition will be delivered through the Start Well Strategy 2024-27 and One Health and Care Plan.

Ambition 3 - all children and young people can access and engage in education and achieve the best they can.

Education is the bedrock of opportunity and key to tackling inequality. Schools are more than just places of learning; the best schools are embedded in their community, providing support and leadership.

Whilst we know that we have many great schools and that children in Stockport achieve well, we also know that there is more we can do. We must work together to ensure all our schools, as part of an integrated community-based response, are able to provide inclusive and 'poverty proofed' services, which support all children and young people to attend and achieve their potential and helps to remove the stigma associated with poverty.

Our priorities for the next three years are:

- We will implement our Schools Strategy - to ensure our school system is in the strongest possible position to address the challenges we continue to face.
- We will continue to focus on improving outcomes for children, with a particular focus on improving attendance, especially for the most vulnerable, and improving the attainment of children eligible for free school meals, those with SEND and children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.
- We will continue to implement our Covid Recovery Strategy with a focus on curriculum, literacy, and enriching experiences.
- We will help young people to benefit from better life chances through improved careers education, information, and guidance, linked to clear learning, work and training pathways.
- We will work in partnership with education, post 16 training providers and employers to broaden the range of opportunities across the post 16 skills system – creating pathways into post 16 skills and training from as early as Key Stage 3.

This ambition will be delivered through the Schools Strategy and the Skills Strategy (in development).

Ambition 4 – children and families with SEND receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.

Since our initial SEND inspection in 2018, we have come a long way and have embedded “SEND as everyone’s business” with a focussed transformation plan in place throughout the last five years. We have robust partnership governance that provides assurance that we have clear oversight of the SEND agenda across Stockport; and we have embedded a strategic and operational approach to co-production across the Local Area Partnership which supports joint commissioning and planning of services.

However, as a local area we recognise that there is still much to do to improve the lives of our children and young people with SEND in Stockport. We need to focus attention on the three highest levels of need: - social emotional mental health; autism and neurodiversity; and speech language and communication needs.

We need to build on the work undertaken as part of the previous 2020-2023 SEND Strategy and the significant improvements already made.

Our priorities for the next three years are:

- We will ensure children, young people, and their families are able to access appropriate services at an early stage with a focus on early help and ‘Success at SEN Support’.
- We will work in partnership with people with lived experience, carers, and service providers to develop strength-based services which support children, young people, and families to achieve positive outcomes.
- We will ensure that health, education, and care are working effectively together and with children, young people, and their families, to agree on shared commissioning priorities and use joint resources to measurably improve outcomes.
- We will develop a skilled and adaptable workforce, by enhancing the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of workers through training, education, career advancement, and continuous learning. We will ensure strategies, practices and knowledge is shared with families for both information and adoption at home.
- We will assess, measure, and evaluate the quality of services to achieve positive outcomes and continuous improvement, ensuring education, health and care services remain sustainable.
- We will continue to monitor and develop our school place sufficiency plans in line with pupil need reducing our reliance on high-cost external specialist provision.

This ambition will be delivered through the SEND Strategy 2024-27.

Ambition 5 – all children young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer.

An effective early help offer is essential to improving children, young people and families' resilience and outcomes. Our early help model is underpinned by a 'whole system' and 'whole family' approach, including a co-ordinated approach to risk assessment, case management and service delivery involving all partners, universal and targeted services, communities, and families.

We are committed to further embedding 'early help' in service delivery, therefore this ambition cuts across all the ambitions set out in this Children and Young People Plan

Our priorities for the next three years are:

- We will continue to develop and embed family hub networks across the borough to further improve access to services, better connection and strengthen relationships with families.
- We will develop a virtual hub to enhance our early help the offer and improve access to services to families when they seek support, advice, and signposting.
- We will measure the effectiveness of our early help offer to ensure we understand the impact of interventions for families and children, including why families enter Early Help services and our strengths in meeting needs whilst continuing to identify areas for improvement.
- We will strengthen the processes we have to capture family feedback across early help services and use this to improve service delivery.
- We will ensure that we have a skilled, confident, and ambitious multi-agency workforce underpinned by clear theoretical foundations and child development and skilled in using evidence-based tools including identifying early signs of neglect.
- We will use our resource in the most effective way to continue delivering a proportionate early help offer for all children, young people, and families at the earliest opportunity.
- We will further develop community and school-based support focussed on wellbeing, school attendance and early help support to children with special educational needs and disability.
- We will ensure families are 'waiting well' with the right early help offered by a known and trusted lead professional when waiting for a diagnosis.

This ambition will be delivered through the Early Help Strategy 2024-27.

Ambition 6 – all children and young people enjoy good physical and emotional health and wellbeing and can access co-ordinated robust and timely support pathways based on need.

The foundations of good physical health and mental wellbeing are developed in the earliest years from antenatal onwards. The consequences of untreated physical and emotional health issues are life long and have huge health and socio-economic impacts within society. Emotional and mental health disorders in childhood, for example, have high levels of persistence and continuity through adolescence and sometimes into adult life. The life course costs of late, intervention have been estimated at £17bn across England and Wales (including nearly £4bn borne by the NHS).

We need to focus on tackling growing issues of childhood obesity and mental wellbeing to prevent long-term conditions and disadvantages that lead to health inequalities in later life; as well as the effective management of long-term conditions in children and young people.

Working through the ambitions of the Neighbourhoods and Prevention programme, bringing integrated working informed by data and local intelligence we will improve our allocation of resources to local needs to support a more inclusive offer.

Our priorities for the next three years are:

- We will support schools and services for children and young people to maximise their preventive potential, including anti-bullying programmes in all schools and colleges such as through campaigns and awareness as well as through the Whole School Approach.
- We will develop and deliver Youth Connect 5 training across the public sector, VCSFE and communities.
- We will develop the digital offer for children and young people based on the iThrive model, including self-help resources and signposting to advice and information, getting help, getting more help, and risk support.
- We will work alongside Greater Manchester colleagues to develop and deliver health and wellbeing priorities as part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Strategy - with a focus on: - maternal health and wellbeing and the early years; health and wellbeing in school-age children; long term physical conditions; mental ill health; and vulnerability, risk, and complex care.²

This ambition will be delivered through the All-Age Mental Health Strategy, One Health and Care Plan and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Strategy.

² Key ambition for NHS GM ICS as per *Putting health at the heart of Greater Manchester: Improving health and care in Greater Manchester 2023-2028* is to improve health and wellbeing. We want to help people stay well and detect illness earlier, increase physical activity and tackle obesity. We want to do more to identify and treat conditions which affect health outcomes including long term conditions (asthma, diabetes and epilepsy) and mental health.

Ambition 7 – All children in care and care leavers have safe, stable, and loving homes and are equipped with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life.

Stockport is committed to being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent. We will strive to be the best parent we can and continually challenge ourselves “would this be good enough for my child?”. Children in our care and care leavers deserve homes and support that offers love, care, protection, and stability and helps to address experiences of adversity and trauma to give them the foundations for a healthy, happy, life.

As corporate parents we will do everything in our power to ensure key partners work together across health, education, housing, and children’s social care to support children in our care and care leavers to get the best possible support, so we equip them with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life.

Children, young people, and care leavers wishes and feelings, and views about what matters most to them is central to getting the right services in place for them and building trusting and supportive relationships to help them succeed.

Our priorities for the next three years are:

- We will provide regular opportunities and forums to hear children and young people’s and care experienced adults’ views to understand their lived experience and improve services where we have not got things right co-producing plans with our Children in Care Council, SK inc, and Care Leavers Forum.
- We will support children and young people to maintain positive relationships where it is safe with their birth family and friends so that they develop and maintain lifelong ties that will benefit them into adulthood. We will help them to understand their life story so that they can understand why they have come into care and repair and recover from past abuse or trauma.
- We will ensure we have the best homes for children, young people, and care leavers so that they feel safe, supported, and loved. We will work to increase the number of foster carers and homes available in the Stockport area working with colleagues across the council, in Greater Manchester and with Stockport Homes. We will also reduce the number of moves children make and improve our placement stability.
- We will support all children in our care to have a positive experience of going to school, where teachers understand and respond to their needs, so they are supported to become confident learners and achieve their educational goals.
- We will support those leaving care to have continued success in education, training and employment and seek opportunities for them to have work experience, apprenticeship, and other opportunities to help them achieve their goals and aspirations.
- We will work with our council services and partners to embed our commitment for care leavers as a protected characteristic to reduce inequalities for all.

This ambition will be delivered through the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-27.

How will we know we have had an impact?

We have identified key measures against each of our big ambitions so that we can monitor progress and understand success. Performance against these measures is reported to the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee as part of the bi-annual Portfolio Performance and Resource Report (PPRR). The PPRR also contains detailed progress updates and a wider range of performance measures.

Suggested performance measures (focus on outcomes rather than process): -

Ambition 1 - we will work together to give families the help they need when they need it, so children and young people are safe and supported by their family networks.

- Rate of new entrants to care, with a breakdown by whether new entrants to care are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).
- Rate of children ceasing to be in care.
- Rate of children in care 0-17 per 10,000 population.
- Number of children reunified with their families and placed with kinship carers at the end of care proceedings.
- Re-referral rate within 12 months.
- Percentage of Child Protection Plans (CPP) longer than two years and repeat CPP (within 12 months).
- Number of family group conferences delivered per quarter.
- Number of families stepping down from pre-proceedings.
- Impact measures from New Beginnings/SFF pilot.

Ambition 2 - all children have the best start in life and are ready for school at the end of reception.

- Percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development at two years old.
- Percentage of children from our priority 1 neighbourhoods achieving a Good Level of Development at two years old.
- Percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
- Percentage of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of EYFS.

Ambition 3 - all children and young people can access and engage in education and achieve the best they can.

- Children attaining the expected standard in Reading at Key Stage 2.
- Children eligible for free school meals attaining the expected standard in Reading at Key Stage 2.
- Children achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4.
- Children eligible for free school meals achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4.
- Young people in academic years 12 and 13 (aged 16-18) who are in education, employment, or work-based training.
- Percentage of children who miss more than 10% of their sessions across all schools (also disaggregated by children eligible for free school meals).
- Percentage of children excluded from school but remaining on the register of that school (also disaggregated by children eligible for free school meals).

Ambition 4 - children and families with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive the best possible support at the right time to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.

- Percentage of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks.
- Percentage of children in receipt of SEN Support achieving at least the expected level in communication and language skills at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Percentage of children in receipt of SEN Support attaining the expected standard in Reading at Key Stage 2.
- Percentage of children in receipt of SEN Support achieving 9-5 pass in English and Maths at Key Stage 4.
- Timeliness of the EHCP annual review (measure currently in development).

Ambition 5 - all children, young people and families have access to a clear and inclusive early help offer.

- Family Early Help Assessments completed within 45 working days.
- Percentage of Early Help Episodes closed in period with a successful outcome.
- Re-referrals to Early Help within 12 months of a previous episode.
- Percentage of Early Help episodes closed in period and stepped up to Children's Social Care.

Ambition 6 - all children and young people enjoy good emotional and physical health and wellbeing and can access co-ordinated robust and timely support based on need.

- Percentage of children within Year 6 who are recorded as overweight or very overweight.
- Alcohol related hospital admissions, rate per 1,000 under 18-year-olds.
- Hospital admissions because of self-harm (0–17-year-olds) per 1,000.
- CAMHS waiting list.
- BeeWell survey about self-reported emotional wellbeing.

Ambition 7 - children in care and care leavers have stable and loving homes and are equipped with the skills needed to live a fulfilling, successful and rewarding life.

- Percentage of children in care in the same placement for at least two years.
- Percentage of children in care with 3 placements or more in twelve months.
- Number of children placed in out of borough placements.
- Percentage use of internal provision for children in foster care, residential placements, and supported living.
- Percentage of children living in foster, residential care, or secure children's homes.
- Emotional Health of children in care (SDQ score).
- Number of care leavers (19-21) in suitable accommodation.
- Percentage of care leavers (19-20) in education, training, and employment.

