

# York's Children and Young People's Plan

2024-2027



**We want York to be the best place for children and young people to live and grow up.**

**We will work together to make sure children and young people have the building blocks needed to be happy, to be healthy, to be safe and to be ready for the future.**





Our Children and Young People's Plan sets out our ambitions and provides the city-wide strategic framework for all partners. The Plan set out our shared moral purpose, our values and how we work together with children, young people, families and communities.

At its heart the plan reflects the key things that children, young people, parents and partners tell us matter most and what they need.



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# Foreword Our shared commitment

## **Mel John -Ross, Independent Chair and Scrutineer for the City of York Safeguarding Children's Partnership**

As the Independent Chair and Scrutineer for the City of York Safeguarding Children's Partnership, I welcome the Children and Young People's Plan: 2024-2027.

The vision, values and principles of the Safeguarding Children's Partnership all align with our shared vision that, 'All children and young people get the best start in life, are happy and healthy, stay safe and develop the skills and relationships they need to thrive into adulthood'.

This shared vision will be achieved by us all collectively, across our agencies and communities, working together as a whole system, ensuring that the voice and lived experience of children, young people and families, is at the centre of everything that we do.

The City of York Safeguarding Children's Partnership has a key role in contributing to and delivering the shared priorities, as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring that York is a place where children and young people thrive.

## **Martin Kelly OBE, Corporate Director of Children's Services, City of York Council**

York is a City renowned worldwide for its history and iconic buildings attracting over 8.4 million visitors per year who bring over £750m into the economy. It is a city of happiness, ambition, and innovation with world leading education institutions and businesses. York has also held a leading position throughout generations for its visionary ambition to develop thriving communities with equality of opportunity through philanthropic social actions to eradicate poverty. This is as true today as it was in the 1800's. When it matters, it really is a city that can come together using positive relationships and focussed action to address our most complex challenges. This collective action is needed more than ever with a growing disparity across generations, between wealth and poverty. This is felt deeply by every child who's disadvantage in their formative years, far too often becomes built into their future and the future of their children.

We need a collective vision that will support and protect our city's future for generations to come. Following many years of austerity and the considerable implications of a pandemic, our actions today may well be consigned as a

pivotal point in history for the future. The phrase coined by the famous philosopher Aristotle ‘The whole is greater than the sum of its parts’ will perhaps never have been more important as we use our reduced resources differently to gain even greater impact.

I am delighted that York will continue to hold nothing but the highest ambition for current and future generations, using our Children and Young People’s plan to drive our collective moral purpose through a shared understanding of the issues. We have used multiple opportunities to listen to young people and create a vision that is important to them. We are as one in our partnership that only the best is good enough for all our children in the city and will use this plan to hold each other to account to really deliver what matters with a particular focus on those who need our greatest care and support.

### **Scott Bisset, Assistant Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police**

The mission of North Yorkshire Police is to keep people safe and feeling safe. All children deserve to grow up in a safe environment, cared for and protected from harm. Most children thrive in loving families and grow to adulthood unharmed. Unfortunately, though, too many children are abused or neglected by those responsible for their care; they sometimes need to be protected from other adults with whom they come into contact. Some of them

occasionally go missing, or end up spending time in places, or with people, harmful to them. While it is everyone’s responsibility to look out for vulnerable children, police forces – working together and with other organisations – have a particular role in protecting children and meeting their needs.

Protecting children is one of the most important things the police do. Police officers investigate suspected crimes involving children and arrest perpetrators, and they have a significant role in monitoring sex offenders. They can take a child in danger to a place of safety and can seek restrictions on offenders’ contact with children. The police service also has a significant role, working with other organisations, in ensuring children’s protection and well-being in the longer term.

Vulnerability is at the heart of the service North Yorkshire Police delivers and ensure the City of York to be the best place for children and young people to live and grow up. Protecting the vulnerable has been and remains one of our foremost priorities. It is embedded within our ‘Plan on a Page’ strategy that underpins the work of everyone across North Yorkshire Police. North Yorkshire Police benefits from strong partnership arrangements to reduce the harm and risk to children. We will continue to work and build upon our partnership arrangements with both statutory and non-statutory partners to intervene early and prevent harm to children.

## **Michelle Carrington, Director of Nursing and Quality, York & North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board**

The contribution of children and young people in establishing our priorities for the coming years has been invaluable and this partnership approach to developing this plan is testament to the way we pledge to work together to improve the outcomes of children and young people in our city. We are committed to the delivery of the plan and recognise the role we all must play in ensuring the children and young people in York achieve the outcomes they deserve. We want every child to have the best start in life and have the support they need for their mental and physical health needs at the earliest possible opportunity. We want to ensure everyone has access to the right care and support that responds to their changing health needs and, wherever possible, support people to be independent and in control. We want children to thrive despite any difficulties they may encounter in their health and life circumstances and should children's lives be short we are committed to ensure that they and their families have the best possible care at end of life.

Both the NHS Long Term Plan and the York's Health and Wellbeing Strategy place special emphasis to improving

health outcomes for children and young people and this CYP plan helps carve out how collectively we can support the CYP of York and their families and the communities to live happy and healthy lives.



# What makes a 'good' childhood?

Everyone's experience of childhood is unique. There are some common fundamental building blocks that need to be in place for children and young people. When they have these building blocks in place it creates the right environment for them to belong and to thrive. The Children's Society developed The Good Childhood Index in 2010. This uses 10 areas of life to build a picture of what makes a 'good' childhood.



## Children's Rights

The United Nation Conventions on Rights of the Child consists of 54 articles that need to be met in order to **meet children's basic needs** and help them reach their potential. Central to this is that every child has basic fundamental rights. These include the right to:

Life, survival and  
development

Protection from violence,  
abuse or neglect

An education that  
enables children to  
fulfil their potential

Be raised by, or have  
a relationship with,  
their parents

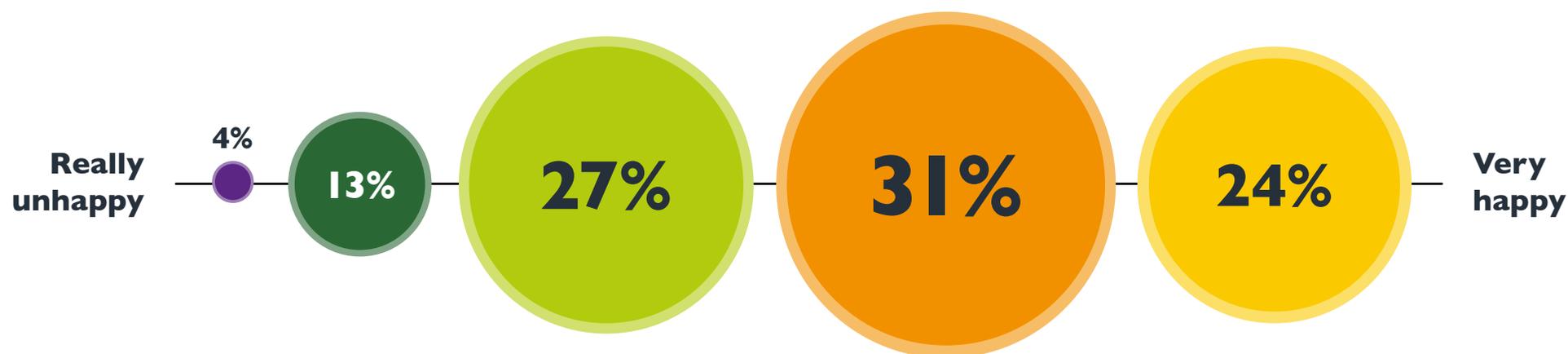
Express their opinions  
and be listened to



# What is it like to grow up in York?

## What do children and young people tell us?

We asked over 3,000 young people how happy they are with life at the moment?



Overall, **56%** of pupils are happy or very happy with their life

Younger children are much more likely to report happiness than older young people (**70%** in year 4 vs **33%** in year 12).

Only **20%** of non-binary children reported happiness with their life, students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender or have a long term health condition are also much less likely to report happiness.



## Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale (SCWBS)

**39.2**

Overall York Score

On the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale (SCWBS), the overall York score was **39.2**. We know in York the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale score goes down as young people get older. Children in Year 4 have a score of **44**, this reduces year on year to **35** in Year 12.

**44**

Current mean average score

The Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale is a questionnaire designed to measure emotional and psychological wellbeing in children aged 8 to 15 years. The questions cover a range of topics, including positive emotions, relationships with others, and sense of purpose. The minimum for the scale is 12 and the maximum 60. Currently the mean average score is **44** with 50% of all scores within the range of 39 and 48.)

## We asked over 3,000 young people how much does worry affect their life?



Overall, **31%** of children say worry stops them from doing things in their lives.

High levels of worry were most commonly reported by year 12 pupils (**48%**), non-binary pupils (**60%**), pupils with long term health conditions (**52%**), and LGBT pupils (**60%**).

In younger pupils worry about the environment/ climate was common, in older pupils worry about school work or exams was common.

**17%** of children and young people say they do not have an adult they can speak to about their worries.



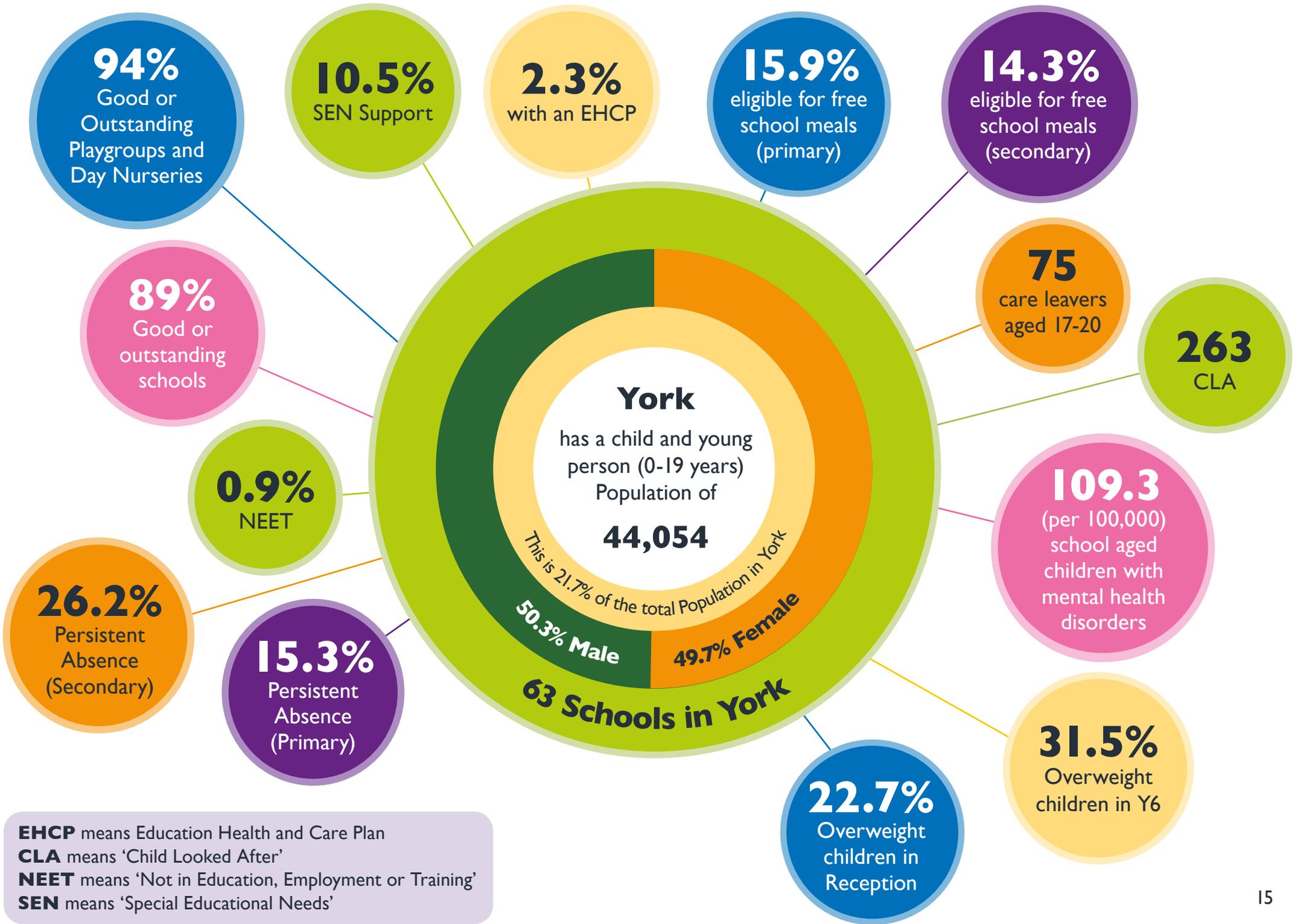
## We asked over 1,600 children and young people how much they think their views made a difference about different things

Across all areas **21%** of children thought their views would make a difference. Younger children were more likely to say their views made a difference compared with older young people.



**In 2022 1,500 children and young people took part in the Make Your Mark survey. York Youth Council used the results in focus groups with young people and identified three priority areas:**





**EHCP** means Education Health and Care Plan  
**CLA** means 'Child Looked After'  
**NEET** means 'Not in Education, Employment or Training'  
**SEN** means 'Special Educational Needs'

# Our shared vision

We want every children to be safe, healthy and happy in strong resilient families, living in diverse inclusive communities with equal opportunities to ensure they achieve their full potential and the best possible outcomes.

We know that for many children, young people and families York is a great place to live and grow up. We also know that isn't the story for everyone. Still too often difficulties in families lives mean children don't achieve their full potential. In developing our vision we have taken time to listen to what children and young people say matters to them. We have also looked at what data tell us about growing up in York and what impacts on children and young people children securing good outcomes.

We are ambitious and recognise that we can only achieve our shared vision and priorities by working in partnership across the city.

## Our vision is that:

*All children and young people get the best start in life, are happy and healthy, stay safe and develop the skills and relationships they need to thrive into adulthood.*

We want York to be a place where outcomes are good for all children but with a clear focus on closing gaps in outcomes for children and young people who don't have the same opportunities as their peers.





# Our shared ambition

**Why do we do what we do?** This strategy is more than just a plan. This strategy is the beating heart of what drives us, not just as professionals but as people. This plan transcends professional boundaries. It is a rallying statement of our shared ambition, hope and commitment to become the city children and young people need.

To realise that ambition all of us have to work together. Together, we become a force for positive change, harnessing our collective expertise and boundless enthusiasm to create hope and opportunity. Let us be bold and unashamed in our dedication, for the success of this plan will change lives, change communities and change our city.

Through co-production with children, young people and families we have developed the shared values below. These values should drive how we work together and with families.





# Caring

## **Caring and Relational:**

We foster caring, relational connections to build trust and a sense of belonging.

## **Right Place, Right Time:**

We take responsibility to support families to access the early help in the right place, the right time and the right place.

## **Empowerment:**

We are committed to empowering families, carers, and young people by giving them a voice in decision-making processes and supporting their active participation in shaping how we work.

# Together

## Family Centred

We prioritise the well-being and needs of families and young people, acknowledging them as experts in their own lives. We know children and young people get the best outcomes when they can live safely with their own families and networks.

## Inclusivity

We believe in creating an inclusive and diverse city that respects and celebrates the uniqueness of each individual and family, irrespective of their background, culture, or identity.

## Diversity & Inclusion

We embrace diversity, recognising unique experiences, needs, and the importance of using language that allows for open expression and understanding.

## Equality of importance

We recognise that no single service or agency is more important than another. All services are essential components of our city and we strive to create a seamless system where each service's value is acknowledged and respected.



# Trusted

## Collaboration

We value strong partnerships and actively seek collaboration among families, communities, professionals, and organisations to create a collective impact on the lives of children and young people.

## Compassion

We approach every interaction with compassion and understanding, recognising that each person's journey is unique and may require different levels of support.

## Communication:

We believe in open and respectful communication. Through honest dialogue, we work together to find collaborative solutions that benefit everyone involved.

# Developing our plan

A team of partners working across York came together to help develop our new Children and Young People's Plan.

Together we:

- Listened to what children and young people across the city told us about their lives and living in York.
- Developed a 'children's rights' co-production toolkit. We tested this with young people to help raise awareness of children's rights and understand what our priorities should be.
- Reviewed existing strategic plans across the city.
- Reviewed what data and intelligence tell us about living and growing up in York

We are committed that children and young people must have a voice, are heard and are listened to.

In developing our Children and Young People's Plan we drew together key messages from children and young people through lots of different forums.

2023 Co-Production and Joint Partnership with children, young people and families

2023 Annual Show Me That I Matter and I Still Matter reports

2023 Annual Advocacy Report

2023 U\_Matter Report

2023 City of York Safeguarding Children's Partnership

2023 York Youth Council

Access4All

2022 Public Health Survey

2021 Voice and Involvement Strategy Evaluation

2021 Voice and Involvement Strategy Evaluation

2021 York Human Rights Indicator Report



## Children's Rights Toolkit

To support the development of the Children and Young People's Plan a children's rights co-production toolkit has been developed. The toolkit raises awareness of children's rights and helped children and young people explore priorities in the context of children's rights. The feedback gathered through these sessions have added to existing messages from young people.

In autumn 2023 we supported the roll out of the Children's Rights Co-Production toolkit. Any agency can pick up and use the toolkit. It is available online by visiting [The child's lived experience – CYSCP \(saferchildrenyork.org.uk\)](https://saferchildrenyork.org.uk).



# Best Start in Life

We know that the way children start their lives has a significant impact on the way they live their lives. The experiences that children have pre-birth to five lay the foundations for their adult lives and have a profound impact on wellbeing, health, educational achievement and economic prosperity.

The importance of early years is reflected in our Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy 2022-2032 – ‘Start Good Health and Wellbeing Young, giving special emphasis to the key formative early years of life as the best place our investment can go, creating from maternal/ preconception health and beyond the conditions for our families, communities and young people to live healthy and flourishing lives.’

We know that being at risk of poor outcomes during this period severely impacts on life chances and limits social mobility for children in our city.

We want to work together with communities to support this critical period of child development and change for families. Our aim through this plan is to improve all children’s outcomes with a specific focus on:

- **Developing nurturing, protective relationships and**
- **Appropriate early childhood education to deliver (on infant and parental mental health leading to) improved speech, language and communication outcomes.**

This will ensure that all children, but particularly those who are most at risk of poor outcomes, make secure transitions into school.

## We will know we are making a difference by:

- Absolute gap in % of children totally or partially breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks between highest and lowest York ward (4 year aggregated ward data) (CHP34a)
- % Uptake of Healthy Start Vitamins (indicator being developed)
- % take up of the two year old childcare offer (ES9).
- % of childcare providers rated by Ofsted as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ (CYPLI1b + CYPLI1a).
- Absolute gap in % of children who reach expected level of development at 2-2.5 years of age
- between highest and lowest York ward (4 yr aggregated) (HV24a).
- % of reception year children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese) (NCMP03)
- Population vaccination coverage - Dtap / IPV / Hib (2 year old) (CSBI5)
- Population vaccination coverage - MMR for one dose (2 years old) (PHOFI37)
- PHOFI0: % of women who smoke at the time of delivery

# Happy and healthy

We want children and young people to be happy and grow well. Partners across education, health, social care and voluntary services are committed to improving the general health and wellbeing of our children and young people by working together.

In making healthy lifestyles a part of all of our services, children and young people will grow up knowing that this is our ambition for everyone.

Where people need support with their health we want them to access the right help, at the right time and in the right place. This means we will work together to establish integrated care systems that ensure needs are met as early as possible and more targeted interventions are available for those that need them.

In York, we want all children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to be happy and live the best lives they can. Our way of working as a strong partnership will create better opportunities and demonstrate better outcomes. Working with families at the earliest opportunity through coordinated early identification, assessment and support. Together we will create the long-term conditions with families and communities to ensure children and young people can thrive and enjoy the best life they can.



## **We will know we are making a difference by:**

- Under 18 admissions for Mental Health need with a high prevalence of common Mental Health illness, suicide and self harm rates (CHP31)
- The number of hospital admissions for self-harm amongst young people aged 10 to 24 (CHP32).
- Absolute gap in % of Year 6 recorded overweight (incl. obesity) between highest and lowest York ward (3 year aggregated) (NCMPI2a)
- Number of children in temporary accommodation (HOU102a)
- % of children who achieve a Good Level of Development at EYFSP (EH7)
- School Health and Wellbeing survey – Stirling Well-Being Scale (Primary)
- School Health and Wellbeing survey – Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) (Secondary)
- School Health and Wellbeing survey - Good Childhood Index (Primary)
- School Health and Wellbeing survey - Good Childhood Index (Secondary)
- Emergency hospital admissions for asthma in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- Emergency hospital admissions for diabetes in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- Emergency hospital admissions for epilepsy in 0-19 year olds per 100,000
- A&E attendance for 0-4 year olds
- Infant mortality rates
- Hospital admissions for dental caries (tooth decay) at age 0-5 years

# Staying Safe

We want our children, young people and families to be able to deal with all that life brings; when they do need support and advice, we want them to be able to get it when they need it from the right people.

We want to help families and communities to support our children and young people to be resilient and to provide safe places for them to live and grow up. When working with a child or young person, we will understand the power of the relationships they have in their family, friends and their community, and how these impact on their lives.

Together we will implement our Early Help Strategy to identify and support those in need of help. We recognise the role all partners play in keeping children and young people safe. When we identify children at risk, we must make sure that all the services work well together so that the risks can be reduced as quickly and effectively as possible.

Through the implementation of our Building Brighter Futures Practice model partners across the city will work together in a more consistent and meaningful way. The practice model will provide a common language and way of working that identifies and builds on the strengths in families and keeps children safe in their families and networks. We want to safely reduce the number of children and young people needing to come into care and increase support in communities and family networks to help children and young people to stay safe.

## **We will know we are making a difference by:**

- Number of Early Help Assessments initiated (CYPL2c)
- Number of referrals to Children's Social Care per 10k (MIPACKI)
- Percentage of referrals re-referred within 12 month rolling period (CSB05)
- Number of children on Child in Need plan (EFL5)
- Number of children on Child Protection Plan (EFL2)
- Number of children on Children and Young People in Care (EFLI)

# Ready for the Future

Our shared ambition is that children and young people will leave education with the qualifications and skills they need for employment, training or further study.

To support this all children and young people will feel safe and supported in their school and will be excited by, and enjoy learning with, good teachers who go the extra mile for them and have ambitious expectations for everyone.

All children and young people will learn in inclusive schools will give them the very best experience tailored to their age, needs and ability.

Young people will have developed the confidence, resilience and independence needed to be successful in adult life.

We know the actions we take today have an impact on all our futures, and for the next generation to enjoy the same quality of life we do today we will be mindful of our impact on the environment, actively contributing towards York's ambition to be net zero by 2030.

## We will know we are making a difference by:

- Number of children and young people permanently excluded in the primary/secondary (RM12, RM13)
- Number of fixed term exclusions in the primary/secondary sector (RM15, RM16)
- % of 16-17 year olds who are NEET who do not have L2 qualification (NEET02c)
- Secondary school persistent absence rate (87aa)
- Average Progress 8 score from KS2 to KS4 for disadvantaged children (eligible for FSM in the last 6 years, looked after and adopted from care) (KS4i)
- % gap between children (eligible for FSM in the last 6 years, looked after and adopted from care) and their peers achieving 9-4 in English and; Maths at KS4 (KS4i)
- % of pupils achieving 9-4 or above in English & Maths at Key Stage 4 (KS4c)
- % of care leavers aged 17-21 in suitable accommodation at last birthday (I47)
- % of care leavers aged 17-21 in employment, education or training at last birthday (I48)
- Children and Families in Poverty - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) (DOD08)

# Delivering our Plan

This plan belongs to the city. It spans across our entire strategic landscape for children and young people and should influence our work at all levels. The coordination of the partners delivering the Children and Young People's Plan sits with the City of York Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CYSCP) and will need to reach across other relevant strategic partnerships in our city.

The CYSCP will coordinate the work of partners and review what difference we are making through our Children and Young People's Plan.

We will be guided by five delivery principles that will inform our discussions and actions ahead:

1. We will increase collaboration and cooperation by working with partners to encourage changes in the way we live and behave. We will create and strengthen partnerships among businesses, the public sector, civic organisations and our institutions in higher and further education to ensure that action and knowledge is generated and shared to the benefit of children and young people.
2. We will continuously adapt to change, taking bold action by trialling new and emerging ways of working. We will be pragmatic, focusing on actions within our immediate control and influence, and prioritising actions that deliver best value. We will publish an annual Children and Young People progress report.
3. We will build fair, inclusive, healthy and sustainable communities by promoting the positive social and economic benefits of supporting children and young people and by supporting the health and wellbeing of those who need it the most.
4. We will create new employment and education opportunities, preparing young people for adulthood. We will proactively seek alternative funding streams and attract additional investment, whilst being mindful of reduced budgets.
5. Good governance and evidence-based planning will guide our actions ahead. All partners will take accountability for delivering actions and provide assurance that allows us to review progress and adapt actions.

# Working Together - Call to Action

For this plan to really achieve its ambition it takes all partners in the city to take accountability for its delivery. The first step you must take is genuinely answering these questions from children and young people.

**What is your individual role in ensuring children and young people have the best start in life, are happy and grow well, are safe and are ready for the future?**

- What are you going to actually do?
- How are you going to hold yourself to those commitments?
- How are you going to work with others?
- How will you involve children and young people?
- How will you develop and embody our shared values?

## What will your service do?

- How will you use this plan to shape how your service works?
- What will your service actually do?
- How does your service hold itself to those commitments?
- How will you prioritise how your service uses its resources?
- How will your service change how it works with children and young people?
- How will your service work with others?
- How do people from the front line to the senior leaders understand what is required?



If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

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It is available in the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جا سکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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