

# Bristol's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families

2016 – 2020



**Children. &  
Families**  
PARTNERSHIP

## Introduction

Bristol is one of the most vibrant, well-educated and creative cities in the UK. There are 97,900 children and young people aged 0-18 (including 18 year olds) living in the city and we want to ensure that they are all able to take advantage of the benefits of living here. Most do, but there are some children and young people who cannot, or who need help to do so. Bristol is a city of geographical inequality and poverty. The place we are born, or the place we live, is likely to dictate our life chances, unless actions are taken to change this.

This is a shared responsibility and requires a whole city approach. Strong partnership working between organisations, businesses, and communities will help target effort and limited resources. By working together and

sharing expertise, experience and commitment we can ensure the best outcomes at all stages of childhood, and support the most vulnerable.

[The Children and Families Partnership](#) works with children, young people and families, across sectors. We focus on the life chances and outcomes of children from conception to 19, and in some cases up to 25. We exist to promote their health and wellbeing and to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and families.

This strategy sets out the priorities that the Children and Families Partnership has agreed as the focus of our joint work for the next four years.





## Vision

Bristol has bold ambitions for its children and young people. All children get a good start in life, whatever their background and wherever they live. Together, the Partnership is listening to their needs and aspirations.

We are investing early to prevent harm, helping families build lifelong resilience and self-reliance. All of us together, working beyond boundaries, across neighbourhoods - families, friends, communities and professionals.

When children and young people are at risk of harm, we act swiftly. We protect them, by listening to them and acting on their behalf to restore their rights – stability, permanence, security, education, health and wellbeing.

Bristol is an inclusive city that respects difference. Even the most vulnerable children and young people are participating, shaping and enriching the life of the city.

Whether at the start of life, or on the way through, no-one gets left behind.

## Challenges and Opportunities

Poverty – financial, social and health deprivation – remains the leading predictor of poor life outcomes. In Bristol, **one in every four children**, lives in poverty. These are the children whose life chances start or fall significantly behind that of their peers. In reality, if you walk through some of our neighbourhoods, almost **every other child** you pass is living with the effects of poverty. Elsewhere in the city, only **one in every fifty** children you see is living in poverty.

There is strong evidence that poor health is linked to social and economic disadvantage and deprivation which starts before birth and accumulates throughout life. If we are to effectively promote health and wellbeing and reduce cycles of health inequalities we need to take action before birth and across the life course.

Enabling **everyone** to have fair access to the opportunities Bristol offers means addressing the root causes of poverty in the places where we know people are struggling and addressing inequality in access to the city's opportunities. We need to work in partnership with communities to change this.

Our evidence base for this strategy and our ongoing work is the [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) along with evidence from recent work and feedback from consultation.






92,900 children (under 19) and 61,500 young people (18-24) living in the city




Almost 1 in 5 people living in Bristol is under 16

2005 - 2015 there were a total of 62,800 births



54% attained 5+ GCSEs including English & Maths, same as national (2015)  
74% attained 3+ A Levels, lower than the national 79% (2015)

There are now at least 45 religions, at least 187 countries of birth represented and at least 91 main languages spoken by people living in Bristol.  
19% of children have English as an additional language (2015). This includes 64% of children in Lawrence Hill, and 4% in Hartcliffe & Withywood




8,800 children and young people have special educational needs (15% of all pupils, 2016)

15% of 3 year olds in Bristol have dental decay, compared to 12% of nationally



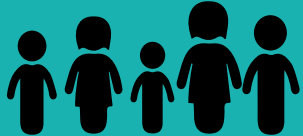
5,300 incidents of domestic violence and abuse were reported to the police in 2016

18,900 children under 16 (23%) live in low income families in Bristol, more than the national average of 20% (2014)



16% of people belong to a Black or Minority Ethnic group in Bristol, but 28% of children (0-15) belong to a BME group (Census 2011)

22% of Bristol's children live in the 10% most deprived areas of England (2015). In 2010 this was 19% of Bristol children




5,400 5-16 year olds have emotional health likely to require support



There are around 700 children in care in Bristol, and 420 care leavers (2016)



35% of Bristol children are overweight or obese by the end of primary school. Bristol is rising faster than nationally

66% of 5 year olds achieved a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage (2016)

## Outcomes

The Partnership is committed to working across all sectors and with local communities to find solutions that improve the life chances of children, young people and families.

The Partnership's work aims to achieve these outcomes for all children and young people:

<p><b>Safe &amp; Nurtured</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the best possible start in life; protected from abuse, neglect or harm, at home, at school and in the community, with a secure and supportive network of family or carers and friends</li> <li>• Live in a nurturing home, in a family setting, with additional help or adaptations if needed, or, where necessary, in a suitable care setting</li> <li>• Live in safe and stable accommodation, free from financial exclusion and fear, indoors and out; giving the permanence and security upon which they can build</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy &amp; Active</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the best physical and mental health possible, access to suitable health care and support in learning to make healthy, safe choices from the outset</li> <li>• Engage in opportunities to have fun and take part in activities, such as play, recreation and sport, which build independence and contribute to healthy growth and development at home, in education and in the community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Respected &amp; Involved</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are heard and have control in decisions that affect them and the communities in which they live and learn</li> <li>• Aware of how their views, opinions and experiences have helped shape Bristol; the opportunities and services available to them and the physical environment</li> <li>• Show respect, care and pride for other faiths, communities, cultures, identities, abilities, backgrounds and experiences, and feel that their own identity is valued by other people</li> </ul>
<p><b>Responsible &amp; Achieving</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported and inspired in lifelong learning and in the development of skills, confidence, individuality and aspirations at home, in education, in work, in the community and beyond</li> <li>• Engage in positive opportunities and are encouraged to play active and responsible roles at home, in education and in the community</li> <li>• Benefit from fair access in education, in the community to experience of work, to employment and independence or supported living</li> </ul>

## Priorities

The [strategies in place across the Children and Families Partnership](#) all play a role in ensuring that children and young people will achieve the outcomes, with the support of their families, friends and communities. However, we recognise that we need to come together to focus on the following priorities to ensure the most vulnerable children and young people are able to achieve these outcomes.

This Strategy places poverty and inequality as a key theme throughout the following priorities. We know [where in the city](#) children and young people are living in poverty, and with the effects of this, and we will use this data in our targeting of resources.



### 1. Emotional Health and Wellbeing

- We will promote and create positive, fun and challenging opportunities to help children and young people develop their confidence, creativity and resilience through investment in youth services and early years provision, and by promoting their engagement in physical activity and the cultural life of the city
- We will pursue the local transformation of emotional health and wellbeing services for children and young people and investing together with schools in the things we know work to ensure that every child and young person, everywhere, receives the right support as early as possible
- We will work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to improve health and wellbeing across the city, for parental emotional health and wellbeing in particular

### 2. Safe and Inclusive Communities

- We will work closely with partners, including the Safer Bristol Partnership, to reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system by focussing on intergenerational offending and preventing involvement in street conflict and anti social behaviour
- Through joint safeguarding practices, procedures and protocols we will protect children and young people from coercion and exploitation and work to prevent bullying, harassment and discrimination
- We will work with families where there are multiple complex needs, particularly where children and young people have special educational needs or disabilities, are living with the effects of drug and alcohol misuse or domestic violence and abuse, or where young people have been identified as carers
- We will continue to support the use of restorative approaches in the city and champion inclusion and diversity





### 3. Education, Employment and Skills

- From the earliest years we will encourage children and young people to be aspirational and to develop positive attitudes to learning
- We will work with Bristol Learning City Partnership to provide clear skills development and employment pathways to provide experience of work, mentoring and in-work training opportunities to help all young people make positive, informed choices that lead to interesting and inspiring careers
- We will improve learning outcomes for vulnerable groups, and provide targeted support for those most at risk of underachieving or being excluded from learning, including children with special educational needs and disabilities, children in care, care leavers, young carers, BME children and young people and those at risk of becoming involved in street violence

### 4. Housing

- We will work with the Bristol Homes Board and support the Preventing Homeless Strategy to ensure access to safe, stable, suitable or adapted and affordable housing for vulnerable families and young people, including children in care and care leavers





## The Partnership and Governance Arrangements

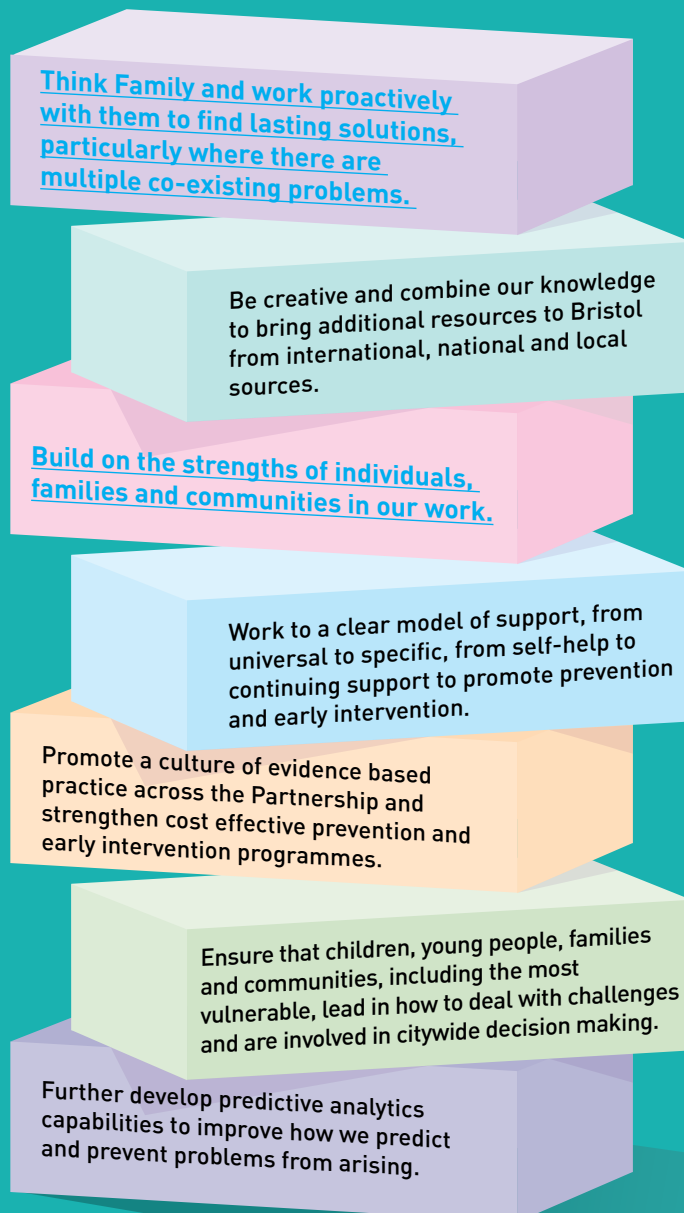
The Children and Families Partnership is one of **Bristol's City Partnerships**. We work in partnership because addressing these issues is the responsibility of everyone who works and cares about children and young people.

The role of the Children and Families Partnership is to identify the needs of children, young people and families, and work with them to steer the whole city's response in order to give them the best possible start in life, reducing inequalities that are due to economics, education, health and disability.

We join together and pool resources, targeting the right help, at the right time, to the right people to improve their life chances. It is about identifying people early, protecting them when needed, building their resilience and helping them to participate fully and independently in Bristol's economic, social and cultural life.

We are developing the following approaches that require agencies and organisations to work together effectively to support families, with a shared purpose to achieve joint outcomes.

### We will:



We work closely with **other city partnerships**, so that we can be sure the needs of children, young people and families are at the forefront of decisions about housing, health, community safety and other important decisions across our city. You can find out more about these partnerships and their priorities here:

[Health and Wellbeing Board](#)

[Safer Bristol Partnership](#)

[Bristol Learning City Partnership](#)

[Bristol Safeguarding Children Board](#)

The Children and Families Partnership Board has a crucial relationship with the Bristol Safeguarding Children Board which ensures that there are robust arrangements in place across agencies to protect children and young people from harm and to promote their welfare. This includes effective information sharing. Everyone within the Partnership follows agreed [policies and procedures](#).





The Children and Families Partnership Board are responsible for the delivery of this Strategy. The Board will develop annual Action Plans to deliver these priorities through the Partnership's subgroups and with other partners. These Action Plans will have clear measures so that we can check that the Strategy is making a difference.

The Action Plans, measures and relevant data are available [here](#).



## Children and Families Partnership Board

Composition: City policy makers & senior leaders with strategy and commissioning responsibilities

### Joint Health Outcomes

Ensuring an integrated approach to promoting and maintaining positive health and wellbeing

### Special Educational Needs and Disability

Meeting the additional needs of children and young people from 0-25

### Think Family

Promoting whole family working and leading multi agency intelligence to predict and prevent

### Participation

Ensuring children, young people and carers have a voice in the city

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