

NORTHUMBERLAND

Children & Young People's Plan 2019-2022

Northumberland Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership



1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEIR VOICE WILL INFLUENCE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM

YOU SAID:

“You would like us to communicate with you in a way that suits you, to fully understand your views.”

WE WILL:

Give you regular updates and messages on this plan: on social media, through your schools and in ways you tell us you would like. All work hard to get better at listening and responding to you.

YOU SAID:

“That you would like to know what we are doing for children and young people, and why we are doing it.”

WE WILL:

Try and communicate better with all children and young people face to face. Listen and help if you are trying to make your community a better place.



2. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE BEST START IN LIFE

YOU SAID:

“That what you want most is to have fun with your family and friends.”

WE WILL:

Ask children and young people often in our surveys and checks whether they are able to have fun with their families and friends.

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YOU SAID:

“That you and the people who care for you are happiest when you feel safe, healthy and get the help you need.”

WE WILL:

Try to support all children and babies to have safe, happy lives and to help them have the best start in the early years and be ready for school.

Make sure that every child and young person has opportunities to enjoy movement, activity and healthy lifestyles every day; to have a healthy mind and body.



3. ENSURE ALL SERVICES WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS TACKLING ANY FORM OF DISADVANTAGE

YOU SAID:

“That not being able to afford things worried children and young people most. Older children and young people are concerned about finding jobs.”

WE WILL:

Build opportunities for children and young people to have fun, live good lives and have the chances they hope and wish for.

Spend money on things we have seen proven to work in giving children and young people better opportunities in life.

YOU SAID:

“Some children say that there may be times when they feel shame, or can be bored and hungry in school holidays if their family isn't able to afford the same things others are able to have, like holidays or branded clothes.”

WE WILL:

Help all children and young people to be confident that they have what they need to build the futures they want.



4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST QUALITY EDUCATION TO PREPARE THEM FOR ADULT LIFE

YOU SAID:

“That you want to be at the right school for you, close to where you live.”

WE WILL:

Work towards every Northumberland child attending good and outstanding schools where you are safe and supported to really enjoy learning, and where everyone wants the best for you.

YOU SAID:

“Children with special needs and disabilities want to feel safe and supported to do well at their school.”

WE WILL:

Ensure that if you have a special need or disability, you will have a good education in a local school that is right for you.

YOU SAID:

“Children and young people would like to learn how to deal with aspects of life like managing money, digital safety, drug and alcohol awareness.”

WE WILL:

Encourage and support schools to teach you the skills and understanding you need for adult life.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED AND ARE ABLE TO COPE WITH LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS

YOU SAID:

“That the most important thing was to have safe places to go in your own community.”

WE WILL:

Make sure that you know where you can enjoy safe activities and places for young people near to where you live.

Give families and carers support to create safe homes for children and young people to grow up feeling secure.

YOU SAID:

“Being able to get good support and advice is important to children and young people who want to feel safe.

Online safety and awareness and advice about risks are important to you.”

WE WILL:

Act together quickly when we realise that there are risks to children and young people's safety to keep you safe from harm.

Offer more help to children and young people to be emotionally healthy, happy and able to cope.



6. PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE HEALTHY

YOU SAID:

“The most important issue for children and young people overall was mental health needs.”

WE WILL:

Invest in better mental health support and services for children and young people, so that if you do need help, you do not have to wait long.

YOU SAID:

“Younger children told us that access to exercise and physical activity was the most important aspect of health for them.”

WE WILL:

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

YOU SAID:

“You told us that you want to be safe from bullying, and know who to turn to for support.

Learning about healthy eating, food choices and cooking was also important to many of you.”

WE WILL:

Promote better awareness of healthy food choices, and lots of opportunities to enjoy active lives, to help you to be a healthy weight and feel good about yourselves.

We will all work together to tackle and eliminate bullying and discrimination, so that every young person and child feels safe.