

Refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2021- 22

Living with and recovery from COVID -19 pandemic

Overview

The plan is a refresh of the 2020 Children and Young People's Plan

The plan has been developed through:

- Understanding the impact of the COVID -19 pandemic on children, young people and families,
- Understanding the priority areas that needs to continue from the 2020 plan
- Utilising the expertise of the different agencies in the Children's Partnership who interact with Coventry children and families daily

Priority 1 Early Help

PRIORITIES

- Develop and implement the Early Help Assessment (EHA)
- Develop the Signs of Safety practice
- Develop and embed the Family Hub Model,
- Continue to implement the Troubled Families transformation programme.
- Implement Coventry's multi-agency Parenting Strategy 2018 – 2023.
- Develop the use of our Family Hub buildings.
- Develop a new model for mental health and emotional wellbeing support.
- Deliver effective public health promotion and prevention activities.

KEY ISSUES

- Hidden harm –financial hardship exacerbated
- Living in homes with increased tension and conflict
- Increased domestic abuse
- Increased parental conflict
- Sexual abuse (contact and online)
- Peer on peer bullying and abuse online
- Possible unidentified developmental needs
- Gap widening in educational outcomes
- “Behavioural issues”
- During the pandemic, there remains concerns regarding hidden harm, and many children may not have been identified early, that need support.

STRATEGY

- Identifying the needs of children, young people and their families across a continuum of need.
- Allocated specific resource from children services to maintain momentum on the Early Help strategy and associated Transformation plan
- Family Hubs also extended the ‘Here to help’ function.
- Developing multi-agency partnerships to work together within the Family Hub community venues to extend the offer of preventative early intervention to improve outcomes for children, young people and families for generations to come.
- Work collaboratively to support families preventatively and at the earliest opportunity refocusing resources from crisis intervention to prevention.

Priority 2: Mental Health

PRIORITIES

- All children and young people will have timely access to mental health support
- Everyone will be aware of what mental health support is available for children in Coventry
- A digital offer of support will be available for children and young people, including a 24/7 crisis response
- Pathway for care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) to access support.
- Reduced number of children and young people will present at acute in crisis and those who will require a tier 4 bed.
- Strengthen approaches to resilience, early help and prevention through partnership work

KEY ISSUES

- Increased numbers of children and young people requiring mental health and emotional wellbeing support, particularly around anxiety and behaviour.
- Children and young people presenting needs are more complex, particularly children with eating disorders.
- Higher risk of death by suicide within children and young people.
- Increased demand on children and young people presenting at acute settings for support, particularly around eating disorders.
- There has also been increased pressure on acute settings with children and young people presenting in crisis, and the growing number of crisis escalation calls taking place to support acute discharge.

STRATEGY

- A Tier 3 Plus Child and Adolescent Mental Health service has been implemented
- The re-commissioning of tier 2 mental health services
- A trailblazer project health crisis line offer
- A Mental Health Surge working group has been set up to review mental health referral data across a number of services.
- Develop and mobilise the Think Family Support Team which provides specific support to children and young people with eating disorders.
- Increase access to mental health services.
- Expand the Mental Health in Schools project.

Priority 3: Health Inequalities

PRIORITIES

- Tackling inequalities disproportionately affecting young people.
- Ensuring that all Coventry people, including vulnerable residents, can benefit from 'inclusive growth' which will bring jobs, housing and other benefits to the city.
- To work strategically to reduce levels of poverty in Coventry, including actions to address child poverty.
- Children and young people are safe, healthy and supported.
- Earlier intervention and a reduction in management of victims / families in crisis.
- Support for children witnessing or being victim of domestic abuse.
- Parents get access to mental health support at the right time.

KEY ISSUES

- Increased risk of poverty particularly for children of families in lower socio-economic groups and in areas of deprivation.
- Increased risk of inequalities in educational attainment due to closure of schools.
- Risks to mental health through isolation.
- Increased risk of witnessing or being a victim of domestic abuse.
- Digital exclusion – difficulty in accessing online learning.
- Fewer “eyes on” children which has highlighted enhanced joint work between drug / alcohol services and children’s services in respect of hidden harm of parental drug and alcohol misuse.

STRATEGY

- Additional resources to expand the amount of safe accommodation for victims and families.
- The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2023 is midway through, however due to significant increase in demand for services it is being reviewed. Alongside the Domestic Abuse Bill, which comes into force on April 1st, 2021.
- The Coventry Parenting Strategy 2018-2023 is delivered by organisations and partners working together, to increase the parenting support offer to families across the city.
- Coventry’s Family Health and Lifestyles 0-19 service will focus on reducing health inequalities.

Priority 4: Education, training and employment

PRIORITIES

- Managing COVID-19 protective measures in Early Years settings, and in Schools and Further Education sites (including LFT).
- Developing children and young people's emotional resilience and support a successful return to learning from remote learning.
- Identifying gaps in learning for all pupils and ensuring progress in Education and Learning to narrow this.
- Minimise and prevent pupils being excluded.
- Tracking and supporting the participation of 16-18-year olds into education, employment or training.
- Decreasing numbers of young people who are unemployed to pre-pandemic levels

KEY ISSUES

- **Keeping vulnerable children and young people safe and enabling them to continue to engage with learning.**
- Potential health impacts – as a result of less activity, social isolation and increased screen time.
- Curriculum plans and delivery has had to be adjusted to enable remote delivery.
- Early Years - day to day work has focussed on responding to the pandemic, through provision of a range of advice, support, training and documentation provided to the Early Years sector.
- Local and national research indicates that a greater number of children are less secure in a developmental stage appropriate to their chronological age, than was seen before the Covid-19 pandemic.

STRATEGY

- There has been national funding allocated to schools to identify and support gaps in pupil's learning as a result of the pandemic.
- Supporting vulnerable pupils outside of term-time, including the launch of a holiday activities fund programme.
- Joining up offers of support from variety of agencies/charities etc. Including a more comprehensive food network and social supermarkets to ensure children can access food.
- Tracking of all post-16 young people has continued and will continue throughout the pandemic.
- Employment support provision/funding to be rolled out until 2023 to provide young people with holistic, person centred 1 to 1 employment and training support.

Priority 5: Children with (SEND)

PRIORITIES

• Statutory requirement 'business as usual' – secured through a blended model of virtual and face to face service.

Covid specific:

- Strengthening safeguarding and support for emotional health and well-being
- Enabling re-engagement and attendance for complex learners
- Promoting confidence in pathways to adulthood, to secure positive outcomes and regenerate system flow
- Securing a sufficiency of placements against rising demand and financial limitation

KEY ISSUES

- Re-engaging and re-socialising vulnerable learners particularly ASC
- Unknown demand – early years specific
- Parental confidence in system safety for CV and CEV, links to national increase in EHE
- Mental health and well-being of all SEND learners
- Lost skills and the widening of the achievement gap for children with lower cognitive functioning
- Fewer SEND learners moving into employment pathways, leading to a loss of opportunity and placement blocking

STRATEGY

- Blended model of service delivery, embracing efficiencies
- Focused priorities on delivering bespoke responses to individual schools and children
- Continuing investment in the recovery curriculum including the provision of training for school and college senior mental health leads
- Ongoing promotion and development of supported employment pathways
- Ongoing co-production with parents, carers and young people to design responses to unmet need and evaluate impact

Priority 6: Youth Violence

PRIORITIES

- A reduction in violence for those under 25 years of age.
- Children and young people having a better understanding and awareness of the dangers of crime, exploitation, county lines and gang activity.
- Parents and young people involved in or victims of crime and/or anti-social behaviour is reduced.
- Policing resources which target gang activity linked to wider intelligence from partner organisations.
- The Local Authority and Police Prevent Plans are also in sync, with the violence/gang's strategies/plans.
- Coordinated multi-agency management of children and adults involved in serious youth violence and gang-based violence.

KEY ISSUES

- Knife crime and serious youth violence are a significant concern.
- A number of high-profile murder trials concluded in 2020 all involving children from Coventry.
- Young people from Coventry are coming to the attention of neighbouring police forces, often being picked up in possessions of drugs.
- In 2019/20 children in Coventry were convicted of 91 Violence Against the Person/Robbery offences and this made up 27% of all convicted offending behaviour by children in Coventry.
- During government restrictions those that seek to exploit young people have taken their activity on-line and use social media platforms to groom children, drawing them into criminal behaviour.

STRATEGY

- A 10-year violence prevention strategy in place. The local strategy mirror's the regional violence reduction unit strategy and runs until 2029.
- Work with under 4's has continued, and many activities went "online."
- Place-based approaches focus on building a local network of providers and community members to support local people to reject violence and support each other.

Governance

Key sponsor and leads have been identified for each of the six priority areas.

Workstream	Sponsor	Strategic Lead
Early Help	John Gregg	Rebecca Wilshire
Mental health	Matt Gilks	TBC
Health inequalities	Liz Gaulton	Sue Frossell
Education, learning & training	Kirston Nelson	Rachel Sugars/Kim Mawby
Children with SEND	Kirston Nelson	Jeanette Essex
Youth violence	Mike O' Hara	Caroline Ryder

Recommendations

- CYP Board to sign off the revised 2021/22 plan.
- To request the CYP Partnership board report to the HWB board on a quarterly basis.