Middlesbrough Council
Children and Young People’s Plan – Jan 2018 to Jan 2022

Foreword: Chair of the Board MIKE CARR

Welcome to the Middlesbrough Children and Young People’s Plan.

The Plan will ensure we are able to make the most of our resources, by focussing these around very clear and specific priorities. It is a plan that is informed by what we know about children, young people and families in Middlesbrough, but more importantly it is driven by what they are telling us.

In the last year the Children’s Trust’s membership has been refreshed and reinforced. This puts us in an even stronger position to promote the value and importance of children and young people in the county. We are committed to realising our vision for Middlesbrough to be the best place for children and young people to grow up.

This Plan has been developed through discussion with our partners and through public consultation about what the priorities should be for services for children, young people and families in Middlesbrough over the next four years.

As a Trust we have decided to be dynamic and concentrate of two imperatives within which we can focus on deliver something different and promoting new ways of working. The delivery of the imperatives are built on a strengths based model, around how we adopt an approach around working ‘with’ families rather than delivering services ‘to’ them. How those services respond to the needs of families but also recognise and build on the strengths that they already have.

All families, whatever their situation, have many strengths, as do the communities in which they live. We need to ensure that these strengths are the starting point for how we work alongside children, young people and families. We want to focus on these strengths and ensure that families are able to build the resilience that will enable them to thrive in everyday life.

The imperatives are:

- Increase the number of families we work with at an Early Intervention threshold, for which the Adverse Childhood Experiences features in the household.
- Strengthen families to reduce the number of Children who are Looked After.

We also provide challenge and oversight over a further 8 priorities, which are delivery via existing strategies and governance structures. Our responsibility as a Trust is now to play our part in delivering this Plan by highlighting the importance of these priorities to all partners across the town, monitoring the performance of agencies in delivering services that support the Plan, and working to solve problems and find solutions collaboratively.

It is crucial in times of limited budgets and increased demands on services that the Trust continues to enable partnership working. This is also a period of unprecedented and sustained change across all public services and this is having considerable impact on our capacity to meet the growing needs of children and young people. This, however, will not dampen our commitment to ensuring that all children and young people are able to fulfil their potential and achieve the best they possibly can, although this may mean working in a different way.

As Chairman of the Children’s Trust I look forward to making this new Plan a reality and working with every child and young person to develop the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

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1 Vision
The Partnership have embraced the Elected Mayor’s 2025 Vision of Fairer, Safer, Stronger. We will work as a collective to support one vision for the Town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Fairer Middlesbrough</th>
<th>A Safer Middlesbrough</th>
<th>A Stronger Middlesbrough</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fairness and reduced inequalities in income and health.</td>
<td>• Further reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour.</td>
<td>• Strengthening and diversifying our local economy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fair access to secure, well-paid jobs and meaningful training.</td>
<td>• Ensuring our children and vulnerable adults are protected.</td>
<td>• Strengthening our city through bold and innovative regeneration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fair access to high-quality homes.</td>
<td>• Ensuring our town is cleaner and more resilient to a changing climate.</td>
<td>• Strengthening our cultural sector.</td>
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Through the application of our vision and framework and our shared behaviours and methods, we are confident that our partners, led by the Children and Families Trust Board (CFTB), can build on the progress we have made in Middlesbrough.
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2 Context for Middlesbrough

Our priorities for children and young people are based on a detailed understanding of the needs and issues faced by children, young people and families who live and/or go to school in the borough. A comprehensive profile of need for children and young people in Middlesbrough is available online. This sits alongside the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that the government requires local authorities and NHS trusts to carry out together.

Middlesbrough Snapshot

- Children Assessed as being in Need: 3%
- Children subject to a Child Protection Plan: 10%
- Children in Care: 10%
- Section 47 enquiries from 2014 - 2017: 64%
- We work with x4 number of families at a Social Care thresholds than Early Help:
  - Contacts into Children's Care: 15%
  - Referrals into Children's Care: 3.4%
  - LAC Adopted: 33%

- 6th Most deprived LA in the country
- 37% Children live in Child Poverty
- x2 Children have FSM compared with the national average

- Children are x2 as likely to have English as a Second Language than the Regional average.
- EET: 94.6% of Children and Young People are in Education, Employment and Training. 5.4% are NEE, lower than the national average 6.0%.
- September Guarantee: 2.4% higher than the national average and 0.4% higher than the North East average.

- 94% of Middlesbrough PVI’s are Good or Outstanding
- 94% of Middlesbrough Childminders are Good or Outstanding
- 264,069 hits for the Family Information Service
3  What are we focusing on?

3.1  Core business for the Children’s Trust

Supporting delivery of high quality universal services We will continue to focus on ensuring that our universal services are of a high quality for all children and families, through our commissioning processes, quality assurance and support, prioritising activities which have the most impact for all families. All children and families should receive the same high quality service, regardless of where in the borough they live, and what their personal circumstances are. We also need to make sure that all of these services are focusing on those groups of children and families who don’t do as well as others, so that we can tackle the inequalities that exist.

3.2  Focusing on early intervention and prevention

Focusing on prevention is key to improving outcomes later in life (and is more cost effective). The children’s trust commissions and provides a range of universal services, which play a vital role in identifying and addressing children and young people’s additional needs at an early stage, intervening early and providing targeted support when extra help is needed. Mainstream schools have a vital role in early intervention and meeting a range of needs. All services have a role in improving health outcomes for children and families.

3.3  Improving education outcomes for all

We want all children to enjoy their education and achieve the best results they can. The Children’s Trust will work with the Middlesbrough School Improvement Partnership to deliver on the ambition to have the best schools in the country within a decade.

3.4  Working with Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) to ensure that all agencies work together to protect and safeguard children

The Children’s Trust and MSCB will work closely together to ensure that safeguarding is everybody’s business, with a particular focus on key vulnerable groups and risk issues for Middlesbrough, such as substance misuse, domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and missing from home or care. Any decisions about resourcing work relating to the priorities set out in this plan will be made by the relevant organisations through their internal procedures.
4 The Children and Young People’s Plan

The Children’s Trust has set out an agenda to actively focus on the delivery of Two ‘Imperatives’ which have been identified from the JSNA as key issues which warrant the Partnership to take action and look at ways of ‘doing something different’ to support improved change. The imperatives are:

1. Increase the number of families we work with at an Early Intervention threshold for which the Adverse Childhood Experiences feature in the household.
2. Strengthen families to reduce the number of Children becoming Looked After.

The Children’s Trust has identified 8 focussed priorities to support the delivery of the identified Imperatives. The identified priorities will be delivered via the Children’s Trust work plan and via existing strategies delivering change to services for Children and Families across Middlesbrough. Each existing plan and strategy has a clear governance process and performance management framework to hold it to account.

Priorities

1. Children grow up in safe and stable families.
2. Ensure the most vulnerable are protected.
3. Work with families earlier.
4. Support the emotional health and wellbeing of young people and their families.
5. Promote safe sexual health.
6. Reduce risky behaviour in Adolescents.
7. Raise aspirations and educational attainment.
8. Increase Children and Families participation in strategic planning and influencing service development.
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Middlesbrough’s Children and Young People’s Plan 2018 - 2022

Our vision: Create a Fairer, Safer, Stronger Middlesbrough

1. Increase the number of families we work with at an Early Intervention threshold, for which the Adverse Childhood Experiences features in the household

   What will we do?
   - Develop effective information sharing processes to support the early sharing of information.
   - Improve identification and build a profile of these families.
   - Develop an effective analytical model / process of the intelligence to support a proactive approach to supporting families.
   - Develop a multi-agency outreach initiative pilot for Thorntree and Ayresome schools. Develop a Whole Family Assessment and One Team Approach.
   - Work with Teeside University to support a Research Model for the Outreach Pilot.
   - Deliver ACE training across the Partnership, including Adult Services.
   - Work in partnership with respective work streams, including the Domestic Violence Strategy, Substance Misuse strategic planning work streams and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

   How will we know
   - There will be a greater proportion of Early Help cases.
   - The proportion of Social Care cases for which the Toxic Trio are featured have reduced.
   - Data in the pilot demonstrates an increase in families we are meeting identified outcomes for whom the Toxic Trio feature.
   - Improved information sharing leads to timely responses.
   - Greater number of My Family Plans are completed by the Partnership.

2. Strengthen families to reduce the number of Children who are Looked After

   What will we do?
   - Ensure we identify vulnerable families at the Right Time and offered them the Right Service. This means easier via Early Intervention offer.
   - Increase our capacity to intervene early to support children and families at risk.
   - Develop a multi-agency Front Door. One contact point for all children.
   - Strengthen and develop our multi-agency Early Intervention offer.
   - Strengthen our Edge of Care strategies. This includes preventing those Children and Families who have entered Social Care from becoming Looked After via Restorative Practice and Family Group Conferencing.
   - Strengthen our focus on permanency and increase discharges and reduce the amount of time children spend in the care system. This means ensuring those who can return home do so as soon as it is safe, and that families are supported to build the capacity to keep children safe, reducing the risk of returning to care.
   - For those who remain Looked After, find a suitable permanent home with unnecessary delay.

   How will we know
   1. The number of Children becoming Looked After have reduced.
   2. The percentage of LACs who have ceased to be looked after due to permanence (SGO / Residence Order / Adoption) have increased.
   3. There’s a reduction of children returning to care.
   4. The number of Families identified outcomes are being successfully achieved via Edge of Care interventions.

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Children grow up in safe and stable families.**

Ensure the most vulnerable are protected.**

Promote safe sexual health.**

Reduce risky behavior in Adolescents.**

Work with families earlier.**

Support the emotional health and wellbeing of young people and their families.**

Raise aspirations and educational attainment.**

Increase Children and Families participation in strategic planning and influencing service development.

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Health and Wellbeing Strategy; CYP Plan; MSCB Business Plan; Early Help Strategy; Youth Justice Plan; LAC Sufficiency Strategy; Domestic Abuse Strategy; LAC Sufficiency Strategy; Neglect Strategy; Parenting Plan.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy; CYP Plan; MSCB Business Plan; SEND Improvement Plan; VEMP Business Plan; Neglect Strategy.

VEMT; Teenage pregnancy plan; Middlesbrough Safe Sex workstream.

Youth Justice Plan; Early Help Strategy.

Health and Wellbeing Plan; Corporate Parenting Plan; CAHM’s Delivery Plan; School Improvement Plan.

School Improvement Plan; Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership Plan; Corporate Parenting Plan.

School Improvement Partnership; Corporate Parenting Plan.

Participation Strategy; Corporate Parenting Board; SEND Improvement Plan.

Children’s Trust Board; MSCB; Corporate Parenting Board; SEND Improvement Board.
4.1 The Imperatives

4.1.1 Increase the number of families we work with at an Early Intervention threshold, for which the Adverse Childhood Experiences features in the household

Why?

The term 'Toxic Trio' has been used to describe the issues of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse which have been identified as common features of families where harm to children and adults has occurred. The Toxic Trio are indicators of increased risk of harm to families and are significant factors in IPV (Interpersonal Violence) and AFV (Adult Family Violence) Work in this area has shown that there is large overlap between these parental risk factors and impact on outcomes for children into adulthood through the research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE). Tackling Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse and neglect
- Domestic abuse
- Household substance misuse
- Household mental illness
- Parental separation / divorce
- Bereavement of a key adult
- Incarceration of a household member

The Partnership believes a targeted approach to intervening with these families in a package of early support, will impact significantly on the outcomes of these children and prevent the escalation of issues which result in a Social Care intervention.

There are specific issues relating to Middlesbrough specific which support a focused intervention to this issue.

- Cleveland has the second highest rate of Domestic Abuse incidents in the Country. Middlesbrough has the highest rate of report Domestic Abuse incidents in Cleveland Police.
- Children born in Middlesbrough are more likely to be admitted to hospital as a result of alcohol or substance misuse than national and regional comparators.

4.1.2 Strengthen families to reduce the number of Children becoming Looked After.

Why?

Middlesbrough have a disproportionate number of Looked After Children compared with National, Regional, Tees Valley and Statistical Neighbours. The rate of increase in having both an adverse effect on families in the Town.

We work with a disproportionate number of children at a Level 4 Social Care threshold, as oppose working with these families at an Early Help threshold. Social Care case files are approximately 3 times greater than those recorded Early Help cases.

Children and young people in care have poorer outcomes than those living in a safe and stable home. Children placed in family settings were more likely to have better emotional well-being and educational achievement and less involvement in crime, substance misuse and teenage pregnancy.
The unit cost of a Child being in care more expense than working with them at an Early Help threshold, particularly in light of the poorer outcomes this achieved for the majority of young people. Reducing the cost of services for looked after children, would release resources to be invested in a range of family support services in order to reduce the number of children needing to be accommodated.

4.2 How we will work together as a Middlesbrough Partnership to deliver outcomes for Children and Young People
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5 Governance

- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Children’s Trust
- School Improvement Board
- School Improvement Steering Group
- Delivery Groups
- Joint Commissioning Group
- Participation Group
- SEND Implementation
- Believe in Families Change Programme
- Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children’s Board