

(Council 31 Oct)



BETTER AND BETTER

**Each Child,
Every Young Person,
All Agencies –
Our Plan
Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010**

Welcome to the Thurrock Children and Young People's Plan: Better and Better

The children and young people in Thurrock, working with adults and staff from across all our services and partners have produced the Thurrock Children and Young People's Plan for 2007-10. It identifies our goals and priorities for developing and improving services for all children and young people in Thurrock over the next 3 years. It also says what we are going to do to achieve our goals. The plan is relevant for every child and young person from before birth to 19 years old, because it covers all the services provided for them. For some young people, who may have learning difficulties or who may have a care background, this plan will help them beyond 19 into early adulthood up to the age of 25.

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) will be responsible for the delivery of this plan. This is the group of agencies and organisations dedicated to meeting the needs of children and young people in Thurrock. Partners such as the Council, South West Essex Primary Care Trust, Essex Police, and Connexions will jointly deliver the plan. A full list of members of CYPSP can be found on the back page of this document. You can find details of the actions we are going to take to deliver our goals on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children along with other supporting documents. We will let you know how we are doing against our plan in a newsletter that we will publish twice a year.

A child and parent friendly version of this document has been distributed to every household in Thurrock. It is also available on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children. If you would like a copy, please email childrensplan@thurrock.gov.uk or call 01375 652553.

In order to publicise this plan to children, young people, families and carers, a series of launches will take place. These will be publicised and details will be available on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Our Goals

We've developed our goals as a result of listening to children and young people and families. These are the things we are committed to working together to achieve. We've organised our goals into the 5 national well-being outcomes (Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Positive Contribution and Economic Wellbeing), and our plan has a section for each of these outcomes. You can find out more about what actions we're going to take to make these improvements on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Be Healthy

Goal 1 - Each baby has the healthiest possible start to life

Goal 2 - Each child and every young person is able to make healthy choices

Goal 3 - Each child and every young person has access to the services they need, when they need them

Stay Safe

Goal 4 – Each child and every young person is able to feel and be safe in their early years setting, at school and in their local area

Goal 5– Each child and every young person is protected from harm or neglect and supported to remain with their own family wherever possible

Enjoy and achieve

Goal 6– Each child and every young person is helped to achieve their learning potential through high quality education

Goal 7– Each child and every young person is able to participate in a range of leisure activities

Positive Contribution

Goal 8 – Each child and every young person is able to share in shaping services

Goal 9 – Each child and every young person lives free from crime, bullying and harassment

Goal 10 - Each child and every young person can engage in activities that positively contribute to the communities in Thurrock and their improve self esteem

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Goal 11 – Each child and every young person is supported to become confident, informed, educated and skilled

Goal 12– Each child and ever young person benefits from the opportunities of regeneration in Thurrock so that it has a positive impact on their lives.

Contents

To be added when text is finalised

Introduction

“The Children and Young Peoples Plan is a plan set out to improve the way that the next generation is affected, be it in health, education or social development. It includes targets and specific goals that all partners in Thurrock are committed to achieve.

I think that if the plan is achieved as hoped, Thurrock can look forward to a more progressive and improved community. One of the main issues will be to identify and implement preventative measures rather than to react to problems that have already presented.

This plan has been “youth proofed” by a volunteered group ensuring that it's not only accessible by adults but young people too, so they can check on the progress in their area too.”

Jacqui Sweeney, Chair of Youth Cabinet

“I am delighted to see this plan up and running as it is very important to me and every other young person in Thurrock. It has the potential to affect every single child in Thurrock and it is great to have strategies, which target all children and young people and ultimately help them. I am also delighted to see that the partner agencies are determined to improve life for children in Thurrock and that improving the services they provide for children is being taken so seriously. What is more; Thurrock's Youth Cabinet have played a part in its creation and it is an important step which sees the youth of Thurrock getting involved in matters which will directly affect them.”

Sam Girling, Member of Youth Cabinet

“Thurrock is an exciting place in which to live and grow up; the future is very bright! All of the organisations within the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership are determined to ensure that each child and every young person in Thurrock is healthy, stays safe, is able to enjoy and achieve and can make a positive contribution in their lives. We also want children, young people and their families in Thurrock to prosper and benefit from the planned regeneration of the Thurrock local area. We do not want any child or young person to be excluded. This plan sets out what we want to do and how, working together, we will continue to improve the quality of life for all of our children.”

Mike Fall, Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

“Children, young people and lifelong learning have long been a priority for the Council and this is a priority that we know is shared by all of the partners and by all of you within our community. This plan explains how we will deliver on this priority and achieve our ambitions. The plan speaks for all children: those from minority ethnic communities, recent arrivals to Thurrock, those who have been in Thurrock all their lives, the most vulnerable of our young people, and the most able, talented and gifted of our young people.”

Councillor Mike Revell, Lead Member for Children's Services, Thurrock Council

“This plan speaks of a new and exciting phase in the development of quality provision for our children and young people and the opportunities are enormous. It is also a plan that speaks in the voice of our children and young people. We have developed this plan with children and young people themselves, talking to them about what needs to be achieved and what actions we need to take in Thurrock. Their feedback has shaped much of what you will read here because we have responded to every comment and idea and suggestion that has been made. You can find out more about the consultation process on the website at www.thurrock.gov.uk/children.

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The plan is a key document that covers three years initially, but we will review the plan each year to test our progress, to check resource levels and to reinvest in our ambitions. We will regularly publish on the website the evidence of our progress and successes and the changes that we will be incorporating as the plan grows. And, we will be honest about the difficulties and any failures we experience. Of necessity we have had to make priorities in this plan. However, we know that those that have been selected matter to children, young people and the community.”

**Julien Kramer, Director of Children’s Services / Children and Young People’s Strategic
Executive Chair**

How it feels to live in Thurrock

“We need more regular visits from school nurses to give us advice and guidance about our health” Year 6 Pupil, Bulphan Primary School

“In our area there aren’t enough things to keep us safe on the roads – things like lollipop ladies, crossings and speed cameras” Year 4 Pupil, Bulphan Primary School

“Thurrock should promote activities that are available more. And they need to aim some of that at parents to encourage them to get their children involved. Parents are potentially very important and very powerful” Young Person from the Zeal Youth Magazine Group

“There has been a bit of a breakdown in the interaction and communication between young people and older generations. We’ve got to address some of the stereotyping of young people which affects the respect older people have for our generation” Key Stage 4 School Council Member, Gable Hall School

“In the parks and play areas, most of the things are difficult for young people with wheelchairs to use. We need to think about them as well when we are designing new parks.” Year 10 Pupil at Beacon Hill Special School

***“Someone needs to deal with racism and with bullying”
Primary School Pupil Comment in Annual On-Line TellUs Survey***

***“It is good that there is a vision in the plan for my future. However what I want to know is what you are going to do and how you are going to make sure that the priorities for my future are things I can achieve and not just read about”
Key Stage 4 Pupil, School Council at Chafford Hundred Campus***

***“There is a need to tackle any anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the local area. We need to make spaces especially for teenagers and to give them ‘graffiti walls’ and encourage them to use them instead”
School Council Member, Stifford Clays Junior School***

***“The message shouldn’t be do better at school and then you can move out of Thurrock”
Parent, Chadwell St Mary***

***“Schools should always try to be good, and not just when they get inspected”
Member of St Clements Church Youth Club, age 6***

***“A special remote control should be invented and when you press the button at night all the play equipment will become invisible to keep it safe. In the morning when you press the button it will re-appear”
Year 1 Student, Graham James Primary School***

Our vision

Our vision is that if you are a child or young person in Thurrock you will achieve the best possible outcomes. You will:

- ❑ Start life in the best way with good ante natal and post natal services and effective, easily accessible early education and childcare
- ❑ Receive high quality, enjoyable education and learning experiences
- ❑ Access a wide range of training, employment and further education opportunities when you leave school
- ❑ Be well informed to help you make the right choices and decisions so that you enjoy good health throughout your childhood and adolescence.
- ❑ Live in a safe home and safe communities where you are free from harm, neglect, abuse and victimisation
- ❑ Be able to participate in a range of good play, sport, leisure and cultural activities in your local community
- ❑ Be offered good and affordable and accessible transport to allow you easy access to facilities both within your local community and neighbouring communities
- ❑ Have the opportunity to get involved in your community by contributing to decision making
- ❑ Have a voice and be listened to
- ❑ Grow up in a fair, tolerant and supportive community, learning to respect others and enjoying the respect of others
- ❑ Not be disadvantaged by poverty, disability or race

We want to make this possible by working in partnership with all relevant agencies and engaging meaningfully with the users of our services and the wider community. To ensure this happens and to ensure we meet our vision, there are a number of key principles and strategies that underpin our work:

- ❖ Raising the aspirations of every child, young person and family to ensure high standards of achievement and attainment
- ❖ Making sure our services are accessible, flexible and responsive to the diverse needs of children and young people
- ❖ Prioritising early prevention whenever possible, and ensuring all intervention is appropriate to the need and undertaken as early as possible
- ❖ Working together with Partners, sharing information and integrating the services we deliver
- ❖ Working in partnership and with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to promote and prioritise the view that safeguarding children is the responsibility of everybody living in the community and every agency working within the community

We will deliver our vision by:

- ❖ Establishing a Children's Trust, where relevant agencies come together to plan, invest in and deliver services to children and families in an integrated and coordinated way.
- ❖ all statutory partners being active members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and sharing this vision and jointly making decisions about priorities;
- ❖ strategic joint planning and commissioning across the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, based on robust needs assessment, and the identification of all available resources;
- ❖ people working in effective multi-disciplinary teams, trained jointly to tackle cultural and professional divides, making use of a Lead Professional model;

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- ❖ the views of children and young people being listened to across the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, and children and young people, their parents and carers being involved in the design of services.
- ❖ Making sure that we listen to the voices and consider the needs of all groups of people: girls, boys, disabled children and children and young people from all the ethnic groups that combine to make the Thurrock community
- ❖ Setting out a "pledge" for children and young people in care

How this plan was built



Step One was to make sure everyone shared the vision for the future

We believe that the best way to ensure that all the children and young people of Thurrock achieve what they are capable of is to work in partnership. The most important members of this partnership are the children, young people and families in our local communities. So we have shared and discussed our vision with them and we have made changes to reflect what the consultation told us. As a result, we are confident that our vision is shared by everyone.



Step Two was to look at how things are at the moment and identify our priorities

We looked at the information we currently have for all children and young people and from this we identified priorities for improvement and asked a number of children, young people and families what they thought. This is called a Needs Assessment. Our Needs Assessment includes a wide range of information, including the results of external inspections such as the Joint Area Review of all Children's Services and the Annual Performance Assessment of Thurrock Council's Children's Services. From all this information, we developed our priorities. Our Needs Assessment is available on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children



Step Three was to decide what actions we need to take to further improve the lives of Thurrock's children, young people and families

If we make the improvements we have agreed, we will continue to improve the life chances for Thurrock's children and young people. To ensure this happens, the different agencies and partners got together to plan out key actions we need to take, either separately or jointly, to meet our priorities. However, we have also set out to ensure we not only involve children, young people and their families in deciding what we need to improve but we also involve them in shaping the services we need and the actions we take. We've done this through meetings and consultation sessions with different groups from across our community, including young people who represent black and minority ethnicity communities, young people with learning difficulties and physical disabilities, children from primary schools, young people from secondary schools, further education and those in employment, as well as representatives of parents and carers from across Thurrock. Detailed action plans are available on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children. These set out the actions that will be carried out and how we will measure our success. Timescales, resources and responsibilities are also highlighted. Each action plan will include measurable outcomes so that see the difference that the actions make.

How the plan will be reviewed

The voice of children and young people has been at the heart of the development of this plan. It is their views and opinions that have shaped our vision, our goals, our priorities and our key strategies for improvement.

We intend to keep their voice and their influence at the heart of our work in implementing this plan. So their views and opinions will be central to our process for reviewing this plan. We intend to ensure their continued effective participation and engagement through the following strategies.

Strategy 1

- ❑ Using new technology to supplement processes for gathering feedback from children and young people

Actions

- ❑ Introduction of a text messaging consultation system
- ❑ Photo/video diaries and blogs about life for young people in Thurrock
- ❑ On-line web-based surveys and questionnaires
- ❑ Roaming video box for review and feedback

Strategy 2

- ❑ Taking face-to face dialogue to children and young people to allow them to review and help design service delivery

Actions

- ❑ Annual “Consultation Tour Of Thurrock” involving an intensive series of short face to face interaction between officers and children and young people at Youth Clubs, support groups and School Councils
- ❑ “Face to Face” Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership meetings held in schools, to allow dialogue between agencies and young people in each area
- ❑ Setting up a group of young advisors to gather and provide feedback from themselves and other young people
- ❑ Bi-annual consultation conference for young people aged 11-19
- ❑ Accompanied walks/tours around parts of borough for officers and agencies with children and young people as “tour guides” focusing on life in their local area
- ❑ Setting up a Children in Care council

Strategy 3

- ❑ Extending consultation to focus on primary school pupils and specific groups within community

Actions

- ❑ Bi-annual consultation conference for Primary School Councils
- ❑ “Face to Face” meetings of senior managers from the Council’s Children, Education and Families Directorate held in Primary Schools, to allow dialogue between agencies and young people
- ❑ Series of “Spotlight On” meetings focused on reviewing needs and impact of services on specific groups within the community who need to be engaged such as young people with learning difficulties and disabilities, young carers, homeless young people and travellers
- ❑ Ensuring that young people who have communication difficulties because of language or disability can effectively engage

Children and Young People Stay Healthy

What we know:

A healthy start for babies is vital, but breast feeding rates in Thurrock have been falling. However, targeted support for mothers has reversed the trend where it has been piloted. This needs to be expanded now across Thurrock to give as many children as possible the best start in life. We need to place more emphasis on prevention of poor health and reducing the unfairness in health experienced across Thurrock, working proactively with parents in a variety of settings recognising their key role in promoting the health and wellbeing of their own children. We also need to focus on immunisation rates which have also been falling.

Encouragingly, schools have engaged well with the Be Healthy agenda with children taking up the school fruit and vegetable scheme, and participating in the national Healthy Schools Programme (improving school food standards, increasing the level of physical activity within school and addressing the emotional aspects of learning).

Although there has been a reduction in teenage pregnancies, there are still more than the national average and significantly more than the East of England as a whole, and needs to reduce still further. Continued good partnership between schools, the Primary Care Trust and the council in supporting Personal, Social and Health Education will be needed, particularly to help reduce the escalation of sexually transmitted diseases.

Currently, waiting times for children and young people to access help with mental health problems are still too long.

What we are going to do:

Goal 1 - Each baby has the healthiest possible start to life

Priority 1.1 – Improve services for new parents and babies, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities

Actions include –

- Ante-natal advice and support available to all pregnant women and their families in Sure Start Children's Centre areas alongside additional focused interventions to support pregnant vulnerable women
- Decrease the numbers of mothers smoking during pregnancy
- Establish links between maternity services and Children's Centres
- Improve facilities and support that encourage mothers to start and continue with breast feeding.
- Provide information and guidance on breastfeeding, nutrition, hygiene and safety, immunisation and emotional wellbeing through partner agencies working in an integrated way with Children's Centres (particularly health visitors, nursery nurses, and Community Mothers)
- All families with new born babies in SureStart Children's Centre areas to be visited in first 2 months of their babies' life and given information about the services and support available to them, in a format they can understand.
- Undertake work specifically aimed at engaging fathers, particularly in Children's Centres
- Provide extra preventative support both ante and post-natally to parents focusing particularly on babies at higher risk of poorer outcomes.
- Work specifically with vulnerable and young parents to ensure that they get the additional support they might need

Priority 1.2 – Provide more health checks and encourage actions to prevent children and young people becoming ill

Actions include -

- Improve the coverage and consistency of health surveillance at key stages of children's development
- Increase the take-up of all immunisations
- Improve the oral health of Thurrock's children and young people by undertaking promotional work, and reviewing the community dental service
- Provide information and guidance on breastfeeding, nutrition, immunisation, hygiene and safety available to all families with young children in SureStart Children's Centre areas.
- Deliver the Parenting Strategy –*See Priority 10.1 – Provide support and advice to parents and carers on all aspects of parenting*

Goal 2 - Each child and every young person is able to make healthy choices

Priority 2.1 – Support schools to help children and young people choose healthy lifestyles

Actions include –

- Continue to implement the Healthy Schools programme and increasing the numbers of schools with healthy schools status
- Reduce childhood obesity through family interventions specified in the Local Area Agreement through the MEND programme (Mind/Exercise/Nutrition/Do it)
- Improve children and young peoples' knowledge of healthy lifestyles through Healthy Schools, Children Centres and Healthy Living Centres
- Ensure children and young people receive high quality PSHE and are able to access youth friendly services to help them make positive choices about their health.
- Improve children and young peoples' physical health by increasing their participation in sports and increasing their activity levels- *See Goal 7– Each child and every young person is able to participate in a range of leisure activities*

Priority 2.2 –Reduce the numbers of teenage pregnancies and improve the sexual health of our young people

Actions include –

- Further reduce teenage pregnancies by implementing the High Risk Behaviours action plan
- Increase the number of teachers and nurses trained to deliver drug education in schools through continual professional development programmes
- Promote the links between emotional health and SRE
- Improve access to sexual health advisory services by extending successful services such as C2U/YPAS throughout the community, and ensure these services are young person friendly and meet the needs of young men and young women
- Continue to improve the sexual health of vulnerable children and young people including children in care
- Increase screening for sexually transmitted diseases via the roll out of the national Chlamydia screening programme
- In partnership with specialist voluntary agencies develop sign posting and support for young people who are victims of non consensual sex or sexual exploitation

Priority 2.3 – Reduce the number of children and young people who are at risk of harm

Actions include –

- Develop a better understanding of the types of risks that affect young men and young women
- Reduce the harm caused through smoking and substance misuse, in particular alcohol and cannabis use.
- Reduce the harm caused through risky and high risk behaviours by delivering the High Risk behaviour action plan
- Safeguarding children - see *Priority 4.1 – Achieve high standards of safety and security in all places for children and young people; Priority 4.2 – To improve safety in the local area; Priority 4.3 – Reduce the impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence and parental substance misuse on the lives of children and young people; Priority 5.1 – Make prompt and accurate assessments so that children and young people benefit from the right services at the right time; Priority 5.2 - Improve support for children and young people through better information sharing and multi agency work.*

Goal 3 - Each child and every young person has access to the services they need, when they need them

Priority 3.1 – Improve our care and services for young people with complex needs

Actions include –

- Ensure the needs of young people with complex needs are addressed in the development of the Children's Trust.
- Review capacity and delivery of integrated services for disabled children and children with complex health needs
- Develop services to meet the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Monitor and review the implementation of the Early Support Programme in Thurrock to ensure that children under 5 with complex needs, and their families, receive high quality co-ordinated support
- Establish a joint agency pathway which meets the requirements of the National Autism Plan
- Ensure that children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health problems are able to access appropriate services in line with national waiting time targets.
- Increase the availability of speech and language support
- Establish a specialist local multi-agency service for feeding and swallowing issues
- Ensure that services provided are appropriate to the needs of young men, young women and those from black and minority ethnic groups
- Develop proactive community outreach, advocacy and signposting to enable access to appropriate services by more marginalised and excluded families

Priority 3.2 – Increase the amount and variety of support available for children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health needs

Actions include –

- Improve the information about services available and referral criteria to these including those offered by the specialist voluntary sector
- Ensure that 16 and 17 year olds have access to mental health services appropriate to their age and level of maturity

- Ensure that 24 hour cover is available to meet urgent mental health needs of children and young people and for a specialist mental health assessment to be undertaken within 24 hours or the next working day where indicated
- Ensure that protocols are in place for partnership working between agencies for children and young people with complex, persistent and severe behavioural and mental health needs
- Establish counselling services as part of a comprehensive pathway for child and adolescent mental health services

Priority 3.3 – Improve the health services we provide for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

Actions include –

- Develop services to meet the needs of children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Ensure that a full range of child and adolescent mental health services for children and young people with learning disabilities are available
- Ensure that we understand how cultural difference affects the support given to children and young people with learning disabilities from black and minority ethnic groups

Priority 3.4 – Where appropriate place services within communities so they are easier to access

Actions include -

- Set up pilot provision for out of hours minor accident and minor illness services.
- Ensure that services provided are appropriate to the needs of young men, young women and those from black and minority ethnic groups
- Re-commission the existing Community Paediatrics service and establish an integrated service within three years
- Establish a new approach to health visiting by piloting approaches that target more vulnerable communities
- Deliver the core child health programme to promote the health and well being of children pre-birth to adulthood
- Ensure that increased youth provision takes account of healthy lifestyles including provision of information about drugs, alcohol and teenage pregnancy

Priority 3.5 – Improve the health services we provide for Looked After Children

- Establish a robust process for initial health assessment and routine health assessment of Looked After Children
- Ensure that the mental and emotional health needs of Looked After Children are met, (including those with specific needs such as unaccompanied asylum seekers) and that their needs are understood differently according to their gender
- Ensure that the health needs of Looked After Children are given priority including those how are not placed within Thurrock

Be Healthy milestones include

- Increase the number of children receiving 1st and 2nd doses of MMR vaccine before their 5th Birthday from 72% to 73%
- Help prevent young people from becoming obese by supporting at least 150 children and their families to participate in weight management courses
- Increase the number of schools with Healthy School Status by 2010
- Reduce teenage conceptions by 55% by 2010

.....more milestones in the Action Plans www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Children and Young People are Safe

What we know:

There have been only a few very minor accidents in schools and on school visits in recent years and children are safer from being killed and injured in road accidents than in previous years.

Schools have identified further work is needed with advice and support to address site security, and out school, fewer children feel happy and safe compared with children nationally. This is particularly true for girls. In real terms, this means that there are probably well over 3000 young people not feeling safe. Children state that gangs and bullies are major issues. However, the provision of a safer environment is recognised as a priority in the Local Area Agreement and by the Safer Thurrock Partnership.

A major area of partnership working in Thurrock is to reduce risk of abuse and neglect of children and young people. Through the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the CYPSP, the local authority and key partner agencies have developed Thurrock's own local integrated children's system, known as Assessment and Responses to Children System (ARCS). This system incorporates the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the integrated processes necessary for its successful implementation. Delivery of the CAF has been started through multi-agency groups developing in four geographical clusters, based around schools. These groups are seen as key in early intervention and prevention. There is evidence of effective multi-agency work from the original pilot groups and the learning is being rolled out across Thurrock.

We are also developing a Thurrock Family Group Conference system as a means of promoting and supporting extended families in the local community in helping keep children safe at home wherever possible.

Although assessments of children's needs and safety are thorough, we need to ensure that these are quickly carried out and reduce current timescales as much as possible.

Domestic violence and also parental substance misuse are increasingly being recognised as major issues and work is being done through joined-up working between children's and adult's services and through inter-agency working to reduce the effects on children and young people. A range of Children's services are involved in the new MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) system that has been introduced in Thurrock to share agree packages of support for adult victims of domestic abuse and their children in high-risk cases.

The numbers of children and young people out of school for significant periods, either because they have difficulty getting into school, or because they do not attend, are considered to be at risk of exploitation, or becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour. Work is being carried out to ensure that there are more effective processes to place children out of education back in school or appropriate provision (see Priority 6.1)

What we are going to do:

Goal 4 – Each child and every young person is able to feel and be safe at school, in their early years setting, and in their local area

Priority 4.1 – Achieve high standards of safety and security in all places for children and young people.

Actions include –

- Improve school security and ensure compliance with Health and Safety regulations and ensure all stakeholders are familiar with them

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- Work with partners to develop and implement the safety kite mark in schools.
- Improve quality of early years settings - see Priority 6.2 –Improve the attainment of children and young people in Thurrock at all ages
- Ensure processes are in place to check that all people who have contact with children and young people are suitable, and that these processes are routinely monitored for effectiveness
- Ensure that multi-agency procedures are complied with when responding to allegations against people who work with children.
- Promote anti-bullying initiatives in school to develop anti-bullying awareness and skills to challenge bullying
- Ensure that all early years setting access quality health and safety training
- Ensure that effective anti-bullying procedures and practice are in place in all schools
-

Priority 4.2 – To improve safety in the local area

Actions include –

Community policing initiatives - see Priority 9.3 – Improved community policing

- Improve fire safety through targeted fire safety work in secondary schools
- Raise awareness of juvenile firesetting counselling
- Work with colleges and schools on road safety through the “For My Girlfriend” and “Road Runner” programmes
- Work with foster carers to ensure good level of understanding of all safety issues
- Work closely with schools to support and advise on the continued review of school travel plans
- Deliver health and safety, accident prevention and other safety advice through the children’s centres, community mothers and health visitors
- Improve targeting for home fire safety visits to the most at risk
- Develop safe accessible and exciting play environments in Thurrock.
- Continue with the Crucial Crew Roadshow, which aims to provide a range of safety and life-skills, targeted at year 6 pupils
- Improve multi-agency follow-up of young people picked up on Truancy Sweeps

Priority 4.3 – Reduce the impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence and parental substance misuse on the lives of children and young people

Actions include –

- Deliver the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Action Plan and Sexual Violence Action Plan, in conjunction with the Safer Thurrock Partnership and voluntary organisations
- Raising awareness of, and sign posting assistance for domestic abuse and sexual violence issues through Children’s Centres and the Multi-Agency Cluster Groups.
- Ensure domestic abuse, sexual violence and parental substance misuse are included in multi-agency child protection training
- Develop services and links to services for young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation
- Promote safer relationships through a dedicated multi-agency group and by direct work with schools
- Improving information sharing processes between agencies by use and implementation of the ARCS and the associated Practitioner Toolkit, as well as the

development of a national database. See *Priority 5.2 - Improve support for children and young people through better information sharing and multi agency work.*

Goal 5– Each child and every young person is protected from harm or neglect and supported to remain with their own family wherever possible

Priority 5.1 – Make prompt and accurate assessments so that children and young people benefit from the right services at the right time.

Actions include –

- Full implementation of the Assessment and Responses for Children System (ARCS) and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), delivered by Multi-Agency Cluster Groups
- Ensure that early identification and prevention strategies are implemented in Children's Centres to reduce the need for families to access targeted and enhanced services.
- The development of integrated service delivery, including the specialist voluntary sector, through Children's Centres and Extended Services.
- Development of a Family Support Strategy which includes developing services with key partner agencies and voluntary groups, to keep children safe at home

Priority 5.2 - Improve support for children and young people through better information sharing and multi agency work.

Actions include –

- Implementation of national information sharing initiatives such as Contact Point
- Development of the Children's Trust, which would include the specialist voluntary sector.
- Implementation of shared procedures and protocols, such as the Southend, Essex and Thurrock child protection procedures
- Improve links with adults services so that we can: identify parents with needs, ensure effective transition of children and young people to adult services, and provide more support for young carers
- Design and launch joint protocols between children's and adult's services in social care, health and the voluntary sector, in order to support parents with additional needs that impact on their children
- Improve the identification and support of children who may not be living with their parents and who may be subject to private fostering arrangements

Priority 5.3 – Improve services through participation, evaluation and review

See *Priority 8.1 – Seek, value and act on the views of our children and young people*

Stay Safe milestones include:

- Increase the number of children and young people who report they feel safe in their local area
- Increase in the number of children and young people receiving a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment of their needs.

.....more milestones in the Action Plans www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Children and Young People are able to Enjoy and Achieve in Thurrock

What we know:

Thurrock's children have been attaining higher standards over the last few years, with particular improvements in many schools by the end of Primary School, and throughout secondary school. Evidence shows that at the end of Foundation Stage, the gap between Thurrock and national figures has narrowed, particularly for girls. However, between the ages of 5 and 14 there is a need to improve attainment further to ensure our young people's achievements are at least in line with national and East of England averages. However, the proportion of young people achieving five GCSE grades at A*-C (level 2 qualifications) are now close to the national average and more of Thurrock's young people achieve at least one pass at GCSE than is the case nationally.

There are many factors that contribute to children achieving well at school. Thurrock pupils from age 11 to 16 and from 14-16 progress at a greater rate than those nationally. Yet those who felt they are not doing particularly well have told us they think "More fun and interesting lessons" and "a quieter or better-behaved class or group", would improve their performance. In addition there are a small group of children who attend school too infrequently. Attendance in Thurrock, although showing recent improvements, is still below national averages, particularly in the primary phase.

Another contributory factor in children and young people not achieving well and missing schooling is the high number of fixed term exclusions in Thurrock secondary schools. While the numbers of children and young people being permanently excluded is now very low, the number of fixed term exclusions from secondary schools has risen.

With the anticipated rapidly changing population and profile of Thurrock, it is vital that the planning of schools and school places ensures that all our children and young people are able to access the school of their choice. Access to schools needs to be improved for pupils with challenging behaviour who need school places.

Nearly a quarter of children and young people said that they did not find it very easy to find things to do in their local area, in line with national figures. Suggestions from them focused on looking for more "good sports and leisure centres in the area" and better "proximity to parks, recreation areas or countryside"

What we are going to do:

Goal 6– Each child and every young person is helped to achieve their learning potential through high quality education

Priority 6.1 – Access to education

Actions include -

- Review of Primary and Secondary school places
- Further work to improve the process of admitting children who arrive at schools mid year
- Ensuring all pupils have access to appropriate, full-time education
- Increase the quantity of early years places - see *Priority 12.3 –Ensure sufficient numbers, quality and types of childcare*
- Developing an enhanced Statement Support Service to ensure all Pupils with statements who are excluded, or at risk of exclusion, in the Borough receive a high quality education

- Further refining tracking and monitoring of pupils Not In Receipt Of Full-Time Education (NIROFTE), and holding partner agencies and services to account through the multi-agency NIROFTE Strategy Group.
 - Ensuring that Looked After Children from black and minority ethnic groups, such as unaccompanied asylum seekers are not hindered from accessing education because of their language needs

Priority 6.2 –Improve the attainment of children and young people of all ages in Thurrock

Actions include -

- Work with schools, national strategies, other providers, to continue to raise attainment and achievement at each key stage.
- In particular to accelerate the rate of progress at Key Stage 1 and 2 to close the gap between Thurrock's performance and that nationally.
- Work with schools and other providers to address the significant underperformance of boys at KS1 and 2 particularly in writing and maths.
- Implement the renewed School Improvement Strategy for Thurrock.
- Develop and extend strategies to raise attainment at the end of the Foundation Stage and ensure that existing early years and childcare provision is of high quality
- Implement specific projects focussing on communication, language and literacy development in Foundation Stage
- Work with schools to enable them to develop in areas they have identified
- Describe what "excellent" looks like and aspire to this rather than settle for "satisfactory"
- Work with schools and other providers to ensure continuing development of the school workforce
- Work with schools and partner agencies to improve the effective management of school attendance, or access to alternative provision
- Raise the attainment of looked after children and young people in line with that of their peers in Thurrock
- Work with schools to develop skills within the social and emotional aspects of learning

Priority 6.3 –Tackling the issues that prevent young people from achieving

Actions include -

- Improve attendance and reduce fixed term exclusions through an effective, multi-agency Behaviour & Attendance Strategy
- Implement the School Improvement Strategy to improve the quality of teaching and learning and improve the attainment of under achieving groups
- Increase in the proportion of children having age appropriate levels of communication, language and literacy at the end of the Foundation Stage
- Develop support to young carers and their families to ensure that young carers gain maximum benefits from educational, health and social opportunities
- Work with schools, national strategies and other providers to continue to raise attainment and achievement at each key stage
- Help children and young people make the move from one stage of their education to another (transition planning), including post sixteen planning
- Continue to develop the Traveller Achievement Service
- Identify services to address the impact of outside influences for example bereavement, sexual violence, parent in prison, parental substance misuse

- Strive to understand the needs of young men and young women separately so that gender based barriers can be removed more effectively

Priority 6.4 – Raising the profile of Thurrock to improve self esteem and aspiration- see *Priority 10.4 – Raise the profile of Thurrock to improve self esteem and aspiration*

Priority 6.5 – Enable parents and carers to help children and young people to achieve their best –see *Priority 11.4 – Enable parents and carers to help children and young people achieve their best*

Goal 7– Each child and every young person is able to participate in a range of leisure activities

Priority 7.1 – Improve quality and accessibility of leisure activities

Actions include –

- Improve access for all to open spaces via development of green grid through the Local Area Agreement
- Support the Local Area Agreement priority of bringing people together through cultural opportunities and ensuring children and young people are represented
- Ensure that leisure activities are equally available and accessible to children and young people with disabilities and impairments.
- Ensure that leisure activities are designed to capture the interests of young women as well as young men

Priority 7.2 - Encourage young people to participate in a wide variety of activities - see *Priority 10.2 – Develop and deliver high quality youth work and youth provision*

Actions include –

- Continue the work of the Schools Sports Strategy
- Implement the Play Strategy
- Improve provision and access for places to go and things to do for young people, in line with the Positive Activities and “V” volunteering agendas, and local examples such as the young fire-fighters scheme.
- Ensure schools promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Continue to promote the links between physical activity and healthy eating through PHSE
- Work with schools to increase the provision of physical activity opportunities for children and young people within the curriculum and out of school hours

Enjoy and Achieve milestones include:

- Increase the numbers of young people reaching the expected standard at key stage 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Reduce the numbers of young people who are excluded from school either permanently or for a short period.

.....more milestones in the Action Plans www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Children and Young People are able to make a Positive Contribution

What we know:

Inspections of our schools show that schools are successful in encouraging children and young people to make a positive contribution to the community. A high proportion of children in care contribute to their reviews as they should.

Surveys and consultation with children and young people show more felt they could get involved and influence decisions at school and locally than is the case nationally. However, there are too many who feel they cannot get involved, or feel it is not easy to get involved, with over half responding that it was not easy to get involved with how things are run locally. Thurrock now has a Youth Cabinet which, although in its early stages, is developing well and was very positively reviewed by external inspectors. We now need to build on these strengths and look at other ways of enabling wider participation for children and young people (including in particular those from ethnic minority communities and those who have learning difficulties and disabilities).

Successful work has taken place in areas of Thurrock where there have been mentoring schemes to support young people. The next stage is to learn from these successes and establish mentoring across Thurrock. Also, the impact of the Final Warning and Reprimand Panel on youth offending rates has been good. However, the number of incidents of racial harassment has increased in both schools and the local area. With an increasingly diverse population action needs to be taken to ensure that all are free from harassment and bullying. Projects to address anti social behaviour of young people have been successful in many areas and are being further developed.

What we are going to do:

Goal 8 – Each child and every young person is able to share in shaping services

Priority 8.1 – Seek, value and act on the views of our children and young people

Actions include –

- Deliver a Participation and Engagement Strategy that is accessible to all
- Where appropriate utilise all contact with children and young people to explore their opinions
- Use new and innovative approaches to gain the views of children and young people
- Develop an effective complaint and advocacy strategy for children and young people
- Access the views of “silent groups”, for example lesbians, gay and bi-sexual young people, victims of sexual violence, victims of domestic abuse, young offenders, victims of offenders, drug users, young carers.
- Ensuring that Looked After Children, including unaccompanied asylum seekers are able to make their voices heard (including those who are not placed within Thurrock)

Goal 9 – Each child and every young person lives free from crime, bullying and harassment

Priority 9.1 – Encourage children and young people not to offend or behave in an anti social manner

Actions include –

- Implement the Youth Justice Plan and Youth Crime Reduction Strategy and ensure that all agencies contribute to their aims and objectives
- Contribute to the work of the Community Safety and Anti social behaviour Action group to reduce antisocial behaviour and offending across Thurrock

- Co-ordinate educational programmes, campaigns and surveys within schools to highlight messages aimed at increasing awareness about personal safety and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and developing conflict resolution and mediation skills
- Continue to promote the Healthy Schools Programme that advocates anti-bullying steering groups within Thurrock schools
- Increase the numbers of young offenders who are in appropriate (i.e.full-time) education, training or employment year on year
- Ensure all young offenders live in or are able to access suitable accommodation
- Ensure all young offenders can access appropriate assessment and treatment for drugs, alcohol and mental health issues

Priority 9.2 – Respond to and significantly reduce all acts of bullying and racism

Actions include -

- Ensure that all schools, early years settings and youth service provision embed inclusive practices and that effective systems are in place to monitor the impact of these
- Implement the Anti-bullying Strategy throughout the community, including in all schools (this includes cyber bullying and sexual bullying)
- Ensuring that young people who are particularly vulnerable to prejudice and intolerance, such as unaccompanied asylum seekers, are protected and supported

Priority 9.3 – Improved community policing

Actions include -

- Provide Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), dedicated to local communities at ward level.
- Ensure PCSOs are actively involved with local schools
- Ensure PCSOs are proactively involved in identifying young people out of school, in accordance with the NIROFTE Protocol
- Provide high levels of foot and cycle patrols
- Work with local partners and local people to solve crime, nuisance and disorder problems

Goal 10 - Each child and every young person can engage in activities that positively contribute to the communities in Thurrock and improve self esteem

Priority 10.1 – Provide support and advice to parents and carers on all aspects of parenting

Actions include –

- Raise awareness of the importance of parenting amongst children and young people, parents, carers and professionals
- Ensure parents have a voice and are involved in the design and delivery of parent support services
- Develop and deliver a programme of parenting support services
- Improve information for parents, carers, children and young people and ensure it is accessible
- Develop a Parents Charter which makes clear the minimum level of support all parents should expect from local services and what is available where parents have greater need

Priority 10.2 – Develop and deliver high quality youth work and youth provision

Actions include –

- Develop and deliver an action plan for delivering high quality youth work and youth provision through an Integrated Youth Support Service
- Develop a coordinated set of advice, guidance and support services for young people which builds on the strengths of the Connexions, Youth Offending, Youth Services (including voluntary sector) and social care for adolescents teams within the national model for integrated youth provision
- Use the integrated youth and adolescent services to increase the range of diverse and attractive opportunities for young people to participate in positive activities that build resilience and social and emotional skills
- Implement a strategy to bring young people from a range of different backgrounds together and to remove disadvantage as a barrier to young people accessing positive activities

Priority 10.3 – Encourage children and young people to play an active role in their community and engage in the democratic process

Actions include –

- Work with the Youth Cabinet and School Councils to further develop their roles
- Increase the numbers of young people on the electoral roll
- Increase the numbers of young people who volunteer within their community

Priority 10.4 – Raise the profile of Thurrock to improve self esteem and aspiration

Actions include –

- Develop a strategy to increase positive media coverage of Thurrock's children and young people, both locally and nationally.
- Coordinate, Support and promote the actions of all groups who work with children and young people in the area to raise their self esteem.
- Empower and support parents to enable them to support their own children's development and wellbeing
- Promote the use of the Pyramid Scheme to address confidence and self esteem issues

Positive Contribution milestones include

- Reduce the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System by 5% by March 2008 compared to the March 2006 baseline.
- Increase the numbers of young people who are involved with the youth service and gain an accredited outcome from 12% to 22%

.....more milestones in the Action Plans www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Children and Young People with their families are able to benefit from Economic Well-Being and Regeneration

What we know:

The level of qualifications held by the working population of Thurrock is far lower than the national and the East of England average, with around 6% more of the population having no qualifications (35,500 people). This means that although parents may wish to help and support their children in education it is likely that a large proportion are unable to do so.

The numbers of full time students in Thurrock in the 16 to 17 age range is below that seen nationally. Adults aged 18-74 who are full time students are also very low in Thurrock (1.7% of the population, which equates to 1773 individuals, compared to 4.3% nationally). Over 2500 more full time students would be needed to reach national averages. This is of particular concern considering the low qualification base of the population. Also, a high proportion of our full time students are also in employment.

Alongside the current low engagement the employment opportunities in Thurrock will develop and diversify significantly as a result of the local regeneration agenda. There is a need to improve the education and skills of residents if they are to benefit from new, better paid work. Therefore, the number of young people and adults accessing and completing accredited training, further and higher education needs to rise.

Overall, 1 in 5 children in Thurrock are affected by child poverty. The number of children who live in households where no adults work is line with those nationally but higher than the East of England at just below 5%. This equates to nearly 3000 households.

In Thurrock, fewer 16 to 19 year olds are in full time education than nationally. The figures for children and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) are very high and to improve their life chances this figure needs to improve. Thurrock has no higher education establishment so those wishing to access higher education usually have to leave the area. There are identified deficits in work-based learning provision and in some sectors of further education.

What we are going to do:

Goal 11 – Each child and every young person is supported to become confident, informed, educated and skilled

Priority 11.1 – Increase the numbers of young people accessing employment, education and training post 16

Actions include –

- Increase the numbers of young people going from school directly to employment (with training), education or accredited training through identification of appropriate pathways at an early stage, through effective transition planning
- Challenge providers of post 16 education and training to deliver a broad range of courses that will engage all learners and increase progression at 16+ and 17+
- Ensure that appropriate information, advice and guidance and progression routes are offered to learners at 17+ who currently disengage from education following the successful completion of a one year course
- Reduce the numbers of young people not in education, training and employment particularly in vulnerable groups, for example teenage parents, young offenders, and children in care
- Increase the numbers of young people with a disability or learning disability equipped through further education and training to secure long term employment
- Work with local employers to increase the opportunities available for our young people
- Promote the financial help that is available

Each Child, Every Young Person, All Agencies – Our Plan 2007 - 2010

- Address the barriers experienced by young people who are disaffected or have specific needs allowing them to have the same opportunities as other young people
- Develop improved local provision providing more varied opportunities for our young people
- Continue to implement the 14-19 Strategy.
- Continue to reduce the number and percentage of young people aged 16-18 whose status is unknown to the local authority and its partners providing services to young people

Priority 11.2 –Improve the attainment of Thurrock young people after the age of 16

Actions include –

- Increase the percentage of young people achieving Level 2 qualifications by the age of 19 (equivalent to 5A*-C GCSE)
- Improve the participation and attainment in all post 16 courses
- Improve success rates for Level 3 qualifications (A level equivalent)
- Increase the numbers of young people completing courses post-16
- Strengthen collaborative partnership between the local authority, the Learning and Skills Council, schools, colleges and other partners through the 14-19 Area Planning Group and Thurrock Learning Partnership to ensure that there is a coherent approach to 14-19 provision
- Develop and deliver the new National Entitlement Curriculum, including Diplomas, as part of a range of pathways at 14+ tailored to individual learner need
- Ensure that all Thurrock young people can access the 14 Diploma lines at Levels 1,2 and 3 by developing collaborative working within and beyond Thurrock

Priority 11.3 –Increase the numbers of young people progressing to higher education.

Actions include –

- Increase the range of courses available locally
- Increase the numbers of young people accessing higher education through developing locally relevant progression pathways
- In order to respond to the economic growth agenda and the Leitch targets on skills we will tackle under achievement in core skills and low aspiration both at school and beyond. To achieve this we commit to a radical step change in the delivery and quality of 14+ education including FE, Community Education and HE.
- We will establish a coherent and coordinated approach to raising aspiration and widening participation from 14+ through to adults

Priority 11.4 – Enable parents and carers to help children and young people achieve their best

Actions include –

- Improve the take-up of Family Learning
- Improve attainment in basic skills courses
- Ensure schools and early years providers work in partnership with parents and carers to help their children achieve their best
- Continue to contribute to the national Parents as Partners in Early Learning project through Children's Centres

- Equip schools to support parents with the communication of healthy lifestyle messages which will promote increased attainment
- Develop the newly refurbished Sunshine Centre for disabled children
- Support for parents of children experiencing difficulties
- Work with adult social care to improve the support for parents with disabilities or learning disabilities.
- Enable care leavers to be supported in suitable accommodation that meets their needs

Goal 12– Regeneration in Thurrock has a positive impact on the lives and opportunities of children and young people

Priority 12.1 - Young peoples voices be heard; - see Priority 8.1 – Seek, value and act on the views of our children and young people in ensuring that future developments reflect their aspirations

Actions include-

- Involving young people in the Shaping Thurrock (Local Strategic Partnership) Programme Boards
- Strengthening the role of the Youth Cabinet

Priority 12.2 – Widen the range of personal development opportunities outside school

Actions include –

- Develop an enhanced, integrated youth offer, which draws on the capacity of the voluntary sector and reflects young people's wishes
- Increase participation in accredited schemes such as Prince's Trust, Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Improve opportunities for young people to participate in creative arts
- Support members of the Youth Cabinet to play their full part in the democratic process
- Enable young people to become fully involved in the future developments of the Thames Gateway

Priority 12.3 –Ensure sufficient numbers, quality and types of childcare

Actions include -

- Improving the quality of early years and childcare, by supporting providers in settings and childminders
- Supporting the expansion of early years funded places to meet local need
- Ensuring that sufficient childcare places are available where they are needed, are flexible and affordable
- The completion of a childcare sufficiency assessment to ensure the early years and childcare needs of families are understood
- Develop clear priorities for the development of early years and childcare provision, including childcare for children with special needs
- Developing 'safe places' for 11-14 year olds before and after school
- Supporting schools in ensuring that their pupils can access quality out of school provision either on site or within easy access
- Encourage and support access to quality training opportunities to expand the childcare workforce

Priority 12.4 – Increase qualifications of adults and increase participation in learning

Actions include -

Each Child, Every Young Person, All Agencies – Our Plan 2007 - 2010

- Provide support to parents to enable them to participate in learning, through projects such as the Wishes Project.
- Ensure our Children's Centres have effective links with Jobcentre Plus, local training providers, and further and higher learning institutions

Economic Wellbeing milestones include

- Reduce the numbers of young people not in education training or employment to 7.7% by March 2008
- Increase the percentage of young people achieving level 2 qualifications by the age of 19

.....more milestones in the Action Plans www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

How this key plan fits with other plans used in Thurrock

There are a number of strategic plans that link with the Children and Young People's Plan.

The **Sustainable Community Strategy** is the 10-year strategic plan belonging to Shaping Thurrock - the Local Strategic Partnership for Thurrock, which brings together a wide range of organisations involved in a partnership to improve the lives of Thurrock's residents.

The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a vision for life in Thurrock. It was developed from wide ranging consultation with the local community and it reflects a picture of Thurrock in the future that the people who live here would like to see. It sets out its vision under 12 strategic objectives which will be delivered through a number of broad, multi-agency plans. The Children and Young People's Plan is one of those multi-agency plans and belongs to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. The 12 strategic objectives are set out below:

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE THRIVE

1. Has a diverse and strong community voice
2. Has safe, clean and inviting surroundings
3. Promotes Thurrock's culture and heritage and improves access to sports and leisure
4. Promotes healthy living and reduces health inequalities

SERVICES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

5. Provide support to increase the aspirations and educational achievement of our youth
6. Provide better access to learning opportunities for skills and personal development
7. Reduce crime and the impact of drugs and anti social behaviour
8. Provide health and care services that meet individual needs and promote choice

DEVELOPMENT THAT SUPPORTS OUR NEW AND EXISTING COMMUNITIES

9. Well planned quality housing & sustainable developments
10. Investment in our economy to create diverse local employment opportunities
11. Improved access to and use of alternative and sustainable modes of transport
12. Conserve and improve our environment

Alongside the Sustainable Community Strategy is the **Local Area Agreement (2007-2010)**. This sets out in more detail some key priorities and targets of Shaping Thurrock for improving the quality of life and quality of services. Some of these directly relate to children, young people and their families. Thus the Children and Young People's Plan links closely to the Local Area Agreement. The key aspects of the Local Area Agreement, linked to the Children and Young People's Plan are:

- Raise attainment in primary schools
- Raise attainment of young people Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)
- Residents equipped for life through health-related initiatives
- Raise adult attainment levels by encouraging families into learning

Thurrock Council's Corporate Plan closely reflects the priorities and goals set out in Children and Young People's Plan. The Corporate Plan reinforces the importance of the voice of children, young people and their families in shaping and designing services in its commitment to take account of the views of the community and its encouragement for children and young people to get involved in the democratic process through the Youth Cabinet, Youth Community Forums, Young People's Panels and on-line consultations.

Children, young people and lifelong learning continue to be one of the Council's 5 high level priorities and specifically the Corporate Plan highlights that "Raising the educational attainment of children and young people through the new 14-19 Strategy and making improvements in standards in our primary schools" is a priority focus area for the Council.

The Council's Corporate Plan has a detailed section devoted to addressing the needs of children and young people. It identifies a range of operational activities that the Council intends to take to ensure that the quality of provision from its Children's Services continues to improve quality, continues to meet the needs of our young people and continues to reflect their views and their priorities.

In its support for this Children and Young People's Plan and through the Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy, the Council have placed children and young people at the very heart of the improvement agenda in Thurrock, with the Corporate Plan committing the Council services to further raising the aspirations of our young people and further improving the standards of care and education that they receive.

The Children and Young People's Plan is also supported by a series of more detailed strategies and plans which set out what actions are being taken to improve the situation for children, young people and families in Thurrock. There are also plans which set out how we will work together, for example our Workforce Strategy and Integrated Frontline Services Strategy. Some of these involve different multi-agency services working together and others involve single agencies. A complete list of these plans and strategies, and details of how to get copies of them are available on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children.

Support Documents and Key Links

The following support documents will be available on our website:
www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

- ❖ Further information about the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership
- ❖ An evaluation of our first Children and Young People's Plan for 2006-7 (including whether we delivered on the targets we set).
- ❖ Information about the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- ❖ A link to information about Thurrock's Sustainable Community Strategy
<http://www.thurrock-community.org.uk/lsp/>
- ❖ A link to information about Thurrock's Local Area Agreement
- ❖ Information about our consultation on this Plan – how we did it, what the results were, what we have done with the results.
- ❖ Details of the Equality Impact Assessment we undertook to ensure that the plan does not adversely affect any part of our community
- ❖ A glossary, to explain the terms we have used in this document.
- ❖ Links to all the plans and strategies that underpin the Children and Young People's Plan
- ❖ Detailed information from the Needs Assessment we undertook to help us select priorities.
- ❖ Detailed action plans for each of the priorities in this plan. These set out each priority, the actions we plan to take and when, how we will measure our success, who will be responsible and resources that will be required
- ❖ Details of how the action plans will be monitored and evaluated and progress tracked
- ❖ Quarterly performance reports for each action plan area

If you have any questions or comments, please visit the website, or email us on childrensplan@thurrock.gov.uk.

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 5.00pm



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The following organisations are available to provide advice and support:
Parent Partnership: 01708 859692 parentpartnership@thurrock.gov.uk
Thurrock Racial Unity Support Taskgroup – 01375 385316 info@thurrock-trust.org.uk
Citizens Advice Bureau – 0870 126 4034 bureau@thurrockcab.org.uk
Open Door – 01375 413740 opendoor.1@btconnect.com
Children's Information Service – 01375 652801 cis@thurrock.gov.uk
Connexions 01375 413735 grays@estconnexions.co.uk
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC) 01375 380609

Other organisations can be found on our online Directory of Services ("askThurrock")
www.askthurrock.org.uk

The following are members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, and have contributed to the development and cost of this Plan:

Thurrock Council: Children, Education and Families
South West Essex PCT
Essex Police
Essex Fire Service
Essex, Southend and Thurrock Connexions
Essex Learning and Skills Council
Probation Service
Thurrock Racial Unity Support Taskgroup
Ngage

Thurrock Council for Voluntary Services
Open Door
Thurrock and Basildon College
Palmer's College
Diocese of Brentwood
Diocese of Chelmsford

In addition there are representatives of:

Young people
Parents and carers
Headteachers
School Governors
Local business
Community Involvement Board

For further copies of this document please contact childrensplan@thurrock.gov.uk or call 01375 652553

Better & Better – leaflet



Our Goals

We've developed our goals as a result of listening to children and young people and families.

These are the things we are committed to working together to achieve. You can find out more about what actions we're going to take to make these improvements on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children

Be Healthy

Goal 1 - Each baby has the healthiest possible start to life

Goal 2 - Each child and every young person is able to make healthy choices

Goal 3 - Each child and every young person has access to the services they need when they need them

Stay Safe

Goal 4 - Each child and every young person is able to feel and be safe in their early years setting, at school, and in their local area

Goal 5 - Each child and every young person is protected from harm or neglect and supported to remain with their own family wherever possible

Enjoy and achieve

Goal 6 - Each child and every young person is helped to achieve their learning potential through high quality education

Goal 7 - Each child and every young person is able to participate in a range of leisure activities

Positive Contribution

Goal 8 - Each child and every young person is able to share in shaping services

Goal 9 - Each child and every young person lives free from crime, bullying and harassment

Goal 10 - Each child and every young person can engage in activities that positively contribute to the communities in Thurrock and improve their self esteem

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Goal 11 - Each child and every young person is supported to become confident, informed, educated and skilled

Goal 12 - Regeneration in Thurrock has a positive impact on the lives and opportunities of children and young people

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 5.00pm



TCCP/24/07

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The following organisations are available to provide advice and support:

Parent Partnership: 01708 859692 parentpartnership@thurrock.gov.uk

Thurrock Racial Unity Support Taskgroup: 01375 385316 info@thurrock-trust.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau: 0870 126 4034 bureau@thurrockcab.org.uk

Open Door: 01375 413740 opendoor.1@btconnect.com

Children's Information Service: 01375 652801 cis@thurrock.gov.uk

Connexions 01375 413735 grays@estconnexions.co.uk

South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC): 01375 380609

Other organisations can be found on our online Directory of Services www.askthurrock.org.uk

The following are members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, and have contributed to the development and cost of this Plan:

Thurrock Council: Children, Education and Families, South West Essex PCT, Essex Police, Essex Fire Service, Essex, Southend and Thurrock Connexions, Essex Learning and Skills Council, Probation Service,

Thurrock Racial Unity Support Taskgroup, Ngage,

Thurrock Council for Voluntary Services, Open Door, Thurrock and Basildon College, Palmers College,

Diocese of Brentwood, Diocese of Chelmsford

In addition there are representatives of:

Young people, Parents and carers, Headteachers, School Governors, Local business, Community Involvement Board

Better & Better



Each Child
Every Young Person
All Agencies

Our Plan

Children and Young
People's Plan 2007-2010



Welcome

to the Thurrock Children and Young People's Plan: Better & Better

The children and young people in Thurrock, working with adults and staff from across all our services and partners have produced the Thurrock Children and Young People's Plan for 2007-10.

It identifies our goals and priorities for developing and improving services for all children and young people in Thurrock over the next 3 years. It also says what we are going to do to achieve our goals. The plan is relevant for every child and young person from before birth to 19 years old, because it covers all the services provided for them. For some young people, who may have learning difficulties or who may have a care background, this plan will help them beyond 19 into early adulthood up to the age of 25.

The plan will be delivered by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYSP) which is the group of services dedicated to meeting the needs of children and young people in Thurrock.

You can find a fuller version of this plan and details of the actions we are going to take to deliver our goals on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children along with other supporting documents.

If you have any questions, you can email us on: childrensplan@thurrock.gov.uk



Introduction



Jacqui Sweeney
Chair of Youth Cabinet

"I think that if this plan is achieved as hoped, Thurrock can look forward to a more progressive and improved community. This plan has been 'youth proofed' by a volunteered group ensuring that it's not only accessible by adults but young people too."



Sam Girling
Member of Youth Cabinet

"I am delighted to see this plan up and running as it is very important to me and every other young person in Thurrock. It has the potential to affect every single child in Thurrock and it is great to have strategies, which target all children and young people and ultimately help them. I am also delighted to see that the partner agencies are determined to improve life for children in Thurrock and that improving the services they provide for children is being taken so seriously. What is more; Thurrock's Youth Cabinet have played a part in its creation and it is an important step which sees the youth of Thurrock getting involved in matters which will directly affect them."



Councillor Mike Revell
Lead Member for Children's Services, Thurrock Council

"Children, young people and lifelong learning have long been a priority for the Council. We know that this is shared by all of the partners and by all of you within our community. This plan explains how we will deliver on this priority and achieve our ambitions. The plan speaks for all children: those from minority ethnic communities, recent arrivals to Thurrock, those who have been in Thurrock all their lives, the most vulnerable of our young people, and the most able, talented and gifted of our young people. We do not want any child or young person to be excluded."



Julien Kramer
Director of Children's Services/
Children and Young People's Strategic Executive Chair

"This plan speaks of a new and exciting phase in the development of quality provision for our children and young people and the opportunities are enormous. We will review the plan each year to test our progress, to check resource levels and to reinvest in our ambitions, and regularly publish on our website www.thurrock.gov.uk/children evidence of our progress and successes and the changes that we will be incorporating as the plan grows"



Mike Fall
Chair of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

"Thurrock is an exciting place in which to live and grow up; the future is very bright! All of the organisations within the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership are determined to ensure that each child and every young person in Thurrock is healthy, stays safe, is able to enjoy and achieve and can make a positive contribution in their lives. We also want children, young people and their families in Thurrock to prosper and benefit from the planned regeneration of the Thurrock local area."

How it feels...

...To live in Thurrock



"The message shouldn't be 'Do better at school and then you can move out of Thurrock' Parent, Chadwell St Mary"

"We need more regular visits from school nurses to give us advice and guidance about our health" Year 6 Pupil, Bulphan Primary School



"It is good that there is a vision in the plan for my future. However what I want to know is what you are going to do and how you are going to make sure that the priorities for my future are things I can achieve and not just read about" Key Stage 4 Pupil, School Council at Chafford Hundred Campus



"Thurrock should promote activities that are available more. And they need to aim some of that at parents to encourage them to get their children involved. Parents are potentially very important and very powerful" Young Person from the Zeal Youth Magazine Group



"There has been a bit of a breakdown in the interaction and communication between young people and older generations. We've got to address some of the stereotyping of young people which affects the respect older people have for our generation" Key Stage 4 School Council Member, Gable Hall School

"In the parks and play areas, most of the things are difficult for young people with wheelchairs to use. We need to think about them as well when we are designing new parks" Year 10 Pupil at Beacon Hill Special School

"Someone needs to deal with racism and with bullying" Primary School Pupil Comment in Annual On-Line TellUs Survey



"There is a need to tackle any anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the local area. We need to make spaces especially for teenagers and to give them 'graffiti walls' and encourage them to use them instead" School Council Member, Stifford Clays Junior School

"Schools should always try to be good, and not just when they get inspected" Member of St Clements Church Youth Club, age 6

**Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010
Goals and Priorities**

Be Healthy

Goal 1 - Each baby has the healthiest possible start to life

Priority 1.1 – Improve services for new parents and babies, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities

Priority 1.2 – Provide more health checks and encourage actions to prevent children and young people becoming ill

Goal 2 - Each child and every young person is able to make healthy choices

Priority 2.1 – Support schools to help children and young people choose healthy lifestyles

Priority 2.2 – Reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and improve the sexual health of our young people

Priority 2.3 – Reduce the number of children and young people who are at risk of harm

Goal 3- Each child and every young person has access to the services they need, when they need them

Priority 3.1 – Improve our care and services for young people with complex needs

Priority 3.2 – Increase the amount and variety of support available for children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health needs

Priority 3.3 – Improve the health services we provide for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

Priority 3.4 – Where appropriate place services within communities so they are easier to access

Priority 3.5 – Improve the health services we provide for Looked After Children

Stay Safe

Goal 4 – Each child and every young person is able to feel and be safe in their early years setting, at school and in their local area

Priority 4.1 – Achieve high standards of safety and security in all places for children and young people.

Priority 4.2 – To improve safety in the local area

Priority 4.3 – Reduce the impact of domestic abuse, sexual violence and parental substance misuse on the lives of children and young people

Goal 5– Each child and every young person is protected from harm or neglect and supported to remain with their own family wherever possible

Priority 5.1 – Make prompt and accurate assessments so that children and young people benefit from the right services at the right time.

Priority 5.2 - Improve support for children and young people through better information sharing and multi agency work.

Priority 5.3 – Improve services through participation, evaluation and review

Enjoy and Achieve

Goal 6– Each child and every young person is helped to achieve their learning potential through high quality education

Priority 6.1 – Access to education

Priority 6.2 –Improve the attainment of children and young people of all ages in Thurrock

Priority 6.3 –Tackling the issues that prevent young people from achieving

Priority 6.4 – Raising the profile of Thurrock to improve self esteem and aspiration

Goal 7– Each child and every young person is able to participate in a range of leisure activities

Priority 7.1 – Improve quality and accessibility of leisure activities

Positive Contribution

Goal 8 – Each child and every young person is able to share in shaping services

Priority 8.1 – Seek, value and act on the views of our children and young people

Goal 9 – Each child and every young person lives free from crime, bullying and harassment

Priority 9.1 – Encourage children and young people not to offend or behave in an anti social manner

Priority 9.2 – Respond to and significantly reduce all acts of bullying and racism

Priority 9.3 – Improved community policing

Goal 10 - Each child and every young person can engage in activities that positively contribute to the communities in Thurrock and improve their self esteem

Priority 10.1 – Provide support and advice to parents and carers on all aspects of parenting

Priority 10.2 – Develop and deliver high quality youth work and youth provision

Priority 10.3 – Encourage children and young people to play an active role in their community and engage in the democratic process

Priority 10.4 – Raise the profile of Thurrock to improve self esteem and aspiration

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

Goal 11 – Each child and every young person is supported to become confident, informed, educated and skilled

Priority 11.1 –Increase the numbers of young people accessing employment, education and training post 16

Priority 11.2 –Improve the attainment of Thurrock young people after the age of 16

Priority 11.3 –Increase the numbers of young people progressing to higher education.

Priority 11.4 – Enable parents and carers to help children and young people achieve their best

Goal 12– Regeneration in Thurrock has a positive impact on the lives and opportunities of children and young people

Priority 12.1 - Young peoples voices be heard; - see Priority 8.1 – Seek, value and act on the views of our children and young people in ensuring that future developments reflect their aspirations

Priority 12.2 – Widen the range of personal development opportunities outside school

Priority 12.3 –Ensure sufficient number, quality and type of childcare

Priority 12.4 – Increase qualifications of adults and increase participation in learning