

Summary of priorities and plan for children's services - 2025-27

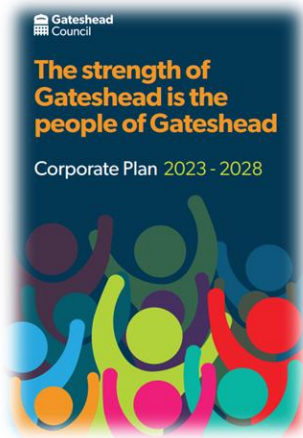
be the difference.



Our Corporate Plan - 2023 to 2028



We launched our Strategic Approach “Thrive” in 2018. This was our approach to **ensuring we put people at the heart of everything that we do**. Thrive is as relevant today as it was then, whilst recognising that the world in which we operate has changed significantly.



This plan sets **Gateshead Council’s strategic approach and priorities for 2023-2028** so that employees, councillors, delivery partners and other stakeholders understand:

- The **strategic priorities of the council** - so that resources, delivery plans, strategies and operational activity can be aligned to them; and
- How the council will **continue to transform and drive improvement** in services to deliver our priorities and operate as an organisation and partner in the most effective, productive, and impactful way

Our 5 Key Pledges are:

- **Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do**
- **Tackling inequalities so people have a fair chance**
- **Supporting our communities to support themselves and each other**
- **Investing in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth**
- **Working together and fighting for a better future for Gateshead**



Strategic Priorities for Children's Services

“We want every child to enjoy their childhood and have the opportunity to thrive and be their best selves.”

Gateshead
**FAMILY
HUBS**

Helping our community to thrive

Priority 1

Supporting an **Integrated Early Help System** so children get the right help at the right time



Priority 2

Support **all children to access high quality inclusive education** with the help they need to succeed



Priority 3

Supporting **Children to Safely Live within their Families and Communities**



Priority 4

Being the **best Corporate Parent** and ensuring sufficient local homes for our children in care

underpinned by...



Participation, Engagement and Co-production



Relational and trauma informed approaches to practice



Supporting a Stable, Highly Skilled and Resilient Workforce

Priorities for next 12-24 months

Embed a new **Family Help model** of service delivery with partners in local communities

Further strengthen our support for disabled children including embedding the SEND thresholds

Strengthen support to vulnerable adolescents where there is risk outside the home

Expand Family Led Decision making and the FGC offer and support to children to return home from care

Strengthen our multi agency local offer for care experienced young people and the commitment to care experience as a **protected characteristic**

Deliver on the **placement sufficiency strategy**

Develop our Alternative Provision Strategy to address special school sufficiency challenges

Improve school attendance

Continue to strengthen relational trauma informed approaches across our workforce

Increase Post 16 education provision and pathways

Reduce exclusions and suspensions

Improve access to high quality provision for children pre school to support 'Best Start in Life'