



Children and Young People's Partnership Strategy for Gateshead (2025-2030)

Foreword

Partners across Gateshead have a shared vision for our children and young people. We want every baby, child and young person in Gateshead to have the building blocks they need in life so that they can thrive and are supported to live fulfilled, safe, happy and healthy lives with the skills to enable them to realise their potential. Many children and young people across the Borough have been involved in the work to develop this shared vision and to help to agree a clear set of priorities that matter most to them.

Our ambition as agencies and professionals in Gateshead is to work together alongside families, children and young people to ensure that we collectively deliver on this shared vision and strive to ensure that our children and young people:

- have influence and are heard
- are happy and healthy
- feel safe in their families and communities
- can achieve their potential and feel ready for their next steps

We know that the experiences of children and young people across the Borough are different. There can be as much as 13 years difference in life expectancy for people in our Borough depending on the circumstances in which they are born. Our vision and this plan is focused on ALL children with a strong commitment to reduce these experiences of inequality - whether that is experienced as a result of child poverty; care experience; special educational needs and disabilities; having English as a second language; having caring responsibilities; or for those who experience greater challenges accessing our services.

It has never been more important to work together to support children, young people and their families. Partnership working is a real strength in Gateshead and an ambitious multi-agency plan sits behind this vision which lays out the commitments from a wide range of agencies to continue to improve services in order to support our children and young people to live thriving lives.

Cabinet member for Children and Young People
Cllr Catherine Donovan

Our Children and Young People's Partnership Strategy sets out our commitment to achieve better outcomes for all Children and Young People in Gateshead.

Our Vision:

We want to make Gateshead a place where every child and young person has the building blocks to thrive and are supported to live fulfilled, safe, happy and healthy lives, with the education and skills to enable them to realise their potential.

Strategic Context:

We want Gateshead to be a place where everyone can thrive. We want it to be a great borough, with vibrant communities, where residents feel supported, live fulfilled lives and achieve their ambitions. Our pledges include to tackle inequalities, so people have a fair chance and to put people and families at the heart of everything we do.

We have a joint Health and Wellbeing strategy for Gateshead which shows how we will work together to tackle the health inequalities which exist in Gateshead and how we will deliver '*Good jobs, homes, health and friends*', to improve health outcomes for our residents. This includes policy objectives to give every child the best start in life, and enable all children and young people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.

Our Children and Young People:

When we use the term children and young people in this strategy we mean everyone who lives in Gateshead between the ages of 0-17, and all young people up to age 25 who have special educational needs and disabilities or who have experience of being in care.

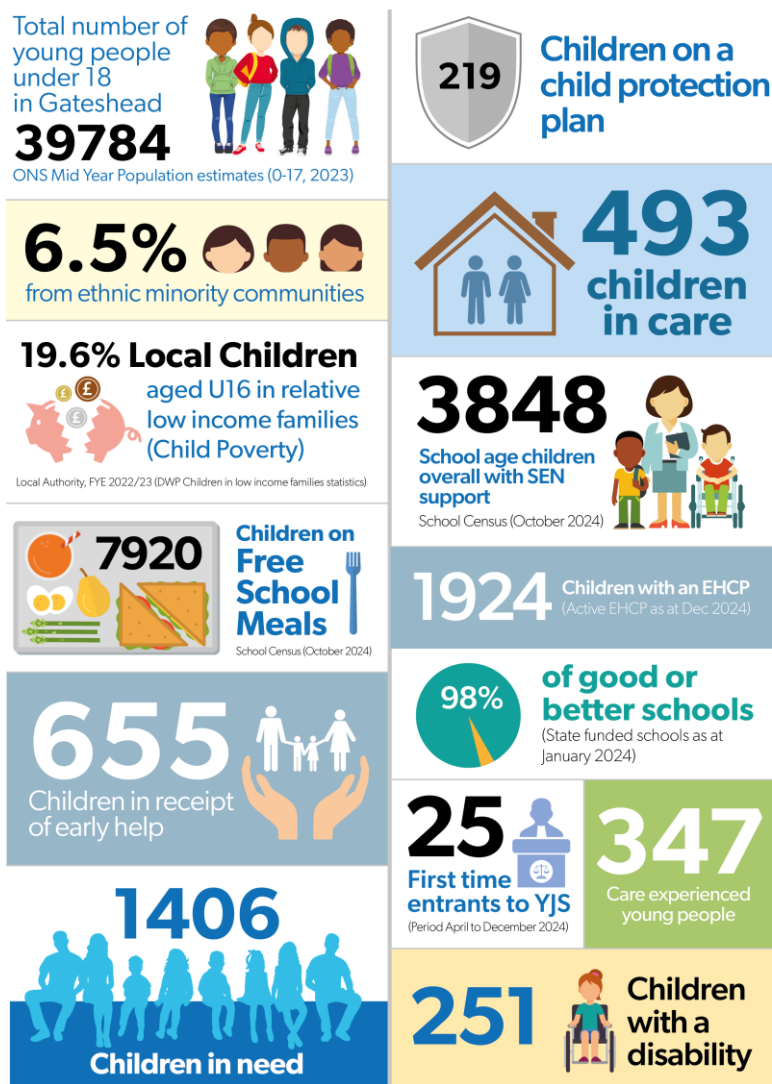
Our data on all Children and Young people in Gateshead between the ages of 0-17 comes from the population level data in the Census 2021. Also from our latest self evaluation for Children's services which we share with Ofsted annually, the last one being March 2025.

The issues faced by children in Gateshead are taken from the Gateshead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - [Priorities: Best start in life - Gateshead JSNA](#)

We know that the Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) index ranks Gateshead as 68th out of 317 councils, with 31% of our under 16s living within one of the 20% most deprived areas in England. These areas of deprivation tend to be within Central Gateshead.

740 of our school-age children attend special schools (2023)

Children's Services in Gateshead - the current situation



5926/PS/Nov2024

How we will work with our strategic partners

To achieve our vision we know the importance of working together, across Gateshead, for the benefit of all our children. This partnership approach; the council and its partners will be responsible to improve outcomes.

Our Strategy has been developed and agreed by our strategic partners. It will be delivered with the different organisations in the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board.

What we have heard from our engagement work:

We have heard these key themes and issues raised from our engagement work with children of all ages included;

- More emotional wellbeing and mental health support
- Accessible and improved public transport
- More safe, social and green spaces and access to inclusive community and leisure activities
- More job opportunities
- Concerns around knife crime and safety
- Life Skills and Finance and Budgeting education
- Climate change concerns and protecting our environment
- Addressing discrimination and equality issues

Our Intended Outcomes:

Our intention is for all children and young people in Gateshead:

1. To be heard and have influence
2. To be happy and healthy
3. To feel safe in their families and communities
4. To achieve their potential and feel ready for their next steps

We will work together:

1. For all children to be heard and have influence –

- Take action to protect the environment from climate change
- Tackle stigma and discrimination for all, particularly those most vulnerable
- To be responsive to the issues that matter to children through regular listening, action and feedback

We will use these measures to know we have made a difference

- Health Behaviours Questionnaire results and feedback every two years
- Annual consultation linked to strategy and implementation plan

2. For all children to be happy and healthy –

- Support communities and families to give every child the best start in life
- Improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Ensure affordable, sufficient, safe, stable and secure housing for families and children, and for young people living independently
- Increase access to affordable and safe places to go and to play and have fun for children of all ages
- Enable good levels of physical activity, healthy eating and reduce food insecurity

We will use these measures to know we have made a difference

- Readiness for School and Good Levels of Development
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis of children's experiences of waiting times and 'waiting well' for mental health and therapy services
- Uptake of free school meals
- Best Start in Life measures
- Health Related Behaviours Questionnaire Survey results

3. For all children to feel safe in their families and communities –

- Support children and parents to live in safe, supportive families
- Ensure that the most vulnerable children are supported and protected from harm
- Address negative influences that affect how young people make decisions, so we can help them avoid risky behaviour
- Develop and enhance the physical and digital environments and public spaces where children live, play and socialise to promote better health and sense of safety

We will use these measures to know we have made a difference

- Number of children in receipt of early help with outcomes met
- Rate of re referrals into safeguarding services
- Number and rate of children on a child protection plan
- Number and rate of children in care
- Number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system or re offending rates

4. For all children to achieve their potential and be ready to take the next steps

- Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning through removing barriers to education
- Improve achievement and attainment for all pupils through inclusive education
- Improve educational progress for pupils vulnerable to poorer learning outcomes
- Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for training and work
- Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for education, training and work
- Improve access to safe and affordable transport for young people to access education, skills, work and social opportunities

We will use these measures to know we have made a difference

- Rates of school attendance (all and specific groups)
- Rates of school exclusions (all and specific groups)
- Young people in education, training and employment (all and specific groups)

- Destinations of young people with SEND and/or a disability when they leave school
- 5 GCSE's grades 9-4 (all and specific groups) or progress 8 score at end of Key stage 4

How we will ensure this is achieved

In Gateshead we all have a responsibility for ensuring that partners proactively work together to deliver the commitments for our children.

Our strategic partners:

- Gateshead Council
- NHS Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear
- NHS Gateshead Health
- NHS Integrated Care Board – Newcastle Gateshead
- Gateshead Safeguarding Children's partnership
- Connected Voice
- Northumbria Police
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

We will report on progress made against the strategic outcomes into the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board annually

An action plan to deliver this strategy will be developed across our partners.

We will review this strategy every five years.

