



Poole Children's Trust

Plan for Children and Young People and their Families

2011-2013



Our Priorities

Safeguarding children and young people

Reducing the impact of child poverty

Improving mental health and emotional well-being

Addressing inequalities and improving outcomes for targeted vulnerable groups.

About our plan

This plan lays out the priorities for agencies working together to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Poole. (Where other plans hold the details of priorities and actions, links to these plans are provided)

Agencies work together through the Children's Trust. More information about this can be found on www.poolechildrenstrust.org.uk

The Children's Trust is part of a wider partnership – **Poole Partnership**. www.poolepartnership.org.uk The priorities in this Children, Young People and Families Plan support these long term priorities of the Poole Partnership:

- **Be a great place to grow up**
- **Be safe and feel safe**
- **Have better health and well-being for everyone**
- **Have a successful economy with a revitalised town centre**
- **Have strong and active communities**

How the Children's Trust decides its priorities

Two things help us decide what to focus on:

- The views of children and young people and their families, and
- What we know about the needs of children and young people in Poole

Views of children, young people and their families

Key messages from recent consultation with 2,857 children and young people

Positive activities

Children and young people of all ages value access to positive activities and open spaces. 12-19 year olds would like music events/festivals to be developed in the town centre.

Living in Poole

While 77% of 12-19 year olds say they enjoy living in Poole fewer than half (45%) think that young people are valued.

Young people want more places where they can meet.

Information, advice and support

The way children and young people say they want advice and help changes with age. Younger children prefer to seek help from family, school or a police officer; young people over 13 years want to use services like Quay Advice Centre and Connexions. (77% of 8 year olds would seek help from a teacher but only 15% of 14 year olds would do so.)

Transport

While 79% of 12-19 year olds own a bike, one in three never cycle, road safety being their biggest concern.

Health

8-12 year olds reported a rise in the amount of exercise they do and their consumption of fruit and vegetables.

12-19 year olds reported an increase in exercise and 73% said they had never smoked. (This is an improvement since 2008.)

Use of alcohol amongst 12-19 year olds is reported as reduced. 72% said they had tried alcohol and of those, 24% had been drunk more than once. 52% of 8-12 year olds had tried alcohol.

12% of young people aged 12-19 years have tried drugs, with cannabis by far the most used drug.

Safety

Bullying at school was the main reason young people felt unsafe.

There is an emerging problem with hurtful or inappropriate texts or messages with 21% of 16 year olds reporting this.

1 in 20 young people aged 8-12 years report feeling unsafe at home.

Young people in disadvantaged areas

When asked what worried them most about their life and future over a third of young people living in the most disadvantaged areas of Poole raised concerns about finding a job and the lack of jobs; their second largest concern was money problems.

There is an action plan to address the issues raised by children and young people.

The full consultation and action plan is available at www.boroughofpoole.com

What we know about the needs of children, young people and their families

Key messages;

- Most children and young people do well
- Some children and young people living in specific neighbourhoods in Poole have significantly poorer outcomes than their peers in other areas
- The gap between those with the best outcomes and those with the worst is widening
- There are some specific groups of vulnerable children who have poorer outcomes

- There are a small number of families with complex and multiple needs
- The population of younger children in Poole is growing
- The demand for safeguarding services, like social care is increasing

In particular Poole has three specific areas which need addressing:

- Families with multiple and complex needs
- Families where there is domestic violence
- Young people and parents who are misusing alcohol

(The detailed information about children's needs is published in an annual needs analysis at www.boroughofpoole.com and is part of the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis)

Our priorities

- 1. Safeguarding Children and Young People**
- 2. Reducing the impact of child poverty**
- 3. Improving mental health and emotional well-being**
- 4. Addressing inequalities and improving outcomes for targeted vulnerable groups.**

Priority 1 Safeguarding Children and Young People

Safeguarding of children and young people is an overriding priority and a theme in all our plans. The co-ordination and monitoring of effective multi-agency safeguarding practice is led by Bournemouth and Poole Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB.) The LSCB Business Plan 2011/12 www.bournemouth-poole-lscb.org.uk/index.php identifies a number of priorities and actions planned.

The key objectives under this priority are to:

- Reduce the incidence of domestic violence and its impact on children and young people. (This is also a key priority for Poole Partnership)
- Reduce the harm to children and young people from substance misuse
- Implement the learning from recent case reviews

- Address the emotional well-being of children and young people through co-ordinated action to reduce teenage pregnancy, the incidence of young parenthood and the harm caused by sexual violence

Priority 2 Reducing the impact of child poverty

Child poverty in Poole

This strategy is informed by the Child Poverty Needs Assessment which identifies issues of child poverty in Poole. Poole is generally an affluent area where residents can expect outcomes above national averages. However, the following exceptions apply.

- Child poverty in Poole is exacerbated by two factors. Poole has a relatively low wage economy, partly due to the above average employment in the industrial sector. Poole's household income is 96% of the GB national average. Additionally Poole has housing costs which are 25% higher than the national average
- Child Poverty in Poole is concentrated in specific neighbourhoods. In two areas in Poole, over 40% of the children there live in poverty; in a further six areas more than a third of children live in poverty
- The number of children in Poole living in poverty is increasing as the effects of the recession start to impact. The number of children in households claiming Housing Benefit has increased by 30% since 2008
- The Child Poverty Needs Assessment maps the neighbourhoods with the highest levels of child poverty against those neighbourhoods where children have the highest risk factors for vulnerability and the poorest outcomes. There is a clear correlation between these areas. This indicates that Child Poverty is a significant factor to be considered when trying to improve outcomes for children and young people in Poole

Through the Children's Trust and the Poole Partnership, agencies have agreed a strategy and actions they will undertake. (The Child Poverty Strategy is at www.poolechildrenstrust.org.uk)

The key objectives under this priority are;

- Maximise household income in families with dependent children who are eligible for Housing Benefit in targeted areas
- Increase opportunities for children in households on low income and in vulnerable groups
- Improve the life chances of 0-5 year olds in targeted areas and vulnerable groups

- Improve educational attainment for children and young people in targeted areas
- Support workless young people in target areas to achieve employment / accredited progress towards employment
- Support parents to access parenting support, training, child care and employment in targeted areas

Priority 3 Improving mental health and emotional well-being

The key objectives under this priority are:

- Reduce levels of bullying and ensure children and young people feel confident to tackle bullying when it occurs. (Detail on this is in the Anti-bullying Strategy.)

The following 2 key objectives will be described in the Pan Dorset Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy, which is under development.

- Ensure that children and young people are able to access a co-ordinated range of preventative interventions to improve their emotional and mental health, including in schools
- Ensure that children and young people are provided with additional support as soon as mental health needs are identified, and at the lowest appropriate level of support. Specialist services will ensure a timely and flexible, needs led response

Priority 4 Addressing inequalities and improving outcomes for targeted vulnerable groups.

Our Children's Needs Analysis has indicated that there are some neighbourhoods in Poole where outcomes for children are significantly poorer than for children in other areas in the town. For a proportion of children this is linked to their families' complex needs. For this reason we will work with Poole Partnership to:

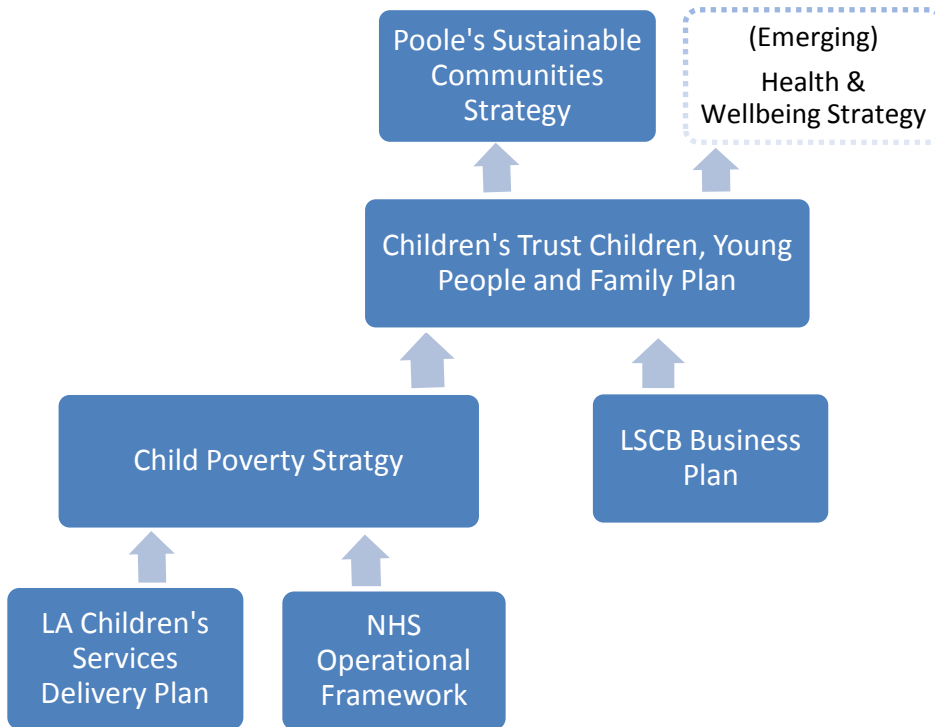
- Improve quality of life on the Bourne Estate area of Alderney
- Provide a range of targeted services to meet the needs of families with multiple problems

Working Together

As well as our four key priorities we have to make considerable change to the way services are organised, to improve how we meet the needs of children and young people in Poole and to respond to changes in policy. These are the main changes we will prepare for and implement together during 2011-13:

- Health services for children, (for example, health visitors and school nurses), are moving organisations from the Primary Care Trust to Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
- Some public health services responsibilities for children will move from the Primary Care Trust to the Local Authority
- GPs will play a significantly greater role in the commissioning of health services
- There will be further integration of our targeted services for vulnerable children and young people
- The range of positive activities for children and young people will increase
- The services for under 5 year olds and children's centres will continue to develop
- The inpatient unit for young people with severe mental health problems will move to an improved service model on a new site
- Some schools will become academies and have different relationships with the local authority and other services
- Most schools will change the age at which children transfer to secondary school
- Schools, colleges and other providers will prepare for young people remaining in education and training until they are 19 years old
- There will be further joining up of our services for families with multiple problems
- There will be changes to our services that provide information, advice and guidance to young people, particularly about their careers and educational options

Plans for Poole and how they link



Copies of this plan are available at www.poolechildrenstrust.org.uk
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