



Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

One Minute Guide: Meeting held in July 2026

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership brings together organisations across Newcastle to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Annually, the summer meeting always has a focus on young people's voice, and young people from across the city are invited to attend the meeting.

1. Young People's Voice

Young people from Newcastle Youth Council, Youth Panel and North Benwell Youth Project shared their experiences and views on the issues that matter most to them, helping shape future partnership priorities and local decision-making. These are summarised below.

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing** remains a major concern for children and young people. Long waiting times for support are a significant issue and there is still stigma around accessing mental health services. Young people want more safe, welcoming outdoor spaces that support their wellbeing.
- **Young people want more education that prepares them for "real life"**, including politics and democracy (particularly in relation to Votes at 16) and financial literacy, including managing money, budgeting and taxes.
- **Safety, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour** is a key issue for many young people, regardless of where they live or go to school. Many young people are unsure how to safely report crime and anti-social behaviour, and fear of repercussions often prevents reporting. Some young people feel unsafe in their communities and believe more evening youth provision, detached youth work and better-lit public spaces are needed. Knife carrying was discussed, with concerns that some young people carry weapons because they feel unsafe.
- **Place, Environment and Community.** Young people from the Benwell Terraces highlighted severe problems with litter, fly-tipping and rats and that these problems are worsening, not improving. They described feeling unsafe and living in an area that feels neglected. Concerns were raised about the impact on physical health, wellbeing, play opportunities and community pride.
- **Young people want more opportunities to influence decisions and funding that affect them.** They stressed the importance of involving young people from the start of projects through to delivery and evaluation. Direct conversations with diverse groups of young people were seen as the best way for adults to make informed decisions.
- **Access to support continues to be a challenge.** Many young people are unaware of support services that already exist. Young people reported fewer support options outside the city centre and for those not connected to schools, families or youth projects. Public transport continues to be a barrier to accessing help and opportunities.

Key Reflection for Partners

A consistent message throughout the session was that young people want to be listened to, involved in decisions that affect them, and able to access safe places, trusted support and meaningful opportunities within their communities. The Partnership will ask all its members to share these messages within their organisations.



2. Update on Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People 2027-2030

The existing Newcastle Plan for Children and Young People runs until December 2026, and the next version is being created with partners and young people. Partner engagement has taken place May – June 2026 and conversations with VCS organisations and Early Years providers are scheduled for September. The Plan will also be informed by what children and young people tell us about Newcastle (in a variety of formats) and current intelligence and data about children growing up in the city. The visual design of the plan will provide a work experience opportunity in Autumn 2027 for young people to design the plan with professional design company.

Organisations working with children and young people in Newcastle are invited to share their views and priorities – please contact kate.williams@newcastle.gov.uk for more information.

3. Health-Related Behaviours Questionnaire

Every two years, pupils in primary and secondary schools in Newcastle take part in the Health-Related Behaviour Questionnaire (HRBQ). The survey asks about their questions about their health and wellbeing. Newcastle City Council, the Strategic Partnership and schools use the results to help make decisions that support the health and safety of young people. The results of the most recent survey will be available in September 2026, and a dedicated session will be hosted for Strategic Partnership members to share the findings and agree next steps (date to be confirmed).



For more information or to contact the Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, please email: kate.williams@newcastle.gov.uk