

Children, Education and Skills

Directorate Plan 2020-23

July 2020



Foreword

We are pleased to share the Children, Education and Skills Directorate Plan 2020-23. As we provide a broad range of services it is important to us that we have one plan that describes our priorities and how we will work together and with our partners to improve the city and the lives of children, young people and families.

We have developed our plan from our Council's priorities, and with careful consultation with our staff. Meaningful consultation was important to us, and we are grateful that over 400 staff contributed to the making of this plan. It is stronger because of our staff's contribution.

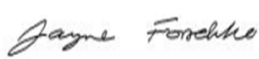
We have also listened carefully to children and young people in our city – through the Child Friendly City and Make your Mark initiatives as well as speaking to children in our care and children with special educational needs and disabilities. Listening, valuing and responding to what children and young people have told us is important has been critical in developing our plan.

In Children, Education and Skills working collaboratively is essential to our success. Our collaborative approach recognises that we do not work in isolation – we are part of a great council, we work closely with many partner agencies and our services work with children, young people and families. We know that working with people, not to them or for them, is more likely to have an impact and embed change. Working together we can achieve great things.

We are proud of our city and our Children, Education and Skills plan sets out clearly our contribution to making it better than ever.



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Newcastle in Context

A Growing Population


 **300,196** 

of whom **61,852** are children 0-18,
of whom **34,071** are under 10 years¹



There were **3,205** births in 2018²

Education, Training & Employment

 **70.9%** adults in employment³ **80%** of 16-17 year olds in employment, education or training⁴

 **102** state funded schools

70.4% of Newcastle pupils achieved a Good Level of Development at the end of Reception⁵ **43.6%** was the average Attainment 8 score for children at Key Stage 4⁵ **49.6%** of 19 year olds qualified to Level 3⁵



A Range of Needs

 **536** children on Child Protection plans⁶ & **693** children in care⁶

5,563 children and young people with SEN support⁷

1,436 EHCPs for Education, Health and Care Plans⁷

100 young people engaged with our Youth Justice Service⁶ **3618** estimated young carers⁸ **39%** of children living in poverty⁹

231 care leavers engaged with our Children's Social Care⁶

A Culturally Diverse City

Approx **143** 'first' languages spoken across our schools.



In one primary school - **C.33** first languages spoken.

1. ONS Population Estimates 2018. Release 13 May 2020. 2. ONS births in England and Wales: Summary Tables released 1 August 2019. 3. NOMIS figures Jan 2019-Dec 2019 for economic activity. 4. DFE, Proportion of 16-17yrs recorded in education, employment and training at March 2019. 5. Academic Year 2018/19, DFE, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics>. 6. As at 30 June 2020. 7. School Census, January 2020. 8. Based on 8% of 5-18 year olds in Newcastle from the ONS Population Estimates 2018. 9. <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/child-poverty-indicators-2019-report-to-ecp-1.pdf>.

What Children and Young People Tell Us is Important



Make Your Mark Newcastle 2019, Child Friendly Badges, SEND Young People's Conference 2020, Regional Children in Care Conference.

Vision, Outcomes and Priorities 2020-2023

Newcastle is a great place to live, grow and achieve...

Outcomes for Children and Young People

Be safe
and feel
safe

Be happy
and feel
included

Be healthy
and well
cared for

Be ready
for the
world of
work

Be heard in
decisions
about their
lives and
their city

Our 10 Priorities

Our focus over the next 3 years

Support families to
stay safely together

Support babies and young
children to have the best
start in life

Improve attendance and
participation in learning

Improve educational
progress for all and support
vulnerable pupils, including
those with SEND to achieve

Safely reduce the number
of children and young
people in our care

Improve children and
young people's social,
emotional and mental
health and wellbeing

Reduce the number
of children and young
people living in poverty

Ensure opportunities for
lifelong learning

For children and young
people who are in our care,
increase number who stay
in Newcastle

Help all young people in
to adulthood, to develop
life skills and be ready
for work

Underpinned by

What we need to succeed

A stable
and skilled
workforce who
feel valued

Financial
sustainability
and value for
money

Robust
multiagency
partnership
working

Doing things
differently and
innovation

Working with not
doing to children,
young people
and their families

What We Will Do to Achieve Our Priorities

Support families to stay safely together

- Develop an integrated early intervention service with health partners – Children & Families Newcastle.
- Invest in evidence based programmes that strengthen family relationships and promote safety, e.g. the Family Valued model and 'Relationships Matter'.
- Strengthen links between schools and early intervention services to ensure whole family working.

Support babies and young children to have the best start in life

- Embed the importance of the 1,001 first critical days and the foundation of good infant mental health.
- Promote and support take-up of high quality Early Years, Childcare and Nursery provision.
- Work with health partners to create seamless Early Years offer for families.

Improve attendance and participation in learning

- Work with school leaders to fully understand and respond to the drivers of exclusions.
- Work with school leaders to strengthen transition within and between schools.
- Work differently to promote participation in learning e.g. Get Connected and Social Workers in Schools programmes.

Improve educational progress for all and support vulnerable pupils, including those with SEND to achieve

- Support all schools to be rated 'Good' or better.
- Work with school leaders to offer a diverse curriculum with clear pathways to further education or the world of work.
- Co-commission with the Clinical Commissioning Group an innovative new speech and language therapy service.

Safely reduce the number of children and young people in our care

- Transform how we work with families by embedding the Family Valued model.
- Deliver the Right Child, Right Care programme.
- Embed our edge of care of services to work intensively with more families.

For children and young people who are in our care, increase number who stay in Newcastle

- Increase the number and range of in-house foster carers.
- Transform our in-house children's homes.
- Work with school leaders to ensure children in care have a full time school place in Newcastle where it is in the best interests of the child.

What We Will Do to Achieve Our Priorities

Improve children and young people's social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing

- Support families earlier to improve infant mental health through attachment and early interactions and build resilience.
- Embed the learning from the emotional health and wellbeing team (Rise) in schools.
- With partners put in place high quality social, emotional and mental health and autism provision.

Help all young people in to adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work

- Work with partners to identify the future work and skills priorities for Newcastle.
- Strengthen relationships with key stakeholders across the business community and further education sector.
- Progress the KEEP Project, a pre-apprenticeship programme for young people in care.

Ensure opportunities for lifelong learning

- Produce a baseline assessment of demand to inform improved planning.
- Provide a range of opportunities, including the development of fusion skills relevant and appropriate to the employment landscape.
- Strengthen the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages including community provision.

Reduce the number of children and young people living in poverty

- Work with the Active Inclusion Service to support families with income maximisation, debt, budgeting and emergency assistance.
- Provide life skills and engagement courses for parents to encourage back into work and build confidence.
- Support the Active Inclusion Service to identify families at risk of financial exclusion and proactively offer support to avert crisis.

How We Will Know We are Making a Difference

We will ask children and young people and we will also track our progress against the following:



An increase in:

- Families whose Early Help Assessments and Plans close successfully and sustainably
- Parents and carers taking up the 2-year-old childcare offer
- Pupils achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (end of Reception)
- Pupils attending a school graded as 'Good' or better by Ofsted
- Primary and secondary school attendance
- Pupils achieving the expected standard or higher in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2 (end of Year 6)
- Progress 8 score for Newcastle at Key Stage 4 (end of Year 11)
- Students achieving Level 3 qualification by age 19
- Children in Care living in Newcastle placements
- Timeliness and children and young people's experiences of mental health assessment and support
- Young people in employment, education or training
- Adults participating in relevant skills development towards sustainable employment
- Total benefit gains for Newcastle families



A reduction in:

- Mothers smoking at the time of delivery
- Fixed term and permanent exclusions from primary and secondary schools
- Children subject to a Child Protection Plan
- The number and rate of Children in Care
- Children living in poverty

We are
Making a
Difference



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