

Our Vision FOR Children and Young People in Wandsworth

We want children and young people in Wandsworth to achieve their full potential and enjoy a healthy, safe, stable and happy life.

In addition, we want them to be active citizens who take responsibility for their actions and who respect others. Through targeting work on a locality basis we will increase the opportunity to intervene early, preventing problems becoming entrenched, and so minimising the need for crisis intervention. To help achieve this we want to deliver accessible, responsive and integrated services of a high quality

What children and young people want to see

- ❖ More opportunities to participate in decision-making
- ❖ Greater safety concerns, particularly on public transport
- ❖ Improvement in local transport, parks and public open spaces
- ❖ More "fun" activities and specific one-off local events
- ❖ Greater environmental concern (less litter, graffiti and vandalism)
- ❖ Healthier lifestyles (healthy eating, and more opportunities for exercise).

Be Healthy

Good health is vital if children and young people are to enjoy their childhood and achieve their full potential. Good habits established in childhood provide the basis for lifelong health and well-being. This means taking care of physical, mental emotional and sexual health – as well as choosing a healthy lifestyle.

What we're going to do...

- ❖ Improve childhood immunisation rates
- ❖ Tackle childhood obesity by encouraging healthy diet and more physical activity, sport and physical education
- ❖ Further reduce teenage pregnancy, especially girls who get pregnant more than once and those who are under 16
- ❖ Reduce smoking and alcohol abuse and promote sexual health amongst young people
- ❖ Improve access to mental health services and promote emotional well-being
- ❖ Improve the health of and support for children with disabilities

Staying Safe

Anyone involved in the lives of children and young people has a responsibility to ensure they are protected from the risk of 'significant harm'. Promoting and securing the safety of children and young people in Wandsworth is a top priority.

What we're going to do...

- ❖ Make sure our workforce has the skills to safeguard all children and young people and to protect those at risk of harm
- ❖ Provide new services (such as extended services in schools) to identify and support vulnerable children and young people and those at risk of harm
- ❖ Make sure neglected or abused children continue to get priority in specialist assessments and treatment
- ❖ Do more to support vulnerable parents – such as those who are homeless or have mental health, alcohol, substance misuse or domestic violence problems
- ❖ Support children with learning difficulties and disabilities – who may be at greater risk of harm
- ❖ Make sure children who are not in school are identified, supported and safeguarded
- ❖ Develop children and young people's skills and understanding to manage risk and keep themselves safe, and help them feel safer in their school and local community

Enjoying and Achieving

Education plays a major part in the life of a child or young person. It develops potential and skills, increases life chances, promotes healthy living, reduces the risk of offending and helps prepare for the world of work. We also recognise the importance of enjoyment as a motivating factor for learning. Fun, enjoyment and participation are critical to building children and young people's interest in, and potential to learn from, both educational experiences and experiences more generally.

What we're going to do...

- ❖ Provide more safe, stimulating outdoor play spaces, especially in disadvantaged areas
- ❖ Support communication, language and literacy development for young children
- ❖ Continue to narrow the attainment gap for boys and some black minority ethnic groups
- ❖ Improve English and Maths GCSE attainment
- ❖ Improve attendance at school and reduce persistent absentees
- ❖ Support those at risk of under-achieving through extended services, after school programmes and Saturday schools
- ❖ Improve opportunities to participate in youth work and cultural activities

Making a Positive Contribution

There are many different factors that have an impact on whether children and young people are successful in their future lives. Parents, carers and young adults need the support, education and training to find employment and secure a reasonable income.

What we're going to do...

- ❖ Extend flexible educational opportunities, especially vocational courses
- ❖ Further increase numbers of young people who are in education, training or employment (EET)
- ❖ Provide high quality information, advice and guidance to young people to support career choices
- ❖ Increase educational and job opportunities for young people through better links with employers
- ❖ Reduce levels of youth homelessness and make the best use of the Council's housing stock to support the well-being of children and young people
- ❖ Help parents and carers obtain affordable registered childcare
- ❖ Help parents and carers into work through promoting employment programmes

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

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Where to go for more information

A full copy of the 2008-2011 Children and Young People's Plan can be found here www.wandsworth.gov.uk/cypp along with more information on the strategies, policies and programmes referred to in this document. You can also contact our the Family Information Service for more information on (020) 8871 7899.