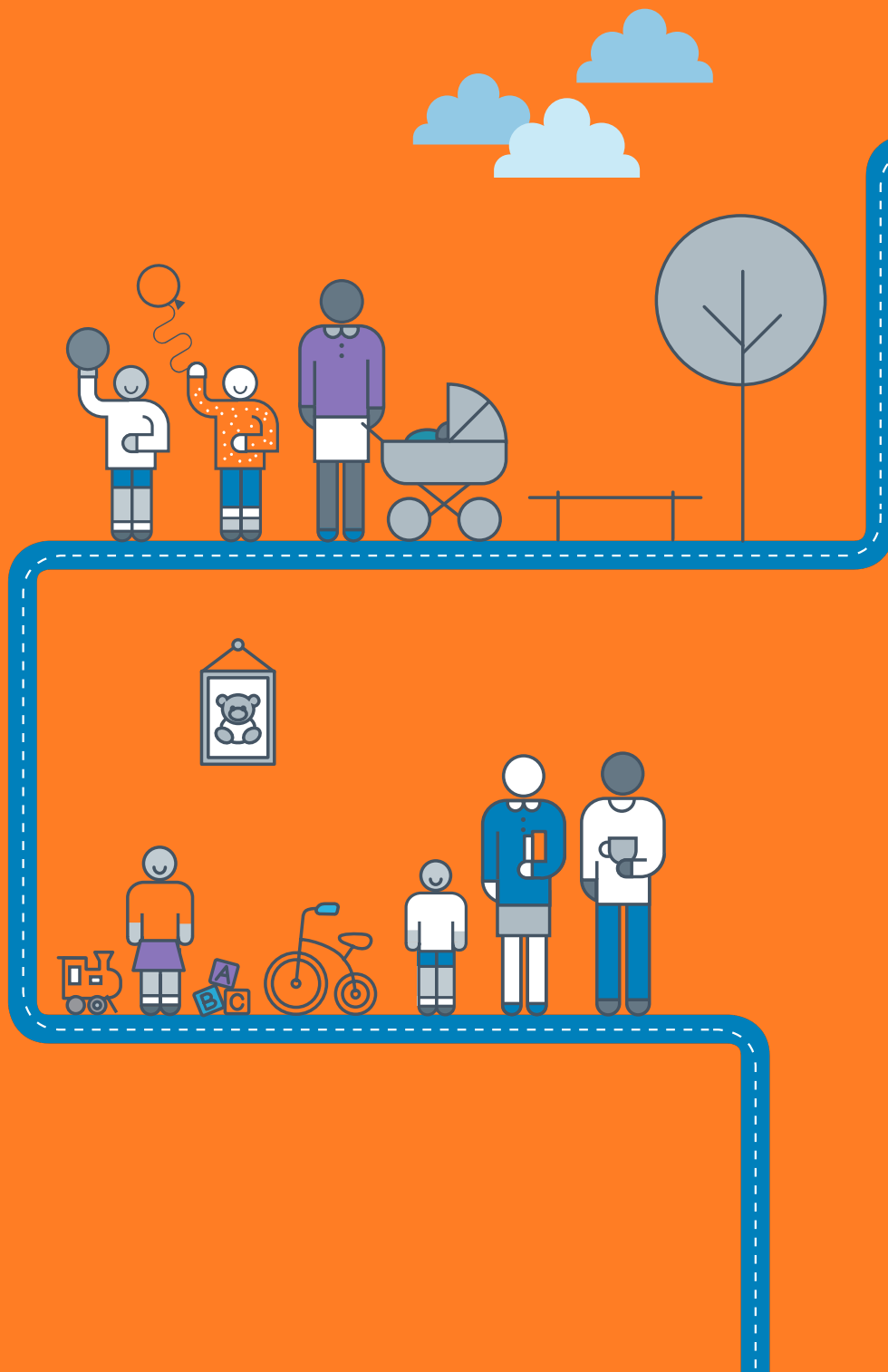


# Children and Young People's Plan

2018-2021





# Foreword from **Randall Anderson, Chairman of the Community and Children's Services' Committee**

I am delighted to present our Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21. This plan draws together the ambitions of key organisations working in partnership to make the City the best place possible to grow up.

The Community and Children's Services' Committee recognises how essential positive experiences in childhood and youth are for life-long success. We will continue to ensure that the City contributes to social mobility and is a safe and enjoyable place for children and young people to live, study, work and explore. The Square Mile is a unique place to live. It is the financial heart of the UK and a world-class arts and heritage centre and, as such, offers a vast number of cultural, educational and employment opportunities.

In this plan, we commit to working across the City of London Corporation, and with our partners, to ensure these opportunities benefit all our children and young people, especially those in disadvantaged groups, to help them develop their skills and thrive.

We are fully committed to providing the leadership and guidance to implement this plan effectively. I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this plan, especially those young people who gave their time to tell us what is important to them.

“ I look forward to seeing the positive changes and outcomes for children and young people in the City that this aspirational plan brings over the next three years. ”

# Foreword from **Andrew Carter,** **Director of the Department of Community and Children's Services**

Welcome to the Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21. Over the last three years, we have been working in partnership to improve outcomes for our children and young people and are proud of what we have achieved.

This plan builds on these successes by applying our Department's five key priorities to the needs of our children and young people to ensure they grow up in a safe and nurturing environment where they stay healthy, develop independence and resilience, achieve their potential and thrive as active members of an engaged community.

We will deliver excellent education and high-quality services and ensure that our young residents benefit from the art, culture and employment opportunities that the City of London Corporation offers. We are committed to reducing inequalities and will work to ensure that the most vulnerable groups have the same opportunities to succeed as their peers.

This plan has been developed together with children and young people living and studying in the City and highlights our commitment to co-production.

I want to thank everyone who helped to develop this plan – the insight from different stakeholders has been hugely valuable. This plan marks the beginning of a new phase of collaborative working, to transform our vision into a reality and improve the lives of our children and young people.

 **We are developing the mechanisms to make it easier for young people to contribute and embedding a culture where their voice is heard in everything we do.** 

# Foreword from **Tyana Murray-Davidson,** **Young Lord Mayor,** **City of London**

I love living in the City of London. My estate is a safe place where people know each other, and children and young people can have fun and spend time together outdoors.

I enjoy spending time in youth clubs and at the City's cultural and leisure venues such as the Barbican, Museum of London and Golden Lane Sports Centre. Walking around the Square Mile, I always notice new and interesting things and it's fantastic having such great transport links so it's easy to get anywhere.

I think the Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21 will improve things for all children and young people in the City of London and make it an even better place to grow up. It aims to make sure that all children and young people are safe, improve our youth facilities and develop better community spaces and activities to make us a more communal and neighbourly area.

Good education and services are so important. City Prospects really helped me in choosing a college and planning for the future. This plan will make sure that all young people have access to good services so they can succeed. It's great that it aims to give all the City's children and young people the opportunity to visit and benefit from the many cultural venues on their doorstep.

This plan focuses on improving communication with children and young people and giving them more power over their services and community. This will encourage more children and young people to get involved in their community and help them develop important skills.

“ I'm excited to see the changes and improvements that will come for all City children and young people over the next three years. ”

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# Our vision

We want the City of London to be the best place possible for children and young people to grow up. We will work in partnership to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where all our children and young people, regardless of background and circumstance, feel they belong.

We will provide high quality services, world-class education and excellent opportunities that enable them to live healthily, develop resilience, access meaningful employment, achieve their potential and thrive.

We have five priorities that we will deliver to achieve this vision:

**1**

**Safe**

Our children and young people are safe and feel safe.



**2**

**Potential**

Our children and young people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and are well prepared to achieve in adulthood.



**3**

**Independence, involvement and choice**

Our children and young people are co-producers of cultural and support services and they will have the resources to develop independence and the empowerment to play an active role in their communities and exercise choice over their services.



**4**

**Health and wellbeing**

Our children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing.



**5**

**Community**

Our children and young people grow up with a sense of belonging as part of cohesive and resilient communities. They are able to create and participate in the cultural and creative opportunities available in the Square Mile.



In delivering our vision, we will support the outcomes of the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23 to contribute to a flourishing society, support a thriving economy and to shape outstanding environments.

# Our building blocks for success

The way in which we do things is just as important as what we do. These are the principles and behaviours that guide our decisions and underpin how we deliver services.



## Collaborative partnership working

We will deliver our vision by working closely with our partners. This plan will be owned by all stakeholders and we will work across agencies to learn from each other, maximise our resources and create a joined-up system that can be easily navigated.

We will work in close partnership with our neighbouring boroughs, as many of our children, young people and families attend education and health services outside the Square Mile.



## Outcomes and impact focused

In delivering our objectives, we will stay focused on the impact we want to achieve for our children and young people.

We will use assessment, evidence, performance management and evaluation to ensure that high quality outcomes are achieved and that the impact of these outcomes is experienced by all.



## Putting children and young people at the heart of everything we do

We will focus on the experience of children, young people and their families and ensure their voices are the first we hear in decision making. We will establish a co-production model of service development.

We practise a 'Think Family' approach which promotes coordination with adult and health services and works with whole families to understand their needs, while recognising their strengths to deliver tailored solutions.



## Skilled and suitable workforce

To deliver this vision effectively, we need a sufficient, skilled and confident workforce who feel valued and well-supported.

We will deliver training and encourage continued professional development opportunities, so our staff are equipped to work with and for whole families and deliver a timely and responsive service based on the Think Family approach.



## Open communication

We will provide information that is accessible, meaningful and easy to understand for our children, young people and their support networks.

We will encourage feedback from them and be open and honest about what we can and cannot do. We will promote challenging and supportive conversations between all partners.





# The City of London

The Square Mile is the historic centre of London and is home to the 'City' – the financial and commercial heart of the UK. The residential base in the City of London is small compared to most other local authorities but has grown in the last 20 years.

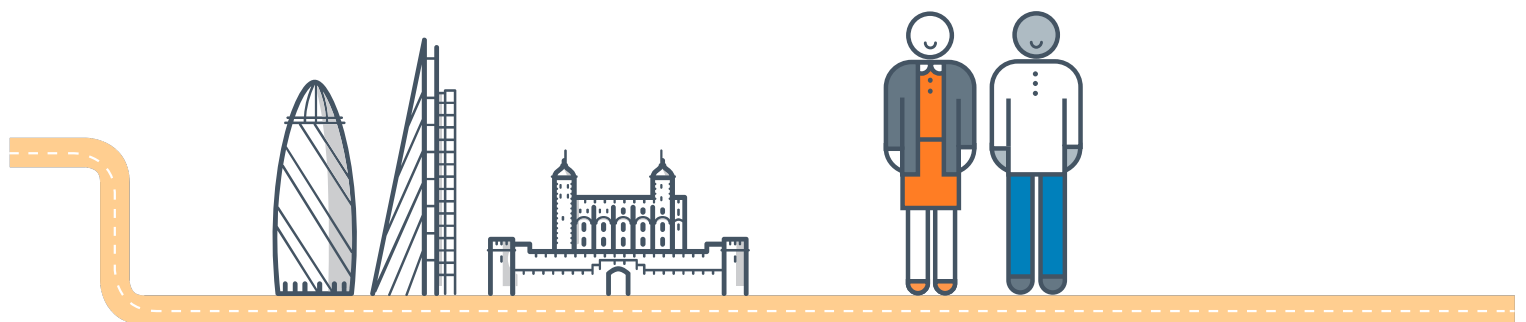
The latest population estimate for the City is 9,401<sup>1</sup>. Children and young people make up a relatively small proportion (13 per cent) of the population, with an estimated 1,215 people under the age of 19 and 1,981 people aged 0-25.

Our children mainly live in dense pockets of housing. Although the Square Mile is one of the least deprived local authorities in the country, significant disparities of wealth exist. There are some areas that experience high levels of deprivation, such as Portsoken which is in the 40 per cent of most deprived areas in England, while other parts of the Square Mile, such as the Barbican, are ranked in the ten per cent least deprived.

The Square Mile's resident population is estimated to be 78 per cent White British. However, our children and young people are more ethnically diverse and approximately 40 per cent are from black or ethnic minority groups compared to 21 per cent nationally. The community of Bangladeshi origin forms the second largest ethnic group in the City.

The City's only maintained school is Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School which is also home to the Square Mile's sole Children's Centre. There are four independent schools and several higher educational institutions within its boundaries. There is a cohort of students who board and travel into the Square Mile to study and the City of London Corporation (the 'City Corporation') has safeguarding responsibilities for these children. The City Corporation is also committed to delivering excellent education outside its boundaries through its sponsorship of academy schools across London.

The Square Mile has excellent transport links and is a world-class culture centre. It is home to museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites. There are a number of open and green spaces in the Square Mile but they are generally small in size. As it is a densely populated, urban area, it suffers from poor air quality. Levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter are both very high compared to the national average.



1. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

# Developing the Children and Young People's Plan

The small size of our resident population, and in particular its population of children and young people, presents challenges to strategic planning. It can be difficult to get useful data about our children and young people and their needs.

Due to small sample sizes, our data can be less reliable. Many reported figures are not statistically significant and determining trends is often not possible. In addition, small demographic numbers make in-depth analysis difficult so figures from the whole area can mask variations between different parts of the Square Mile.

This means it has been vital to use meaningful quantitative data, where possible, combined with qualitative data and local and community intelligence when planning this strategy and determining its priorities.

The Children's Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) pulls together local and national data from a range of sources to describe the needs of our children and young people. The CHNA has collated information from the 0-5 years and 5-19 years needs assessments, the children and young people's mental health needs assessment, disabled children's needs assessment and the child poverty needs assessment. The findings from the CHNA form the evidence base for this strategy.

To identify the priorities, we looked at the impact of different issues on our young people, how widespread they were, our ability to have an impact and improve them, and how they impacted and interacted with disadvantage and inequality.

In the development of this plan, we engaged widely with children and young people who live and learn in the City and the people whose job it is to care and provide for them. We went to youth clubs, schools and meetings and asked our children and young people what they like about living or going to school here, what their main issues are as children and young people in the City and what they would change about it if they could.

We consulted with our partners and stakeholders, including the Clinical Commissioning Group and the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, throughout the plan's development, at meetings and via a survey. We asked them what they thought the priorities of this plan should be, what should be done to improve the outcomes for children and young people living and learning in the City, and how their organisations could contribute.

# Priorities

## 1 Safe

Our children and young people are safe and feel safe.

### Why this is a priority

We are committed to keeping all our children and young people safe and protected from harm and neglect and the damaging effect it has on their wellbeing and development<sup>2</sup>. It is essential to be aware of all potential risks so we do all we can to prevent them occurring and can intervene early if they do.

Children and young people exposed to higher vulnerabilities, such as those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can be at greater risk of abuse and harm and need additional support to guarantee their safety.

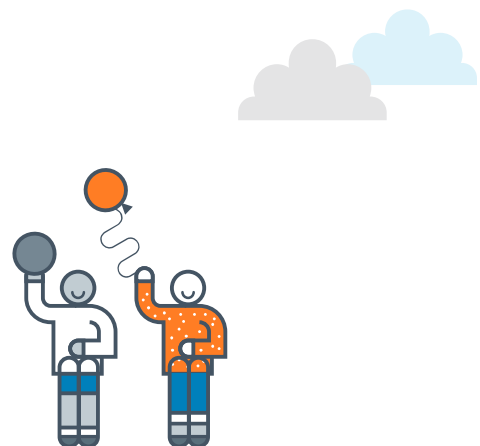
We need to support young people who are being bullied whether in person or online and protect them from emerging or potential risk including from gang or violent crime. We need to give our young people the skills to explore their environment and keep themselves safe online and ensure they feel comfortable engaging in normal risk-taking behaviour so they develop resilience and independence. Safe and secure housing has a large impact on wellbeing and all children and young people should be living in well-maintained, suitably-sized houses.

Our children and young people have told us that they worry about the threat of terror attacks and that bad lighting makes them feel unsafe in certain areas.

### What we will achieve

Children and young people who live, learn and visit in the City will be seen, heard and helped. We will continue to employ a collaborative approach and implement a culture of challenge, accountability and information sharing across partner agencies. We will ensure our procedures and training offer adapts as needs change and new threats occur. All our vulnerable children will receive tailored support to protect them from additional harm.

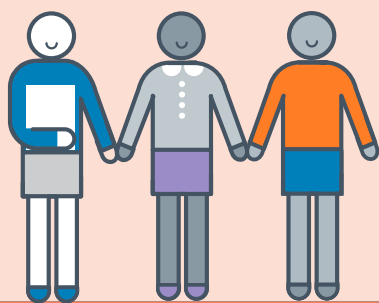
We will work with our young people to address their safety concerns, so they grow up feeling safe and able to enjoy their surroundings, including their virtual wellbeing and safety. Our ambition is to identify all potential issues to prevent problems occurring and offer early help if they do.



2. [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/long\\_term\\_consequences.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/long_term_consequences.pdf)

### We will:

- continuously review our safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure they are robust, relevant and comply with best practice
- support the City Corporation's Community Safety Team to implement the Prevent strategy<sup>3</sup> to protect our communities from the threat posed by violent extremists. We will work with them to respond to concerns and increase reassurance to our children and young people during periods of heightened tensions or following major incidents
- work with the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB) to maintain a robust training offer for staff
- work with the CHSCB and schools to improve our understanding of our young people's digital footprint and the risks they face online, including from child sexual exploitation. We will improve cyber safety for children and young people in the City, and develop an offer that enables young people to engage safely in technology and social media and acquire digital skills to benefit their future
- renew the Early Help Action Plan to deliver a cohesive Early Help offer that builds protective factors and family resilience
- communicate the findings from the neglect linked to affluence research<sup>4</sup> and train staff on how to recognise and respond to neglect in affluent families
- make rigorous checks of all schools that our children with SEND attend to ensure their safeguarding practices are of the highest standards
- review and renew our Think Family approach and use it to develop our training, learning and development offer
- implement the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy to reduce the risk to our children and young people from the threat of issues such as female genital mutilation, parental violence, honour-based violence and forced marriage
- deliver maintenance, repairs and fire safety visits to homes and extend neighbourhood patrolling to ensure all our homes and estates are safe
- work with the Department of Built Environment to ensure the views of our children, young people and families are represented in the implementation of the City Corporation's Lighting Strategy<sup>5</sup>.

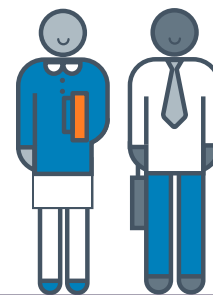


3. <https://fullfact.org/law/what-prevent-strategy/>

4. <https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/documents-by-section/departments/social-therapeutic-and-comms-studies/Report---Neglect-in-Affluent-Families-1-December-2017.pdf>

5. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/city-public-realm/public-consultations/Pages/City-lighting-strategy.aspx>

# Priorities



## 2 Potential

Our children and young people have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and are well prepared to achieve in adulthood.

### Why this is a priority

Childhood is a critical time. A child's experiences and relationships will have a significant impact on their cognitive and social development and ability to succeed and flourish throughout life<sup>6</sup>. This is especially true of early childhood as the most rapid development occurs from conception through to five years of age. To prepare our children to achieve exceptional results in adulthood and increase social mobility, we need to provide top-quality early years services and support and remove the barriers to accessing them. The Square Mile's many cultural and heritage sites offer the opportunity for our children and young people to learn and develop in a fun and informal environment.

Life is more challenging for some children and young people as their home circumstances or physical, emotional or educational needs impact on their ability to achieve.

These children require extra provision to ensure they can achieve the same outcomes as their peers. We will focus on the following vulnerable groups:=  
• Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).  
• Children and young people with social care needs. Most of our children in care and care leavers are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).=  
• Children from low income families and/or deprived areas in the City. 10.2 per cent of City children are living in poverty<sup>7</sup>.

- Children and young people who face barriers including language difficulties, mental health issues or difficult home circumstances.=  
Our Children in Care Council (CiCC) – a group of City-supported looked after children and care leavers – has told us they want more support in their asylum-seeking process and advice on coping with money. Young people with SEND have told us they find it difficult to socialise in the City and want information to be more accessible.

Our ambition is for every City child to have access to world-class education, creative learning opportunities and valuable work experience which enriches their lives and helps them develop resilience and achieve excellence throughout life. Sir John Cass Children's Centre and Foundation Primary School will continue to provide exceptional early years provision, deliver an excellent sporting and arts offer and achieve outstanding outcomes in Maths, English and Science.

### What we will achieve

Vulnerable children and young people will have the same opportunities to flourish and recognise their aspirations as their peers. We will break intergenerational cycles of disadvantage by providing children in difficult circumstances, and their families, with the skills and abilities to overcome the barriers they face.

6. Early Child Development from Measurement to Action, Richardson, L and Young, ME, 2007.

7. Local Health, 2015, Public Health England. [http://www.localhealth.org.uk/GC\\_preport.php?lang=en&s=155&view=map7&id\\_rep=r01&sellid0=0&nivgeo=msoa\\_2011](http://www.localhealth.org.uk/GC_preport.php?lang=en&s=155&view=map7&id_rep=r01&sellid0=0&nivgeo=msoa_2011)

All our children and young people benefit from the City's cultural offer and the developmental opportunities it provides. Our children with additional needs will be identified early and provided with targeted support. We will be the

best possible corporate parent to the children we look after and those who have left care by taking on the role of a good parent and acting as a champion on their behalf so they reach the heights we all aspire to for our own children.

**We will:**

- deliver an outstanding education offer at all our schools (maintained, sponsored academies and independent schools) for children and young people in the Square Mile and across London. We will continue to promote and provide opportunities for collaboration, sharing of best practice, and school-to-school support within the City family of schools to achieve excellence in all our schools
- work with schools located outside of the City of London boundary to identify City resident children who are at risk of missing education to ensure that they have access to support services and learning opportunities. This will mean building solid relationships with the schools and local authorities where City children attend school
- undertake a review of our Children's Centre services and implement a new Children's Centre commissioning model to ensure services are coordinated, relevant and effective
- engage with all families who decide to electively home educate to ensure that the children are safe and receiving a suitable level of education
- implement the City Corporation's SEND Strategy to improve outcomes and services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- renew our Corporate Parenting Strategy<sup>8</sup> and our pledge to our children and care leavers to ensure it is relevant and continues to reflect their needs, including those of our UASC
- use the Children in Care Council (CiCC) to prepare children in care for independence and employment and deliver a regional CiCC on behalf of London
- deliver an expanded corporate apprenticeship programme that provides outstanding employability, training and skills opportunities to 100 apprentices. We will explore how we can utilise this apprenticeship offer to benefit the City's young people, and parents of young people, who are distant from the work market
- deliver a parental employability programme to reduce the number of children living in poverty and improve outcomes for them and their family
- support the Culture Mile Learning Team to deliver programmes to develop the skills of disadvantaged young people to enhance their employability.

8. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/children-and-families/Documents/Corporate-Parenting-Strategy.pdf>



## Priorities

### ③ Independence, involvement and choice

Our children and young people are co-producers of cultural and support services and they will have the resources to develop independence and the empowerment to play an active role in their communities and exercise choice over their services.

#### Why this is a priority

Co-production means designing and delivering services in collaboration with the people using those services<sup>9</sup>. Co-production has links to community and individual wellbeing<sup>10</sup> and can help young people develop self-confidence, self-esteem and the ability to effectively engage with social and work contexts<sup>11</sup>. It also enables us to develop better and more relevant services.

In the Square Mile, 40 per cent of children are from black and ethnic minority groups. It is important that children from all ethnic groups and backgrounds feel comfortable engaging with services and empowered to be active citizens to achieve a cohesive and thriving community.

There is a risk that young people from vulnerable groups can be over-protected and have their opportunities limited. We must give all our young people the space to acquire life skills and develop independence. It is essential that all our young people, including those with SEND, looked after children and those who don't have English as a first language, are involved in co-production and benefit from its positive outcomes.

Our young people have told us they feel they are not updated following consultation and do not know if and how their issues are being addressed. They have said they want the City Corporation to trust young people and involve them in the decisions that impact them.



9. [http://centerforborgerdialog.dk/sites/default/files/CFB\\_images/bannere/The\\_Challenge\\_of\\_Co-production.pdf](http://centerforborgerdialog.dk/sites/default/files/CFB_images/bannere/The_Challenge_of_Co-production.pdf)

10. Prilleltensky, I & O (2006) Promoting Well Being Hoboken, Wiley.

11. <http://shura.shu.ac.uk/16975/3/Gornall%20CoProduction.pdf>

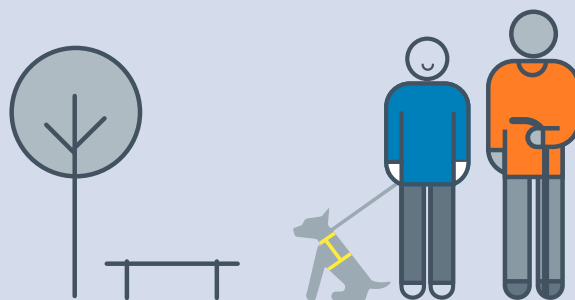
## What we will achieve

Our ambition is for all our children and young people, regardless of background and circumstance, to feel valued and an integral part of the City community. We will shift our focus to view children and young people as assets and an invaluable resource in shaping services. We will enhance our advocacy and complaints processes, so that we are more accountable to them and they are empowered to bring about change.

We will involve children, young people and their families in decisions that impact them and, wherever possible, give them the ability to exercise choice over their services. We will develop communication methods for our vulnerable groups that are tailored to meet their needs. Our aim is for our services to be culturally appropriate for all and for inclusion and diversity to be championed in everything we do.

### We will:

- review and streamline our consultation and feedback process with children and young people
- improve our communication channels with young people so they are aware of what is available to them and they can contribute more easily. We will focus on the needs of our vulnerable groups and develop innovative ways to communicate with them, such as using more visual methods, to ensure their voices are heard
- work with the SPICE Team to consider how we can use Time Credits<sup>12</sup> to encourage participation and utilise our population's skills and experience in co-production
- work with our children with SEND and their families to give them the skills and knowledge to access services independently, make a contribution, and challenge our thinking
- improve the reach, relevance and quality of services through the City's new Youth Service and the Youth Programme Board so they cater to young people from all backgrounds and enable them to contribute to their community
- review the requirements of our hard to reach groups and monitor the take-up of services to ensure they reach all sections of the communities we serve
- increase understanding of the complaints procedure among our children and young people, and particularly with vulnerable groups, to ensure it is accessible and easy to understand.



12. <http://www.justaddspice.org/programme/city-london-time-credits>





## Priorities

# 4 Health and wellbeing

Our children and young people enjoy good health and wellbeing.

### Why this is a priority

Health and wellbeing in the first years of a person's life, particularly from conception until five years of age, has a significant impact into adolescence and adulthood<sup>13</sup>. Giving every child the best start in life is endorsed as the most important recommendation for reducing health inequalities in the Marmot Review as it can break the links between early disadvantage and poor outcomes later in life<sup>14</sup>.

The health data we have, together with local intelligence, indicates that babies in the Square Mile generally have a good start in life. There are low numbers of mothers who are smoking at time of birth, low numbers of underweight babies, and good breastfeeding uptake.

However, there are still issues that need addressing. Child poverty is persistent in parts of the Square Mile and these children are at greater risk of many health issues. The Square Mile suffers from poor air quality and our population-attributable mortality is higher than the London average. Most City babies are born outside of City and Hackney so it is difficult to signpost them to our maternity and early years services. The Square Mile has a network of gardens, churchyards and plazas but they are often small and are intensely used. A lack of green space has come up repeatedly as a health and wellbeing issue from residents in the City. It has been demonstrated that access to green infrastructure can have positive effects on both mental and physical health.

Poor mental health is one of the biggest health challenges facing our society and a stressful school environment puts young people at greater risk of developing mental health issues. This can manifest in a number of ways including anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm and suicide attempts. It is difficult to obtain reliable local data on young people and mental health but we know that nationally one in ten children suffers from mental health issues and most of adult mental health issues begin before the age of 18. Upstream investment to prevent health issues arising, and early intervention when they do, will help to keep children healthy and have far-reaching positive consequences for their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The Public Health Team in the City Corporation has a strong relationship with the London Borough of Hackney as we share a Director of Public Health and a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). A number of public health services are also commissioned in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney. We have built relationships with Tower Hamlets CCG to ensure that the needs of City of London residents, who are registered with a Tower Hamlets GP, are recognised and met and that service pathways are clear.

Our young people and their families have told us that they want access to better outdoor spaces including football pitches and playgrounds and cheaper access to gyms and swimming pools.

13. [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/evidence\\_base\\_for\\_a\\_healthy\\_early\\_years\\_programme\\_in\\_london\\_jan\\_2016.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/evidence_base_for_a_healthy_early_years_programme_in_london_jan_2016.pdf)

14. <https://www.local.gov.uk/marmot-review-report-fair-society-healthy-lives>

## What we will achieve

We will work in partnership to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing from conception, to birth and throughout life and for every child to be prepared to be self-sufficient and have the support that enables them to live happy and healthy lives.

Our ambition is that every City baby is healthy at birth, receives good nutrition and maintains a

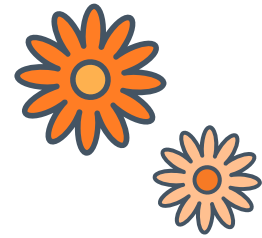
healthy weight. They will have access to open space, exposure to green spaces and they will engage in activities that promote positive mental wellbeing and integrate healthy behaviours into everyday routines. Any child or young person that develops a health issue will receive the highest quality care and be supported to make a swift recovery.

### We will:

- train frontline staff in Making Every Contact Count<sup>15</sup> so they can identify the health needs of our children, promote healthy behaviours and signpost them to appropriate services
- improve our knowledge of the mental health needs of our children and young people to develop our provision of mental health and wellbeing services, with a focus on those who are at greater risk of mental health issues such as LGBTQ+ young people
- tackle unhealthy environments by delivering improved infrastructure for safe active travel, sport and exercise and providing easy access to healthy and affordable food in the local area
- work with our substance misuse service, schools and youth clubs to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse amongst our young people
- improve our early health data to better understand the health needs of our 0-5 age population
- review the pathway for new mothers to access maternity and early years services and develop an integrated health promotion offer for children and families through the integrated commissioning transformation
- work with the City and Hackney and Tower Hamlets CCGs and Public Health Teams to promote City resident needs and ensure City residents can access any emerging integrated service models
- co-design new health services with our children and young people so they are acceptable, accessible and relevant for service users
- work with the City Corporation's Open Spaces Team to review and enhance the outdoor provision available for our children and young people, including those with SEND, and help residents make better use of outdoor resources both in and outside of the Square Mile. We will support Open Spaces' ambition to develop a greener city to improve physical and mental health
- explore options to increase the number of voluntary smoke-free green spaces in the City
- support the implementation of low emission neighbourhoods and activities to improve air quality, particularly around schools.

15. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/mecc-guid-booklet.pdf>

# Priorities



## 5 Community

Our children and young people grow up with a sense of belonging as part of cohesive and resilient communities. They are able to create and participate in the cultural and creative opportunities available in the Square Mile.

### Why this is a priority

We want our children and young people to be active members of cohesive, resilient and thriving communities where they are supported by strong networks. High social and cultural capital is associated with better health, greater educational attainment, better employment levels and lower crime rates. This not only improves the area for everyone but provides children and young people with the foundation for a happy and successful life. Community spaces provide a place for people to come together, take part in activities and form relationships. They are integral to creating cohesive societies. We want to ensure that children and young people have access to sufficient and high-quality community spaces.

The Square Mile is a unique place to grow up with many arts, cultural and heritage activities on their doorstep. These activities are crucial to the development of imagination, self-expression and creativity and enable children and young people to gain cultural capital which can have a profound impact on life chances.

Children and young people from poorer backgrounds are less likely to engage in cultural and extra-curricular activities<sup>16</sup>. We must ensure this does not happen in the Square Mile and that our wealth of cultural opportunities provide a

means of increasing social mobility and reducing inequalities. Children and young people need to not only visit and participate in diverse culture, but also to be active producers of it through opportunities to create, exhibit, share and perform.

Our young people and their families have told us they want better youth club facilities and they would like more opportunities to visit the Square Mile attractions, including better opening hours on weekends.

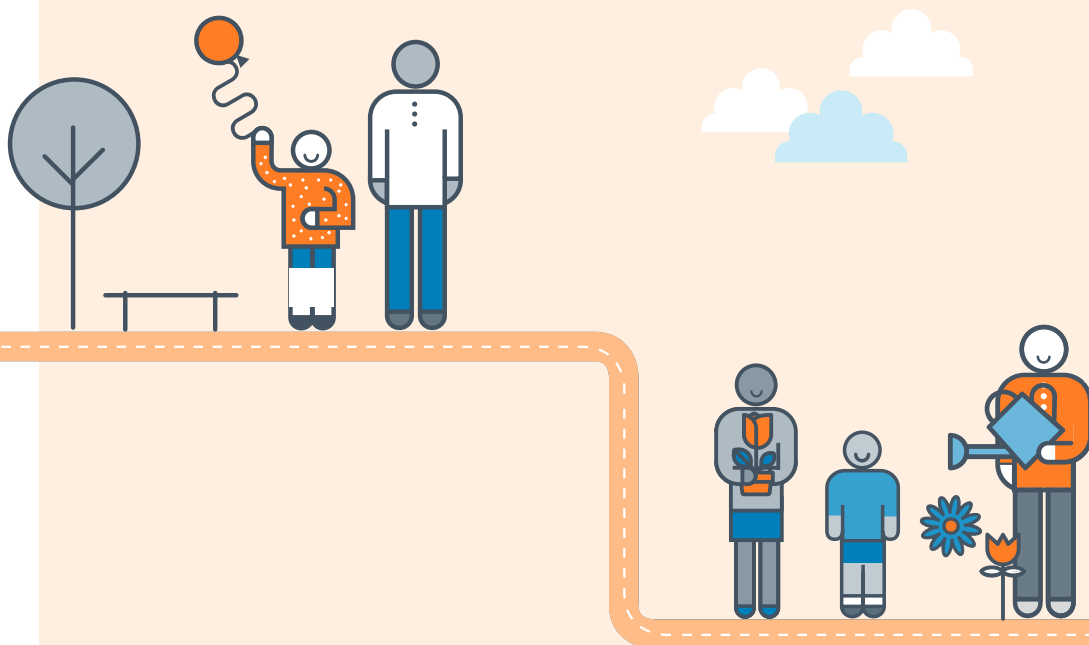
### What we will achieve

Our ambition is for all children and young people to feel engaged with and able to shape their local communities. We will improve our community spaces and youth clubs so our young people have access to facilities they want to use. All our children, regardless of background and circumstance, are aware of, and feel able to take advantage of, the cultural activities available in the Square Mile. We will use our unique position in the heart of the capital as a vehicle to improving the life chances of all our children and reducing the gap in outcomes for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

16. <https://www.anewdirection.org.uk/research/cultural-capital>

**We will:**

- improve the facilities at spaces used to run youth activities
- maintain and increase green and open spaces in the Square Mile
- protect, curate and promote world-class heritage assets, cultural experiences and events for enrichment, inspiration and learning that is accessible for all our children and young people through the Culture Mile and Culture Mile Learning programmes. We will work with the Culture Mile Learning Teams to ensure uptake of cultural activities from our children and young people and develop programmes of work to target and improve participation from disadvantaged groups
- provide opportunities for children and young people to develop the skills and confidence as art and diverse culture creators
- enhance our libraries and the other community facilities on our estates to provide support for community programmes and activities with partners
- explore options for developing more multi-purpose spaces in the Square Mile that can be used by families as well as workers
- reach out to children and young people at risk to provide and facilitate activities that support social wellbeing and cohesion
- raise awareness of our young population and their needs across the whole City community to increase understanding and positive perceptions of this group.



# Delivering this vision

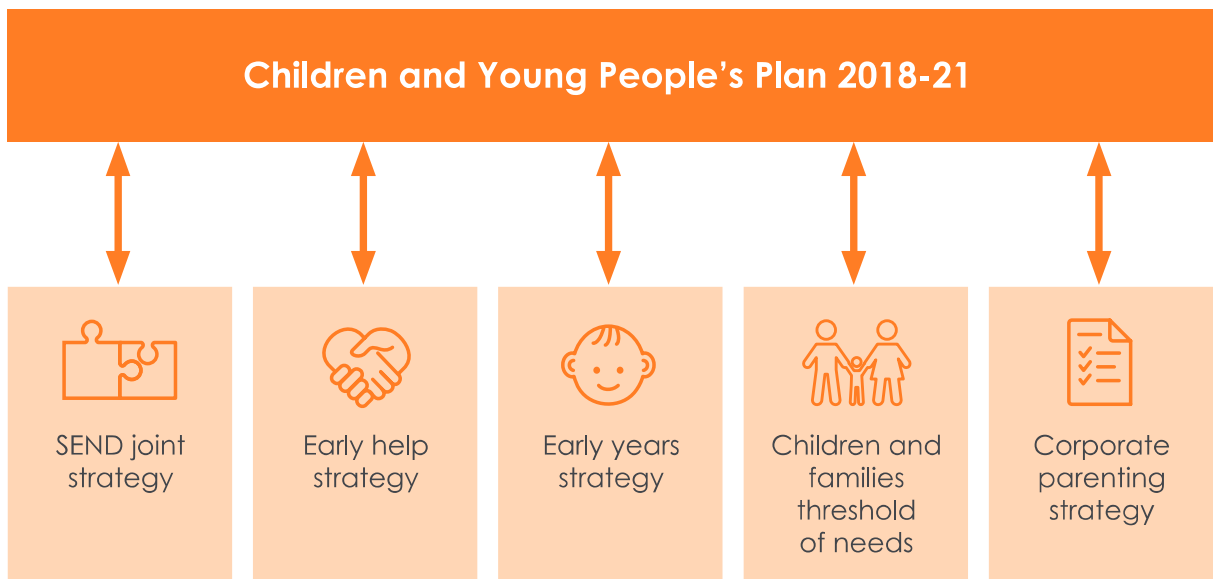
## Implementation

This is an overarching plan that provides a summary of intentions and the strategic framework to guide thinking and decision-making for all services affecting children and young people over the next three years.

We have kept this plan simple and focused, concentrating on five priorities and setting out manageable actions and objectives for each one. This plan will be supported by a detailed delivery plan with clear and measurable actions and indicators for each priority.

There are a number of City Corporation strategies and policy documents that sit underneath this strategy, as shown in the diagram below. These inform service level planning, driving activity that is overseen by different teams within the Department of Community and Children's Services at the City Corporation, and will contribute to the delivery of this plan.

Figure 1. Strategies and documents that sit under the Children and Young People's Plan



## Governance

This plan will be governed by the City of London Corporation's Children and Young People's Steering Group who will receive regular update reports to monitor its progress and assess the plan's impact against its objectives.

The Children and Young People's Steering Group will champion the vision and priorities of the plan, provide action-focused leadership, hold partners to account and provide challenge to work being delivered across the system. Membership of the CEB currently includes:

- City of London Corporation's Children and Families Team
- City of London Corporation's Early Years and Education Team
- City of London Corporation's Public Health Team
- City of London Corporation's Commissioning Team
- City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board (CHSCB)
- City of London Police
- City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group
- Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group
- Health service providers
- The City of London Multi-Academy Trust
- Partnership for Young London
- City schools representation.



# Supporting our corporate and divisional aims

This plan has been shaped by the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23 and the Department of Community and Children Services (DCCS) Business Plan 2017-22. This plan directly impacts a number of the Corporate Plan's outcomes:

**Outcome 1:** People are safe and feel safe.

**Outcome 2:** People enjoy good health and wellbeing.

**Outcome 3:** People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.

**Outcome 4:** Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

This plan will also contribute to the delivery of other corporate strategies and Corporate Plan outcomes as follows:

**Outcome 8:** We have access to the skills and talent. This plan will help deliver a skills pipeline for the City, London and UK.

**Outcome 10:** We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration. Through this plan, we aim to inspire more children and young people to greater things by involving them in the design of the City's inspiring places and activities.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21 sits below the DCCS Business Plan and contributes to its delivery by mirroring its five priorities and applying them to the specific needs of our children and young people population.

This plan also supports and is supported by the delivery of other DCCS strategic priorities:

## Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy<sup>17</sup>

All children have the best start in life.

## Education Strategy<sup>18</sup>

Develop excellent employment opportunities and pathways.

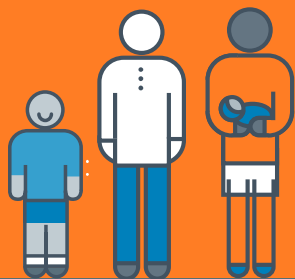
## Mental Health Strategy<sup>19</sup>

Improve the mental health of people in the City and keep people well.

17. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/Documents/health-wellbeing-strategy.pdf>

18. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/children-and-families/Documents/education-strategy.pdf>

19. <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/Documents/city-of-london-mental-health-strategy.pdf>



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