



# **Giving children and young people a great start in life**

**Herefordshire's Children and Young  
People's Plan  
2018 - 2023**



## Foreword

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out our vision and priorities for children, young people and families in Herefordshire. We believe that everyone has a role to play; we can all contribute to making Herefordshire a great place to grow up.

Children and young people are at the heart of this plan. We have listened to their views and their experience of growing up in Herefordshire. They have told us about the things that matter to them and what things make a positive difference in their lives. We have listened to the views of families, staff and service providers as well as reviewed our local performance to help us to better understand the key areas for us to focus on in this plan.

It is encouraging that many children and young people have told us how much they like living in Herefordshire. They like the friendly communities, the good schools and report that interaction with professionals, including health professionals and social workers, is a positive experience; they also enjoy and appreciate the countryside, wildlife and quality of the environment.

There are also some exciting changes happening in Hereford in the coming years, including our new University focusing on engineering, and a new Cyber Security Centre, helping to make Herefordshire a more attractive place for young people to live, study and plan their careers.

We have achieved a great deal in the county over the last few years. The educational attainment of our children and young people is something to be proud of; this speaks to the unstinting efforts of our schools and teachers.

We have also worked with our partners to improve support for mental health and will continue our efforts to keep this important area in sharp focus.

The range of support provided for children and young people across the county makes a huge difference to their quality of life and supporting families at the earliest opportunity remains key to our approach. We need to ensure that there is a sound joint understanding of thresholds of need across our range of multi-agencies so that we can effectively keep children safe. However, we are living in challenging times when rising needs are making ever increasing demands on public services; we need to ensure that we are doing all we can to target support so that it makes a difference, particularly to our most vulnerable, so that we enable families to thrive and young people to make a successful transition to adulthood.

Herefordshire Council and its partners have the wellbeing of children and young people as a core priority. We are working hard together to deliver a high standard of care, education, opportunity and support to all our children and young people and to increase their understanding of living in our diverse communities. We work with multiple partners to bring an integrated approach which will underpin the safeguarding, wellbeing and nurturing of children and young people. This plan identifies the areas which are to be the focus for the plan period – we have achieved a great deal over the last few years to be proud of, but there is always more to do, improvements to make, more to achieve.....so, let's get on with it.

## Our vision for Children and Young People in Herefordshire

We will work to ensure that:

**'The children and young people of Herefordshire have a great start in life and grow up healthy, happy and safe within supportive family environments'.**

### A profile of Herefordshire

Herefordshire has the fourth lowest population density in England, with a land area of 2,180km<sup>2</sup> but a population of only 189,300 (2016).

Most of the county (95%) is rural and 53% of the population live in rural areas.

The county has an older age population profile than England & Wales, with 24% of the population aged 65 or older compared to 18% nationally; 16.8% of the current population are aged 0-15yrs compared to 19% nationally.

Numbers of children have declined by around 7% over the last decade. However, the number of under-fives and births have been rising for the best part of the last decade. The next five years are expected to yield a gradual increase in the numbers of children, to around 33,200 by 2023.

The percentage of pupils with special educational needs support is higher than the national average (15.4% in 2017 compared to 11.6%).

Unemployment in the county is low, but average earnings in the county are significantly below both the regional and national averages. Average house prices are high compared with elsewhere in the region.

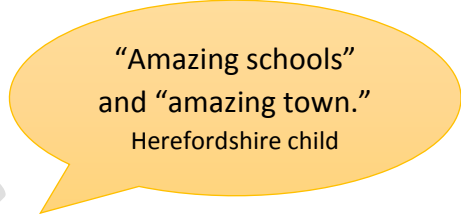
The county receives annual net inflows of people of all ages except 18-20 year-olds moving elsewhere in the UK – the ages at which young people are most likely to be moving away to study.

### Where are we now?

Since the previous Children and Young People's Plan was introduced in 2015, there have been many achievements to be proud of in Herefordshire. Just some of these are highlighted below:

- The teen pregnancy rate has reduced year on year in Herefordshire and is now 14.5% per 1,000, which equates to just 44 pregnancies (2016). This is the lowest rate in the region and one of the lowest compared to other similar areas (the rate has almost halved since 2010).
- Changes in models of care to support children in mental health crisis have been implemented, including extended provision for urgent assessments for young people experiencing a crisis. This is now available seven days per week in partnership with the local Children's Ward.

- A review into special educational needs and disabilities by the CQC and Ofsted in September 2016 acknowledged the low waiting times and flexible provision by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- 2017 saw Herefordshire youngsters out-performing pupils nationally in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. 84 per cent of Herefordshire pupils achieved the threshold mark or better compared to 81 per cent across England. This represents a rise of 15 percentage points since 2013.
- There is clear evidence that standards are rising in both primary and secondary schools and academies across the county. In 2017 the performance of all pupils in Year R in Herefordshire ranked in the top 25% (top quartile) of all local authorities, with 75% achieving a good level of development; this maintains our positive upward trend since 2013. Boys in Herefordshire outperformed the England average in 2017 and Herefordshire girls were amongst the highest performers in the country.
- Great progress has been made in implementing Education Health and Care (EHC) plans<sup>1</sup> – all children and young people with special educational needs statements now have a plan in place.
- In total 198 families in need of early help have been supported to make sustainable change.
- Although there are challenges relating to foster caring locally, we have increased the number of foster carers recruited by the council which bucks the regional trend.
- The rate (per 100,000 youth population) of first time entrants to the criminal justice system has reduced (from 565.2 in 2015 to 447 in 2017), although this is still higher than the national average (295) and is currently a priority for the Community Safety Partnership.



## Establishing our focus for the next 5 years

In developing the plan, over 300 children and young people from across Herefordshire have been involved, through visiting schools, youth groups and clubs. This has included (but is not limited to) primary and secondary school aged children, children and young people with disabilities, those with mental health issues, children in care and young carers.

Children and young people have shared what it is like growing up in Herefordshire now, the main issues that affect them, and about what they believe are the most important things that need to change over the next few years.

Families and professionals have shared the challenges faced locally and ideas to make a positive change.

Alongside this performance in key areas has been considered, helping to identify areas that need greater focus.

The section below outlines the key findings:

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<sup>1</sup> An EHC plan is the document which replaces Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulties assessments for children and young people with special educational needs



- A recent national report highlighted that Herefordshire is a 'cold spot' in relation to social mobility<sup>2</sup> in fact ranking 271 out of 324 for local authorities across the country. Herefordshire children are less likely to be in education and training than the England average, and children have told us they want more opportunities to experience work and better chances to realise their ambitions and to prepare them for adult life.
- The achievement of children and young people with an Education Health and Care plan could also improve as this group achieves less well in Herefordshire than the same group nationally. Engagement undertaken with professionals has highlighted the need to better support children who may face challenges that could limit their achievement, including children with disabilities and children with autism.

### Safe environments

In discussions on safety, children and young people focussed largely on community safety, safe environments outside of the home, and on their understanding of how to keep themselves safe. In developing the plan, additional aspects were considered in discussing with professionals who work with children and young people and in reviewing the data.



#### Children and young people said:

Children and young people told us that that they don't always feel safe in some parts of the county. They also want more education on safety, including online safety and healthy relationships.

Children and young people also highlighted concerns about the danger of traffic and that some poorer roads are difficult to cycle on:

'We want Herefordshire roads to be safer for children and young people'.

Professionals in Herefordshire who work with children and young people are aware of the high numbers of children who become looked after across our county. These professionals have consistently highlighted the need for a stronger approach to early identification and early help, including better intervention on specific issues such as domestic abuse and neglect.

#### The facts say:

- In Herefordshire between 2014 and 2016, 19 children per 100,000 have been killed or seriously injured on England's roads. Although the numbers are small, this is higher than the England average (17 per 100,000).
- In 2016/17 there were 300 looked after children in Herefordshire. This is 84 per 10,000 of the population which much higher than the national average of 62 per 10,000.

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<sup>2</sup> Social mobility may be defined as the ability of individuals or groups to move upward or downward in status based on wealth, occupation, education, or some other social variable.

## Environment and community



### Children and young people said:

It was clear from talking with children and young people that their communities and the local environment are issues that really matter to them. They want to feel part of the community, find ways to contribute and to have their voices heard. Protecting the local environment, and having places locally where they could mix and be more active was a common theme for most children.

‘Want to be involved in community developments and activities’

Many children and young people want to have a better understanding of people from different backgrounds, from different areas, or who are facing particular challenges, including disabilities. Children highlighted that they are keen to find ways to create more opportunities to be inclusive, and for local communities to be accessible for all.

### The facts say:

This is a broad area and although there are a number of measures that could be used, a key theme is the involvement of children and young people in the shaping of their communities. More engagement work will be undertaken to explore these issues further and to determine how we can measure improvements.

### Where do we need to be?

As a result of this work four priorities have been identified that will drive the work of the partnership.

#### Over the next 5 years our pledges are:

1. Keeping children and young people safe – **BE SAFE FROM HARM**
2. Improving children and young people’s health and wellbeing – **BE HEALTHY**
3. Helping ALL children and young people succeed – **BE AMAZING**
4. Ensuring that children and young people are influential in our communities – **FEEL PART OF THE COMMUNITY**

For each pledge, we have considered where we want to get to, ideas of how change could be achieved, and how we will know if we’ve succeeded. This plan on a page is our roadmap for the next five years (see appendix 1).

## Delivery of the plan

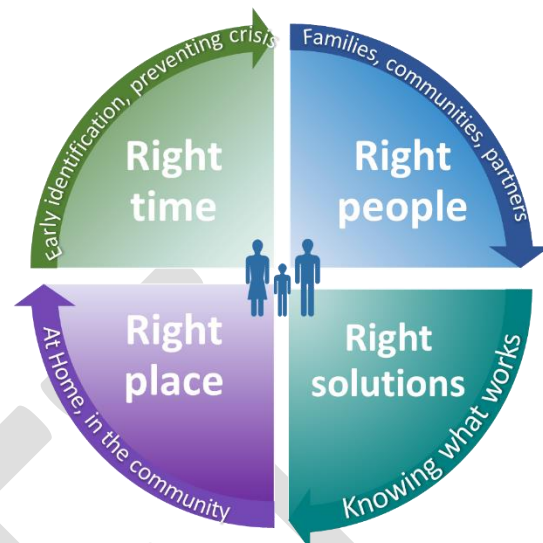
Those who have worked alongside us in the development of the plan are passionate about making a difference and improving the lives of children and young people across Herefordshire – it's not just about what we do but also how we do it. We have therefore agreed four principles that we will use to help guide the plan's delivery. These are:

**Right time:** Early identification of families and early intervention to prevent crisis

**Right people:** Recognising and involving all key partners in achieving change, including families, communities and children and young people.

**Right solutions:** use evidence to understand what works

**Right place:** wherever possible, supporting children, young people and families at home, in their communities.



We will ensure the child and young person is at the centre of all we do.

The Children and Young People's Plan is overseen by the Herefordshire Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) with partner agencies working together to address issues affecting children, young people and their families. The plan contributes to delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Herefordshire and is aligned with a number of key partnership plans.

All partners engaged in the delivery of this plan are committed to providing equitable rights for children and young people in Herefordshire, whatever their disability, age, gender, race, nationality, religion, marital status, maternity, sexual orientation or background. The plan is an opportunity to make sure equal rights are fully considered when:

- providing services
- purchasing and procuring services
- employing staff
- working in partnership with other organisations
- engaging with our communities

We believe that promoting equality is essential for the creation of a cohesive society and for a strong economy.

The Children and Young People's Partnership Board will oversee the development of more detailed delivery plans and identify or develop multi- agency groups that are best placed to deliver against our pledges.

Progress will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the board, including the ongoing review and development of targets to track progress. Children, young people and families will be involved in an annual review of what we have delivered to ensure the areas of focus and priority actions are the right ones for the whole plan period.



There are no specific resources allocated to support the implementation of the plan, but partners, with an estimated spend of £42.6 million in children and young people's provision, will identify:

- Priority areas which may be responded to more efficiently;
- Emerging issues which may require review of available resources;
- Opportunities to use partnership resources more effectively.

Any potential resource implications relating to specific actions will be fully explored within delivery plans.

DRAFT

# GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A GREAT START IN LIFE

## Herefordshire's Children and Young People's Plan 2018 – 2023

### BY 2023 HEREFORDSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WILL:

OUR PLEDGES	WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?	HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE?
<p><b>Be SAFE FROM HARM and</b></p> <p><b>Be safe with others</b> You will live with supportive families and carers and have a better understanding of healthy and positive relationships.</p> <p>We will increase our early help and social care support; we will work together to make clear decision so you receive the right support at the right time.</p> <p><b>Feel safer</b> You will know how to keep safe where you live so that you are confident when you go out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all agencies focus on and are accountable for the priorities identified in this plan</li> <li>• Improve safeguarding in children's services by increasing social work capacity and improving social work practice; implementing a consistent approach to thresholds of need; developing our approach to edge of care services; building on our targeted early help to provide support at the right time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's services will be rated good by Ofsted</li> <li>• The number of children who either become looked after or are on a child protection plans will reduce so that it is in line with our population</li> <li>• Young people will feedback that there are no unsafe locations in Herefordshire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Be HEALTHY and</b></p> <p><b>Lead a healthier lifestyle</b> You will have better information to help you keep active and eat healthily.</p> <p><b>Have healthier teeth</b> You and your family will receive better advice about the importance of good oral health.</p> <p><b>Be confident to talk about mental health</b> You will have better support to meet your emotional and mental health needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target support for children and families from pre-birth and maternity services through infancy to school readiness</li> <li>• Ensure that there is a co-ordinated and comprehensive offer to support children's social, emotional and mental health</li> <li>• Support dental health initiatives, including ensuring access to dentists in specific areas and for particular groups of children, and investigating the feasibility of fluoridation of water supply in Herefordshire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of reception age children who are overweight or obese will be below national average</li> <li>• The percentage of children with decayed, missing or filled teeth will be no more than national average.</li> <li>• Mental health hospital admission rates will reduce.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Be AMAZING and</b></p> <p><b>Have a great start in life</b> We will support you to have a great start in life and to overcome barriers to your achievement.</p> <p><b>Be better prepared for adulthood</b> You will receive better guidance on careers to help you make informed choices.</p> <p><b>Have better chances of success</b> You will have more opportunities to develop the skills you will need for the world of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the new education strategy so that there is a better range of curriculum options, particularly around technical qualifications and work-related learning, which enable all children and young people to succeed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results in Herefordshire will be in the top 25% of all local authorities at the end of the primary and secondary phases of education, and in Year R, for all groups of pupils</li> <li>• The proportion of young people who are either going to university or who are in education and training will be above national average</li> </ul>
<p><b>FEEL PART OF THE COMMUNITY and</b></p> <p><b>Live in a happier community</b> With your help, we will tackle discrimination and ensure everyone feels valued in our community.</p> <p><b>Be more influential</b> We will work with you so that you are involved both in decision making in our community and in delivering this Children and Young People's Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop opportunities with partner agencies, including Herefordshire Council and NMITE, to engage children and young people on topical issues in our community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys of children and young people's views will demonstrate that they feel engaged and positive about their ability to make a difference to their communities</li> </ul>