

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership Children's Services Plan 2017 to 2020

getting
it right
for every child



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

FOREWORD

In Edinburgh, many services work with children, young people and their families to improve their wellbeing and quality of life. However, we know that some children, young people and families in Edinburgh continue to face real difficulties. In addition, a 5% increase in the child population is expected between 2016-2020.

Our services meet the needs of many children, young people and families, but for some, our services do not always meet their needs. This plan aspires to improve our services and to address these different outcomes so that all children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.

At the heart of this plan is an ambition to create a child friendly city, where children and young people's rights are respected. There is also a focus on restorative practice, where preventing problems becomes as important as dealing with crisis.

The aims of this plan are aligned with the Edinburgh City Vision 2050 (www.edinburgh.gov/2050). Children and young people across the city helped shape this vision and the things they said that were most important to them are education and schools; physical and mental health; transport and cycling; sport and physical activity; and housing. Delivery of this Edinburgh Children's Services Plan will ensure that children and young people's views are responded to.

The plan focuses on five strategic aims:

1. Every child will have the best start in life.
2. Children and young people's attendance, engagement and achievement will be improved and the poverty related attainment gap will be reduced.
3. Every child and young person will have good wellbeing and achieve the best possible health.
4. Equity amongst children and young people and their families will be advanced.
5. Children and young people, their families and their communities will be empowered to improve their wellbeing.

I would like to thank all those Partnership members who have participated in the development of this plan over the last six months, particularly children, young people and their families, and I look forward to working with all of you to achieve our aims over the next three years.

Shulah Allan – Chair – Integrated Children's Services Board

Purpose

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership directs the strategic planning, development and delivery of children and young people's services on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership. The Partnership comprises representatives from City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), the voluntary sector (through EVOC), NHS Lothian (NHS), Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Police Scotland and Edinburgh College.

The Edinburgh Children's Partnership's **vision** is:

'Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and achieve their potential'

As a Partnership, we are committed to improving outcomes for Edinburgh's children and young people, their families and their communities. It is our ambition to create a child friendly city, where children and young people's rights are respected. There is also a focus on restorative practice, where preventing problems becomes as important as dealing with crisis. We recognise that the delivery of these outcomes will require excellent universal services that build resilience and provide important protective factors. We also recognise the need to deliver high quality child protection services for the city's most vulnerable children through the work of the Child Protection Committee. We understand that this will require a strong commitment for all partners to work together effectively to secure the delivery of efficient, high quality and best value services.

To do this, the Partnership needs a clear vision for the outcomes we want to achieve and the improvements we need to deliver. Most importantly, we need to make sure that our strategy, our plans, and our resources all integrate around one direction of travel which reflects the needs and the views of the city and our communities.

This integrated plan provides this vision and direction. It sets out our plan for the next few years, describing what we aim to do and how we intend to do it. The principles and actions set out here will inform our decision making on how we use our resources, and drive the way we deliver services together.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- Set out a shared vision and strategic direction to guide the work of the Edinburgh Children's Partnership over the period 2017-20
- Describe the outcomes we aim to achieve together and the improvements we need to deliver, and
- Set out an integrated approach to implementing our strategy and delivering those improvements.

Strategic planning framework

The plan has been developed in response to new requirements in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Act requires community planning partners, specifically the Council and NHS, to demonstrate the extent to which services empower

individuals and communities, are integrated, address negative outcomes and become more efficient. In addition, the Act requires that children's and young people's wellbeing is maximised and their rights are respected.

The plan is also informed by the joint inspection of inter-agency provision of children's services in Edinburgh.

This plan – for all children, young people and their families in Edinburgh – has been developed by the Edinburgh Children's Partnership. It is aligned to the Edinburgh Partnership's Community Plan which describes how the city delivers the Scottish Government's commitments and its agreed shared priorities. Within this partnership working environment, the plan is also designed to align with, and influence, the plans and policies which guide the work of all partners, including:

- Locality Improvement Plans
- The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan
- The Corporate Parenting Plan
- Getting It Right For Every Child
- The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee's Child Protection Improvement Plan
- The NHS Lothian Strategy for Children and Young People
- The City of Edinburgh Council Business Plan and Service Development Plans
- Education Authority Improvement Plan

Core Principles

This plan is built around a set of core principles that guide everything we do as a Partnership. These principles define the culture we want to build within our Partnership, and the behaviours we expect our partners to demonstrate as we work together towards making Edinburgh a more child-friendly city. In particular the Partnership aims to embed a culture where services are delivered '*with*' (rather than '*for*' or '*to*') children and young people, their families and their communities.

To do this, the partnership is committed to ensuring that we:

Place Children and young people at the centre of practice

The views and needs of children and young people will be at the centre of all service delivery. Children's rights will be respected in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The work we do is underpinned by the principles of Getting it Right for Every Child and we will use the Edinburgh Wellbeing Outcomes (see Appendix 1), to ensure that every child is Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included.

Focus on strengths and building resilience

Celebrating children and young people's successes is a central ambition. Children and young people and their families will always be asked what is important to them, and what is good in their lives. This information will be used to help shape the way services are delivered and to build strength and resilience.

Prioritise prevention

The Partnership will support more preventative work. Preventative practice, through a range of universal and specialist services, will ensure that every child and young person has better opportunities to fulfil their potential, problems are addressed before they become crisis and resources are used to better effect.

Improve fairness

A commitment to equality, social justice and fairness will sit at the heart of all children and young people's services. There will be a focus on removing barriers where they exist and achieving the best outcomes for all children. Tackling poverty, inequality, prejudice, discrimination, harassment and victimisation are fundamental to our Partnership culture.

Listen to and respond to children and young people

The voices and opinions of children and young people will be sought, respected and responded to. Children and young people will have the opportunity to be active participants in shaping planning, policy and practice that affects them.

