

Children and Young People Plan 2020 – 2024

Building Brilliant Outcomes Together

Forward

We want Greenwich to be the best place in London to grow up for every single one of the children and young people who live here in Royal Greenwich. A hugely ambitious statement perhaps, but one we believe is absolutely right, because there is no one more important to us than the children and young people who live in this borough. However, we know that action is just as important as ambition and that's why we are delighted to present this 'Children & Young People's Plan 2020-2024.

'Building brilliant outcomes together' exemplifies the approach we take in Greenwich. For us, partnership isn't just a buzzword but one that truly symbolises the approach we take. Whether you are a teacher or a health visitor, a social worker or a police officer, it is a shared and collective responsibility to ensure that we get it right, first time, for all of our children and young people, and doing that has never been more important.

Covid19 has changed the world we live in overnight, but for this generation will undoubtedly shape the lives they lead moving forward. Poverty is rising astronomically in our borough and at the time of writing, over 20,000 children have just woken up in Greenwich, living in poverty,

Unemployment is rising daily, the economy is contracting and the future as it stands today looks bleak.

But we are determined that the inequalities we have seen exacerbated these past few months will be tackled and that our focus on doing so will be relentless. The priorities we have set out show where our focus will be on improving outcomes for children and young people over the next few years, so that we can ensure the pandemic is a horrible blip in their lives, and not a life determining event.

We look forward to working with all of you over the coming months and years to ensure we deliver the very best for our children and young people.

Cllr Danny Thorpe

Leader

Cllr Matt Morrow

Cabinet member, Children & Young People

Introduction

The Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) sets out our partnership vision and priorities to support and help young people in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. We are aspirational for our children and want to ensure that Greenwich is the best place to grow up.

We developed the CYPP with children, young people, parents, carers and the professionals and volunteers who support them.

This plan covers a wide range of organisations that are committed to making children's lives better. These organisations include:

- the NHS
- the voluntary sector
- the Royal Borough of Greenwich
- the Police.

All children and young people in Greenwich, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserve to have a safe, healthy and happy childhood where they enjoy family life and school and feel a part of the community

The plan is being developed and published at a time when both the world wide pandemic of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement has had a monumental impact on our lives. We want to ensure that the positive community action and attention to inequalities continues and that we build a more equitable system that tackles poverty, health inequalities and structural discrimination, particularly racism that has such a profound impact on the future lives of children. Due to the changing context in which we are working there was further consultation undertaken to understand whether the draft CYPP should be revised. While it was felt that the proposed plan still reflected the key priorities of the partnership, it was acknowledged that the nature of the work within the priorities may change their focus, based on the impact of COVID-19, and a focus on addressing systemic inequalities. This will be an ongoing consideration throughout the development of action plans that address priority areas.

We think Greenwich offers young people a great start in life.

Since our last plan in 2017 there have been lots of achievements.

- 92% of Greenwich schools judged to be good or outstanding, compared to a national average of 86%.

- Greenwich children get the very best start to their education with 78% achieving a good level of educational development in 2019 - the sixth highest in England.
- At Key Stage 2, Greenwich children were ranked joint ninth in England in reading, writing and mathematics combined.
- 41.3% of Greenwich young people achieved a strong pass grade of 5 to 9 in English and maths at Key Stage 4, compared with the national average of 39.8%.
- More Greenwich care leavers go onto higher education – nearly double the national average with 11% compared to 6% for England
- More children are able to stay with their families. The number of children in care has reduced. (495 at the end of quarter 4, 2016/17)
- Reduction in persistent absence and fixed term exclusions from school have taken Greenwich below average for England.
- Low levels of young people not in employment, education and training (3.7% as at end of quarter 4, 2019/20)
- Reduction in rolling under 18 conception rate from 20.9 to 18.2 per 1,000.
- Reduction in the rate of proven re-offending by offenders from 35.19% to 16.32%.
- Local rates of early access to maternity services (booking appointments made between 0-70 days) above London and England (66.8% at Q3 19/20).

Our young people have told us...

We want to make sure young people living in Royal Greenwich have a say in their lives, so we asked what is important to them and these are some of their suggestions...

Mental health and wellbeing

- Knowing how to look after your wellbeing.
- Educating friends and family to know how to help.
- Knowing what support is available.
- Easy access to support.
- Having a safe space to go to, to have fun, learn and make friends.

Safety

- Feeling safe at home and in the community.
- Knowing how to keep safe online.
- Ending discrimination.

Staying healthy and active

- Knowing how to keep healthy.
- Easy access a range of healthy activities.
- Healthier and cheaper food options offered more widely.

Enhanced support

- Easier access to support for young people with special educational needs and disabilities or challenging behaviour.
- Clear range of development opportunities and options at school and beyond.

Opportunities to achieve

- Having a say in education structure.

- Support with preparing for adulthood, including guidance on money and time management.
- More advice on relationships.

Our Vision

We want all children and young people in Greenwich to experience a safe, healthy and happy childhood where they enjoy family life and school and feel a part of the community.

Our plan is ambitious because we are ambitious for children and young people, the plan aims to ensure every child growing up in Greenwich has the best start in life, has opportunities to thrive and build the foundations for adulthood.

What does our vision mean for children and young people?

1. The Best Start in life

We will strive for all children to have a happy and healthy start to life - founded on support and love from parents and carers – by providing easy access to key services from the outset. We will work hard to ensure every child has a successful start to school and is ready to engage and learn from day one.

2. Opportunities to thrive

We will ensure young people thrive, develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle by providing access to regular extracurricular activities. We want all children do their best in school will make sure they are supported to meet any additional social, emotional and mental health need. We will work towards every child feeling safe at home and in the community, without fear of violent crime.

3. Building foundations for Adulthood

We will encourage young people to achieve well at Key Stage 4 and 5 by making sure they have a range of education, training and employment opportunities available to them. We will build good foundations in their early and formative years to promote a healthy and successful adulthood.

Our values and principles

Children and young people at the heart of everything we do

We will always have children and young people's best interests at the forefront of our work.

Building aspiration and resilience

Our work is family focused, promotes strengths and aspirations, compassion and independence to help yourself.

Strong partnerships

We build collaborative relationships and learn from each other. We are aspirational and promote challenging and supportive conversations that focus on the experience of the child and young person.

Safeguarding, education and health are everybody's responsibility

All partners are responsible for ensuring that children and young people are safe, healthy and engaged in education and training.

Involving children and young people

We will ensure children and young people feel they are an important part of the community and can participate in decision making processes.

Strengthen local services and communities

We make sure children, young people and families can access good quality services in Royal Greenwich through locally based providers.

Promoting equality and combating disadvantage and discrimination

We always challenge disadvantage and discrimination including that based on ethnicity. We promote equality and engagement with all members of the family, ensuring boys and men are included in particular.

Our 2020-24 priorities - to make sure our children are given the tools and opportunities to have the best childhood they can and equip them for adulthood.

These priorities build on existing plans in Greenwich particularly those to end poverty, ensure affordable housing, reduce serious youth violence and improve health outcomes. These plans and the CYPP continue to build on our strengths and develop Greenwich as a place where we focus our priorities and support all our children and young people to achieve through building brilliant outcomes together:

Priority 1

Good physical health and an active lifestyle

We will strive for our young people to have a healthy and active lifestyle throughout their lives to promote good future physical and mental health. We will take a life course approach and pay close attention to developing good habits in early years and equip parents, carers and schools with the right tools and advice to promote healthy choices. We will help tackle obesity by driving a reduction in poverty and inequalities.

Priority 2

Positive mental health and wellbeing

We will develop and nurture mentally healthy environments that tackle discrimination and health inequalities. We will empower our children, young people, parents and carers to look after their own mental health and wellbeing. We will give them confidence to access help when they need it, ensuring the best experience and outcomes for a positive difference now and in their future. Our services will be easy to access, with support and treatment as close to home as possible.

Priority 3

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and/or behaviour that challenges

We will fully support and equip parents, schools and practitioners with the skills and knowledge to address challenging behaviour. We will impart a strong understanding of the reasons and how to respond so that children and young people are best supported to achieve positive outcomes. We will develop more efficient and effective pathways for diagnosis and support for those with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), so parents and young people feel more able to cope with challenging circumstances.

Priority 4

Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Achievement and being well prepared for adulthood

We will improve standards and positive outcomes at Key Stage 4 and 5, bringing it closer to the high achieving early years. We will encourage all students, no matter their background to meet their academic potential. This includes tackling inequalities and closing the gap for our most vulnerable pupils. We want to develop a strong borough wide offer to ensure we have a varied and high-quality curriculum offer at Key Stage 5, with pupils being well prepared for higher education, training and employment.

Priority 5

Protection from harm at home, online and in the community

We will support our children and young people to be safe and feel safe at home, online and in the community. We will safeguard children and young people in Greenwich by keeping practitioners, parents and the public informed and empowered to speak out and protect them. We will focus on prevention to make sure the right care and support is in place to keep young people safe from violence and crime. Promoting healthy relationships will be a priority with increased focus on domestic violence in families and improved understanding of consent.

Conclusion

In order to put our partnership plan into action, we will be working over the coming 6 months to review and develop our partnership and governance arrangements, CYPP Implementation Plan and our Impact Framework. These will guide our partnership plan work over the coming years and help us to track the difference we're making on our agreed priorities.