

**DRAFT**

# City of London Children and Young People's Plan 2026-2029



A drawing by a City of London young resident

# What is our Children and Young People's Plan?



The City of London Children and Young People's Plan sets out our vision and aspirations for children and young people that live in the City of London from birth into adulthood.

It also relates to parents, carers and wider family members as we know how important they are to children and young people's lives.

The Plan is based on:

- what children, young people and families have told us
- national research into what is important to help children and young people develop and learn
- a set of principles and ways of working that explain how we will work to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people

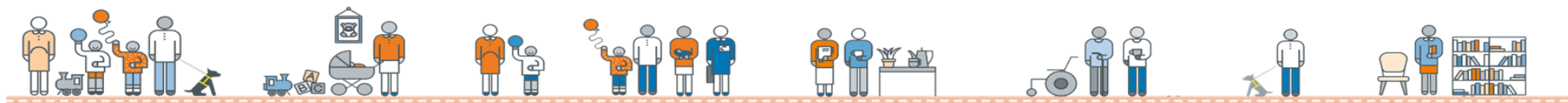
The Plan sets out our high-level outcomes for children and young people and explains how we will deliver change under each of them through our strategies and service development plans.

## What do we mean when we say....

'We' and 'our' – this refers to the City of London Corporation, or City Corporation for short.

'Children and young people' – this relates to 0-19-year-olds or up to 25-years-old for young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

'The Plan' – refers to this Children and Young People Plan.



# Responding to national government reform



The Plan comes during a time of national government reform which requires all local authorities to think about support and services for children, young people and families and make changes.

The Plan reflects and responds to what we're being asked to do by national government in the following ways:

- our principles and ways of working fit with what we're being asked to do
- how we will deliver against the Plan includes the development of new plans and strategies such as a Best Start Local Plan
- our top-line outcomes and how we'll measure our impact will fit with an approach being developed nationally by an organisation called Common Outcomes

## What is the national government children's social care reform?

In 2025, the Government set out reforms to children's social care. Part of this is called the Families First Partnership reform which requires local authorities to move to a 'family help' system and another part is developing Best Start Family Hubs. We are taking a phased approach to implementing the reforms, ensuring that the way we do it best meets the needs of children, young people and families in the City of London.

### The Best Start Family Hub – City of London

You can find out more about the Best Start Family Hub – City of London by scanning this QR code:



# Children and young people in the City of London



The City of London is a unique place, just one square mile, and is home to 1,975 children and young people aged 0-25, of which 713 are aged 0-18 (Census 2021 – this is the most recent national population survey).

Families live across the City of London but there are certain areas where more children and young people live. Almost a third of residents aged 18 and under live in Portsoken in the East of the City, which includes Middlesex Street and Mansell Street. Some children and young people live in the North (Golden Lane and Barbican communities).

There is only one maintained (state) primary school and five independent schools in the City of London. This means children and young people that live in the City of London go to over 60 different schools across London. There are also seven early years settings, for example nurseries, across the City of London.

The Census 2021 found that in the City of London of residents aged 18 and under:

- 48% were from global majority backgrounds – within this 9% identified as Bangladeshi
- 36% identified as White British or Northern Irish
- 15% identified as other White, 1% as Roma and 1% as Irish
- 50% are male and 50% are female

At the end of December 2025, in the City of London, there were:

26 Education, Health and Care Plans

14 Children in Need

12 open to Early Help

5 children in care

44 care leavers



# What young people, parents and carers have told us

We value families' experiences and feedback. Examples of what young people, parents and carers have told us that they want to see more of include:

- activities for babies in the Golden Lane area
- support in relation to housing
- accessible activities for children and young people with SEND
- support for SEND children, young people and their families as close to home as possible
- support for families with children with SEND to navigate services and health pathways
- provision for girls
- opportunities/facilities for sports and arts
- detailed, accessible online information about available support

Some residents want a 'one-stop shop', a physical 'hub' in the City of London, others want services as close to home as possible.

This feedback and insight is being used to inform how we develop the support and services on offer to families.

## Young people who shared their views as part of the development of our youth services said they wanted:

- a wider variety of clubs, activities and workshops
- more opportunities for young people
- activities that offer different levels and certificates to help keep young people motivated
- inclusive activities
- more SEND activities for teenagers
- more young people involved

What young people told us informed the development of the youth service specification which sets out what we want the provider of the service to deliver.



# Continuing to involve families



We will continue to involve, listen and act on what children, young people and their families tell us throughout the duration of this Plan.

Ways we will do this include:

- our annual children and young people survey
- involve young people and families in our commissioning of services, like we have with our youth services offer
- engage with the City of London Youth Forum and Children in Care Council
- involve members of the City Parent Carer Forum which brings together parent carers of children with SEND
- Involve families in renewing our strategies and plans relating to children and young people
- targeted involvement activity around specific topics or with particular groups when needed to help us reach a wide, diverse range of children, young people and their families

However, parents and carers have told us they can feel overwhelmed by surveys and being asked the same questions again and again. So, we will think about what we know already and where we can join-up involvement activities to avoid duplication.



# Our vision and high-level outcomes

**Our vision: children and young people who live in the City of London have the best start in life and get the right support when they need it as they move into adulthood**

Our **five high-level outcomes** are that children and young people:

1. feel **safe**
2. are physically **healthy**
3. are **happy** with good emotional wellbeing and mental health
4. can **learn** in a way that works for them and have access to activities and opportunities that support their **development**
5. experience positive **relationships** and feel part of their **community**.



# Our principles and ways of working



Our Plan is based on **principles** that we will work to. They are:

- be ambitious for children and young people
- listen to children and young people and respond to what they are saying
- be transparent about what we're doing to support children and young people, so families know and understand our offer
- be open to learning from others and trying new things
- support equity, equality, diversity and communities that are inclusive of all

Our **ways of working** are:

- strengths-based - we will focus on children and young people's strengths, not what they can't do
- relationship-based – we will support children and young people to have positive relationships
- trauma-informed – we will deliver culturally sensitive, safe services and empower children and young people to make choices
- anti-racist – we will challenge discrimination and embed anti-racist practice
- family help – we will support children and families to get the help they need at the earliest point from a multi-agency family help system and with the support of their family networks
- accessible and inclusive – we will make sure children, young people and families can access support and activities, and feel welcome
- collaborative – we will work with partners and children, young people and families to continue to develop and strengthen our offer



# How will we deliver against the Plan?



This Plan provides our overarching approach to supporting children and young people to achieve positive outcomes. Several strategies, action plans and service development plans sit below this Plan.

**City Corporation Corporate Plan**



**Children and Young People's Plan 2026-2029**



## **Department for Community and Children's Services strategies, action plans and service development plans including:**

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-29  
Early Help Strategy 2023-2026  
Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-29  
Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-29

Education Strategy 2024-29  
Adult Skills and Education Strategy  
Best Start Local Plan  
Service development plans

Workforce Development  
and Learning Strategy

## **System-wide strategies and plans including:**

NHS North East London Commissioning Strategy  
Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026  
Children's Integrated Commissioning Strategy 2025/26 – 2026/27

City and Hackney Place-based Partnership Strategy  
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2028  
City of London Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2026



# How we'll measure our impact



The strategies, action plans and service development plans that sit underneath this Plan are where we will set out in more detail the actions we will take to achieve our five high-level outcomes for children and young people. This is where we will also set out the indicators that we will use to demonstrate the difference we've made to children, young people and families' lives.

Alongside using numbers and statistics, we will also share families' experiences and feedback through case studies, quotes and images if families are happy for us to do so.

## High-level outcome



Strategy, action plan or service development plans will include:

- actions we will take
- indicators we will use to demonstrate the difference we've made



# Who will make sure we deliver against the Plan?

The City of London Children's Partnership Board brings together senior leaders from partners including the City Corporation, Health, Public Health, the City of London Police and the voluntary and community sector. It has oversight of this Plan and delivery against it.

Elected Members in the City of London sit on various committees and hold City Corporation officers to account. The Children's Partnership Board is accountable to the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

We will continue to involve and listen to children, young people and families throughout our work delivering against this Plan.





*My London* artwork by a City of London Young Person