

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole



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Foreword



by Anthony Douglas CBE

Chair of the BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Board

Our three-year plan is ambitious.

It provides the time to turn services around and to develop the new services required if we are to sufficiently improve.

The central aspiration of our BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Board is to make a difference to the lives of children and young people living in, learning in or visiting the BCP area. This means becoming a child-friendly place in every local community and in every postcode.

Doing this well requires outstanding partnership working. We will be role models for a new charter defining what this means and what it looks like. Examples we will include are sharing the risks around commissioning and decision making between children's social care, health and education, in particular on behalf of children and young people with the most complex needs.

All rigid boundaries between services must be dismantled. The same applies to school exclusions. The children, young people and schools involved need the active support of partner agencies if they are going to be able to stay with each child throughout periods of difficulty.

“ We will place equal emphasis on lifelong learning, beginning at birth.”

We will place equal emphasis on lifelong learning. This begins at birth. Our learning programmes will draw from the best in the world. Board members will champion these.

Foreword

Our plan is divided into short-term and longer-term priorities. Some things need doing right now and do them we will. Others must be developed so that they are in place before they become urgent, and are ready for every child's 'right now' moment.

Now that this overarching plan has been agreed we will write a detailed action plan that will include impact assessments.

Much is made of such moments. 'Reachable moments' are the times when children and young people are the most motivated, when then can be engaged and taught. Of course, some children and young people are like this throughout their childhoods. Facilitating teaching and learning for children and young people who feel disconnected and who may have lost hope requires a different skillset to engaging with those who are motivated. With the support of parents, carers and teachers, we need to be guided by those young people who respond to those professionals who call them 'hard to reach' with "I'm not hard to reach; you must try harder to hear me."

“ We need to be guided by those young people who say to those professionals: *I'm not hard to reach, you you must try harder to hear me.* ”

The BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Board is determined to make a difference to all children and young people's lives, whatever their level of attainment, from those who are flying through their lives without major concerns to those who are troubled.

Such a universal approach means delivering a small number of high-impact programmes, which create strong measurable outcomes, with strong datasets and evidence bases to track our progress.

I will play my part and I am grateful for the whole professional community in BCP who have made the same personal commitment. Together, we commit to co-production with children, young people, their families, and our communities.

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Children and Young People's Partnership

The BCP Children and Young People's Partnership is an alliance of leaders of organisations from across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area, that support children and young people to stay safe and achieve the best possible outcomes.

As a partnership our mission is to bring together representatives of everyone involved in supporting and safeguarding children and young people in the BCP area, focusing on improving outcomes for all with particular focus on effecting positive changes for the life chances of the most vulnerable. We aim to achieve this by fostering collaboration through system leadership and holding each other to account. Members of the children and young people's partnership include:

- BCP Council
- Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
- Dorset Police
- Schools Representatives
- Community Action Network

This plan sets out how we will make a difference to the children and young people living in, attending school, or visiting Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole between 2021 and 2024. The plan has been developed through discussion across the partnership and by asking children and young people about happiness. Our plan tells you about Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole - the place, and as a place for children and young people.

We set out our overarching priorities and describe some of our short- and medium-term plans. We are being cautious in setting these as so much time and focus has had to go into managing during the pandemic, and then managing the recovery. We will be working out the detail as we build on our intentions and create action plans over the summer of 2021.

We will update this plan with our accomplishments – when we have confirmed their desired impact, and with each new set of priorities as they are identified and agreed. This plan seeks to complement, not replicate, the activity undertaken by other Boards to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Our Partnership will work closely with the other Boards in BCP whose work overlaps with ours, such as and the pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership who are concerned with keeping children safe, and the Health and Well-Being Board.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

The people and the place



The people and the place



Our aim is for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to be a child-friendly city region. The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area has an outstanding natural and urban environment, which makes it a desirable place to live and work at a time when people and businesses are leaving more densely populated cities and choosing to live life in balance.

Our area is internationally connected by air and sea and it benefits from our close road and rail connections to London and the central south and from our position as a gateway to the south west. We have strong, internationally-recognised economic sectors – from finance to digital, creative to tourism to engineering, manufacturing, health and social care, with our universities providing a steady supply of fresh talent.

“Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole has been awarded 23 blue flags and seaside awards and 24 green flags for its natural environment, beaches and green spaces.”

We are a wellbeing city region by the sea, where people are able to live life in balance as they access all they expect of a modern urban area, as well as enjoy some of Europe's best beaches, stunning countryside and close proximity to the New Forest.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council is a coastal authority and became a unitary authority in April 2019. Its natural environment, beaches and green spaces means it has been awarded 23 blue flags and seaside awards, 24 green flags with a significant area of the authority protected by environmental designations. As well as its natural environment the area also has a significant number of heritage assets with nearly 750 listed buildings, 34 scheduled monuments and five listed parks and gardens.

It has a population of more than 395,000 with an average median age of 42.7 compared with 40 nationally. Around 17% of the population are aged under 16 compared to 19% in England, with a slightly smaller proportion of working age compared to England (61% compared to 62% in England). The area has a larger proportion of residents aged 65 and over (22% in BCP compared to 18% in England). 91.8% of BCP pupils attend a good or outstanding school.

The people and the place



Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) support in Bournemouth and Poole* dropped from a peak in 2010 of 17.8% in Bournemouth and 18.6% in Poole, to 11.5% and 13.7% in January 2019, respectively. These are similar to national trends, although levels of SEND Support in Poole remain higher.

The authority has three universities with around 22,000 students. In 2019 Bournemouth University was ranked 15th in the country in the Global University Employability Ranking. Destination data suggests that at least 11% of students at the universities in the BCP area remain in the area after graduation.

In addition to the universities the area has a long-established language school sector with around twenty British Council registered schools. Although the pandemic has put their activities on hold normally students attend the language schools for short and longer-term courses with some using them as a stepping-stone to attend the local universities. Past estimates suggest that around 40,000 students attend these schools each year.

In recent years population growth in the area has been driven by migration. Around a quarter of net migration (both internal and international) comprises those aged 18-29 with many moves both in and out of BCP due to students moving to and from university.

In terms of deprivation the BCP area is ranked 160th out of 317 English local authority areas where 1 is the most deprived. However, although its overall ranking suggests the area scores within the mid-range across all English local authorities the more detailed data reveals that there are pockets of deprived areas with nine out of 233 of these smaller areas being within the most deprived 10% in England.

At the time of the 2011 Census, 88% of the population described themselves as White British. However, this doesn't provide the complete picture as within BCP there are 85 different languages or dialects spoken (excluding English but including three different forms of sign language). In addition to those who declared a religion in the 2011 Census, there are more than 50 different religions listed (although some are unique to our time, such as Heavy Metal and Jedi Knight).

“There are 85 different languages spoken across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.”

The people and the place



The local economy generates around £9.7 billion with around 42% generated by real estate, financial and insurance and the wholesale and retail sectors. The area also has growing specialist sectors such as the digital economy. Around 197,500 people of working age are employed in the BCP area. Most economic data pre-dates the Covid-19 pandemic so the statistics do not reflect the impact this has had on the local, national and global economy.

Current local data reveals those claiming unemployment related benefits has increased from around 2.7% in March 2020 pre-Covid to 6.2% in December 2020. In addition, around 14% of employments (jobs rather than people) are furloughed in BCP according to the latest data.

We face challenges such as inequality and pockets of deprivation; housing affordability; lower than national NVQ4 qualifications (degree and above); an ageing population; and, lower than average national productivity. Furthermore, the full impact of Covid-19 and BREXIT is yet unknown - although we are aware that it will be significant and are preparing accordingly.

Key to delivering this plan is a strong economy, with high levels of employment of local residents who are skilled and productive. The economic development strategy will support the delivery of our vision for the conurbation, the newest emerging coastal city region.

This plan has been created during the very time that the world has been plunged into a new pandemic – COVID 19 – with severe and far reaching effects that cannot yet be fully known. The last word on the pandemic and its demographic and economic effect won't be written for many years, as the mass of data accumulates. There will impacts on employment and employment patterns and living arrangements even in relatively well-off areas in pockets of deprivation. For children should schools stay shut for longer, an impact is certain to be around the attainment gap. The £1 million Family Investment Fund being made available by the Council will help children and families make up lost ground and go some way to restore 'lost childhoods.'

Historically pandemics have been agents of great change. It is too early to say what kind of change COVID 19 will bring, but change there will be, for no society comes through an event like this unscathed, and the effects of change will be felt for many years and decades from now.

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Children and Young People



Children and Young People

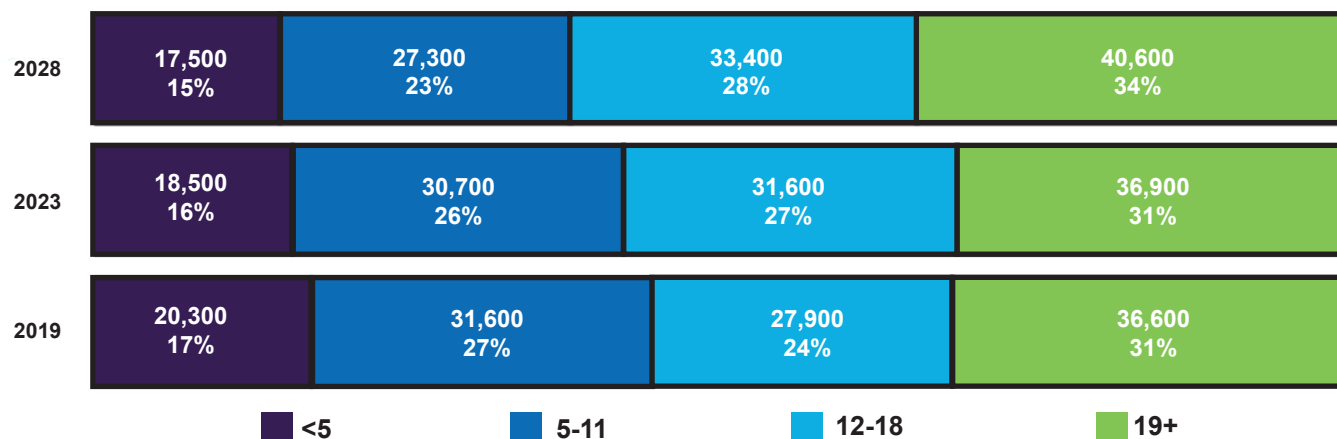


Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) has 395,300 residents, of which 29% – 116,300 – are aged 0-25. Over the next decade, forecasts suggest there will be a significant shift in the number and age distribution of children and young people.

“BCP has 395,300 residents, of which 29% – 116,300 – are aged 0-25.”

The overall number aged 0-25 is forecast to increase by around 1,500 by 2023. However, this increase is not evenly distributed across age groups. The number of children aged 12-18 will increase by around 13% by 3,700; and the number aged 19-25 will increase by around 300 (+1%) by 2023. However, children aged under 11 are likely to decrease by around 2,700 as a direct result of a fall in the number of births since 2013.

Number of children and young people in BCP by age group – 2019, 2023 and 2028



Deprivation in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

While the BCP area is sometimes seen as a relatively prosperous area, wealth is not evenly spread, and significant inequalities and pockets of deprivation exist. Given the strong association between deprivation and poorer outcomes, it is important to understand where these neighbourhoods lie in order to target services and resources effectively.



5,350 children and young people aged 0-25 in BCP (5% of the population) live in the 10% most deprived areas in England. This increases to 15,035 (13%) when we look at the number living in the 20% most deprived areas.

In the BCP area the greatest levels of deprivation are found in Boscombe West, Kinson, East Cliff and Springbourne, Alderney, Bourne Valley, Muscliff, and Strouden Park.

As a partnership we recognise that we face a number of key challenges. The multi-agency local state is laying down the foundations to secure improvements by working together.

Universal services

As a partnership we place specific emphasis on inclusive universal provision for children at all ages and strive to target effective support for vulnerable families, carers and individuals.

The first 1001 days, from pregnancy to age two, is a critically important period of rapid development that lays the foundations for later health, wellbeing and happiness. It is also a period of unique vulnerability, when babies are particularly reliant on adults and susceptible to their environment.

Babies are completely dependent on their primary caregivers in a way that an older child might not be and in their first 1001 days it is a period of rapid brain development when babies are particularly susceptible to environmental influence. This in turn has a long-term impact on school readiness and educational attainment.

Unlike older children, babies do not have routine regular contact with other services like schools or childcare settings and although they may access their General Practitioner, there is often no professional who regularly and frequently sees or gets to know a baby, in addition when services are delivered remotely/digitally babies are less likely to be seen and heard by professionals compared to older children.

BCP is very proud of the multi-agency working to embed a robust Early Years structure, however, in terms of the wider plan for children and young people in BCP the Plan will look to address the multi-faceted long-term harm to children, from missed identification of need, reduced educational attainment and employment opportunities to increased mental ill-health and delayed disclosure of maltreatment, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and which will impact on children for the foreseeable future.



Outcomes



Monitor all families with babies	Know high risk and vulnerable families	Maintain a universal offer	Prioritise a targeted and specialist offer	Continue to review and plan	Support staff and partners
Health visiting maintain face-to-face new birth visits to all families. Family support and health services work together to reach out to all new mothers. Midwives, HV's, parent advisors, foodbanks and childcare providers all actively identify families who are struggling.	Systematic sharing of local data and insight to monitor all known high risk families. Social workers increase contact with the most vulnerable families. Midwives, health visitors, early help, family support workers and early years practitioners reaching out regularly to known vulnerable families below the threshold for social care.	Proactive communication to all pregnant and 0-2s parents on birth, parenting and sign-posting to services. Include partners in ante & post-natal visits, scans. Maintain antenatal / birth contacts from both midwifery and health visiting. Immunisation rates maintained.	Early help, FNP's, perinatal support, maintain consistent contact. Safe physical spaces made available for crucial appointments and contact visits. Digital platforms for outreach work Information sharing between services to minimise duplication and maximise reach.	Continuous monitoring and risk assessment where things not working. Quality assurance in place assure children are free from harm.	Proactive support/ advice to community partners to ensure sustainability. Supportive culture within and across agencies. Support staff wellbeing.



We are proud of the educational achievement of children and young people in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. In 2019 BCP schools achieved well in all Key Stages when compared with their national and south west peers. This was most notably the case in the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 where the majority of performance indicators showed the BCP area to be in the top 25% nationally.

“Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, the BCP area was higher in all attainment indicators than the national average.”

For Phonics Decoding, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, the BCP area was higher in all attainment indicators than the national average. However, progress remains lower than the national average between Key Stages 1 and 2.

Over recent years the arrangements for school improvement have had a positive impact on the quality of education in our schools. Across all Key Stages the school improvement team have worked in partnership with schools and other educational stake holders to raise standards for all; more specifically, to address the attainment and progress gaps between the genders, to continue to close the gaps between BCP Council disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers nationally, and to strengthen the progress of SEND pupils. Although this work has had a positive impact on attainment and progress it has not improved fast enough and remains inconsistent across all of our schools. In order that all children and young people achieve their full potential with regards to educational attainment, progress and their future destinations, there is much more work to be done.

In respect of attendance our persistently absent range of 11.6% is lower than the national average (13.1%). However, some schools are not adapting fast enough to meet the needs of all children. For some children that are not attending school this can mean that there is no school bell, no timetable, no lessons and that often means no friendships either. Children are outside of the school system for a variety of reasons, some good and some less so. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) at the end of November 2020 was 611 which has increased from 458 as at the same time last year. The number of children in Local Authority funded alternative provision is 324 compared to 345 at the same time last year.



Targeted services

Nationally it is accepted that the benefits of 'Early Help' are widely recognised; identifying need at the earliest point and then providing good interventions to families, aimed at securing positive long term outcomes for the child or young person, and less pressure on the public purse. Offering and delivering 'Early Help' services at the earliest point allows them to stay in control of resolving their own issues and problems.

Due to the pandemic a large proportion of children under five will have missed six months of being in an Early Years setting or reception class. We do not yet know what the impact of this lost time will be on how children play, learn and interact with others.

“A newly established Complex Safeguarding Team is working with children identified as at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation.”

At the other end of the age range we know that we need to improve our Offer to Adolescents to make sure that young people get the emotional and practical help they need to transition into adulthood and to achieve stability and permanence, getting into and staying in education, and having access to suitable housing options. This is particularly the case for vulnerable children – including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

“At the end of September 2020 there were 102 children identified as at risk.”

A newly established Complex Safeguarding Team is working with children identified as at risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation, including through county lines. At the end of September 2020 there were 102 children identified as at risk, including 38 at significant risk.



Intervening

Children living in areas of greater deprivation and with multiple risk factors are likely to achieve poorer outcomes. The inter-generational impact of this has significant social and economic cost.

“In the BCP area there were 489 children in care in September 2020.”

Parental disadvantages and parental conflict often impact adversely on health, economic and social outcomes for children. Whilst the best option for children and young people is to grow up within their family, the problems some parents face means that this is not always possible.

This can result in children becoming looked after by the local authority. In the BCP area there were 489 children in care in September 2020, which is a little higher than the average in statistical neighbours but in line with Good/Outstanding authorities. However, the BCP area has a higher than average proportion of adolescents in care, particularly those aged 16 and 17.

Safeguarding remains a continued focus for all agencies involved in supporting children. The Children's Commissioner has estimated that there are around 11,400 children living in households with parental substance misuse, parental mental ill health or domestic abuse in Bournemouth and Poole alone. It has estimated that 636 children are living in households with all three of these issues. Data for Christchurch has not been published.

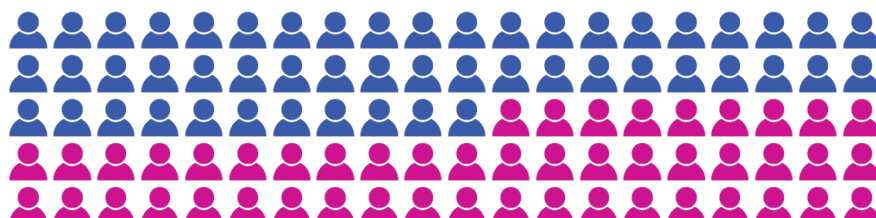
The impact of neglect and abuse on children is damaging and far reaching. The number of children in need, children on protection plans and referrals to social care has risen during 2020.

Ofsted reports that BCP Council must address the serious and widespread weaknesses in the quality of Children's Services, leaving vulnerable children at risk of harm. Improvements are needed in assessments, responding to risk situations, the oversight of the pre proceedings stage of family court applications to make sure that children are not in unsafe situations for any length of time, considering permanence for children in care in a timely manner, and a better understanding is needed of the quality of service provided and the experience of children and families. A wide-ranging Action Plan (AP) is in place.

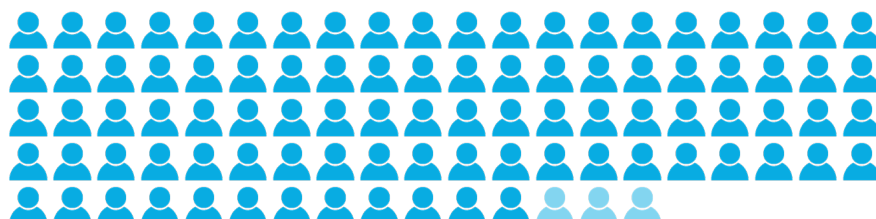
Children and Young People



If the BCP area had 100 children



**51 would be male
49 would be female**



**92 - 95 would be
attending schools
or early years
providers that are
rated as good
or outstanding**

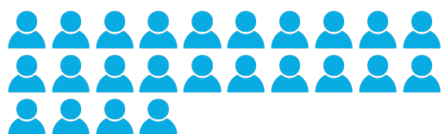


**75 would go on to
higher education**



**51 would achieve
a strong pass in
GCSE English and
Maths (grades 5-9)**

Children and Young People



24 would have experienced some form of bullying in the last 6 of months



15 would have a special education need or disability, 3 of them have an Education, Health and Care Plan



11 would live in poverty



11 would be regularly absent from education



8 would have a mental health problem



5 would not be in any form of employment or training at age 16



1 would be in care or have a child protection plan



1 would receive targeted Early Help Family Support



1 would be a young carer



1 would be living with parents where domestic abuse, substance misuse or mental health concerns impact their daily lives



1 would get into trouble and need support from the youth justice service

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Views of children and young People



What makes you happy?



Artwork by Harrison, age 5, Canford Heath Infant School

Views of children and young people



The children and young people of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are at the heart of our new plan, with our programmes informed by their views and experiences. As we write this plan, we recognise that we must adapt and be flexible and focus on the effect of Covid-19. As agencies, and as a Partnership, we will continue to reprioritise our immediate work as we support children and young people affected by the global pandemic.

‘Happiness is feeling good and having fun!’

We asked the children and young people of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to share with us what makes for a happy life and what makes them happy. This survey took place throughout the month of November 2020 – the month we went into the 2nd national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Children and young people shared their thoughts about happiness, and we created our BCP happiness cloud (*see document cover*).

Teachers shared their experiences of the conversations they had with their students about happiness ‘A number of them started off by thinking about their experiences of lockdown, what changed then, and what has changed since.’

Knowing what happiness looks like for children and young people in BCP enables us to create an environment where happiness is not only possible but can flourish.

“A year ago I think I was quite confused about what makes me happy, but I feel I know more about myself now and what is really important.”
– Year 9 student

In talking about what makes for a happy life children and young people also touched on what has made them sad as they reflected on the recent restrictions that have been imposed on the country. Understanding this sadness also helps us to plan.



Children and young people talked about...

Having positive, supportive relationships – particularly with friends and family

“More time together as a family – eating meals together and putting phones down.”

“Being able to talk and talk openly. Being able to say when you are finding things tough and being supported by family.”

“Mum and Dad go to work early, so it was good to be able to spend more time with my family as they were working from home.”

“I’m happiest when my mummy and daddy give me cuddles and kisses because they love me.”

Being able to be yourself during this very challenging time

“Lockdown took away some of the social pressure, it didn’t matter if I didn’t see people or have a busy life. Gave an excuse for some quiet time.”

“I enjoyed being able to work at home because I was able to work without any interruptions and go at my own pace.”

“Down time and time to relax, get away from the pressure of school and GCSEs. TV, Netflix, fresh air, alone time, sleep, pets, playing a musical instrument, being creative in any way. Recent events have made us feel quite privileged, being able to go to school and having the technology to talk to grandparents and people that live further away.”

Stress on the household and how it impacts

“Being at home was tough during lock down – we were too crowded and kept fighting. Some issues with computer access. That made work slower.”

“When working from home it is harder to switch off from work. I was working at the kitchen table a lot and then began to associate that with schoolwork more.”

“I am happiest when I watch the sunset with my mum and dad because it makes me feel calm.”



Having a healthy lifestyle and how it brings you together with others

“Outdoors: walks and fresh air; Never come back sadder than I was before.”

“Sport – exercise with others. Brings people together. Forget about things and have a good time. Competitive too. Makes exercise more engaging and fun.”

“My brother is autistic, and he got upset staying in so happier when we can do stuff and go out.”

‘I am happy when I go to gymnastics with my sister because I feel fit and strong.’

School – and what an important part it plays in their lives

“Coming back to school has made me happy – seeing my friends again. Seeing people face to face is better.”

“Learning is better in school too because you have teachers and peers to discuss with.”

“Prefer working in school being able to ask questions. Get more out of lessons and can ask questions which can change the direction of a lesson.”

“I still miss school lunches.”

“School gives you a reason to get out; otherwise, you feel stuck in the house.”

“School makes me joyful and happy.”

Living in a place where all people can flourish, where diversity is celebrated, and people are open minded about difference

“Pride should be more often – we should celebrate all special days.”

“I’m interested in doing things outside of school like clubs, and having other circles of friends to rely on if things go wrong with friends at school.”

“There should be more opportunities to do things with people across generations – like book groups, debating societies, litter picks.”

“It’s who you do activities with that make it important.”

“I feel children and young people are stereotyped and not included enough.”

“We want to help others and get involved in projects that make you feel useful – do things you wouldn’t get to do at school.”

“I’m happiest when I help people because I like helping people.”

Multi-agency contributions



The saying goes: “It takes a village to raise a child.”

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole equivalent is to make sure each vulnerable child or young person has a team around them. Their team is unique to them and may include family members and professional agencies. The more complex the need, the more the inter-agency involvement.

In the same way, most social problems need a team of politicians, policy-makers and operational staff to deliver changes that are needed. We have been extending this model to now include the ‘team around the school’, so that schools do not feel isolated when dealing with complexity.

The same goes for all agencies. No agency is an island. Each needs a contribution from partner agencies to make them successful. To be effective at supporting people who are especially vulnerable and who are victims of crime, the police need to be part of a multi-agency team and a multi-agency approach.

Multi-agency working was first class during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone pulled together, most noticeably small and large community groups and the voluntary sector. Community Action Network (CAN) for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area are working in partnership with councils and the NHS to support communities through the pandemic and beyond, stepping up quickly to provide a coordinated response.

Local teenagers who would have been sitting exams in summer 2020 have been encouraged to channel their energy into volunteering to help vulnerable people during the Covid-19 pandemic. More than forty 16-18 year olds have been volunteering at the BIC vaccination centre. Our plan aims to put in place more formal systems to mandate multi-agency involvement, in respect of school exclusions for example.



In an era when social media was expected to give everyone an equal voice, we are having to work ever harder to ensure that people do not feel voiceless. Children and young people are telling us that they want to be heard and we need to listen to them.

Listening to what children and young people told us has helped set our priorities. Now we need to create more opportunities for the Partnership to listen to the diverse opinions of the children and young people of BCP and learn from them about what we need to do for them to make BCP a place they can be proud to live in.

1. Fulfilled

Children and young people have the opportunities and are supported to achieve their full potential in education, learning and future employment.

We want to remove any obstacles that stand in the way of our children and young people fulfilling their potential regarding health, social standing, relationships, and education. This starts early with children getting the best start in life from good maternity services through their first five years of life. We want all children in BCP to start schools in a position to progress, and where any fall behind to close development gaps especially in literacy and speaking skills. We will raise standards in the areas that need it most and close the attainment gaps between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers. We want all post 16s to have good quality choices and go on to achieve their potential in rewarding careers. We want our BCP children to go on to be good parents and for aspirations to grow through every generation.

2. Happy

Children and young people can enjoy healthy lifestyles and make positive choices.

We want to ensure that our children and young people have every chance to lead healthy lives, have a sense of wellbeing and form healthy, fulfilling relationships. This starts from birth with parents understanding the benefits of breast feeding and a good diet. We are not limiting our ambitions to physical health. We believe that mental health and resilience can influence our physical health, and the capability to lead a healthy lifestyle.



Healthy, strong relationships with family, friends and professionals can help our children and young people to feel happier and more secure, as well as build a sense of belonging and self-worth. We want children and young people to be able to spend social time with friends and have more to their lives than studying and school. We want our young people to be able to join clubs and take up hobbies as a way of finding and expressing their identities. We don't want them feeling isolated and alone due to the lack of availability of sports and leisure activities outside of school due to the restrictions that the pandemic brings.

3. Included

Children and young people are accepted as valued members of society enabling them to achieve within, and contribute to, the wider community.

We want to ensure that our children and young people are included and not excluded, to ensure that they know that what is available is for them. Where there are barriers to this we will work together with their families to overcome them e.g acknowledge and address the impact of domestic abuse. We want our children and young people to live lives free of criminal exploitation, gangs and crime and have the resilience to make better choices with better outcomes.

We will enable them to access education and training in and out of formal education settings and not to be excluded from settings. We want our young people to have smooth transitions from education and training to work, and have the skills needed to navigate the adult world. Encouraging young people to volunteer is a great way to build their confidence, develop social skills, improve wellbeing, consider career options and get them ready for adulthood. Our ambition is that children and young people should all have access to decent living conditions, and have access to cultural, sporting and creative activities.

We want young people to feel that they are part of something bigger than themselves, for this to play a part in their social, emotional and personal enhancement, and in giving back developing useful skills for life.



4. Resilient

Children and young people are supported to be resilient in the face of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Across the BCP partnership we are proud of what we have achieved during the pandemic to help build resilience in our communities, schools and families. We will go forward, building on this together Covid-19 recovery – we want to ensure that our children and young people are not adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We recognise that the pandemic has been generally harming to the health, social and material wellbeing of children and young people, with the poorest children, hit hardest. Not being able to go to school, social distancing and staying home increase the risk of poor nutrition for children and increase their exposure to domestic violence.

Widespread digitalisation has mitigated the education loss caused by not being in school, but the poorest children are least likely to live in good home-learning environments with internet connection. Furthermore, increased unsupervised on-line internet use has magnified issues around sexual exploitation and cyber-bullying. The ongoing impact on families who face unemployment and economic hardship are yet to be fully realised. We want our children and young people to have access to good food, receive protection against child abuse and neglect, make up for time lost in education, have continued access to child physical and mental health services, and be able to navigate safely on the internet. We will work with our partners and wider organisations to support parental employment since it is key to fighting child poverty.

The plan



Working together to deliver the Children and Young People's Plan by March 2024 which aims for the highest possible positive impact and outcomes, through compliance at all time with the spirit and detail of the Board's ambition.

Immediate and short-term priorities until June 2021

Fulfilled	Happy	Included	Resilient
<p>Supporting families from the earliest stage to provide them with the tools and skills to help and support themselves in the future and fulfil their ambitions.</p> <p>Building conversations about the 0-5 age group and how we can take positive measures to prevent them reaching intervention thresholds.</p> <p>Supporting schools, early years and other providers to continue to support all aspects of the wellbeing of children and young people through Covid-19 and the lockdowns including staying open – so children are able to benefit from some direct contact with others in a safe environment.</p>	<p>Looking after the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and professionals – including conducting regular surveys to establish how people are.</p> <p>Delivering the Well-being for Education Return (Department for Education funded) initiative.</p> <p>Beginning wider conversations about sport and physical activities around the catch up and recovery needed as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>Relaunching the 'Mind of My Own' app to improve communication with looked after children and young people, allowing them to express views and be heard.</p> <p>Bringing Partners together to design and commission holiday activities for Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays 2021.</p>	<p>Conducting an education appreciative enquiry - taking a strength-based approach to inclusion services - to achieve a better level of inclusion.</p> <p>Developing a concordat between schools starting with a statement of intent to arrive at high levels of inclusion and agree measures of inclusion.</p> <p>Holding multi-agency case conferences prior to exclusions to ensure all possible diversions have been attempted.</p> <p>Improving attendance at school.</p> <p>Exploring the introduction of a local Inclusion Education Quality Mark enabling schools to identify strengths and areas for development in relation to inclusive education practice.</p> <p>Increasing positive visibility and engagement of police with young people in schools, through patrols, education, and training.</p>	<p>Embedding the team around the school model in all BCP schools to support them in effectively meeting the needs of all children.</p> <p>Working effectively with parents to develop co-produced plans and strategies to meet the needs of children.</p> <p>Developing commitment pledges in schools to support children and young people learning remotely to develop skills e.g. to working more independently and in learning groups.</p> <p>Creating and embedding a community of practice, for schools to learn from each other.</p>

The plan



Longer-term priorities			
Fulfilled	Happy	Included	Resilient
<p>Developing a broad offer of apprenticeships that meets the needs of local businesses and our young people.</p> <p>Creating more opportunities for young people to volunteer within the community.</p> <p>Developing better local participation mechanisms for children and young people to influence service delivery across the wider system.</p>	<p>Building on the work to date linking Emotional Health and Physical Activity.</p> <p>Further promoting the Chief Medical Officer guidelines for Children and Young People's 60 minutes of daily physical activity, including outdoor sports and the use of local green/ blue spaces.</p> <p>Establishing a new Mental Health Support Team (wave 2 of a national programme) to provide early intervention on some mental health and emotional wellbeing issues and support a 'whole school approach' to mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Ensuring that schools prioritise mental health and wellbeing of their pupils alongside catching up on work missed due to COVID. To include promoting social activities and opportunities, and where possible reopening out of school and holiday clubs that meet COVID guidelines.</p> <p>Designing, developing, and delivering local activities funded by the Holiday Activities and Food grant.</p>	<p>Working with the wider community to make BCP more child focused and friendly.</p> <p>Creating more opportunities for children and young people to better contribute to making BCP a more inclusive place to grow up, live and study.</p> <p>Developing a continuous programme to redress any gender and BAME inequalities across the public sector.</p> <p>Reducing school exclusions (eventually to the irreducible minimum).</p> <p>Taking a whole council approach to identifying opportunities to create suitable housing options for young people as they transition to adulthood.</p>	<p>Working effectively with parents to develop co-produced plans and strategies to meet the needs of children.</p> <p>Rolling out the £1m BCP Family Investment Fund providing help for children and families to make up lost ground and restore 'lost childhoods.'</p>

Note: all priorities to be taken forward simultaneously, within a managed programme, which is within available resources and different time scales. We can look at more detailed actions in the later summer when we consolidate the SEND and Children's Services actions plans into the overall action plan.

The plan



To achieve these ambitions the Partnership will have a number of active programmes at any time working on both short-term priorities, and other continuous programmes addressing the longer-term priorities. Some priorities and programmes will be linked e.g reducing exclusions by managing positive return to settings and looking after CYP (family) and staff wellbeing.

Our next areas of interest will include sport and physical activity, and extracurricular and intergenerational opportunities that enable children and young people to pursue their own interests and priorities and play a positive part in the community.

“We will be considering the key questions that we need to have answered to drive our priorities now.”

As a Partnership we will be considering the key questions that we need to have answered to drive our priorities now, and in the coming years so that we put our collective efforts into programmes we know will make a difference. By developing and using our understanding to predict future needs we can proactively target resources on those who need and want support when they are at their most receptive.

We will update this plan with our accomplishments – when we have confirmed their desired impact, and with each new set of priorities as they are identified and agreed.

Each partner agency will have its own ambitions, priorities and work programmes that support children and young people in the BCP area. For example, BCP Council's Corporate Plan Brighter Futures priority is 'Caring for our children and young people, providing a nurturing environment, high-quality education and great opportunities to grow and flourish.'

This plan seeks to complement, not replicate, the activity undertaken by other Boards to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Our Partnership will work closely with the other Boards in BCP whose work overlaps with ours, such as and the pan-Dorset Safeguarding Partnership who are concerned with keeping children safe, and the Health and Well-Being Board.

The plan



An example of a shorter-term programme – until August 2021

Boys' Reading and Writing			
Fulfilled	Happy	Included	Resilient
<p>Assess which families and Children and Young People need support with reading recovery and inspiration following return to education.</p> <p>Support and invest in Oracy for learning to boost confidence in speaking, pitching and performing. Sponsoring three teachers to “attend” Oracy October from Early Years to post 16 and establish projects to share/trial learning in BCP settings.</p> <p>Access to reading recovery and relevant home tuition to address knowledge gaps in Vulnerable Group C&YP and boys.</p>	<p>Planning summer schools for current years 11 and 13 for July 2021 to prepare them for their next phase/stage.</p> <p>Secure home tuition base for Children in Care and Vulnerable Group pupils with digital and hard copy resources.</p> <p>System commitment that Children and Young People will not be disadvantaged by Covid-19 at crucial transition points and to enable them to progress to their goals.</p> <p>Investing in active kit for families who have to self-isolate and do not have outside space.</p>	<p>Access/gifting books and other tangible resources to use at home. These are in short supply in deprived postcodes and schools are unable to fundraise via traditional methods.</p> <p>Subscriptions to audible and other online tools that support assisted reading for families and schools in disadvantaged postcodes.</p> <p>Sharing of online reading and speaking resources across schools/providers so that Children and Young People who are self-isolating don't lose their entitlement to improve their reading.</p> <p>Where Covid-19 allows face to face education is prioritised where possible and assessed for fairness of access</p>	<p>Using our collective influence to pressure government and examination bodies and agencies to clarify parameters of curriculum content as soon as possible.</p> <p>To encourage government and national bodies to be responsive to the situation in BCP and the region which is often different to that elsewhere.</p> <p>To encourage effective and swift track and trace for schools and colleges so that as much teaching as possible continues in schools, colleges and related workplaces.</p> <p>Supporting families with home learning via how to guides for when they or C&YP have to self-isolate and home educate.</p> <p>Asking employers to be supportive of parents who have to work from home because of child self-isolating.</p>

The plan



An example of a three year programme

Post-16			
Fulfilled	Happy	Included	Resilient
<p>Narrowing and bridging attainment gaps at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 across all Vulnerable Group C&YP and disadvantaged postcodes.</p> <p>Improving progress against the Gatsby benchmarks in all secondary/post-16 phase and in three pilot primary clusters; so that C&YP have increased engagement with employers and Higher Education, raising aspirations and hopes.</p> <p>Focusing on boys reading recovery and post 16 so that they have an opportunity to read and speak with confidence, so they are more likely to be happy and confident members of the community.</p>	<p>C&YP have choices of courses that interest and excite them.</p> <p>C&YP are asked about the skills and subjects they would be interested in learning and that is taken into consideration when curriculum is developed.</p> <p>Families have access to high quality independent advice and guidance in and out of school/college to help with next steps.</p> <p>All members of the C&YP Partnership Board champion/employ apprentices to boost non-traditional educational and employment routes in BCP.</p>	<p>More diverse collaborative blended learning from 13+ to improve outcomes and reduce exclusions, non-attendance of C&YP and to address learning gaps.</p> <p>Building capacity for new courses 14-25 for pupils from Vulnerable Groups and young men.</p> <p>Strengthening SEND post-16 internships and introducing Project Search into BCP from September 2021.</p> <p>Ensuring Gender/BAME/SEND CPD and recruitment practices address inequalities across the educational system.</p> <p>Collaborative recruitment for shortage subjects and to commission new teaching/training courses to support new courses.</p>	<p>Broad curriculum in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.</p> <p>Developing collaborative value for money delivery models for courses with small cohorts to promote excellence and to excite and interest young people.</p> <p>Innovative curriculum and delivery models that support C&YP into careers and education that interacts with the local economy.</p> <p>Working as a system to commission new provision/expansion to address gaps and build new opportunities (e.g. new studio, SEND/Alternative Provision, new courses, shared CPD etc).</p> <p>All post 16 provision in BCP to be Good or better and excellence and specialisation to be encouraged and supported.</p>

The plan



What is already underway across the BCP Partnership that will support our ambitions.

An ambition of BCP Council is for high quality Social Work. To make this a reality a Partnership Academy is being developed. This recognises that good outcomes for vulnerable children can only be achieved through multi-agency working.

Services facing particular challenges have robust action plans. At present there are two. Children's Services and Special educational needs and disability (SEND).

See the Children's Services action plan online: bcpcouncil.gov.uk/CYPP

See the SEND action plan:

How we are going to measure our achievement

We have developed a dashboard to show us how the things that we think are important and are changing are really changing. The dashboard will change as we achieve objectives and bring new ones into play.

Recent Achievements

BCP Council's Youth Parliament

BCP Council's Youth Parliament is using their energy and passion to make Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole a better place by using their voice in creative ways to bring about social change. Their recent campaigns have focused on mental health – creating stress cards, the environment – contributing to the climate emergency action plan, PHSE - Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, and child poverty.

BCP Council's Big Plan

One of the driving ambitions of BCP Council's Big Plan (see page 30) is to ensure that the BCP city region becomes one of the best places in which children can live, learn and grow up, with opportunities to stay in the area after they leave school, whether to go to university, to train or to work. This means supporting the health, wellbeing and development of children from birth, through their early years, right through their education and into adulthood.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass directly connects the police with schools to ensure support for children impacted by domestic abuse in their homes.

The plan



Additional budget

Through the BCP council budget process additional capital resources have been identified to invest in the development of local specialist provision to meet identified need. A further £1m of revenue funding will be targeted at supporting children and young people's mental health needs.

Employer relationships

Many schools already have excellent relationships with employers and engage with them in a variety of ways. BCP Council's 11-19 Team are working strategically to support schools and providers in engaging with local employers to ensure the development of robust pathways into employment. The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership is building and facilitating a network of Enterprise Advisers. Enterprise Advisers are key to the network's success and business leaders are being encouraged to volunteer.

Young volunteers

Last year the Community Action Network (CAN) celebrated more than 21,000 hours of volunteering that young people provided for hundreds of different charities, including the YMCA and the National Citizen Service. Young volunteers have supported beach cleans, helped protect wildlife habitats and visited care homes.

Ensuring sufficient summer programmes for children who need them

Over the summer of 2020 the 'Summer Offer' was developed, and access was created through the Family Information directory. Forty families from our most vulnerable groups benefitted from the offer and gave positive feedback. Next year we are going to start our summer offer planning earlier to make it even better.

COVID Winter Fund Grant:

In November 2020 the Government announced the COVID Winter Fund Grant and BCP Council was awarded £1,068,000 to support households with warmth and food over the winter months. In response to this we ensured that over the Christmas and February half term holidays over 8,000 children in the BCP area received vouchers for food. This number included children who were eligible for free school meals, 2-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium as well as other vulnerable children identified by BCP Children's Services or other professionals who were known to be living in households experiencing hardship. Grants were also made available for families adversely affected by pandemic to help with warmth and fuel bills.

The plan



Holiday Activities and Food programme

In November 2020, the Government announced that the Holiday Activities and Food programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, would be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. Indications are that BCP Council will be allocated around £1m to work with partners to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year. This will cover four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Children and young people are supported to be resilient in the face of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic

Coordinated effort by all partners to support children and young people and their families with a safe return to school. 3000+ key workers and Vulnerable Group pupils attended school during full UK lockdown. Meaning all 96 schools and our Further Education college was well prepared for full return of all pupils.

Supporting remote learning

BCP local authority has, in partnership with BCP schools, distributed 1683 digital devices and 187 data dongles to disadvantaged and Vulnerable Group pupils/students via the Department for Education scheme. The BCP Virtual School allocated 106 devices to Children in Care. Stakeholders in business, other schools and the third sector gave a further 200 digital devices to schools and providers. Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) were able to order devices via the Department for Education scheme, and reached out across their networks to procure devices via MAT funds resulting in another 2000 devices being brought into use.

As digital devices rolled out, a greater understanding and awareness has emerged around access to data in homes. Telecoms companies have begun to offer data hotspots via mobile phones. BT was the first telecoms company to offer this with more coming online since.

The Big Plan

BCP Council has a strong corporate vision and strategy, which aims to deliver vibrant communities with an excellent quality of life where everyone plays an active role.

Find out more about BCP Council's Big Plan and vision for the future:

bcpcouncil.gov.uk/ourvisionforthefuture

Thanks and acknowledgments



The plan has been developed through discussion with our partners and by asking children and young people what makes them happy.

We are grateful for the strong engagement from our partners in the public sector, voluntary sector and children and young people in developing this plan.

Thank you to all the children and young people who shared their views with us and contributed to our happiness cloud, and all those who helped them to do so.

Thank you to all the children who sent in pictures for our 'What makes you happy?' competition. Congratulations to the competition winner, Harrison (aged 5) from Canford Heath Infant School for his picture 'My class friends make me happy' which can be seen on page 14.

Particular thanks go to the following schools and classes:

- St Edwards School
- Seagulls and Pluto classes at Linwood
- Stourfield Infants
- Canford Heath Infants and Juniors

The following groups:

- Chatterboxes
- SENSational
- Bourne Valley and Creekmoor Youth Centres

A big thank you to George Fanner, UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art and Design, Graphic Design student at Bournemouth and Poole College for designing our logo.

We look forward to continued partnership working to making the outcomes identified in this plan a reality for the children and young people of BCP.

