



**Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and Poole**

**Children and  
Young People's  
Partnership Plan  
2025 to 2030**



# Contents



Forewords	4
Our vision	7
Executive summary	8
Introduction – working in partnership	11
Partnership principles	12
A snapshot of our children and young people	13
Our achievements since 2021	15
What we have heard from children and young people	18
Our priorities for children and young people	21
● Feeling happy .....	23
● Being safe .....	26
● Feeling supported .....	29
● Being included .....	32
● Feeling fulfilled .....	35
Delivering our priorities and measuring our success	38
Thank you	42





**This is the  
Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and  
Poole partnership plan  
to work together to help  
children and young  
people live their  
best lives.**

# Forewords

We have big ambitions for our children and young people. There has been a lot of change over the past four years.

In 2020, we could not have imagined the significant impacts of the global pandemic and the cost of living crisis on our families. I know how hard all our local agencies have had to strive to ensure children and young people are kept at the heart of our work.

It has not been easy on our children. This is why I am delighted to introduce our new five year Children and Young People's Partnership Plan. It is an important statement of our commitment to our children and young people and provides clarity about what we will be delivering and what we want to achieve for them.

We have listened to what children and young people want from their lives, from their communities and from local agencies to support them to develop and grow and achieve their potential.

They have developed their vision for the local area:

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are great places to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.

Our new plan help us to deliver this for our children and young people.

## **Cathi Hadley**

Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council



In our role as Members of the Youth Parliament we have been lucky enough to speak to many of the young people in our local area – what has amazed us has been just how much young people would like to get involved.

There is a general fear amongst young people that their voices aren't listened to. Young people are forced to find different ways to participate and be heard in an effort to make a change in the world which they are to inherit; it's incredibly important that youth voices are listened to. Throughout this plan you will see this message, our voices matter. This is fundamental to its success.

This plan covers the next five years and by 2030 we hope that young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole feel safe and are healthy, with their voices listened to more.

We have some amazing youth participation groups currently in place, but we hope that more young people join youth groups like the Youth Forum and would love to see an increased turnout in the next Youth Parliament elections in 2026, both in the number of schools and the percentage of students voting.

We cannot stress enough that councillors, MPs and any other people in positions of power need to listen to all young people's voices because they are the people of the future. They need to be nurtured and shown that they can make a difference in the political world before they are turned away from it forever.

**Elliot, Ryan, Lilee and Ruth**

Members of BCP Youth Parliament 2024 to 2026



Supporting and enabling our children and young people to achieve their potential must be a priority for all of us. Our future relies on it. We must do all we can to create the right environment and the right culture to help them succeed. I see on a day-to-day basis children and young people overcoming some unimaginable hurdles and still remaining positive and ambitious for themselves.

All partners across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area must share this responsibility and make sure that all children and young people are at the heart of our work and our plans and most importantly, that we take the time to understand and listen to their views, so we are truly led by them.

This plan provides that framework to move forward and to deliver the best possible outcomes for our children and young people.

It has been informed by their views and partners have had the unique opportunity to make sure their own strategic plans reflect the priorities highlighted and to put in place ambitious and creative ways to deliver these.

It has been a difficult time for our children and young people, and we recognise that we need to put them first, listen to them and deliver for them. This plan helps us to shape what that future can be and I look forward to being part of making this happen.

**Councillor Richard Burton**

Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills



# Our vision



Bournemouth,  
Christchurch and Poole  
are great places to live,  
where all children and young  
people have the best possible  
opportunities in life and are  
supported by the community  
to flourish and grow in order  
to succeed.



# Executive summary

We have been working hard since we published our last plan in 2021 and have made many improvements for children and young people. But we know there is always more we can do.

Children and young people are at the heart of this plan and our work, and have been key in its development. We have listened to many young people, hearing the future they want for themselves, for their friends and for their families and have made sure their goals and dreams are represented in this plan.

We have five main priorities for our children and young people:

- Feeling happy
- Being safe
- Feeling supported
- Being included
- Feeling fulfilled



To help us work better together, we have developed some partnership principles. These make sure we are always thinking of children and young people and are working collectively, not just for our individual organisations. This will help us develop as a partnership and hold each other to account in a constructive and supportive way.

Our Children and Young People's Partnership board will monitor the delivery of this plan. The board will ensure we continue to make a real difference to children and young people. Individual organisational strategies and plans will reflect our agreed priorities and objectives, so that we can firmly embed these in all our work.

**Being safe means that as a young person I feel listened to by others. Yazz, 17**





“

**Young people  
are the future and  
should be listened  
to. Sid, 18**

”

# Introduction - working in partnership

This is our plan to work together to help children and young people have best chances in life and be supported by the community to grow and succeed in living their best lives.

We have listened to what our children and young people want from local services, from their schools and what their ambitions are. They told us that they want to feel happy, supported and fulfilled. They also want to be included and safe.

In delivering this plan, we will work together across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to help deliver their aspirations. We will make sure that every child and young person can succeed and make sure that the most vulnerable in our communities are supported and protected.

We understand that sometimes things may need to change, such as with new government priorities or wider local or national events, so we will remain flexible and responsive to this. We will keep talking with our children and young people to make sure our plan still makes sense and is relevant to them.



Our plan lasts for five years and will help to shape and be shaped by the wider work across our partnership. We will formalise the delivery of this through our Children and Young People's Partnership Board so we can monitor what is happening and what difference we are all making to the lives of children and young people. We will use data and insight to guide us, using our joint strategic needs assessment to help understand the issues affecting and impacting our children and young people and putting their voice at the heart of our plans.

The partnership includes people from the local council, young people, the NHS, police, youth justice, schools, voluntary and community organisations and parent groups. We know that it can be hard to work together so we want to make sure that we are clear about how we can do this well. We have agreed some ways of working which we think will help us.

# Partnership principles

We will work together to help children and young people live their best lives by:

1

Listening to what children, young people and their families need

2

Working together to make sure we have open communication, share information, are consistent and share our approach to decision making

3

Acting early to make sure there is the right help at the right time

4

Ensuring everyone has equal opportunities to be involved and to influence the delivery of better outcomes for children and young people

5

Helping and supporting people and communities to create an environment which is in the best interest of families, children and young people

6

Making sure we look at the whole person to make sure we can support them in the best possible way

7

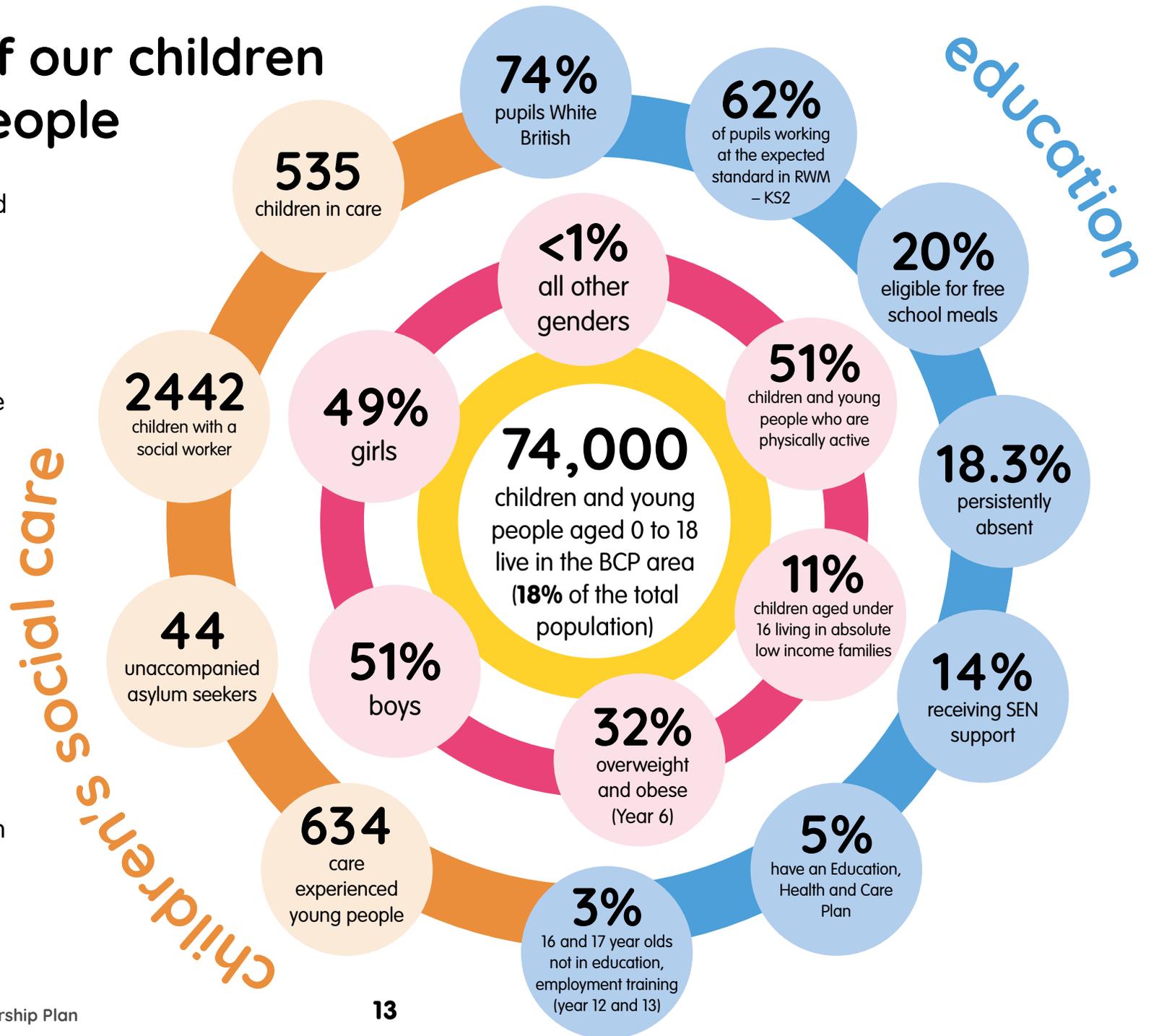
Caring for our children and young people as if they were our own



# A snapshot of our children and young people

To make sure that we understand our children and young people, we have brought together a range of information which will help us develop more targeted and relevant services. The information shown on this page is an example of the range of data we use to understand our population.

Any references to children and young people should be taken to mean any young person aged 0 to 18, care experienced young people up to the age of 25 and young people up to the age of 25 who have special educational needs and disabilities for whom the local authority continues to provide support.





**I think it's  
important to feel  
supported so you can  
have the confidence  
to be yourself and  
embrace individuality.  
Hattie, 15**

# Our achievements since 2021

Our plan in 2021 highlighted our ambition for children and young people through our four priorities. We developed these by listening to what children and young people told us and we have continued to listen to their views to create and further develop our new vision and priority areas.

We have achieved a lot over the past four years, improved our approach to working together and worked hard to put the needs of children and young people at the heart of what we do.

Specifically, we have:



Introduced an early help partnership to **join up early help and support**, transform our **family hubs** and provide **more online guidance** and support for families, children and young people.



Developed, with families, a **plan to improve services for children with special education needs and disabilities** and delivered actions and commitments from the plan.



Supported our young people with learning difficulties to get **work experience** with a view to moving into **paid and permanent employment**.



Created **opportunities** for children and young people **to have a voice** through the youth forums, youth parliament and engagement activities. We have increased their **involvement in decision making** and have encouraged more people to be involved, such as by appointing a care experienced young person to co-chair the council's corporate parenting board.





Made sure our young people leaving care have **appropriate and supported accommodation**.



Supported asylum seeking children through an FA registered football team, to **build confidence, develop friendships and support networks**.



Expanded the use of **diversion options** for children who commit lower-level criminal offences. The number of children entering the formal justice system **has reduced by half** from 2019-20 to 2023-24.



Introduced **healthy movers training** where 2,056 children have reported **a positive impact** in confidence, physical activity and communication skills.



Launched the Infant Feeding and Child Nutrition Strategy and **increased** the number of mothers **breastfeeding** at 6 to 8 weeks.



Implemented the active lives survey for children and young people, providing a **world-leading approach in measuring** physical activity levels as well as measuring physical literacy, happiness, loneliness and isolation.



**Co-produced** a new Attendance Strategy, a Belonging and Inclusion Strategy, a SEND and Alternative Provision Sufficiency Strategy and a Not in Education, Employment or Training Strategy.



Supported children in care, through the **Virtual School** to **continue to access education and learning** throughout the **pandemic** ensuring access to laptops, as well as assisting foster carers in supporting home learning with resources and training.



Embedded the **new school attendance requirements** which took effect from Summer 2024 onwards and has seen **improvements in school attendance levels**.



“

**This country and world are made for adults and it feels like the youth are pulled along - adults need to listen to what the youth want to say. Ollie, 14**

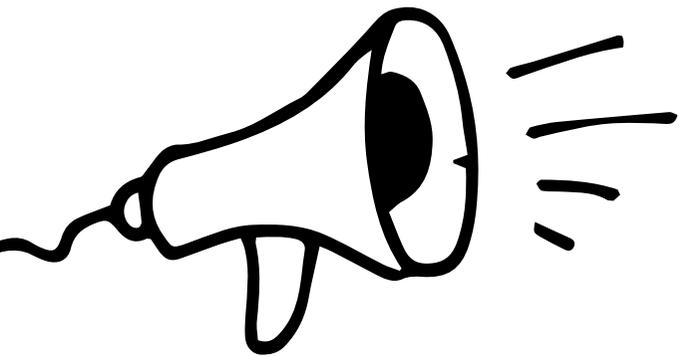
”

# What we have heard from children and young people

We worked with children and young people to shape a vision and developed priorities based on what matters most to them, looking at what they want in their lives now and how we can build a strong foundation for their futures.

They told us they need to feel important and included members of society where their voices matter and help shape meaningful change. They wanted to feel supported through challenges and they wanted investment in the spaces that they use, the activities that they have access to and in their skills development for the future. They wanted to feel supported into careers that they are passionate about, beyond the academic focus of schools.

Mental health, wellbeing and safety remain top issues for children and young people.



What children and young people have told us



inclusivity  
care  
education  
safety  
physical health  
wellbeing  
protection  
mental health  
support  
future  
affordable  
reduced stigma  
equality  
security  
SEND support  
opportunities  
youth clubs  
financial support  
stability  
happiness  
reduced stereotyping

In early 2024 local Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) elections took place. 8,180 young people voted for their chosen candidate, which is 25% of our 11 to 18 year olds across 28 different schools.

We also saw 7,459 of these voters getting involved with the national Make your Mark ballot, telling us what the most important issues were for them. The two main areas of concern identified were:

- crime and safety
- health and wellbeing.

Our MYPs are also developing their work on:

- finance for young people, a reflection on the difficulties that come in the current economic environment and the transition period to becoming a legal adult
- homelessness, which they see as an issue of local and national concern.

Alongside the work of the MYPs, we have proactively sought young people's input on the forming of priorities for this plan. We spoke with:

- 121 college students
- children in care and care experienced young people through their groups UNITE and INSIGHT
- the BCP Youth Forum made up of young people from schools across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and some not in education
- young people across the community, in and out of school.

This work was collated and supported the identification of the following five priorities:

**1** Feeling happy



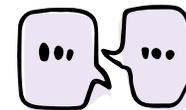
**2** Being safe



**3** Feeling supported



**4** Being included



**5** Feeling fulfilled



# Our priorities for children and young people



## Our vision

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are great places to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.



## Our focus

We have focused on the most important issues for children and young people by working with them to understand what matters most to them, now and in the future.



## Our priorities



Feeling at your best mentally, physically and emotionally



Having a safe place to live, study, work and play



Having people to turn to for help



Being actively involved in the world and activities around you



Being proud of yourself and feeling really happy with what you are doing in life





## Feeling happy

Feeling at your best mentally, physically and emotionally



- Make sure there is easy access to green spaces and fun activities.
- Ensure the ability to make good choices for better health and wellbeing.
- Help people access healthy food options and understand the importance of these.
- Provide opportunities and spaces for children and young people to build peer networks.
- Support mental wellbeing and boost self-confidence.



## As a result...

**we  
will see**



1. Safe and clean green spaces being widely used by the community.
2. Improvements to both physical health and mental wellbeing.
3. Children and young people having healthy weights and being able to maintain these.
4. More take up of and an increase in physical activities.
5. Children and young people feeling supported.

“  
Helping  
people to  
feel happy  
spreads smiles  
to everyone.  
Hattie, 15  
”





“  
When you're young you might get into things like alcohol abuse or gambling. If there's support groups with people of a similar age, just like you, then you feel comfortable which leads to ultimate support. You feel more committed to it and have acceptance, and you have that help. Brad, 16 and Harvey, 16  
”



## Being safe

Having a safe place to live, study, work and play

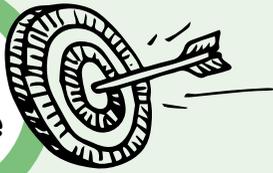


- Make sure families are in safe, secure and stable home environments.
- Help parents and carers to support their children and young people.
- Provide enough suitable and safe homes for our children in care and care experienced young people.
- Keep children and young people safe from harm including online.
- Work with communities to make and keep neighbourhoods safe.



## As a result...

**we  
will see**



1. Access to a range of helpful and easy to find information and guidance, to help people look after themselves.
2. A range of well qualified professionals who support and guide children, young people and families to keep themselves safe.
3. More families having safe, stable and affordable housing resulting in fewer health problems, improved school performance, less psychological stress and more confidence.
4. Children and young people feeling safe from harm, physically, mentally and online.
5. Safer communities with everyone actively playing their part.



**No one  
should ever  
have to feel  
unsafe in the place  
they call home.  
Scarlett, 15**



**We  
need more  
awareness of  
activities and how  
to get involved.  
Leo, 13**



## Feeling supported

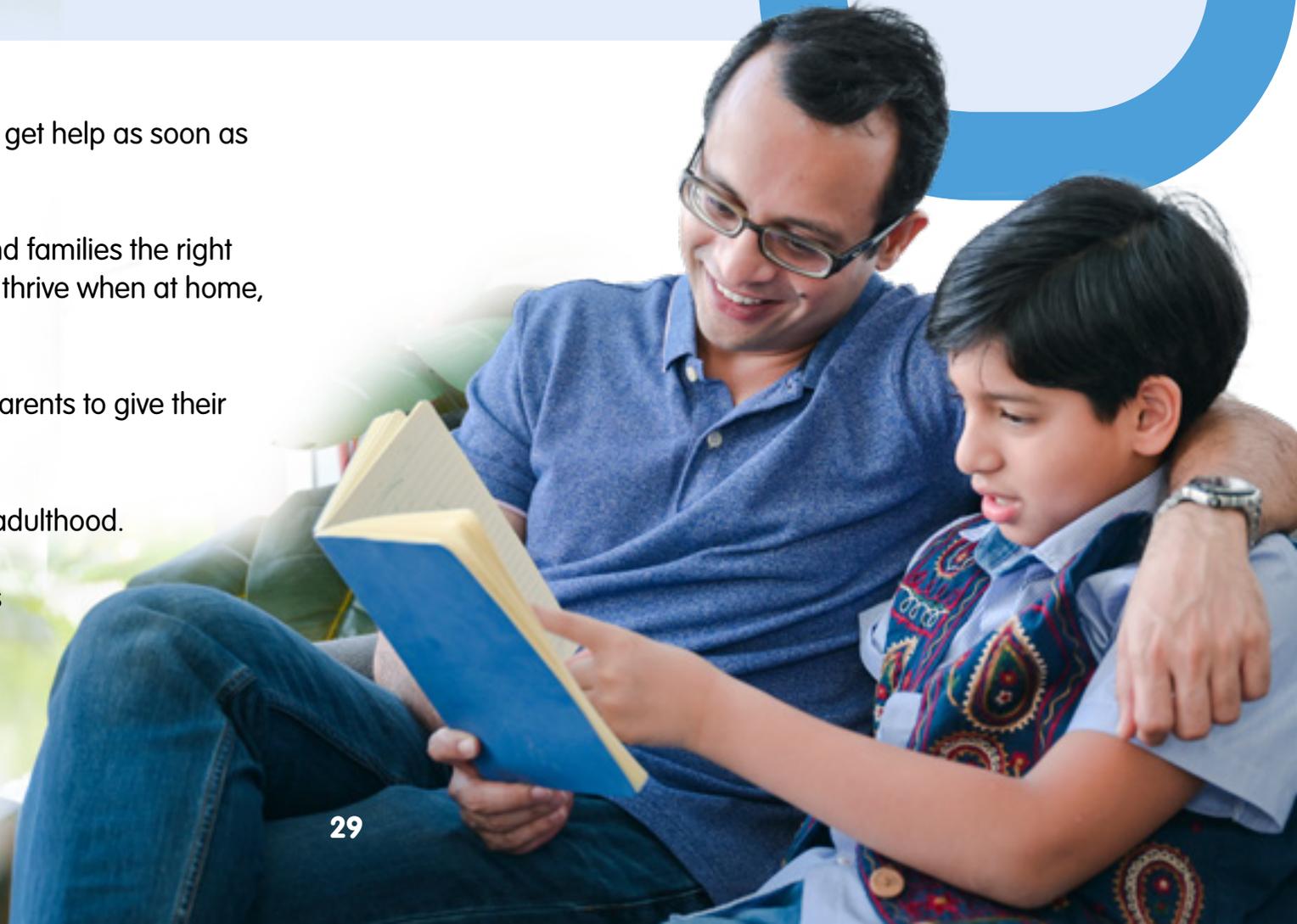
Having people to turn to for help



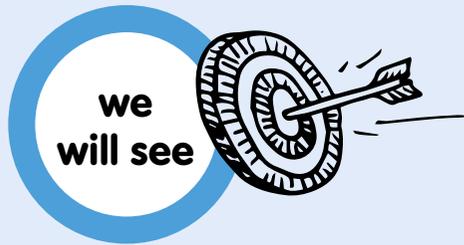
We will



- Make sure people know where to get help as soon as it is needed.
- Provide children, young people and families the right help at the right time, so they can thrive when at home, school, work or in the community.
- Support parents-to-be and new parents to give their children the best start in life.
- Help young people get ready for adulthood.
- Help people cope with challenges in their lives and ensure ongoing and effective recovery.



## As a result...



1. Well-qualified professionals available to support children, young people and families.
2. More people understanding how to help themselves at an early stage, reducing the need for any formal support and being able to access services effectively.
3. Children, young people and their families only needing to tell their story once because services and partners are more joined up.
4. Positive feedback about feeling supported and positive outcomes from the help and support provided.



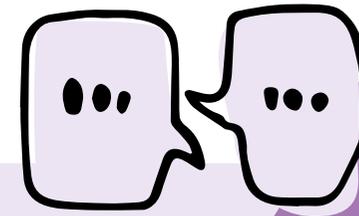


“  
Feeling  
that you are  
not alone in this.  
You have  
someone here  
with you always.  
Radiat, 12  
”

# 4

## Being included

Being actively involved in the world and activities around you



- Listen to children and young people at every available opportunity so they are seen and heard and their voices shape services.
- Design services based on the needs of the individual.
- Help more children and young people access activities and events by removing financial and physical barriers.
- Work with families and schools to reduce school exclusions.
- Support people to be active participants in their community and show how they can make a difference.



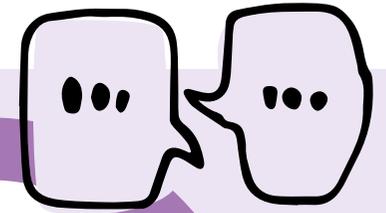
## As a result...

**we  
will see**

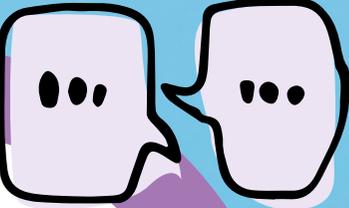


1. A shared, easy to understand and inclusive language across all partners.
2. Children and young people telling us that they feel listened to, included and have influenced the services they receive.
3. More free or subsidised activities and events for children and young people.
4. Fewer children being excluded from school.
5. More people involved in local activities seeing the positive benefits to themselves and their community.

“  
Listen to  
young people  
- not people who  
think they know  
young people.  
Noah, 15  
”





“  We need to make sure every young person is supported and valued in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. Oscar, 17 “



## Feeling fulfilled

Being proud of yourself and feeling really happy with what you are doing in life



- Help children and young people find their sense of purpose so they do things that make them happy and excited about life.
- Ensure a range of opportunities to learn new skills, have tailored learning support including opportunities outside of school, and for young people to have positive experiences and get fulfilling jobs.
- Create fun and rewarding ways for all children and young people to volunteer and help their communities.



## As a result...



1. A strong link between employers and learning providers to support young people into work.
2. A well-rounded approach for children and young people to reach their potential, with far less pressure placed on academic achievement.
3. More young people in fulfilling employment, education or training.
4. Young people with special educational needs or disabilities having the support they need throughout their childhood and as they move into adulthood.
5. The right support in place to help care experienced young people to access and succeed in higher education and find the right jobs as a result.





**Your  
uniqueness is  
your superpower,  
embrace it with  
confidence.  
Azeemah, 14**

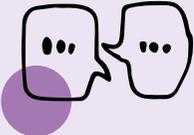
# Delivering our priorities and measuring our success

The operational delivery of this plan will be undertaken by all partners, who will be accountable to the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Children and Young People's Partnership Board. The board will measure the impact of the implementation of the plan through regular monitoring of key performance indicators. There are also a number of strategies and plans across the partnership that support the delivery of these priorities.



Our priorities	We will	Key strategy examples
 <p data-bbox="311 1038 584 1230">Feeling happy</p>	Make sure there is easy access to green spaces and fun activities.	– A Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28
	Ensure the ability to make good choices for better health and wellbeing.	– Early Help Partnership Strategy 2024-26 – Dorset Integrated Care Board’s Joint Forward Plan 2023-28
	Help people access healthy food options and understand the importance of these.	– Green Infrastructure Strategy 2022-31 – Public Health Dorset Children and Young People's Programme
	Provide opportunities and spaces for children and young people to build peer networks.	– The Infant Feeding and Child Nutrition Strategy 2024
	Support mental wellbeing and boost self-confidence.	– Working better together – Dorset’s Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2022-23

Priorities	We will	Key strategy examples
 <p data-bbox="338 464 555 639">Being safe</p>	<p data-bbox="790 244 1323 316">Make sure families are in safe, secure and stable home environments.</p> <p data-bbox="790 379 1294 451">Help parents and carers to support their children and young people.</p> <p data-bbox="790 499 1346 611">Provide enough suitable and safe homes for our children in care and care experienced young people.</p> <p data-bbox="790 659 1328 730">Keep children and young people safe from harm including online.</p> <p data-bbox="790 786 1317 858">Work with communities to make and keep neighbourhoods safe.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1440 236 2067 866" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022-25</li> <li>– Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Early Help Partnership Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Extra Familial Harm Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Housing Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2021-26</li> <li>– Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-23</li> <li>– BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership priorities 2023-25</li> <li>– Serious Violence Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People 2024-28</li> <li>– The Youth Justice 2023-24</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="248 1118 645 1310">Feeling supported</p>	<p data-bbox="790 914 1361 986">Make sure people know where to get help as soon as it is needed.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1026 1395 1137">Provide children, young people and families the right help at the right time, so they can thrive when at home, school, work or in the community.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1169 1384 1241">Support parents-to-be and new parents to give their children the best start in life.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1281 1339 1313">Help young people get ready for adulthood.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1345 1373 1417">Help people cope with challenges in their lives and ensure ongoing and effective recovery.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1440 930 2033 1353" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Belonging &amp; Inclusion Strategy 2024-27</li> <li>– Children’s Workforce Development Interim Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– Dorset Integrated Care Board’s Joint Forward Plan 2023-28</li> <li>– Early Help Partnership Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– Working better together – Dorset’s Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2022-23</li> </ul>

Priorities	We will	Key strategy examples
 <p data-bbox="286 464 611 639">Being included</p>	<p data-bbox="790 233 1346 341">Listen to children and young people at every available opportunity so they are seen and heard and their voices shape services.</p> <p data-bbox="790 379 1323 448">Design services based on the needs of the individual.</p> <p data-bbox="790 486 1375 595">Help more children and young people access activities and events by removing financial and physical barriers.</p> <p data-bbox="790 643 1391 711">Work with families and schools to reduce school exclusions.</p> <p data-bbox="790 759 1384 868">Support people to be active participants in their community and show how they can make a difference.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1440 233 2029 663" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Alternative Provision Strategy 2023-26</li> <li>– Attendance Strategy 2024-27</li> <li>– Belonging &amp; Inclusion Strategy 2024-27</li> <li>– Dorset Integrated Care Board’s Joint Forward Plan 2023-28</li> <li>– SEND Sufficiency Strategy 2024-25</li> <li>– The Youth Justice Plan 2023-24</li> <li>– Working better together – Dorset’s Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2022-23</li> </ul>
 <p data-bbox="309 1129 584 1305">Feeling fulfilled</p>	<p data-bbox="790 940 1391 1048">Help children and young people find their sense of purpose so they do things that make them happy and excited about life.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1086 1368 1270">Ensure a range of opportunities to learn new skills, have tailored learning support including opportunities outside of school, and for young people to have positive experiences and get fulfilling jobs.</p> <p data-bbox="790 1308 1373 1417">Create fun and rewarding ways for all children and young people to volunteer and help their communities.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1440 951 2051 1406" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A Shared Vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28</li> <li>– Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-26</li> <li>– Not in Education, Employment or Training Strategy 2023-24</li> <li>– Preparing for Adulthood Strategy 2024</li> <li>– Skills Plan for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2022-26</li> <li>– Voluntary and Community Sector and Volunteering Strategy 2021-24</li> </ul>

An aerial photograph of a large, dark blue lake with a winding path that follows its edge. The path is bordered by green grass and trees. In the background, there is a residential area with many houses and some larger buildings. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A large green speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

**Everyone  
has their own  
views and opinions,  
and it is nice when  
it comes together as  
a kind of project,  
with different and  
amazing things!  
Rupika, 12**

# Thank you

We are grateful for the strong engagement from our partners in the public sector, voluntary sector and most importantly, from children and young people across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole in developing this plan.

We have undertaken a considerable amount of engagement to develop this plan using feedback from a range of sources and activities.

These include:

- Children and young people workshops, engagement sessions, roadshow and survey
- Partnership workshop and survey
- Parents, carer and professional consultation
- Children's Services staff engagement sessions and survey
- Voluntary sector workshop



Thank you to all the children and young people who have shared their views with us and to all those who have helped them to do so. Thank you also to all the partners who have given up their time to contribute to this plan, in particular, but not exclusively:

- Active Dorset
- Action for Children
- BCHA
- BCP Council
- BCP Council Children's Services
- BCP Youth Forum
- Burton Primary School
- Citizens Advice BCP
- Community Action Network
- DorPiP
- Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
- Dorset HealthCare
- Dorset Police
- Dorset Women CICF.A.B – Families and Babies
- Glenmoor and Winton Academies
- Homestart Wessex
- INSIGHT Forum (Care Experienced Young People)
- Livingstone Academy
- Maddie's Miracle
- Match Mothers
- Members of BCP Youth Parliament
- Minstead Trust
- My Bnk
- My Time Young Carers
- NHS Dorset
- Parent Carers Together
- Public Health Dorset
- Safempowerment
- Safe Families
- Safer BCP
- Space Youth Project
- Stormbreak CIO
- The Colour Works Foundation
- The You Trust
- Twynham Learning
- UNITE (Children in Care Council)
- Untapped Art Therapy
- Victim Support
- YMCA Bournemouth





Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are great places to live, where all children and young people have the best possible opportunities in life and are supported by the community to flourish and grow in order to succeed.