



Report subject	<b>BCP Council's alignment with the National Youth Strategy</b>
Meeting date	16 June 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report provides an overview of the current alignment of BCP Council against 'Youth Matters: The National Strategy'.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Members note the publication and key priorities of the National Youth Strategy</li> <li>2. Acknowledge the strong alignment between national, local, and corporate strategies.</li> <li>3. Endorse the continued delivery of the Children and Young People's Partnership Plan as the primary vehicle for local implementation based on local priorities.</li> <li>4. Support further development in key areas, including workforce capacity, funding clarity, infrastructure, and performance frameworks once further detail is made available.</li> </ol>
Reason for recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For information and awareness.</li> <li>2. To acknowledge the good work already taking place to support children and young people in BCP.</li> <li>3. To recognise that the Children and Young People's Plan for BCP is already adopted and closely aligned to the National Strategy.</li> <li>4. To recognise that further information is required on funding</li> </ol>

	and resources in relation to any additional expectations contained within the National Strategy.
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Richard Burton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Skills
Corporate Director	Cathi Hadley, Corporate Director for Childrens Services
Report Authors	Cat McMillan, Head of Communities, Partnerships and Community Safety
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

## Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Government's "*Youth Matters National Youth Strategy (2025)*", outline its implications for BCP Council, and demonstrate the alignment with both the BCP Children and Young People's Partnership Plan (2025–2030) and the BCP Corporate Strategy (2024–2028).
2. In December 2025, the Government published *Youth Matters*, the first National Youth Strategy in over 20 years. Developed with input from over 14,000 young people, it sets out a 10-year vision to improve outcomes for young people aged 10–21 (up to 25 for those with SEND). It represents a significant reset in youth policy, with a focus on rebuilding services, strengthening partnerships, and embedding youth voice in decision-making.
3. The strategy responds to significant national challenges, including:
  - High levels of loneliness despite being highly connected online.
  - Less access to safe spaces and youth services after a decade of cuts.
  - Worries about education, jobs, and safety (especially among girls and vulnerable teens).
  - Falling mental health, worsened by the pandemic.
  - Large inequalities based on background, disability, and geography.

## Key Features of the National Youth Strategy

### Vision

4. The strategy sets out that by 2035, all young people should have:
  - Someone who cares (a trusted adult)
  - Somewhere safe to go
  - Something positive to do
  - A community where they belong
  - Opportunities to thrive through education, work, creativity, and health services

## System-Level Changes

5. The strategy is built around three big system changes:
  - From National to Local – More decisions and funding power moved to local areas.
  - From Fragmented to Collaborative – Public services and organisations working together more effectively.
  - From Excluded to Empowered – Young people directly involved in creating and shaping policy.

### **Priority Themes**

6. The strategy identifies ten priority actions which sit under the focus of ‘people who care’, ‘places to go and things to do’ and ‘seen and heard’. Further details of the activity detailed under the ten priorities is included in Appendix A.

### **Role of Local Authorities**

7. The strategy contains a number of actions and priorities for a wide range of statutory and non-statutory agencies, such as the police, education providers and the community and voluntary sector. This report focusses on the expectations of local authorities, who are expected to:
  - lead place-based planning and delivery
  - coordinate multi-agency partnerships
  - rebuild youth service capacity
  - ensure access to safe spaces and trusted adults
  - embed youth voice and co-production

### **Alignment with BCP Children and Young People’s Partnership Plan**

8. The following section focusses on BCP Council’s alignment with the National strategy through our Children’s and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) and Corporate Strategy. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all activity currently taking place but is intended to give a highly level overview and provide Members with assurance that we are already working towards the ambitions of the National Strategy to ensure best outcomes for children and young people.
9. A council-wide audit was undertaken in Spring 2026 to understand how we are currently meeting the government’s priorities under the National Strategy, or where future work is planned. Many of the priorities are intended to be delivered by partner organisations such as Dorset Police, community and voluntary sector, schools and further education providers. In addition, there are a number of trial projects which are included within the National Strategy which don’t immediately cover the BCP area. Details of how our current activity is mapped against the National Strategy is contained within Appendix B.
10. The CYPP is a new five-year initiative that reflects on our past achievements and outlines our goals until 2030. With our recent good Ofsted rating for children’s social care, we have seen the positive impact of putting children and young people at the heart of our efforts. The CYPP is strongly aligned with the National Youth Strategy and provides a robust local delivery framework and has a vision to ensure “*all*

*children and young people have the best possible opportunities to flourish and succeed’.*

### **Local Priorities (informed by young people)**

11. The CYPP focuses on five key areas identified by children and young people:

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

### **Alignment with the BCP Corporate Strategy (2024–2028)**

12. The Corporate Strategy provides the wider strategic context and reinforces youth-focused priorities across the council. Key overlap between the National Strategy and the CYPP are;

- Healthy communities – shared focus on wellbeing and reducing inequalities
- Safe communities – alignment on tackling crime, exploitation, and anti-social behaviour
- Opportunity and growth – focus on skills, employment, and inclusion
- Place and environment – access to safe, vibrant community spaces
- Prevention and early intervention – reducing demand through proactive support
- Partnership working – integrated, whole-system approaches

13. There is strong alignment between both the National Strategy, the CYPP and the Corporate Strategy which provides a foundation for further development once additional details are provided by the Government.

### **Key Issues and Opportunities**

14. While alignment between our current activity and the National Strategy is strong, there are opportunities to strengthen delivery through the commitments made by central government. Most notably these are around:

- Workforce capacity and workforce planning for those working with children and young people- particularly the community and voluntary sector
- Potential funding and resources- the strategy suggest heavy reinvestment into youth services and youth workers but without any specific information
- The development of infrastructure and youth spaces that meet the current and future needs of children and young people
- Employment and skills opportunities
- Development of a national performance and outcome framework for consistency across areas
- Opportunity to strengthen the focus on digital resilience and safety and reduce the risk to exploitation through online activity

## **Next Steps**

15. BCP will continue its current progress against the CYPP and associated workstreams. Once further information is received from the government regarding the wider expectations and associated funding we will be able to consider future options for additional work aligned to the Youth Strategy.

## **Summary of financial implications**

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report and much of the detail within the National Strategy regarding investment into service for children and young people has either not been provided at this stage or duplicates with funding which has already been announced under a different scheme, such as the Pride in Place and Families First Programmes.
17. However, the National Youth Strategy suggest that there will be future place-based funding opportunities which we can review as they become available in order to align existing resources, identify external/match funding and support decision making.

## **Summary of legal implications**

18. None directly arising from this report. Delivery will continue within existing statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding, education, and youth services.

## **Summary of human resources implications**

19. None directly arising from this report. Delivery will continue within existing statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding, education, and youth services.

## **Summary of sustainability impact**

20. None directly arising from this report.

## **Summary of public health implications**

21. The National Strategy is focussed on the improvement of the health and wellbeing of children and young people. There are no implications directly arising from this report.

## **Summary of equality implications**

22. The strategy and local plan place strong emphasis on reducing inequalities, supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and improving access to opportunities. This alignment supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty. This report is for information only at this stage and therefore an EQIA has not been undertaken at present.

## **Summary of risk assessment**

23. The key risks in relation to the implementation of the national strategy include workforce capacity constraints, funding uncertainty at national level and reliance on external delivery partners.

## **Background papers**

[Youth Matters; National Youth Strategy](#)

## **Appendices**

Appendix A- full list of outcomes under the National Youth Strategy

Appendix B- mapping of current alignment to the National Youth Strategy