

PORTSMOUTH CHILDREN'S TRUST PLAN

2017 - 2020



September 2017

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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Introduction

Portsmouth Children's Trust partnership brings together all the key organisations in the city whose work has an impact on children and young people, together with representatives of families.

Each year, the Children's Trust Board refreshes the Portsmouth Children's Trust Plan, which outlines our key priorities for improving outcomes for children and young people in the city.

This overview summarises key priorities and actions we are taking forward to ensure that all children and young people in Portsmouth are able to flourish and contribute to the exciting future of our city. At the end of this overview there is a list of strategy documents which provide more detail in specific areas. We have five key priorities:

- 1. Our education strategy**, "Pulling together - achieving more", brings together early years settings, schools, Multi Academy Trusts and colleges in the city through the Portsmouth Education Partnership. The strategy seeks to achieve a step-change in education outcomes for children and young people in Portsmouth. Our strategy has ten strategic objectives ranging from early years through to post-16 learning; from teacher recruitment through to securing good school attendance.
- 2. Our "Stronger Futures" programme** to promote the well-being and resilience of families. Stronger Futures builds on the development of the Multi-Agency Teams in 2015/16 and seeks to further improve integrated preventative and early help support for families with a strong focus on those families below thresholds for statutory services. A central plank of the strategy is the rolling out of restorative practice, providing 'high support and high challenge for children and families in a range of contexts. Stronger Futures also represents the local response to the national 'Troubled Families' agenda, integrates the Future in Mind national agenda for emotional health and wellbeing and includes our local Prevention and Early Help Strategy
- 3. Our children's physical health and wellbeing strategy** will be developed over the course of 2017 and will bring together our work to ensure that children and young people have good primary care and community health services, increasingly their ability to lead healthy lifestyles and reducing pressures on our acute services where possible.
- 4. Our Corporate Parenting Strategy** outlines our ambitions for achieving good outcomes for children in care and for care leavers. Included within the strategy are key improvements around achieving sufficient high quality and placements, securing good health outcomes, promoting good educational outcomes for children in care and providing high quality support and opportunities for care leavers as they make their transition into adult life.

5. Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy outlines our strategic response to the national SEND reforms and focusses on achieving good education, health and care outcomes for children with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Strategy has six strands including promoting the inclusion of children in mainstream education settings, implementing the SEND reforms, improving early identification, joint commissioning and securing good transitions into adult services. A key feature of the strategy, its delivery and the work within it is co-production alongside children, young people and parents and carers.

In addition to these Children's Trust Plan priorities, we work closely together through the Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Board to ensure that children in the city are effectively safeguarded and protected in the city. The PSCB Plan sets out how we do this, individually and collectively.

The "Opportunities and Challenges" commentary below provides a broad overview of the strategic landscape for children and young people in Portsmouth.

The Wider Context: Opportunities and Challenges

We are ambitious for children and young people in Portsmouth and the contribution they can and should make to the future prosperity of the city. Young people feedback that Portsmouth is great city in which to grow up. There are many successes on which we can build

There are however a number of challenges which we will need to address together over the next few years if all children are to be able to fulfil their potential. There are also some changes we need to make to the way we operate, to make the best use of our diminishing resources and to ensure that services complement and draw on the inherent strengths of families and communities. We already have good practice at engaging with children, young people and families to design services and we will continue to improve how we do that.

Education and employment - looking to the future

The economic future of the city is exciting, with many new employment opportunities being created. Its success will depend, however, on the skills and creativity of its workforce. Our new education strategy has been developed through a new "Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP)".

Key elements include support for parents, carers and early years settings to drive early skills development for all children; plans for all schools over time to become part of effective, resilient Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) able to challenge and support each other to raise standards of attainment across the board; a strategy for whole school approaches to improve emotional well-being and resilience; preparing children and young people for work and life beyond school and ensuring young people have access to appropriate post-16 provision and pathways to employment; ensuring we have sufficient school places both in mainstream and special schools; and imaginative approaches to teacher recruitment and retention.

Effective multi agency support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is crucial if they are to have the quality of life and success they deserve. Consistent, full attendance at school is vital to the life chances of children and young people. All partners are committed to making support for regular school attendance a high priority. Some young people currently struggle to participate fully at mainstream schools and are at times supported instead through alternative provision. Schools are committed to working together, building on current strong partnership working, to maintain the currently low rate of permanent exclusion from Portsmouth schools and to ensure that all young people get the opportunity to succeed. Just as we want to ensure that there are no limits to what Portsmouth children can achieve, we will ensure that no-one is left behind unsupported.

Poverty can limit opportunities for children to have experiences which help them learn and develop; it can also create stress for families which sometimes makes good care for children more difficult. The extension of Universal Credit in the city will create both challenges and opportunities for families to increase their incomes through employment, to develop secure futures for themselves. Our successful pilot of 30 hours free childcare will be extended from September 2017, increasing opportunities for families further as well as providing more scope for skilful, structured development support for young children. The Children's Trust Plan is linked to the city's Tackling Poverty Strategy.

Physical health and healthy lifestyles

Promoting good physical health and healthy lifestyles is a key priority for all of us. Ensuring that everyone has effective access to the right primary and specialist health care at the right time, and that care is really well tailored to meet the individual needs of children and families, can be challenging.

Through careful planning for different geographical areas, from regional to very local, we aim to provide well-judged, empowering support for families, from digital advice, information and guidance to appropriate use of General Practice and specialist and emergency health care.

Emotional health and resilience

Emotional well-being is a key priority and our "Future in Mind" transformation plan sets out how we will improve mental health support in a range of ways from effective universal support in schools to stronger specialist support, including at times of crisis, and good transition between children and adults services. We are clear that good mental health is everyone's business and needs to be a high priority for all services.

Our Prevention and Early Help strategy (as part of Stronger Futures) sets out how we will ensure that where families have complex and multiple needs, we simplify support so they can build a relationship with a single lead practitioner, supported by other specialist workers where necessary. Wherever possible we will intervene early so that problems do not get worse.

Safe care and protection

We take our responsibility to ensure children have safe care arrangements throughout their childhood. Key agencies in Portsmouth continue to commit to our

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) where concerns can be reported and information shared to ensure that the right families receive the right support at the right time.

The MASH is able to identify those families that require targeted, early support and those families who need a statutory service. Further, the MASH is also able to support professionals in universal settings to complete early help assessments and to have difficult but critical conversations with each other and with families.

Where statutory intervention is required we ensure that it is provided effectively by well trained and supported social workers, working closely with other professionals across the city. We are successful in helping many children to stay safely with their families and it is vital that this continues.

In 2016, the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board refreshed the strategy to support children and young people who are, or are at risk of becoming, missing, exploited or trafficked. Our arrangements were tested through a regional peer review exercise which indicated a number of strengths as well as areas for further development.

Where children need alternative care, the city benefits from a strong network of foster carers who look after many of our children in care. Securing sufficient care placements is always a challenge. The city is also working closely with neighbouring authorities to strengthen recruitment and support for adoption.

All Children's Trust partners are committed to ensuring that looked after (and adopted) children are supported to have healthy behaviours, relationships and lifestyles. We continue to have high aspiration for our children in care and those leaving care through education, employment and training opportunities and we continue to extend local activities to ensure they move successfully to independence, including their engagement with local communities, businesses and initiatives. Our detailed plans for ensuring effective support for looked after children can be seen in our Corporate Parenting strategy.

Ultimately, the ability of children and young people to flourish depends on the resilience and skill of those who care for them everyday - their families and other carers. In all the support we provide, we are committed to a restorative approach which recognises the key responsibilities, as well as the inherent strengths of families and carers. Through a range of peers, volunteers and professionals we aim to provide a combination of high support and high challenge, at the right time, which motivates and empowers families to make the changes in their lives which will promote their stronger future.

Communities - supporting each other

Children and young people are key members of their local communities. They need the support of those communities, and also have a significant potential contribution to make through social action of different kinds.

Portsmouth families have always supported each other and we are keen to provide more opportunities for them to do this where we can. Over the next few years

children's centres in the city will be redeveloped with the support of local communities into Family Hubs, through which volunteers and local community organisations can make use of facilities and provide opportunities for social activity of different kinds. Through the "Portsmouth Together" programme, and partnership working with local voluntary organisations, we will significantly step up recruitment of and support for volunteers. In doing this we will be building on what is already a significant, diverse and enterprising contribution by many dedicated volunteers across the city.

We will also take opportunities wherever we can to promote social action by young people, building on the success locally of the National Citizenship Scheme run by Pompey in the Community and promoting the #Iwill campaign led by "Step up to Serve". We will be looking to local businesses and organisations to help extend opportunities for young people to get involved in social action which benefits both them and their communities. We remain committed to enabling young people to have high aspirations and to achieve good outcomes throughout their childhood and adolescence.

Each one of the priorities has an improvement strategy which outlines in more detail the outcomes, performance measures and activity to deliver on the priority.

This document provides background information on the Portsmouth Children's Trust, headlines from the Children's Needs Assessment, a brief summary of each of the strategies and monitoring processes.

SECTION 2 - THE PORTSMOUTH CHILDREN'S TRUST

The Portsmouth Children's Trust was first established in 2004. The Trust is led by a Children's Trust Board which has multi-agency representation at Director and Chief Executive level from all the major public service delivery partners in the city.

The Children's Trust Board has the following purpose as outlined in its Terms of Reference;

1. To improve the well-being of all children and young people age 0 – 19 (and beyond for those with disabilities or care leavers) in Portsmouth. Well-being means children and young people will be healthy, be safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being
2. To govern the commissioning and redesign of high quality, safe and effective universal, targeted and specialist services for children and young people.
3. To ensure service provision and service delivery is shaped so that all children, young people and families access the right services at the appropriate time. Service provision will be effectively integrated.
4. To ensure, through performance monitoring and challenge, that services are effective in delivering improved outcomes for children and young people in the City.
5. To ensure effective prevention and early help responses and processes are embedded in the city.

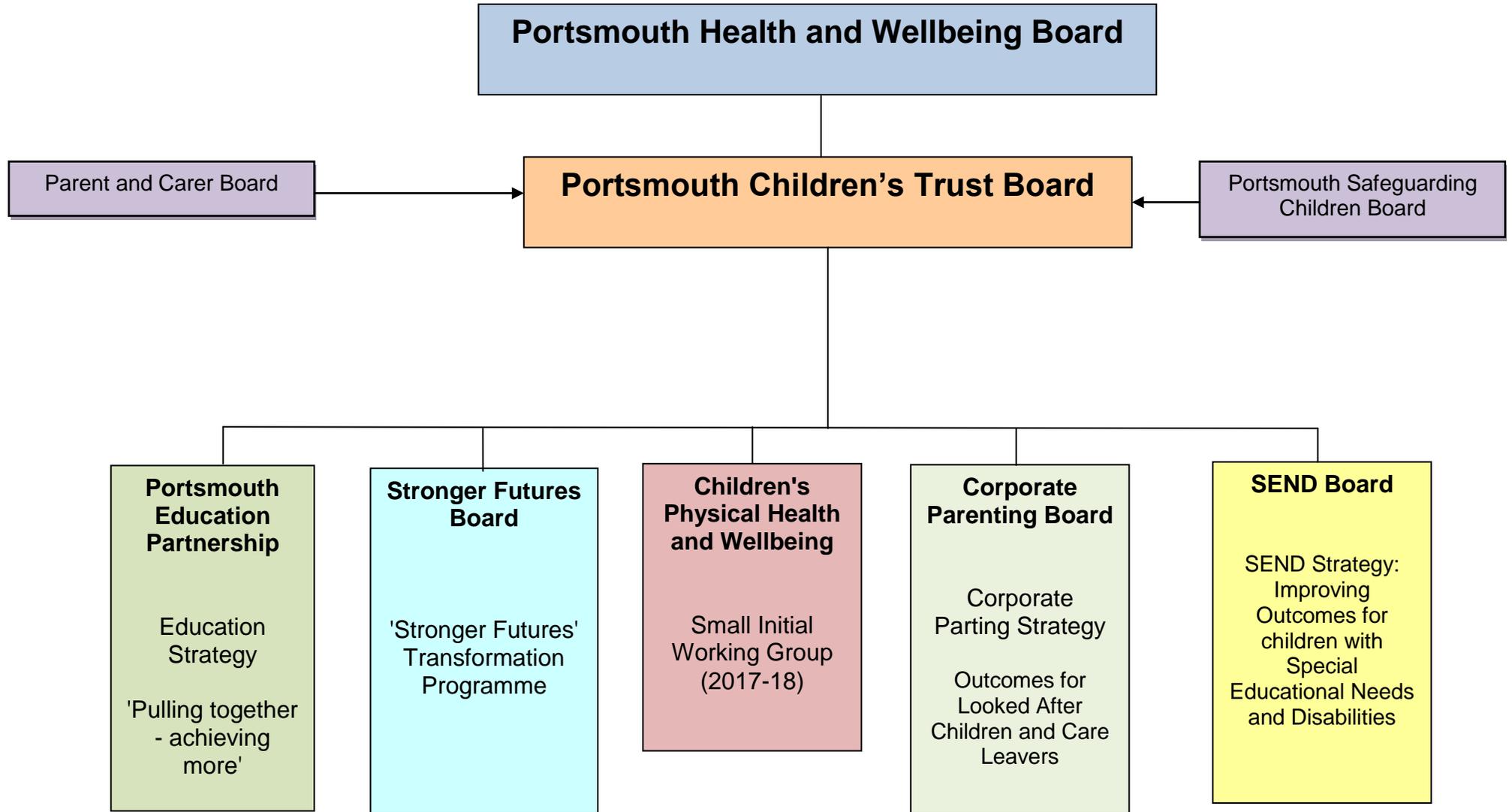
The Board has 13 functions, the first two of which are around the development and monitoring of the Portsmouth Children's Trust Plan.

The Children's Trust Board includes representation from;

- Elected Members
- Portsmouth City Council
- The Clinical Commissioning Group
- Solent NHS Trust
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Schools
- Further Education
- The Portsmouth Youth Parliament
- The Parent and Carer Board
- The Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Alliance
- Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board
- JobCentre Plus

The Children's Trust partnership structure changes and adapts to new and emerging priorities. The structure as at September 2017 appears overleaf.

Portsmouth Children's Trust Structure – September 2017



SECTION 3 - THE CHILDREN'S TRUST NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Children's Needs Assessment is used to inform the Children's Trust Plan priorities.

The boxes below outline the main headlines of the needs assessment.

Children's Health

- ✓ A high proportion of children in care are fully immunised.
- ✓ Coverage of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis and Hib immunisation are significantly better than nationally.
- ✓ There has generally been an improving trend in levels of obesity in Year 6 which are now in line with national. However approx.1 in 3 Year 6 pupils are overweight or obese.
- The proportion of children who are overweight or obese in Reception is similar to the national average at almost one in every four children.
- Coverage of the 1st MMR immunisation is higher than the England average. However, coverage of the 2nd dose (to complete the course) is lower than the England average.
- Portsmouth's infant mortality rate is similar to the England average. The overall trend is decreasing trend over time.
- The percentage of low birthweight babies has overall been reducing gradually, remaining in line with the national average.
- Breastfeeding initiation (% of mothers who breastfeed within 48hours after birth) are similar to national average.
- ✗ Smoking at the time of delivery has improved over time but remains significantly above the national average.
- ✗ The rate of A&E attendances for children age 0-4 years has increased over recent years and is significantly higher than the national rate.

Children's Safety

- ✓ The rate of Children in Need has fallen and is lower than the average for England.
- ✓ Hospital admissions for mental health conditions have reduced and are considerably lower than the national rate.

Children's Safety...continued

- ✓ Emergency hospital admissions due to injury have reduced and are lower than those nationally.
- Numbers of Looked After Children have increased in recent years and particularly the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.
- The rate of Looked After Children per 10,000 population has increased and remains above the national average, although lower than the average for statistical neighbours.
- The number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents has shown an improving trend but is still 1.5 times the rate nationally.
- ✗ Contacts into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) have increased over a three year period but are stabilising.
- ✗ The rate of Child Protection Plans per 10,000 has increased and is above the national and statistical neighbour averages.

Children's Education

- ✓ Children get off to a good start in Portsmouth with development levels at age 5 slightly above the national level
- ✓ Standards in schools have shown a good rate of progress in Ofsted ratings with the vast majority of inspected schools now Good or Outstanding.
- The proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has significantly improved and the gap to national has reduced. Portsmouth is now in line with its statistical neighbours' average.
- Rates of progress between Key Stages 1 and 2 have improved but are still lower than national levels.
- Despite recent improvements, GCSE results in Portsmouth remain below national and the city ranks low in its group of statistical neighbours. Provisional results for 2017 indicate that the significant improvements made in 2016 have been maintained despite the tougher and more demanding exams in English and maths.

Children's Education...continued

- ✘ In terms of achievement at the end of Key Stage 2, there had been steady improvement, but this has been in line with national so the gap between Portsmouth and national remains too wide.
- ✘ Progress scores at KS2 across all three measures of reading, writing and maths remain significantly below national.

Children's Positive Behaviours

- ✓ The percentage of permanent exclusions from schools has fallen and is now below the national average.
- ✓ Conception rates for under 18s have shown a marked reduction and are now in line with the national average.
- The number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System has a long-term trend downwards but has recently seen rises.
- Portsmouth's custody rate has seen a medium term fall but rates have increased recently.
- Overall absence rates for primary schools have improved but remain slightly above national levels.
- Persistent absence rates for primary schools have also fallen but remain slightly above national levels.
- Conception rates in those aged under 16 have shown a decrease but rates are above national.
- Overall absence rates in secondary schools have declined in recent years, but remain above the national average.
- Persistent absence rates in secondary schools have reduced and although still some way above national levels, the gap to national has closed.
- The percentage of fixed term exclusions from schools has reduced but remains some way above the national average.
- The rate of under 18's admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions has fallen in the last few years although is now slightly above the national average which has shown a steeper rate of improvement.

Children's Positive Behaviours...continued...

- Findings from the local substance misuse survey of young people found that alcohol use was still on an overall downward trend, although smoking had increased slightly from last year.
- × The rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse for 15-24 year olds has increased considerably in recent years. In the most recent figures the rate has reduced and is similar to the national rate.
- × Re-offending rates in Portsmouth have remained high in recent years, and are above the national average and higher than all statistical neighbours.

Children's Economic wellbeing

- × The percentage of children living in poverty in Portsmouth is still consistently above the England average, although levels have fallen and the gap to national has reduced.
- × The proportions of children under 16 years experiencing income deprivation is highly variable across the city's wards. Levels range from a low level in Drayton and Farlington to one of the highest in the country in Charles Dickens ward.
- × The rate of family homelessness per 1,000 households is higher than the national average although it has decreased in Portsmouth in recent years

SECTION 4: THE FIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2017 - 20

One of the Priorities is new and emerging work, but for the other four established priorities, each has a medium-term strategy and a one-year detailed Improvement Plan. Below is a summary of each strategy.

Education Strategy: 'Working together for the success of all'	
Lead Partnership	Portsmouth Education Partnership
Vision	<p>Our vision is that through working together we can ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children and young people, whatever their background and circumstances, should be confident, resilient, enthusiastic and successful learners, understanding the pathway they are following towards, and well prepared for, a productive, resilient adulthood and active membership of their communities • Portsmouth is a stimulating, energising, happy and popular place for teachers and other school to staff to work, where their development is fostered, their career ambitions met and their workloads kept manageable
Key Outcomes	<p>Key indicators of the success of the strategy include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Good Level of Development in the Early Years b) Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 results - attainment and progress c) % of schools that are 'good' or better d) School attendance e) Attainment and progress of children with SEND f) Post-16 participation, achievement and progress
What we will do	<p>This strategy has ten strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare children and young people for life and work beyond school 2. Ensure that all children get the best possible start through effective early nurture at home and high quality early years education

Education Strategy: 'Working together for the success of all'

What we will do

3. Raise school standards through collaboration, challenge and support
4. Recruit, retain and grow the best teacher and leaders
5. Strengthen the curriculum across all key stages through a sustained investment in continuous professional development
6. Promoting emotional health, wellbeing and resilience in education
7. Collectively working together to ensure all pupils regularly attend school so they can realise their potential
8. Meet the needs of children and young people with special education needs and disabilities
9. Ensure young people have the best possible opportunities for post-16 and higher education including apprenticeships
10. Invest in school buildings to create additional school places and provide high quality learning environments that meet the needs of all children

Stronger Futures Transformation Programme	
Lead Partnership	Stronger Futures Board
Rationale	<p>The previous Children's Trust Plan saw the development of the Multi-Agency Teams for children and families.</p> <p>This next stage of transformation - Stronger Futures is seeking to build a system of support for children, young people and families which gets the balance right so that we do not put more pressure on statutory services in the long term.</p> <p>It is based on an approach which empowers families, drawing on the strengths which even the most vulnerable families possess.</p> <p>Support will be targeted very carefully, aiming to build a system which is affordable and sustainable in the long term. If we get this right, we will provide better and more effective support for children, young people and families.</p>
Vision	<i>Affordable (but better) services for children and families</i>
Key Outcomes	<p>The outcome indicators for this strategy are a reflection of the national Troubled Families headline problems but mirror outcome issues affecting families in Portsmouth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Families are reducing offending/ASB b) Children are attending school c) Children are safe from harm d) Worklessness is reduced in families e) Domestic abuse is reduced in families f) Children and families are healthier

Stronger Futures Transformation Programme

What we will do

Stronger Futures has a ten-point plan:

1. Target our support more for families that need support, signposting those that need less support to information, advice and guidance on line
2. Step up guidance for universal services to offer low level support to families
3. Encourage volunteering so that open access activities can continue.
4. Rationalise support for more vulnerable families into a coherent offer. We will use a 'team around the worker' model to reduce duplication of support for vulnerable families
5. Provide flexible support ensuring better co-ordination of the full range of support
6. Draw on strengths of families, searching out ways in which people can be effectively supported by their families and friends and helping them to identify sustainable ways of improving their lives together.
7. Promote a restorative approach across the city which has significant evidence of impact with children and families. Restorative approaches seek to empower families to find solutions and avoid , prevent and reduce harm
8. Quickly provide alternative care when we have to, avoiding unnecessary delay in achieving permanence for children in care
9. Quickly reunify families - enabling families to resume the care of their children safely following a period in care
10. Strengthen support to young care leavers

Children's Physical Health and Wellbeing

Lead Partnership

To be determined

In June 2017, the Children's Trust Board agreed to develop a new strategy focussed on improving children's physical health and well-being.

The Board was in agreement that there is more to do to ensure that children are physically healthy, given the strong links between child health and other outcomes for children.

In particular, there is a strong relationship with educational outcomes given the primary reason for school non-attendance is health related absence, and there is also concern that there is high and increasing demand both primary care and on acute hospital services.

The strategy is being developed by a partnership of Portsmouth Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group and involving key stakeholders as the strategy develops.

Linkages will be made with the regional NHS Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and the emerging Multispecialty Community Provider seeking further integration between primary and community health services.

What we will do

The Strategy is being developed during the second half of 2017 and will be ready for approval by the Board in early 2018

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Lead Partnership	Corporate Parenting Board
Vision and Commitment	<p>The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out the Commitment and Vision for how we look after our children in care. In particular, it states;</p> <p>A child who is cared for by the council has the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a good parent. This means we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preface all our thinking, planning, actions and decisions with: 'If this was my child I would...' • Know our children; their needs, talents and aspirations and promote their interests • Hold high aspirations for their future and expect the best for and from them • Take an interest in their successes and problems and show our pride in their achievements, and celebrate them • Listen to their views and ensure they influence practice, service developments and policy • Ensure they are consulted and involved about their own lives and plans • Recognise, support and respect their identity in all aspects • Promote and support high academic and vocational achievement • Support their health and emotional wellbeing and resilience through access to the right services at the right time • Support transition to adult life; promoting their economic prospects and preparing them to become responsible citizens • Learn from outcomes of complaints from children and young people
Key Outcomes	<p>The following are some of the key indicators used to measure the effectiveness of corporate parenting in Portsmouth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timeliness of adoption processes 2. Care placement stability 3. School attendance and exclusions 4. Educational progress and attainment 5. Post-16 engagement in learning, employments and training 6. Offending behaviour of looked after children 7. Children and young people's experience of support and services including their placement

What we will do

The key focus of the most recent updated Corporate Parenting Strategy is:

- a) Increase placement stability for looked after children
- b) Improve educational outcomes for looked after children
- c) Ensure more care leavers are in education, employment and training
- d) Improve emotional health and resilience of looked after children and care leavers

Outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Lead Partnership	The SEND Board
Vision	<p>The aim of the special educational needs and disability (SEND) strategy is to promote inclusion and improve the outcomes for Portsmouth children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND and their families.</p> <p>In order to improve outcomes, we aim to ensure that there are in place a range of high quality support services that contribute to removing the barriers to achievement for all Portsmouth children and young people, in particular those with special educational needs and disabilities. This includes enabling children and young people to lead healthy lives and achieve wellbeing; to benefit from education or training, with support, if necessary, to ensure that they can make progress in their learning; to build and maintain positive social and family relationships; to develop emotional resilience and make successful transitions to employment, higher education and independent living.</p>
Key Outcomes	<p>For children and young people with SEND to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be included within their local community, 2. Lead healthy lives and achieve wellbeing, 3. Learn and make progress, 4. Make and maintain positive relationships within their family and community 5. Participate in education and training post-16 and prepare for employment
What we will do	<p>This strategy has six main areas of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote good inclusive practice to improve outcomes 2. Successful implementation of the national SEND reforms 3. Effective joint commissioning to improve outcomes 4. Co-production, embedded as a way of working with children, young people and their parents and carers 5. Early identification and early support for children with SEND and their families 6. Effective preparation for adulthood and smooth transitions to adult services

SECTION 5 – RESOURCES

A mapping of total expenditure on children and young people shows that agencies spend around £150 million on services directly for children and families in the city. Public sector funding cuts will inevitably see that figure drop over the coming years.

This funding supports the following;

- Mainstream and special schools
- Two colleges of further education
- Six Family Hubs
- Early years settings
- Paediatric hospital services
- Community health services
- Over 100 foster carers
- Around 10 targeted and specialist services
- Over 50 voluntary and community-based organisations

Additionally, there are services for adults and universally available resources including GPs, health centres, police and community safety support, community buildings, leisure services, membership organisations and a wide range of user-led support projects and networks.

Each of the improvement and commissioning strategies for the five priorities includes plans to ensure that resources are efficiently, effectively and sustainably deployed to maximise improvement in outcomes.

SECTION 6 - PERFORMANCE MANAGING THE CHILDREN'S TRUST PLAN

Effective monitoring of the Children's Trust Plan is essential in ensuring that the Improvement Plans are having an impact on children and families in Portsmouth.

The Children's Trust Board will receive regular updates on progress of each strategy and quarterly summary performance reporting.

Quarterly monitoring will include summary performance on:

1. Data and performance indicators
2. Progress of the implementation plans
3. What's going well and what needs to improve