

# BEDFORD BOROUGH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES PLAN

2022-2027



...written by Children & Young People of Bedford Borough,  
for Children & Young People of Bedford Borough



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Foreword

We are pleased to present the new Children, Young People and their Families Plan for Bedford Borough, which we are proud to say has been written by children and young people for children and young people.

Over the past three years, we have taken every opportunity to listen to children and young people in Bedford Borough, so that we can understand what really matters to them: the things that they enjoy and are proud of, and the things that they feel would make their lives better and safer. The front cover shows an artist's representation of the brilliant responses we received at the 2019 Pupil Voice Conference.

All the feedback we have gathered from children and young people has been organised into six key themes. The Child Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group (organisations that work with children and young people in Bedford Borough) then consulted with the adults who work directly with children and young people to ensure that their views were also heard.

These themes are:

1. *Feeling safe at home and in our community,*
2. *Valuing and protecting the environment,*
3. *Positive educational experiences for all,*
4. *Strong and safe relationships,*
5. *Good physical and mental health with supportive pathways,*
6. *Listening and responding to the voice and lived experience of all children and young people, including early years.*

The children and young people of Bedford Borough have lots to tell us, and we will show them that we are listening with the positive actions we take to improve the things that matter to them. We will also ask the adults we work with to consider these themes when they are writing their own plans.

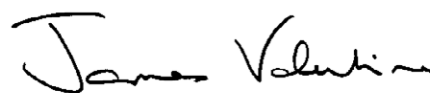
We are developing lots of ways to show how we are making things better. This may be through data measures, surveys, direct conversations with children, young people and their families, information from schools and colleges, and further feedback from adults that work directly with children and young people.

We will also ensure that we share our progress with the children and young people of Bedford Borough, so they can see how things are improving.

Children and young people have coped remarkably well during the COVID-19 pandemic, but we know that for some it has affected their education negatively. Young people have told us that they have felt very worried about falling behind due to the time they missed and the exams that they were unable to sit.

We are also aware that children and young people are concerned about the rising costs of household bills, fuel and food, and how this may affect their own families.

It is more important than ever that we listen to our children and young people, in order to understand and address the things that matter to them and work together to ensure that everyone is able to live a healthy, happy life and reach their full potential.



**Cllr James Valentine**

*Portfolio Holder for Education  
and Children's Services*



**Cllr Louise Jackson**

*Portfolio Holder for Public Health,  
Health and Wellbeing*

**Bedford Borough Children, Young People and their Families Plan consists of 6 main themes...**

**THEME 1. Feeling safe at home and in our community**

**THEME 2. Valuing and protecting our environment**

**THEME 3. Positive educational experiences for all**

**THEME 4. Strong and safe relationships**

**THEME 5. Good physical and mental health with supportive pathways**

**THEME 6. Listening and responding to the voice and lived experience of all children and young people including early years**

This document has been produced in partnership with **Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes Integrated Care System** and **Bedford Borough Child Health & Wellbeing Partnership Group**.

## We think living in Bedford Borough is great because...

“ Countryside, green spaces, parks, river, good landmarks, things to do, independent shops, cheap shops, riverside, restaurants, festivals, events ”

The adults working with children, young people & their families in Bedford Borough have listened and commit to...

# 1. Feeling safe at home and in our community



## Because you told us you were concerned about...

- Gangs, older people, scary people
- Homelessness and feeling intimidated
- Road safety / speeding
- Stabbing, knife crime, violence, crime, robbery, kidnapping
- Drugs (especially in parks)
- Drinking making young people feel intimidated
- Poverty, unemployment
- Building sites, rough areas
- Parents putting their own fears about safety on you
- COVID-19

## ...and you said it would be better if...

- Homeless shelters, help
- Less crime
- More prevention
- Less violence
- More CCTV
- More Police especially in parks and alley ways
- Safer environment
- More lights in the winter



We will know we are improving because...

You will feel safe at home and in your community

## This will be measured by...

- a. Homelessness - households with dependent children owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act Crude rate - per 1,000
- b. Number of Knife Crimes reported to the Police
- c. Number of children who are at risk / victim of Child Sexual Exploitation
- d. Number of incidents of Alcohol Related Anti-social Behaviour
- e. Number of MARAC cases where a child is present
- f. Number of reported Serious Youth Violence Offences reported to the Police
- g. Number of incidents of Youth Related Anti-social Behaviour
- h. Children killed and seriously injured on Bedford Borough roads per 100,000



## We think living in Bedford Borough is great because...

“ Positive relationships, trusted adults, family, friends, nice people, close communities ”

The adults working with children, young people & their families in Bedford Borough have listened and commit to...

## 2. Valuing and protecting our environment

Because you told us you were concerned about...

- Litter
- Pollution
- The environment
- Global warming
- Town shops closing
- Not enough to do

...and you said it would be better if...

- More things to do, relax, to keep away from crime
- Free wifi
- More sports facilities / activities
- Public astro turf
- Less plastic used
- Reduce litter
- Reduce pollution
- More green spaces
- Less traffic



We will know we are improving because...

You will see us valuing and protecting the environment

This will be measured by...

- a. Bedford Borough Council Total gross emissions CO2e
- b. Number of schools and businesses with Modeshift STARS accreditation to encouraging the use of green / environmentally-friendly modes of transport
- c. Bugs & Bees project: m<sup>2</sup> of planted wildflower meadows
- d. Tree Planting
- e. Percentage of Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
- f. Tonnes of glass collected from bring sites (bottle banks)



## We think living in Bedford Borough is great because...

“ Schools, education, creative curriculum, good school choice, teachers, move to primary and secondary, schools close to each other, positive attitudes to learning, good PE ”

The adults working with children, young people & their families in Bedford Borough have listened and commit to...

### 3. Positive educational experiences for all



#### Because you told us you were concerned about...

- Exams
- Revision
- Not doing well
- Tests
- Post 16 options
- Moving schools
- Making new friends
- Lack of school transport
- Online learning has meant we have fallen behind



#### ...and you said it would be better if...

- Better road safety
- Better and cheaper school transport
- More money for schools
- Cheaper nurseries
- School lessons about knife crime, being street smart, understanding the consequences of crime
- Reduce pressure of exams
- Better school facilities
- Free periods for revision
- More work experience
- More school sport
- More face to face contact



We will know we are improving because...

There will be positive educational experiences for all

This will be measured by...

- a. Pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- b. KS2 Reading, writing and maths – percentage of pupils working at least at the expected standard
- c. Percentage of young people achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade 11-4 or Level 2 vocational qualification
- d. Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving Attainment 8 at KS4
- e. Percentage of young people achieving 2 A Levels or Level 3 vocational qualification
- f. Proportion of 16-17 year olds NEET – combined with the proportion of 16-17 year olds who are not known to the LA
- g. Persistent absence rate Secondary schools
- h. Rate of permanent exclusions from school

# We think living in Bedford Borough is great because...

“ We have trusted adults to talk to ”

The adults working with children, young people & their families in Bedford Borough have listened and commit to...

## 4. Strong & safe relationships

Because you told us you were concerned about...

- Over-crowding
- Family problems, divorce
- What other people think of you
- Racism
- War zones

...and you said it would be better if...

- Less drinking, people getting drunk
- Us helping those children, young people and families in need



We will know we are improving because...

You will experience and know how to recognise strong & safe relationships

This will be measured by...

- Under 18s conception rate per 1,000
- Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 aged 15-24
- Population vaccination coverage – HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12-13 year old) (Female)
- Population vaccination coverage – HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12-13 year old) (Male)
- Number of CYP at risk of sexual exploitation
- Number of Triple P Parenting Programmes delivered

We think living in Bedford Borough is great because...

“ No bad things in Bedford Borough, very diverse, different cultures ”

The adults working with children, young people & their families in Bedford Borough have listened and commit to...

## 5. Good physical and mental health with supportive pathways

### Because you told us you were concerned about...

- Suicide
- Bullying
- Smoking / vaping
- Mental health
- Self harm
- Dying
- Lack of access to GPs
- Full hospitals
- A&E waiting times
- Obesity
- Family / friends getting ill
- Poor dental health

### ...and you said it would be better if...

- More mental health support
- No more vape shops
- More support youth groups eg. for LGBTQ2+/Trans
- More opportunities to get a quick response to worries / queries
- Quick medical appointments
- Easy access to NHS Dentists

- Friendly 😊
- Tolerant
- Doesn't ignore you
- Easy to Understand
- Non Repetitive
- Proper Explanation
- Someone you trust



We will know we are improving because...

You will understand how to stay healthy mentally & physically and how to access support easily

This will be measured by...

- a. Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions - Under 18s
- b. Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years)
- c. Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (4-5 years)
- d. Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (10-11 years)
- e. Hospital admissions for mental health conditions
- f. Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-24 years)
- g. Children with experience of visually obvious dental decay (5 years)
- h. Hospital admissions for asthma
- i. The number of Bedford Borough CYP admitted into tier 4 units
- j. The number of Bedford Borough CYP requiring a crisis assessment
- k. Number of Kooth service users
- l. Number of Kooth logins



## We think living in Bedford Borough is great because...

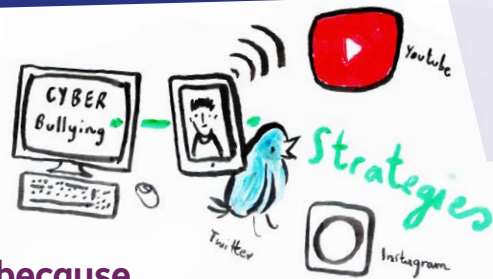
“ Small, quiet, sociable town, community atmosphere, public transport, cycle routes, easy access to town, good roads, close to London & Cambridge, easy to get to school ”

The adults working with children, young people & their families in Bedford Borough have listened and commit to...

## 6. Listening and responding to the voice and lived experience of all children and young people including early years

### ...you said you would like us to...

- Visit you
- Talk to you
- Have a website for you
- Use our school council
- Use visual images rather than words
- Use an artist to make the pictures
- Use surveys
- Use suggestion boxes
- Use young ambassadors
- Use posters
- Open an email box for you to share thoughts and views



We will know we are improving because...

You will feel listened to and see us taking positive action when you need our help

This will be measured by...

- a. Number of EHA completed per 10,000 under 18s
- b. Percentage of families supported through Early Help showing an improvement in outcomes



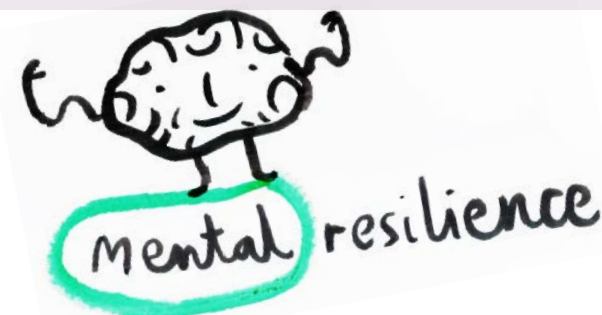
# WE WILL KNOW WE ARE IMPROVING BECAUSE...

| Themes...   | The data (quantitative) to measure this theme will be...  | Further information (qualitative) on this theme will be gathered via...   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. You will feel safe at home and in your community       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Homelessness - households with dependent children owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act Crude rate - per 1,000</li> <li>b. Number of Knife Crimes reported to the Police</li> <li>c. Number of children who are at risk / victim of Child Sexual Exploitation</li> <li>d. Number of incidents of Alcohol Related Anti-social Behaviour</li> <li>e. Number of MARAC cases where a child is present</li> <li>f. Number of reported Serious Youth Violence Offences reported to the Police</li> <li>g. Number of incidents of Youth Related Anti-social Behaviour</li> <li>h. Children killed and seriously injured on Bedford Borough roads per 100,000</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How C &amp; YP feel will be measured via the feedback from the annual school/college surveys on: Community &amp; Environment, Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Relationships, Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Information from services in regards to user feedback reports</li> <li>• Direct feedback from the monthly Pan Beds Child Exploitation and Missing group</li> <li>• Reports from The Youth Justice Partnership Board</li> <li>• Information from Beds Police</li> </ul> |
| 2. You will see us valuing and protecting the environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Bedford Borough Council Total gross emissions CO2e</li> <li>b. Number of schools and businesses with Modeshift STARS accreditation to encouraging the use of green / environmentally-friendly modes of transport</li> <li>c. Bugs &amp; Bees project: m<sup>2</sup> of planted wildflower meadows</li> <li>d. Tree Planting</li> <li>e. Percentage of Household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting</li> <li>f. Tonnes of glass collected from bring sites (bottle banks)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How CYP feel will be measured via the feedback from the annual school / college surveys on Community &amp; Environment</li> </ul>  |



“WE’LL BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE”

| Themes...  | The data (quantitative) to measure this theme will be...   | Further information (qualitative) on this theme will be gathered via...  |
|--|--|--|
| 3. There will be positive educational experiences for all                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pupils achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage</li> <li>b. KS2 Reading, writing and maths – percentage of pupils working at least at the expected standard</li> <li>c. Percentage of young people achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade 11-4 or Level 2 vocational qualification</li> <li>d. Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving Attainment 8 at KS4</li> <li>e. Percentage of young people achieving 2 A Levels or Level 3 vocational qualification</li> <li>f. Proportion of 16-17 year olds NEET – combined with the proportion of 16-17 year olds who are not known to the LA</li> <li>g. Persistent absence rate Secondary schools</li> <li>h. Rate of permanent exclusions from school</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of and participation in extra-curricular activities will be measured through Whole School Review and annual school/college surveys on Community &amp; Environment, Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Relationships, Physical Activity and Food and Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Regular reports from School Improvement Team</li> </ul>  |
| 4. You will experience and know how to recognise strong and safe relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Under 18s conception rate per 1,000</li> <li>b. Chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 aged 15-24</li> <li>c. Population vaccination coverage – HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12-13 year old) (Female)</li> <li>d. Population vaccination coverage – HPV vaccination coverage for one dose (12-13 year old) (Male)</li> <li>e. Number of CYP at risk of sexual exploitation</li> <li>f. Number of Triple P Parenting Programmes delivered</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole School Review will help to provide and understanding of how schools and colleges are delivering statutory high quality Relationships and Sex Education</li> <li>• Information will be gathered from the annual school/college surveys on Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Relationships, and Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Reports from key providers of services for young people</li> </ul> |



| Themes...  | The data (quantitative) to measure this theme will be...  | Further information (qualitative) on this theme will be gathered via...  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>5. You will understand how to stay healthy mentally and physically and how to access support easily</p> | <p>a. Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions - Under 18s<br/> b. Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years)<br/> c. Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (4-5 years)<br/> d. Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (10-11 years)<br/> e. Hospital admissions for mental health conditions<br/> f. Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-24 years)<br/> g. Children with experience of visually obvious dental decay (5 years)<br/> h. Hospital admissions for asthma<br/> i. The number of Bedford Borough CYP admitted into tier 4 units<br/> j. The number of Bedford Borough CYP requiring a crisis assessment<br/> k. Number of Kooth service users<br/> l. Number of Kooth logins</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rolling programme of reports regarding “how to access support easily” from key CYP services</li> <li>• Results from annual school/college surveys on Community &amp; Environment, Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Relationships, Physical Activity and Food and Substance Misuse</li> </ul>  |
| <p>6. You will feel listened to and see us taking positive action when you need our help</p>               | <p>a. Number of EHA completed per 10,000 under 18s<br/> b. Percentage of families supported through Early Help showing an improvement in outcomes</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative reports from lead services both commissioned and voluntary re engaging with service users including BBC engagement team</li> <li>• Results from annual school/college surveys on Community &amp; Environment, Emotional Wellbeing, Healthy Relationships, Physical Activity and Food and Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Use of the <a href="#">Day in My Life</a> Practice tools embedded in practice</li> </ul> |

### Where will we report our progress?

We will report our progress four times a year at the Child Health & Wellbeing Partnership Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board. There will also be an action plan to monitor progress against all the things you have noted in this plan.

We will group actions into three areas:

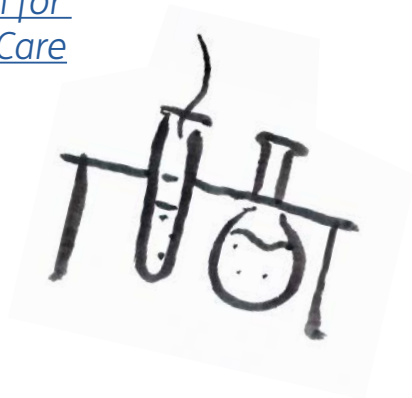
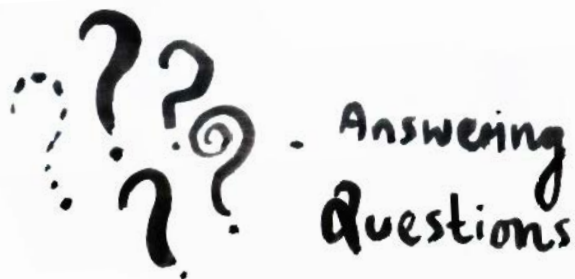
- 1. Watch:** things that we all need to keep a close understanding of but are not responsible to deliver
- 2. Sponsor:** things that we need to happen but are already being delivered by other groups.
- 3. Focus:** things that we as a partnership will drive forward via smaller action groups.



# FURTHER INFORMATION...

The strategies that give more detail on how things are going to be progressed for all this work for Children, Young People and their Families are:

- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Children and Young People Mental Health Needs Assessment](#)
- [Homelessness Strategy](#)
- [Joint SEND Strategy 2019-2022](#)
- [Children's Services Strategy](#)
- [Director of Public Health Reports](#)
- [Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan](#)
- [Early Help Strategy](#)
- [Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Plan](#)
- [The Children and Young People's Mental Health Local Transformation Plan Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System](#)
- [Living Longer in Good Health BLMK Longer Term Plan for Improving Health and Care](#)
- [BLMK Integrated Care System 100 Day Plan](#)
- [Oral Health Needs Assessment of Children and Young People in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire](#)
- [Bedford Borough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Starting Well](#)



# GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS...

*This list explains the meanings of abbreviations used in this document...*

- **BBC:** Bedford Borough Council
- **BLMK:** Bedfordshire, Luton & Milton Keynes
- **CCTV:** Closed circuit television
- **CO2:** Carbon dioxide
- **CSE:** Child sexual exploitation
- **CYP:** Children and young people
- **DPH:** Director of Public Health
- **EHA:** Early Help Assessment
- **GP:** General practitioner
- **HPV:** Human Papillomavirus
- **KS:** Key stage
- **LGBTq2+:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and two-spirit
- **MARAC:** Multi agency risk assessment conferences
- **NEET:** Not in employment or training
- **NHS:** National Health Service
- **PE:** Physical education
- **TRANS:** Transgender



## Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please telephone or write to us at our address below.

Për Informacion

برای اطلاع

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