



SOLIHULL CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST

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This is Solihull's 3 year Children and Young People's Plan. It sets out how organisations, families and communities will work together to improve outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. It is a strategic plan, so sets overall direction and gives headlines but is supported by more detailed plans which are available on the Children and Young People's Trust website.

Our vision is that by 2018 Solihull will be a place where everyone has an **equal chance** to be healthier, happier, safer and prosperous; and where **all** children and young people are **loved and valued** by their families and communities, and **thrive and succeed**.

Solihull has 52,210 children and young people under the age of 19. This plan is about all of them, plus those up to the age of 25 who are care leavers or have special needs or disabilities.



This Plan has 3 priorities for action:

1. Early Help: the Best Start in Life: To ensure help for families at the earliest point, improving children's life chances and reducing demand for crisis services.
2. Safe from Harm: To keep vulnerable children and young people safe and prevent harm.
3. Building Aspiration: To support children and young people to develop skills and attitudes which allow them to play a full part in community life.

OUR VISION

**Solihull
in 2018**

*where everyone has an
equal chance to be healthier,
happier, safer and prosperous;*

and

*where **all** children and young people are **loved and valued**
by their families and communities, and **thrive and succeed.***

An equal chance means giving **different support to different families**, depending on what they need and want. Our approach to achieving this is based on whole community early help, integrated working between organisations, and giving families choice and control of personalised support.

Some children need more support, for example those with special needs and disabilities, Looked After Children, or those who live in parts of the Borough which are more affected by poverty, lack of opportunity and low aspirations.

However, focusing solely on the most disadvantaged will not resolve inequalities in outcomes. The Trust Board is committed to a combination of support which is available for all families and support which is targeted to those who are more vulnerable.

Progress made by the Children and Young People's Trust Board in 2011/12:

- Development of the LINC'S Team and family support.
- Revisions to the 'missing children' procedures.
- Review of domestic abuse triage for children and young people.
- Revisions to key e-safety documents to support schools.
- Relaunch of 'Welcome to Nursery'. 90% of parents felt that the programme had helped them to develop good relationships with school, feel confident to help their child's learning and had helped their child settle quickly.
- Preparation of an all age menu of parenting programmes, from universal to specialist needs.
- Development of PLUSH and CHASE, two peer support schemes for parents in north Solihull, helping parents to feel more confident and less isolated.
- Launch of a young people's app to reduce mental health stigma.
- Review of unintentional injuries data and current practice for reduction.
- Testing new approaches for personal budgets for children with disabilities.
- Consulting families about how to make leisure services more inclusive.
- Large-scale consultation on an early help strategy for Solihull.

To read more about the progress made and outstanding challenges read the Children and Young People's Trust Board's Annual Report, July 2012 which is published here: www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt.

PROGRESS IN 2011 - 2012

The Children and Young People's Trust Board produced an Outcomes Review in 2012 which is Solihull's strategic needs assessment for children and informs the planning and commissioning of services. Key headlines in 2012 were:

A great place for most...

- Solihull is a great place to live, learn and play for the majority, and most children and young people thrive and succeed.
- The population is changing, getting older as a whole but younger in north Solihull; and more diverse, particularly in the urban west of the Borough.
- The gap in educational outcomes has closed across a range of measures.

.. but some children and young people do less well...

- Not all babies get the best start in life: 1 in 7 women smoke during pregnancy; rates of breastfeeding are falling; and uptake of the MMR vaccine is below the recommended level.
- The rate of children with child protection plans has risen fourfold in 4 years, far exceeding the national rate. More than half of these are in the Regeneration Zone, which only has 22% of the Borough's child population.
- Local evaluations show common processes such as LINCS make a difference for families, but practitioners report that it is not being used early enough.
- Outcomes for children and young people in the regeneration wards remain poor – from safeguarding to health, leisure, poverty and as victims of crime.

To read the full Outcomes Review go to <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt>

The Children and Young People's Trust Board is a partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. Its role is to set direction, improve joined up working, and manage performance. Membership is drawn from parent groups and statutory, voluntary and private sector organisations.

Each year the Board will publish an action plan to deliver this Children and Young People's Plan, and an annual review of progress for the previous year. Performance information against the Plan will be published quarterly.

The Trust Board is one of a number of important partnerships that affect the lives of children in Solihull, including the Health and Well-Being Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board, each with their own business plans.

Partnership with children, young people and families is a fundamental principle for the Trust, and each partner is expected to engage families in decision-making. Further details of how partners work together, including shared values, leadership arrangements and reporting relationships are contained in the Trust Board's terms of reference, published here: <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/cypt>

**1. EARLY HELP,
the BEST START in life**

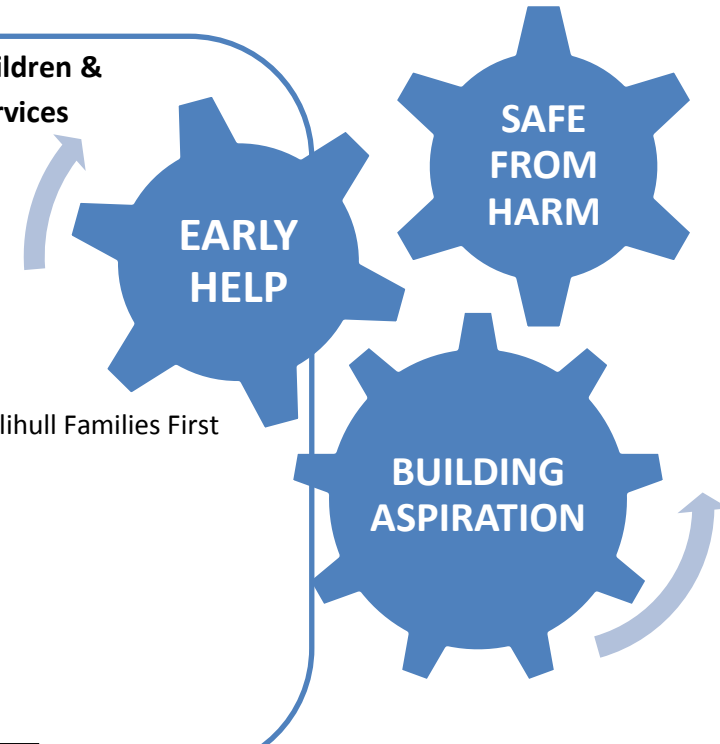
Objective: To help families at the earliest point, improving children & young people's life chances and reducing demand for crisis services

Tactics

- Strengthen family support, parenting programmes & the children's centres offer
- Enhance community peer support, building on the 'Community Parents' initiative
- Develop 'early help places' in the Regeneration Zone
- Enhance the Childhood Obesity Strategy and maternal health and infant nutrition services
- Deliver the Emotional Well-being and Mental Health Strategy
- Strengthen team working between families and professionals, including through joint training & Solihull Families First

Measures

- Number of children in care or needing child protection plans
- Multi-agency assessments where parenting skills or neglect are a cause for concern
- Number of first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks in north Solihull
- Excess weight in 4-5 and 10-11 year olds
- Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm



2. SAFE FROM HARM

Objective: To keep vulnerable children & young people safe and prevent harm

Tactics

- Strengthen multi-agency involvement in child protection, and work with the LSCB on child sexual exploitation, neglect and missing children
- Improve early help for children affected by domestic abuse
- Minimise risk to children from communications technology
- Prevent drug and alcohol harm to young people
- Reduce bullying in schools and the wider community

Measures

- Number of children with protection plans for 18 months
- Proportion of children who feel safer due to child protection services
- Repeat referrals for children to domestic abuse triage
- Measures for e-safety and anti-bullying
- New presentations of young people to drug treatment

**3. BUILDING
ASPIRATION**

Objective: To support children and young people to develop skills and attitudes which allow them to play a full part in community life

Tactics

- Raise the participation age of young people in learning
- Personalise support for disabled children & young people
- Improve transition for Looked After Children & care leavers
- Support young people & parents into work and out of poverty
- Reduce teenage conceptions in north Solihull

Measures

- 16 – 18 year olds in full-time education or work-based learning, including care leavers
- Under 18 conceptions rate in north Solihull
- Feedback from parents about inclusive services and choice
- Youth employment and child poverty measures