

Our Achievements (2024/2025)

Front Door reformed front door and strong early help offer has led to a sustained reduction in demand for the statutory social care system; decrease in referrals (from 503 to 489) and provided strengths based approach and effective partnerships.

CP and CIN new Planning Framework implemented (June 24) that is whole family focused; Rate of assessments in line with SNs, small decrease in CYP being subject of a CPP for 2nd or more time and below national averages/comparator areas. Refresh of approach to neglect with extensive training on GCP2 to support. Thriving Families Team established to enhance support to families impacted by DV, neglect and abuse. (138 families accessing)

Family Help 4 Family Help Hubs opened accessed to date by 7926 families and 7706 children, reaching 89% of all under 5s, with 81% of children being from communities experiencing racial inequality. 12,000 requests for EH received—4,200 have received intervention and 65% resolved at point of access. Thriving Babies Confident Parents programme has supported 386 families with 82% of babies staying at home

Harms outside the home Risk Outside the Home Pilot Pathway has been developed; Multi Agency disruption work has been a focus to disrupt exploitation. Operation Luka in partnership with GMP led to 168 disruptions, 115 CYP protected through safeguarding referrals and 28 arrests, including one for modern slavery.

Care Planning and Permanence Family Group Conferencing showing impact with 3/4 of those having FGC during pre-proceedings no longer cared for 6 and 12 months later. Number of Kinship Carers increased over last 5 years from 120 to 165. Children in kinship care showing good outcomes (fewer moves, less unplanned endings, greater stability). Reduction in CYP with Care Orders with PWP regulations. Peer Review completed on Permanency evidencing good impact.

Sufficiency and Commissioning Revised offer for foster carers and development of HIVE, Review of Post 16 Pathway Supported Accommodation, Overhaul of Controoc system, Review of all contracts.

Care Leavers Year on year improvement on key indicators, refresh of the Care Leaver offer based on consultations with YP, Community Hub opened to improve connectivity & support. Development/roll-out of EET programme, launch of Post 16 Pathway and establishment of Care Planning and Accommodation panels to identify early needs and post-18 options Community Café in the pipeline.

Our Service Priorities (2025/2026)

- We will scale up our Family Hub and Spoke Programme across the city, to deliver a seamless 0-19 (25 SEND/Care Leaver) Children and Young People (CYP) offer through co-located integrated services based in communities. This will provide the help that families need, when they need it, in the place where they live, supporting children to remain living at home with their families.
- We will lead and deliver with our partners a systemic approach to prevention reflecting our approach that children thrive best in their own families and communities.
- We will utilise the prevention grant to support our priorities and invest in key area such as family help, kinship care, family group conferences and improving opportunities and outcomes for care leavers.
- We will ensure the evaluation and learning from the reform work informs our priorities and response to the government reforms.
- We will lead the GM Remand Project to sustain a reduction in custodial remands
- We will test the GM Peer Review Model in relation to Harm outside the Home
- We will embed our practice framework across Children's Services
- We will refresh the workforce strategy and approach to recruitment and retention
- We will deliver the team management development programme
- We will ensure our commissioning behaviours are focussed on quality, value for money and outcomes for children.
- We will expand and implement the Youth Justice 'Out of Court Decision' framework and guidance within a multi-agency approach to reduce First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system.
- Our Out of Court Decision Panel to consider all children/young people for consideration for both 'Formal' and 'Informal' decisions, expanding our Prevention and Diversion Teams to intervene and divert more people away from criminality.
- We will ensure our Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) and close the loop support our practice development and service improvement.
- Review our operating model to maximise the benefits of our developing communities based approach

Activities which will support delivery of Our Priorities

- Ensure that CYP and their families and carers access and receive timely and effective community-based support via: Family Hubs and Children's Centre, Early Help Hubs, AGS, Family Group Conferencing, Local Offer (SEND And care leavers) , Family Time and Thriving Families.
- Continue to monitor/review our edging away from care model
- Review the impact of our CWD redesign
- Co-design and deliver our Hive model providing localised early help to our carers
- Review our offer to kinship carers linked to the DfE Kinship Policy
- Continue roll-out and evaluation of the Neglect Policy and GCP2 Toolkit
- Continue to embed Practice Framework across CS and address any practice shortfalls identified by QAF
- Refresh approach to working with families where domestic violence is present
- Ensure the co-produced ambitions of the Corporate Family Cooperative are met and build on the principles of co-production, children's rights and outcomes are key
- Ensure our C4C and care leavers are engaged in and shape the Child Friendly City activities
- Continue the work around stability and the Stability Panel to avoid unplanned outcomes
- Continue our complex safeguarding approach (& action plans from the JTAI) to provide a coordinated approach to protect and disrupt the risk to CYP who are at risk of harm . Further develop approach to contextual safeguarding and test/develop transitional safeguarding approach
- Support the implementation of the Education Strategy and the education service plan with a particular focus on attendance at school
- Deliver the Transitional Safeguarding Pilot with Adult Services and co-

Zero Carbon: All staff access carbon literacy training and is part of Induction Pack; embedding Zero Carbon is part of every day considerations, support Education Zero Carbon Plan, plan events and workshops in sustainable ways.

Place: services are informed by knowledge about place and meet the needs of place, services are commissioned to meet local needs, locality based improvement plans produced where needed, we will seek to place children near their homes and communities, where this is safe.

UNICEF CFC: All staff complete training and operate a Child First approach, updates at Leadership and other CSC meetings and promoted at all staff and engagement events, CSC leads on delivery of the 6 x CFC badges and is a key participant of the CFC work through the Children & Young People's Board.



Equality and Inclusion

- Deliver Directorate Equality and Inclusion Action Plan
- Work collaboratively with REACH group to achieve outcomes outlined in the EDI Plan
- Ensure lived experience informs the approach and priorities
- Ensure staff are supported to access opportunities
- Participate in reverse mentoring so that lived experience is informing approach and impact from the EDI Plan