

# Children and young people's plan 2009-2011



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## Foreword

*The Medway Children's Trust wants children and young people in Medway to:*

- be safe and cared for;*
- succeed in learning;*
- thrive.*



It is these three outcomes that the members of Medway Children's Trust will collectively seek to achieve.

In 2006, in Medway's first Children and Young People's Plan, we said that we would be making life better for children in Medway.

For many children and young people, life has got better.

- More children are doing better at school.
- More young people are in employment, training or further and higher education when they leave school.
- More children and young people are taking part in positive activities such as sport, creative arts and leisure.
- Fewer children are suffering harm or neglect, and stronger safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect those at risk.
- Fewer children are in public care, and those that are have better arrangements leading to better outcomes.

This is all good news.

It reflects the efforts of families and the professional dedication of all those who work with them. It reflects the hard work and positive endeavours of Medway's children and young people themselves.

However, there is still much to do.

- Not every child is doing well at school.
- The health and emotional well-being of too many children is a cause for concern.
- Children and young people who are disabled face difficulties in accessing everyday opportunities alongside their peers.
- Small numbers of young people are at risk of engaging in unhealthy, anti-social or dangerous behaviours, or have complex needs that require support.
- Young people tell us that many do not feel safe, and more do not feel listened to or valued by adults.

In Medway, as elsewhere in England, the quality of life and the future life chances of children and young people are still highly dependent on the stability and financial circumstances of the individual family or the local community where they live.

Every child deserves to be safe and loved and have a happy and healthy childhood, free from harm. Every child should have the chance to make the most of their promise and potential.

That is our goal, and this document sets out how we intend to achieve it.



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# Introduction

## *Medway's vision for children and young people*

**Every child deserves to be safe and loved and have a happy and healthy childhood, free from harm. Every child should also have the chance to make the most of their promise and potential.**

## Our pledge

The Medway Children's Trust wants children and young people in Medway to:

- be safe and cared for;
- succeed in learning;
- thrive.

It is these three outcomes that the members of Medway Children's Trust will collectively seek to achieve.

To make this a reality they will be championed by a confident and competent workforce, and arrangements will be in place to ensure:

- effective safeguarding;
- integrated services and support;
- timely and targeted interventions.

We know that if we are to help every child and young person then we shall need to ensure that there are:

- some services available for everyone – a high quality universal offer for all;
- more services for some – to help them catch up and keep up;
- and even more services for a few – the most vulnerable or disadvantaged children who will need focused and sustained support.

Our focus is on improving the life chances and outcomes of:

- children living in poverty;
- children in care;
- children with disabilities;
- children with special educational needs;
- children who are carers for others;
- children excluded from school and with poor attendance;

while providing high quality universal services to ensure that **all** children and young people reach their full potential.

## National and local context

The context is a country and a world driven by:

- personalisation – where everyone can expect a high quality service, where they live, tailored to meet individual circumstances;
- economic uncertainty – where nevertheless skills development is central to enhancing national productivity and contributing to improvements in social cohesion;
- globalisation - a rapid pace of change, instant communications, shifting demographics and a decline in the traditional family form.

In Medway, measures for improving outcomes for children and young people are embedded in the over-arching Medway Community Plan which commits to “**Ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people so they can play a productive part in Medway's society**”; the Medway Council priority of “**Children and young people having**



the best start in life”; and NHS Medway’s commitments in both its 5 Year Strategic Commissioning Plan *Growing Healthier* and the Child Health Strategy.

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a set of jointly agreed actions across a range of agencies and organisations in Medway. This plan builds on the joint work of the LAA over the next two years.

The government’s own Children’s Plan - *Building brighter futures* - is predicated upon some guiding principles:

- Parents bring up children, not government, but parents need help and support to do their job.
- All children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents can take them.
- Children and young people need to be safe, healthy and enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life.
- All children and families deserve services that work together for them, and meet their individual needs.
- It is always better to prevent a failure than tackle a crisis later – by intervening early in problems, spotting those who need extra help and making sure they get it.

Medway’s Children and Young People’s Plan reflects those principles.

The government’s strategy for the health of children and young people – *Healthy lives, brighter futures*, a joint Department of Health (DOH) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) document – sets out their intention to build on progress so far through the achievement of:

- world class health outcomes;
- health services of the highest quality;
- excellent experiences in using services;
- minimising health inequalities.

These aims are reflected locally in this plan with a focus on driving up quality, improving the experience of health services and doing more for the most vulnerable to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes.

The views and contributions of the children and young people of Medway have greatly informed and influenced our work in developing this plan. New arrangements will help to ensure that the work of the Medway Children’s Trust continually reflects and is responsive to the experience of local children and young people themselves. A team of young commissioners has been recruited to support the children’s trust by consulting with and feeding back to their peer groups about the services that affect them. In addition to well established organisations such as the Medway Youth Parliament, and the Children in Care Council, a number of user forums and young people’s panels have also been developed to ensure that the voices of those we struggle to reach are heard.

## About children and young people in Medway

### **Population**

There are approximately 65,500 children and young people aged 0-19-years in Medway, and while this number is expected to reduce marginally during the life of this plan the number of children aged 0-4 will grow by around 5 per cent. Medway's population has a greater proportion of children and young people than the national and regional average.

### **Health**

The population of Medway is predominantly healthy but the high levels of smoking, poor diet and obesity result in increased risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer. Life expectancy is closely linked to deprivation.

### **Education**

The overall educational attainment of children and young people at school in Medway is better than similar local authorities and England as a whole and has consistently improved over recent years. However, average attainment conceals individual differences.

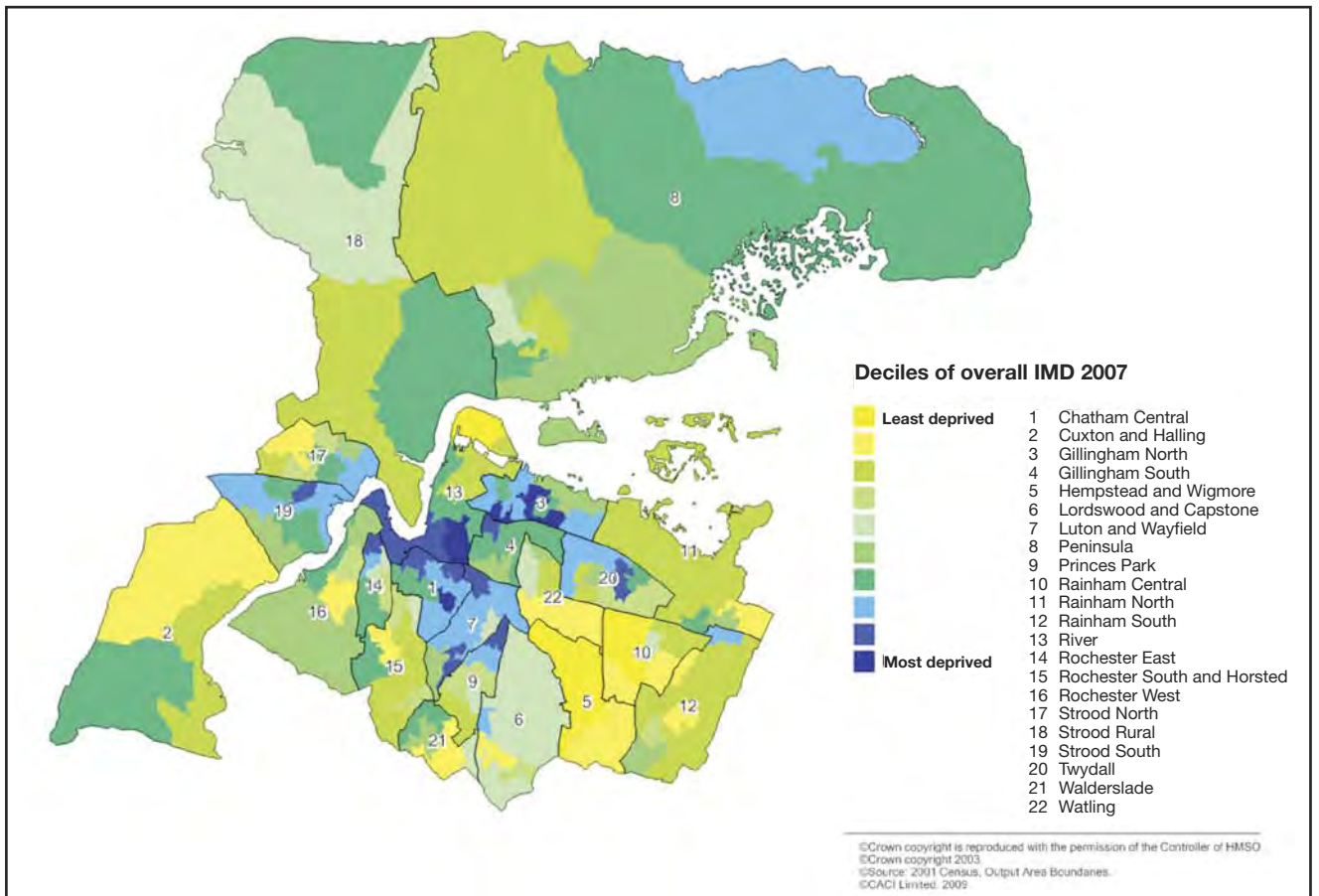
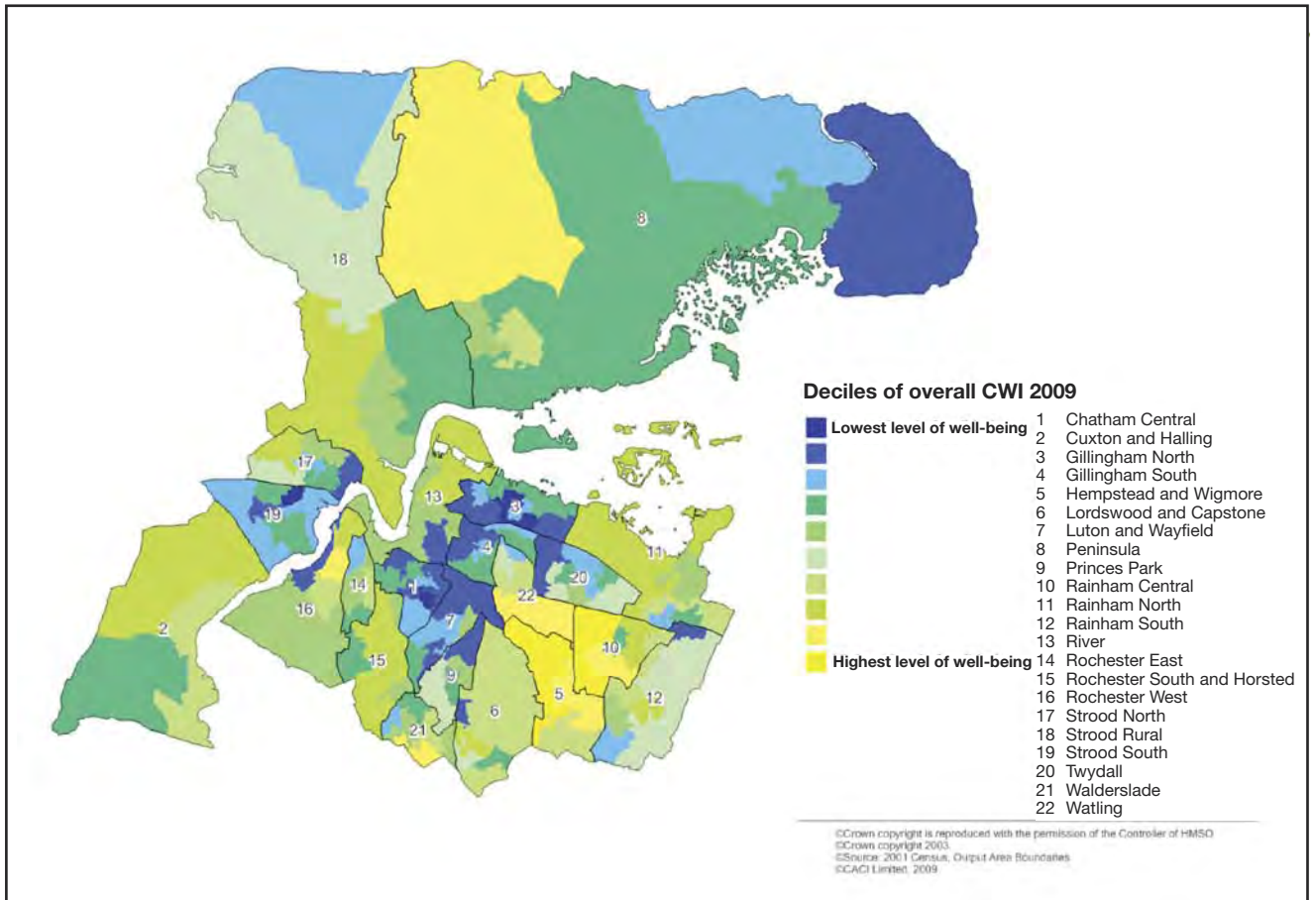
### **Deprivation**

On average, Medway has higher levels of general deprivation than local authority neighbours in Kent and the south east of England. Medway ranks as the 150th most deprived local authority out of the 354 local authorities in England. In Medway there is significant diversity, and the local authority encompasses some of the most disadvantaged and some of the most affluent neighbourhoods.

### **Child well-being**

The child well-being index combines data concerning material well-being, health, education, crime, housing, environment and children in need, to give an overall picture of how children are doing in a number of aspects of their lives.





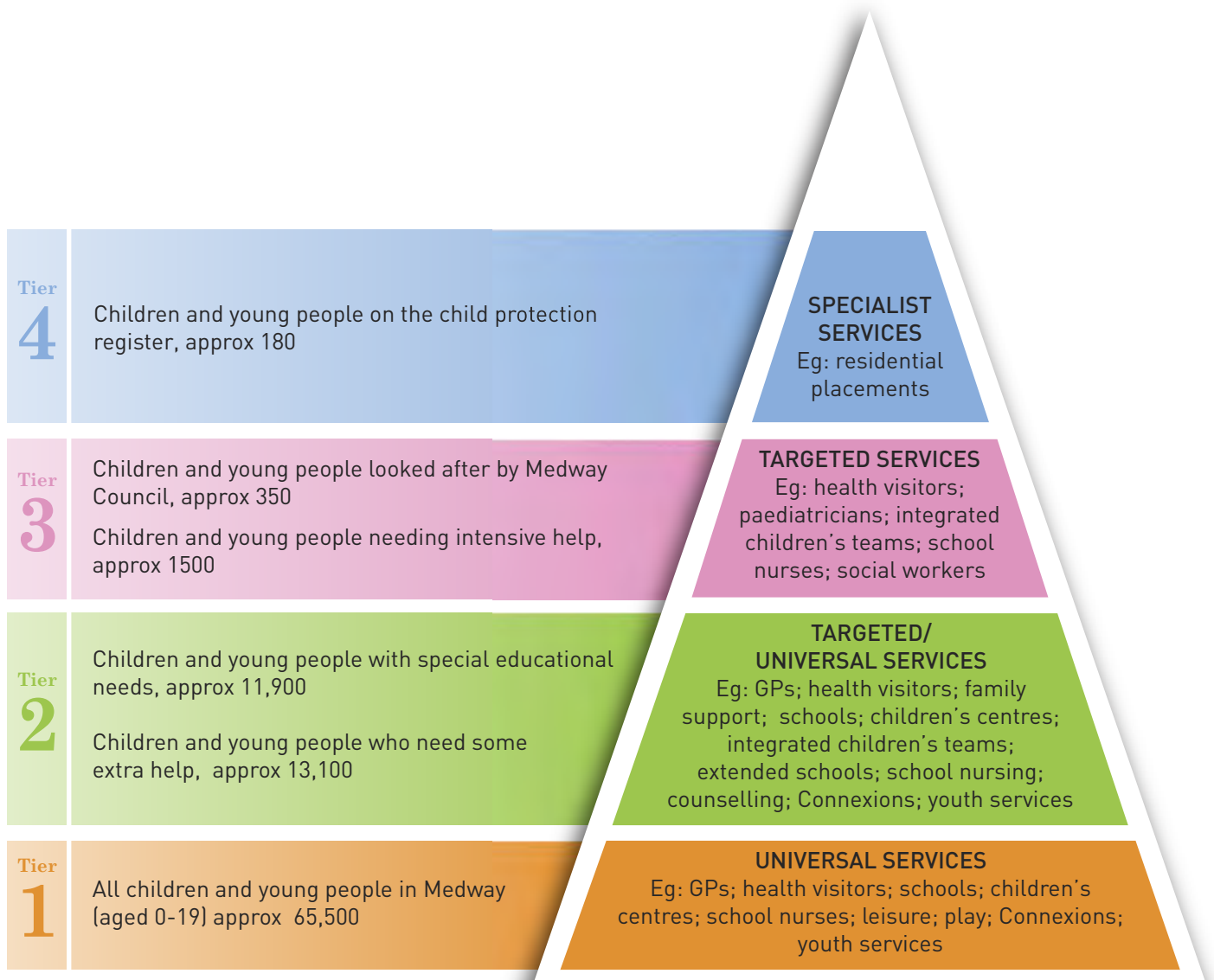
The map shows the overall CWB Index scores for Medway Local Authority. The scores have been grouped by quintile ie scores in the worst 20% localities (or lower level super output areas -LLSOAs) have been grouped together as have those in the next worst 20% and so on. The electoral wards that contain the LLSOAs that fall within the worst 20% are marked on the map.

## Matching need and services

All children and young people in Medway receive a whole range of services known as universal services. However, some will have needs that require extra support.

The diagram below categorises needs and organises services in a vulnerability triangle – where universal services are labelled as Tier 1 at the bottom of the triangle, and services for our children and young people with the most complex needs are at Tier 4.

Some children and young people require services from more than one tier of the triangle, and others move from one tier to another over time, according to changing circumstances in their life or the impact of services provided.



## This plan

This new Children and Young People's Plan is our promise to deliver. It is a plan that describes how we will make sure that children and young people in Medway are safe and cared for, succeed in learning, and thrive. It identifies and explains in particular:

- how we intend to narrow the gap between those who are disadvantaged and their peers in terms of their academic, emotional and overall well-being;
- Medway's most important challenges – the areas where we need to make improvements to get better outcomes for children and young people.

It sets out clearly:

- **where we are now** – describing what has been achieved; what we need to do better; key data; and what children, young people and families tell us;
- **where we want to be** – the improved outcomes and changes we want for the lives of children and young people in Medway;
- **what we will do** – a set of key actions, underpinned by more detailed plans and collaborative arrangements, that will drive those desired changes;
- **our measures of progress and success** – to monitor whether we are delivering the improved outcomes we have set out to achieve.

This document should be read in that context – as the single, strategic, overarching plan for all services in Medway that affect children and young people, jointly agreed and endorsed by all of the partners in Medway's Children's Trust.

The plan is supplemented by a set of supporting documents, which provide underpinning data, budgetary information and detailed technical arrangements. There are links to other local plans, frameworks and materials, and to the key national documents of the NHS, the police and the government's national Children's Plan *Building brighter futures*.

The plan will be linked to a new commissioning strategy for the Medway Children's Trust, which in turn will set out arrangements for strategic partnership groups that will co-ordinate the work of all agencies and partners across six important areas:

- Parenting and Family Support
- Integrated Youth Support
- Aiming High for Children With Additional Needs
- Emotional Well-Being
- Care Matters
- 21st Century Schools

The work of the partnership groups over the next two years will be guided by the priorities set out in this plan, to support the Medway Children's Trust Board to focus on how to improve particular outcomes, and ensure that children and young people are safe and cared for, succeed in learning, and thrive.

## Diversity and equalities statement

Medway Children's Trust is committed to achieving equality of opportunity, access and outcomes for all, through:

- recognising and redressing the needs of under-represented, vulnerable and excluded groups in Medway;
- countering deprivation and supporting independence;
- combating discrimination in all its forms, and working actively to ensure fair access to services, employment and active citizenship.

We do this through the provision of flexible and accessible services; through the promotion of a diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve; and by using our influence to promote and share best practice in equality and diversity at local, regional, national and international levels.

This Children and Young People's Plan reflects our commitment to promoting diversity, dignity and inclusion through fair access to services and employment.

A Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a screening concluded that the Medway Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11 complies with the requirements of the relevant legislation and there is evidence to show this is the case. It has drawn upon findings of extensive consultation and surveys of young people. The overarching plan covers the whole population of Medway, and does not discriminate on the grounds of racial groups, disability, gender or other identified groups. As action plans are developed for the specific actions detailed in the plan, there will be an opportunity for detailed local consultation and further feedback to ensure there is no discrimination.

# Section 1

## *Safe and cared for Succeed in learning Thrive*

**The following pages of this plan describe how we will make sure that children and young people in Medway are safe and cared for, succeed in learning and thrive.**

**The actions that are described should not be seen in isolation, nor as the only steps that are being taken to improve the life of children and young people in Medway.**

**At the end of each section, a number of other important documents and plans are listed which either focus in detail on particular areas of work, or cover broad strategies of which the support of children and young people is a part.**

## Safe and cared for

*Every child deserves to be safe and loved and have a happy and healthy childhood, free from harm.*

The safety of all children and young people is of paramount importance, but particularly those who are looked after, subject to child protection arrangements or on the edge of care.

In Medway, we will strive to protect and safeguard those children most at risk, ensuring all children and young people stay safe. This responsibility is kept under constant review by an independently chaired Local Safeguarding Children Board.

For those who are in care we have listened to what they feel would improve their lives the most. This resulted in our pledge to children in care:

- Don't just say it – do it
- Someone who will listen and feedback
- More leisure opportunities
- A better education
- More choice of good accommodation or placements

For those on the edge of care we will put the interests of the child at the heart of our decision making. Where it is appropriate we will work with and support parents to secure the best outcomes for the child.

For all children and young people we want to make Medway a place where they can live, grow, get around and have fun safely.

## Where we are now

As at 31 March, 2008 there were:

- 180 children subject to a child protection plan;
- 335 children who were looked after by the council.

### Social care referrals

There were 2,745 referrals to children's social care during 2007-08.

- The rate of referrals is higher than that of similar councils, but still lower than the national average.
- One quarter of these were repeat referrals.
- 44.3 per cent of referrals lead to an initial assessment of need. Although this has increased over the last three years it is still below the percentage of assessments carried out by other councils.
- The percentage of assessments carried out in statutory timescales is improving and approaching the national average. 70 per cent of initial assessments are carried out in seven days or less and 75 per cent of core assessments were on time.

### Substance misuse

There were 58 hospital admissions over a three year period of young people aged under 20 with mental and behavioural disorders due to substance misuse. During the same period there were 18 admissions of young people with poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics. 10.3 per cent of young people (in years 6, 8 and 10) reported either frequent misuse of drugs/volatile substances or alcohol or both.

### Feeling safe

A third of children and young people say that they do not always feel safe in their neighbourhood. 55 per cent of young people surveyed have experienced bullying compared to a national average of 48 per cent.

### Youth offending

There were 526 first time entrants into the youth justice system in 2008 compared to 586 the previous year. On average just over a third (37.8 per cent) of these young people will re-offend which is slightly higher than re-offending rates in similar councils but in line with the national average.

### Looked after children

83 per cent of looked after children receive annual health assessments and dental checks. This is just below the national average of 85 per cent.

Looked after children in Medway are likely to achieve better GCSE results than looked after children elsewhere. 19.0 per cent achieved five or more GCSEs at A\*- C (compared to a national average of 12.6 per cent). However, this is still much lower than the average for all children in Medway of 66.3 per cent.

### Recent inspection outcomes

The 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) inspection carried out by Ofsted found children's services in Medway in the area of **being safe** to be satisfactory overall.



## What children, young people and families tell us

Most children and young people feel that they are uncomfortable with large groups of teenagers being together and this makes them feel intimidated. Other main concerns were the damage and condition of local parks preventing them from using them and the speed of local motorbikes and cars where they live.

Safety as a concern has continued to be raised over the last three years with about a third of children and young people not always feeling safe in their neighbourhood.

Young people are really concerned about the effects of smoking, taking drugs and drinking alcohol and the fact you often see young people smoking and drinking in places like parks. There were real concerns about young people who drink alcohol and not knowing what they might do.

There were comments about not having much to do in local neighbourhoods and parks being vandalised and the amount of graffiti. Some of the groups also said they feel intimidated going into the park because of large groups of teenagers. Some young people did not know what a youth club was.

Comments made by children and young people during the reviews of the Children and Young Peoples Plan (2007 and 2008)

## ★ Section 1 : Safe and cared for

### **Where we want to be**

We want all children and young people in Medway to be safe and cared for.

We all have a role to play in promoting the welfare of children and young people and in helping them to enjoy their childhood, feel safe and be protected.

As well as co-ordinating the protection of children through the Medway Safeguarding Children Board, we recognise that we need to be combating bullying; preventing homelessness; safeguarding in relation to anti-social behaviour towards and by young people; preventing accidents; extending traffic calming measures; providing opportunities for safe outdoor play and safe places for teenagers to meet.

### **Over the next two years we want to:**

- keep Medway's most vulnerable children safe, by embedding safeguarding improvements and minimising incidents of child abuse and neglect;
- develop the resilience of young people and reduce the incidence of substance misuse, including alcohol, and so lessen the related personal harm and public disorder;
- reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB), so that young people and the wider community feel safer;
- prevent youth offending and reduce re-offending, to reduce the number of young people in the youth justice system;
- further improve the health and learning outcomes for looked after children to give them the best possible future life chances;
- ensure that preventative services focus on those on the edge of care, and enable families to have easy access to effective family support services when they are needed.

## What we will do

**To ensure that children and young people in Medway are safe and cared for, over the next two years we will:**

- ensure all safeguarding practices meet or exceed national requirements, improving the quality and timeliness of assessment of children's care needs;
- ensure that staff in all agencies understand their respective safeguarding responsibilities and are trained to an appropriate level in awareness policies and procedures;
- enhance quality assurance of practice through regular independent review, case file audit, practice review and user feedback, and further develop the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure effective independent scrutiny and quality assurance of child protection arrangements;
- ask all partners to review their anti-bullying strategies to reflect children's concerns;
- introduce the ContactPoint information sharing system which allows approved practitioners to have quick and easy access to a child's records and supports the safeguarding of all children and young people;
- offer a package of intervention for those in danger of entering the youth justice system and individual support plans for those who are at high risk of re-offending; and through the Medway Anti-social Behaviour Forum identify and target those individuals causing harm to the community and offer non-negotiable support;
- deliver on our pledge to children in the care of the local authority; and ensure all looked after children are allocated a qualified social worker;
- ensure all partner agencies are signed up to and are using the common assessment framework (CAF) as a multi-agency planning tool, supported by practical materials, to better identify needs and to intervene in a targeted and timely way;
- begin to re-commission early intervention and preventative services, to meet or narrow gaps, including those identified as a result of CAF.

## How we will know when we've got there

**The children's trust board will oversee progress towards improving the outcomes of children and young people, by monitoring whether a range of measures are on track, including:**

- timeliness of initial and core assessments improves;
- fewer children being subject to a child protection plan for more than two years;
- looked after children and children subject to a child protection plan are reviewed within statutory timescales;
- reduction in social worker vacancies;
- increase in children and young people's feelings of being safe;
- Children in Care Council report increased satisfaction with services;
- more looked after children having annual health assessments and having dental checks;
- all referrals (outside of emergencies) to children's services supported by a pre-CAF or CAF.

## Where you can find out more

The following plans and documents provide detail of the actions to ensure that children and young people in Medway are safe and cared for:

### **Annual Performance Assessment (APA) Action Plan**

[www.medway.gov.uk/apa](http://www.medway.gov.uk/apa)

### **Common Assessment Framework**

[www.medway.gov.uk/50917](http://www.medway.gov.uk/50917)

### ***Growing Healthier* NHS Medway's 5 Year Strategic Commissioning Plan**

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Agendas\\_minutes\\_and\\_reports\\_2009/Board\\_Meeting\\_\\_25\\_March\\_2009/html](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Agendas_minutes_and_reports_2009/Board_Meeting__25_March_2009/html)

### **Medway Council Plan 2009-12**

[www.medway.gov.uk/councilplan](http://www.medway.gov.uk/councilplan)

### **Medway Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-11**

[www.medway.gov.uk/community\\_safety\\_plan](http://www.medway.gov.uk/community_safety_plan)

### **Medway Safeguarding Children Board**

[www.mscb.org.uk](http://www.mscb.org.uk)

### **NHS Medway Annual Report**

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/download.php?id=1032](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/download.php?id=1032)

### **NHS Medway's Operational Plan 2009-10**

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/download.php?id=1455](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/download.php?id=1455)

### **Policing Kent Plan 2009-12**

[www.kent.police.uk/About%20Kent%20Police/pdf%20documents/Policing%20Plan%2009-12%20-%20Final%20June%202009%20Version.pdf](http://www.kent.police.uk/About%20Kent%20Police/pdf%20documents/Policing%20Plan%2009-12%20-%20Final%20June%202009%20Version.pdf)

## Succeed in learning

*We want Medway to be a place where all children enjoy learning and leave school with the qualifications, personal achievements, skills and motivation to succeed in their adult and working lives.*

Increasing children's achievements is a key priority for Medway Council and for Medway Children's Trust.

We have clear goals in place for increasing the number of children who achieve well at various stages through their school life, and beyond. Where groups of pupils are under-performing, we aim to narrow the gap between their achievement and that of their peer group in Medway.

Key to this vision for young people is:

- our ambition for 21st century schools and settings - driven by the determination to do the best for every child and deliver excellent personalised education and development, with every school working in partnership with parents, with other children's services, and with other schools and providers;
- our strategy for learning for 14 to 19-year-olds - to ensure a high quality range of options leading to higher qualified school and college leavers equipped for their future;
- our strategy for learning for children and young people with additional needs - which will ensure that more Medway children access more local, inclusive provision to support them to make the most of their promise and potential.

## Where we are now

### Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Attainment as measured at the end of the EYFS has improved significantly over the past three years, and is now higher than the national average. In Medway 50 per cent of children now reach the expected level, compared with 37 per cent in 2006.

Medway EYFS Profile: attainment 50%; gap 35%

England EYFS Profile: attainment 49%; gap 36%

### Key Stage 1

Attainment in reading, writing, and maths is slightly below that of children in similar council areas, and slightly below the national average. Over the past three years the percentage of Medway children achieving Level 2 has broadly remained constant.

Medway Level 2+: reading 82%; writing 78%; maths 89%

England Level 2+: reading 84%; writing 80%; maths 90%

### Key Stage 2

Attainment in English, maths and science is below that of children in similar council areas, and below the national average. Over the past three years the percentage of Medway children achieving Level 4 in English and maths has increased, while in science attainment has broadly remained constant.

Medway Level 4+: English: 77% maths 73%; science: 84%

England Level 4+: English: 81% maths 78%; science: 88%

### Key Stage 3

Attainment in English, maths and science has each improved over the past three years, and the percentage of Medway children achieving Level 5 is now at or near the national average.

Medway Level 5+: English: 75% maths 79%; science: 76%

England Level 5+: English: 76% maths 79%; science: 77%

### Key Stage 4

The proportion of children achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C including English and maths has increased in each of the past three years. This is on par with the national average but is slightly less than Medway's Statistical Neighbours.

The proportion of Medway children who achieved two or more Science GCSEs at grades A\*-C, has fallen each year since 2006, and is now significantly below the national average.

Medway GSCE: 5 A\*-C 66.3%; 5 A\*-C inc English & maths 47.6%; 2 A\*-C science 35.6%

England GSCE: 5 A\*-C 64.8%; 5 A\*-C inc English & maths 47.6%; 2 A\*-C science 50.2%

For those children leaving care (aged 16 or over) 15.4 per cent achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A\*-C including English and maths. This is higher than the national average of 10.7 per cent.

### School absence

In 2007-08, 5.7 per cent of secondary school children were persistent absentees, slightly higher than the national average of 5.6 per cent. For those children the council cared for in 2007-08, 3.6 per cent of children (looked after for the full year) missed at least 25 days of school. This is considerably lower than the national average of 13 per cent.

## ★ Section 1 : Succeed in learning

### **Post 16 employment, education and training**

In 2007, 5.6 per cent of 16 to 18-year-olds were not in employment, education or training. This compares favourably to the national average of 6.7 per cent.

For care leavers aged 19 in 2007-08, 74.1 per cent were in employment, education or training, compared to the national average of 64.9 per cent.

For young offenders in 2007 (those on youth justice disposals), 68.1 per cent were engaged in employment, education or training, compared to the national average of 69.3 per cent.

### **Recent inspection outcomes**

The 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) inspection carried out by Ofsted found children's services in Medway in the areas of **enjoying and achieving** and **achieving economic well-being** to be good overall.

### **What children, young people and families tell us**

For the last three years respondents to the review of the children and young people's plan said their biggest worry for children and young people is their exams.

Many young people felt that help in accessing both part time work and volunteering was insufficient and that learning about future career and further education opportunities should start much younger than it does to help them think about what subjects they should study.

One suggestion from a group of young people was that after school activities to help students gain job-related skills would be a welcome addition and help to overcome any perceived discrimination against ethnic minority applicants.

Parents wanted people to be proactive and to encourage businesses to train and employ people with disabilities, including those with conditions affecting behaviour such as autism. Using abilities rather than disabilities was emphasised. Parents wanted careers officers to have a thorough understanding of young people who have a disability but who also have a great deal to offer.

Citizen panel surveys consistently found that the most important priorities were improving children's attendance in school, and reducing the number of young people who are not in education, training or employment.

Comments made by children, young people and parents during the review of the Children and Young People's Plan (2007 and 2008)



## Where we want to be

We want all children and young people in Medway to succeed in learning.

For Medway to be a place where every child fulfils their potential, we need to enable Medway schools and settings to rise to the challenge of breaking down barriers to achievement and breaking the link between deprivation and low educational attainment.

### Over the next two years we want to:

- give Medway children the best possible start in life, with high quality early childhood services delivered through Sure Start children's centres in every community;
- raise educational attainment at every stage of learning, through focused improvement in the quality of teaching and learning;
- narrow the gap between the lowest achieving pupils and their peer group, through targeted support for those pupils at risk of under performance, including looked after children and new arrivals, and improved local provision for children with additional needs;
- ensure that health barriers to learning are addressed as early as possible in a child's life;
- begin to shape the future of Medway schools in line with school organisation principles that will improve standards and viability, and utilise the significant new investment in buildings across all phases;
- increase participation and performance of students from age 14 to 19-years, with improved choices and support, particularly for vulnerable young people.

## What we will do

**To ensure that children and young people in Medway succeed in learning, over the next two years we will:**

- complete the programme of developing a Sure Start children's centre in every community, and reconfigure local early childhood services across all agencies to maximise the impact of these facilities;
- support the improvement of teaching and learning in primary schools through universal, targeted and focused assistance programmes;
- continue to work with secondary schools to raise achievement at GCSE, specifically on increasing the number of GCSEs at A\*-C including maths and English, and ensure the delivery of the National Challenge action plan;
- strengthen our school nursing services to ensure that health issues which might prove to be an impediment or barrier to learning are picked up and addressed as early as possible in a child's development and school career;
- commence the delivery of the primary strategy for change, bringing in new investment to school buildings and creating 21st century learning environments;
- complete the development of proposals for academies in Strood, Chatham and Gillingham, in consultation with our residents, and the establishment of the new further education college campus;
- implement the Medway 14-19 Strategy, providing clear pathways for young people, and a wide range of high quality options including diplomas, delivered by local consortia and partnerships;
- begin to develop new local inclusive education provision for children with special educational needs, in particular those with challenging behaviour, complex learning needs, autistic spectrum disorders, and those with hearing impairments and cochlear implants;
- offer advice and guidance to young people to ensure they make positive choices around remaining in education employment and training. The Medway Youth Trust delivering the Connexions contract will work closely with schools and partners to provide a differentiated service with a particular focus on our most vulnerable groups of students including those who have become parents, those with learning difficulties/disabilities, new arrivals to the UK, and those who are in the care system.

## How we will know when we've got there

The children's trust board will oversee progress towards improving the outcomes of children and young people, by monitoring whether a range of measures are on track, including:

- improved maternity, child health and developmental outcomes in early childhood;
- improved performance across all key stages;
- the inequality gap for the lowest performing schools and settings is narrowed;
- the inequality gap for vulnerable groups, including those with special educational needs, is narrowed;
- more young people achieving a level 2 or 3 qualification by age 19;
- fewer young people not in education, employment or training;
- more young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education.

## Where you can find out more

The following plans and documents provide detail of the actions to ensure that children and young people in Medway succeed in learning:

### 14 – 19 Strategy

[www.medway.gov.uk/13864](http://www.medway.gov.uk/13864)

### Maternity Matters Needs Assessment 2009: choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service in Medway

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Extranet\\_home/Maternity\\_Matters\\_/index.html](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Extranet_home/Maternity_Matters_/index.html)

### Medway Council Plan

[www.medway.gov.uk/councilplan](http://www.medway.gov.uk/councilplan)

### MidKent College Strategic Priorities 2009-11

[www.midkent.ac.uk/upload/File/Strategic%20Priorities%20Jan%2008%20Aug%2011.pdf](http://www.midkent.ac.uk/upload/File/Strategic%20Priorities%20Jan%2008%20Aug%2011.pdf)

### Primary Strategy for Change

[www.medway.gov.uk/newspage?item=91267](http://www.medway.gov.uk/newspage?item=91267)

### National Challenge schools plan

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/7715-National%20ChallengeWEB.pdf>

### Special Educational Needs (SEN)

[www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk)

### Sure Start children's centres

[www.medway.gov.uk/surestart](http://www.medway.gov.uk/surestart)

# Thrive

*We want Medway to be a place where all children have a happy and healthy childhood, and the chance to make the most of their promise and potential.*

Improving children's health and well-being is a key priority for NHS Medway, for Medway Council and for our partners in the Medway Children's Trust, and where significant progress is expected over the next two years.

We face tough challenges such as tackling the increasing incidence of childhood obesity, and reducing the stubbornly high number of teenage conceptions. To begin to bring about change will take focused and sustained collaborative work between agencies, working with families and communities.

We also need to ensure that children and young people's emotional well-being is nurtured, in the face of perceived increasing external pressures, and build their resilience to make positive choices.

We want to enable every child and young person to be engaged in a rich and varied range of activities and pastimes, involved in their local community. We want to ensure that all children and young people benefit from the unprecedented physical and social regeneration taking place in Medway.

We want to ensure that children and young people who are disabled can access the full range of opportunities alongside their peers, and over the next two years develop a full service offer of additional short breaks and positive activities to support families.

## Where we are now

### Health

- In 2007, 9 per cent of Year R children were considered obese, lower than the national average of 9.9 per cent. However, for children in Year 6 19.3 per cent were considered obese, higher than the national average of 17.5 per cent.
- A little over one third (38 per cent) of children eat three or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day, fewer than the national average of 42 per cent.
- 33 per cent of children in Medway do physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day compared to 36 per cent of children nationally.
- An estimated 10.3 per cent of young people in years 6, 8 and 10 had used drugs and/or alcohol at least twice in the preceding four weeks. This is less than the national average of 10.9 per cent.
- 1 per cent of children say that they smoke regularly; this is on par with the national average.
- 92 per cent of Medway's schools participate in the Healthy School Programme compared to the national average of 97.4 per cent.

### Early childhood

In 2007, 70.2 per cent of mothers in Medway were initiating breastfeeding compared to a national average of 69.6 per cent. Rates were highest amongst those giving birth at home, older mothers, and those from the least deprived areas. White women were less likely to initiate breast feeding than black and minority ethnic groups.

The latest infant mortality data (2006) shows that Medway had four deaths per 1,000 births up to one year. This is less than the national average of five.

### Teenage conception

The rate of under-18 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17-years resident in the area was 48.4 - considerably higher than the comparable council average of 41.7.

### Relationships

Two thirds (66 per cent) of children in Medway enjoy good relationships with their family and friends. This is higher than the national average of 63.3 per cent.

### Positive activities

67.7 per cent of children in Year 10 participate in a group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts or a youth group). This is slightly lower than the national average of 69.5 per cent.

### Housing

In 2007-08, 96.3 per cent of care leavers aged 19 were in suitable accommodation, higher than the national average of 88.4 per cent.

87.1 per cent of known young offenders were in suitable accommodation compared to the national average of 93.8 per cent.

## Recent inspection outcomes

The 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) inspection carried out by Ofsted found children's services in Medway in the area of **being healthy** to be inadequate overall, and in the area of **making a positive contribution** to be good overall.

## What children, young people and families tell us

The latest Tell Us survey found that only 48 per cent of children in Medway were satisfied with activities in their local area. This is slightly less than the national average of 49 per cent.

To make life better in Medway 20 per cent of children thought that Medway needed more places to hang out. Only 38 per cent of children were satisfied with parks and play areas compared to a national average of 44.7 per cent. 5 per cent of those surveyed rated the local area as poor; this is more than the 4 per cent national average.

Parents say that they want advice and support on how to talk with their child about: drugs and alcohol; sex and relationships; managing difficult behaviour; teenage pregnancies; general health issues such as obesity, exercise and healthy eating.

Direct comments made by children, young people and families during the review of the Children and Young People's Plan (2007 and 2008)

On housing issues - a more cohesive approach is needed by services for young people approaching the council, and should provide more support for young people at an earlier stage.

Consultation on the Medway Housing Strategy 2008-11

## Where we want to be

### **We want all children and young people in Medway to thrive.**

For Medway to be a place where children can grow and flourish, we need to ensure that families are supported to give their children the best start in life, that opportunities for active and healthy lifestyles are available and truly accessible, that young people can engage in positive activities, and that those who are vulnerable, at risk, or in need of extra help are supported.

We need to support parents, particularly those facing difficult circumstances, to support their children's health, learning and well-being, ensuring that there are appropriate services for vulnerable adults who themselves are parents.

### **Over the next two years we want to:**

- reduce obesity, smoking and alcohol consumption, through promotion of healthy lifestyles among children and young people, and their families;
- accelerate a reduction in the under-18 conception rate, and ensure that young people are able to make positive choices about their sexual health and well-being;
- safeguard the future well-being and life chances of the babies of very young parents;
- develop resilience among Medway's young people, by improving the reach and effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services, so that vulnerable young people receive timely and effective support;
- ensure that children with disabilities are supported through an increase in availability of short breaks, closer to home, and other opportunities which also provide support to their families;
- increase the number of places to go and things to do for young people in Medway. This will create new opportunities and environments for active participation in play, culture, leisure and sport, and ensure that children and young people who are disabled can access the full range of opportunities alongside their peers;
- ensure that particular needs of looked after children are met;
- reduce youth homelessness, tackle the circumstances that lead to young people leaving the family home, and maximise the supply of safe, suitable and affordable housing to meet the needs of young people in Medway.



## What we will do

**To ensure that children and young people in Medway thrive, over the next two years we will:**

- support healthier lifestyles through delivery of the healthy schools programme and increased participation in sport and leisure, including free swimming for all under 16s, and free access to our leisure centres for children in care;
- improve sexual health services and target our work with young people most at risk, so that teenage conception rates will be reduced;
- introduce the Family Nurse Partnership programme of intensive home visiting for vulnerable first time mothers;
- promote the emotional wellbeing of children and young people, including implementation of the recommendations of the Fundamental Review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), improving commissioning and governance arrangements to ensure we meet the National Service Framework Standard for children with mental health needs;
- increase the number of places to go and things to do for young people in Medway, and improve information about the availability of positive activities, targeting support to those who are vulnerable or at risk;
- in addition to the universal services expected and available to all families, we will develop and offer a new range of short breaks and positive activities through the Aiming High programme to support families with disabled children and those with complex health needs;
- ensure there is full capacity within focused health services to ensure that the health-care needs of looked after children are fully catered for in a timely manner;
- maximise the supply of safe, suitable and affordable housing to meet the needs of young people in Medway; provide effective and co-ordinated services to protect and assist young people; and ensure that the vulnerable young people of Medway have the same opportunities to access the housing market as other residents.

## How will we know when we've got there?

The children's trust board will oversee progress towards improving the outcomes of children and young people, by monitoring whether a range of measures are on track, including:

- childhood obesity as measured at age five and 11 is reduced;
- a reduction in the under-18 conception rate, and prevalence of chlamydia;
- an improvement in the emotional health of children, including looked after children;
- an increase in young people's participation in positive activities, and satisfaction with parks and play areas;
- an improved satisfaction with services for disabled children;
- a reduction in homelessness among young people.

## Where you can find out more

The following plans and documents provide detail of the actions to ensure that children and young people in Medway thrive:

### **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**

[www.medway.gov.uk/childcaresufficiencyassessment](http://www.medway.gov.uk/childcaresufficiencyassessment)

### **Drug and Alcohol Strategy**

[ww2.medway.gov.uk/FTP/Cabinet\\_Decisions/is1223/reports/report\\_1223\\_1942.pdf](http://ww2.medway.gov.uk/FTP/Cabinet_Decisions/is1223/reports/report_1223_1942.pdf)

### **Growing Healthier NHS Medway's 5 Year Strategic Commissioning Plan**

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Agendas\\_minutes\\_and\\_reports\\_2009/Board\\_Meeting\\_\\_25\\_March\\_2009/html](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Agendas_minutes_and_reports_2009/Board_Meeting__25_March_2009/html)

### **Maternity Matters Needs Assessment 2009**

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Extranet\\_home/Maternity\\_Matters\\_/index.html](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Extranet_home/Maternity_Matters_/index.html)

### **Medway Council Plan 2009-12**

[www.medway.gov.uk/councilplan](http://www.medway.gov.uk/councilplan)

### **Medway Play Strategy**

[www.medway.gov.uk/greenspacestrategy](http://www.medway.gov.uk/greenspacestrategy)

### **Medway Sports and Recreation Strategy 2009-2016**

[www.medway.gov.uk/medway\\_sport\\_\\_recreation\\_strategy\\_2009-2016.pdf](http://www.medway.gov.uk/medway_sport__recreation_strategy_2009-2016.pdf)

### **NHS Medway's Operational Plan 2009-10**

[www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/download.php?id=1455](http://www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/download.php?id=1455)

### **Sure Start health targets**

[www.childrens-centres.org/Topics/Health.aspx](http://www.childrens-centres.org/Topics/Health.aspx)

### **Young Persons' Housing Strategy 2008-11**

[www.medway.gov.uk/young\\_persons\\_housing\\_strategy\\_2008-11.pdf](http://www.medway.gov.uk/young_persons_housing_strategy_2008-11.pdf)

### **Youth Facilities in Medway – The report of the Medway Council Members' Youth Facilities Task Group**

[www.medway.gov.uk/och20081023r-2.pdf](http://www.medway.gov.uk/och20081023r-2.pdf)

# Section 2

*Making our plans for  
children and young  
people happen*



## Medway Children's Trust

Medway's Children's Trust is a local partnership that brings together the organisations responsible for services for children, young people and families in a shared commitment to improving children's lives. It is the council – through its director and lead member for children's services – which leads the children's trust board, but they work closely with other local agencies with a legal duty to be part of the trust: the strategic health authority; NHS Medway (the Primary Care Trust); Kent Police; the police authority; the local probation board; the youth offending team; Medway Youth Trust (Connexions); and the Learning and Skills Council. In addition Medway's Children's Trust includes other important partners – some of which will have statutory duties to co-operate under new legislation - like schools, colleges, third sector organisations, Jobcentre Plus and representatives of parents and of young people.

The children's trust board will oversee the delivery of all of the actions and promises in this plan, and the development of future priorities and plans from 2011 onwards.

The key areas for improving children's outcomes over the next two years, as set out in this plan, have been grouped into six thematic areas, each of which will have a strategic partnership group responsible for drawing up an action plan so that progress can be effectively monitored.

- Parenting and Family Support
- Integrated Youth Support
- Aiming High for Children With Additional Needs
- Emotional Well-being
- Care Matters
- 21st Century Schools

A diagrammatic representation of the Medway Children's Trust, and the strategic partnership groups, is shown on page 38.

# How we use our resources

## Commissioning services

This Children and Young People's Plan sets out how all partners will prioritise resources to improve outcomes for children and young people in Medway.

Improved outcomes depend on effective co-ordination and use of resources – increasing investment in universal prevention and early intervention – while maintaining essential services.

Effective strategic commissioning is at the heart of developing preventative strategies and improving outcomes for children and young people. It is an activity that will involve all children's trust partners and will operate by drawing on pooled and aligned resources including staff, finance and buildings. Opportunities for the continued development of integrated teams of practitioners and professionals, and the joint or shared use of premises, will be explored where there are clear benefits for improving outcomes for children and young people.

NHS Medway will channel its investment and act through the Children's Strategic Change Programme Board which will form part of the children's trust structure.

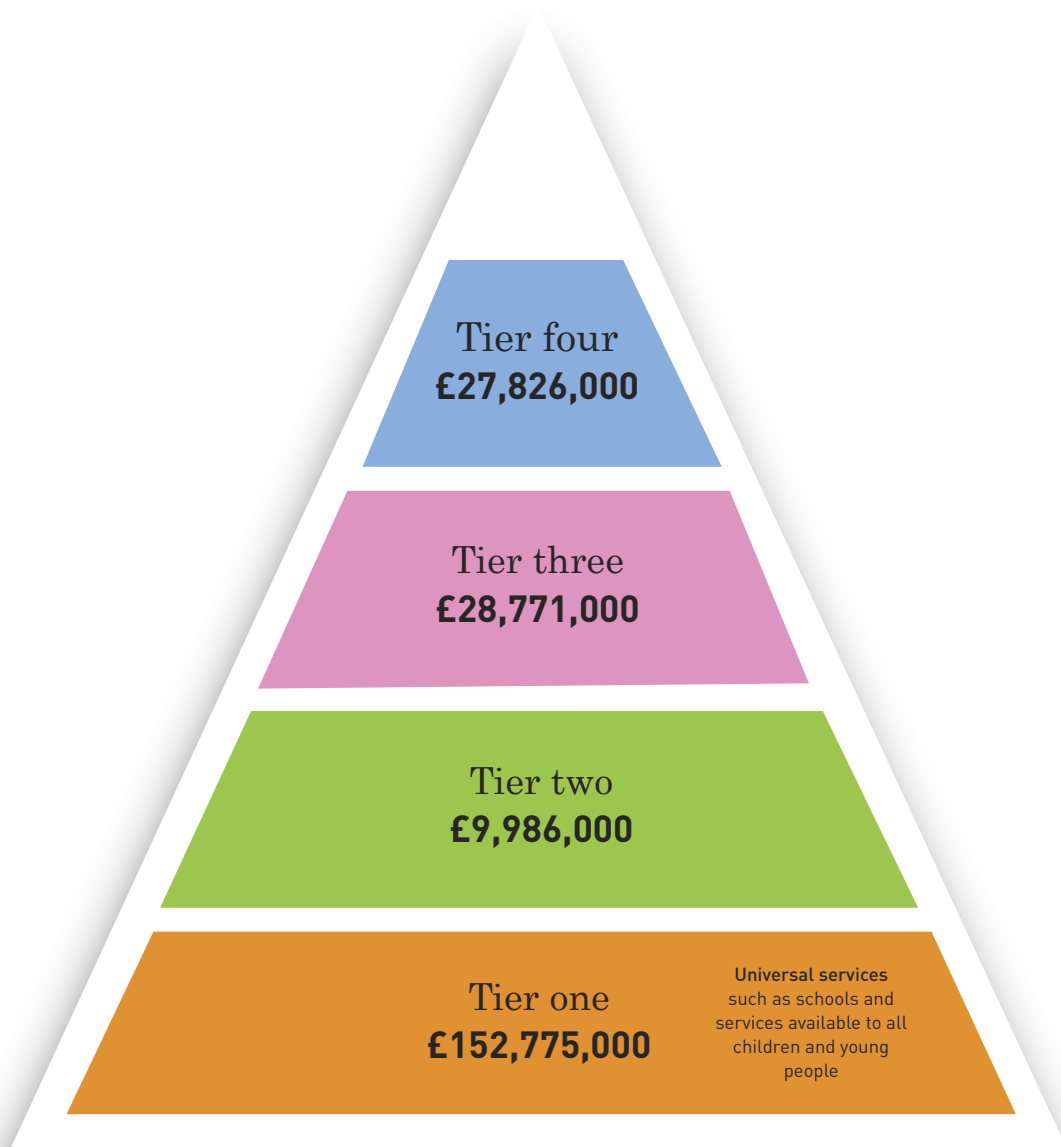
NHS Medway and Medway Council have jointly funded a Commissioning and Strategy Division that will work on behalf of both agencies and the children's trust board to develop commission programmes that will deliver the actions set out in this plan.

Working with the six strategic partnership groups, commissioning reviews will result in the procurement of evidence-based services that are able to demonstrate impact and effect real change for children and young people.

Our commissioning strategy will ensure that our proposals are realistic and affordable, and we are aligning our commissioning plans to our priorities, and shaping the local market.

To gain a clear picture of resources across Medway, all children's trust partners have started to map out what they spend aligned to the six strategic partnership groups.

Budgets have been broken down within services according to the tier within the vulnerability triangle they relate to (as described in the introduction to this plan). The overall pattern of spending on services for 2008/9, broken down as described above, is:



Over the next two years and beyond, the ambition is to invest in universal preventative services and so prevent children and young people requiring more specialist and expensive services (those further up the triangle).

## Participation and involvement of young people

A new framework for consulting and engaging with children and young people, prior to decisions being made, will be co-ordinated to ensure that:

- consultations are prioritised to align with the commissioning review process;
- the timing of consultations enables young people to continue to focus on their education at key points in the year;
- the full range of young people with a specific interest in a particular area is engaged;
- young people receive feedback on how their input has changed service planning or delivery;
- young people who are trained as young commissioners understand the constraints on the council and NHS when making decisions about services;
- a wider range of children and young people are available to participate in engagement and consultation events.

In parallel, local parent and carer forums will be developed and once established, will agree representation through a Medway Parent and Carer Forum to ensure that the views of families are properly represented in the children's trust framework.







## Integrated local delivery

We know that as agencies and as practitioners we can achieve more together than as individuals. Over the past 10 years there has been significant progress in developing more integrated ways of working, moving beyond narrow professional disciplines, and addressing the broader needs of individual children, young people and families.

The government workforce strategy includes the following description of integrated working from the perspective of a child or young person:

	User perspective	System perspective
<b>If I have a need</b>	<p><b>Understand my needs and respond in time:</b> Someone sees that I and my family/ carers need particular support. They work with us to properly understand the need, to offer us information and advice so that we can decide what is best to do.</p>	<p><b>Early identification and responsiveness</b> Every child and family, or young person, has someone who knows them, relates to them, and knows how to identify and respond to a potential need and access wider services.</p>
<b>If I need more support</b>	<p><b>Plan with me</b> Someone I trust works with me and my family/carers to assess my need. They plan with us to work out an action plan for me and to decide who can help.</p>	<p><b>Holistic assessment and action planning</b> Where the child or young person has a potential need that cannot be met in their universal setting, a trained practitioner will work with them to assess their needs holistically, supported by the local multi-agency team where appropriate. Where additional needs are identified, the child and family, or young person, will be fully involved in the development of a personal action plan.</p>
<b>If I need more people to help me</b>	<p><b>Build me a team</b> Someone brings together all of the people I need to support me and my family/carers. They make sure we can access this support, and that we are getting it.</p>	<p><b>Integrated team</b> Where a child or young person needs additional services from more than one practitioner, someone will select the practitioners who are best able to support their specific needs (from the multi-agency team and specialist services as appropriate) and form an integrated team – a team around the child.</p>

In Medway, both Medway Council and NHS Medway have organised teams of professional staff to work in integrated teams serving families living in local geographical areas. The council's Integrated Area Teams (IATs) and NHS Medway's Children and Young People's Teams cover the same areas and are located in Chatham/Rochester, Gillingham/Rainham, and Strood/Hoo.

The council's IAT comprises a range of professionals including social care, family support, behaviour support, education welfare, and learning support staff. Staff from the youth service, youth inclusion and support panel (YISP) and extended schools are located in the IATs and a virtual team extends to partners from Sure Start, health visitors and other professionals located in the area. NHS Medway's Children and Young People's Teams include speech and language therapy, child health clinics, home visiting for children under five years of age, and advising on a wide range of topics including nutrition, development, behaviour and the well-being of the family.

At the front line are universal services used by all, or nearly all, children, young people and families – including schools, Sure Start children's centres, healthy living centres, and youth facilities.

## **21st century schools**

The DCSF's national Children's Plan model for 21st century schools set out how, as a universal service, schools should be at the heart of an effective system of prevention and early intervention so that targeted support can be provided to those children and families who need it. To achieve this, schools must be able to rely on timely and appropriate support for their pupils from other agencies and specialist services.

The key development for the school is that it needs to operate as part of a local system of schools and service providers, in partnership in the local children's trust, to promote the well-being of all children, young people and families in the area. This means that a 21st century school is committed to both excellence in teaching and learning and to working in partnership to address children's needs in the round through the provision of extended services with other local service providers. The school also shares a commitment with others to promote the well-being (including educational achievement) of all children and young people in the area, not only its own pupils. In return, schools and colleges must receive the services they need through the local children's trust to support their pupils.

Through representation on the children's trust and its sub-groups, schools will be able to contribute fully to the strategic discussions with children's trust partners about local needs and priorities and be clear about their role in prevention and early intervention. Clarity about the roles and responsibilities of all services in each children's trust will, in turn, support mutual accountability.

## Partners in the voluntary sector

The voluntary sector is a key stakeholder to ensure that the children's trust board is able to deliver the outcomes it needs in this plan, with particular experience and skills in engaging families who statutory agencies find hard to reach.

The voluntary sector already has a key role in the children's trust in Medway through effective representation on the six strategic partnership groups developing outcome-focused services to improve, for example, emotional well-being and youth support. Through the Council for Voluntary Services (Medway CVS), and the Voice, voluntary sector organisations are able to feed in to the trust issues that affect service provision for children and young people in Medway. The closeness of these groups to communities in Medway demonstrates the often unique perspective voluntary organisations can provide. Importantly, voluntary sector presence at board level and in the Commissioning Group will ensure strong and robust delivery of evidence-based services including and building on valuable work already delivered by local voluntary organisations.

## Workforce development

People who work with children and young people – as professionals or volunteers – play a critical role in supporting each child to reach their full potential.

Everyone who works with children and young people should understand their role and responsibilities in the children's trust and their part in improving outcomes. This plan is underpinned by a strategy for support and development of the local children and young people's workforce.

We believe that everyone who works with children and young people should be ambitious for every child and young person; excellent in their practice; committed to partnership and integrated working; respected and valued as professionals.

The aim is to ensure that the workforce has the skills and knowledge to do the best job they can, to help children and young people develop and succeed across all the outcomes which underpin Every Child Matters: being safe, staying healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

Each children's trust has to publish a local workforce strategy based on a common core of skills and knowledge that demonstrates that whatever the nature or level of the job each person has the competency to work with children. Our local workforce strategy will reflect national commitments within the government's own 2020 Workforce Strategy and the NHS National Service Framework for Children.

The success of the model of 21st Century Schools depends on a skilled and motivated workforce, able to meet the needs of children and families, in school and beyond. In social care there will be a strengthening of the leadership, management and supervision of frontline social workers. NHS Medway and Medway Council will develop joint training plans for staff across different organisations.

## Where you can find out more

DCSF – 2020 Children and Young People’s Workforce Strategy

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeoplesworkforce/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeoplesworkforce/)

National Service Framework (NSF) for Children

[www.dh.gov.uk/4089111](http://www.dh.gov.uk/4089111)

## Information sharing and contact point

The Children Act [statutory guidance for section 10] states that good information sharing is key to successful collaborative working and that arrangements should ensure that information is shared for strategic planning purposes and to support effective service delivery. The members of the children’s trust board agree to share data to improve joint working for improved outcomes for children and young people in Medway. In the case of information about services to individual children, young people and their families, the sharing of information is prescribed by an agreed information sharing protocol.

To safeguard and promote the welfare of children, local arrangements ensure that:

- all staff in contact with children understand what to do and the most effective ways of sharing information if they believe a child and family may need targeted or specialist services to achieve their optimal outcomes;
- all staff in contact with children understand what to do and when to share information if they believe that a child may be in need, including those children suffering or at risk of significant harm.

During the next two years, a new information sharing system will be introduced across the country, including in Medway. ContactPoint will contain basic information on every child in the country to allow approved practitioners quick and easy access to a child’s records so that they can find out what contact they have already had with specialist services. This will make safeguarding children a quicker, easier and more effective process with less duplication and less wasted time and effort.

Access to the information held about children will be restricted solely to those who need it as part of their work, and will be subject to stringent security controls, including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance, and accompanied by training in the safe and secure use of ContactPoint. All use of ContactPoint will be monitored and audited.

## The Common Assessment Framework

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) helps to identify, at the earliest opportunity, children's additional needs that are not being met by the universal services they are receiving, and to provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs.

The CAF is:

- process for carrying out a common assessment, to help practitioners gather and understand information about the needs and strengths of the baby, child or young person, their family, and other practitioners as appropriate;
- A standard form to help practitioners record, and where appropriate share with others, the findings from the assessment in terms that are helpful in working with the family to find a response to unmet needs.

The CAF is a way of seeing a child or young person in a way that helps to clarify what their additional needs might be and determine what the best and most appropriate way to meet those needs is.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone uses the most effective means of identifying need, and responding to what children, young people and their families say are the three things that will help tackle barriers and deliver improved outcomes:

- telling my story once;
- services joining up to support me and my family and meaning it;
- do what you say – deliver on promises.

From 2009 (and with the exception of where there is a safeguarding concern, for which we have different emergency procedures) the CAF is the only assessment tool which should be used to access services.

## The Medway Safeguarding Children Board

The Medway Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) is a statutory multi-agency organisation which brings together agencies who work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Medway.

Children can only be safeguarded properly if agencies work effectively together. Medway Safeguarding Children Board is designed to help ensure that this happens.

The MSCB includes representatives of Medway Council, all Medway health bodies, Kent Police, Kent Probation, Medway schools, voluntary organisations and many others.

## **Transitions to adulthood/adult services**

Children and young people grow up. While this is self evident it is not always straightforward to make sure that the services and the support in place to enable a child or young person to be safe, succeed and thrive is maintained once they are adults. Medway is committed to ensuring that planning for this adult phase, and the information necessary to plan, is in place. The **getting a life pilot** will enable Medway to improve practice and to have a stronger, more meaningful transition for young people and will build on existing protocols including the Year 9 transition review for children who have a statement of special educational needs.

## **How this plan will be published and reviewed**

This plan will be published on the websites of Medway Council and NHS Medway.

The plan will be circulated to all partners and agencies of the Medway Children's Trust.

Copies of the plan will be made available at libraries and other places in Medway where the public have access.

This Children and Young People's Plan covers a two-year period to 2011.

It will be monitored quarterly, and reviewed after one year in 2010, at which point we shall be evaluating progress towards the outcomes we have set out to improve, and the extent to which the proposed actions have been effective.

There will be ongoing engagement with children, young people and families about how they feel about life in Medway and the services they receive.

The Medway Children's Trust Board will reflect the feedback from agencies and partner organisations, and external views from inspections and other processes.

For further information relating to any aspect of this plan, please contact:  
Commissioning and Strategy Division, Medway Council,  
Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR  
Phone: 01634 334018  
Email: [childrenstrust@medway.gov.uk](mailto:childrenstrust@medway.gov.uk)

## Performance data sources

### ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (APA) TOOLKIT DATASET

These are the APA performance indicators that contributed to the assessments given to councils on their services to children and young people.

### JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)

This is the annual public health report for Medway.

### LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)

The outcomes set out in the LAA have been identified and agreed through the Medway Local Strategic Partnership, involving all key local partners and stakeholders as part of a comprehensive exercise to refresh Medway's Community Plan.

### MEDWAY COUNCIL COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) SCORECARD

Audit Commission assessment of the council's performance, combining a corporate assessment, an annual use of resources assessment, and annual service assessments.

### NATIONAL TREATMENT AGENCY STANDARDS

For the Medway Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

### POLICING KENT PLAN 2009-12

The three-year forward plan developed jointly by the Kent Police Authority and Kent Police; Annual Report and Statistical Summary

### WORLD CLASS COMMISSIONING

NHS Medway World Class Commissioning Development Plan. World class commissioning will deliver a more strategic and long-term approach to commissioning health and care services, with a clear focus on delivering improved health outcomes.

### YOUTH JUSTICE BOARD STANDARDS

Sets out the requirements for service provision for youth justice services; additionally, the joint inspection report of Medway Youth Offending Team.



