



Leicestershire  
**Children and Families**  
Partnership

# Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership Plan 2024-26



# Foreword

Our Children and Families Partnership Plan brings together partners who work closely with our children and young people. Over the past three years we have made great strides in improving the lives of our children and young people, their families and carers in Leicestershire. A partnership approach where the child's voice is at the forefront of all our thinking and action, provides a safe and supportive culture for our children to thrive. This in turn supports our vision that **children and young people in Leicestershire are safe and living in families where they can achieve their full potential.** We are united as partners and I am incredibly proud to be the Chair of the partnership as we move forward over the next three years.



Cllr Deborah Taylor

Lead Member for Children, Families, Safer Communities and Regulatory Services

Deputy Leader of Leicestershire County Council



## Vision

Children and young people in Leicestershire are safe and living in families where they can achieve their potential and have their health, wellbeing and life chances improved within thriving communities.



## Background

Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership was established in 2018 to champion effective partnership working on shared outcomes and priorities that make a real difference to the lives of children and young people.

The Partnership is a sub-group of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board and is tasked with overseeing the delivery of a Children and Families Partnership Plan, addressing priorities identified in the Best Start for Life chapter of Leicestershire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Partnership is made up of the key organisations that work with children, young people and their families across Leicestershire and includes representatives from Leicestershire County Council, District and Borough Councils, Leicestershire Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Health, Schools, Probation Service, Department of Work and Pensions and the Voluntary Sector.

By working together, the Partnership aims to maximise resources and expertise, be more co-ordinated in the services provided and avoid duplication of effort to achieve the best outcomes for children and families.

Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership, Leicestershire SEND and Inclusion Board, Youth and Justice Partnership Board and the Early Help Partnership are strategically aligned to the Children and Families Partnership and provide regular reports.

Young people from the County Youth Council for Leicestershire and Members of Youth Parliament for Leicestershire attend Partnership meetings bi-annually to enable them to have direct dialogue with strategic managers and to provide updates on projects and campaigns they are involved in.

# Children and Families Partnership Plan

The Children and Families Partnership oversees the delivery of the partnership plan which sets out our ambition for children and families. To make this happen the Children and Families Partnership focus on 5 priorities.



**Priority 1:**  
**Children have the best start for life (early years)**



**Priority 2:**  
**Children are safe and free from harm**



**Priority 3:**  
**Families are supported to be self-sufficient and resilient (early help)**



**Priority 4:**  
**Vulnerable families receive personalised, integrated care and support**



**Priority 5:**  
**Children have good physical, emotional and mental health**

# Children and Families Partnership Plan Refresh 2024-26

A review of the Partnership Plan for 2021-23 was undertaken in 2023 and, based on an understanding of the data and the needs of Leicestershire's children and families, the Partnership agreed that the existing five priority areas remained relevant, and the focus of the refreshed Partnership Plan should remain on identifying and delivering actions under these priorities, where improved partnership working would add value.

An overview of the refreshed Partnership Plan for 2024-26 and the updated Children and Families Partnership governance structure is provided in the appendices to this document.



## How will we deliver the Partnership Plan?

Named leads for each priority continue to work with partners and other key stakeholders to develop and deliver their priority action plans and to provide regular progress reports to the Children and Families Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board..

## How will we know we are making a difference?

The Partnership Plan is a long-term ambition and the identified priorities will require a medium to long term strategic approach and system change to achieve.

The Partnership, supported by the Health and Wellbeing Board, will monitor key performance/success indicators over time to help understand how the priority action plans are contributing to delivering change and improving outcomes for children and young people.



# Delivering our priorities and making a difference

## Children and Families Partnership Plan 2024-26

### Priority 1

### Children have the best start for life (early years)

#### What we want to achieve

- To be an effective, inclusive, and informed Best Start for Life Partnership
- To ensure family and community voices are heard both operationally and strategically
- To provide high quality services using evidence-based approaches that meet needs
- To have a well-trained and well-informed workforce which understands local service provision
- To have appropriate information sharing in place which enables us to identify vulnerable children and families at the earliest possible opportunity and to provide targeted support
- To have a data set that enables us to collectively track progress and identify areas for development

#### What we will do

- Establish the Best Start for Life Partnership as a communications hub to ensure that all partners are kept up to date with national and local initiatives and policy drivers so that all partners feel fully informed and connected to the bigger picture
- Work together to develop a collective understanding of community engagement, and where practical and sensible to do so, combine resources and share findings
- Develop a dashboard with data from partners to identify future priorities for joined up working
- Develop a workforce plan which includes identification of a core skill set as well as some key principles about how we deliver our work
- Review current information sharing agreements and combine to have an overarching agreement across the Best Start for Life Partnership
- Identify a core data set for the Best Start for Life Partnership and means of data collating and sharing on a regular basis

#### Indicators of success

- Data set in place, contributed to from across the Best Start for Life Partnership, that supports our shared understanding of need and performance
- Agreement in place for the sharing of maternal, family and community voice so that families can contribute to the Best Start for Life Partnership



## Priority 2

### Children are safe and free from harm

#### What we want to achieve

- To keep adolescents safe by working together to effectively safeguard them from harm outside of the home

#### What we will do

- Develop a life-stage approach to safeguarding children relating to extra-familial threat/harm outside the home
- Develop a national approach regarding serious youth violence
- Develop a multi-agency audit regime

#### Indicators of success

- Whole force strategy around child protection in place
- Increase in the identification of child protection issues via:
  - an increase in public protection notice submissions (on interfamilial and extrafamilial abuse)
  - an increase in work with Pheonix programme
- Communication campaign developed, with a suite of metrics to understand the reach





## Priority 3

### Families are supported to be self-sufficient and resilient (early help)

#### What we want to achieve

- To implement Family Hubs in Leicestershire
- To improve access to services
- To develop an Early Help Partnership dashboard

#### What we will do

- Implement Family Hubs and communications strategy
- Develop a partnership Early Help Strategy and action plan
- Identify core competency requirements for the Early Help workforce and a mechanism for sharing training and learning across the Early Help Partnership
- Promote the Early Help Assessment (EHA) as a common form of assessment for all Leicestershire families who need help and support
- Understand barriers to accessing services and consider how we can better hear the voices of families who are often unheard
- Identify relevant data sets from across the partnership and update information sharing agreements in line with Supporting Families and Family Hubs

#### Indicators of success

- Family hubs embedded within our communities with a partnership approach to ensure that services meet needs, are accessible and make a positive difference
- The voice of our communities is reflected in the services we provide
- All partners are engaged and understand their role in early help and support delivering the early help strategy for Leicestershire



## Priority 4

### Vulnerable families receive personalised, integrated care and support

#### What we want to achieve

- To provide integrated, outcome-based, high quality, cost-effective provision
- To develop a multi-agency post 16 delivery model

#### What we will do

- Review the current Complex Care Panel pathway/ protocol and develop an approach that considers complex needs and solution focused responses
- Integrate care and support linking to children's wellbeing and parental mental health and wellbeing
- Develop the Care Leaver offer across the partnership
- Develop integrated pathway approaches for Section 117 funding

#### Indicators of Success

- Working together has improved the integration of services for key groups of children and young people



## Priority 5

### Children have good physical, emotional and mental health

#### What we want to achieve

- To understand why breastfeeding initiation rates across Leicestershire are lower than national average
- To reduce Accident and Emergency (A & E) attendances for 0 -18s across the County
- To reduce food poverty (including holiday hunger) through further development of the Leicestershire Food Plan
- To reduce maternal and child obesity
- To improve perinatal mental health

#### What we will do

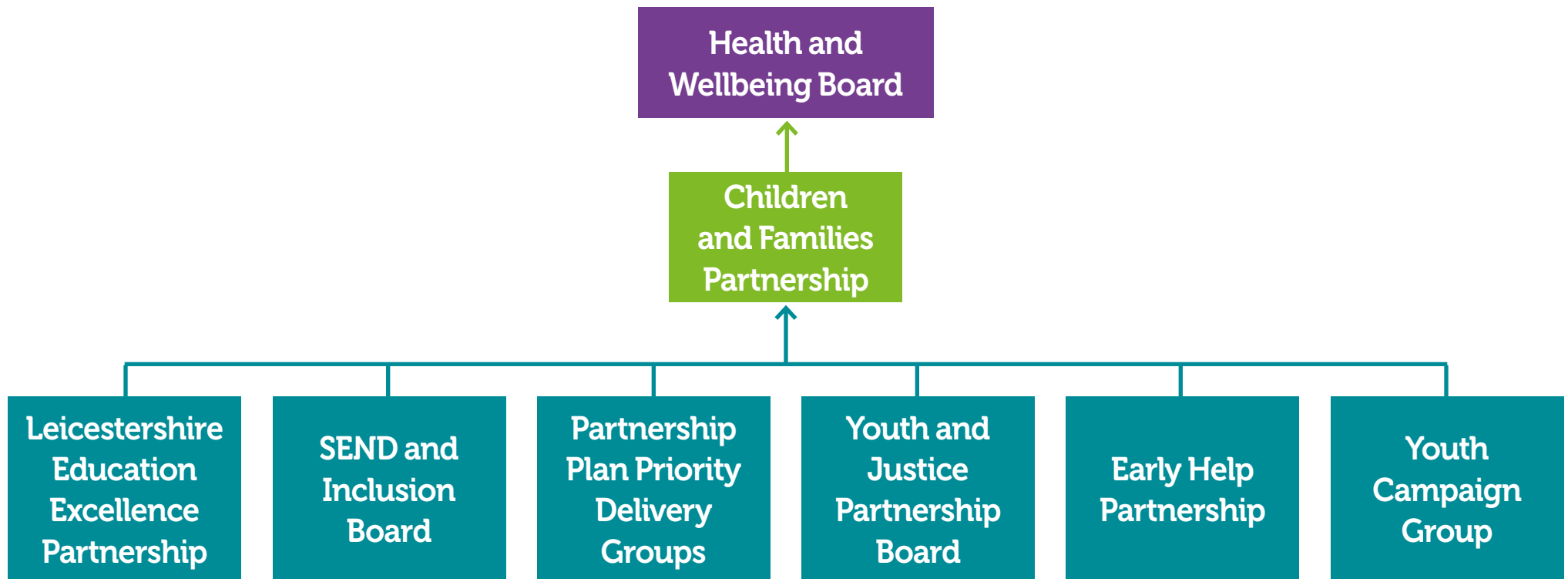
- Evaluate how local services are impacting on breastfeeding initiation and continuation rates
- Analyse A & E attendance data to understand and address any trends and develop prevention pathways
- Develop and implement a programme of work to address food poverty, including DfE funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- Develop a communications plan to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle before, during and post pregnancy
- Improve access to evidence-based interventions/psychological therapies for women and their partners at an earlier stage

#### Indicators of success

- Breastfeeding uptake and continuation rates are improved
- A&E attendances for children under 12 months are reduced
- Pregnancy nutritionist post is effective in reducing obesity in pregnancy
- Access to perinatal pathways of support is improved



# Children and Families Partnership Governance





Our Children  
Our Future

Leicestershire  
**Children and Families**  
Partnership

