Appendix 1

City of London Children and Young People's Plan 2026-2029



Artwork by a City of London young person

What is our Children and Young People's Plan?

The City of London Children and Young People's Plan sets out our vision and aspirations for children and young people who live in the City of London, or who are in the care of the City of London Corporation but may live outside of the City of London, from pre-birth into adulthood.

It also relates to parents, carers and wider family members as we know how important they are to children and young people's lives.

The Plan is based on:

- what children, young people and families have told us
- national research into what is important to help children and young people develop and learn
- a set of principles and ways of working that explain how we will work to deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people

The Plan sets out our high-level outcomes for children and young people and explains how we will deliver change under each of them through our strategies and service development plans.

What do we mean when we say….

'We' and 'our' – this refers to the City of London Corporation, or City Corporation for short.

'Children and young people' – this relates to children and young people from pre-birth to 19-year-olds or up to 25-years-old for young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and care leavers.

'The Plan' – refers to this Children and Young People Plan.



Responding to national government reform

The Plan comes during a time of national government reform which requires all local authorities to think about support and services for children, young people and families and make changes.

The Plan reflects and responds to what we're being asked to do by national government in the following ways:

- our principles and ways of working fit with what we're being asked to do
- how we will deliver against the Plan includes the development of new plans and strategies such as a Best Start Local Plan
- our top-line outcomes and how we'll measure our impact will fit with an approach being developed nationally

What is the national government children's social care reform?

In 2025, the Government set out reforms to children's social care. Part of this is called the Families First Partnership reform which requires local authorities to move to a 'family help' system and another part is developing Best Start Family Hubs. We are taking a phased approach to implementing the reforms, ensuring that the way we do it best meets the needs of children, young people and families in the City of London.

The Best Start Family Hub – City of London

You can find out more about the Best Start Family Hub – City of London by scanning this QR code:



Children and young people in the City of London

The City of London is a unique place, just one square mile, and is home to 1,975 children and young people aged 0-25, of which 713 are aged 0-18 (Census 2021 – this is the most recent national population survey).

Families live across the City of London but there are certain areas where more children and young people live. Almost a third of residents aged 18 and under live in Portsoken in the East of the City, which includes Middlesex Street and Mansell Street. Some children and young people live in the North (Golden Lane and Barbican communities).

There is only one maintained (state) primary school and five independent schools in the City of London. This means children and young people that live in the City of London go to over 60 different schools across London. There are also seven early years settings, for example nurseries, across the City of London.

The Census 2021 found that in the City of London of residents aged 18 and under:

- 48% were from global majority backgrounds – within this 9% identified as Bangladeshi
- 36% identified as White British or Northern Irish
- 15% identified as other White, 1% as Roma and 1% as Irish
- 50% are male and 50% are female

At the end of April 2026, in the City of London, there were:

25 Education, Health and Care Plans 12 Children in Need 13 children open to Early Help
8 children in care 44 care leavers



Progress since the last Plan (2022-25) includes…

Children and young people are happy, healthy and enjoy good mental health and wellbeing:

- continued delivery of the Best Start in Life 0-5 offer which promotes breast feeding, healthy eating, and oral health
- delivery of healthy lifestyle workshops to families and dissemination of healthy start vouchers and free vitamins
- ongoing work with communities and local settings to increase vaccination coverage
- commissioned an Enhanced Health Visiting Service to ensure every new family has access to support which is proportionate to their needs
- recommissioned the School Based Health Service which ensures that children and young people with medical needs are supported in school. It also promotes wellbeing and healthy lifestyles, and helps keep children safe through strong safeguarding partnerships
- supported schools and youth settings to become health-promoting environments, offering health support and advice relating to sexual and reproductive health, substance use, tobacco and vaping, and mental health
- delivered in-depth analysis on the mental health needs of children and young people, including those with SEND, to inform future planning
- launched HealthSpot City and Hackney, providing young people with the opportunity to access holistic health and wellbeing support
- delivered Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday enrichment activities for children and young people aged 4 to 25, including those with SEND



Progress since the last Plan (2022-25) includes…

Children and young people have the tools to fulfil their potential and are prepared for success in adulthood:

- recommissioned youth services
- delivered the Children in Care Council and other enrichment activities to support young people's experiences and development
- young people completed five apprenticeships with the Virtual School
- supported children and young people to stay in education, employment or training and achieve a range of attainment awards through the Virtual School
- identified children and young people at risk of missing education through systematic data from the Department for Education

Children and young people grow up with a sense of belonging in their communities:

- delivered more for children and young people in our libraries and community centres
- expanded funding for under-5s of working families which improved early learning and helped families afford childcare, supporting both children's development and local economic stability
- continued to strengthen the Care Leaver Offer
- supported City of London care leavers who have become parents themselves
- provided culturally-appropriate support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- delivered Children in Care Council activities including supper clubs and celebrations of cultural or religious events



Progress since the last Plan (2022-25) includes…

Children and young people are and feel safe:

- sustained no children under 18-years-old open to youth justice
- sustained no or low numbers of children supported by a Child Protection Plan
- refreshed the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Forum to better understand and respond to harm outside the home
- widened staff roles to do more prevention work as part of implementing the national children's social care reforms
- City of London Police's Operation Makesafe worked with City of London hotels to test their awareness and response to possible child exploitation, and supported the identification of locations of possible harm
- Child Centred Policing Strategy 2027-29 has been developed to drive activity to help keep children and young people safe

Children and young people are independent and have empowerment over services:

- involved young people in the recommissioning of the City of London youth service
- co-produced the care leavers website pages with young people
- supported care leavers around tenancies and housing
- offered regular informal spaces for children in care and care leavers to share their feedback and experiences through the Children in Care Council



What young people, parents and carers have told us

By 2029, I hope children and young people in the City of London….

- have equal opportunities to their neighbours
- have more activities after school or in half term. Also have more courses to encourage students to choose their career path
- that children with low-income parents are taken into account
- feel safe and have the right support to learn and grow in the community
- have all the support they need (including their parents/carers), are happy, safe and thriving

(Responses to the Plan's public consultation).



Artwork by City of London young person



What young people, parents and carers have told us

We value families' experiences and feedback. Examples of what young people, parents and carers have told us that they want to see more of include:

- activities for babies in the Golden Lane area
- support in relation to housing
- accessible activities for children and young people with SEND
- support for SEND children, young people and their families as close to home as possible
- support for families with children with SEND to navigate services and health pathways
- provision for girls
- opportunities/facilities for sports and arts
- detailed, accessible online information about available support

Some residents want a 'one-stop shop', a physical 'hub' in the City of London, others want services as close to home as possible.

This feedback and insight is being used to inform how we develop the support and services on offer to families.



What young people have told us

Young people who shared their views as part of the development of our youth services during 2025/26 said they wanted:

- a wider variety of clubs, activities and workshops
- more opportunities for young people
- activities that offer different levels and certificates to help keep young people motivated
- inclusive activities
- more SEND activities for teenagers
- more young people involved

What young people told us informed the development of the youth service specification which sets out what we want the provider of the service to deliver.

Virtual School colleagues had informal conversations with young people about the draft Plan as part of the Easter school holiday activities programme (March 2026).

The young people agreed with the ways of working in the draft Plan.

The young people shared what they think works well in the City of London:
- the holiday activities, especially KABs (the provider)
- going on organised trips outside of the City of London, e.g. Epping forest
- residential trips for care leavers

The young people shared what they thought would make things even better in the City of London:
- more things to do for children outside of school
- more places to play and meet up
- easier ways to find out what is going on and whether they can go, i.e. age, sex, SEND etc.

What young people told us will be used to inform how we develop the support and services on offer to young people.



Continuing to involve families

We will continue to involve, listen and act on what children, young people and their families tell us throughout the duration of this Plan.

Ways we will do this include:

- our annual children and young people survey
- involve young people and families in our commissioning of services, like we have with our youth services offer
- engage with the City of London Youth Forum and Children in Care Council
- involve members of the City Parent Carer Forum which brings together parent carers of children with SEND
- Involve families in renewing our strategies and plans relating to children and young people
- targeted involvement activity around specific topics or with particular groups when needed to help us reach a wide, diverse range of children, young people and their families

However, parents and carers have told us they can feel overwhelmed by surveys and being asked the same questions again and again. So, we will think about what we know already and where we can join-up involvement activities to avoid duplication.



Our vision and high-level outcomes

Our vision:

Children and young people who live in the City of London or are in the care of the City of London Corporation have the best start in life and get the right support when they need it as they move into adulthood.

Our **five high-level outcomes** are that children and young people:

1. are and feel **safe**
2. are physically **healthy**
3. are **happy** with good emotional wellbeing and mental health
4. can **learn** in a way that works for them and have access to activities and opportunities that support their **development**
5. experience positive **relationships** and feel part of their **community**



Our principles and ways of working

Our Plan is based on **principles** that we will work to. They are:

- be ambitious for children and young people
- listen to children and young people and respond to what they are saying
- be transparent about what we're doing to support children and young people, so families know and understand our offer
- be open to learning from others and trying new things
- reduce inequalities by driving equity, equality, diversity and communities that are inclusive of all

Our **ways of working** are:

- strengths-based - we will focus on children and young people's strengths, not what they can't do
- relationship-based – we will support children and young people to have positive relationships
- trauma-informed – we will deliver culturally sensitive, safe services and empower children and young people to make choices
- anti-racist – we will challenge discrimination and embed anti-racist practice
- family help – we will support children and families to get the help they need at the earliest point from a multi-agency family help system and with the support of their family networks
- accessible and inclusive – we will make sure children, young people and families can access support and activities, and feel welcome
- collaborative – we will work with partners and children, young people and families to continue to develop and strengthen our offer



How will we deliver against the Plan?

This Plan provides our overarching approach to supporting children and young people to achieve positive outcomes. Several strategies, action plans and service development plans sit below this Plan.

City Corporation Corporate Plan

Children and Young People's Plan 2026-2029

Department for Community and Children's Services strategies, action plans and service development plans including:

SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-29
Early Help Strategy 2023-2026
Corporate Parenting Strategy 2024-29
Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-29
Education Strategy 2024-29
Adult Skills and Education Strategy
Best Start Local Plan
Virtual School Development Plan
Workforce Development and Learning Strategy
Service development plans
Attendance Strategy

System-wide strategies and plans including:

NHS North East London Commissioning Strategy
Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026
Children's Integrated Commissioning Strategy 2025/26 – 2026/27
City and Hackney Place-based Partnership Strategy
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2028
City of London Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2026



How we'll measure our impact

The strategies, action plans and service development plans that sit underneath this Plan are where we will set out in more detail the actions we will take to achieve our five high-level outcomes for children and young people. This is where we will also set out the indicators that we will use to demonstrate the difference we've made to children, young people and families' lives.

Alongside using numbers and statistics, we will also share families' experiences and feedback through case studies, quotes and images if families are happy for us to do so.

High-level outcome

Strategy, action plan or service development plans will include:

- actions we will take
- indicators we will use to demonstrate the difference we've made



Who will make sure we deliver against the Plan?

The City of London Children's Partnership Board brings together senior leaders from partners including the City Corporation, Health, Public Health, the City of London Police and the voluntary and community sector. It has oversight of this Plan and delivery against it.

Elected Members in the City of London sit on various committees and hold City Corporation officers to account. The Children's Partnership Board is accountable to the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

We will continue to involve and listen to children, young people and families throughout our work delivering against this Plan.



Artwork by City of London young person





My London artwork by a City of London young person