

A Great Start in Life Sheffield's Strategy for Early Years 2019-2022

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1. Background

This early years' strategy is integral to Sheffield's wider health priority of enabling good health and wellbeing throughout life. It has major implications for the city's long term outcomes including educational attainment, community cohesion and economic prosperity.

Our ambition is to ensure all our city's children have the opportunity to achieve their potential and live long, healthy and happy lives. We remain committed to working towards fulfilling these ambitions for every child in Sheffield, including our most vulnerable infants.

Sheffield's Best Start strategy was launched in 2015 following detailed discussions which brought together colleagues from health, the local authority, schools, private, community and voluntary sectors. Over the last three years much has been achieved and we will share some of these developments on the following pages.

A period of consultation to review progress, took place over a 12 month period beginning in September 2018 with workshops designed to promote discussion, debate and consultation with stakeholders across the city.

Further consultation with Health and Education partners, parents and carers of under 5s and community/voluntary sectors took place in Family Centres across the city in September 2019. Achievements and progress was reviewed and gaps identified. The final strategy reflects the views and ambitions shared during those events. The revision has been a collaborative venture and as a result the strategy "belongs" to all.

This strategy sets out our ambitions for children and our commitment to a culture of partnership working with a focus on prevention so that all families achieve the best outcomes for their children. Working with our communities we will continue to find opportunities to provide earlier support and further improve our service offer to families by sharing and developing good practice.

Our philosophy hasn't changed. It is still aligned with our vision for a fairer, inclusive city, and one that builds on the strengths of communities and citizens to create the best environment for all children living in our city. With this in mind we have renamed our early years' strategy "A Great Start in Life".

Policy Context

There are 8 key drivers for the city:

1. Sheffield's Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy
2. Tackling Poverty Strategy
3. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
4. Healthy Child Programme (HCP)
5. Overview of the six early year's high impact areas (DOH)
6. Whole Family Working Principles
7. Locality Working
8. All Age Prevention and Early Help.

In response to a March 2016 debate on maternal care, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, Lord Nash, highlighted the importance of the early years in all areas of a child's development:

“...we all agree on the importance of maternal care and attachment in early childhood and its implications for longer term social and emotional development. International and UK studies have shown that the foundations for virtually every aspect of human development—physical, intellectual and emotional—are laid in early childhood. [...] What happens to a child from the womb to the age of five has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being from obesity, heart disease and mental health to educational achievement and economic status.”

The most recent report of the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee examining how current policy and practice supports children, parents and families during a child's first 1001 Days from Conception to Age 2 was published in February 2019. The Committee continues to emphasise the importance of a long-term and coordinated response nationally and locally, and encourages local authority areas to work jointly with local NHS bodies, communities and the voluntary sector to develop a clear and ambitious plan to improve support for children, parents and families in the first 1001 days of life'. This is of fundamental importance to Sheffield in developing prevention and partnerships, and understanding what action is required and by whom to give children the best possible foundation.

All children need strong trusting relationships with key adults in their lives and need to feel safe in order to thrive, flourish and enjoy a successful school life and adulthood. Good quality support provided during pregnancy, at birth and beyond to help families foster secure and positive relationships is profoundly important. Early positive bonds provide a child with a sense of emotional security and enable them to explore their world with confidence.

The Marmot Review report 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' clearly described the social and economic cost of health inequalities. Social stresses including poverty, poor housing and unstable employment, increase pressures on parents and families which act against their ability to create a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for their children. In Sheffield 35.2% of the population live in areas classified as amongst the most deprived in England (the average is 20%), and 1 in 4 of Sheffield's children live in poverty

Children exposed to these factors are less likely to get off to a healthy start from birth and are more likely to experience poorer outcomes by the time they start school, compared with children living in less deprived circumstances. Infant mortality rates in Sheffield remain higher than the England average, despite an extensive evidence based programme of work designed to reduce the risk factors. One of our main objectives is to understand what role everyone can play in seeking to reduce inequalities and improve wellbeing across the city.

Families of children under 5 have access to a range of services from health, social care and education. Through the lifetime of the original Best Start Strategy there have been fundamental changes and developments to these services: -

- The Local Authority now has responsibility for commissioning 0-19 Public Health services following regulations passed in 2017.
- Our Children's Centres are developing into Family Centres with an all age approach.
- A new approach to access to early help has further reinforced early years' partnerships.
- The partnerships at the foundation of the Early Years Centres of Excellence are being developed and strengthened.

- Our reputation as a Baby Friendly City continues to grow. Sheffield is the first Local Authority to receive the Unicef Baby Friendly Gold Award

The city prides itself on offering high quality funded early learning and extended services to many families, meeting their needs through a variety of cross sector provision; school, private provision and childminding. We want all Sheffield's young children to access high quality early learning opportunities that are inclusive for all. The Early Years Centres of Excellence, introduced in 2018 will become the enablers, promoting inclusion and supporting the delivery of high quality education and care for every child in every setting.

Sheffield continues to be at the forefront of developing new ways of working. Newly arrived families are welcomed and diverse cultures are embraced. Building on our experience as a city which supports and encourages community partnerships, our reviewed strategy has been developed in partnership with community groups and in consultation with parents and carers. There is a wealth of knowledge skills and experience of supporting children and families in our voluntary and community sectors and within Sheffield's early years' settings and our health services.

Together, we can deliver good quality services in the early years of a child's life which meet the needs and expectations of all Sheffield families.

The Changing Landscape

A commitment to effective partnership arrangements remains an important focus for early years' work in Sheffield, particularly in responding to increased vulnerability.

Progress is being made on developing locality based community paediatric service working alongside universal services including Family Centres to identify children who are vulnerable by virtue of disability, disadvantage, safeguarding issues, chronic illness or being looked-after and intervening at the earliest possible point to provide evidence-based care and improve outcomes. Where possible the intention is to provide care in localities close to home through an integrated child development service

Integrated working is an increasingly important strategic driver for improving health and wellbeing. Accountable Care Partnerships (ACPs) have been introduced, bringing together organisations to improve population health by joining up services and tackling the causes of ill health. Shaping Sheffield is the ACP's strategic plan for improving population health and wellbeing which includes promoting prevention and developing resilient families and communities help all children have the best life chances.

The table below provides a summary of discussions about early years which took place at the recent 'Shaping Sheffield' consultation events held with stakeholders across the statutory sector, community and voluntary groups. This feedback will also be considered in developing Implementation plans for Great Start in Life.

Shaping Sheffield: The Plan

Feedback Summary



Early years- developing more resilient families and communities

Workforce & Culture:

- Change the culture to remove the perceived hierarchy of services
- Staff need empowerment, time and capacity to get involved.
- Staff don't have the skills required to future proof demands.
- Need to adopt a person-centred approach to supporting staff.
- 'Champions' are needed as key support workers for families

Integrated Working:

- Increased partnership working with schools and the voluntary sector.
- All partners and organisations need to engage.
- 'Universal services' need to become the norm

All Age Approach:

- Prepare children for adulthood, and their role as parents
- Same education and information should be given at different life stages, to ensure approaches begin pre-pregnancy
- Roll out the Gleadless school readiness scheme.

Awareness:

- Increase parental engagement in all support services
- Make some services (eg parenting classes) universal to remove stigma

Digital:

- Need all computer systems to talk to one another.
- An online 'red book' to help the public understand services and improve access to support.

Strategic Approach:

- Commissioners and providers need to work together to deliver what is best for the child, not the system
- Need to take a leap of faith to invest in prevention
- We need to ensure we get the buy-in from the people of Sheffield and our city councillors
- Learn from organisations that have achieved true transformational change and be prepared to take risks.

Person-Centred:

- Involve service users from the beginning
- Support children and families to be more self-sufficient, using opportunities in their local area
- Enable tailored community approaches and fund community hubs
- Offer more than one choice

Access:

- Improved access for minority communities
- Need to fast track vulnerable families for eg mental health / dental / weight management support
- Increased support for 0-5's

Funding:

- Need integrated budgets and the freedom to allocate money to local priorities
- Simplify the process of accessing small grants.
- Closure of Surestart services has had a significant impact on families' resilience

Pathways:

- Holistic care is needed as families are often negotiating various pathways at the same time and this is disjointed and confusing. A named support worker would help.
- Pathways are unclear for all, professionals and families.
- New parents need additional support to understand where to go.

Both Shaping Sheffield and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognise that most poor health experienced in later life results from what happened in earlier stages in life. The Great Start in Life strategy will bring together one single approach for early years' work to ensure that the citywide vision and strategic priorities for children aged 0-5 years and their families is the same.

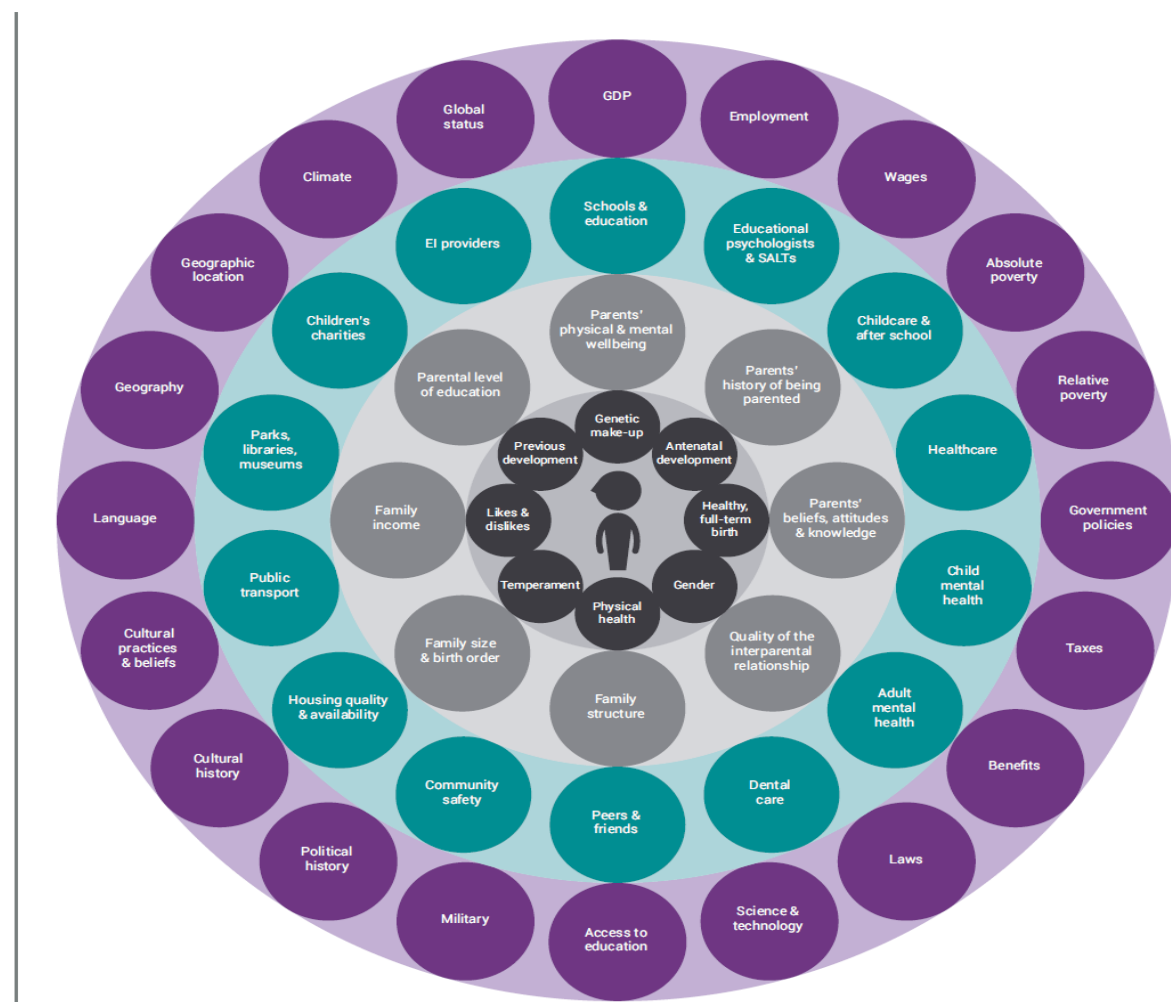
Preventing ill health requires an all-age approach involving joined up practice and partnerships across all sectors, and most importantly communities. People's own strengths and networks, their connections, assets and resources are paramount to wellbeing and improving quality of life. As part of this work we will improve the availability of high quality information and advice for families to improve equity of access, build resilience and self-efficacy.

We will collaborate with partners and communities to build places and deliver services that support and sustain these factors. This includes listening to the people where they live to design support around their needs, cutting across agency boundaries where necessary.

Achieving a Healthy Start

The following diagram illustrates the complex range of factors which can impact on a child's development, their social and economic prospects and increase their vulnerability to physical and mental health problems, criminal involvement, substance misuse or exploitation.

In Sheffield the challenge of working together to address these complex factors is tested further by the presence of significant social and health inequality. We know that most important protective factor for children is the quality of parent infant interactions. By building on our existing work with neighbourhoods, we are committed to empowering all families to provide a healthy, stable and nurturing environment for their children, and transforming the way we work so that we can offer everyone the help they need.



(‘Realising the Potential of Early Intervention’, Early Intervention Foundation, October 2018).

2. It All Begins with Babies

Right from conception children's earliest experiences make a significant difference to their lifelong health, wellbeing and life chances.

In the early years infants lay down the foundations for the higher mental processes and skills which optimise learning (focus, motivation, flexibility, logical thinking etc.). These abilities known as executive function skills together with self-regulation are the key skills children need to access learning and develop fulfilling relationships.

The quality of a child's interactions with their caregivers is the key protective factor to help them reach their potential. If a baby is exposed to significant adversity and their stress response systems are over-activated, it can result in an increased likelihood of long-term problems in learning, behaviour, physical and mental health.

Interventions enhancing mental health, executive functioning and the parent infant relationship which begin as early as during pregnancy can protect children's developing brains and help build resilient families. It is important that the infants vulnerable to highly insecure attachment are identified at the earliest opportunity and a clear pathway of support is identified, delivered and measured.

3. What have We Achieved? Progress and Next Steps

Since its launch in 2015 a considerable amount of work has been taken forward to implement Sheffield's 'Best Start' strategy and drive forward change in early years' services. Actions have been progressed through existing partnerships and by building new relationships across the public, voluntary and private sectors, with communities and also with schools. By balancing service provision according to need we have designed ways of working which are intended to identify and meet the needs of all families.

The following section provides an overview of progress, key achievements and future priorities. These priorities have been identified as areas for development following feedback from consultation events during autumn/winter 2018/2019 which included parents and families.

Ongoing work will continue on the areas of action already in place, many of which are embedded in other existing strategies including support for children with special educational needs, learning disabilities and children on the edge of care.

New detailed delivery plans for Great Start in Life will be developed to achieve the priorities and next steps described below. These plans will include measurable targets and indicators to monitor progress and show that meaningful changes are being achieved.

Outcome 1

Babies and young children are safe and have good health

Why is this important?

Early years lay the foundation for later resilience in life and investment during this period has considerable benefit in terms of potential cost benefits. Universal provision and targeted support provides key opportunities to identify families at risk or in need of greater support.

What have we achieved?

1. Infant Mortality Strategy -

There is an extensive programme of preventative work which continues to implement interventions designed to reduce the risks associated with infant mortality. Progress has included:

- Sudden Infant Death figures for Sheffield (2015) are 0.27 per 1,000, which is below the national rate and the lowest in Yorkshire and Humberside. The stillbirths rate remains higher than the national average
- Sheffield continues to be a breastfeeding friendly city. Breastfeeding initiation and maintenance rates at 6-8 weeks are higher than the national average (2nd highest core city)
- Maternity services are fully Unicef BFI accredited. 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and Family Centres have 'gold' status
- Maternal smoking at delivery rates have reduced from 15.2 to 12.0 which has been achieved through multi-disciplinary activity with a focus on relapse prevention
- 95% of all pregnant women have been booked for antenatal care by 13th week of pregnancy
- Sheffield's has received national recognition for its multi-agency programme designed to raise community awareness of consanguinity and genetic risk and increase access to genetic counselling and testing
- Free healthy start vitamins are now available for all pregnant women and babies/children under 5 within identified priority groups.

2. Teenage Pregnancy

Young people's sexual health remains a priority and we are continuing to develop provision and access to information, a sexual health website and other local services.

The teenage pregnancy rates for under 18 years olds is now 20 per 1,000 (15-17 year olds) which is half the pregnancy rate in 1998 when records began, and lower than the Yorkshire and Humber average

3. Delivery of the Healthy Child Programme

A new locality based model of service provision for the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme has been established. Health visiting and school nursing services are fully integrated, with

improved links into Family Centres and Sheffield's early help model and other organisations including schools, primary care and community paediatrics.

4. Oral Health

Tooth decay in the very young remain a concern, and hospital admissions in 2017/18 for dental caries (0-5 year olds) continue to be very high (960 per 100,000 population). We are committed to raising public understanding of the importance of good oral health, and improving access to services particularly for the most vulnerable families. There has been a focussed programme of oral health promotion work targeted at 2 year FEL children in the 20% most disadvantaged areas to increase access to early dental care including tooth-brushing clubs in schools and nurseries and dental health information packs.

5. Childhood Obesity

The UK is experiencing an epidemic of obesity affecting both adults and children. At age 4-5 Sheffield (22.7%) has a comparable combined overweight and obesity rate with England (22.4%) and the Yorkshire and Humber region (22.9%). However, historically Sheffield has been below these national rates. Reception age children classified as obese in Sheffield increased in 2018/19 to 22.7%. Among the core cities, Sheffield has the third lowest rate of combined Overweight and Obesity for children aged 4-5.

Amongst the range of responses being taken to address this problem the 'Start-Well Sheffield' family programme has been specifically developed to provide parents, grandparents and carers of children aged under 5 with advice on healthy eating and physical activity.

Next Steps

- Implement a local plans to achieve SYB LMS Key Lines of Enquiries (KLOE) and Better Births NHS England (the national transformation plans for maternity services).
- Maintain and continue to develop high quality, evidence based services providing preventative support and early intervention in the first 1001 days of a child's life
- Incorporate new evidence based interventions for tackling infant mortality risk factors, targeted at areas of higher deprivation with higher health need and integrate into wider placed based strategies and plans
- Build on the city's UNICEF accreditation work to establish Sheffield as a baby-friendly city through 'Going for Gold'

What will be different?

- The infant mortality rate in the city will be at or below the national average
- More pregnant women access personalised care continuity and choice during their pregnancy
- More women maintain a healthy weight during their pregnancy

- The women number of women who are smoking at the time of delivery declines in line or below the national average
- More women continue to breastfeed at 6-8 weeks
- More parents will have better understanding and skills in regard to nutrition and healthy physical activities for their family

Outcome 2

Parents are resilient and any mental health issues are addressed at the earliest opportunity

Why is this important?

Providing support to meet children and families' needs at the earliest opportunity results in better longer term outcomes and identifying potential need and early intervention in the early years prevents situations from escalating and ultimately reduces the need for intensive, specialist help and provides increased value for money. The most cost effective use of resources is to target them at meeting the needs of the most vulnerable families at the earliest opportunity from pregnancy to two years old.

What have we achieved?

Antenatal and postnatal promotional guides are used by the 0-19 service at routine early contacts to facilitate guided conversations which support the development of parent child relationships, the transition to parenthood and accurate, well-informed decisions about family need.

A comprehensive range of parenting programmes is available to parents and carers to help families develop relationships with their children. These programmes include:

- 'You and Me Mum' programme (for survivors of DA) delivered across city
- Baby Incredible Years evidence based parenting programme delivery expanded
- Baby Incredible Years co-delivered between MAST and social care to support vulnerable parents where there are Child Protection concerns

Where additional needs are identified we know the importance of collaborative working to support our most vulnerable children as demonstrated by the Troubled Families' programme which takes a whole family approach.

Work has also begun to develop a common citywide understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), responding to evidence of the damaging impact which exposure to ACEs has across the lifecourse. Staff knowledge is being raised across settings of the impact which ACEs can have on social, emotional and cognitive development, risky behaviours, and long term health and wellbeing.

As part of an all-age approach to mental health services with a focus on prevention, and early intervention, we are developing additional ways to identify and meet the needs of both parents and children where infant mental health is a concern.

There has been significant expansion of perinatal mental health provision in Sheffield. Early identification and access to support has been significantly strengthened through the development of an integrated care pathway, multi-agency staff training, the extensive development of peer support services across the city delivered by the voluntary sector, and funding to enhance specialist perinatal mental health provision in the city

£500,000 Reaching Communities Big Lottery funding was secured to reduce parental isolation and promote wellbeing amongst families with very small children in four of the most

disadvantaged areas of Sheffield. As a result of attending groups and activities funded through the project, 100% of parents reported that they felt less isolated, better connected, more confident in their parenting skills and that their children are happier, more confident and able to socialise, share and play.

Following the success of this initiative Manor Castle Development Trust has been funded to deliver a further Best Start Communities Count lottery funded project. The 3 year project which runs until 2022 will build on the Communities Count initiative by offering parents the chance to socialise, learn new cooking and budgeting skills and be confident in their own knowledge and expertise to give their young children the best possible start.

Next Steps

- Use data more effectively to in the perinatal period to help identify and target vulnerable families who require trauma informed support
- Identify additional opportunities for joint work by the voluntary sector and Family Centres to promote family resilience, develop community assets and reduce the need for more specialist intervention
- Add capacity to the workforce trained in Baby Incredible Years
- Further develop specialist perinatal mental health care pathways for vulnerable/high risk women

What will be different

- Children grow up in safe nurturing home environments and are able to form strong attachments to key family members.
- Fewer children experience toxic stress
- The resilience of individuals, families and communities is increased

Outcome 3

Brain development in the early years is optimised by secure attachment and quality relationships

Why is this important?

Children growing up in healthy, stable and nurturing family environments are more likely to be better prepared for school and life and experience better outcomes. Seeing mothers, fathers and carers as partners is key, they are experts about their child/children's lives. The key protective factor to optimise children's development and provide a great start in life is the quality of parent infant relationships in the first year of life.

What have we achieved?

A universal, targeted and specialist offer to families and carers is continuing to be developed in partnership by health and early years' practitioners providing evidence based interventions demonstrated to promote attachment, bonding and improve outcomes

Seven Family Centres have been established which together with outreach sites cover all areas of the city providing advice, support activities and services for families with children under-5 as well as maternity care and support for expectant parents

Workforce Development

Infant mental health training has been delivered to:

- The full midwifery workforce
- The full health visiting workforce
- Specialist perinatal mental health service – one cohort
- Social care – one cohort

80% of Health Visitors have also been trained in the Solihull Approach

Secure Attachment Focused Environments (SAFE) three days of training has been delivered to the majority of Foundation stage leads in schools with and early years' provision

Perinatal mental health champions in range of settings have been identified across the city

2½ year old joint child development checks are in place to optimise child development and emotional wellbeing, and to detect and address developmental delay or other health-related issues

All infants at 1 years and 2 years of age have a developmental check through the use of the Ages and Stages questionnaire which includes social and emotional screening.

Next Steps

- Prioritise attachment focused, evidence based interventions to infants from 0-2 years old who are identified as being at risk of traumatic attachment relationships

- Establish an infant mental health care pathway from health visiting through to CAMHS including key partners such as midwifery, early years' partnership, and perinatal mental health services
- Improve the specialist therapeutic offer for infants and families affected by intergenerational trauma including the potential for a direct parent/infant mental health intervention working alongside the 0-19 service
- Offer attachment focussed evidence based interventions
- Extend the range of universal and targeted perinatal and infant mental health interventions provided in communities and in children's service settings
- Provide activities designed to engage and support fathers/partners
- Develop a co-ordinated, cross-sectoral early years' workforce development offer including infant mental health

What will be different

- More parents are engaging positively with their babies and have good parent child attachment and attunement
- More infants experience secure attachment at 15 months
- All infants and their parents/carers experience an integrated service offer and community provision which promotes and optimises parent infant relationships
- Key partners will have robust systems in place in order to share communication so that any infant identified as having significant needs at any time from pregnancy to starting school will have their needs clearly identified at the earliest opportunity
- When infants are identified as having developmental gaps in their emotional and social development or who are at risk of an insecure attachment relationship families will be offered a package of support appropriate to their needs to improve their outcomes
- Infants identified and supported within the infant mental health pathway will have better outcomes measured through improved parental sensitivity, improved parental regulation, improved social emotional scores through ASQ measures and improved readiness for school

Outcome 4

Children are ready for school and life

Why is this important?

High quality learning, childcare and support through good parenting and stimulating environments will improve the 'school readiness' of children and shape the foundations for later life.

All children should have the opportunity to make good progress in their early development, and early identification of any problems and good access to support through universal and specialist services is essential. Support, advice and early learning services should be available to all families with children under 5, with a particular focus on conception to age 2.

What have we achieved?

Take up of two, three and four year old Free Early Learning has continued to increase since 2015

A Charter for Quality in the Early Years has been agreed

87% of under 5s registered with a Family Centre

73% of under 5s reached by a Family Centre

81.7% of Child minders rated good or better by Ofsted (May 2015)

70.4% of children achieved a good level of development (GLD) at the end of Reception stage which is in line with the national average

The disadvantage gap in GLD is now 28.2% better than national position and continues a year on year improvement.

7 Early Excellence Centres for Special Educational Needs have been developed for the city providing specialist evidence-based support

'Ready for School' statements have been agreed which are shared and owned by the early learning sector

School readiness pathways have been implemented with children identified for additional support provided by the Attendance and Inclusion team.

A multi agency partnership process has been established to identify families and children at threshold levels 2/3 for additional support and targeted activity.

Learning Communities and Building Blocks, pilot projects to support the home learning environment have been launched in locality B. Led by Save the Children, the project engages multiple agencies in Sheffield in focussing on school readiness in this area of high need. Learning from the projects will enable roll out of successful elements across the city to promote the benefits of good home learning environments to Sheffield families.

There has been a successful South Yorkshire wide bid for £1 million to train the early years' workforce across the professional disciplines in skills linked to early language development and early identification of needs, which will help implement the actions identified below.

The 0 – 19 specification is in place and targets are agreed which support school readiness. (High impact area – Healthy 2 year olds and getting ready for school).

Early partnership work is underway to address “was not brought” to appointments at Sheffield Children’s Hospital. A joint approach has been taken including early years’ settings, the Local Authority and Health to identify local solutions which support access to clinics. Beginning with Ophthalmology, it is envisaged that learning will be used to improve take up across clinics. Addressing problems such as hearing or vision as early as possible is crucial to ensure ensure children have a good educational experience and are able to achieve their potential.

A training package funded initially by the DFE and delivered by the LA has begun with 20 SENCOs from Private, Voluntary and Community settings now qualified to level 3. Plans are underway to continue to deliver this programme to enable all setting SENCOs to have the opportunity to gain the qualification.

All PVI settings have been given the opportunity to be provided with an early identification tool kit funded via public health and provided with training in its use to support early identification of special educational needs.

Next Steps

- Implement further action across all sectors including childminders to assess early developmental delay and effectively support children identified with additional needs
- Use area intelligence and available data to ensure Family Centre activity meets area needs in terms of school readiness and Speech and Language.
- Develop family centre activity and links to ensure the offer encompasses all ages and supports the needs of vulnerable families.
- Engage in activity to increase the take up of 2 year FEL in areas of the city where take up is low.
- Actively promote the benefits of integrated 2 year reviews with all partners and gain commitment from all partners to improve Sheffield’s performance in this area.
- Increase referrals from PVI sector into the Partnership Process and MAST
- Review the process of allocation of EY SEND support funding to settings to enable full take up of FEL provision entitlement for children with SEND.
- Identify and deliver on priorities for developing high quality speech and language services in early years’ settings

- Standardise transition processes at key points for children most notably when starting reception
- Work towards ensuring every private provider is equipped to deliver high quality Special Education Needs provision through the support of an in- house SENCO with a nationally recognised professional qualification by September 2019
- Develop closer links between Family Centres and Libraries to enable activity to promote sharing books.
- Add capacity to the workforce trained in Baby Incredible Years
- Review city wide workforce needs in training on areas that impact on school readiness.

What will be different

- Continued improvement in closing the attainment gap at foundation stage
- Parents will receive timely support to access opportunities such as parenting groups, Family Centre activity, help and advice.
- Educational settings will have good information regarding the needs of vulnerable infants prior to them starting school in order for them to provide the right packages of support and build their relationships with parents/carers
- Vulnerable children and their families will feel supported during transitions
- Children's health issues are identified and addressed in a timely way, enabling the child to access learning experiences.
- Learning from pilot projects will influence city wide developments which support school readiness.
- 2 year integrated reviews will take place to allow settings, parents and health visitors to make informed and useful plans for children's school readiness.
- Parents feel supported in providing enriching activities and opportunities for their children to thrive

4. Cross Organisational Oversight and Implementation Plans

In developing this strategy we acknowledge the unique challenge of working effectively in early years and demonstrating impact. Successful implementation requires cross system work by children's and adults' services, and the involvement of a diverse range of stakeholders including health, education, the local authority, communities and private/independent/voluntary sectors. Such a complex landscape demands clear and transparent governance to ensure effective oversight of cross cutting developments and integrated service delivery.

Partner organisations will formally agree to support the priorities outlined in Great Start in Life, and a Delivery Board will be established to oversee the development and implementation of a detailed action plan.

The action plan will be subject to ongoing scrutiny to ensure that progress remains in line with wider transformation plans for children's services.

Regular progress reports will be brought to the Children's Health and Wellbeing Transformation Board by the 'Great Start in Life' Delivery Board.

Joint leadership will be provided by Sheffield City Council and health partners to galvanise and maintain early years as a priority for the city, and ensure it is effectively linked into other key strategies across Sheffield.

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Five Year Forward View for Mental Health- NHS England

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf>

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-mental-health-implementation-plan-2019-20-2023-24/>

Perinatal Mental Health

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/the-perinatal-mental-health-care-pathways/>

South Yorkshire Futures - <https://southyorkshirefutures.co.uk/syf/>

Nasen – <http://www.nasen.org.uk/>

Local and national EY SEND info –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-early-years-settings>

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/children-specialist-educational-needs>

SEND Local Offer:

<http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/directory/advice.page?id=jBd7MDpgUml>

Sheffield Directory <http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/directory/home.page>

Baby Friendly Initiative

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly/>

Speech and Language Communication

Children's Commissioner 'We Need to Talk: Access to Speech and Language Therapy', June 2019

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/cco-we-need-to-talk-june-2019.pdf>

Government Response to the Education Select Committee report in tackling disadvantage in the early years April 2019

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/Education/Correspondence/Government-response-to-committee-9th-report-tackling-disadvantage-in-the-early-years-CP-68.pdf>

Realising the potential of early intervention – Early Intervention Foundation

<https://www.eif.org.uk/report/realising-the-potential-of-early-intervention>

Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2016–17 to 2021–22 – Joseph Rowntree Foundation

<https://www.irf.org.uk/report/living-standards-poverty-and-inequality-uk-2016-17-2021-22>

Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/public-health/lifestyle/Sheffield%20Joint%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy.pdf>

This is for the 2013-2018 strategy. New 2019-2023 is only available in draft form:
<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s33390/JHWBS%20-%20v0.2%20a.pdf>

Sheffield's Prevention Strategy – not available

Promoting healthy weight in children, young people and families: Resource for Local Authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-healthy-weight-in-children-young-people-and-families>

Childhood obesity: applying All Our Health

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-obesity-applying-all-our-health>

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