



Community Planning
Aberdeen



Aberdeen City's **Children's Services Strategic Plan**

2023-2026 Children and Young People Version



This is a guide for children and young people to understand the plan Aberdeen City Council and partners have for children's services in the city.

If you want to look at the complete document, you will find it [here](#)

A glossary of terms used in this plan and what they mean can be found on page 12.

What have we done to create the Plan?



We have listened to what children and their families told us about our work to check that we have focused on changing the right things.



We have based our plan on respecting children's rights, keeping The Promise from the Independent Care Review and Getting it Right for Every Child.



The Children's Services Board are responsible for making sure we stick to this Plan and we will review our progress every year to make sure we are doing everything we need to for children and families.

Who are the Children's Services Board?



The Children's Services Board is made up of people from organisations and services that support children and families across Aberdeen.

Members of the board include people from Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, North East College, Sport Aberdeen, Third Sector and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.



The Board holds the responsibility to:



Make sure children and young people in Aberdeen grow up feeling safe, loved, and respected so they can realise their full potential



Make sure that our work is in-keeping with the law and policy relating to children and young people



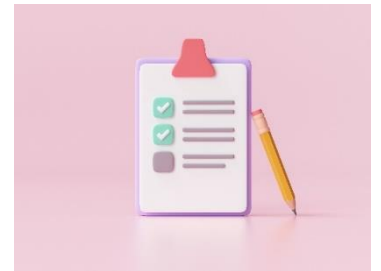
Put into action the Children's Services Plan and other local plans for improvement



Make sure services work together for the benefit of Aberdeen's children, young people and families

Top 6 things in the plan

The Plan says the Children's Services Board wants to do six things. The Children's Services Board wants to make sure that:



1. Babies and children between 0-5 years old have the best start in life possible



2. We Improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and families



3. Children and young people with care experience have the same levels of education, health and emotional wellbeing and opportunities as their peers



4. We improve how well our children and young people do in school so that they have positive options when they leave school



5. Reduce the number of young people coming into conflict with the law



6. Increase the number of young people with additional support needs or a disability who and go on to college/university, employment, training, personal skills development, or voluntary work

Priority 1

Make sure babies and children between 0-5 years old have the best start in life possible

Why are the Children's Services Board concerned about this?

All children have a right to life, good food and the right to grow up healthy.

We know that these early years are really important in making sure a child is healthy and has good relationships when they grow up.

What are we going to do?

We are going to:

- Make sure families have access to food and money to provide what children need
- Offer help to children and their families earlier to stop small problems from becoming big ones
- Make sure babies and children have their health needs regularly checked and met
- Increase the number of 2 year olds being brought to Early Learning and Childcare services

Priority 2

Improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and families

Why are the Children's Services Board concerned about this?

Every child has the right to the best possible health.

We want all children to grow up healthy, loved and respected so they can achieve their full potential.

What are we going to do?

We are going to:

- Make sure that mental health support is easy to access when children and young people need it
- Provide more opportunities for children and young people to feel confident and good about themselves
- Help parents to have their health needs met so that they can do the same for their children
- Support children and young people to be more physically active

Priority 3

Children and young people with care experience have the same levels of education, health and emotional wellbeing and opportunities as their peers

Why are the Children's Services Board concerned about this?

Every child has the right to protection, participation, and development.

As Corporate Parents we want the same outcomes for our children and young people with care experience as any good parent would want for their own children.

We want to improve the futures of our children and young people and ensure they have the love, security and chances every child should have.

What are we going to do?

We are going to:

- Make sure we listen to the voice of children and young people, meaningfully involve them in decision-making and respond to what children and young people tell us they want and need
- Support children and young people to do well in school and have positive options for when they leave school
- Make sure children and young people with care experience have their health needs regularly checked and met
- Do more to support families to stay together and where that's not possible or safe to do we want to keep children and young people in their family networks or with carers closer to home to maintain connections with the people and things that matter to them.

Priority 4

Improve how well our children and young people do in school and that they have positive options for when they leave school

Why are the Children's Services Board concerned about this?

Every child has the right to an education and schools play a key role in supporting families in their communities, providing important places, opportunities and relationships for children and young people.

We value the educational progress of all of our children and young people.

What are we going to do?

We are going to:

- Prepare our children and young people for life after school and support them to get into work or higher education opportunities
- Support those working with children and young people to prevent, identify and respond to harm to keep children and young people safe
- Make sure that children, young people and their families know where to get help when they need it
- Support parents to gain skills and access work or further education opportunities

Priority 5

Reduce the number of young people coming into conflict with the law

Why are the Children's Services Board concerned about this?

Children who come into conflict with the law have the right to be treated with respect and in a way that takes into account of their age.

We know our children and young people with care experience are more likely to get into conflict with the law than their peers.

We want to have a better, rights-based approach to youth justice.

What are we going to do?

We are going to:

- Reduce the number of young people coming into the Court system
- Develop a wide range of options for supporting young people in conflict with the law
- Support families and not just individual young people
- Create more community-based opportunities for young people

Priority 6

Increase the number of children and young people with additional support needs or a disability who leave school and go on to college/university, employment, training, personal skills development, or voluntary work

Why are the Children's Services Board concerned about this?

Every child has a right to an education and to be treated with respect.

We want to make sure that all of our children and young people are protected from harm and have access to support and opportunities that help them thrive.

What are we going to do?

We are going to:

- Plan earlier for young people who require support into adulthood to avoid any gaps or difficulty when they leave school/transition to adult services
- Reduce the number of children and young people with additional support needs and/or a disability not accessing full time education
- Support every child and young person's communication needs when we are working to keep them safe
- Make sure that children, young people, and their families know where to get help when they need it

Feedback

If you would like to tell us something about our plan, please get in touch by completing this [Form](#)



Thank you



Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
Community Planning Partnership	Community Planning Aberdeen is the name for your local partnership of public, private and third sector organisations and communities all working together to improve people's lives across Aberdeen City
Care Experience	<p>'Child/ Young person/ Person with Care Experience' is the preferred terminology identified by those with experience of the care system as it is inclusive of those who may no longer be 'looked after' but still require our scaffold of support to thrive.</p> <p>This term includes those currently looked after and those who have been looked after at any time in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked after.</p>
Getting It Right For Every Child	The Getting it right for every child approach, also known as GIRFEC, supports children and young people so that they can grow up with all the help they and their families need.
Independent Care Review	The Care Review heard that Scotland needs to change how it cares for children.
Law	A set of rules telling people what to do or not to do. If they do not follow these rules, they can be punished.
Participation	Children and young people have the right to say how they feel, be listened to and taken seriously.
The Promise	The Promise to care experienced children and young people, from the care review, is that they will grow up loved, safe and respected. A child-friendly version of The Promise is available here .
Strategy	A plan.
Wellbeing	Being comfortable, healthy, or happy.