KNOWSLEY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S PLAN
2017 - 2020
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FOREWORD

As a young person in Knowsley and the elected Youth Parliament Member for Knowsley, this Plan represents an exciting opportunity for local young people to have a real voice in shaping what services in Knowsley look like for children and young people in the future.

The Plan highlights some of the most important issues facing young people in Knowsley today including the local priorities that were put forward by over 6,000 young people in Knowsley as part of our Make Your Mark election campaign.

I alongside all of Knowsley’s Youth Cabinet look forward to taking an active role in seeing the priorities set out in this plan become a reality across Knowsley.

Tony Fitzmaurice
Member of Youth Parliament for Knowsley

Endorsements

Paul Boyce
KMBC, Executive Director
(Children’s Services)

Councillor Joan Lilly
Children’s Services Cabinet Member

Audrey Williamson
Independent Chair of Knowsley
Safeguarding Children Board

Steve Coffey
Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
“My role as Executive Director for Children’s services in Knowsley involves collaborating with a wide range of partners across our communities. By working together we are making real improvements to the services we offer and I believe that this plan shows how active we are as a partnership and how focussed we are on the needs of all children and young people in our borough. We know that we are faced with challenges but I am confident that our strong partnership approach will help us to realise our vision for 2020”.

Paul Boyce
KMBC, Executive Director (Children’s Services)

“As the Independent Chair of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board I am pleased to endorse the Children and Young People’s Plan. I welcome the plan which clearly sets out the achievements in Knowsley but also the challenges our children face and how we are going to address these. I am particularly pleased that the plan highlights that safeguarding is everyone’s business: services, schools and of equal importance, the community. By working together to safeguard children we will ensure that all children in Knowsley have the opportunity to reach their potential. Our Safeguarding Board looks forward to working with the partnership in the future to ensure the success of this plan”.

Audrey Williamson
Independent Chair of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board

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Audrey Williamson
Independent Chair of Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board

“As Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in Knowsley I am passionate about improving the lives of all our children and young people. This plan shows how committed we all are in working together and engaging all our communities to drive forward the changes that will make a difference to their futures. I am proud to endorse this plan and will work hard to ensure that it brings about the improvements needed for our children and young people”.

Councillor Joan Lilly
Children’s Services Cabinet Member

“The 2016 - 2020 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy was recently established with a focus on two priorities, Promoting Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health and Promoting Healthy Living. The Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board hopes that by working together effectively over this period we are able to make a real difference for Knowsley residents. At the forefront of this approach will be the work of partners with children and young people together with their broader families and support networks. It is with this in mind that I welcome the plan and its vision for supporting families to thrive and for young people to have an aspirational view of the future. Success in delivering this plan will not only contribute enormously to the priorities of the Knowsley Health and Wellbeing Board but will have tangible benefits for many years to come”.

Steve Coffey
Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
OUR VISION

Our Children and Families Partnership has a collective vision:

Knowsley - a place where all our children have the best start in life, where every family thrives and where all our young people aim high and achieve their potential.

The Knowsley Children and Young People’s Plan sets out how we intend to achieve this vision. It provides the strategic direction for our partner organisations across the borough of Knowsley to bring about significant change to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Children and young people are at the heart of this Plan. We want to ensure that the voice of the child is not only captured within the Plan itself but also fundamental to the delivery of the priorities within it. We have engaged with children and young people on the main parts of the Plan to ensure that they fully reflect the views and experiences of children in Knowsley. We will also ensure that in delivering our priorities, children and young people are included, listened to and engaged in driving improvements and achieving positive outcomes.

We recognise that our priorities cannot be delivered by individual organisations alone and we are committed to working together to achieve the outcomes we want and our collective vision. Partnership working and co-operation will be essential to reduce duplication, provide efficient services and help to target resources to where they will make the most impact, particularly at a time when public sector resources are being significantly reduced. The Children and Families Partnership will provide a network for our partners to come together but we expect that multi-agency working will form the basis of how we operate on a day to day basis.

We are committed to the Knowsley Partnership’s co-operative principles: empowering residents to take an active role in their communities; partnership and co-operation; building social values; community leadership; and, retaining jobs and investment locally. As evidenced in the Plan, these principles are fundamental to the delivery of our priorities and we will continue to provide a basis for how we will work as a Partnership.

We are also committed to supporting wider partners with their goals and ambitions as we recognise that our vision, outcomes and priorities are connected. We will help to make Knowsley the ‘Borough of choice by 2027’ by supporting the delivery of the priorities in the Strategy for Knowsley, particularly the children and families and education priorities. Our Plan also aligns with the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019, the Knowsley Child and Family Poverty Plan 2015-18 and the Knowsley Children and Young People’s Mental Health Transformation Plan 2015-16 to 2019/2020.
WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT KNOWSLEY

EARLY YEARS

ALL children’s centres and childcare providers are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted

Great support services for new parents, families, and young people

2 year old offer nursery places are taken up in Knowsley

EDUCATION

Knowsley Community college

College for overall achievement in the Liverpool City Region

Multi Academy Trusts investing in our schools

EDUCATION

Children’s Social Care

Working across the Liverpool City Region for better outcomes for looked after children and care leavers

High quality stable effective workforce

High quality stable effective workforce

Placements for looked after children are more stable

WORKING TOGETHER

Partnership working brings together all agencies to help keep children safe

Good progress in reducing poverty through the work of the Commission

Partnership working brings together all agencies to help keep children safe

20% increase in 100% attendance of primary schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted

Working together to address child poverty through the Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission

100% attendance of primary schools rated good or outstanding by Ofsted

attend, Achieve, Succeed
Knowsley has much to celebrate in terms of services for children and young people. All of Knowsley child care providers and children’s centres have been rated as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted and there is a high take-up of free nursery placements as part of the ‘2 year old offer’. Children’s Centres are providing invaluable support services for new parents, families and young people - helping mums to care for their newborns, promoting healthy lifestyle and positive attitudes towards bringing up a family and raising children.

Most Knowsley primary schools are providing ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ education for our children. Knowsley secondary schools are growing in strength as high quality sponsors are investing in local academies and providing leadership and expertise across the secondary education sector. Attendance rates in both secondary and primary schools are improving, as a result of local efforts such as from the Attend, Achieve and Succeed campaign.

Significant improvements have been made in the quality of children’s social care services. This has included making sure we are providing the right support at the right time to the right children and investing in the building of a high quality, stable and effective workforce. Services are responsive, efficient and are shaped by what children and families tell us about the services that have been delivered to them. Children’s services are also reaching out over the city region to work collaboratively with other local authorities ensuring that we develop services that lead to better outcomes for our children, this has already begun in the areas of Adoption and Youth Offending.

Our partnerships are strong in Knowsley and this has enabled our early help and early intervention services to identify needs early, thereby reducing and preventing more serious problems in families escalating. Agencies that have contact with children at risk have been brought together to provide a ‘front door’ for all safeguarding issues using their combined knowledge to ensure children are kept safe from harm. Commitment from partners has also enabled us to set up dedicated and effective multi-agency teams to tackle serious issues in the borough such as child exploitation. Our third sector partners and community groups also play a significant role in providing early help and prevention services for children and young people and their families, through delivering a number of effective interventions.

Footballer Steven Gerrard, Athlete Mary Peters, Actor Stephen Graham, Michelin star chef Aiden Byrne and politician and local MP George Howarth were all born and raised in Knowsley.

Feedback from residents tells us that Children’s Centres provide parents with positive personal experiences and the opportunity to build friendships and support.

100% of childrens providers and 96% of primary schools rated ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted.

In Knowsley there are more Children Looked After in stable placements compared to the national average.

Knowsley Community College has been ranked as the number one College for overall achievement in the Liverpool City Region.
WHERE WE ARE NOW

- 45,941 children and young people live in Knowsley, 33.7% of the population.
- 64 per 10,000 children in Knowsley have a child protection plan, compared to 43.1% nationally.
- 460.80 children looked after per 10,000 in Knowsley, 33.7% of the population.
- 10.4% of secondary pupils have an overall absence rate of 15% or higher, compared to 12.1% nationally.
- 35.7% of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C, including English and Maths, compared to the national average of 52.8%.
- 66% of referrals to children’s social care related to domestic abuse, compared to 68% nationally.
- 874.5 referrals per 10,000 children and young people, 62% of the population, compared to 59.6 referrals per 10,000 children nationally.
- 59 assessments with domestic abuse as an identified factor per 10,000 children and young people, 40% of the population, compared to 50 assessments nationally.
- 51% of care leavers in Knowsley are in Employment, Education or Training (EET), compared to 48% nationally.
- 59 children looked after per 10,000 in Knowsley, 39% of the population, compared to 60 children nationally.
- 7% of 16-18 year olds are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), compared to 4.2% nationally.
- 460.80 children in low income families compared to the national average of 19.9%.
- 89% of 16-18 year olds are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), compared to 4.2% nationally.
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**OUR CHALLENGES**

Whilst most Knowsley children are brought up in safe, healthy and financially secure environments, there are some who are not always given the best start in life. Child poverty is one of the major factors affecting a child’s development and future life chances and there are high numbers of children who are classed as living in poverty in Knowsley, particularly when compared to other areas.

A healthy start in life is an influencing factor impacting on outcomes for children. In Knowsley, we have higher rates of women smoking in pregnancy than the average in England and low rates of breastfeeding. Obesity, particularly amongst children in the Foundation Years (children aged 3–5) is also becoming a growing concern, particularly as it has direct links with leading to poor health outcomes later in life.

Poor mental health is recognised as a further influential factor on child development and we are witnessing an increase in the rate at which children and young people in Knowsley are reporting emotional and mental ill health (in line with national trends). Increasing numbers of children and young people with mental health disorders can have significant implications for children as they develop, not just in terms of other health issues, but also in relation to educational attainment and youth crime.

Some Knowsley children are experiencing complex and deep rooted social challenges; the rate of referrals to Children’s Social Care is higher in Knowsley than elsewhere in England. There are more children who are classed as ‘Children in Need’ than the national average and more that are receiving support via a child protection plan. There are also comparatively higher incidences of domestic abuse in Knowsley than our statistical neighbours which means more children are exposed to emotional abuse and dangerous situations.

**EARLY HEALTH**

| Education remains a key priority in Knowsley. Over recent years there has been a significant variation in achievement between the different phases of education. Whilst we are mostly in line with national expectations for primary school provision, educational outcomes at the end of secondary school for children in Knowsley are below national expectations. From engagement with young people, we know that low self-esteem is one of the root causes of non-attendance and poor educational attainment. Research also tells us that children who have mental health issues can be overrepresented in cohorts of children who do not attain educationally and are more likely to become involved in youth crime. At the same time, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are less likely to achieve expected attainment at all levels than those nationally and are disproportionately represented amongst those young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). Whilst significant work has been done in recent years to reduce the numbers of all young people classed as NEET, the rate remains higher than the national average in Knowsley.

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OUR VISION

Knowsley - a place where all our children have the best start in life, where every family thrives and where all our young people aim high and achieve their potential.

OUTCOMES

- Children and young people will have greater emotional health and wellbeing
- All learners will fulfil their aspirations and reach their full potential
- All children will attend school
- Children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will receive the right support at the right time
- All children will feel safe
- Early intervention and prevention will be at the heart of everything we do

PRIORITIES

- Giving children the best start in life
- Compassionate prevention
- Safeguarding - the community's business
- Making education irresistible
- Knowsley people... leading the way
A good healthy start in life can vastly improve a child’s life chances and will ultimately help them live longer, healthier and happier lives as adults. Promoting good physical and mental wellbeing amongst children and families remains a priority to tackle some of the underlying causes of long term ill health and poor mental resilience.

We want to ensure that universal services such as midwifery services, GPs and children’s centres provide the settings to promote positive healthy behaviours such as stopping smoking in pregnancy, breastfeeding and good attachment at birth amongst new mothers. Tackling childhood obesity through targeted support, with a focus on commissioning services around the Foundation Years will be imperative to prevent escalating problems of obesity amongst school age children.

Mental health support will need to be accessible, community orientated and appropriate to meet the needs of young people. In particular, it is important that low level mental health needs are addressed appropriately to prevent escalation into more intensive services. Reducing the stigma of accessing mental health services is imperative in this whilst also ensuring that services are close to home, personalised and designed around the needs of users.

Promoting mental resilience amongst families is essential. Increasing learning opportunities for people with emotional and mental health difficulties by providing specifically designed courses that will help to increase self-esteem, and reduce isolation will help improve social and economic wellbeing. Organisational culture change is also important and requires partnership across health, schools and local authorities, as well as the voluntary sector to ensure that the right preventative offer is in place. This will ensure people have greater independence and are able to self-manage more effectively and become active participants in ensuring their own and their family’s physical and mental health and wellbeing.

It is particularly important during the formative years to support children to recognise and develop healthy relationships within schools and the community which will foster positive relationships and contribute to addressing areas such as child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, peer to peer and teen relationship abuse and child to parent abuse.

**GIVING CHILDREN THE BEST START IN LIFE**

- Working together to reduce childhood obesity
- Encouraging expectant mothers and new parents to lead positive, healthy lives
- Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in children and families
- Reducing stigma associated with mental health issues
- Sharing data and information at the earliest opportunity
- Mental health awareness raising and training through posters, leaflets, support groups and websites

We are committed to...
What will success look like?
• By starting well, developing well, learning well, working and living well, fewer children and young people will develop mental health problems
• More parents making healthy lifestyle choices for themselves and their children before and after birth
• Less children becoming overweight and obese
• Children will be school ready with appropriate support if required

How will we measure success?
• Smoking in pregnancy rates
• Breastfeeding initiation and continuation rates
• Numbers of children referred to CAMHS, self-harm rates
• Rates of childhood obesity
• Number of two year old children who have received an integrated Summative Assessment
• % uptake of FACE Forward Community Learning Mental Health Programme
Compassionate prevention is about helping children at the most crucial part of their life, when the building blocks of development are laid. It is about ensuring that families can deal with issues as early as possible to prevent problems from becoming complex or entrenched.

Effective early help is essential to improve the life chances of Knowsley’s children, young people and their families. Strengthening partnership approaches to early help will ensure that interventions are provided at the right time and in the right way. This will require a full commitment to multi-agency working, including third sector community organisations, within a whole family model, adopting consistent approaches and having effective warning systems and response frameworks in place.

Our focus will be on working with families as opposed to ‘for’ families as part of this commitment to deliver an effective early help system. ‘Working with the ‘whole family’ means exploring the relationships between parents and children, having constructive conversations and taking an asset-based approach by focussing on families’ own strengths and skills to identify home grown solutions.

Early identification of need is also fundamental. Identifying children, young people and their families who need extra help and support at the earliest opportunity will prevent problems becoming entrenched and reduce demands on specialist and higher-tier services. Using insight and intelligence to identify ‘at risk’ groups and help to determine where resources can be targeted and support provided as early as possible. Exploring and understanding the impact of issues such as sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and neglect on children will also ensure that early help processes are compassionate and appropriate.

We are committed to...

- Strengthening our partnership approach to early help
- Working with families as opposed to just working for families, ensuring the whole family network is involved
- Using insight and intelligence to assist with directing resources and early identification of need
- Developing emotional intelligence and capacity amongst families to support greater independence and self-recovery
- Utilising community assets to build a ‘resilience’ that will bring about a sense of wellbeing
What will success look like?
• An effective and well communicated preventative offer is in place locally that leads to improved life chances and supports the early identification of need
• Children, young people and their families will receive the right intervention as early as possible and at the time they need it to tackle problems and prevent issues escalating
• Families will be better equipped to deal with problems independently

How will we measure success?
• % of two year olds at age related expectations on exit from a free childcare placement
• % children under 5 reached by children’s centres
• Outcomes for parents/children of targeted children’s centre services
• Number of referrals to Family First
• % of Family First cases that show an improvement from their starting point
• Number of cases stepped up to Children’s Social Care

As well as professionals, it is widely recognised that children, young people and families themselves have a role to play in self-managing their own wellbeing. Developing emotional intelligence and capacity amongst families will allow them to take responsibility and leadership for their actions. We want to ensure that children and families are supported to manage their own health and wellbeing by building on the strengths of individuals to respond to difficulties, and utilising family support systems and networks to encourage greater self-reliance and capacity to deal with problems independently.

We also want to utilise our community assets in delivering compassionate prevention. We will build on the strengths and networks that are available in local communities to support children and families in order to develop new ways of thinking, and to build a ‘resilience’ that will bring about a sense of wellbeing and greater quality of life. Part of this will be exploring the role that online interactions can play in creating communities for children, young people and their families.
All children in Knowsley should be able to grow up safe, be healthy, feel listened to and given the right opportunities to achieve their potential. However, some children are at risk of suffering or likely to suffer harm as a potential consequence of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

We believe that everyone who works with children including teachers, GPs, nurses, midwives, early years professionals and youth workers has a responsibility for keeping them safe. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action. We will ensure that every individual working with children and families is aware of the role they have to play and the role of other professionals in protecting children.

Effective safeguarding requires clear local arrangements for collaboration between professionals and agencies. The Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) plays a key role in coordinating activity and holding agencies to account in respect of their safeguarding responsibilities. We intend to support the Board in delivering on its priorities by helping to identify solutions or overcome barriers in order to fulfill its role effectively.

Effective safeguarding systems are also child-centred. It is therefore vital that children are respected, their voices heard, stable relationships with professionals built on trust and have consistent support provided for their individual needs. Listening to the voice of the child gives local agencies a clear understanding of the collective needs of children. We will support the Safeguarding Board in ensuring that there are effective engagement processes in place and a commitment from all agencies to ensure the voices and experiences of children are fully embedded in practice and service planning.

Improved information sharing between professionals and local agencies is essential for effective identification, assessment and service provision. All organisations will have arrangements in place which set out clearly the processes and principles for sharing information between each other. We are committed to bringing agencies together to share information and ensuring that referrals about children who may be at risk of harm are quickly identified and receive a timely service.

We are committed to...

- Ensuring that every professional understands their role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
- Embedding the voices and experiences of children in practice and planning services
- Greater information sharing between professionals and local agencies for effective identification, assessment and service provision
- Continuing to develop effective front line social work practice
- Making people more aware of what services are on offer and where to go for them
The establishment of the Improvement Board to develop Children’s Social Care has demonstrated a substantial commitment from the Council and its partners to improving front line practice. Ensuring that children and their families receive a timely, responsive and consistent service to meet their needs is fundamental to the improvement journey for Children’s Social Care services. This will require continued delivery of high standards to our high quality, stable and effective workforce. We have already made significant changes across the workforce and will continue to focus on driving quality and improvements in this area.

What will success look like?
- Children in Knowsley are safeguarded and protected from harm, including abuse and neglect
- The voice of children is fully embedded in practice and service planning
- All partners work together effectively to support and protect the most vulnerable children and families
- Front line social work practice is consistently good and effective

How will we measure success?
- Number of children looked after
- Number of children in need
- Number of children on a child protection plan
- Number of children identified as being at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Referrals to children’s social care
- Child participation in reviews (CLA)
- Domestic abuse notifications made to the police where children and young people were in the household
The value of a good education cannot be underestimated. Making education irresistible and improving educational outcomes for Knowsley children and young people is at the heart of achieving our vision. Educational provision in Knowsley must be engaging and interesting to children so that attending school is compelling. Being present and participating in the educational offer is key to the children in Knowsley attaining the outcomes they deserve.

Providing children with good quality education in their earliest years can help them succeed at school and later in life. Children who are fully prepared for school at age 4 are more likely to succeed in learning and embrace all aspects of school life. We want to ensure that education provision for children in the early years enables them to be fully prepared for school.

An Education Commission will be at the forefront of driving change in education and maximizing educational opportunities for Knowsley children. It will bring expertise and insight, take a practical approach to facilitating the implementation of on-the-ground change as well as providing analysis and strategic oversight. It will be essential for the Children and Families Partnership to continue the work carried out by the Education Commission. This will be building on strengths of the borough’s primary education sector, making the most of expertise and leadership from local sponsors in academy schools and promoting positive attitudes and aspirations to improve attainment across the education sector. Securing high quality alternative provision is also important in ensuring that the education offer is broad enough to meet the needs of all children in Knowsley.

Changing beliefs and attitudes towards the value of education amongst local residents and families is essential to build confidence and faith in our education system and ensure that parents want to choose their local school for their children’s education. We need to celebrate and promote the achievements of local schools so that parents are aware of the quality of education on offer in Knowsley and encourage parents to talk about education and what they want to see on offer for their children. Finally, we must enable parents to develop a greater understanding of how they can support their children’s learning and actively engage in learning themselves to develop a greater understanding of wider education. This will ensure that they are empowered to actively engage in their children’s education in partnership with our schools.

We are committed to...

- Ensuring that the quality of the educational offer in Knowsley schools is at least good
- Making adult education more accessible so that parents are supported to become more involved in their children’s learning and in shaping the educational offer in Knowsley and making them more aware of progression and next steps for young people
- Reforming the ‘brand’ of education and making our schools places that children and young people want to attend
- Providing new and different ways of learning through interactive lessons and the use of more technology, for instance apps
- Involving pupils more in how schools are organised, for instance lesson structure
- Looking at teaching children and young people the practical skills needed for the ‘real world’, for instance financing and being physically and emotionally healthy

MAKING EDUCATION IRRESISTIBLE

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- Providing new and different ways of learning through interactive lessons and the use of more technology, for instance apps
- Involving pupils more in how schools are organised, for instance lesson structure
- Looking at teaching children and young people the practical skills needed for the ‘real world’, for instance financing and being physically and emotionally healthy
What will success look like?

• All learners will fulfil their aspirations and reach their full potential
• Children will attend school, with 17,000 fewer school days missed through non-attendance
• Pupils will have positive educational experiences

How will we measure success?

• Children attending early years education programmes for both 2 year old offer and 3 to 4 year old offer
• % of Knowsley children who attend a school that is at least good
• % of Knowsley children who attain in line with their peers nationally
• Achievement gaps at KS1, KS2, KS4 and NEET

Engaging parents and families in learning can significantly enhance personal skills, improve confidence and self-esteem and therefore enable people to make better decisions about employment options or supporting their families. Strengthening our adult education offer will ensure there are greater and more varied opportunities for learners to achieve later in life.
Most Knowsley young people will make a successful transition from secondary provision into further education, training or employment and many will secure good employment outcomes in later life. But there are some that need the right support and encouragement to achieve their ambitions.

Raising the aspirations of local young people will help them to recognize their own potential, be confident and achieve well. Whilst it is important to raise the aspirations of all young people in Knowsley, it is particularly important to ensure that young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those children who are looked after do not feel that they have different aspirations to everyone else. We will ensure that support services for SEND and Looked After Children continue to focus on impact, take a more personalised approach to delivery and have a role to play in raising individual ambitions and promoting independence.

Identifying local role models who can provide positive influence over our young people is a key commitment for the Partnership. There are many examples of men and women from Knowsley who have excelled in business, academia, sports and the arts and who can provide an untapped resource in inspiring young people to reach their potential and achieve their dreams. It will be important for young people to have role models from amongst their peers, who have succeeded in education or employment and can provide them with practical and realistic guidance and support.

KNOWSLEY PEOPLE...
LEADING THE WAY

We are committed to...

- Creating clear pathways into employment and higher education by linking schools with businesses and employers
- Promoting local role models and their success stories using the third sector and volunteer mentoring to provide support and inspire young people
- Delivering services differently for children who are considered SEND, focusing on impact
- Explaining to children from an early age future opportunities and pathways for progression so that they know what they need to do to achieve their aspirations, for instance choosing the right GCSE courses
- Increasing knowledge and awareness of what type of opportunities and employment will be available in the future
What will success look like?
- Knowsley young people will make effective transitions into life after school - benefiting from the emerging opportunities in the region.
- Children who are considered SEND will receive support from the relevant services earlier.
- Children and young people’s aspirations will be a reality.

How will we measure success?
- % of 16-18 year olds who are NEET.
- Number of NEET 19 - 25 with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities moved into EET (local measure).
- Number of apprenticeships completed.
- Number of care leavers going into EET.
- Number of students going on to University/Apprenticeships.
- Number of students taking up careers in professional occupations, eg. accountancy, dentistry, lawyers, teachers, scientists.

We are aware that some employers do provide staff to act as mentors or give “inspirational” speeches or insights into the workplace and we want to encourage this further and support it to be organised more formally through local arrangements for employers to buddy up with local schools. Working with employers will be fundamental to ensuring that every Knowsley child has an equal opportunity to succeed in education and in the workplace. Employers should have a voice in articulating what values are important in the workplace. This would help not just young people but parents, teachers, curriculum-makers and others. We want employers to be involved at the beginning of the process (informing head teachers, careers advisors), not at the end (being asked to employ young people who have not achieved the appropriate standards or adopted the necessary values for the workplace).

We want to work with schools and colleges to prepare students for the workplace and to promote the world of work to their students. Schools must also be resourced to develop the capacity to make links with employers and to ensure that both are ready and willing to maintain ongoing relationships. We also believe that Knowsley schools should work more closely with universities. There are strong links between a student’s prior attainment at school, and their outcomes at and beyond university. Improving the university and school partnership culture in Knowsley should aim to improve the circumstances of local schools, reach out to the wider community, and assess the needs of students at an earlier stage.
The Children and Families Partnership will be responsible for owning and driving the delivery of the Children and Young People’s Plan. The Partnership is made up of key agencies involved in improving and delivering services for children and young people. This includes, amongst others, Knowsley Council, Knowsley CCG, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue and Listening Ear. The Partnership forms part of the wider governance structures within the Knowsley Partnership along with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Knowsley Strategic Board and will play a role in supporting the delivery of the Strategy for Knowsley and its vision to make Knowsley ‘the borough of choice’ by 2025.

The Children and Families Partnership will work collaboratively with the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board and the Education Commission as well as other key partnerships responsible for co-ordinating and delivering improved outcomes for children and young people such as the Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission.
Knowsley - a place where all our children have the best start in life, where every family thrives and where all our young people aim high and achieve their potential.

Giving children the best start in life
Compassionate prevention
Safeguarding - the community’s business
Making education irresistible
Knowsley people... leading the way