

BURY CHILDREN'S TRUST

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015 - 18

**Right Help Right Time
Life Ready**



**Team
Bury**

Working Together For A Better Bury

BURY CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2015-18

1. Foreword

Welcome to the Bury Children and Young People's Plan for 2015 to 2018. This document sets out how the partners within the Children's Trust will work together towards our agreed priorities and what we hope to achieve.

Our starting point is our shared desire of ensuring that all children and young people in Bury should be the best they can be – that remains our shared vision and the overarching principle which drives our work both together, through the Trust, and as individual agencies, teams and workers. As a Trust we also recognise that the vast majority of children and young people flourish in Bury, are well parented and supported by excellent universal services and go on to achieve great things both as children and young people and ultimately adults – Bury is a great place to grow up.

We have therefore agreed to focus our shared actions on three key priorities which we believe will have a substantial impact on those who are not currently achieving the outcomes they might. This is not to say that other things aren't important – simply that if we get Early Help right, enable young people to be emotionally healthy and resilient and tackling the issues of alcohol and substance misuse we will make a huge impact.

We hope this will prove to be a useful framework for colleagues to think about their work. We believe that if we all work together we can achieve great things.

Mark Carriline
Executive Director of Children, Young People and Culture – Bury Council
Chair of Bury Children's Trust Board

2. Introduction

Bury Children's Trust brings together partners from a wide range of agencies with a shared commitment to helping children and young people be the best that they can, in particular those, who for many different reasons face more barriers than their peers. The Children & Young People's Plan 2015-18 sets out Bury Children's Trust working arrangements, its Ambitions for children and young people, and the Priorities which partners will work together to address over the next 3 years.

Aligned to the Children & Young People's Plan are two important supporting Strategies. The first of these is the Participation Strategy, which has been reviewed and refreshed. Children & young people's participation is a key principle of the Children's Trust and the Participation Strategy sets out what this means for all agencies working with children and young people.

Also aligned to the Children & Young People's Plan is the new Early Help Strategy. The focus of the Children's Trust is on establishing arrangements and practice that provide an early response to problems so that the negative impact upon the lives of children and young people is minimised. The Early Help Strategy sets out principles and key actions for partners to develop a culture of early help.

These three documents will form the basis of the work of the Children's Trust over the next three years.

3. Children's Trust arrangements

The requirement for partners to work together to improve the lives of children and young people through Children's Trusts is set out in the Children Act 2004 Section 10 'Duty to Cooperate'. In 2010 the Department for Education withdrew much of the heavily prescribed statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, giving Children's Trust Boards much more freedom to establish their own local arrangements.

An underpinning premise of Bury Children's Trust is that there are some important issues that can't be resolved unless partners work together, and effective Children's Trust arrangements will ensure that partners are able to plan and deliver joined up services to address those issues.

Bury's working arrangements have been reviewed and refreshed over recent years, reflecting national requirements and local need. Always central to Bury Children's Trust arrangements are the Children's Trust Board which sets and drives the Children & Young People's Plan, the Network which involves

the workforce in developing and delivering the Priorities, and ensuring the participation of children and young people at all levels of the work.

Prior to 2010, there was also a range of multi-agency sub groups responsible for the outcomes in the Children & Young People's Plan. The working relationships built in the sub groups led to some good improvements for children and young people, but the overlaps between groups and the level of bureaucracy outweighed the positive benefits. Therefore in 2011 the Board abolished the sub groups and instead Board members took individual responsibility for the actions in the Children & Young People's Plan and set up time-limited task & finish groups to support the work where necessary.

As part of the development of the 2015-18 Plan, the Board reviewed the Children's Trust arrangements to ensure they remain fit for purpose. As a result, the Board has established an operational sub group to support it in driving the work in the Children & Young People's Plan. The Children's Trust Operational Group will have responsibility for developing and delivering action plans to meet the Priorities, which will be overseen by the Board. It replaces the pre-existing Early Intervention Partnership Group, building on the good work of that group.

The Children's Trust is part of the Team Bury governance structure and supports the delivery of the Team Bury priorities, with immediate responsibility to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

4. Achievements 2011-14

The Children & Young People's Plan 2011-14 initiated and drove forward lots of good work to improve the lives of children and young people.

This work included the development of a set of Transition Principles to improve transition between services. These are being used to benchmark and improve transition for example for Care Leavers and in the System Reforms for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). The work to roll out and embed the Transition Principles continues in the new Children & Young People's Plan.

There was some excellent progress in understanding of the needs of young people who are at risk of and/or become homeless with services working together more effectively to address these. Examples include the development of a joint protocol between Children's and Adults Services and the development of a young people's Housing, Employment & New Opportunities (HEN) project.

The strength of partnership working within the Children's Trust was demonstrated in the ability to mobilise partnership action to set up the Multi-

agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Early Help Panel and Team. The rapid rate of progress in a short space of time was recognised by Ofsted. The Children's Trust Board continue to oversee and develop work to develop a culture of Early Help across all services.

The Trust Board set up young people's peer mentoring and peer education projects to support young people to build on their strengths to support their peers. Pilot projects to support young people to continue their education and to reduce smoking and alcohol misuse led to many positive outcomes for all involved and the Board is committed to building on this approach in the new Plan.

The Circles of Influence events bringing together young people and decision-makers have been held for a number of years. Over the last two years the Board have extended this good practice to ensure that primary school age children also have a strong voice in Children's Trust work.

At both a strategic and operational level, the Board have made links with groups and work programmes which can help to meet the Priorities. For example, strategic links between the Children's Trust Board, Health & Wellbeing Board and Bury Safeguarding Children's Board have been clarified and formalised; and operationally links were made between the 'I will if you will' campaign to increase physical activity amongst girls and work in schools to strengthen emotional well-being. This resulted in the development and delivery of a joint project for young people. Building strategic and operational links to benefit children and young people continues to be a key activity for the Children's Trust.

The Network has continued to develop in order to ensure that the workforce has a better understanding of each other's work and experience and build working relationships that lead to better outcomes for children and young people. In addition to network events, information sharing workshops and the newsletter, the lunchtime briefings introduced in 2013 have proved an extremely popular and beneficial way for the workforce to improve their awareness of other services and make appropriate links.

These and many other examples of progress demonstrate the strengths of the Children's Trust in Bury and form the foundations for continued good practice in the new Children & Young People's Plan.

5. CYPP Ambitions

Two overarching Ambitions encapsulate the vision of the Children's Trust for all children and young people.

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These ambitions encompass within them responsibility upon all those who work with and care for children and young people to support them to:

- be able to recognise and articulate when they need help
- know what help is available and how to access it
- to develop the necessary skills and personal attributes to lead safe and fulfilling lives

6. The Priorities

The Priorities in the Children & Young People's Plan form the basis of all Children's Trust activity for the next 3 years in order to make progress towards the overarching Ambitions.

The Board agrees that the best progress is made when the focus is on a small number of shared priorities. These priorities have been agreed by all partners in the Children's Trust, as being significant issues where only by agencies working together can there be real and lasting improvements. The risk of not meeting the priorities carries a significant 'cost' whether this be to those children, young people and families directly affected; services who will come under increasing pressure as resources are stretched ever more; or the wider society.

As well as drawing upon local and national data, the Board brings together the expertise, experience and knowledge of the workforce and of children, young people and families to assist in identifying the Priorities. Their continued involvement in developing and delivering actions to meet the Priorities will be key to progress over the next three years.

There are strong links between the Priorities and much of the work will be to identify and address the underlying causes, and build on the work of the past three years to ensure that children, young people, families and the wider community are seen positively as part of the solution. The work of the Children's Trust to meet the priorities in the Children & Young People's Plan will also support the Team Bury Priorities, Health & Wellbeing, a Stronger Economy and Stronger, Safer Community.

PRIORITY 1:**Children and young people will have access to early help: right help, right time, right person****RATIONALE – Why is this important**

Early Help includes both interventions early in life (with young children, including prenatal interventions) and interventions early in the development of a problem (with children or young people of any age).

Early Help empowers people to regain control of their circumstances and can help transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people. Where Early Help does not exist and problems escalate the effect can be devastating for children, young people and families, and can impact on a child/young persons' health, education, social and emotional development.

For local authorities and their partners, providing Early Help is a crucial component of the need to address the escalating cost of statutory and specialist interventions and the pressure on services.

OUTCOMES

- Children live in safe homes with nurturing families
- Young people recognise when they need help and know how to access it
- Children and young people have a sense of responsibility to themselves and others
- Children and young people feel in control and at the centre of their own lives
- Children and young people experience good physical, emotional and mental health and recognise positive health and lifestyle choices
- Children and young people have aspirations/increased opportunity for the future
- Children and young people feel happy, confident and self-aware

POPULATION

Universal: The need for Early Help can happen at any time and at any age.

Year 1 Objectives

- Scope and evaluate existing interventions to identify whether there can be an earlier response to domestic violence incidents
- Scope and evaluate opportunities for peer-led support – improve/expand current projects
- Make Local Offer more accessible
- Develop a young person's version of the Local Offer
- Scope possibility of One Stop Shop – counselling/advice in school with non-teaching staff (ref Youth Cabinet October 2014)
- Young people link-workers to help develop projects/offer advice to staff
- Develop restorative approaches for community issues

PRIORITY 2:**Developing Resilience and Improving Emotional Health & Wellbeing in children and young people****RATIONALE – Why is this important**

In Bury, we are seeing increasing pressure on our services for children & young people. Nationally, 1 in 10 children and young people fulfil criteria for a diagnosis of a clinical mental health disorder. These include concerns with the number who present with anxiety and depression with an estimated 1 in 12 having thought to have self-harmed. Schools, colleges and other services are highlighting concerns about the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people and their ability to cope with the stresses of life (resilience).

Poor mental health is closely related to many other health and social concerns, including educational achievement, employment, offending behaviour, poor relationships, substance misuse and adult mental health problems. 50% of lifetime mental illness starts by the age of 14 years!

Promoting and sustaining good mental health thus preventing mental health problems is an issue of considerable significance both in terms of public health and social wellbeing.

OUTCOME

- Children and young people have early safe, secure and consistent attachments
- Children and young people have support networks
- Children and young people have good emotional health & wellbeing and mental health
- Children and young people are happy
- Children and young people are e-safe
- Children and young people receive 'good enough' parenting

POPULATION

- Children and young people with complex needs
- Children and young people with communication difficulties
- Children and young people who are more vulnerable to poor emotional health

Year 1 Objectives:

- Establish a minimum standard of training, mandatory for workforce
- Stepped training to teachers
- Identify groups of children/young people who are more vulnerable than others to poor emotional health/wellbeing (eg, due to background/due to lack of access to support)
- Establish key stage interventions
- Pull together what we already know
- Increase workforce awareness of each other's services

**PRIORITY 3:
Preventing Alcohol & Substance Misuse**

RATIONALE – Why is this important

Local and national evidence highlights the detrimental result of alcohol and substance misuse on individuals, families and communities and the significant financial burden to services.

Bury has high levels of binge drinking amongst young people age 16+ (25.1% compared to 20.1% nationally) with 24% claiming to binge drink at least once a week. Nearly half of young people who are assessed by Bury Youth Offending Service have a substance misuse issue.

Children who live in families affected by drugs and alcohol are more likely to become looked after and in Bury approx half the adults in treatment for drugs/alcohol are parents.

For children and young people, the impact of alcohol and substance misuse can be significant across all aspects of their current and future lives.

OUTCOMES

- Children and young people will be protected from harm
- Children and young people and families will be aware of risks associated with alcohol and substance misuse
- Children, young people and families have access to a well-trained workforce
- Children and young people are emotionally resilient

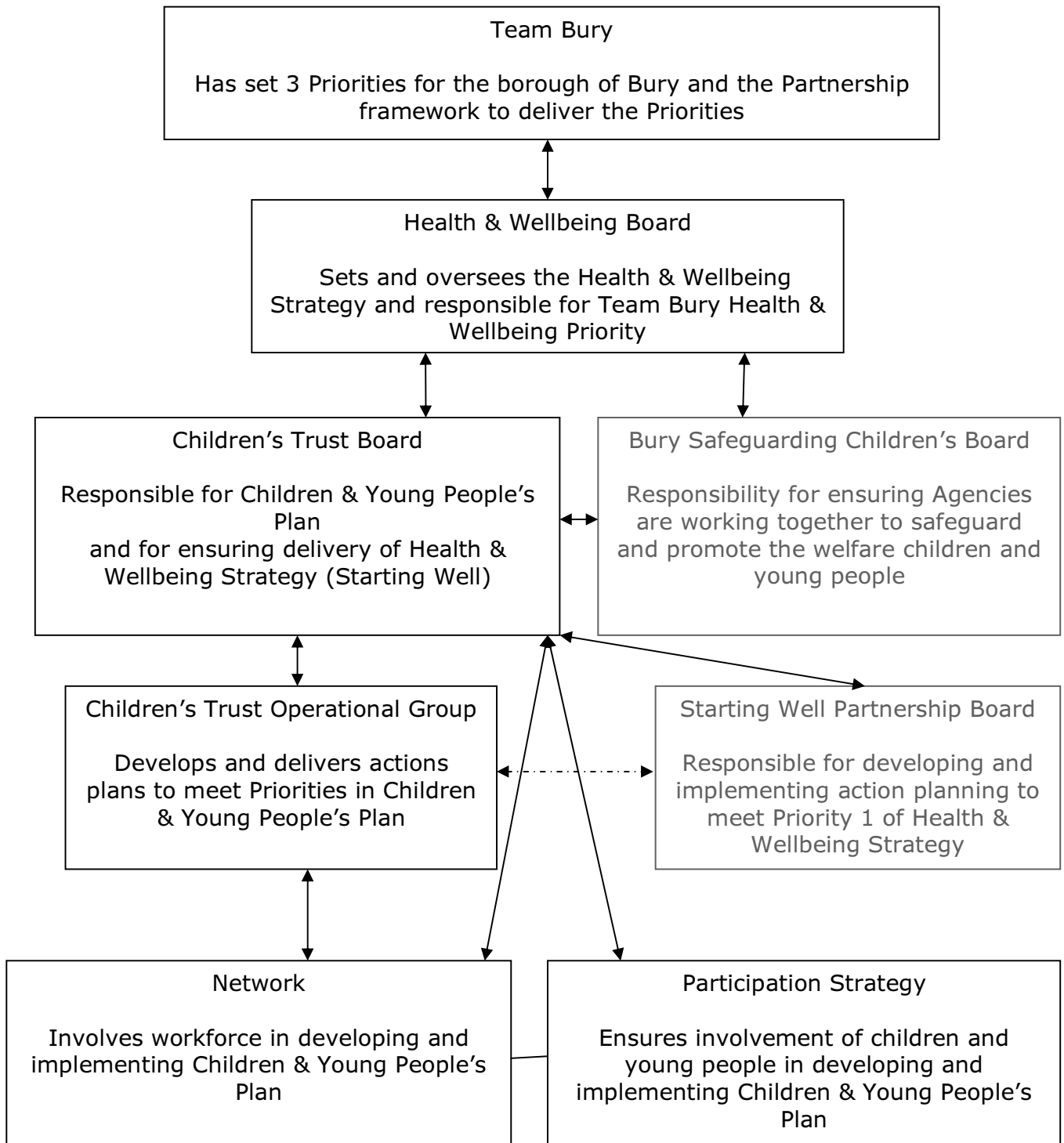
POPULATION

- Children affected by parental substance misuse or where parenting capacity is reduced.
- Children and young people questioning their sexuality and/or facing potential additional complexities including learning difficulties, mental health, family breakdown, domestic violence
- During exams and other stressful times (stress related substance use)
- The wider populations during seasonal peaks such as Christmas

Year 1 Objectives:

- A strong strategy and vision on how substance misuse will be addressed within the borough and identified resources
- Awareness raising and training for appropriate stakeholders
- Safe night out campaign (underway)
- Reduction in child protection where substance misuse is an issue

7. Governance Framework for the Children & Young People’s Plan



8. Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to read the Plan – we hope you find it useful. It doesn't however exist in isolation but is part of our broader framework of working. We will, in particular, continue to produce our regular newsletters updating you on our work and areas of good practice across the Borough – contributions welcome. We will seek every opportunity to innovate and improve our services in these very challenging circumstances. We will actively engage with the Greater Manchester Devolution agenda and Public Service Reform.

We will also continue to arrange a number of regular Network Events, Information Sharing Workshops, lunchtime briefings and other events to ensure as broad a range of people as possible can contribute to the development of our work – we look forward to working with you.