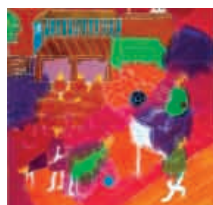
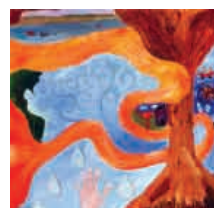
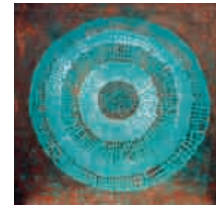


Devon Children and Young People's Plan 2008-2011



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Cllr John Smith
Devon County Council
Executive Member for
Children and Young
People's Services

This is our second Children and Young People's Plan as the Devon Children's Trust. It sets out our aspirations for children and young people across Devon and how we plan to achieve them. This is a strategic document, which will be supported by detailed delivery plans. However, we are determined that it will be much more than that.

This new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets out our long-term ambitions for children and young people **wherever they live** in the county, **whatever their circumstances**, and **whatever their needs**.

The CYPP is based on **universal entitlements** for all children and young people, many of which are already set out in single agency plans. These universal services*, such as schools and GPs, are the foundation for the joint work on which this plan focuses.

Our commitment to provide consistent and high-quality services runs in parallel with the recognition that children and young people in Ilfracombe may need different services from those in Ivybridge; and those in Holsworthy will need something different again from those in Honiton.

Regardless of who provides a service, what matters is that it:

- is based on the needs of the children, young people, and families
- makes best use of the resources available
- is of the best quality.



Mary Nisbett
Chair Children's
Trust Board

We plan to achieve this through **joint strategic commissioning**.

Some of the ambitions in the document will be realised in the short-term; some will take much longer. That will not prevent us aspiring to them and stating publicly that:

- we want to do the best for every child
- we want all children to have fun growing up in Devon.

We recognise that families bring up children; our job is to support them to do that.

We consulted widely with many children and young people, as well as families, schools and other partners while drawing up this plan.

It is important that children get off to the best start in life and we will be placing more emphasis on early childhood and the vital developmental stage of **0 to 7 years**.

We will provide the building blocks for children to achieve in the **middle years**, ensuring they feel safe and have access to the widest possible range of enriching activities.

For **adolescents and young adults**, we will offer a range of options suited to their needs and aspirations alongside a rich variety of places to go and things to do.

We must make sure that our children and young people are safe, happy and healthy and able to play a full role in their local communities.

It will take time to realise all of these ambitions. By continuing to establish good practice and sustain the improvements we have been making **we can be confident that, in Devon, every child will truly matter.**



Anne Whiteley
Director Children and
Young People's Services

Our vision and principles

We feel passionately that all children and young people should be:

- happy
- healthy
- secure
- and have the confidence to achieve at school and enjoy their childhood.

This should happen regardless of their background. We will fight injustice, promote fairness and provide services to meet the needs of the individual child.

We aim to give each child the best possible start in life, lending a helping hand when needed, as early as we can.



- All children and young people will have the opportunity to enjoy their lives, and to play and learn creatively, so that they grow in confidence and can realise their ambitions.
- We all play a part in improving the life chances of children and we will make the biggest difference by working in partnership with families and communities.
- Every child and young person is an individual; we will listen to them and their families when we plan our services.
- All children and young people, irrespective of their background or circumstances, will be given the opportunity to succeed.
- The needs of children and young people are more important than the needs of service providers.
- All children and young people will feel safe and protected. Child safety is everyone's responsibility.

To achieve these aims we will:

- aim for excellence in all we do, and expect nothing but the best from everyone working with children and young people in Devon
- encourage and celebrate the achievements of all our children and young people
- understand the issues facing children living in rural Devon, and do all we can to maximise the benefits and overcome the challenges
- provide continual support, learning and opportunities from before birth until adult life
- identify and commission high-quality services for all children and young people



- recognise the importance of promoting a positive way of life and identifying and resolving issues early
- overcome cultural and organisational barriers to develop high quality, wide-ranging services that meet every child's needs while tackling the unfairness and disadvantage that limit some children's life chances
- target resources to meet needs so that practitioners are able to help children in ways suited to each individual
- bring key staff together to provide more effective services.

All children, especially those who are disadvantaged, need our unreserved support and commitment so they can build better lives. We must not fail them.

Summary

The CYPP is our plan to improve outcomes for children and young people. It could be seen as the 'plan of plans' as it links in to many of the single and multi-agency plans already being used by partners in Devon (see page 24).

The CYPP is for all children and young people and includes everything from universal services*, such as schools and GPs, to targeted work with children who have particular needs.

All the work we do with children and young people will be judged on:

- the five Every Child Matters outcomes:
 - **Be healthy**
 - **Stay safe**
 - **Enjoy and achieve**
 - **Make a positive contribution**
 - **Achieve economic wellbeing**
- our collective capacity to improve.

Agencies supporting children and young people in Devon



work together as the **Devon Children's Trust**. The Trust is a partnership which includes voluntary, independent and statutory organisations. Any reference to 'we' in this plan means the Children's Trust partnership. You can find a full list of the partners on page 12.

Each priority in the CYPP will have a delivery plan which will be the responsibility of a multi-agency project board or reference group.

The Children's Trust Executive will be the performance board and will be responsible for making sure that we achieve the CYPP's aims.

The CYPP aligns with the **Local Area Agreement (LAA)***. The LAA focuses on **narrowing the gap** between the lowest attaining children and young people and the rest of the population, by improving the outcomes for the lowest attaining 20% of children and young people.

We will use **key delivery mechanisms** to achieve the aims of the CYPP.

These mechanisms are:

- **Children's centres***
- **Extended Services in and around Schools (ESS)**
- **Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS).**

We have identified the aims of the CYPP through data analysis, external inspections and feedback from children, young people and professionals. The aims clearly link together, so it is not always useful to look at them separately. However, we can show how some of the priorities fit in with the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

Outcomes

Be healthy

- Promoting physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Addressing inequity in providing health services, particularly for:
 - children with special needs
 - access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).
- Addressing the differences in health outcomes across Devon.

Stay safe

- Making sure there is appropriate safeguarding for all children.
- Sustaining improvements in social care.
- Establishing multi-agency thresholds and using them effectively.

Enjoy and achieve

- Making sure all children and young people have the opportunity to enjoy and achieve.
- Narrowing the gap between the educational outcomes for all children, and those achieved by more vulnerable groups and the lowest attaining 20%.
- Raising the bar - stretching educational outcomes for more able children.

Making a positive contribution

- Improving the public perception of young people.
- Reducing the number of young offenders.

Achieving economic wellbeing

- Making sure that there is good access to a range of opportunities for education and training for 14–19 year olds.
- Increasing the number of 16–19 year olds in education, employment or training.

Priority projects

All the outcomes relate to each other; some priorities cannot be sensibly managed under just one outcome.

● Supporting and working with parents

Parents are the most significant influence in a child's life, so parenting affects all of our aims. We need to develop a strategy which makes better use of current resources.



● Developing more things to do in safe places to be

This includes childcare, play and the range of activities which improve the lives of children and young people.

● Improving access and transport

We need to find ways to improve access to education, training, work and recreation.

● Reducing bullying

This is a significant concern for children and young people so we are developing strategies to reduce bullying and the fear of bullying, and to support those who have been bullied.

● Improving housing for young people and families

We need to improve conditions and prevent homelessness.

● Improving services for children with special needs* and support for parents and young carers

We need to join up current services to improve outcomes.

● Improving life chances for children in care

Children in care do not achieve as well as other children so we want a joined up strategy across all

agencies to give them the best chance in life.

● Reducing exclusions from school

We need to reduce permanent exclusions as this is a strong indicator that a child or young person will have poor outcomes in later life.

Enablers

The enablers are the commitments and processes which will help us to achieve the aims of the CYPP.

- The **participation of children and young people** in the decisions that affect their lives.
- A **workforce strategy** which makes sure that we have the right staff with the right skills.
- **Integrated working** across partners using common tools and ways of working.
- Using **joint commissioning** to make better use of our resources. The CYPP is a high level commissioning document.

The CYPP will be reviewed every year. Some of our aims may be achieved in one year; others may take at least ten years.