

VISION – “Together for Children will improve the lives of children and their families, keep children safe from harm and ensure they have the opportunity to fulfil their potential”.

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN



OUR PRIORITIES - 2017/2020

PRIORITY 1

Improving the life chances of children by making them safer

Objectives

- Embed a multi-agency approach that delivers a seamless service with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention (Year 1) (*IP2)
- Build effective support structures to enable children to safely live with their families, reducing the numbers of children who become looked after and the need for external placements (Year 1) (*IP4)
- Improve the quality and timeliness of assessment and care planning through training and effective challenge (Year 1) (*IP3)
- Support care leavers to lead fulfilling and independent lives (Year 1) (*IP6)
- Reduce the misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by children
- Reduce the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system (Year 2)

PRIORITY 2

Improving the life chances of children by supporting them to be ready for school, ready for work and ready for life

Objectives

- Reduce educational attainment gap for the most vulnerable children in Sunderland (Year 2)
- Ensuring pupils can access a range of suitable education, employment and training provision at post 16 to suit their needs and that their success rates match or exceed national data. (Year 2)
- Ensuring all 19 year olds complete school or college with the skills and character to contribute to society and the economy and are able to access high quality work or study options (Year 2)
- Implement a process that will ensure young people with a Statement of Educational Needs Plan are converted to an Education Health Care Plan by 1st April 2018. (Year 1)
- Improve and maintain partnerships with schools and academies (Year 1)
- Support and challenge schools in raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps, particularly for those most vulnerable. (Year 2)

PRIORITY 3

Improving the life chances of children by recruiting, retaining and investing in our workforce (IP1)

Objectives

- Create a Workforce Development Strategy that ensures our workforce are skilled and confident to deliver a quality service (Year 1)
- Develop a Recruitment and Retention Policy to build stability in our workforce (Year 1)
- Improve the stability of the workforce through the reduction in the number of agency workers (Year 1)
- Recruit, support and retain foster carers and prospective adoptive parents (Year 2)
- Embed a strong performance and QA culture which challenges practice across all areas of the service (Year 1) (*IP7)

PRIORITY 4

Improving the life chances of children by transforming services

Objectives

- Implement Liquid Logic (Year 1)
- Streamline existing processes to remove duplication and bureaucracy (Year 2)
- Streamline existing processes to remove duplication and bureaucracy (Year 1)
- Reduce overhead costs by redesigning and modernising Business Support services to ensure effective use of resources (Year 2)
- Increase customer focus by developing our participation strategy and ensuring we “put children first” in the shape and re-design of services, ensuring the voice and influence (Year 2) (*IP5)
- Develop partnerships across the city to build in creativity and innovation in service delivery (Year 2)

PRIORITY 5

Improving the life chances of children by growing the Company

Objectives

- Expand the business to deliver our marketing and sales plans (Year 3)
- Delivering competitively priced services by implementing the traded services charging policy (Year 2)
- Explore opportunities for accessing alternative sources of revenue such as grants (Year 3)

Putting the child first