

NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

Children Act 2004

The 2004 Act places a duty on local authorities in England to make arrangements to promote co-operation with key partners and local agencies, with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area.

Childcare Act 2006.

It is the first Act to be exclusively concerned with early years and childcare and early childhood services. The Childcare Act 2006 takes forward key commitments from the Ten-Year Childcare Strategy, published in December 2004. The three key drivers of the 2006 Act are:

- **Reduce child poverty:** To support parents to work, and hence the focus on the provision of good quality childcare for working parents.
- **Reduce inequalities between young children:** Focusing on supporting children most at risk of poor outcomes because of deprivation and disadvantage and promoting social mobility.
- **Improve wellbeing for Young Children.** Focussing on the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes of Safety, Health, Wellbeing, enjoy and achieve and making a positive contribution.

Inclusion strategy

- Commitment 1 - Effective early identification of needs with appropriate assessments across Education, Health, and Care.
- Commitment 2 - A wide range of Education, Health and Care services that meets the needs of our young people.
- Commitment 3 - Smooth transition across Education, Health, and Care at every stage of a young person's life and particularly to adult life.
- Commitment 4 - Excellent communication and engagement between young people, families, Education, Health, and Care services including schools.

Sheffield Delivery Plan 22/23

The strategy will align with these particular strategic goals set out in the 22/23 Sheffield Delivery Plan.

- Fair inclusive and empowered communities.
- Strong and connected neighbourhood which people are happy to call home.
- Tackling inequalities and supporting people through the cost-of-living crisis.
- Happy young people who have the start they need for the future they want.
- Healthy lives and wellbeing for all.
- Clean economic growth

Sheffield's Children's Early Help Review

The aims of the Children's Early Help Review are to.

- understand how we can improve the effectiveness and reach of Early Help,
- and identify our return on investment (ROI) for Early Help.

Our **reasons for reviewing Sheffield Early Help provision** are.

1. Families and partner agencies wanted more clarity about the interventions and provision on offer from Early Help Services
2. We wanted to understand better the impact of each intervention so that we know what makes the most positive difference.
3. To streamline referral pathways and the way we use IT to share information.
4. To consider how we can utilise analytical information to target our resources better.
5. To improve our information-sharing agreements to ensure that we can access data from partners.
6. To improve identification of need and timeliness of provision of Early Help Support to prevent escalation of need.

Initial findings of the Children's Early Help Review.

- Most children who receive Early Help do not progress to Statutory Care. However, there is still scope for optimisation, aiming for a 10% improvement to social care avoidance in 23/24.
- There is scope to reach more families with early help that escalate directly to Statutory Care.
- The Service requires accurate and granular reach and effectiveness performance data in near real-time to help drive improvement.

Next Steps for the Children's Early Help Review.

- New strategic KPI's for reach and effectiveness that evidence Early Help's role in demand management.
- Develop a suite of real-time dashboards that combine escalation avoidance metrics with specific outcomes related to the preventive aims of the service/intervention.
- Integrate the new dashboards to build on existing BSF reporting and tie in Family Hubs and Start for Life requirements.
- Work with teams to establish root causes of why some family's needs escalate, deliver improvements in parallel with performance reporting changes.

Children's EH (Early Help) Strategy

We want Sheffield to be an inclusive city where we work together to ensure that all children and their families receive the right support at the right time so that they live a happy and fulfilled life.

The outcomes we want for Children & Young people in Sheffield are.

- **SAFE & NURTURED** – Children & Young People are safe, secure & nurtured within their home.
- **SAFE COMMUNITIES** – Children and young people are safe and supported in their community so that they are not at risk of harm.
- **GOOD HEALTH** - Children and young people have good physical health.
- **EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY** – Children and young people are resilient and emotionally healthy.
- **ENGAGING EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES** – Children and young people access and engage in their education, employment, and their local community.

Sheffield's Health and Care Partnership (HCP)

Primary and community-based services will bring together a wide range of different disciplines from across mental and physical health and social care, together with the voluntary and community sector, working with children and young people, their families, individuals, carers, and communities. (Health and Care in Sheffield 2030 Draft report, Nov. 2021)

The Sheffield HCP Children and Young People's Wellbeing Delivery Group aim to: _

- Improving our approach to how health and care support is provided as children grow into adulthood. To develop a much more seamless and supportive experience (and where necessary, 'transition') of care.
- We aim to develop a different, improved and joined up approach for preschool children and their families: improving wellbeing, joining up information, identifying children at risk of poor outcomes and putting in place support at the earliest opportunity.

Family Hubs and the Start for Life Offer (2022)

Family Hubs are local support centres where families with children and young people aged 0-19 can access a broad and integrated range of early help to overcome difficulties and build stronger relationships. This is often co-located with early years health care and support, such as in Children's Centres. Sheffield is one of 75 Local Authorities chosen to take part in the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.

Infant Mental Health Pathway development (Ongoing from April 2022)

A significant part of the DFE funding for Family Hubs is ringfenced for Parent and infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health peer support development and activity. As such Sheffield is in a good position to develop a supportive and clear pathway for families to access early support in this area.

Infant Mortality Strategy

We have continued to systematically reduce our infant mortality rates in Sheffield, exceeding the target set out in our 10-year strategy and bringing our rates below both the Yorkshire and Humber and England average. However infant mortality is directly associated with poverty and the current cost-of-living crisis brings a direct threat to this positive progress. A review of Sheffield's current strategy has been undertaken which examines the factors most closely associated with infant deaths to identify what additional action is required. The refreshed programme brings together stakeholders from across statutory organisations and the voluntary sector to develop plans designed to meet the needs of communities and disadvantaged population groups experiencing the greatest risks. Areas covered include smoking in pregnancy, healthy weight, infant feeding, teenage conception, safer sleep, recessive genetic conditions, early access to maternity care and poverty.

Maternity Health and Wellbeing

The national maternity transformation programme underlines the importance of maternal health for achieving positive birth outcomes. All local maternity and neonatal systems are required to put in place plans to reduce inequalities in access. and outcomes for the groups that experience the greatest inequalities (Black, Asian and Mixed ethnic groups and those living in the most deprived areas). This work includes a range of preventative programmes designed to help local maternity systems understand their population needs and design action plans which are co-designed with women to help improve equity of access.

Maternal cultural safety developments (ongoing from 2022)

A Maternal Cultural Safety Forum is in place in the city which aims to:

- collaborate on increasing equality in Maternity Service provision, clinical outcomes, and satisfaction for service users from Ethnic Minority backgrounds.
- seek views and experiences from Ethnic Minority communities on Maternity Services in Sheffield and identify ongoing or new concerns to be addressed.
- communicate developments in Cultural Safety initiatives to staff members, stakeholders, and community organisations.

- identify what Sheffield Maternity services could do better to minimise barriers to service access, and ensure they engage and communicate effectively with all the communities we represent and serve.

The objectives of the forum are.

1. Pregnant women in Sheffield receive information in a format they can access and understand.
2. Pregnant women in Sheffield receive care that is culturally sensitive and personally tailored.
3. Pregnant women in Sheffield give feedback about their care.
4. Pregnant women in Sheffield receive tailored communication about the services available.
5. Pregnant women in Sheffield have a personal risk assessment of their health and social circumstances which informs their maternity care pathway.
6. All pregnant women in Sheffield have access to vitamin D supplementation to meet their personal needs.
7. The collection of timely, accurate and complete health and demographic data informs the development of culturally sensitive.

maternity care pathways

The Current Speech and Language Review.

The pandemic has continued to affect children's communication and language development, with many providers and parents noticing delays in their speech and language progress. In Sheffield, a review of Speech and Language services is taking place to consider ways to improve and enhance delivery of Speech, Language and Communication support and therapy in Sheffield including locality based early help offers.

Early Years: a crisis in affordability and sustainability

South Yorkshire Futures and Elected Member led discussions regarding issues facing Early Years Childcare and Education providers related to funding, staff recruitment and retention. Aims to provide a collective voice to influence at national level decision making for the sector.

Early Years Strategic Plan.

The Early Years Strategic plan covers four main areas - **Quality of Provision, Workforce Development, Funding and Business Opportunity**. Areas of focus include a robust support and training programme for the early years sector, to support early years partners with up-to-date training and information, to work with Family Centre hubs and share public health messages contributing to improving the long-term outcomes for 0–5-year-olds and their families by providing effective early years programmes, workshops, and training packages.

Sheffield's Early years School Readiness Ambitions (2022 Review)

- To see positive movement in terms of narrowing the gap between Free School Meals (FSM) and non-FSM outcomes.
- Positive feedback from Parents, Early Years Providers and Schools regarding their experiences on transition and with preparedness for learning.
- Healthy weight at 5.
- Improved oral health in the Early Years.
- Increases in vaccination and immunisation.
- Reduced referrals to Speech and Language Therapy.
- We will see more children arriving at school with their needs identified and plans in place to support them to learn from their very first days.
- Rebalancing and reduction of the proportion of children from BAME communities excluded from school.
- Increased referrals to Early Help and Family Hub activity.

- Increased referrals into Early Years Parenting support.
- Increases in children in receipt of 2-year-old integrated reviews.

Early Years SEND.

The 0-5 SEND service has undergone many recent changes due to increasingly high demand. Our vision is to provide a proactive service to improve early identification and early intervention for early years children with SEND. Multi agency working is imperative to this, and the service continues to develop multi agency working protocols with all Early Help services in Education, Health, and Care.

- Introduce Team around the Early Years and incorporate into the current Sheffield Inclusion model
- Revise the Early Years Inclusion Funding offer to Early Years providers to make it more accessible and transparent, as part of the Sheffield SEND funding review.
- To provide early intervention for children with social communication needs who are accessing FEL (Funded Early Learning) and teach skills and knowledge to parents, through Portage Plus, using the principals of Portage of parents as partners.
- Completion of impact assessment of service, using feedback from parents and partners across Sheffield., part of a wider service delivery review.
- Development of training offer, so that Early Years SEND provision and support for young children with SEND is consistent across Sheffield

Sheffield Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Sheffield has also published its Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-24. This covers the entire life course, but relates specifically to SEND in its ambitions around “starting well”:

- Every child achieves a level of development in their Early Years for the best start in life.
- Every child is included in their education and can access their local school.
- Every child and young person have a successful transition to adulthood.

Healthy Child Programme

The Healthy Child Programme offers every family an evidence-base programme of interventions, including screening tests, immunisations, developmental reviews, and information and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices. It also outlines all services that children and families need to receive if they are to achieve their optimum health and wellbeing.

The Healthy Child Programme remains universal in reach continuing to set out a range of public health interventions to build healthy communities for families and children, reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities. It continues to include a schedule of interventions, which range from universal services for all through to intensive support. The updated model emphasises the health visiting and school nursing role as leaders of the Healthy Child Programme, whilst acknowledging the important contribution of a range of delivery partners.

Health visitors support families from the antenatal period up to school entry. The service is delivered in a range of settings including families’ own homes, local community, or primary care settings. School nurses offer year-round support for children and young people both in and out of school settings. Health visitors and school nurses provide continuity of care and undertake a ‘navigating role’ to support families through the health and care system. Utilising the right skill set, at the right time, also supports effective signposting to other support and information.

The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days.

‘The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days’ starts with the needs of the baby and describes 6 action areas designed to help make things easier for busy parents and carers:

- seamless support for families: a coherent joined up Start for Life offer available to all families.
- a welcoming hub for families: family hubs as a place for families to access Start for Life services.
- the information families need when they need it: designing digital, virtual and telephone offers around the needs of the family.
- an empowered Start for Life workforce: developing a modern skilled workforce to meet the changing needs of families.
- continually improving the Start for Life offer: improving data, evaluation, outcomes, and proportionate inspection
- leadership for change: ensuring local and national accountability and building the economic case.

Sheffield Tackling Poverty Framework 2020 - 2030

Our vision is for a Sheffield without poverty. Sheffield in 2030 would be a city where we have confronted that everyday reality of poverty and worked to make it a thing of the past. No-one in the city would be living in poverty and everyone would have access to:

- A great start in life
- A secure income, food, and necessities
- A warm and safe home and local environment
- The best possible health and wellbeing
- Opportunities to achieve their full potential.
- Access to good education, employment, and training throughout life

Tackling inequalities in Early Childhood

Working with the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leadership Collaboration Programme, a team of 8 has been established with representation from public health, service commissioners, the Integrated Care Board, the NHS, the voluntary and community sector, academia, and the Mayor's Office from across South Yorkshire. Using specific tools to identify issues of inequity of outcomes in early childhood, the programme focuses on sleep. The success of the programme will be measured with equity of outcomes in South Yorkshire.

“Every child will have a safe space to sleep, families will be supported by trusted networks and every child will be ready for life (and therefore school).”

The long-term prize is a narrowing of the gap in health inequalities, improvements in overall life expectancy and healthy life expectancy.

Sheffield Integrated Care Pathway (ICP)- Pre-Birth planning: Maternity & Social Care

Young babies are particularly vulnerable to abuse, and early assessment, intervention and support work carried out during the antenatal period can help minimise any potential risk of harm. This procedure sets out how to respond to concerns for unborn babies, with an emphasis on clear and regular communication between professionals working with the woman, the father / partner and the family.

All professionals have a role in identifying and assessing families in need of additional support or where there are safeguarding concerns. In the vast majority of situations during a pregnancy, there will be no safeguarding concerns.

However, in some cases it will be clear that a co-ordinated response by agencies will be required to ensure that the appropriate support is in place during the pregnancy to best protect the baby before and following birth.

The antenatal period provides a window of opportunity for practitioners and families to work together to:

- Form relationships with a focus on the unborn baby;
- Identify risks and vulnerabilities at the earliest stage;
- Understand the impact of risk to the unborn baby when planning for their future;
- Explore and agree safety planning options;
- Assess the family's ability to adequately parent and protect the unborn baby and the baby once born;
- Identify if any assessments or referrals are required before birth; for example, for Early Help involvement or other support organisations;
- Ensure effective communication, liaison and joint working with adult services that are providing on-going care, treatment and support to a parent(s);
- Plan on-going interventions and support required for the child and parent(s);
- Avoid delay for the child where a legal process is likely to be needed such as Pre-proceedings, Care or Supervision Proceedings in line with the Public Law Outline.

A joint [Integrated Care Pathway](#) (Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures) has been devised in Sheffield and agreed through Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership. This integrated Care Pathway lays out a clear timetable of actions required by professionals for their joint assessment and to place for the unborn baby.

Considerations should be given to if the pregnant mother is a Looked After Child or Care Leaver, and use the [Pre Birth Planning for Care Leavers and Looked After Young People Procedure](#) to ensure support is in place.

Sheffield City Council and Partners Corporate Parenting Strategy for Looked after Children and Care Leavers 2021 – 2023

Objective 1. To increase provision of high-quality in city care placements

Objective 2. To support looked after children to catch up with the schooling they have missed

Objective 3. To improve looked after children and care leavers' emotional wellbeing

Objective 4. To support more care leavers to engage in education, employment, and training (EET)

Sheffield Parenting Hub. [Sheffield Parent Hub](#) Run a range of groups that offer practical advice and support with parenting. They have a range of programmes specifically designed for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The Domestic Abuse Act [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) Part 1 Section 3. Statutory Guidance [Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Tobacco Strategy [Tobacco Strategy \(smokefreesheffield.org\)](#) Vision ▪ Sheffield people live longer and healthier lives, smokefree ▪ A smokefree generation in Sheffield by 2025 (in line with the ambition of Breathe2025) ▪ Sheffield children will grow up in a city where smoking is unusual ▪ Sheffield will be a smokefree city in which to live, work and play

Sheffield Oral Health Improvement Strategy 2023 - 2027 The oral health vision is for all Sheffield residents to be able to speak, smile and eat with confidence and without pain or discomfort from their teeth or mouths. This will be achieved through improving overall oral

health and reducing oral health inequalities with a particular focus on those children and young people who experience the worst oral health.

Fairer, Healthier, Greener – A Food Strategy for Sheffield (Final Draft July 2023)

In Sheffield, we want everyone to be able to access food all the time that is safe, affordable, culturally appropriate, nutritious and that benefits their health and wellbeing. We also want to ensure that we safeguard this access for future generations by building a food system that is fairer, more resilient to shocks and that does not harm the planet.

Sheffield Childrens NHS Foundation Trust Clinical Strategy helps deliver the guiding purpose of Sheffield Children's and our Caring Together 2020 – 2025 strategy, "Providing a healthier future for children and young people." [Clinical Strategy - Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust \(sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk\)](https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/clinical-strategy)

Single Delivery Plan (maternity and Neonatal) 2023 This plan sets out how the NHS will make maternity and neonatal care safer, more personalised, and more equitable for women, babies, and families.

For the next three years, services are asked to concentrate on four themes:

- Listening to and working with women and families, with compassion
- Growing, retaining, and supporting our workforce
- Developing and sustaining a culture of safety, learning, and support
- Standards and structures that underpin safer, more personalised, and more equitable care.

All Age Mental Health Strategy. 2023 - 2026

[Sheffield All-Age Emotional and Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy FINAL.pdf](#)

Our Vision

1. Mental and emotional health and wellbeing are at the heart of all we do as a city
2. Mental and emotional health and wellbeing is valued the same as physical health
3. Mental wellness, resilience and the prevention of illness are promoted at the earliest opportunity
4. Discrimination and inequalities that lead to poor health and mortality are tackled
5. Children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing is a top priority
6. The right care and support is provided at the right time and as close to home as possible
7. People are recovering from mental illness and are able to live healthy and fulfilled lives

Sheffield All Age Autism Strategy. 2023 – 2026 (Draft) This strategy has been developed based on feedback received from autistic children, young people, adults, and family carers on what our priorities need to be in order to make Sheffield an Autism friendly city.

Themes

1. Helping people to understand autism
2. Helping autistic children and young people at school and into adulthood
3. Helping autistic people to find jobs
4. Making health and care services equal for autistic people
5. Making sure autistic people get the right health and social care help in their communities
6. Help for autistic people in the justice system

These themes match the priorities in the National Autism Strategy 2021 - 2026

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