

Tameside Children and Young People

# PLAN 2023/26



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# FOREWORD

This is a three year Plan for all children, young people and their families living in Tameside. Our Plan has been co-produced with our children and young people. The Plan supports Tameside's borough plan, in particular this Plan supports the Corporate Priorities of:

- Very best start in life
- Aspiration & hope through learning
- Resilient families & supportive networks
- Opportunities for people to fulfil their potential.

The key priorities for children and young people in Tameside are:

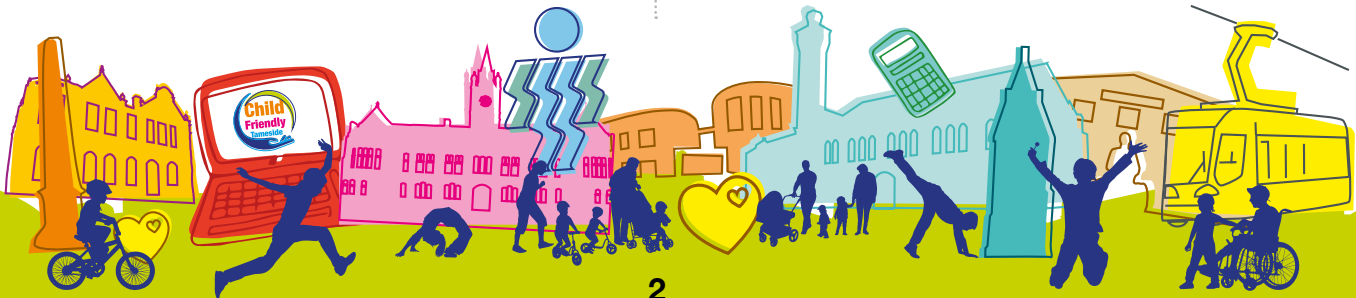
- Supported Families
- Healthy Lives
- Positive Lives
- Building Skills For Life

The Plan emphasises the vision of all partners for our children and young people to be safe, healthy, happy, ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

It builds on improvements already underway and identifies our next steps. This Plan is intended to be a “live” document that provides an overarching framework to stimulate action, encourage debate and support continuous challenge of our collective leadership. It will drive conversations across the partnership and also with children, young people, families and front - line professionals to help ensure that whatever we do genuinely makes a difference to their lives.

Supporting children and young people is the responsibility of everyone who works with and cares about children and young people. No one agency can do that alone. We work in partnership, so that children and young people and their families are heard and involved at home, at school, in their communities and particularly when they need additional information, advice, support or interventions to help them. The success of this Plan will depend upon the skills and determination of each partner and our shared ambition to make sure that Tameside really is one of the greatest places in which to grow up.

**Alison Stathers-Tracey**  
**Director of Children's Services**



# OUR VISION

We know that Tameside is a great place to grow up. We have strong communities, excellent schools and early education, good opportunities for work and much more.

But we can do better.

Most of our children and families grow up in a supportive environment that enables them to have the best start in life without the input of specialist services. When this is not the case children and families may need some extra support at different times in their lives.

We want every child, young person and family to get the help and support they need to succeed as early as possible. Our vision is that every child and young person in Tameside has the best start in life, to grow, thrive, and be prepared for a successful adult life; and when the need or emerging problems occurs, communities and organisations work together with children, young people and families to co-ordinate support thereby improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of all Tameside's children and young people.

**“Our vision is that every child and young person in Tameside has the best start in life, to grow, thrive, and be prepared for a successful adult life; and when the need or emerging problems occur, communities and organisations work together with children, young people and families to co-ordinate support thereby improving the overall wellbeing and quality of life of all Tameside’s children and young people.”**

Starting Well Partnership



# INTRODUCTION

Our plan has been strongly shaped by young people themselves. We commissioned M.E.L Research to act as an independent body and work with our children and young people to ensure that it captures their voice.

Our children and young people were asked about their hopes for the future and how they can be supported to thrive in Tameside.

We have used what our children and young people told us to shape the priorities within this plan.

Our young people also reminded us to think of their safety and security, the accessibility of services and how to support the more vulnerable because of individual, environmental, social or economic factors.

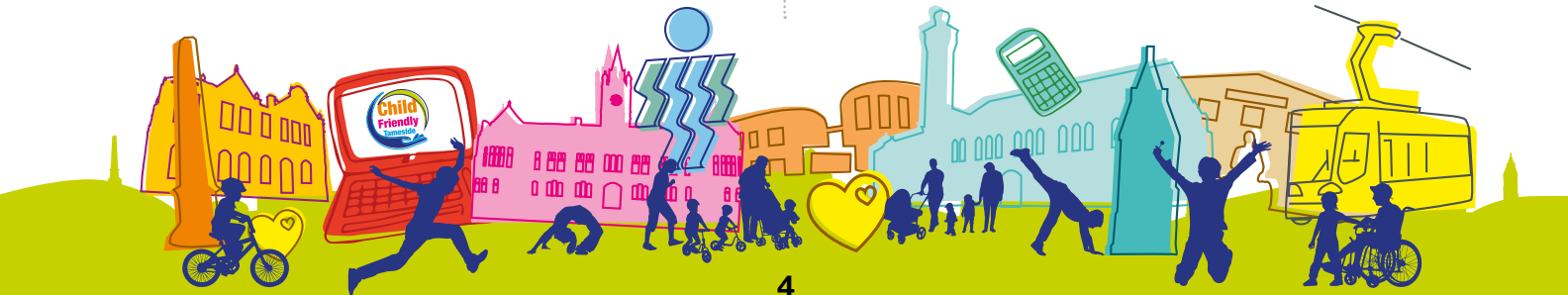
By recognising the crucial interaction between these outcomes, we will work together to improve the lives of all our children and young people.

We will do this by developing action plans around the four priority areas which will be owned by the boards and groups of the Tameside Starting Well Partnership. This plan will be the benchmark for measuring effective progress and achieving the priorities.

## The Tameside Starting Well Partnership

Our Tameside Starting Well Partnership is made up of many local partners, including:

- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Greater Manchester Police
- Greater Manchester NHS Integrated Care
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Action Together
- Tameside Young People



# THE JOURNEY

We have a strong and well established Starting Well Partnership, whose participants share a common goal to work together to improve the wellbeing and life chances of every child in Tameside.

We want this plan to make a difference, not just to the services we deliver but to children's lives.

We realise the outcomes in this plan cannot be achieved by any single organisation. To really make change happen, we need all parts of the system to work together - from families to children's services, schools and other statutory services, to communities and voluntary organisations.

Our OFSTED inspection in 2019 graded children's services as 'requires improvement to be good'. Inspectors noted a "much strengthened whole council commitment to improving the quality and impact of children's services" in the borough.

Their visit in May 2019 followed an inspection in 2016 when services for children in Tameside were judged to be inadequate and so the latest inspection acknowledges the significant improvement work which has taken place while also highlighting areas for further focus. We are committed to ongoing improvement to deliver the best services for children in Tameside.

In 2017 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust and judged that services for children, young people were 'Good' and in 2019 rated Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust who provide mental health, community and specialist services as 'Requires Improvement'.

This new plan reflects the actions needed by all the partners to help us to achieve excellent outcomes and to fulfil our ambitions for all children and young people in Tameside to be safe, healthy, happy, ambitious for their future and develop skills for life.

We will continue to develop and learn, bringing together staff from a range of services, providing opportunities for sharing of practice and experiences.



# THE CHALLENGE

The number of children and young people living in Tameside has increased year on year for the last 10 years with the borough's birth rate being higher than the national average.

## Keeping our children and young people safe

Partners in Tameside have the statutory responsibility for co-ordinating and challenging all activity relating to safeguarding children and young people living in Tameside. Tameside faces significant challenges in protecting children who experience neglect, family breakdown or crisis and has significantly higher numbers of children who are cared for than the England average.

## Inequalities

Tameside like many other areas faces the challenge of inequalities across diverse population groups. Covid-19 has exacerbated these inequalities in many ways, with the true impact yet to be fully understood. An example of inequalities, is those living in deprivation. Continuing to tackle

child poverty, improve educational attainment, boost jobs and the local economy will be crucial to improving the outcomes for our children.

## Our children's health and wellbeing

Across many indicators, Tameside on average has poorer outcomes for children's health, compared to the England averages. Particularly, high rates of childhood obesity and poor oral health demonstrating the need for focused work to improve children's nutrition and levels of physical activity through whole system approaches.

Tameside also has increasing pressures both in terms of demand and capacity to support, in relation to our children and young people's mental wellbeing and health, that has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

## Improving education outcomes for all children

National data for the last 30 years show that outcomes for children from the most economically deprived families are much less likely to achieve

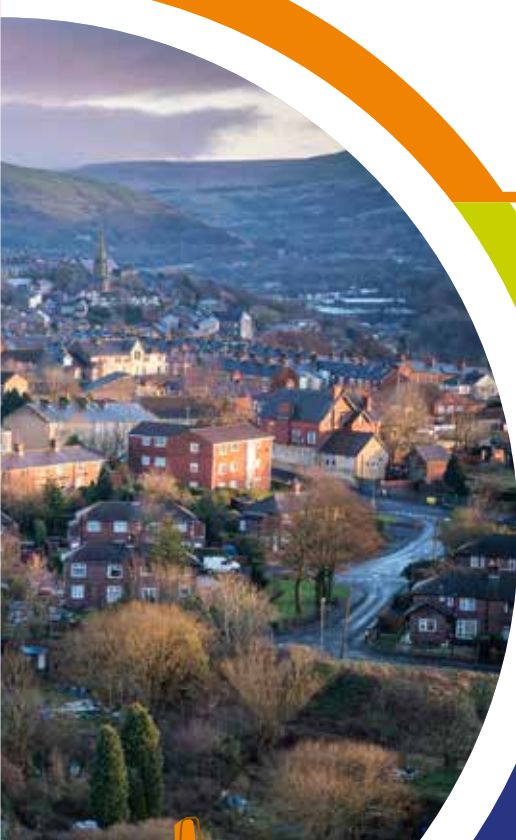
well in school from Early years through to post 16 than their non-disadvantaged peers. Since the pandemic the gap between these two groups has widened nationally and this has had a disproportionate impact on children growing up in the North of England, for example during the pandemic, 34% of children in the North (around 900,000) were living in poverty, compared with 28% in the rest of England. In Tameside a higher proportion of children grow up economic disadvantage than nationally.

## Contextual safeguarding

Increasingly, our children and young people are becoming more vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These threats include exploitation by organised crime groups such as County Lines, trafficking, online abuse, sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism.







## EDUCATION



**88.2%** Primary   **67.2%** Secondary   Tameside schools now rated by Ofsted as **good** or **outstanding**.

**69.6%** Tameside pupils achieved **GCSE Math and English grades 4 or above**, compared to **67.1%** nationally.

## HEALTH



In our most deprived areas, the **life expectancy** is **9.6** years lower for men and **9.2** years lower for women, compared to the least deprived areas.

## CRIME



In the year ending March 2023, the rate of **victim based crime** in Tameside was **94.56** per 1,000 population.

This is **just below** the average for other similar authorities (Metropolitan boroughs) of **95.22** per 1,000 population.



# FOR EVERY 100 CHILDREN IN TAMESIDE

97

are born above the 5th percentile in weight.



92

are in education, employment or training.



40

are not school ready at age 5.



33

have a decayed, missing or filled tooth.



17

are living in poverty.



63

are of a healthy weight.



14

Have Special Educational Needs



3

children have a long term illness (e.g asthma) or disability.



3

are caring for a parent with an addiction, disability or illness.



10

(aged 5-16 yrs) will experience a mental health problem.



10

are born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.



9

young people regularly smoke.



1

are admitted to hospital with an avoidable injury.



4

are affected by domestic abuse.



1 in 1,000

will be in care.



2

aged 15-17 is pregnant.



# GROWING UP IN TAMESIDE

To ensure the plan was developed by evidence. In addition to the voice of local children and young people, a Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was undertaken.

The Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment highlights that Tameside's outcomes for children and young people are on average significantly worse than England averages, including but not exclusive to:



Children in absolute low income families (2019/20).



Babies that are breastfed at 6-8 weeks (2020/21).



Reception aged children who are obese (2019/20).



Children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception (2018/19).



5 year olds experiencing obvious dental decay.





Under 18's conceptions.



Hospital admissions for asthma under 19yrs, (2020/21).



Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm between ages 10-24yrs (2020/21).



Children in care (2021).

The Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment makes clear recommendations, including addressing the wider determinants of health, which broadly impact outcomes of our residents, focus on early years, physical and mental wellbeing, provide support for children with vulnerable at the right time and place, and build back better and fairer from Covid-19.

The full Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be found [here](#).



# OUR PRIORITY: SUPPORTED FAMILIES

The children and young people's consultations told us overwhelmingly that we must give high quality support to their parents, carers and their communities.

Child health and wellbeing is dependent on supportive and safe homes; studies repeatedly show the importance of having at least one supportive caring adult to establishing childhood resilience, and this is critical so that children are able to bounce back when difficulty threatens that happiness.

We know families achieve better outcomes if their needs are supported early. Access to universal services e.g. nurseries, schools, libraries and community health care, and positive interaction in families that spend time together e.g. play, leisure, sport, cultural activities, creates opportunities for happy memories to be made and resilient capacities to be built.

This enhances the foundation for happiness and lifelong health and wellbeing. Most children and families only need universal services, however it is the practitioners working in universal settings who first

recognise when a child or family is starting to struggle and may have additional needs. These practitioners are the teachers, youth workers, health visitors and volunteers who need to build a trusting relationship with that family, helping them to organise and co-ordinate the support they may need.

All staff working with children and families should be able to recognise and address the needs of the entire family in a holistic way, keep the child and their family at the heart of their work and listen to what they need in our Strengthening Families approach.



**“I like how close my family are.”**

Female, Ethnic Minority  
Communities Group, Age 20



## SUPPORTED FAMILIES - RECOMMENDATIONS

### Suggested Outcomes:

- Young people and families are in control and know where to access help and advice to manage their own health and wellbeing .
- Children and young people are protected from harm and are well cared for at home wherever possible.
- Workers will have the skills and knowledge to identify issues early in families and to address those issues quickly and effectively.
- Families receive good quality multi-agency help to support parents or carers so risks to children are reduced, reducing the need for high cost, statutory interventions.

### Suggested measures that will tell us we are making a difference:

- Number of open early help cases
- Number of children in need
- Number of children subject to a child protection plan
- Number of children looked after or cared for
- Number of people re-entered to youth justice system
- Number of parents supported for substance misuse, adult mental health, domestic abuse or parental conflict
- Percentage not in education, employment or training
- Child poverty - % children aged 0-18 living in relative poverty after housing costs
- Young carers – rate of young carers providing any unpaid care per week, per 1,000 young people aged 10-19 years



# OUR PRIORITY: HEALTHY LIVES

We want to enable children, young people and their families and carers in Tameside to live healthier, longer lives by helping them to stay well and prevent illness in the first place.

We want to help parents to make good and informed choices to help their children have a healthy start to life. A healthy childhood leaves a legacy of good health and wellbeing for their entire lifetime and helps them to make the right choices.

**“Like he said, the fact that we’re talking about mental health now is good... but it’s not being spoken about in the right way”**

Female, Youth council, age 16

We know that the vast majority of mental health problems experienced in adult life emerge before young people reach adulthood, and that early identification and intervention of social, emotional and mental health issues can improve mental health and resilience and reduce the considerable distress of those experiencing them, and that of the people caring for them.

**“At school we talk about when people get stressed and stuff...and what we can do, like give them space and things.”**

Female, Primary School, Year 7

We aim to create healthy environments and services that are accessible and engaging to children and young people and their families and carers, to help them make the choices and changes needed for a healthy and happy life. This includes advice, tips and tools to help them make the best choices about their health and wellbeing - healthy eating and healthy weight, getting exercise to help have healthy bodies and healthy minds, increase good sleep habits, awareness of good sexual health and prevention of smoking and use of drugs and alcohol.





# HEALTHY LIVES - RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Outcomes:

- Children, young people and families are enabled to lead healthy lives.
- More children and young people will have good emotional health and wellbeing, are emotionally resilient and equipped to manage their lives.
- Children and young people are able to safely manage their long term physical and mental health conditions and disabilities and are supported to manage the transition to adult services, if appropriate.

## Suggested Measures that will tell us we are making a difference:

### Maternal & Perinatal

- Proportion of births at low birth weight
- Smoking at time of delivery
- Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks

### Prevention of ill health

- Immunisations – 5-in-1 vaccination coverage at 12 months
- Immunisations – % of MMR vaccination coverage (second dose) at 5 years
- Healthy weight – % of 4-5 year olds living with overweight or obesity
- Oral health – rate of tooth extraction due to decay per 1,000 children aged 0-5



## Injury prevention

- Accidental injury – rate of hospital admission non-intentional injury children 0-4

## Health behaviours

- Young people smoking - % 15-year-olds regularly smoking
- Young people drinking - % 15-year-olds reporting being drunk 2+ times
- Young people consuming drugs - % 15-year-olds reporting cannabis use ever
- Conception in young people – under 18 conception rate per 100,000 females aged 15-17

## Mental health

- Mental health prevalence - % of 5-15 year olds reporting any mental health disorder
- Mental health services – rate of CAMHS admissions per 100,000 aged 0-18

- Waiting time to appointment and treatment (target 12 weeks and 16 weeks respectively)
- The number of CYP with a diagnosable MH condition accessing support (target 35%)
- Suicide – rate per 100,000 young people aged 15-24

## Long term conditions

- Asthma – rate of emergency admission for asthma per 100,000 aged 10-18
- Epilepsy - rate of emergency admission for epilepsy per 100,000 aged 10-18
- Diabetes – median % HbA1c level of those aged 0-25 with Type 1 diabetes
- Cancer – mortality rate per 100,000 children aged 5-14
- Disability and additional learning needs - % of pupils in mainstream education SEND



# OUR PRIORITY: POSITIVE LIVES

We want Tameside's children and young people to feel happy in a childhood that is full of fun, laughter and love - in vibrant and aspirational communities that they can be proud of and in which their dreams are realised.

We want families and communities that are thriving and resilient and support each other where children have a safe place to live.

We want our children and young people to grow, thrive and reach their potential and our vulnerable young people and their families are directly involved in helping themselves and others.

**“Play is an essential part of every child’s life. It is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as for social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends are usually at the top of the list.”**

Play England



**“Tameside Music Service. I thought that is a really, really nice space. Everyone in primary schools, a lot of them were playing instruments, and it’s just a nice way to get together. It’s a nice social space as well. I think it’s really great.”**

Male, Youth Council, age 18





## POSITIVE LIVES - VIRTUAL SPACES TO CONNECT



For the majority of participants, the virtual world was appealing and provided more avenues to fun and connections with peers.

Whilst this space presents opportunities for most in relation to friendships, for entertainment, gaming and feeling connected, this space also presents challenges. For example, many people talked about their experiences of feeling ridiculed and being bullied through social media. Older children raised concerns for younger children who they felt were using social media without a full understanding of it.

For others however, virtual connections were more limited as they did not have

regular access to the internet. Several participants talked of going to libraries and public spaces to access this; however this was restricted to when they were open. This is an important reminder of some of the social and economic difficulties participants faced. The lack of internet was a source of stress for these individuals.

**“For many of us, we see our online lives and offline lives as different, but children are growing up with technology and the internet so for them there isn’t a difference; online life and offline life is just life”**

NSPCC



## POSITIVE LIVES - RECOMMENDATIONS

### Suggested Outcomes:

- Families and communities are thriving and resilient and support each other.
- All children have a safe place to live in which they can grow, thrive and reach their potential.
- Vulnerable young people and their families are directly involved in helping themselves and others.

**“We all share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, whether as a parent, carer or family member, a friend or neighbour, an employer, or as a paid or volunteer worker.”**

Tameside Safeguarding Children's Partnership

### Suggested measures that will tell us we are making

#### a difference:

- Domestic Abuse Incidents reported to Children's Services (Corp Plan N9)
- Residents Agreeing that People Look Out for One Another (Corp Plan N10)
- Residents Feeling Safe in their Local Area (Copr Plan N11)
- Uptake of short breaks
- First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10- 17 years
- Libraries/Family Hubs/leisure centres/community centres/youth groups access
- Teenage conceptions
- Number of households with dependent children in temporary accommodation
- Annual surveys and engagement events



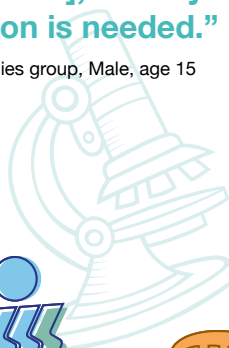
# OUR PRIORITIES: BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE

We want our children and young people to understand each other's needs, have a voice, know their rights and support each other. We want to ensure our children and young people are supported in areas such as social media, careers advice, health awareness & support and good relationships.

We want to ensure that we work with our children & young people to address diversity and the negative social attitudes that some people have towards race.

**“They may not know what they’re doing or why they’re doing that [racist comments], so maybe more education is needed.”**

Ethnic Minority Communities group, Male, age 15



## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - PLACE

Overall, educational attainment levels in Tameside are good. The quality of our schools has been consistently improving over recent years schools now rated by Ofsted as good or outstanding.

There are 76 primary schools, 16 secondary schools, 5 special schools, 1 PRU in Tameside and 2 mainstream post 16 providers (Ashton Sixth Form and Tameside College). 6% of Tameside schools are Independent Schools.

Tameside schools have shared conversations with partners about children and young people they are worried about. This provides a strong foundation which supports children, young people and their families by refocusing resources on prevention rather than crisis intervention.

Early schooling matters most for children and attending a good pre-school and primary has more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background - the quality of teaching children receive is more important.

A high quality pre-school followed by an academically effective primary school gives children's development a significant boost, especially when built upon a foundation of a stimulating early years home-learning environment.



## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - DEPRIVATION

We want our children and young people to have a good level of education that gives them the opportunity to earn more and be in more fulfilling employment. Ensuring children and young people are literate and numerate will also enable them to navigate their way through adulthood better.

Tameside is relatively deprived overall, nearly a fifth of children aged under 16 (17.3%) are in absolute low income families. Reducing the gap between all student attainment and those children that are disadvantaged is important to improving overall standards and reducing inequalities.

We want all of our children to have good access to high quality early years provision to ensure that they are school ready and that no children are disadvantaged or left behind.

We want all of our children and young people to succeed in the world of work and ensure educational aspirations are high.

**“If you are a child who gets free school meals and has had support from children’s services in the past five years you are 30% more likely to pass Maths and English GCSE if you are attending a school which is rated good or outstanding; yet if you are a child receiving free school meals, you are 1.4 times more likely to be going to a school that is less than good. If you are a child with a social worker, then you are 1.2 times more likely to be going to a school that is less than good.”**


Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza DBE March 2022



## BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - INCLUSION

Tameside are working on improvements in SEND support; attendance and exclusions; capital investment into the right and sustainable places; having better information and advice and guidance.

Our children and young people raised concerns about, and asked us to consider, their safety and security in their environments.

A simple line-art illustration of an open book with pages and a spine.

**“Having pupils who are uneducated lead to really bad discrimination or hate crimes or anything like that. It is a ladder, so it needs to start somewhere, so I’d really like it to start with education services.”**

Female LGBTQ Youth group, age 18



# BUILDING SKILLS FOR LIFE - RECOMMENDATIONS

## Suggested Outcomes:

- Every child will achieve well above expectations and will not be held back by their social and personal backgrounds, special educational needs or disabilities.
- All children get the best start in the early years; all pupils can go to a good school and have high aspirations for their future.
- Every young person will benefit from a broad range of pathways to further learning and employment, for their own achievement and economic independence and for the success of the Tameside economy.

## Suggested Measures that will tell us we are making a difference:

- % of children reaching a good level of development (Corp Plan V2)
- % 3 & 4 year olds at 'good' or 'outstanding' Early Years settings (Corp plan V3)
- % 2 year olds in funded early education
- % Key Stage 4 going into/remaining in further education (Corp Plan A1)

- % Primary schools 'good' & 'outstanding' (Corp Plan A2)
- % Secondary schools 'good' & 'outstanding' ( Corp Plan A3)
- % Key Stage 2 achieving expected reading standard (Corp Plan A4)
- Secondary Fixed Term Exclusions (Corp Plan A5)
- Percentage of pupils achieving expected or higher standard at KS1 and KS2 in reading, writing and maths ?
- Persistent absence rates ?
- Percentage of pupils achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths at KS4 ?
- Percentage of post-16 participation and achievement rates for those in Further Education (FE)
- Percentage of pupils in apprenticeship schemes or their equivalent ?
- Number of LDA health checks for 14-25 year olds



# PARTNERSHIP WORKING

This Plan provides clear direction for the Tameside Starting Well Partnership, and enables us to work better together on shared priorities in order to make the necessary changes to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Tameside.

We will celebrate inclusion, diversity and a sense of community with our existing partners and new partners who have 'duty to cooperate' with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in the authority's area.

Partners in Tameside will monitor and evaluate performance against this Plan, and related delivery plans. Where progress is slow we will challenge each other.

Progress toward the Plan will be driven by the Starting Well Partnership and will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board, with a comprehensive annual review taking place.





# CONCLUSION

This Plan is flexible enough to be adapted to meet changing circumstances, while still realising the vision.

We will continually monitor this Plan, and review it on an annual basis to ensure it remains effective. Our partnership scrutiny processes will hold us to account for our progress.

We have identified a number of key outcomes where we want to see real positive change, set ambitious actions and targets against these outcomes and we are determined to meet the challenge we have set ourselves.

The partnership will regularly support and review progress against these outcomes and challenge where it is clear that we need to take action in order to ensure progress is maintained and improved.

However, there is also a vast range of information which we will continue to review to ensure that this plan is having the impact we would want it to. We will take a flexible approach, making careful use of a range of objective

performance information so that we can respond to emerging issues. As a partnership we seek to enable change.

To achieve our ambitions within the very significant financial pressures and constraints faced by all partners we will continue to transform the delivery arrangements for local services. We will explore opportunities to find efficiencies in the way we deliver services; and, where it is in the best interests of children and their families, we will accelerate arrangements for services to be jointly commissioned across the partnership.

Our large and diverse workforce display great dedication and professionalism in the work they do every day for the children and young people of Tameside. We will support our workforce to do the job that they love through valuing, respecting and investing in them so they are confident, competent and have the skills, abilities, knowledge and motivation to provide the very best outcomes.



# WITH THANKS

Ashton Youth Club

Tameside Youth Service Girls Group

Tameside Youth Service LGBTQ+ 'Out Loud' group

People First Tameside - group for people with learning disabilities

People First Tameside - Young Operation Farmers

Cedar Park Junior Youth Club

Fairfield High School for Girls

Ashton West End Primary Academy

Aldwyn Primary School

St Mary's CE Primary School

Young people with experiences of the care system

The young parents group - 'Wrigglers and Gigglers'

