



Community
Planning
Aberdeen

Children's Services Plan 2026-2031 easy read



This plan explains how we will help children, young people, and families in Aberdeen. It sets out what is most important and how we will work together to make things better for everyone.

You can read the full version of our Plan here: [Children's Services Plan 2026-31](#)

What this plan is about?

This plan explains how we will help improve the lives of children, young people and families in Aberdeen over the next 5 years.

We will:

- **Work together across services**
- **Listen to what people need**
- **Help early so problems do not get worse**
- **Focus on families who need extra support**

We want every child and young person to:

- **Feel safe**
- **Be healthy**
- **Do well in learning**
- **Have a good future**

Our long-term goals

We are working towards two big goals by 2031:

- **Most young people will go on to education, training or work when they leave school**
- **Fewer people will live in poverty or become homeless**



What you told us

Children, young people and families told us what matters most:

- **Feeling safe**
- **Having support when it is needed**
- **Being listened to**
- **Having chances to do well**

We have used this to shape this plan.



What we know

We have looked at information about:

- **Health**
- **School**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Poverty**

This helps us understand what needs to change.

How we support children and families

We follow a national approach called:

Getting it Right for Every Child

This means:

- Children get the right help at the right time
- Services work together
- Children and families are listened to
- Support is based on what each child needs

How things will be different

We are changing how services work so it is easier to get help:

- Support will be joined up
- You will not need to tell your story many times
- Help will be closer to your community
- You can get help earlier

Some families will have a **named worker** who helps them find the right support.



Our Priorities

From the plan, our main focus areas include:

Best Start in Life –
helping young children
grow, learn, and
stay healthy.



**Attainment
and Transitions –**
helping children
and young people
do well in school and
move confidently into
adulthood.



Empowered and Resilient

– Supporting mental
wellbeing and helping
families stay strong.



We will pay special attention to families who need extra support, such as those in areas of high deprivation, care-experienced young people, young people with disabilities, and minority ethnic groups.



Priority 1: Best Start in Life

Helping young children grow, learn, and stay healthy.

Why this matters

When children are healthy, safe, and supported from the start, they are more likely to grow well, learn confidently, and feel happy. A strong start can prevent problems later in life and help families feel more secure.



What we need to do

- Make sure young children get health checks and early help when they need it.
- Support families so they know where to go for advice, food, childcare, or emotional help.
- Make early learning settings fun, safe, and welcoming for every child.
- Reduce the effects of poverty on young children's health and development.

How we will do it

- Bring health, early years, and family support services closer together so families get help quickly.
- Work with nurseries, family centres, health visitors, and community groups as one team.
- Provide clear information so families know what help is available.
- Listen to what parents and carers say they need and use this to shape services.

How we will know we have made a difference

- How we will know we have made a difference
- More children meet their early development milestones.
- Families say they can get help earlier and more easily.
- Fewer young children need emergency or crisis support.
- Children arrive at nursery and school ready to learn and take part.

Priority 2: Empowered and Resilient

*Supporting mental wellbeing
and helping families stay
strong.*

Why this matters

Children and young people do better when they feel safe, confident, and able to manage tough times. Families also need support to stay strong, especially when facing money



What we need to do

- Improve support for children and young people's mental health.
- Help families build confidence, skills, and connections in their communities.
- Make sure support is available early so small worries don't become big problems.
- Pay special attention to families who face greater challenges, such as those living in deprived areas or care-experienced young people

How we will do it

- Work with schools, youth workers, health services, and community teams to offer easy-to-reach mental wellbeing support.
- Offer family programmes that help with parenting, relationships, and understanding children's needs.
- Give young people real opportunities to share their views and shape services through participation groups and youth voice activities.
- Strengthen links to community spaces, clubs, and activities that help children feel they belong.

How we will know we have made a difference

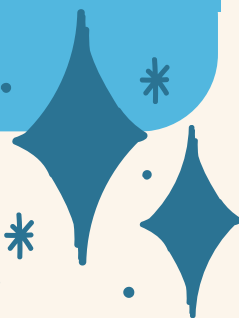
- More children and young people say they feel listened to, safe, and confident.
- Waiting times for mental health support get shorter.
- Families report feeling stronger and more supported.
- Young people take part more in community and school activities.

Priority 3: Attainment and Transitions

Helping children and young people do well at school and move confidently into adulthood.

Why this matters

Doing well at school and having the right support when moving between stages of life (such as starting school, moving into secondary school, or preparing for work) helps young people build bright futures. Good transitions stop young people feeling lost or unsure about what comes next.



What we need to do

- Improve learning for all children, especially those who need extra help.
- Support young people as they move into secondary school, further learning, training, or jobs.
- Reduce the gaps in attainment between children from different backgrounds.
- Support care-experienced young people and vulnerable groups to achieve positive destinations.

How we will do it

- Work with schools, colleges, employers, and community partners to create pathways that suit young people's interests and strengths.
- Offer extra help in learning for those who need it, including tutoring, mentoring, and targeted programmes.
- Support families to understand school expectations and how to help at home.
- Make sure young people with additional needs get tailored support during big transitions.

How we will know we have made a difference

- More young people achieve qualifications and feel ready for the future.
- More young people move into positive destinations such as college, work, training, or apprenticeships.
- Gaps in attainment between children in deprived areas and others begin to close.
- Young people say they feel supported and prepared during transitions.

Child Rights UNCRC

Making sure all children and young people understand what is happening and can have a say in decisions that affect them

We will:

- **Make sure children understand their rights**
- **Listen to children's views**
- **Help children take part in decisions**
- **Make extra effort to hear from all children**

Care Experience Keeping the Promise

Some children have experience of care and may need extra support.

We will:

- **Make sure they feel safe and supported**
- **Help them do well in school and in life**
- **Listen to their views**
- **Support strong relationships and stable homes**



The Promise is a National commitment to make sure that all of those that have experience care get all the support they need to thrive : [The Promise Scotland](#)



UNCRC stands for: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. To learn more about the UNCRC and its specific articles you can find details here: [UN Convention on Rights of a Child \(UNCRC\) - UNICEF UK](#)

Supporting children with additional needs

Some children need extra help to learn or take part.

We will:

- Find out what support is needed as early as possible
- Work together across services
- Make sure children feel included
- Help children at times of change (like starting school or moving on)

Child Poverty

Working to reduce poverty and support families to cope and thrive.

We will:

- Help families get financial support
- Support parents into work
- Provide affordable childcare
- Help with food, bills and daily costs

We want:

- Fewer children in poverty
- More families able to manage their money
- More young people going into work or learning

How we will check **progress**

We will:

- Measure what is working
- Share updates every year
- Use feedback to improve
- Make sure things are getting better for those who need it most



How we support **staff**

Staff need the right support to help children and families.

We will:

- Support staff training
- Help staff work together across services
- Support staff wellbeing

Find out more

You can read the full Children's Services Plan and future annual reports on the Community Planning Aberdeen website.

Partners such as the Children's Services Board, schools, health teams, and community groups will keep sharing updates as the plan moves forward.



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**