



Newham London

Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2018

"I think a massive amount of work has been carried out over the last couple of years to improve the life chances of children in Newham, but there is more to do and the priorities we've agreed here will help to achieve this."

Nilufa, aged 17, Newham resident



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INTRODUCTION

There are over 85,000 children and young people living in Newham. We are committed to ensuring each one of them grows up happy, healthy and prepared for adulthood. For us, this requires a strong focus on building resilience and supporting children, young people and families to develop the skills and capabilities that enable them to navigate the challenges of modern life.

The last few years have seen significant changes in the public sector and the wider community. There have been some important opportunities but also many challenges. Our ambitions for children have not changed but we have fewer resources with which to achieve those ambitions. This means we have to be even more creative, energetic, committed and resilient ourselves in the way we deliver services. It also makes it even more critical that we continue to work together as a partnership. As Children's Trust members, our individual agency budgets may have shrunk but when we put our resources together we still have potential to make a significant difference.

In drawing up this Children and Young People's Plan for 2015-18, we have been informed by:

- data about the needs of our population as well as the performance of our services
- research about what works in terms of making a difference for children, young people and families
- the experience of our workforce
- most importantly, the voice of children and young people who have told us through a number of different forums what is most important to them.



Collectively, we have identified the following areas in which we think we can make a difference to children and young people as a partnership:

- improving health and emotional wellbeing
- supporting learning and skills
- keeping children safe

This plan sets out how we intend to work together to address these priorities over the coming years. It provides clarity to children and young people, parents, residents, members, managers and frontline workers about our shared priorities and enables us to be held to account for the progress we make in achieving our shared goals.

Councillor Quintin Peppiatt,
Member for Children and Young People



James Thomas,
Director of Children's Services, Newham



Sab Sanghera,
Newham Clinical Commissioning Group



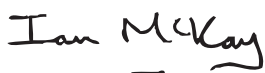
Tony Nash, Metropolitan Police



Dr David Sanders,
Newham Safeguarding Children Board



Ian McKay,
East London NHS Foundation Trust



“Implementing and driving forward this plan will directly contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people in Newham. As partners, we know it's crucial that we commission and deliver services to make that possible.”

Councillor Quintin Peppiatt,
Chair, Children and Young People's Trust

Paul Leslie, Newham Renewal Programme



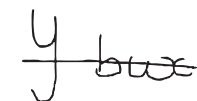
Jan Tallis, School-Home Support (SHS)



Kate McGee, Manor Primary School



Yaseen Bux, Young Mayor of Newham





1. OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our vision for Newham is:

To ensure that each one of our 85,000 children and young people has the skills, health and resilience to meet the challenges of adult life in the 21st century

This vision has not changed since we wrote our last Children and Young People's Plan in 2011. We remain committed to building resilience as the principal way of improving outcomes for residents as set out in "Quid Pro Quo: Why we need a welfare state that builds resilience", a key Council document published in 2011.

Whilst our vision is the same, what has changed is the context we are working within:

- The number of children has grown. In the 2011 census Newham had the fastest growing population.

The number of residents rose from 211,137 in 1991 to a projected 330,600 in 2014.

- Demand for support and protection for vulnerable children has grown. The number of requests coming into our Children's Triage Service has increased significantly over the past year from 548 requests relating to 886 children in September 2012, to 1148 requests relating to 2006 children in September 2014. Likewise the referral rate of cases going into Children's Social Care has increased from 613 per 10,000 in 2011, to 763 per 10,000 in 2014 (which is above both London and national averages).
- Funding has been cut dramatically. For example, funding passed to the local authority by the Department of Education to fund crucial services for children and families (including, for example, our children's centres) has shrunk to £13.9m in 2014/15 from £20m in 2011/12.



2. PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST PLAN

The last few years have been very busy in Newham! Lots of progress has been made in terms of improving services for children, young people and families as was recently evidenced in an independent Ofsted inspection. Key developments include:

A. Increasing entitlement to childcare, especially for disadvantaged two year olds

In spring 2011, Newham had 263 two year olds receiving free early education from a total of 52 approved childcare providers. However, by autumn 2014 this number had increased to 918 across 97 approved providers. In addition, provision is now offered in more flexible ways, including part week places and a “stretched offer” across the year.

B. Ensuring all children can read by age 6

We have made a significant investment in reading at Key Stage 1 involving quality training and support for schools, the recruitment of Reading Volunteers from within the community and the provision of one-to-one tuition for pupils who need extra help to keep up with their peers. The reward has been year-on-year improvements in pupil performance, which has placed Newham in a leading position amongst its statistical and geographical neighbours in terms of phonics. In 2014, 80% of pupils reached the national standard, an improvement of 18% from 2012, when the national checking process began.

C. Improving academic attainment

The quality of education provided by Newham schools is improving; 85% of nursery and primary and 86% of secondary pupils currently attend a school that was rated “good” or better at its most recent inspection. Educational attainment is also rising steadily. Key Stage 2 results have improved across the board, with combined reading, writing and maths at level 4+ rising from 67% in 2010 to 81% in 2014. By the end of Key Stage 4, the proportion of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs or equivalents (including English and maths) at grades A*-C rose from 52.1% in 2010 to (provisionally) 54.3% in 2014. This improvement over time has been sustained despite national changes to examination specifications and assessment methodology.

D. Introducing a multi-agency single point of contact for concerns about vulnerable children through the new Children's Triage Service

The Triage Service was established in June 2012 as the gateway to Children's Services. Triage acts as a key point of contact for concerns about vulnerable children, young



people and families in the borough. When cases come to Triage they are researched by various agencies including social workers, health visitors, probation, housing, the Youth Offending Team and police officers to enable managers to make an informed decision about the level of need. The addition of this new service has helped to ensure that children receive the right support from the right service at the right time.

E. Setting up a Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) to support young first time mums in Newham

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) started in Newham in November 2013 and offers an evidence-based, intensive, structured home visiting programme delivered by specially trained nurses working with young families from early pregnancy until the child is two years old. The service is provided by East London NHS Foundation Trust and is offered to first time mothers, aged 19 years or under, who are pregnant with their first child.

F. Improving our response to gangs and youth violence

In 2011 we established an Ending Group (Gangs) and Youth Violence Partnership to respond to levels of violence experienced by young people either as victims or perpetrators. Over the last three years, we have established a robust multi agency response for those of highest risk of harm, either to themselves or others. This response includes commissioning of specialist services to work directly with gang members and their families,

provision at accident and emergency to provide care at critical times and making full use of civil and criminal enforcement powers. This has helped to secure a 14% reduction in weapons enabled crime, a 5% reduction in robbery offences and a 73% reduction in youth violence since 2010/11.

G. Responding to the national Troubled Families Programme through the development of Families First

Families First has been developed to test evidenced-based approaches to working with the most complex and vulnerable families in line with the national Troubled Families Programme. Following a successful pilot, the service was rolled out across the borough in 2013 involving experienced family intervention workers, mental health practitioners and Jobcentre Plus staff seconded from the DWP. An external evaluation has been commissioned to report in 2015 but early feedback from families is extremely positive about the impact that Families First has had on their lives.



3. KEY THEMES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

Using local needs assessment information, performance data, feedback from children and young people and research evidence, we have identified three key areas in which we think we can best make a difference to children and young people, as a partnership, over the next three years. The priorities we have identified and the associated activities relate only to the things that are best done in partnership by Children's Trust partners working together. This is not, therefore, a description of the work of each partner individually – which would make our plan a very long document – but of the work we are committed to doing together as partners.

THEME 1: IMPROVING HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Priority 1 – Giving our children the best start in life

What are the key issues?

By the end of the Foundation Stage, 65.1% of children in Newham achieved a good level of development, an increase of 9.6% since 2013 when the current assessment framework began and over 7% points above the 2013/14 target of 58%. In addition, the gap between the lowest performing 20% and the rest has narrowed by 3% from 35.3% in 2012/13 to 32.3% in 2013/14. However, although progress is good in this area, there is still more to do in terms of ensuring that children are school ready by age five and therefore better able to achieve in school.

In respect of children's health, obesity remains a significant issue. 12.3% of Newham children aged 4-5 and 27.5% of children aged 10-11 were classified as obese in 2012/13. Given the link between childhood obesity and an increased likelihood of developing diabetes and cardiovascular disease, this is highly problematic.

Progress on immunisation uptake in under-fives is more positive. Although Newham is below the England average, uptake of single-dose MMR vaccinations is increasing and in 2012/13 stood at 83.3% compared to the 90.6% London average and 93.9% England average.

What are we going to do about it?

We are committed to ensuring our children have the best start in life. This means:

- a. Ensuring access to a range of childcare options that are available at times and locations that are suitable to them, empowering parents to get back into and stay in work. Although take up of the free entitlement for three and four year olds is good, we still need to do more to improve the uptake of the entitlement for disadvantaged two year olds through better signposting and support for eligible families.
- b. Offering evidence-based programmes and seminars to Newham families through children's centres and other community settings to promote effective parenting strategies, speech and language development and improvements in the home learning environment. As research makes clear, these are the things that have greatest impact on a child's later life chances.
- c. Early identification of additional needs through regular health checks, promoting engagement with universal health services and providing intensive family support where required.

Priority 2 – Promoting healthy lifestyles

What are the key issues?

Newham faces a number of significant public health challenges, many of which are preventable. No one organisation or service can take on the sole responsibility for promoting healthy lifestyles, so we need to work with our partners and providers to embed the promotion of healthy lifestyles into "business as usual" in order that children and young people make positive choices to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing. This includes providing advice and support in relation to traditional health issues, such as promoting good sexual health, as well as supporting healthy relationships and behaviours to reduce risk of engagement in youth violence, child sexual exploitation and other risky behaviours.

What are we going to do about it?

Schools are clearly crucial in achieving this ambition but they can't do it on their own. We will work together, as partners, to understand the needs of our school population and to implement whole school approaches that address those needs so that health and wellbeing outcomes improve longer term.

We are also establishing a new Safety, Resilience and Wellbeing Team to provide advice and support on gangs and youth violence, child sexual exploitation (CSE), safeguarding and promoting healthy relationships including through signposting to intervention or support options available within the community. We will ensure that health professionals are integrated into the new team so that healthy lifestyles and positive choices are integral to the way we work with young people at risk of poor outcomes.

Priority 3 – Strengthening emotional resilience

What are the key issues?

Research tells us that 75% of lifetime mental health disorders have their onset before 24 years of age, with the peak onset of most conditions from 8 to 15 years. We know that poor mental health has enormous social consequences and economic costs. For example people with mental health problems may experience stigma and social exclusion, discrimination at work, and are more at risk of losing their job.

National research suggests that in deprived areas around 15% of children and young people are at risk of poor emotional wellbeing, which equates to approximately 12,900 children and young people in Newham who may be at risk. By investing in interventions that strengthen young people's emotional resilience we expect to reduce the number of young people who experience poor emotional and mental wellbeing and the number that will go on to develop a lifetime mental health disorder.

What are we going to do about it?

Where needs are most complex, we will continue to commission the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) including investing in CAMHS practitioners to work alongside our frontline Families First and Children's Social Care teams in order that more families receive the benefit of their skills, expertise and the positive outcomes achieved through multidisciplinary support and intervention.

However, we are also committed to developing our preventative offer for children and young people with emerging mental health needs through:

A. Delivery of the Resilience Project which provides 1-2-1 and group support for vulnerable children by Educational



Psychologists at either Key Stage 2 or 3 to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and their families.

B. Our successful bid to be part of the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) HeadStart programme aimed at improving the emotional resilience and wellbeing of young people aged 10 to 14 years. There are three key areas of delivery for Newham including a multi-disciplinary team to test new ways of promoting resilience in a small number of schools; an innovative communications campaign to promote positive messages around emotional wellbeing; and a targeted volunteering programme for young people at risk of poor outcomes to build self-esteem, skills and sustained community involvement.

THEME 2: SUPPORTING LEARNING AND SKILLS

Priority 1 – Developing skills for work

What are the key issues?

In Newham there is longstanding interest in vocational skills and the offer available for around 50% of Newham's young people who do not choose to take a strictly academic route at age 16. At the same time there is particular focus on improving employment outcomes for young people, recognising the high levels of youth unemployment across the country and in Newham.

There is significant national reform of the vocational skills environment following various governmental reviews such as the Wolf Review of Vocational Education and Richard Review of Apprenticeships. It is important that we ensure Newham young people are able to thrive in the new vocational skills environment and their pathways lead to employment outcomes.

What are we going to do about it?

We are planning to:

- improve the provision of information, advice and guidance in order to ensure that young people and their families are fully informed of the post-16 learning and training pathways available to them and their routes into employment
- develop our knowledge of the destinations in relation to employment of our young people following completion of their education and training
- develop further the engagement of employers with our young people and their schools and colleges through the expansion of work experience and business involvement in their education
- in partnership with schools, colleges and other training providers expand a high quality vocational education and training offer from 14 onwards that is linked to identified future employment opportunities.

Priority 2 – Redesigning support for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities



What are the key issues?

521 children and young people aged under 25 in Newham currently have a statement of special educational needs or a Learning Disability Assessment (if they go to college). Several hundred more receive additional support from education, health and social care providers to help them achieve positive outcomes.

The national framework of support for these children and young people has changed as a result of the Children and Families Act 2014. We want to make sure that we can realise the benefits to changing the way we work together in line with the new legislation.

What are we going to do about it?

We have started to deliver the Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) Reform Programme – working across education, health and social care partners – to introduce the changes in the Children and Families Act;



improve the impact on outcomes and resilience; improve the value for money in commissioning and delivery through merging back office systems; and revise our system so it is transparent and more easily navigated by families, staff and partners. This will not only improve the “customer experience” for families, but also enable us to increase the efficiency of how support is delivered, and – most importantly – enhancing long term outcomes for children and young people.

Priority 3 – Improving early help in schools

What are the key issues?

Identifying children and families who would benefit from early help is everyone's responsibility. However, universal services like schools have more contact with children and young people and are most able to identify early when a child might need additional support. The Department for

Education states that action should be taken to promote the welfare of a child in need of additional support, even if they are not suffering harm or at immediate risk. School staff are particularly important as they are in a key position to identify concerns and provide early help in order to prevent concerns from escalating.

What are we going to do about it?

We know that the best way to improve early help for children in schools is to develop staff who come into contact with them everyday. In partnership with schools, we've developed a new programme called Foundations for Learning (FFL). FFL offers training and guidance for practitioners who provide early help for families in Newham schools. The programme delivers accredited training for early help practitioners, a practical toolkit with advice and guidance on identification assessment and planning of early help, locality and theme network sessions, and support for senior leaders who want to embed an early help framework across their school.

THEME 3: KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Priority 1 – Strengthening the Children's Triage Service

What are the key issues?

Demand for support for vulnerable children has risen significantly over the last year. This is partly a response to the good work that has been done to raise the profile of Triage across the borough, but also we are seeing more cases which indicate wider "social needs", eg housing needs, rather than solely issues of abuse or neglect as would have been the case historically. Ofsted commented on this in their inspection of help and protection for children in Newham in June 2014, saying: "At the moment, agencies refer too many children to the Local Authority whose problems are at an early stage and who could be better helped elsewhere."

What are we going to do about it?

In order to address the increased demand for support for vulnerable children, young people and families, we are extending the role of the Triage Service to include more advice, support and pathways into universal services, including children's centres, schools and health services but also commissioned providers such as the new Domestic Violence one-stop-shop. From October 2014, Newham is working with two other east London authorities to explore the increase in demand and consider opportunities for joined up solutions.

Priority 2 – Improving the multi-agency response to children at risk of harm

What are the key issues?

The effectiveness of our Local Safeguarding Children Board was judged to be "good" by Ofsted in June 2014. Building on this solid foundation, we intend to further strengthen the challenge and scrutiny function of the board in relation to local safeguarding arrangements and in particular the early help offer to children and their families. We want to be assured that children receive the right help at the right time and that early help has an impact on the level of demand for statutory services.

We recognise the key role that the local community has



to play in safeguarding children and will be investing time and energy in building links and relationships between the Board and the local community.

What are we going to do about it?

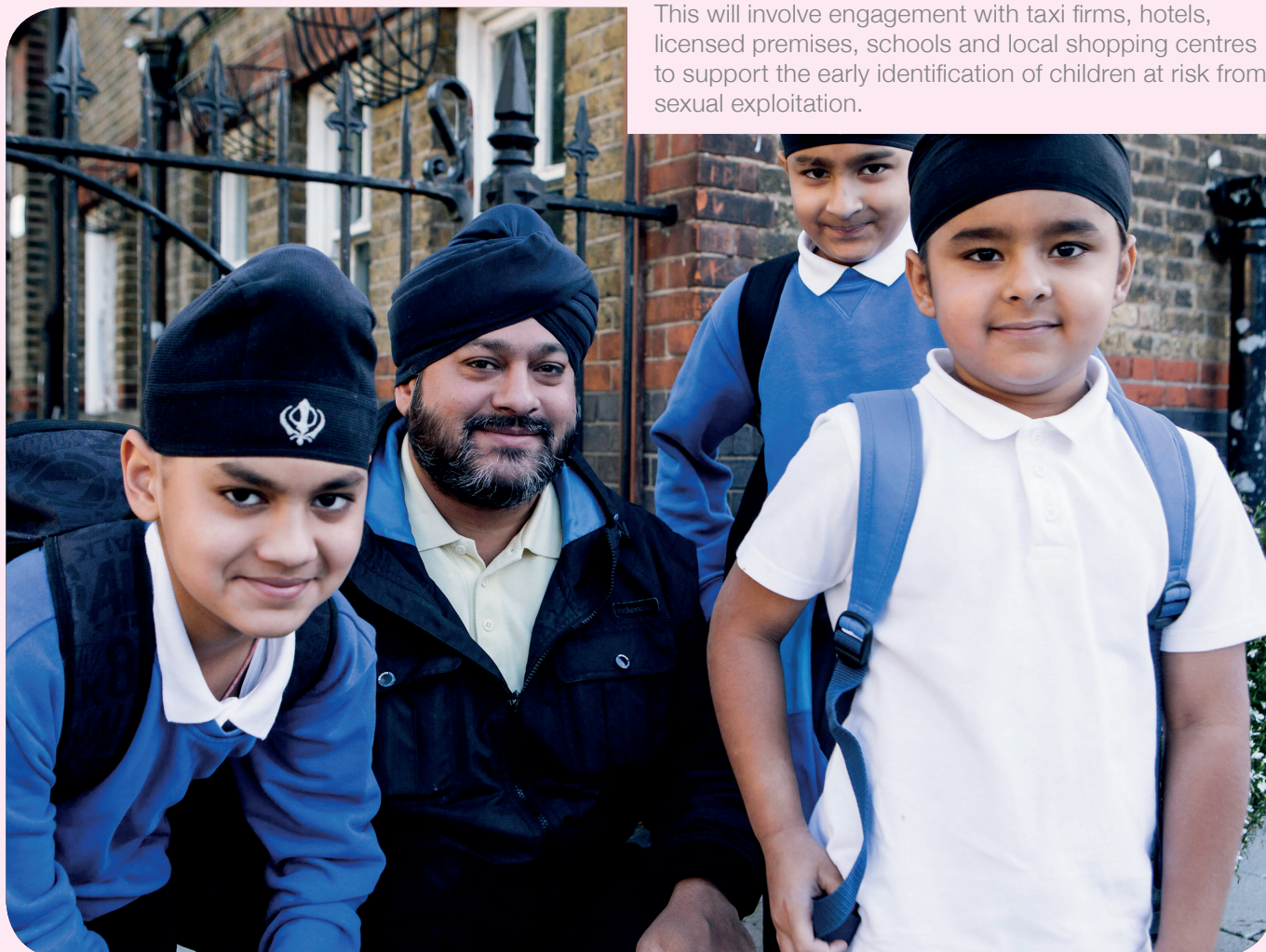
We are planning to:

- engage in the development and implementation of a new framework for evaluating the impact of early help, as recommended by Ofsted, and ensure that performance indicators are agreed, scrutinised and monitored on a quarterly basis by the board
- deliver a safeguarding awareness campaign with the Safeguarding Adults Board focused on the local community, including creating a Community Safeguarding Forum and running Child Protection Champions training for safeguarding leads in faith-based organisations
- continue to develop the board's website and training programme as a source of comprehensive information, advice and development for professionals and the community.

Priority 3 – Supporting vulnerable groups of young people

What are the key issues?

Over the last few years, there has been a growing awareness of the risk to children posed by trafficking, sexual exploitation and going missing from home, care or education. Key national and local policies have been devised to address these specific vulnerabilities. The Newham Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) has had a dedicated sub-group focused on children missing from care, home and education and child sexual exploitation since 2012, with representation from all Children's Trust partners. This group is responsible for reviewing and developing systems for identifying, tracking and supporting children at risk in these areas.



What are we going to do about it?

We will continue to ensure weekly monitoring of all missing children, including information about when the child was last seen, steps to locate them and the plans to reduce future missing episodes. This information helps us build a better local picture of the age range of children who go missing, why and where they go so that we can target resources to reduce the risk. It also ensures effective oversight of the operational response to individual missing children.

The Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) Panel is another critical aspect of our response to vulnerable children. This panel ensures that all young people at risk of sexual exploitation are identified and that there is an effective plan in place to reduce risk. The panel looks at individual cases as well as gathering information about specific areas and/or people who pose a risk. This will involve engagement with taxi firms, hotels, licensed premises, schools and local shopping centres to support the early identification of children at risk from sexual exploitation.

4. HOW WILL YOU KNOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

We have selected a number of key indicators that will enable a judgement to be made about whether we are making a difference in relation to the priorities we have set ourselves. These are set out in the table below.

Theme 1: Improving health and emotional wellbeing
Priority 1 – Giving our children the best start in life
• Reduce number of low birth weight babies
• Reduce infant mortality
• Improve breastfeeding status: initiation, 6-8 weeks
• Improve take up of the 2 year old offer
• Improve EYFS scores (good level of development)
• Improve KS1 – reading, writing, maths, phonics
• Reduce tooth decay in children aged 5
Priority 2 – Promoting healthy lifestyles
• Reduce the number of children who are overweight and obese in Primary - Reception (4-5 years) , Year 6 (10-11 years)
• Reduce the number of under 16 and under 18 conceptions
• Improve take up of early childhood and school age immunisations
• Improve outcomes for children and young people with continuing care needs
• Reduce young people in the youth justice system receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody
• Reduce rates of serious youth crime and knife violence
Priority 3 – Strengthening emotional resilience
• Improve emotional and behavioural health of children in care
• Improve emotional health and wellbeing of children known to CAMHS
• Improve young people's self-reported health outcomes (youth survey)

Theme 2: Supporting learning and skills

Priority 1 – Developing skills for work

- Increase in KS2 L4+ reading, writing and maths
- Increase in KS4 5+ A*-C inc (all pupils)
- Increase in KS4 5+A*-C inc (FSM)
- Increase in Level 2 qualifications by the age of 19
- Increase in Level 2 qualifications including maths and English by 19
- Increase in Level 3 qualifications at 19
- Reduce percentage of 16-18 Not in Education, Employment or Training

Priority 2 – Redesigning support for children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disability (SEND)

- Integrated services driven by a whole family approach
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment published and local offer developed
- Joint commissioning framework with health in place for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy
- Framework for personal budgets in place
- All statements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans transferred by 2018
- Our collective workforce are familiar with the new frameworks, and have the skills and confidence to deliver within them

Priority 3 – Improving early help in schools

- Increase in number of children supported through the early help framework
- Reduce number of permanent exclusions across all schools (expressed as % of school population)
- Reduce number of fixed term exclusions (number of incidences) (expressed as % of population – primary and secondary)
- Reduce persistent absence (primary school, secondary and special school)
- Increase number of families being supported by the Attendance Management Service

Theme 3: Keeping children safe
Priority 1 – Strengthening the Children's Triage Service
• Reduce requests to Triage
• Increase number/percentage of cases judged as Level 1
• Reduce the percentage of referrals that are NFA
• Reduce the number of referrals that are repeat referrals
Priority 2 – Improving the multi-agency response to children at risk of harm
• Improved attendance at multi-agency strategy meetings
• Number of children who are subject to a CP plan (rate/10,000)
• Looked after children per 10,000 population aged under 19
Priority 3 – Continue to support vulnerable groups of young people
• Monitor numbers relating to: child trafficking, children missing from education, children missing from home, child sexual exploitation

“As a Newham volunteer, I really like practical opportunities for young people. The emphasis on skills and resources for us to succeed in the 21st century are what's important to me.”

Daniel, aged 20, Newham resident

