

2022-2025



# Rutland Children and Young People's Strategy

## Introduction and Vision

***For all children and young people in Rutland to be happy, safe and successful.  
They will be supported and empowered to be the best they can be.***

We are passionate about improving outcomes for children and young people and about narrowing the gaps in outcomes that some experience. We understand that innovation and excellence are possible only through the combined efforts of our committed and skilled children's services' workforce in whatever agency they sit.

This strategy has been developed with the Rutland Children and Young People Partnership who, collectively, are responsible for the delivery of key services for children, young people and families in the County. The strategy reflects our shared commitment to further develop our partnership practice, to increase integration of services where it makes sense to do so and to strengthen joint accountability for improving outcomes for local young people.

This strategy sets out our partnership ambitions over the next three years and the contents have been guided by listening to the views of parents, young people and residents and are based on the things that matter most to you. The Future Rutland Conversation gave us the opportunity to understand what is important for all residents in Rutland, but particularly children, young people and families. Children and young people shared their views using a series of specially designed surveys, open forums and live discussion events and these are the areas that stood out from what you told us:

***Feeling safe and secure is important to children and young people.***

***Children and young people would like more opportunities and services that are based in Rutland, such as access to employment or services such as mental health.***

***It is important for families that agencies work together, particularly early years, schools and the voluntary sector.***

***Health, education and having things to do were the most important concerns for their family.***

Partners share the understanding that all agencies are experiencing funding pressures and national expectations on services provided for children and families are increasing. We recognise that there is a need to work even more closely together and focus resources increasingly on those most vulnerable to poorer outcomes.

## Our Aims

To achieve our vision we have identified four aims which will guide the work of partners over the next three years. Each aim has been identified as a crucial component in creating the conditions for children to experience safe and successful lives. The below table outlines each aim and includes what children and families can expect to see and feel if we are achieving them:

Aim	What this means for you
1. Every child lives in a happy and safe environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families will be helped when they need additional support and guidance at any stage in their child's life.</li> <li>• Children will remain living at home where it is safe for them to do so.</li> <li>• Children will feel safe at home and when in their community.</li> </ul>
2. Children who do become looked after, or are leaving our care, are supported to achieve the best emotional, physical and learning outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will be listened to and be involved in decisions about their lives.</li> <li>• Children will feel cared for and are provided with opportunities to grow and achieve.</li> <li>• Young people will be supported to become successful adults.</li> </ul>
3. Children experience an aspirational and inclusive education offer in their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early year's settings and schools will create safe and enjoyable learning environments in which all our children can flourish.</li> <li>• Children who become vulnerable in their learning will be supported.</li> <li>• Support will be available for children and young people with identified additional needs.</li> <li>• Young people will have opportunities for training and building life skills.</li> </ul>
4. The emotional health and wellbeing of children in Rutland will be promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people feel confident to seek help when they need to and know the services available to support them in their community.</li> <li>• Young people are able to make healthy choices.</li> </ul>

## Our Approach

To support us in achieving our aims children's services will adopt the following when delivering services:

Our approach	What this means
1. We will provide the right support as soon as additional needs are identified in order to help promote family wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will work together with our partners to identify, at the earliest opportunity, when a child or family needs additional help and support.</li> <li>• We will promote the support that is available in Rutland for families and make it easy to access our help and advice by being available in communities, online and in person.</li> </ul>
2. Create strength through partnerships, working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will work with other organisations so that there are enough of the right services</li> </ul>

collaboratively to provide an integrated offer which supports all children and families.	<p>available to support families, this will include education and health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will share ideas and learning and pool resources. to help deliver the best services possible in Rutland.</li> </ul>
3. We help <b>the most vulnerable</b> families receive the support and guidance that they need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our specialist support will be focused on those families who need support the most.</li> </ul>
4. We will strengthen our connection with the <b>voluntary and community sector</b> , recognizing the critical role they play in helping our residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By working with what is already available we can help families to access a greater range of support in a way that suits them.</li> </ul>
5. We will provide <b>services in a way that suits families</b> , recognising one size doesn't fit all - providing access in person and online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will help families to access services which are available to help them.</li> <li>Families will have a choice in how they access support.</li> </ul>
6. We <b>will listen and respond</b> to the views of children and families to shape the support they receive and to improve how we deliver our services, working alongside (collaboratively with) families rather than doing to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We believe that families often know how best to support the needs of their own family.</li> </ul>
7. <b>Focus on relationships:</b> We take time to get to know our children and their families, to develop trusting relationships that enable us to find creative solutions together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Caring staff who take the time to get to know you and your family and to work with you in a trusting partnership.</li> </ul>

## Our Priorities

As a Partnership we will continue to deliver services which support our vision and core aims. However, we have also identified a number of key priorities for Rutland which we will focus on during the first year of our strategy – 2022-2023. These priorities have been chosen because national research, local data on needs and feedback from partners, carers and children and young people has identified a pressing need to focus our energies on these particular areas. By doing so we anticipate that we can make a real difference to the lives of our children and families.

Priority	Why?
1. <b>Transition to adulthood:</b> To support the effective transition of vulnerable young people into adulthood and independent living, ensuring young people feel equipped with the necessary skills to live safe and successful lives.	Young people told us that they want more freedom and independence. Supporting young people with building life skills will play a key role in promoting independence, accessing employment and suitable accommodation thereby being safe and successful.

	National research shows that support for children with complex and additional needs is critical for preventing escalation into higher cost services in adult life.
2. <b>Emotional Health and Wellbeing:</b> To promote emotional resilience and ensure support is in place to recognise and respond early to children and young people; working with our community and specialist services to support local interventions.	Parents and children tell us being able to access support locally is a key concern for them.  Children without access to essential support are at higher risk of harm and at risk of falling out of education.
3. <b>Children at risk of harm:</b> Work with our partners to reduce risk at home and in the community.	Tackling risk factors is essential for keeping children safe, this means focusing on aspects such as exploitation, contextual safeguarding, tackling parental conflict etc.
4. <b>Tackling Domestic Abuse:</b> Work with our community to raise awareness of domestic abuse. To improve the services available locally for victims, including child victims, and their families in order to minimise the impact on family life.	Domestic abuse remains prevalent within families who access statutory children's services.  The impact of domestic abuse on children has been shown to effect child development and mental wellbeing.
5. <b>Children who become vulnerable in their education, including children with SEND:</b> We will work with partners, providers and families to ensure children receive their education entitlement and put in place additional support when children need it.	Research highlights that children who fall out of education are at a greater risk of harm and poorer life outcomes overall.

### To help make it happen

Developing our aims is only the first step. In order to achieve our ambitions and make a real impact it is essential all partner agencies work together to make sure that Rutland stays an amazing place to live, work and grow up, where everyone can lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

To support this we have in place a Children and Young People Partnership Board (CYPPB) which brings together senior leaders from those agencies who work with children and families and includes representatives from Schools, Police, Health, Children's Services, Youth Offending, Local Councillors, Voluntary Community and Faith Groups and, crucially, parent and carer representatives. The board work together to oversee the implementation of our vision and monitor progress against our key priorities and targets.

### How will we know we have made a difference?

We will know we have made a difference if:

- Children and families tell us the support they received was timely, reflected their needs and made a difference.
- Our data and key performance indicators shows children and young people are being kept safe and are succeeding.
- Our partnerships are strong and we work together, seen in the support families receive.
- Our services are informed and influenced by children and their families and this can be easily demonstrated.
- Our workforce has trusting relationships with families resulting in successful solutions.

The following table outlines some of the key indicators which are monitored against our aims:

### **1. Every child lives in a happy and safe environment.**

#### How we measure:

Children and families tell us the support they receive has helped them through;

- QA surveys.
- Annual Survey results.
- Satisfaction rates with services

In addition:

- Number of children looked after.
- Number of child protection plans.
- Placement breakdowns.
- Re-referral rates.
- Children surveys and engagement activity.

### **2. Children experience an aspirational and inclusive education offer in their community.**

#### How we measure:

- Number of children with identified additional needs, (SEND and with an EHCP) having needs met within their community and a mainstream setting, including a DSP supported place.
- Reduced level of out of county placements as an overall percentage of the SEND and EHCP cohort.
- Number of permanent exclusions.
- Number of children without a school place.
- Number of children in inappropriate alternative provision.
- Attainment and progress measures demonstrate improved outcomes for previously high and low attaining pupils.
- Good level of development (early years) and progress 8 scores.
- Level of out of county Education, Health and Care Plan placements as an overall percentage of the cohort.
- Post 16 destination data of young people leaving statutory education.
- Levels of children and young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

### **3. Children who do become looked after, or are leaving our care, are supported to achieve the best emotional, physical and learning outcomes.**

#### How we measure

- Children leaving care who become homeless.
- Children leaving care who are not in education, employment or training.
- First time entrants into the criminal justice system.

### **4. The emotional health and wellbeing of children in Rutland will be promoted.**

#### How we measure:

- The Well Being Offer is well understood across the partnership and by children and families. Number of hits to on-line sites, Kooth, Teen Chat, number of cases in FIM and IAPT or Mentoring. This means young people and parents/carers can make informed decisions and understand what services are available and how to access these.
- All children and young people waiting for a specialist CAMHS service or on discharge from specialist are identified and have an offer of early help, or emotional health and wellbeing support services.
- Partners understand and are effective in identifying the impact of poor emotional health and wellbeing, resulting in earlier intervention and support being offered.
- Strengths and difficulty questionnaire completion rates.

#### **How will we test?**

Performance of our services is monitored regularly so that we can be confident the support provided is making a real difference and, where performance indicates further action may be required. This allows us to be responsive to the needs and emerging trends based on real time data and feedback. The process of monitoring performance includes;

- Through our quality assurance programme and monthly performance process, including performance scorecard.
- Monitoring satisfaction rates including complaints and compliments on a monthly basis.
- Levels of engagement and participation of children and families in our services and surveys.