

# Early Years Strategy

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CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

Our mission:  
Working as one to  
serve our city

[wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://wolverhampton.gov.uk)



# Underpinning values

- Everyone's responsibility. Starts at conception
- Targeted, early support for those who need it most
- Social class, income, living conditions, parent's own education levels
- Importance of the home learning environment
- Parental engagement, parents as the first educator
- Quality of provision

# Definition of school readiness

For the purpose of this strategy school readiness is defined as:

“Children will be able to express their needs, feelings and wants. A school will ensure that children feel heard and understood by their practitioners. Children will be excited, enthused and demonstrate a willingness to learn both inside and outside of the classroom”.

# Guiding Principles



**Wolverhampton is committed to:**

- Putting the best interests of the child at the heart of decision making.
- Taking a holistic approach to the wellbeing of a child.
- Working with children, young people and their families on ways to improve wellbeing.
- Advocating preventative work and early intervention to support children, young people and their families.
- Believing professionals must work together in the best interests of the child.



**We will:**

- Work with families to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes, safely preventing family breakdown.
- Deliver a whole system approach, enabling close working with partners with clarity on roles and responsibilities.
- Build employee confidence and skills, and empower and support to work creatively and innovatively with families.
- Provide affordability and enable the financial sustainability of children's services in the future.

# The strategy (1)

## Good maternal health

- This theme focuses on ensuring there is a consistent approach to the delivery of health services for families with a clear pathway from conception to age five, in line with the Healthy Child Programme.

## Parental engagement

- This theme focuses on developing the provision of universal services for families in order to support parental engagement. Parents will be supported to develop good parenting skills to enable them to help their child(ren) achieve their full potential.

# The strategy (2)

## High quality education

- This theme focuses on ensuring all children in the city have access to high quality pre-school experience and education which will enhance and improve their Primary and Secondary Education.

## Workforce development

- This theme focuses on challenging and supporting schools and childcare providers to deliver the best education for children and young people through developing a highly skilled Early Years workforce with strong and effective leadership and management.

# Good maternal health

## Parents

## Professionals



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will be engaged in health/ universal services at the earliest point and are clear about what is on offer across the city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will launch a pathway that all professionals who support children and families in the early years will sign up to that offers a consistent message and ensures the best start in life</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will participate in services so that their children have the opportunity to receive high quality health care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will provide services at the appropriate milestones to ensure children get the best start in life</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will understand their child's development milestones and how they can support them through their parenting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will provide antenatal classes that offer an attractive Early Parenting Programme to expectant parents and beyond including sessions focused on early attachment/bonding - Talk to your bump programme</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Will identify and make available a suite of multi - agency services to support expectant/new mothers at the earliest point. Especially those who may present with early signs of low mood or historical mental health issues</li> <li>✔ Will support parents access to services already on offer e.g. SWITCH Programme, Therapeutic Support, Befriending services – Home Start</li> </ul>

# Parental engagement

Parents



Professionals



✓ Will increase their understanding of their child's developmental milestones and how they can support them

✓ Will promote services available to families in their community in order to deliver prevention and early Intervention support

✓ Will develop skills and resilience to become their child's primary educator providing good home learning environments

✓ Will provide child development resources regarding ages and stages to inform parents of expected progress

✓ Will promote awareness and access of the Wolverhampton Information Network website to support parenting

✓ Will support with school readiness by developing a holistic understanding which supports families

✓ Will feel supported to participate in services

✓ Will increase the number of parent champions across the city

✓ Will access Bookstart, Play and Stay groups and other universal services

✓ Will develop the skills and knowledge of parent champions so that they can:

- Promote universal services
- Encourage other parents to access Early Education Funding
- Enable them to signpost and support families to other services available in their community

✓ Will support their children to access high quality Early Education Funding (EEF) for 2,3 and 4 year olds and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

✓ Will raise awareness of Early Education Funding and improve the take up of places

✓ Will identify eligible children so that resources can be targeted to the right children and families at the right time



# High quality education

## Children



## Professionals



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will have increased Good Level of Development at the Early Years Foundation Stage and will attain in line with National expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will develop a clear pathway for parents and professionals that promotes a common understanding of child development and how this can be supported</li> <li>✓ Will establish a robust transition protocol to support children's' move onto statutory education including the sharing of data</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will not achieve to a lesser degree if they receive Early Years Pupil Premium compared to those not receiving Early Years Pupil Premium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will develop a school readiness definition to improve readiness for school for all children with particular regard to disadvantaged and vulnerable children at age 5</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will receive high quality pre-school education in settings that are judged to be good or outstanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will provide high quality learning environments</li> <li>✓ Will achieve and maintain a "Good" or above Ofsted judgement</li> <li>✓ Will provide a support and challenge function within and to settings in order to develop and continually improve practice</li> <li>✓ Will develop training materials, opportunities and practice to support providers in implementing changes in practice that will impact on children's outcomes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will achieve successful outcomes as a result of early intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Will track cohorts of children to monitor progress ensuring children at a disadvantage are fully supported</li> <li>✓ Will use their best endeavours through the graduated approach to make sure that children with SEN get the support they need.</li> </ul>

# Workforce development

Children



Professionals



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Will learn in high quality learning environments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Will share and disseminate good practice</li><li>✓ Will maintain a continuous cycle of staff development within the provision to ensure the stability and quality of the workforce</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Will develop and maintain Early Years forums to enable leaders and managers to enhance their knowledge of the sector and to build locality networks</li><li>✓ Will develop high levels of skills in graduate leaders</li><li>✓ Will access training support including model environments and peer support opportunities</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Will achieve to their full potential with those more disadvantaged than their peers progressing well.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Will demonstrate an in depth knowledge of child development and how to support families</li><li>✓ Will embed effective key worker practice within provision</li><li>✓ Will implement observation planning and assessment to meet individuals needs and interests</li></ul>

# Views from the panel

- Definition of school readiness
- Underpinning values and principles
- Four themes
  
- Strategy available  
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11544&p=0>
- Full consultation available  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPSNS76>

**wolverhampton.gov.uk**