

#YES

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY





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‘Happy Healthy Children and Young People’

This Strategy is designed to improve the well-being of all children and young people living in the City of Wolverhampton. This vision is ‘Happy Healthy Children and Young People’.

It is the City of Wolverhampton’s commitment to young people aged 8-18 (and up to 25 for those with a Learning Disability or Care Leavers) to support them in living a Happy and rewarding life. It recognises the importance of young people’s voice in shaping services, valuing their contribution in making the City a great place to bring up families.

We recognise that improving the lives of our children and young people will take consistent and sustained action over a long period of time. It is also not the responsibility of a single person,

Department or organisation; it will require everyone to work together. This Strategy, therefore, also seeks to outline how the Children and Families Together Board will promote co-operation amongst organisations, departments, recognising the role of communities and other service deliverers to ensure that we make a real impact on the lives of our children and young people.

It sets out a direction of travel for creating opportunities for children and young people to be their best. By agreeing mechanisms to support improved working practices and outlining the key outcomes we wish to achieve, we are taking the first step in making a real and lasting impact on the lives of children and young people. It will be a framework to guide organisations to ensure it makes the most of resources and opportunities to benefit local young people.

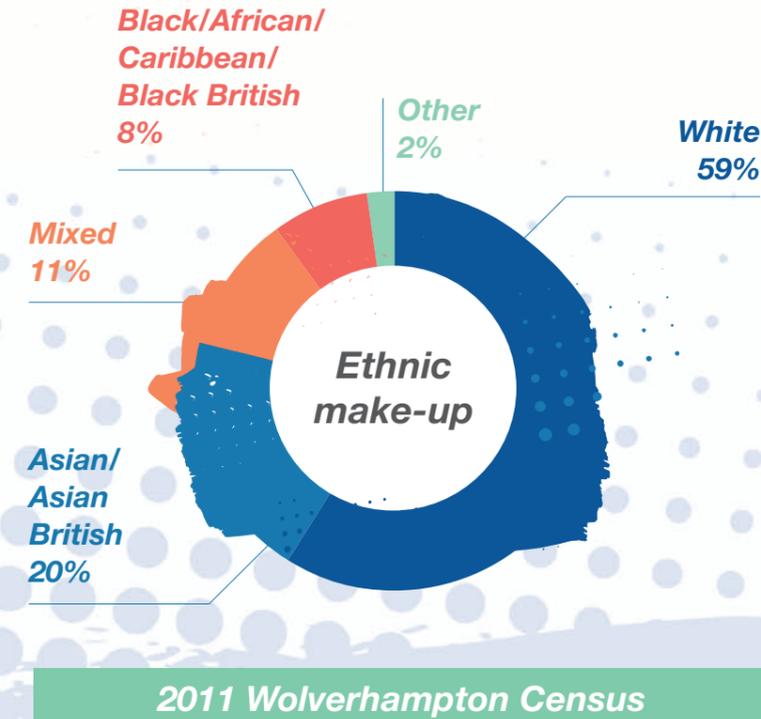
About Children and Young People in Wolverhampton



Wolverhampton has a population of 262,008 (2018), of this 25.6% of the population (67,003) are children and young people aged 0-19. Since 2015 the number of children aged 0-19 in Wolverhampton has risen by 2,427. Over the next five years the number of children and young people living in the city is likely to continue to rise.

The 2011 census provides information about the ethnic make-up of the population of children and young people aged 0-19 living in the city. Most are of White ethnicity (59%), with the next highest proportion being those of Asian/ Asian British ethnicity (20%), followed by Mixed heritage (11%) and Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British heritage (8%). 2% of 0-19-year olds in Wolverhampton are of 'other' ethnicity. Over recent years the city has seen an increase in arrivals from Roma communities from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania.

According to the 2018 annual population survey there are 31,400 households in the city that have dependent children (aged up to 18), of this 12,300 (39%) are lone parent households, compared to a national average of 22%. 58% of households containing dependent children in Wolverhampton are 'couple households', compared to 75% in England. In 2016 25.9% of children in the city were classed as living in child poverty, this compares to 17% for England



How we developed this Strategy

Coproduction is a simple idea. It's about individuals, communities and organisations, pooling their skills, knowledge and experiences and working together to improve the quality of life for people and communities.

Adopting the coproduction ethos, we worked with young people in developing the questions for the surveys. 1800 hundred surveys were completed, 9801 young people were involved in Make your Mark survey, Group work and 121 work with views of 300 young people 30 different locations and Stakeholder events.

Full details are available on the website.

Links to other strategies

We also looked at the existing work in the City to ensure that #YES complements existing strategies and plans. This includes; Children Young People & Families Plan, Early Help Plan, Violence and Exploitation Strategy, Community Safety and Harm Reduction Strategy; Tackling Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Including Violence Against Women and Girls, CAMHS Transformation Plan, HeadStart National Lottery funded Programme, The Vision for Public Health 2030, Public Health Annual Report 2017.



About the Strategy

The City of Wolverhampton wants to ensure that every child and young person has the self-esteem, resilience and social skills they need to succeed in life.

There is already a lot of initiatives in the City and it has been recognised that youth provision in the City is fragmented and better coordination is needed.

The consultation has highlighted a need to provide provision and support that is open access rather than referral. Many existing strategies already cite early intervention and prevention, but these focus on a targeted cohort and based on existing risk factors. There is a clear need for earlier interventions, rather than waiting for risk factors to surface.

Key themes have emerged through our understanding of needs, current service provision, services performance and the outcomes experienced by children and young people in Wolverhampton. We have identified the following areas where we believe earlier support will have the greatest impact on outcomes. The three areas the strategy will focus on is

Being Healthy

Being Connected

Being You

VISION

'Happy Healthy Children and Young People'.

OBJECTIVES

Being Healthy

What did the analysis tell us?

Crime and the fear of crime are important issues affecting the well-being of young people in their community.

Many young people feel safe in the City, but there is still the perception among some that the streets are not safe, and some groups of young people are experiencing more incidents of crime than others.

Mental health matter to young people. Headstart highlighted that on average young people are more likely to show signs of aggression or 'act out' more than others. It was also reported that young people are less able to interact successfully with peers and children especially in year 8 are less able to understand another's feelings.

Wellbeing was a common theme for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities when they were consulted on an ordinary life. Children in mainstream schools had more of a focus on having an ordinary life being important as they



needed this to feel safe. Further to this, children and young people with needs and disabilities stated access to leisure centres and parks acted as a barrier for them to become active

Getting outdoors, being active, eating well was highlighted by young and parents/carers. However not knowing what is available and affordability were some barriers cited. We already know that more than 27% of children at reception and more than 40% of children at the age of six years are overweight and obese and only 9.4% of school aged children (years 1 to 11) meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

What are we going to do about it?

- **We will promote positive stories about young people to help redress negativity sometimes shown towards young people in the media.**
- **We will work through the emotional wellbeing mental health Partnership to develop emotional wellbeing services for young people.**
- **we will provide and promote more physical activity opportunities for young people.**
- **We will work through the healthy growth partnership to promote healthy lifestyle choices**
- **We will support schools citywide to provide a PSHE curriculum offer to address issues highlighted**





Being Connected

What did the analysis tell us?

Lack of information; what is apparent throughout the survey is that young people and parents feel that they do not receive enough information and generally don't know what services and activities are available.

How providers market their services and facilities must take into account various social media platforms and reach young people in a format and language they associate with. Coordination of local marketing needs to be addressed.

Local facilities are being used. The Summer Squad programme evaluation showed that over 16000 children and young people attended activities over the summer holidays. These ranged from family fun days, play in the park, dancing, artwork and targeted provision for some of the vulnerable young people. Overall, the summer squad received some positive feedback. In addition to this, there was a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour.

The Consultation response showed young people and families liked to spend time outdoors and valued 'family time'

According to a recent Special Education Needs and Disabilities consultation, children and young people generally provided positive responses about their aspirations for the future. Children reported that as part of an ordinary life, they engage in a mixture of fun activities, happy home lives and have daily routine activities. However, more activities are needed.



What are we going to do about it?

- **We will build on the success of Summer Squad and pledge to provide activities during the school holidays. A platform will be created Wolves Holiday Squad where activities will be promoted.**
- **We will create a map detailing the activities available throughout the year.**
- **We will invest in the local community under the banner of 'Wolverhampton for everyone' to encourage local ownership, identifying funding opportunities and working together on local solutions.**
- **We will undertake a needs analysis thereby putting the City in a stronger position to accessing alternative funding opportunities that often require a quick turn around on bids**



Being You

What did the analysis tell us?

Young People have said they want more than just to be asked opinions and views. There is a strong desire for active participation in decisions, implementation and monitoring of services. The lottery funded HeadStart programme showed the added value of young people in the commissioning process to ensure services reflected need and was 'right' for the locality and the young people.

A key theme from organisations around children and young people is that they have a voice that is heard and to encourage and engage young people to achieve their dreams.

The 'Growing up in Wolverhampton' consultation findings found that our children and young people are ambitious as they wish to learn and get involved in activities.



What are we going to do about it?

- *We will establish a Youth Partnership Board to oversee implementation of the strategy*
- *We will establish a participation hub designed and implemented by young people.*
- *Young people who want to be involved in coproduction will be given the opportunity to have their voices heard and valued.*
- *We will thrive to make the City of Wolverhampton a youthful child friendly city.*



What will success look like?

Children and young people

- *have fun and enjoy leisure time*
- *are physically and mentally healthy*
- *are respected and their opinions valued*
- *learn and achieve*
- *live in safety and stability*

How will success be measured

1. Increase numbers of young people participating and engaging effectively in their communities.
2. Improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability.
3. Encourage physical activity and healthy eating.
4. Ensure young people and their families have access to the right information and advice to make their own choices.
5. Improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people.
6. Increase engagement and participation, voice and influence of "all" young people.

What next?

The City of Wolverhampton Council and its key partners will develop an action plan to accompany the Strategy, setting out the actions for which it will be responsible over the next three years.





**You can get this information in large print, braille,
audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155**

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

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