Vision for Sutton’s Children and Young People

Sutton Council’s vision is ‘to build a community in which all can take part and all can take pride’.

This vision encapsulates the community-based approach and commitment to improving the quality of life and well-being for all Sutton residents. There are five core values which reinforce the vision and provide the underlying context to the ways in which we work. The values form the acronym PRIDE and illustrate how the Council is committed to:

- Working in PARTNERSHIP with the people who live and work in the Borough
- Making our services open and accessible so that everyone is listened to and treated with RESPECT
- Seeking INNOVATIVE approaches in order to provide better, more cost-effective services
- Promoting DIVERSITY and ensuring that we recognise and celebrate difference within the context of fairness and equality
- EMPOWERING everyone so that we can all ‘take part and take pride’ as active citizens and staff

The vision and values for the Children, Young People and Learning Directorate supports and complements those of the whole Council. The work of the Directorate is centred around three moral imperatives:

1. PROTECT - develop still more integrated and secure approaches to safeguarding and protecting children and promoting their welfare
2. PREVENT - further develop our preventative and early intervention strategies and services
3. PROMOTE - ensure all children and young people, and especially the most vulnerable, challenging or disadvantaged, are given every opportunity to succeed
Children and Young People’s Plan Summary

The Sutton Children and Young People’s Plan 2011/14 has five Strategic Priorities developed following a thorough assessment of need:

- **Safeguarding** - All children and young people are safe from harm
- **Healthy living** - All children and young people are able to make healthy choices
- **Vulnerable Children** - Improving outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people
- **Achievements and attainment** - All children and young people enjoy learning and reach their full potential
- **Focus on Families** - All families are safe, healthy and resilient

These strategic priorities are developed and taken forward by the Sutton Children’s Trust and have key areas of focus to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families during 2012/13.

**Safeguarding** – during 2012/13 The Children’s Trust is committed to:

- Improving outcomes for families affected by domestic violence, parental mental ill health and substance misuse;
- Reducing the impact of emotional abuse on children and young people;
- Better targeting and more efficient use of resources, including the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

**Healthy Living** – during 2012/13 The Children’s Trust is committed to:

- Giving children and young people the best possible start in life
- Reducing the impact of risky behaviours in young people
- Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people

**Vulnerable Children** – during 2012/13, The Children’s Trust is committed to:

- Improving outcomes for Looked After Children, including improving educational outcomes
- Improving outcomes for Disabilities and complex health needs, including appropriate and effective support through transition to adults services
Improving outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs including increased use of local provision
Improving outcomes for young offenders including a better understanding of re-offending behaviours
Improving outcomes for young carers including more targeted support for young carers

Achievement and attainment – during 2012/13, The Children’s Trust is committed to:

- Raise attainment and close the gap between vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and their peers
- Targeting and supporting young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of being NEET

Focus on Families – during 2012/13, The Children’s Trust is committed to:

- Building the resilience of all families with children and young people
- Whole family support for complex families with multiple problems
- Alleviating the impact of child poverty on families by appropriate targeting of resources

Across all the priorities, there is a commitment to ensure that children, young people and their parents are able to express their views, make informed choices and exercise control over decisions that affect them.
Key facts about children, young people and their families in Sutton

1. Sutton has one of the lowest re-offending rates of young offenders across London and first time entrants to the criminal justice system in Sutton are currently demonstrating low numbers.

2. 82% of pupils in Sutton achieve Level 4 and above at Key Stage 2, including English and Maths in 2011 (the second highest performance across London and the third highest performance nationally).

3. Performance in Sutton schools at key stage 2 and key stage 4 remains one of the highest in the country. Overall performance at key stage 2 and at key stage 4 has increased again during 2010/11 academic year.

4. The number of Looked After Children, as at 31st December 2011, is 159 which is a similar number to the 2010/11 outturn figure (163).

5. There are currently 189 children subject to a child protection plan in Sutton. 48% of the plans are for emotional abuse, 41% for neglect, 5% for physical abuse and 5% for sexual abuse.

6. Domestic violence incidents in Sutton occur in greater volumes in areas of denser housing deprivation. Evidence from frontline practitioners working with young people also suggest that domestic violence is becoming increasingly seen in teenage relationships.

7. Parental mental ill health is a common risk factor for parents with children subject to a child protection plan and children with complex needs. Recent case file audits identified around 60% of such parents have current or historical mental ill health issues.

8. Sutton had been experiencing an increase in teenage conceptions; however the latest data indicates a sharp decline in teenage conceptions which brings Sutton’s conception rate back below the national average.

9. Social isolation of disabled children and behaviour management are widespread concerns amongst parents of disabled children. Professionals report that many parents are struggling to cope with sleep difficulties and challenging behaviour in disabled children.

10. There are currently 1,072 children in Sutton with a statement of Special Educational Needs. ASD and Speech, Language and Communication are the most common prime need for children with SEN. Moderate Learning Difficulties and Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties also have relatively large numbers.