

What Do Our Stakeholders Say?

Imagining Aberdeen

Over the course of 2016, the Children's Parliament worked with young people in four Aberdeen schools, with twenty young people (the 'Imagineers') becoming representatives of the children and young people of Aberdeen. The Imagineers have worked with their peers to imagine a future Aberdeen where all children and young people can be healthy, happy, safe and supported to do their best. They have developed a mural of Aberdeen which depicts the city as the best possible place for them to live, produced a film and community reports, spoken to political representatives and public bodies, and presented a keynote address at the ICS Conference in November 2016.

Engaging with Children, Young People and Adults

In addition to taking on board the views of our Imagineers we carried out extensive stakeholder engagement activities with children and young people including: focus groups, interviews, the ICS Conference and other events such as attendance at locality planning events.

We also engaged with adults to identify priority areas for service development. This included parents (through parents' councils and play sessions conducted throughout the city), as well as partners and practitioners (through the ICS Conference). In many respects, their views mirrored those of children and young people.

Putting it All Together: Our 3-Year Children's Services Priorities

Through the analysis of data on children and young people, together with the issues highlighted by means of the stakeholder engagement activities, it is possible to see how we can begin to achieve the 3 primary drivers outlined in our vision. Although the data shows a picture of Aberdeen that has seen improvements in health, early years, education and leaver destinations, there remain core areas for improvement:

1. Closing the Gap

The National Improvement Framework outlines the need for local authority areas to improve educational outcomes for all children and young people, by closing the gap between those who are in most and least need of support. It also reflects the need to improve health and economic outcomes for children and their families. This can only be achieved through multi-

agency working. The statistics outlined earlier clearly show that we can do better to support children and young people and their families in these areas, particularly in communities of need.

2. Youth Engagement and Inclusion

Children and young people have clearly expressed their desire to be included in the decision making processes around issues that affect them. Opportunities to impact on decision making in schools (e.g. pupil councils and the Imagineers initiative) have been positively received, but we need to increase their influence in supporting Aberdeen's ICS Partnership. We also need to improve opportunities for more vulnerable young people to feedback their views and ensure that they can see more clearly how these views help to shape their community and the services provided for them.

3. Health and wellbeing

Mental wellbeing impacts across a child's or young person's lifespan, even into adulthood, affecting various areas of their lives, including social and academic development and confidence in their own independence on leaving school. Children and young people expressed concern about bullying, anxiety and depression. They described feelings of isolation, as well as difficulties in accessing help.

In addition to this, our stakeholders clearly felt a need for more opportunities for outdoor activities and play spaces, together with more information on improving their health.

4. Community Safety and Environment

Parents and young people expressed a desire to feel safer in their community. Issues such as anti-social behaviour and dirty environments restrict young people's desire to engage in activities in their local communities and create anxiety on the part of parents or carers in allowing or encouraging them to do so. We also need to ensure we meet our responsibilities to ensure the safety of all children at home.

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Aberdeen City Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020

Children are Our Future

Helping make Aberdeen a place where all children and young people will prosper



Link to full plan: <http://www.aberdeengettingitright.org.uk>

Our 10-Year Vision for Our Children and Young People

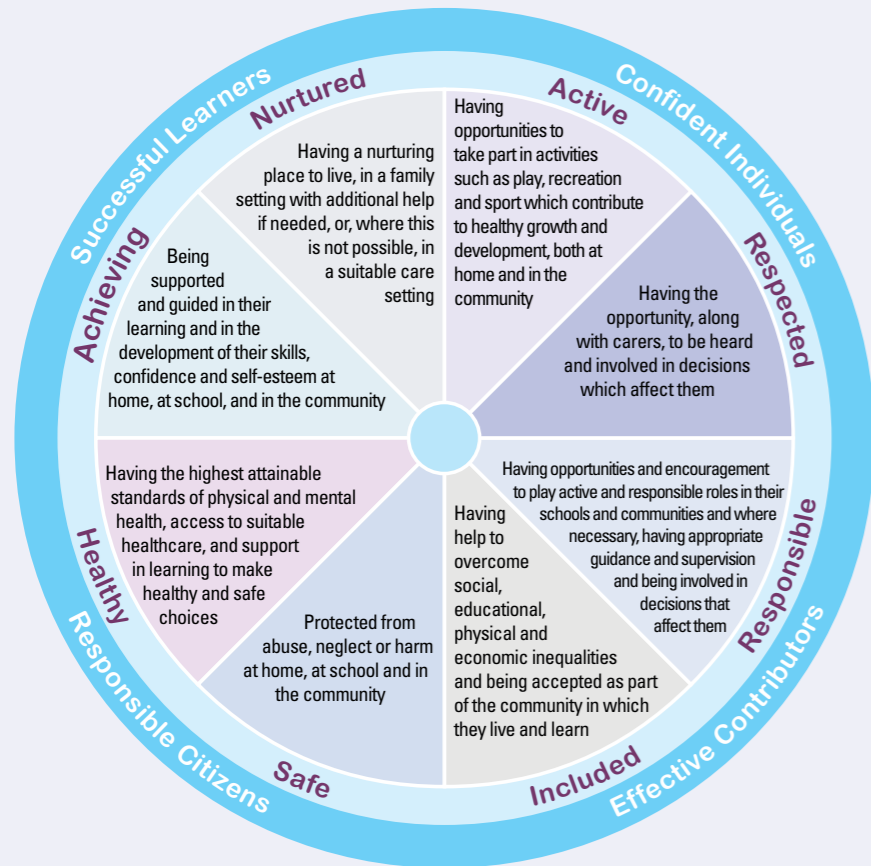
"Over the next ten years we want to make Aberdeen a place where all children and young people can prosper"

The three primary drivers:

Children have the best start in life – children in Aberdeen city are healthy, happy and safe, and enjoy the best possible childhood

Children are respected, included and achieving – children and young people are listened to, respected, valued and involved in the decision-making process and supported to achieve

Children are safe and responsible – children and young people can become responsible citizens and safe from all forms of harm



The Scottish Government has developed a plan for how we should all look after our children called Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). Our 3 primary drivers in our 10 years vision are underpinned by the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators.

Youth Population Overview

The population of Aberdeen City Children and Young People aged 0-25 is set to increase from 72,308 to 87,852 (21%), by the year 2037.

Birth rates in the city have increased considerably since 2005 when there was a recorded 2,061 births. This has since increased to 2,609, an increase of 21%. Despite a peak of 2,688 in 2012, and a dip to 2,500 in 2013.



Child Poverty

For the period October to December 2013, after housing costs were taken into account, an estimated 18% of Aberdeen's children were living in poverty. There was, however, substantial variation in levels of child poverty between different city wards, ranging from a low of 5.3% in Hazlehead/Ashley/Queen's Cross to a high of 32.2% in George Street/Harbour.



Free School Meals

In February 2016, 53.2% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were entitled and registered for free school meals in mainstream local authority schools.



Parents and Early Years

- ★ The Scottish average rate of pregnancy among under-20s is 34.1 per 1,000
- ★ Aberdeen City has a higher rate of pregnancies among young people, 36.2 per 1,000.
- ★ Twenty three of the intermediate zones within Aberdeen City have higher than the Scottish average rate, and most of these contain the 20% most deprived areas.
- ★ Moreover, 21.2% of all young people under 20 who become pregnant will have experienced at least one previous pregnancy.
- ★ Amongst those living in deprived areas, the repeat pregnancy rate rises to 24% (in the least deprived it is 14%).



Attainment

Young people assessed as having Literacy and Numeracy at Scottish Qualification Framework (SQF) level 4 are considered to have the necessary basic levels of literacy and numeracy (L&N). In Aberdeen city as a whole this has increased from 2012 with 73.9% of young people achieving SQF level 4 L&N to 86.6% our virtual comparator at 83.9%.



SQF Level 4 L&N among other cohorts in Aberdeen however is lower.

For those from the 30% most deprived communities there has been an increase from 52.7% in 2012 to 75.5% in 2015. Higher than our virtual comparator at 70.7%.

For looked after children SQF level 4 L&N was 28%. This has been a significant increase since a low of 2.63% in 2013.

Young People over the Age of 16 Positive Destinations Overview

Overall initial positive destinations across Aberdeen City schools have increased from 85.6% in 2010/11 to 90.1% in 2014/15. Figures peaked in 2012/13 at 91.1% but have declined by 1% since then. These figures have remained fairly stable over the past three years. These very closely align with the Scottish average which in 2014/15 was slightly higher at 93.0%.

Positive Destinations by Category

City wide, Higher Education has been the highest leaver destination across the past 5 years and has shared a converse relationship to Further Education which has been the second highest leaver destination each year except 2013/14 where it was briefly taken over by Employment (26.2% compared to 25.5%). In 2014/15 both Higher and Further Education increased together at the same time as Employment decreased.



Positive Destinations in Deprived Communities

In 2014/15 Positive Destinations among those young people in the 30% most deprived communities was considerably lower than among their peers, 82.6% compared to the Aberdeen average of 90.1% in the same year. It was also lower than the Scottish average for young people in the 30% most deprived communities at 89.2%.

Positive Destinations among Looked After Children

Positive Destinations among Looked After Children have increased between 2011/12 to 2014/15 from 54.4% to 72%. It should be noted that these figures are greatly affected by the small numbers within the cohort but even at its highest in 2014/15 this is close to the national average of 74.6%.