



Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

One Minute Guide: Meeting held on 21st July 2025

This meeting was held at Gosforth Civic Theatre and gave partners a chance to attend the venue of one of our Evry partners.

1. Young People's Updates

For the second consecutive year, a varied group of young people attended this meeting to share their views and priorities.

- **Newcastle Youth Council** members (Mollie and Findlay) spoke about the new legislation to allow young people aged 16+ to vote and about period dignity. Recently, a Period Dignity survey was conducted to gather insights from young people across Newcastle about their experiences with menstrual health, access to period products, and education around menstruation. With 41 respondents from a range of schools, colleges, and communities, the survey highlighted key issues such as affordability, stigma, toilet access, and the need for inclusive education. The findings aim to inform local initiatives and promote period dignity for all.
- **Newcastle SEND Voice Trainees** (Lucy and Daniel) shared their experiences of the education system as young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Action Foundation Young Leaders** group shared what it has been like for them as children new to the UK and settling in Newcastle, and some of the challenges they have faced.

A common thread emerging from all the presentations was around the importance of children and young people feeling heard, understood and their needs as individuals being considered by services.

2. Progress to date

Some of the Partnership's highlights and achievements over the past year were shared. These include:

- **Growth in membership and engagement;** 27 representatives from organisations from the public, voluntary and community sectors, with 7 new partners since November 2023
- **2 meetings dedicated to hearing from children and young people**
- **A significant growth in the Evry programme** which has been strongly supported by the Partnership. This has enabled more children in the city to access opportunities they might normally miss out on, such as sporting and arts events, free travel and leisure facilities and more recently, over 100 work experience placements for students from 3 secondary schools.
- **A number of multi-agency projects** including work on Online Safety, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Neurodiversity, and Healthy Relationships.



A recent feedback process with Partnership members found that:

- **Members strongly value the role of the partnership in fostering connection and understanding.**
- **Members feel that the Partnership has improved how they seek the voice of children and young people, but there is more to do.**
- **Members feel that there is scope to collectively try and tackle a smaller number of issues [through 2025/26].**

3. Proposed focus for 2025-26

It was proposed and accepted at the meeting that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership focuses on 3 pieces of work over the next 12-18 months, each aligned to one of the three outcomes agreed in the [Newcastle plan for children and young people 2024 to 2027](#). These are:

- Happy and Healthy → **Redesign of Children and Young People's Mental Health, LD and Neurodiversity pathways** (a key issue for children and young people and work now underway).
- Safe → **Healthy Relationships and Young People** (a key issue from the HRBQ in 2024).
- Ready for Next Steps → **Improving School Attendance** (a long-term challenge that is strongly linked to a child's life chances).

4. AOB

- Following national reform of the systems supporting children and their families in need of help and support via the Children's Wellbeing & School Bill, Newcastle City Council are undertaking a bespoke piece of work to engage partner agencies across the children's services system in what the redesigned system, **Families First Partnership**, should look like. Partners are asked to please share their feedback via this survey link: <https://forms.office.com/e/uweEjVEjx8>
- The **NSPCC** are looking to work with partners in Newcastle to deliver a fully-funded programme to young people to reinforce the importance of building and maintaining positive relationships and recognising and responding to abusive and exploitative behaviour, including in the online world. Partners are invited to attend Expression of Interest meetings in September to be part of informing the roll-out of this campaign in Newcastle. Please contact kate.williams@newcastle.gov.uk for dates and further information.

The next meeting will be held in October and will consider how the Partnership can focus on working together to support schools and families in improving school attendance.

For more information or to contact the Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, please email: kate.williams@newcastle.gov.uk