

Haringey Early Years Strategy 2022 – 2026



Haringey
LONDON

‘Best Start in Life’

Foreword

Welcome to the Haringey's Early Year's Strategy 2022-2026.

We would like to thank all of our stakeholders and partners who have been actively involved in shaping the way we develop our early years approach and look forward to seeing all that can be achieved in the coming years. Haringey's Early Years Strategy recognises that the delivery of our early years offer is not the responsibility of a single agency but is owned by all partners that work with young children and their families.

In Haringey, we are committed to working in partnership to coordinate support, care and learning for young children and their families. We are proud of the quality of our early years provision in Haringey, and we know our early years services work hard to deliver good outcomes for children.

COVID-19 has a profound impact on our youngest children. It has not only disrupted their early education but also the social contact and development that is so important from early years through to childhood and into adulthood. These impacts are not evenly distributed, but instead disproportionately affect those already experiencing disadvantage and inequality.

A dedicated Early Years Strategy will contribute towards a borough-wide approach which prioritises early years and places a strong focus on the importance and value of ensuring high quality provision for our youngest children and their families. By having a clear emphasis on improving early years outcomes, underpinned by an Inclusive, early intervention approach, we aim to ensure we deliver our ambition for working together, with families accessing the services they need and at the time when they need them, to truly support the best start in life for their young children and wider families.

Our Early Years strategy reflects our ambition for an integrated and better co-ordinated approach across all services for young children, their families and carers. This is underpinned by ['The Best Start for Life' Review](#). Providing comprehensive, high quality early years services, is one of the best investments any society can make for the children, their families and for our communities and we are building on our already strong networks to do this for Haringey's youngest citizens.

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Haringey Context

Haringey is a dynamic and diverse London borough with over 180 languages spoken in local schools. Our most recent residents' survey¹ identified that many young families choose to move to Haringey because of the benefits of open spaces, good schools, easy access to a number of work locations and more affordable housing.

The borough has long welcomed communities from all over the world and, in addition to long standing Black Caribbean communities, there are significant communities of Turkish and Kurdish, Somali, Latin American and Eastern European residents living in the borough too. Haringey is home to a growing community of Orthodox Jewish residents, living largely in the south east of the borough

Haringey is marked by significant inequalities and whilst deprivation levels are high, particularly in the north and east and in pockets across the borough, there are areas of great affluence and wealth. Haringey is one of the more deprived authorities in the country, ranking 49 out of 317 local authorities and the 4th most deprived borough in London. 9 of Haringey's 19 wards are within the 20% most deprived wards in England, and these are located predominantly in the east of the borough.

Northumberland Park and White Hart Lane are the two most deprived wards in Haringey, with Northumberland Park being the most deprived ward in London, and White Hart Lane the 4th.

The ward with the lowest income households in Haringey is Northumberland Park and 7,317 (32%) of low income households across the borough are households with children who are in poverty. 1,368 families were identified as being in food, fuel and water poverty as of February 2021. Crouch End has 19% of low income households with children and Seven Sisters has the highest at 48%. The proportion of households in fuel poverty are highest in the east of the borough. 14.4% of Haringey households (approx. 15,400) live in fuel poverty, the 2nd highest percentage in London and substantially above the London average (11.3%). Fuel poverty is concentrated in the centre of the borough.

In 2017, 8,820 children in Haringey were living in 'all out-of-work' benefit claimant households, a figure higher than average when compared with the rest of London. Approximately one in three Haringey pupils are eligible for and claiming free school meals (30.1%). This is significantly above the London average (17.1%).

Inequalities feed into differential outcomes for Haringey residents, not only in life expectancy, but in employment, income, housing, wider health and wellbeing, including mental health and educational attainment. Whilst GCSE attainment has improved comparative to England, but is below London, there are notable attainment gaps which start to manifest from the earliest age. The % of children reaching the expected Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of the reception year is 75%

¹ ADD LINK TO SURVEY IN THIS FOOTNOTE WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED

(2019), which is higher than the national average, yet the overall figure of 74.6% children achieving a good level of development masks a gap between boys ((68/4%) and girls (80.9% 2019) and between different communities (Black Caribbean 60.5%, Kurdish 50% and Turkish Cypriot 57.7% 2019).

Haringey residents report higher levels of life satisfaction than residents across the rest of London on average, and there are significant community assets and levels of community capacity which residents draw on all the time. Working across statutory partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector alongside local residents, is a key element of the Strategy we are presenting here.

Haringey’s age profile is relatively young, and staying relatively stable, with Greater London Authority population projections showing only a small increase in the 0-4yrs population in Haringey over the next few years:

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
17,845	17,907	18,007	18,095	18,176	18,250	18,318

However, the population distribution by age is not even across the borough and the wards with the youngest age profile and which are the most highly populated are in the east of the borough, with Northumberland Park and Seven Sisters wards being the most populated. These are also the wards with the highest levels of deprivation, with on average lower household incomes and lower levels of education in the home. The deprivation profile can have profound impacts on the experience of young children with child poverty 7,317 (32%) of low income households are households with children who are in poverty.

Our current early years offer is delivered across the borough through 92 Private, Independent and Voluntary Nurseries, 164 childminders, 3 Nursery Schools and 74 primary schools working alongside 9 children centres in Haringey which offer community services and support for families. Free entitlement is a mix of universal and means tested offer, with a clear differential in take up between different communities. With Haringey’s Free for 2s offer, some two year olds can have a free early learning place for up to 15 hours a week. The take up of this entitlement is 54% (2020) which is below the national average. This Strategy will act as a key driver for change in this area.

The take up of the universal offer for 3 and 4 year olds is 80%



Impact of COVID

Covid has had a huge impact on all aspects of life for our children and families. Children under five, particularly those born just before or within the pandemic, and their parents have been disproportionately disadvantaged by the closure or reduction of services. Mental health and wellbeing are long term impacts that are not yet understood.

Research shows that:

- because the impact of coronavirus is likely to be worse for those with lower incomes, the disparities in the quality of the home learning environments of children from disadvantaged families and others and the subsequent outcomes are likely to increase with the current crisis (EPI 2020).
- 76% of schools reported that children who started Reception needed more support than children in previous cohorts (Bowyer-Crane et al 2021).
- A survey of disadvantaged families by Buttle UK found that only 3% of families felt there had been positives to the pandemic, including being able to spend more time together as a family (Buttle UK 2021).
- However, there has been a marked difference between children who have spent enhanced quality time at home with their parents, and those who have been at home in more difficult circumstances (Pascal et al 2020; Children's Commissioner 2020; Ipsos Mori 2020; Buttle UK 2021).

- The pandemic has been particularly difficult for parents with very young children: pregnant women assessed during the COVID-19 pandemic reported more distress and mental health problems than pregnant women assessed before the pandemic (Berthelot et al 2020).

Our response to our context provides the background to our Strategy. Our aim is to work alongside parents and communities, and in partnership across sectors, to ensure we achieve equitable outcomes despite the inequities in opportunities, experience and income faced by many households in the borough. We will continue to focus on addressing barriers and removing challenges to households achieving their potential through a joined-up response which will see more resources in some areas and for some communities to ensure that every household benefits and that no community is left behind.



Early Years Strategy development

Transition to Parenthood and the first 1001 days from Conception to age 2 is widely recognised as a crucial period in the life course of a developing child and these first days play a significant factor in shaping both their childhood and their future life. We know, for example, that 80% of brain cell development takes place by age three.

Whilst we understand that families and partners can address missed opportunities over time, research indicates there is little substitute for a caring, supporting and nurturing environment for all young children in those early years. There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates the importance of sensitive attuned parenting on the development of the baby's brain and in promoting secure attachment and bonding. Prevention and early intervention to increase parenting capacity and strengthen attachment relationships can positively impact on family resilience for improved long-term physical, mental and socio-economic outcomes.

Our Strategy focuses on how we can all, working actively alongside parents and carers and as partners across the borough and across sectors, help to ensure such an environment is a reality for all young children in our borough.

Our demographic context highlights the potential challenges in such a genuinely universal approach. Haringey children under 5 are as diverse as any community across the borough, facing different barriers and needing help in some areas more than others. Our strategic approach therefore is to ensure our offer aligns with and responds to need, geography and community. This means our core offer will be enhanced in some areas and will meet specific conditions. There will be an alignment at a strategic level to ensure that we achieve greater equity of outcomes for all.

From a Strategy perspective, this has always meant that this strategy cannot sit alone, separate from other strategies, and still respond to all areas of a young child's life. Working in partnership, strategically and operationally, will continue to be a key area of focus. The development of this Early Years Strategy is a genuine opportunity for focus and prioritisation on the distinct needs of young children and their families and on our aim to ensure that all children do achieve the best start in life, an outcome which will positively support them throughout their lives.

Partnership is key, and each aspect of a young child and family's life is potentially an area of focus for this Strategy. We know, for example, that access to parks and open spaces is fundamentally important for the development of play and of good health throughout life, not just childhood. Likewise, a healthy balance of work requires effective and high quality early years education and childcare to ensure that parents can effectively juggle home and work life. We also know that children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) benefit from access to early years education, care and support above all, and that this provides respite to family carers supporting them to maintain children at home wherever possible.

As developing the strategy has relied on the strength of our partnership, so will the delivery across the range of public, voluntary and community and private business sectors. The shifts in central government thinking and policy towards the development of family hubs link to central government policy application here in Haringey.

A wide range of Haringey strategies and other initiatives outlined below, and which have been informed by local residents, communities and partners, touch the lives of young children and so both are pertinent to this strategy and have informed the development of our priorities: [\(add hyperlinks\)](#)

- The Borough Plan 2019-2023
- Haringey's Early Help Strategy 2021-2023
- Haringey SEND Strategy 2022 -2025
- The Best Start for Life – The First 1001 Critical Days
- Healthy Child Programme
- Healthy Early Years London
- The Baby Friendly Initiative UNICEF
- Good Economy Recovery Plan
- Forthcoming Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

In addition to strategies and policies, this strategy was informed by a range of sources as follows:

Stakeholder task and finish groups including:

- Children Centres
- Early Education and Childcare
- Nursery Schools
- An oversight and reference group including representatives from the Early Years Sector, partner agencies and different service areas in the Council including the Lead Member for Early Years, Children and Families and the Director of Children's Services

Focused conversations with:

- Parents
- Schools
- Private, Independent and Voluntary Nurseries
- Childminders

Finally, Haringey's Borough Plan, which runs until 2023 sets out our ambitions for children and young people in the vision for people and the key outcomes we set ourselves to achieve:

- Best start in life – the first few years of every child's life will give them the long-term foundations to thrive

- Happy childhood – all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities
- Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future
- All residents will be able to live free from harm

These outcomes have shaped and underpin this strategy.



‘All children will have the best start in life and a happy, healthy childhood’

Early Years Principles

Our work with children and families is guided by a set of principles which support and enable all that we do. If we hold these principles in mind, they will support us to achieve our ambitions in the ways which will strengthen our approach:

- Whole family approach involving and enabling parents at all levels with co-production embedded throughout
- Prevention, early identification of need and early intervention to reduce harm
- Whole systems and partnership working throughout the borough, to build capacity, capability, workforce development and impact across all agencies including the voluntary and community sector, the PVI, schools and the NHS
- Equitable outcomes through a focus on localities and making sure our joined up responses meet locally identified need flexibly
- Funding supports and follows every child, is setting neutral and offers equitable access to high quality early years setting for all children
- Integrated planning and resources to deliver improved sustainability and outcomes

To help us ensure these principles, there are some cross-cutting enablers which we need in place, in order to deliver our wider aspirations to improve outcomes for young children:

1. Long term approach to making the best use of resources across our partnership, to build sustainability and long term impact
2. Joined up approach to multi agency workforce development across partners in the statutory and voluntary sector
3. Support for co-production and engagement with residents – at all levels of implementation and delivery
4. Effective and inclusive use of digital – to complement face to face delivery, strong information and enhanced capacity across all priorities
5. Locality working multi-agency model – so that parents in their neighbourhoods can access support close to home, have equality of access and reach of services within local communities
6. Robust and comprehensive data on our local communities and families
7. Family hub development to facilitate the infrastructure needed to embed a whole family approach
8. Building links to economic development as accessible childcare serves the needs of working families and providing the best start for children

Strategic Aim 1:

To work in partnership with our parents and carers to build resilience and enjoy family life.

Strategic Aim 2:

To support parents and babies before and after birth to create the conditions where stress is reduced, positive, bonds and attachments can form, and language and communications skills develop so that children are ready for life, enjoyment and learning.

Priority One:

To provide an early years local offer to all parents and families by providing clear information, advice and guidance

Why is this important?

Being a parent is an exciting, complex and often a challenging journey in any family's life. Parents provide those first steps of learning for a child and a good start in life as they nurture, care and guide their child's development. It is key to build on the resilience, strengths and capabilities of parents and by working in partnership we enable and empower parents to be the best that they can be. It is important for parents to recognise when they need help and know where to get it. The information, advice and guidance a parent receives is vital as they balance the various demands that parenting can bring. As part of our partnership with community services and facilities including our libraries, our parents to be able to access a wealth of support and advice to support their knowledge of early education for their children's development.

We will:

1. Develop a package of support for parents (and specifically new parents) which is clear and prioritised including adult learning, welfare support, employment, housing, early years education health and parenting
2. Review our early years digital offer, ensuring up to date and relevant information and resources are easily accessible and available.
3. Work in partnership with parents to build resilience and enjoy family life through the delivery of parenting programmes and support services



'If we value our children then we must cherish their parents' Bowlby

Priority Two:

To embed and develop an integrated, multi-agency approach to support both pre- and post- birth and childhood through enhanced children's centre partnerships and locality based 0-19 Family Hubs.

Why is this important?

A multi-agency whole family approach to support both pre- and post- birth and throughout childhood through enhanced Children's Centre partnerships and the development of locality based 0-19 family hubs are key to our improved work with parents and the community.

By developing a Family Hub model, we aim to strengthen support to families using a life course approach by providing help with the many challenges parents face; especially those which will hamper children and young people's social, emotional, physical development and their educational progress.

It's important that families know where to go and get help, and that staff and volunteers are trained to respond sensitively and effectively to families' enquiries.

Our Family Hub model will provide a single point of access to services and advice), connection with services working or co-located together and relationships that are focussed on families.

We will:

4. Review and embed a comprehensive and consistent core offer of childhood services offer across all children centres
5. Implement a Family Hub model starting with Triangle Children, Young People and Community Centre as the pilot. building on our children centre offer providing services to support children and young people aged 0 – 19.
6. Develop a core health visiting, and midwifery offer within children's centre and Family Hub settings.
7. Establish stronger relationships with families to influence the shaping of services and our service delivery model.

Strategic Aim 3:

To narrow the gap in attainment for different groups of children ensuring there is equitable access to early education and childcare for all children across the borough



Priority Three:

To increase the take up of free entitlement to education and ensure we have flexible, affordable early years education which all communities in Haringey are supported to access.

Why is this important?

We want to ensure that there is flexible, affordable early years education which all communities in Haringey are supported to access. We will target those most in need including children in need, children with emerging special educational needs and children growing up in poverty, as well as some communities which are underrepresented. We will respond to how our communities access provision and childcare so that community needs are met supporting their child to the best start in life.

We will:

8. Develop a communications and marketing campaign to raise the awareness of the free entitlement throughout the borough.
9. Review how we can support our most vulnerable 0–5-year olds to access childcare including those who do not meet the entitlement criteria
10. Develop an outreach programme to engage with the Turkish, Kurdish, Somali and Jewish communities to understand and respond to their childcare needs.

Priority Four:

Ensure the multi-agency early years workforce has consistent access to high quality workforce development and training across all early years education settings

Why is this important?

The importance of a high quality early years curriculum delivered by a skilled workforce is key to supporting our children to grow and develop in the early years and prepare them for the next stage in their education. Early years education can play a critical role in a child's life outcomes. Research shows that supporting and developing the early years workforce is central to delivering high quality provision for families. Haringey is committed to improving the skills of the workforce and establish a long-term vision for developing the sector for the new decade.

We will:

11. Continue to expand our model of setting to setting support to improve the quality of provision and skills of the early years workforce
12. To undertake a skills audit and work in partnership with the Nursery School Consortium to respond and develop a workforce development plan to provide high quality training responding to need.

13. Work in partnership with both the Nursery School Consortium and Haringey Education Partnership to develop a programme of peer learning which provides system leadership for our schools and settings



Priority Five:

Every child should be able to have access to the high quality inclusive provision that is tailored to their needs.

Why is this important?

Research has shown that children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) make better progress when they are in an early years setting. We want to ensure that disability and need does not reduce a parents childcare options and is not a barrier to accessing childcare that responds to children and the family's needs. A skilled workforce is pivotal to achieving our aim to provide the support and intervention that both the child and family need

Good communication and language skills combined with strong social and emotional development are key to supporting our youngest children to become lifelong learners and reach their full potential. Children who are helped to become resilient, confident and effective communicators can develop the skills to overcome challenges they will face through life. In Haringey we recognise that the levels of referrals to the Speech and Language Service are continually increasing and that services currently are unable to meet the needs of our youngest children because of the volume of demand.

We will:

14. Ensure there is sufficient funding to provide additional support for children with emerging needs or SEND that follows the child based on their need
15. With our Nursery Schools as a key partner, provide a comprehensive training programme to ensure that the early years workforce feel competent and confident in supporting young children with SEND within their settings.
16. Review and improve the speech, language and communication offer to better meet the needs for young children.





Haringey Nursery Schools

Haringey's three nursery schools (Pembury House, Rowland Hill and Woodlands Park) form the Haringey Nursery School Training Consortium (HNSTC) with the central aim of developing a progressive and outward looking role for nursery schools. In 2011 the Consortium was given Early Years Teaching Centre (EYTC) Status.

The nursery schools in Haringey have a rich and diverse history of excellent integrated early years practice and have developed a reputation for high quality accredited and non-accredited training.

Our Nursery Schools will have a key role in delivering against priority five and supporting the wider early years workforce. Working in partnership with the Haringey Early Years team and a range of other partners we aim to progress our role in leading system improvement in the Early Years in Haringey and beyond.

Our Nursery Schools:

- provide high quality early education for led by specialist headteachers and by teachers, qualified SENCOs and early years educators
- each school has a Children Centre and provides integrated care, education, health and other services for children, so that all aspects of a child's development can be supported within the context of the family
- are in wards with some of the highest levels of deprivation in Haringey and are successful at working with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their families
- give priority to vulnerable children and children with special needs and disabilities. Haringey SEND service commission specialist places in all three nursery schools

Strategic Aim 4:

To ensure all families have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy early years, by improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities for all children.



Priority Six:

To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for all children.

Why is this important?

Our focus on health and wellbeing will ensure we address all aspects of a child's wellbeing and development, across social, emotional, mental and physical health. We recognise that no one aspect of a child's development is more important than another and we need to work across partners to ensure access for all our communities to the same health improvement and wellbeing opportunities.

Transition to Parenthood and the first 1001 days from Conception to age 2 is widely recognised as a crucial period in the life course of a developing child. We know that 80% of brain cell development takes place by age three. There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates the importance of sensitive attuned parenting on the development of the baby's brain and in promoting secure attachment and bonding. Prevention and early intervention to increase parenting capacity and strengthen attachment relationships can positively impact on family resilience for improved long-term physical, mental and socio-economic outcomes.

We will:

17. Enhance access to parks, leisure facilities and holiday activities for under 5s and their families
18. Use a whole systems and partnership approach, to support change and improvements needed, maximising preventative activities for promoting healthy weight, physical activity and oral health among families.
19. Target resources in areas of highest risk of poor health outcomes
20. Work with health partners to develop integrated care pathways and ensure that all children receive statutory health and development reviews
21. Focus on supporting good infant and maternal mental health
22. Manage minor illnesses in the community to reduce hospital attendance and admissions



Strategic Aim 5:

Developing partnership and joined up infrastructure to deliver equitable outcomes and make best use of resources

Priority Seven:

Working together to plan the best use of resources to deliver improved outcomes for all children and families

Why is this important?

Investment in the earliest years of a child's life will ensure that children grow up with the best possible outcomes. We will work together to ensure that funding and resources support all families and ensure that they are responsive to local need especially for those living in poverty and at risk from harm.

We will:

23. Integrate our resource planning to ensure effective use of funding to deliver shared outcomes
24. Target resources in areas and for communities at highest risk of poor health and wellbeing outcomes meaning money will move around the system and the borough
25. Work together to attract inward investment to early years provision prioritising bidding in line with this Strategy
26. Build the case for greater investment in our key strategic priorities

Priority Eight:

We will develop our partnerships to ensure that all professionals working with parents and children through their children from pregnancy to the end of the foundation stage deliver effective and consistent services of support and advice

Why is this important?

Our working partnerships will be key drivers for our success to improving outcomes for our youngest children and their families. By working together and building strong networks with community services and multi agencies we will aim to deliver consistent messages and high quality services for our families. This will enable us to have shared goals for our strategy and high expectations of deliverance for all. Our Early Years Partnership Board will provide a robust mechanism to ensure that we are on track with our aims, priorities and actions.

We will:

27. Establish an Early Years Partnership Board across a range of partners and reflective of our borough's diversity and communities
28. Have a co-ordinated and consistent approach across services through this Strategy and Shared Strategic Action Planning
29. Provide clear communication and messaging for our families and partners through the Board, developing strong networks between us
30. Co-produce in partnership with parents and communities to develop policies and strategies to ensure ownership and consistency across the borough that:
 - Have shared outcomes and goals to support our children and their families
 - Have high expectations of each other and the services we offer
 - Provide high quality services that are open to scrutiny and challenge
 - Build trust within the communities we serve



Governance, evaluation and continuous improvement

The Early Years Review and the associated development of an Early Years Strategy have highlighted the need for partnership governance around Early Years. By way of background, there is currently no dedicated partnership or strategic space for a focus on early years. The Start Well Board in Haringey includes work from birth through childhood, and will therefore provide oversight, but it has limited time to focus on the early years per se.

It is therefore proposed that an Early Years Strategic Partnership Board be established which will report into the Start Well Board (which itself reports into the Borough Partnership Executive and Integrated Care Partnership). It will comprise partners across early years including the local authority, early years education (maintained and PVI), children's centres, NHS community and maternity services, the voluntary and community sector and be chaired by an Assistant Director from the Council. There is a known and understood crossover with early help and therefore there will be a close interface with the Early Help Strategic Partnership Board which also reports to the Start Well Board.

The Partnership Board will have a number of functions:

1. To be responsible for the implementation of the Early Years Strategy and action plan, providing robust scrutiny, challenge and oversight.
2. To ensure performance and outcome metrics are developed, reported and applied to evidence impact inform future developments
3. To offer a space for a focus on early years developments including new legislation and policy, etc.

Our Early Years Strategy sets out our ambitions to achieve our goals to provide the best possible education, care and support for our children and families in Haringey. The foundations in early childhood are key to a child's development and Haringey is committed to ensuring that these foundations are as strong and positive as possible. We want all children to have the best possible start in life, reach their greatest potential and most importantly be happy in everything they do.