

Commitments to improve quality of life in Bracknell Forest

The Bracknell Forest Local Area Agreement

Bracknell Forest Partnership, a collaboration of local service providers including Bracknell Forest Council, has recently signed a contract with Government that agrees the priority areas for improvement in the Borough.

For each priority, Bracknell Forest Partnership has also agreed the extent to which it intends to improve local services in the next three years. The contract, known as the Local Area Agreement, includes more than 54 detailed commitments from local providers covering health and well-being, the environment, crime, education, safety, transport, volunteering and the economy. It is one of the key documents for delivering the vision outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Bracknell Forest Partnership developed a Local Area Agreement during 2007/08 and this was signed in June 2008. The agreement commenced on 1st April 2008.

Over the next 3 years, Bracknell Forest Partnership has committed to:

Improve adult health

- help more than 500 young people or expectant mothers to stop smoking each year
- encourage more than 3500 extra people to take part in sports

Improve adult skills

- help more than 2500 adults to gain at least a level 2 qualification (equivalent to GCSE)
- support adults with learning disabilities to get a job

Improve the health and emotional well-being of children and young people

- provide a top-rated service for the mental health needs of children and young people
- reduce obesity in children at primary school
- maintain very low numbers of teenage pregnancies and reduce numbers even further
- reduce the number of children being bullied by nearly a half
- encourage more children and young people to take part in PE and sport
- ensure that children who are referred to social services receive an appropriate assessment of their needs

Raise educational attainment

- raise the attainment of all school pupils including raising the attainment of black and minority ethnic pupils at GCSE level

Support young people's transition to adulthood

- increase the numbers of young people in education, training or employment and introduce 14-19 learning diplomas as an alternative to traditional educational routes

Promote independence for people who require additional support

- help more adults to live independently through social services, including helping vulnerable people to stay in their own homes
- increase the number of people receiving their social care money in a direct payment
- support carers by assessing their needs, offering help, advice and information

Reduce health inequalities

- increase average life expectancy, focussing on those groups of people that tend to have lower life expectancy
- reduce repeated incidents of domestic violence
- reduce the number of people on benefits whose homes have a low energy efficiency rating

Improve housing delivery

- provide 1300 more homes including 375 affordable homes

Tackle climate change

- reduce CO2 emissions from the Council by 10%
- reduce the amount of rubbish that is land filled by nearly a quarter

Improve accessibility

- encourage more people to use public transport and travel to school by walking, cycling, bus or car-share

Engaged and cohesive communities

- encourage people from different backgrounds to get on well together
- encourage more people to take part in regular volunteering

Improved sense of place

- improve overall satisfaction with the local area

Reduce crime

- reduce crime that is committed in relation to class A drugs
- reduce burglary and theft of cars and levels of assault that cause injury
- reduce the number of young people entering into the youth justice system for the first time

Reduce fear of crime

- reduce the number of people who feel that drunk and rowdy behaviour is a problem in the area
- increase the number of people who feel that the Council and the Police work well together to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour

Improve safety

- reduce the number of fires and the number of people who are killed or seriously injured road traffic accidents

Sustain the environment for a vibrant economy

- support small businesses to grow