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# Youth Strategy

**2024 - 2027**



## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the creation of this strategy, especially the young people who took the time to meet with us, influence and shape the final strategy.

### Who is this strategy for?

This strategy is for young people, members of the community, professionals working with young people, youth work organisations, voluntary and community partners and everyone who work to improve the outcomes for young people in Bracknell Forest. This strategy covers young people from 11 to 18 years of age, and up to 25 years of age where a young person has a special education need or disability.

### Associated strategies

Bracknell Forest Council Plan 2023 – 2027, provides the overall ambition for what the council wishes to achieve for and with residents, businesses, and partners. The youth work strategy supports the following council ambition “**children have quality education and opportunities to fulfil their potential**” and the measurement of “**increasing participation in universal youth service support**”.

[The Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2026](#) provides the framework for delivery of support and wider early help and prevention objectives are set out in the strategy.



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## Foreword

We are delighted to introduce the new youth strategy for Bracknell Forest which supports our Children and Young People's Plan and Early Help Strategy. Bracknell Forest and its partners recognised the need for a clear strategy to support young people and have given their commitment to maximising the potential of this strategy.

Our vision for early help is that **"Bracknell Forest is a place where children, young people and their families feel safe, have access to high quality education and well-being services, giving them the opportunity to live healthy and empowered lives in their community"** (Early Help Strategy, 2023). The youth offer is a vital component of the early help offer, and this strategy provides the strategic vision for the youth offer over the next three years. It supports the partnerships ambitions for children, young people and their families in Bracknell Forest and is entwined with the Early Help Strategy.

We are grateful to young people, families, and practitioners from across Bracknell Forest, who supported us to develop this strategy, contributing their ideas and views through consultation events that have taken place over the last six months. Young people, communities, parents, carers, and practitioners all brought their ambitions for the youth offer to these sessions. This strategy reflects the feedback we have received from young people, professionals, communities, and families.

We will provide dedicated support for young people; this will include universal activities and targeted youth work provision. We are providing counselling and family support and will continue to review our offer. This strategy is just the beginning; we know there is more to do across Bracknell Forest to empower young people and shift the balance of our work to ensure it is led by young people. We are eager to move quickly, but we recognise that this will take time, however we believe that this is the right thing to do for young people in Bracknell Forest.

This strategy will allow young people to hold all of us, across Bracknell Forest, accountable for its delivery. We are committed to supporting this strategy and ensuring that every young person in Bracknell thrives.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the development of this strategy.

**Cllr. Dr Roy Bailey**

Executive lead member for Children,  
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**Grainne Siggins**

Executive Director: People

## Youth work in Bracknell Forest

The key focus of youth work is to ‘enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential’

(National Youth Agency, 2023).

Youth work offers young people opportunities for learning that are educative, expressive, participative, inclusive, and empowering. It is not simply providing activities and safe spaces, youth work at its core supports the development and wellbeing of young people. The voluntary and third sector, education and the council all contribute to youth work provision. Youth work in Bracknell Forest is based on the voluntary engagement of young people as empowered partners. It starts at whatever point young people are in their lives, recognises and seeks to develop and realise their potential, and is committed to equality and inclusion.

Youth work helps young people to understand and explore their values, beliefs, responsibilities, and rights. In Bracknell Forest, youth work includes specialist and universal youth groups, gaining of accreditations, opportunities to participate in volunteering and wider participation and much more.

Youth works enables young people to develop their voice, influence, and participation not only in Bracknell Forest but wider. Young people’s voice and influence in key decisions in Bracknell Forest is central to how we will provide and deliver youth work.

(National Youth Agency, 2023)

**Young people told us that the services for young people were important to them because:**

It gives us a safe place to go with friends and speak with a youth worker without a judgement.

You can access confidential advice and support, like the sexual health clinics.

We can explore and discuss things that are important to us.

You can meet other young people and I like to get involved in the Youth Council as I want to make a difference.

## Why do we provide a youth offer?

Young people are Bracknell Forest's future. It is imperative that collectively we ensure that their growing up (adolescent years) in Bracknell is positive and rewarding. Investing in our youth work provision now, will support young people to become the best version of themselves and future adult residents of Bracknell Forest.

Bracknell Forest is not alone in experiencing challenges, but we know that we can overcome these when we work together as ONE community. The pandemic demonstrated the resilience of our communities and workforce in coming together to deliver successful outcomes for young people. We know that this does mean we need to compromise, challenge, be patient, and commit, but that is what we do well in Bracknell Forest!

We know that effective youth work contributes to supporting young people and helps them to transition into adulthood. We provide support to young people because we know it's the right thing to do, and we want every young person in Bracknell Forest to reach their full potential. It is helpful to consider the local and national context in which the support is provided.

### The local context

- The children and young people plan, sets out the shared vision to keep children and young people safe, and ensure that they can thrive in Bracknell Forest. The plan sets out the strategic priorities for the partnership.
- The Early Help Strategy 2023 – 2025, developed by the local partnership and in conjunction with families sets out the vision for early help in Bracknell Forest and provides the ambitious framework for delivery.
- The 2020-23 Community Safety Partnership Plan's strategic priorities include preventing and responding to serious violence and exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults. A new strategic assessment of all crime and disorder is taking place in 2024 ahead of a new 3 year strategic plan and will include partner and public consultation.
- The [Youth Justice Plan](#) is currently being updated, the plan will set out the focus areas for the service, and work that will be undertaken to meet the priorities and highlight the key achievement and challenges.



## The National context

- The [Independent Review of Children's Social Care 2022](#) advocates for a fundamental shift in the way children's social care responds to families who need help. A central recommendation of the review is to bring targeted early help and work undertaken at Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 together.
- There is a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient youth services in their area, related to Section 507B of the [Education Act \(1996\)](#), as amended by the Education and Inspections Act (2006), which sets government expectations for local authorities when securing services and activities for people aged 13 to 19.
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#) outlines the legislative requirements placed on individual services, making it clear what they must do to keep children safe. It seeks to emphasise that effective safeguarding can only be achieved when children are at the centre.
- The [National Youth Agency](#) is the national body for youth work, and the professional statutory regulatory body (PSRB) for youth work in England. The NYA champions youth work at a national level, offers guidance, support, and training to the profession.



## What do we know?

- **National Census 2021 told us that:**

- Bracknell Forest had an estimated population of 124,165, of which 49.5 per cent (61,460) are male and 50.5 per cent (62,705) female.
- Approximately 30.3 per cent (37,633) of the population were aged 0-24 years.
- The population of Bracknell Forest is projected to rise to 131,262 by 2043 a rise of 5.7 per cent (7,097) however, the 0-24 years age group is estimated to reduce by 1.9 per cent (2,454) which would equate to a population of 0-24 years of 26.8 per cent (35,179) overall.
- The population of Bracknell Forest is predominately, circa 88-90 per cent White British, with the next largest ethnic group being Asian/Asian British (five per cent), followed by Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and mixed/multiple ethnic groups (two per cent) respectively.

- **Other data told us:**

- Over the last three years (2020 – 2023) the top three requests into the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) for young people over the ages of 11 were abuse or neglect, behaviour that challenges, and family in acute stress.
- The three top agencies/people referring into early help include schools, children's social care and police (targeted youth support services received the most requests for support from schools and colleges for both group work and one to one support).
- There has been an increase in referrals to early help each year between 2020 and 2023. Referrals for early help have increased year on year, there has been a one per cent increase in 2021/2022, and 13 per cent increase in 2022/2023 from the previous year.
- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of young people attending both individual and universal youth work sessions have increased over the last three years. In the 2022-2023 the increase is over 1,600 young people.
- Youthline, a confidential counselling service, supported more young people aged 11-15 years old, than any other age group.



## What has everyone told us?

Our on-line survey and focused conversations with young people, families, professionals, and the wider community have influenced and shaped our mission and objectives in this strategy, below are the headlines from these.

### Online survey

- Over 50 per cent of those who completed the survey, had or were previously involved with youth services as a young person, family member or professional.
- They had been in contact with the youth service weekly/several times a week when they were being supported by a youth worker.
- Supporting young people's mental health, providing safe spaces for young people to go, and offering a range of opportunities to support young people's transition to adulthood were areas that people wanted the youth service to have a focus on. The priority areas identified were 'bullying, crime, and anti-social behaviour'.
- Young people told us that they wanted more opportunities to speak with youth workers about these areas without having to be referred to the service.
- The delivery of activities for young people should take place at youth clubs, community venues and schools.
- Activities should be available seven days a week, and young people were clear that clubs should be available straight after school and into the evening.
- Specific groups such as young carers were important and services for them should be increased so more young people can access them.
- Young people and families did not want to tell their story repeatedly to different professionals and wanted more joint working across teams and the people helping them.



## Focused conversations told us...

### Young people

- A youth worker is someone they feel most comfortable speaking too and asking for advice from.
- That they worry about being bullied at school and within their communities.
- That having a place to go after school and at the weekends was important as some young people would like to go straight to a youth club after school while other young people wanted to go to an evening club.
- Specialist youth groups, such as young carers and LGBTQ+ were important as they provide a safe, welcome, and comfortable space to talk and be themselves.
- They would like more safe spaces to go to meet friends and socialise. They wanted more opportunities to volunteer and be involved in groups where they can influence decisions.

### Families

- That they would like to see more universal youth clubs and groups across Bracknell Forest for young people to access.
- That specialist youth groups have helped not only support young people but families.
- There should be a greater focus on offering groups and activities to young people with additional needs.
- Professionals should work together to support families.
- That online safety, risky behaviour (exploitation) and young people gaining a good education worried them.
- The promotion of the youth service was vital, and information should be easily accessible for young people and parents.

### Professionals

- Universal and targeted support was essential for young people they were supporting.
- That the workforce should have a range of skills and knowledge to support the various needs of young people. This should include professionally qualified youth workers.
- We need to enhance our offer of support to young carers.
- A specification of support provided by the youth service should be published so everyone is clear.
- A focus of the youth service should include delivering key interventions to young people to reduce the risks of exploitation.
- There should be more opportunities for young people's voices to be heard.
- The voluntary sector have lots of experience and skills, and already have an offer to young people.

## What do we want to achieve?

### Our vision

That all young people in Bracknell Forest will have access to youth work services to ensure that their teenage years are enjoyable, and no young person is left behind.

### Our mission

That all young people in Bracknell Forest can be themselves, lead healthy lives, be safe, happy, and reach their true potential, and transition into adulthood positively.

Young people will benefit from high quality, responsive, and impartial youth work support. This will be through a high quality and responsive universal, targeted provision. Our workforce will be highly skilled, trained, competent, young person focused, and solution focused.

### Early help key enablers

We believe that getting our key enablers right, will support our work with young people across Bracknell Forest and will give us the best chance of achieving the outcomes set out within the strategy for young people.

### Young people's support

- When we listen and hear the experiences, wishes and feelings of young people, we can truly support young people. The impact of parental support is one of the most important factors in helping young people to lead successful and fulfilling lives. For some young people this support will be provided by professionals who develop positive relationships and working with them to provide the tools and approaches they need to deal with problems when they arise.

### Positive activities

- Providing universal safe spaces for young people to access support and activities for them to enjoy themselves, have fun and become resilient young adults.

### Building family resilience

- Giving families the tools to manage problems for themselves and knowing how to seek support when they need it. When supporting young people, we will also work with the wider family network to help identify strengths and build on their resilience to support young people to manage issues they face successfully.

### Stronger communities

- Youth work provision within communities, working with the voluntary sector, will ensure that networks of professionals, families and young people can come together to discuss the issues and needs facing communities and encourage young people to develop solutions for themselves. Localised decisions are powerful for ensuring best outcomes for young people.

### Inclusion

- We will ensure that young people feel welcome, secure, and comfortable and that they are able to celebrate who they are and their identity. We know that there is rich diversity in Bracknell Forest and we want to ensure that every young people is able to be themselves and reach their potential.



## Our approach

Our support to young people and families is focused around our four components of successful practice. We know that we can deliver effective support if we work together and work within our framework.



### Voice of young people and families

#### We will:

- be flexible in our approach, and ensure we use a variety of tools to support young people and families.
- respond to your young people and family's diversity need.
- listen to learn and understand young people and families' experiences.
- learn from feedback and take actions to develop.
- explore strengths, identify areas of challenge, and support you to make changes.

### Right conversations, right time

#### We will:

- ensure that we have a co-ordinated offer of support for young people, with clear pathways.
- support as early as possible to avoid worries and concerns escalating.
- have conversations that are solution-focused and are rooted in motivational interviewing.
- not make promises that we are not able to keep.
- respond to families and young people's needs in a timely way.
- provide effective, evidence-based support.



## Coordinated support

### We will:

- place the young person at the centre of our work.
- develop one plan that everyone works towards.
- embed the team around the young person approach and ensure the right person acts as the lead professional.
- build resilience in young people and their families by using a range of effective tools, and language in the home, schools, and other settings to reduce school and home breakdown, reducing harm, and increasing social inclusion. This will include working systemically with families, to recognise that each family is unique with individual parts influencing each other. Systemic practice will be underpinned by trauma informed and restorative practice.

## Behaviours and culture

### We will:

- ensure that relationship-based practice is at the heart of how we work with each other, families, and young people.
- ensure that our behaviours match our values of respect and diversity.
- develop relationships with young people and families that are based on respect, trust, and honesty.
- ensure our workforce is skilled, competent, and confident, recognising the strengths of families and communities and works alongside them to build resilience.





## Partnership working

Bracknell Forest benefits from successful, and long-standing multi-agency working across the diverse and rich partnership in the borough. Services for young people should be seen as a flexible continuum of support ranging from universal services through to statutory or specialist provision, all of which are focussed on improving the lives of children young people and families.

We know that young people and their families may experience a range of different needs at different times and as such will move backwards and forwards through the continuum as needs are met.

The Youth strategy supports the delivery of our early help strategy and is based on a joint commitment to shared outcomes, which will evidence the impact we make for families by intervening early and providing the right support at the right time in the right place, enabling sustainable outcomes and building family resilience.

The youth offer includes all partners, teams, groups, and clubs that contribute to supporting young people in Bracknell Forest. We cannot achieve change without the full commitment of families and all partners and organisations who are supporting them to make changes. We know that we can only achieve the objectives if we work together collaboratively. Together, as a partnership, we will provide early help support to young people, that supports positive outcomes.

## Young people's views

Young people told us what was important for them when working with professionals from across the partnership. We recognise that we can only deliver our objectives if we work in collaboration with young people.

Young people asked us to, and we have agreed to pledge to:

- always champion and celebrate you!
- treat you with respect, valuing you and your individuality.
- give you a warm and friendly welcome to youth clubs and when we are working together.
- provide the right support at the right time, without delay.
- never judge you; we will listen to you and help you make choices.
- work with you, putting you at the centre of our work, we want to hear about you and your needs.
- always be honest with you; we will explain our decisions in a clear way.
- be ambitious for you, giving you lots of support but also challenge you to step out of your comfort zone.
- ensure that you are supported by a skilled, competent, knowledgeable, and friendly practitioner.

## Youth offer (universal, SEND and targeted)



### Universal offer

We know that the early prevention is critical if we are to support young people and their families respond and manage the problems that they are facing. Organisations from across Bracknell Forest contribute to the universal offer to young people, this includes uniformed service, charities, voluntary organisations, sports groups and so many others. This ensures that the universal offer is broad. Research by both the [University of Edinburgh](#) and [Youth & Policy](#) outlined the positive impact that youth clubs had on young people. This included supporting positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, contributing to education outcomes, employability, and self-development.

Youth clubs and groups will be available for all young people to attend to meet other young people, learn new things, volunteer or to speak with a youth worker or other professional for advice and support.

Parenting classes delivered by the targeted youth support service will support parent/carer's learn new skills, gain confidence, and connect with other parent/carer's who share similar challenges and goals. Parenting classes can also provide information and guidance on how to deal with specific issues that may arise during the different stages of child and young person's development.

Young people will be able to access information, advice, and guidance from any service supporting young people, whether this be in the community, school or at a youth centre. Professionals will be able to assist with accessing support and providing signposting information.

Working with partners, we will support all young people to make healthy choices and will ensure that education on key topics such as drugs, alcohol and smoking is provided. In addition, we will ensure that young people have access to confidential and highly trained sexual health practitioners.



## Targeted youth support

The targeted youth support team in Bracknell Forest Council supports young people who require additional support on a one-to-one and group work basis. Early help assessments are completed to explore the strengths and areas of need, to allow for the most appropriate support and intervention to be provided.

Our targeted work will focus on the following priority areas:

- managing feelings and emotions,
- building positive family relationships
- support with attending education/training
- self-esteem and confidence
- healthy relationships
- peer influence and decision making
- support for emerging mental health needs (e.g., anxiety, low mood, self-harm)
- substance mis/use education
- understanding identity and diversity
- exploitation awareness/prevention
- online safety
- preventing criminal/anti-social behaviours
- support for parenting teenagers (1:1 and group programmes)
- anti-bullying

We will strengthen our offer of targeted provision to young people. We will continue to develop our targeted youth support offer to young people in Bracknell Forest. We know that targeted support is more than one-to-one intervention with a professional.



## Pathways to the support for young people

The pathways to access youth support in Bracknell Forest is dependent on individual needs. Young people and families can speak with any professional who will support a young people and their family to identify the presenting needs and through conversations, support can be provided.

For most young people, universal youth provision will be the most appropriate support, and young people can access this directly. This may include attending a youth clubs, uniformed service or sporting activity. There is no need for an assessment or referral to be made. Young people can generally attend these events without a need for any assessment.

Where targeted support may be the most appropriate support, an early help assessment may be completed with the young person to establish the current experiences, challenges and strengths and then who is best to support the young person to address these a timely way, to prevent escalation and ensure a positive outcome. Professionals working with young people will be able to complete an assessment with young people and their wider support. Young people can request that a professional complete an the assessment with them.



### What is universal provision?

Support can be provided by a single agency or person, identified through a conversation with the young person and family.

This may be provided through community support, such as the local community centre or local youth club.

Support through a service or resource – using the Family Information Service or local offer may provide the required support.

An early help assessment and a family plan can be created with the family and young person to assist with any early help support that they receive.

Support may be from a youth group or club, community activities/groups, family, friends, school, health, and other services.

The universal offer may include:

- **providing youth clubs**
- **operating sexual health clinics**
- **providing information, advice and guidance**
- **deliver parenting classes**

### What is targeted support?

Identified needs of the young person are best met through a coordinated youth work offer, with a range of agencies offering support.

A lead professional will work with the young person and family, keeping in regular contact.

A team around the young person meeting will bring together the family and those who can offer support.

An early help assessment and a family plan is created with the young person and family, and support is provided by a range of agencies in early help.

Support may include one-to-one support, targeted youth groups, parenting classes, participation, and engagement work.

The targeted youth support offer may include:

- **offering one-to-one support**
- **young carers youth group and support**

## Our five priorities

Our five priorities will inform a detailed multi-agency action plan, that will set out specific actions, the actions we will take to achieve the overarching priorities and the deliverable dates.

<b>1   We want to keep young people safe and intervene early to prevent and reduce harm.</b>		
What are we going to do?	What outcome are we seeking?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<p>Promote the diverse youth offer across Bracknell Forest to support more young people attending groups and taking part in activities.</p> <p>Increase awareness of support for young people and their families, using data and intelligence to ensure we respond to emerging needs. This will include the use of equality, diversity, and inclusion data.</p> <p>Develop a clear offer of support around anti-bullying, which include targeted intervention and upskilling the early help workforce.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to use sports to bring young people together from across Bracknell to promote wellbeing and keep safe.</p>	<p>All young people and their families will feel better supported and have confidence to access youth work support.</p> <p>There is a wide ranging and diverse universal offer of support to young people, which is local and accessible.</p> <p>Families have a greater resilience, improved confidence, and capacity to recognise and respond to their own needs.</p> <p>Young people are safer from harm and have their needs met as early as possible.</p> <p>Families know how to access information, advice and guidance and receive seamless support from early help services.</p>	<p>Young people are regularly attending universal youth clubs and their feedback demonstrates the positive impact the sessions have on them.</p> <p>80 per cent of young people who have accessed a youth provision will feel happier and safe.</p> <p>The youth offer will represent the needs of the communities they service and young people report that their uniqueness is valued and respected.</p> <p>Increase young people's attendance at youth clubs over the last three years, benefiting from youth clubs and accessing support.</p>

Continued on the next page.

What are we going to do?	What outcome are we seeking?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<p>Continue to provide and enhance the existing one-to-one support and provide targeted 1:1 group sessions that bring young people together, such as participation groups, LGBTQI+ groups, young carers etc.</p> <p>Provide specific groups and support to young people with special education needs and disability to support wellbeing.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to bring together organisation and young people to address areas of concerns, and co-produce solutions to these.</p> <p>Work with colleagues across the council to install safety features in underpasses in addition to artwork that makes these spaces more welcoming.</p>	<p>Young people's needs are met by a whole family approach, building the wider networks resilience to manage situations as they arise in the future.</p> <p>Action is taken to address the concerns of young people, on key issues, such as feeling safe when walking around Bracknell Forest.</p> <p>Young people's artwork is displayed in underpasses across the borough and there are safety features installed.</p>	<p>A robust procedure for stepping young people up and down from/to social care/YJS/Make Safe to ensure young people receive appropriate support.</p> <p>An increase in the youth offer being accessed by all communities in Bracknell Forest.</p> <p>Young people report feeling safer in Bracknell Forest.</p>

## 2

### We will support young people to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

What are we going to do?	What outcome are we seeking?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<p>Support all young people through activities and groups, focused on health and wellbeing of young people which will include peer support, sports, leisure activities, drama and music groups.</p> <p>Create opportunities, as one partnership to work as a whole system, to ensure that young people and families are supported to achieve positive health and wellbeing, support cohorts of young people where there is an identified need.</p> <p>Work with health colleagues to ensure that support for young people through school nurses and sexual health services are promoted and accessed.</p> <p>Provide opportunities and resources for young people to explore their identities and connect to their communities, through youth groups, contributing and promotion to national and local events.</p> <p>Establish relationships with local business to explore opportunities for promotion of services to young people.</p>	<p>Young people and their families can access support early and respond to their health and wellbeing needs.</p> <p>Focused groups and activities support young people with their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Young people set out in their own plans the information and support they need in relation to making informed decisions.</p> <p>Young people have access to impartial and confidential information around their own health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive place for all young people to grow up in.</p> <p>Young people have access to sexual health and wider health, and it is accessible for all young people.</p>	<p>Young people attend sexual health clinics and their needs are met.</p> <p>Increased awareness and support for young people and families around wellbeing and mental health, with families feeling confident to meet needs.</p> <p>Number of local and national events, that youth groups take part in.</p> <p>Increase of young people's parents/carers attending parenting courses to support their confidence.</p> <p>Local businesses and organisation prioritise young people's need and access, through incentives such as discounts for services.</p>

### 3

## We will develop a multi-agency offer of support for young carers.

What are we going to do?	What outcome are we seeking?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<p>Review how we identify and support young carers, so that we can ensure that their needs are established, appropriate support is provided and reviewed to ensure it's effectiveness.</p> <p>Undertake a diagnosis of the current support to young carers, to understand what else is required to support young carers and reach out to local organisations and charities to help and contribute to the development of the support offer to young carers.</p> <p>Create safe, welcoming, and fun sessions for young carers to support them to access information and speak to professionals for support.</p> <p>Complete an annual survey with young carers to hear and understand their experiences of the support and advice that they have received.</p> <p>Work with all organisations that support young carers to enhance the offer for young carers in Bracknell Forest.</p>	<p>A simpler process for young carers who are asking for support, ensuring that support is provided in an accessible format.</p> <p>A focused and committed early help partnership, raising, and promoting the profile of young carers.</p> <p>Safe and confidential spaces for young carers to meet other young carers, to support, encourage and be connected.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest communities and services are supportive and young carer focused.</p> <p>An accessible offer of support for young carers, that provides young carers with appropriate that meets their needs.</p> <p>Support for young carers is dynamics, accessible and meets needs.</p> <p>Bracknell Forest is a borough where young carers are seen, heard and valued by everyone.</p>	<p>Young carers are identified early, and young carers feedback outlines that the support they receive is helpful and supportive.</p> <p>An increase of young carers accessing specialist and universal youth groups.</p> <p>There is a 50 per cent increase in 'review' plans being created for young carers, ensuring that their needs are being reviewed to ensure that young carers needs are being meet.</p> <p>The annual survey results for young carers show an increase on satisfaction with the support that young carers are receiving from services.</p>

# 4

## We will create more opportunities for young people to participate in democratic engagement across their communities.

What are we going to do?	What outcome are we seeking?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<p>Strengthen young people's participation across the youth offer and invest in approaches such as the UK Youth Parliament and British Youth Council.</p> <p>Run elections for the member of youth parliament elections across Bracknell Forest, ensuring more young people are able to elect their member of the youth parliament</p> <p>Involve young people and families in decision making process and in the running of Braccan Walk Youth Centre.</p> <p>Work with communities, business, and charities to provide opportunities for young people to participate in volunteering, across sectors to support young people to develop and learn new skills.</p> <p>Bring together groups of young people to organise and lead 'young people focused days' that address young people's priorities such as street lighting, women's rights, young people events.</p>	<p>More young people through their education settings are involved in the election of their member of Youth Parliament.</p> <p>The member of Youth Parliament is supported and has the resources to be able to undertake their responsibilities.</p> <p>A clear database of volunteering opportunities for young people and develop relationships with business and charities to increase volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>A youth offer and service where young people make decisions.</p> <p>Young people are supported to take forward identified priorities, supported by resource and experts in the borough.</p> <p>Young people are partners in the work of youth groups, and contribute to operating youth centres and spending decisions.</p>	<p>Increase of young people volunteering year on year.</p> <p>The number of hours young people have volunteered year on year increases and young people report the benefits of volunteering.</p> <p>20 per cent of all young people volunteering are supported to gain a formal accreditation for volunteering.</p> <p>Over 300 young people will vote for a member of Youth Parliament in 2024-2025, rising by 12 per cent by 2026 – 2027.</p> <p>By 2026-2027, 20 young people will form the Youth Council for Bracknell Forest.</p>



# 5

## We will invest in the workforce to support youth workers/ professionals and develop pathways for young people to have a career in youth and early help work.

What are we going to do?	What outcome are we seeking?	How will we know we are making a difference?
<p>Undertake a training needs analysis for the workforce across Bracknell Forest which will inform the future delivery of training to those working for young people..</p> <p>Provide training and education opportunities for practitioners, working with the voluntary and third sector to develop a high-quality training offer to the workforce.</p> <p>We will promote youth work as a career and explore opportunities for young people to take part in an apprenticeship in youth work.</p> <p>Develop talent within the borough by supporting residents and young people to volunteer in youth work groups and clubs.</p> <p>Ensure that there is appropriate qualifications and awards for young people who take part in activities and/or volunteer in the borough.</p> <p>Support young people in exploring education and career opportunities, by working with partner agencies, to hold career and education events in youth work settings.</p>	<p>A local training plan is produced and implemented informed by the training analysis.</p> <p>Consistent workforce that supports young people, who are suitably qualified.</p> <p>Co-produced training and delivery for the workforce and pooling of resources to maximum impact.</p> <p>Apprentices in youth work offered in Bracknell Forest for young people to enter the sector.</p> <p>Young people interesting in a career in working with young people are aware of youth work as a career.</p> <p>Volunteers support young people who are attending universal youth work provision.</p> <p>Career events are held across the borough attended by partners and local businesses, that support young people to make informed decision on their future.</p>	<p>Attendance of the workforce at training events and evaluation feedback. Young people feedback demonstrates that skill base of workforce makes a difference to them.</p> <p>Comprehensive training offer that is funded by all partners and is responsive current and developing needs.</p> <p>One apprenticeship post is appointed too across the borough during the lifetime of this strategy.</p> <p>Increase of young people taking youth work qualifications at all levels.</p> <p>At least 20 volunteers complete the agreed training and volunteer in youth work provision. Collectively providing over 200 hours of volunteering.</p>

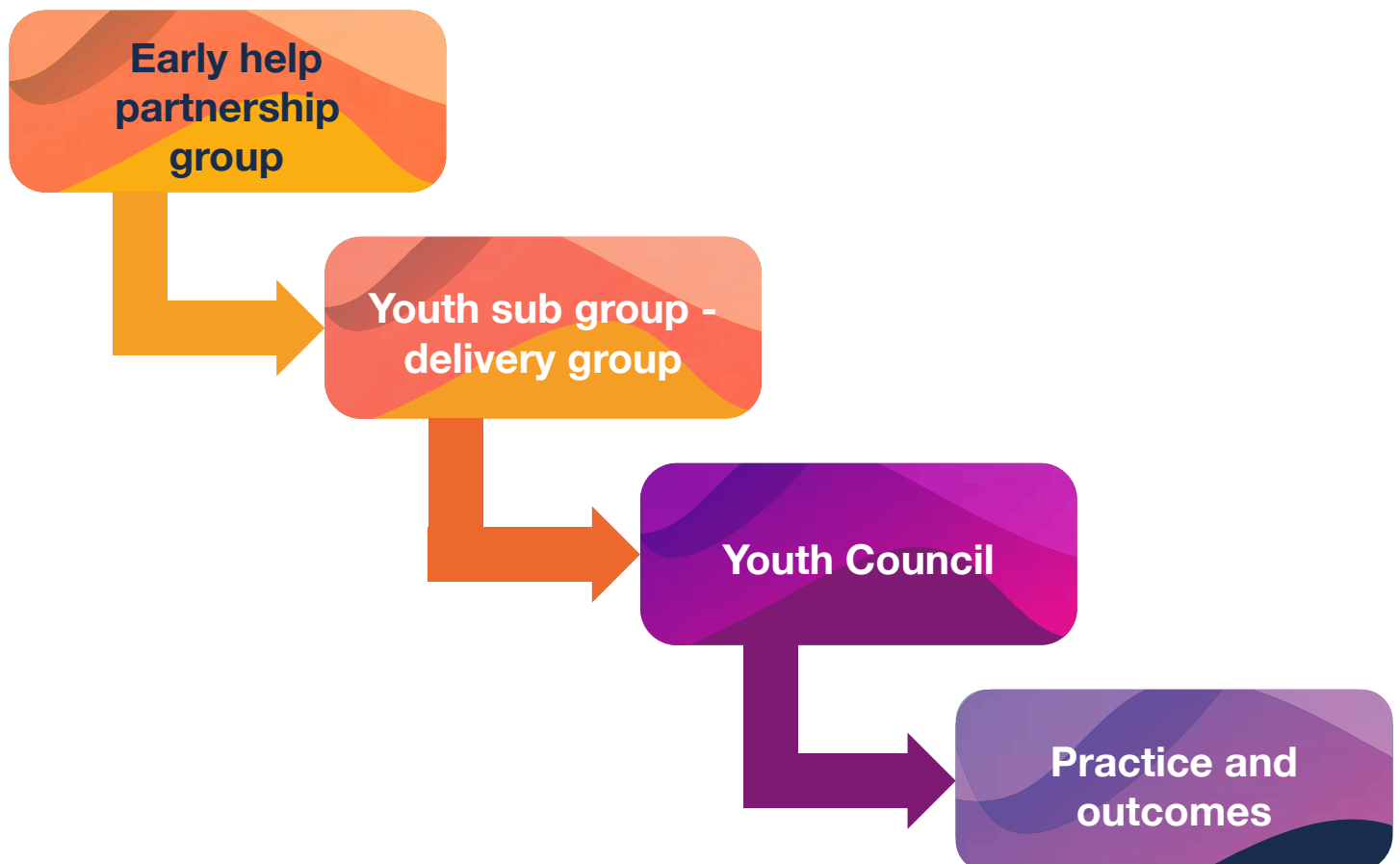
## Governance

To ensure that we are making progress on the priorities we have listed we need to ensure that we have a good framework of governance so that everyone can celebrate progress but also be held accountable too.

The targeted youth support service sits within early help and resources in Bracknell Forest Council and works from Braccan Walk Youth Centre. The 'early help partnership group', which is made up of a range of partner agencies, which has partnership oversight of all early help activity. This group will be responsible for providing the strategic oversight of the strategy and support the young people's operational delivery group in affecting the required changes.

We will establish a 'young people's operational delivery group', that will be made of a range of partner agencies and young people, to ensure that the strategic aims of the strategy are translated into practice. This group will be responsible for the day-to-day operational implementation of the strategy.

We will work with young people to establish a 'young people's committee' so that we are able to consult, develop and co-produce with young people at the start.



## Performance measurement

How will we further know that this strategy is making a difference?

### Priority

- We want to keep young people safe and intervene early to prevent and reduce harm.
- We will support young people to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.
- We will develop a multi-agency offer of support for young carers.
- We will create more opportunities for young people to participate in democratic engagement across their communities.

### Evidence

- Early help scorecard
- Targeted youth support services audit activity reports
- Young people, families and communities feedback.
- Young People and Families Case Studies
- Crime Measures, where appropriate

### Overall Measures

- a) Increase in the number of young people and families supported through a multi-agency early help plan.
- b) Increase in young people accessing identified information, advice, and guidance by attending universal youth clubs
- c) Improved school attendance for young people, with few absences relating to health and wellbeing needs.
- d) 80 per cent of young people and families supported through early help report that the support/intervention they received made a positive difference to them and their family.
- e) A reduction in the number of young people being suspended or excluded from school.
- f) Increase in the number of young people and families making progress towards the goals in their early help plan, and positive scores on Outcome Star.
- g) Increase in the number of families who are satisfied with the support they receive.

## Glossary of terms

### **Early help assessment (EHA)**

An early help assessment is an initial assessment and planning tool that facilitates and coordinates multiagency support. It helps everyone to look at the strengths and areas for support and focuses on what support might be required. The assessment focuses on everyone within the family.

### **Education, health and care plan (EHCP)**

An education, health and care plan (EHCP) is a legal document that is established to describe the needs, detail the provision, and name an educational placement for a child or young person.

### **Interventions**

Intervention is about putting a particular service or plan in place to help a family get through their problems. An intervention will be short to medium term and will involve a plan for what happens when the intervention finishes. It could be something like attending a course or going through a specified programme of support.

### **Lead professional**

A lead professional is usually appointed when there are different services supporting a child, young person, or family. A lead professional acts as a single point of contact for the family and coordinates the package of support and monitors progress and achievements.

### **Multi-agency**

When a team consists of professionals from more than one agency or more than one skill, they are known as being multi-agency or multidisciplinary.

### **Outcome/Youth Star**

An evidence-based tool for measuring and supporting change when working with children and families.

### **Partnerships**

Partnership is often about agencies working together with each other, but it can also be about agencies working together with families.

### **Restorative practice**

While traditional methods of conflict solution start by seeking blame and administering punishment, restorative solutions start by seeking understanding. Restorative practice is a way of behaving rather than a theory or process. Restorative practice offers a chance to rebuild relationships that have been broken, giving everybody a chance to explain their actions and building solutions together for the future.

## **Strategy**

A strategy is a high-level document outlining a vision for where we want to be and how we want to work.

## **Strengths-based approach**

A strengths-based approach to working with young people is about 'how' we work, not 'what' work we do. A strengths-based approach is a way of working that focuses on abilities, knowledge, and capacities rather than deficits. The approach recognises that young people are resilient and are capable of growth, learning and change.

## **Systemic practice**

Systemic practice is a way of working which focuses on people's relationship as a way of making sense of their experience. It doesn't consider the 'problem' to be inside a particular person, but that the 'problem' exists and is maintained in relationships between people.

## **Trauma-informed practice**

Trauma-informed practice is a strengths-based approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives. This approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.

## **Team around the family (TAF)**

Is a meeting between a child, young person, their family, and the group of practitioners who are working with the family. The purpose of the team around the family meeting (TAF) is to share information and to create a solution focused plan that will support the needs of the child, young person, and their family.

## **Whole family working**

Families being supported by early help, including youth services, will have one family plan which will be coordinated by one lead professional. In the context of the youth service this means, that a youth worker will deliver support as part of the family plan or be a lead professional where appropriate.

## **Young person-centred practice**

Working in a young person-centred way, places young people at the centre of the work in which they are actively participating and ensuring that individual needs, interests, and strengths are built upon. It also includes listening and taking account of young people's needs and wishes when decisions are being made and giving young people the opportunity to form their own view about what they want and need.

