

## **Ambition Statement**

### **Our ambition for Calderdale's children and young people**

- 1.1 We recognise that developing a shared ambition for Calderdale's children and young people is crucial to our success. Our Ambition Statement: *Every Calderdale Child and Young Person Matters: working together for Calderdale's Children and Young People* has been subject to widespread consultation in all partner agencies and organisations, with local people and with their parents and carers.
- 1.2 In support of this Ambition Statement and the development of our Children and Young People's Plan, we have also undertaken the most widespread consultation with children and young people across the borough in recent years. The outcomes of this consultation have informed the final draft of the Ambition Statement and our first Children and Young People's Plan.
- 1.3 In our Ambition Statement, we acknowledge that all Calderdale's children and young people matter; they are the future of Calderdale; investment today means a better future for all. Everything we do impacts on the lives of our children and young people. We must therefore ensure that we create an environment that encourages Calderdale's children and young people to achieve their potential.
- 1.4 Our ambition is that every Calderdale child and young person should:
  - be brought up in a caring, safe and secure environment;
  - have the opportunity to achieve their full potential;
  - be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy;
  - be consulted, listened to and heard;
  - have the best possible start in life;
  - be supported into adulthood;
  - acquire the knowledge, skills and experience to make a positive contribution throughout life;
  - be supported to take full advantage of all opportunities to succeed, recognising their own success; and
  - be supported to engage socially with others.
- 1.5 We know that this ambition is aspirational: what we want for all children and young people. However, we recognise that there will be circumstances that mean we will not be able to achieve this for every single child and young person. Many people and organisations contribute to this vision: families, carers, public and voluntary sector organisations, the private sector as well as children and young people themselves.
- 1.6 We want to ensure that children, young people and families have easy access to appropriate inclusive services in order to create opportunity and achieve the best possible outcomes.

### **What we want to achieve**

- 1.7 We are committed to achieving the nationally recommended outcomes for Calderdale's children and young people. These outcomes were developed following

extensive consultation with children, young people and their families. They represent what children and young people said were important to them.

- 1.8 We will adopt the twenty-five aims in the National Outcomes Framework. These will become the core of local planning, delivery and performance management and are represented below.

### **Our shared values**

- 1.9 In order to meet the needs of all Calderdale's children and young people and achieve our ambition, all partners have signed up to the following WE statements.

- **WE** want Calderdale to be a place where children and young people are valued and respected.
- **WE** want children and young people to enjoy their childhood and youth, having a positive experience of social engagement with each other and their communities.
- **WE** want, wherever possible, children and young people to be brought up and cared for in their own families.
- **WE** want children and young people to be safe and protected by effective intervention if they are in danger.
- **WE** believe that children and young people have a right to privacy within the context of their need for protection.
- **WE** believe that children and young people should be kept informed about what happens to them and should be take part in decisions made about their future.
- **WE** believe that children and young people have the right to say what they think when decisions are being taken that may affect them. Consultation with children, young people and parents/carers must be integrated into all aspects of service planning and provision.
- **WE** believe that children and young people have the right to relax and play and join in a wide range of activities
- **WE** believe that children and young people should respect others and take responsibility for their own actions.

### **Service principles**

- 1.10 These aspirations reflect our underpinning philosophy for service delivery. As partners in Calderdale we will work together using this philosophy to shape our services for the future. In particular, we will develop services based on the following principles.

- **Centred on the needs of the child or young person**

Based on the four-tier model of provision with the best interest of the child or young person of paramount importance.

- **Family orientated**

Full recognition must be given to family members including extended and chosen family who contribute significantly to the well being of children and young people. Services should support parents and families in order that they may guide children and young people to grow, learn and achieve.

- **High quality and evidenced based**

Services should aspire to reach high standards for quality and benefit for the people they serve. Practice should be evidenced based and subject to monitoring review and evaluation. Services should be open to effective independent representations and complaints procedures.

- **Equitable and non-discriminatory**

All children and young people should have access to and be enabled to participate in services when they need them, in a way that reflects diversity and their individual needs.

- **Integrated in design and delivery**

Services should be presented to children, young people and families in a seamless way. The use of common assessment, information sharing, a common service directory and lead professional are fundamental to this development.

- **Inclusive**

Services should be sensitive to individual need taking full account of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, religion, ability, disability and language.

- **Empowering**

Children and young people should have opportunities to play an effective role in the design and delivery of policies and services.

- **Community enhancing**

Communities should be empowered to inform and influence positive changes to local services for the benefit of children and young people so that improvements can be owned and sustained.

- **Focused on prevention**

We will work to move children and young people from tiers 2, 3 & 4 and, through appropriate service provision and early intervention, hold as many as possible in tier 1. We will increase provision at tiers 2 & 3 to save resources in tier 4. We recognise that, with current resources, children's social services in Calderdale will focus service provision at tiers 3 & 4.