6. Early Help and Prevention Service Profile
(2026/27)

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Purpose of Plan

This Business Plan provides an overview of the service, and sets out its key priorities, high level objectives, key deliverables, and key performance measures. It will be supported by individual team plans which contain more detail about how teams work towards meeting priorities and measuring success.

The priorities and actions set out in the Business Plan focus only on key areas of development, improvement, and transformation, and does not cover all detailed aspects of service delivery. The identified priorities will link directly into the Council's contribution towards the Community Plan and achievement of productivity and savings targets.

Progress against the service plan will be reviewed on a regular basis within directorate teams, by the Corporate Strategy Team, and in consultation with Cabinet Portfolio Holders.

Table of Contents

Purpose of Plan 1
1. Service Overview 3
Service Description 3
Strategic Direction / Future Plans 4
Overall Service Priorities 5
2. Service Resources and Assets 8
Staffing and Financial Resources (including grants) 8

1. Service Overview

Service Description

Early Help and Prevention is a whole system approach, a way of working and everybody's business. It is about working in a collaborative way to support children, young people and families to build on their strengths, overcome challenges and make positive changes for themselves. By acting early, problems can be preventing from getting worse and children, young people and families helped and supported to find the solutions that will make their lives better.

The Services described in this plan are part of a wider system which supports CYPF at the earliest stage possible and includes teams across:

- Family Hubs – with twelve family hubs located in the heart of Hull communities, services are brought together to support families from pregnancy and birth through early years and beyond. The hubs offer targeted family support (0-11ys and 11-19yrs) alongside multi-agency partners, receiving referrals from EHASH. Hubs also provide targeted activities such as early years learning, speech and language development activities for babies and toddlers, social groups for parents and carers, birth registrations, housing drop ins, Fareshare food banks, financial and budgeting advice and access to health professionals including midwives and health visitors. The hubs provide the chance to for parents and carers to meet each other as well as for them to access services to support families.
- Youth Services and Targeted Youth Services including Refresh and Young People's Housing Support – a range of integrated youth services to provide support for young people and families.
- Early Help Services sit within the ILACS Inspection Framework, predominantly under the 'Children who need help and protection' section, including our joint response with CSC to 16/17 year old homeless young people via Targeted Youth Support.
- Health and Wellbeing team – working with families to encourage positive lifestyle behaviours at the earliest opportunity, including the leading coordinated support for CYP emotional and mental health via the Thrive Partnership, Healthy Holidays Hull, Healthy Lifestyles team, and working closely with education on whole school approaches to mental health, domestic abuse and the PSHE offer.
- Hull Youth Justice Service – seeking to prevent and divert children and young people from becoming involved in the youth justice system. For those who do, the service will do everything possible to ensure support is coordinated whilst also responding to the needs of victims. Youth Justice Services sit under an inspection framework delivered by HMIP.
- Children's Integrated Commissioning Team (CICT) oversees the coordinated approach to any commissioning activity across the Directorate. The team ensures legal compliance, provides support to lead commissioners with the process of commissioning and monitoring services.

Importantly the Early Help and Prevention leadership team have responsibility for the strategic leadership of the Early Help Delivery Model across the city, working with partners to ensure access to early support for families to prevent issues from escalating. This model of delivery will be under review as part of the Families First Partnership Programme (FFP).

Strategic Direction / Future Plans

Families First Partnership (FFP)

The Families First Partnership (FFP) is a national programme launched by the Department for Education to support local safeguarding partners in delivering key reforms to children's social care. It aims to create a more joined-up, family focused system that provides the right help at the right time—keeping children safe.

The FFP is part of the wider Stable Homes, Built on Love reform strategy. It supports local areas to implement three major changes: A system of Family Help that brings together early help and statutory support. Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) to improve how professionals respond to significant harm. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) to empower families to find their own solutions before formal proceedings. The programme is underpinned by principles of co-production, early intervention and multiagency collaboration.

Hull Children and Young People Plan

The Hull Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) 2025-2030 is a strategic document that outlines how Hull City Council and its partners will work together to improve the lives and outcomes of children and young people in the city. The plan was co-produced with children, young people, and partners, gathering views from over 9,000 young people to create a shared vision and understanding of their needs. Delivery against the priorities in this plan will be overseen by the Better Together Partnership. Priorities in the plan are clearly identified and involve all the services across this plan, including reduced alcohol, tobacco and drug use (Refresh and partners), good level of development at early years, fewer children experiencing bullying and many more.

Hull Youth Justice Plan 2024-27

The Hull Youth Justice Plan is a partnership plan whose purpose is to identify and implement the priority work that will prevent and divert children from becoming involved in the youth justice system. Where they do the partnership will do everything possible to ensure support is coordinated around the child and the family to keep them safe from harm and enable them to realise their potential whilst responding to the needs of victims. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to deliver Youth Justice Services and this is overseen by the Hull Youth Justice Partnership Board, chaired jointly by the Council and Humberside Police.

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life Strategy

Best Start Family Hubs and Healthy Babies 2026-29 is a new national programme which supports overall delivery of the Best Start in Life Strategy which sets out the government's continued focus on enhancing early years and family services. The Council will continue to receive funding from the Government for Start for Life services. New branding *Best Start in Life: Healthy Babies* will replace the *Start for Life* terminology and will retain the focus on supporting early years health outcomes for the period from conception to age two. Delivery requirements include publishing a Best Start Local Plan, continuing delivery of Family Hubs and all that they offer, including the provision of evidence based parenting and home learning support.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

The HAF programme is funded by the DfE and will continue in all participating local authorities in England for the next three years 2026-29, anticipated funding circa £1.4m per annum. The programme is titled "Healthy Holidays" in Hull and provides coordinated free

holiday activity provision, including healthy food and enriching activities for children who receive benefits-related free school meals. The Healthy Holidays Steering Group, supported by a core team of staff oversee the delivery of the programme through a range of investments into local delivery partners

SEND Strategy and SEF
All of the services outlined in this plan contribute to supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and are an integral part of the delivery of the priorities outlined in the SEND Strategy and SEF. This includes youth activities, holiday activities, transitions to adulthood, emotional and mental health support, targeted family support and much more.

Commissioning and Procurement
To continue to develop, support and evolve the Directorate's approach to commissioning and procurement of services. Key priority areas for 26/27 include improvements to contract monitoring, expansion of the supported accommodation offer, placement commissioning, SEND outreach and EOTAS provision.

Supported Accommodation Inspection Framework (Ofsted)
The Targeted Youth Support Service provides a range of Supported Accommodation for young people 16/17 years old, including children looked after and care leavers. Expanding this provision is a key priority for 2026/27 and the Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) sets out how Ofsted inspects supported accommodation for looked after children and care leavers aged 16 and 17**.** The framework ensures that providers (CYPFS) deliver high-quality, safe, and effective support, focusing on the real-life experiences and progress of young people in their care. The service is focused on ensuring quality provision and may be subject to inspection in 2026/27.

Domestic Abuse – Prioritising Prevention
Services outlined in this plan work with partners to deliver priorities under the 'Prioritising Prevention' strand of Hull's Domestic Abuse Strategy (2025-28). Alongside public health the service leads a workstream which develops and drives coordinated delivery across the partnership of the priority actions which include: Stopping harm before it happens; Tackling the real causes which are often linked to misogyny, power, control, and unhealthy relationships; Getting help earlier, the sooner support is available the less chance abuse has to escalate; Breaking the cycle Children and young people are victims themselves, prevention helps to stop abuse continuing by promoting and fostering supportive, safe and healthy relationships; Creating a safer community Domestic abuse is everyone's business, and all have a responsibility to end domestic abuse; Building a future without abuse Over time, prevention changes society, so respect, safety, and healthy relationships become the norm.

Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP)
The services across this plan are integral to delivery of the priorities of the HSCP and in some cases take a key leadership role in priorities such as Contextual Safeguarding, Neglect and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA). Staff from across EH&P services will support and lead delivery of the priority areas as appropriate and proactively attend and contribute to partnership wide safeguarding networks.

Thrive Hull
The partnership for coordinating the approach to CYP Emotional and Mental health and wellbeing is jointly led by this service and the ICB. An annual plan and report is overseen

by the Thrive Partnership Board and Operations Group. Emotional and mental health is a key priority in the CYP Plan

Sport England Places Expansion Programme
A programme focused on levels of inactivity, social need, and health inequalities, Hull is one of 53 places across the country to be identified and is coordinated by a joint team across CYPFS and Public Health. The primary goal is to reduce inactivity and improve health outcomes in communities that are currently underserved with tailored solutions that address the unique barriers to physical activity faced by Hull. In 2026/27 Hull will begin its first year of delivery after a year of development of the city-wide plan with partners to drive system change across local policies and community planning, promoting sustainable changes that can lead to healthier lifestyles over time.

Voice and Influence of CYPF
This service leads on a wide range of voice and influence activity and supports coordinated delivery of the Hull Voice and Influence Strategy and linked V&I Forum for Hull. Delivery of and support for Hull Youth Parliament and Hull's Young Mayor are key priorities to ensure elements of the Community Plan and CYP Plan are truly led by the voice of our children and young people. Increasing the profile and strengthening of this work is a key priority for 2026/27. Co-production with CYP and parents/carers is a key feature of the FFP Programme.

Overall Service Priorities

Service Priority	**Strategic Driver (Community Plan Ambition, Government, Organisational, etc)**
Development and Implementation of the FFP Programme.	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children Government – FFP programme guidance, national youth strategy, Best Start in Life Strategy
Development and implementation of Best Start in Life Strategy and Best Start Local Plan for Hull, including ongoing delivery of Family Hubs network	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children Government – DfE/DHSC guidance and delivery expectations linked to grant awards/conditions FFP delivery guidance
Development and Delivery of Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children

	Government – DfE guidance and delivery expectations linked to grant awards/conditions
Delivery of priorities within Hull Youth Justice Plan and requirements for HMIP Inspection Framework	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Youth Justice Plan (2024-27) Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) HMIP Youth Justice Inspection Framework ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children Government – grant from MoJ via YJB for delivery of youth justice services with grant conditions Young Futures Hubs and Prevention Partnerships Safer Streets
Expansion of the Supported Accommodation offer for young people	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Youth Justice Plan (2024-27) Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) HMIP Youth Justice Inspection Framework ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) for Supported Accommodation (16/17 yr old looked after children and care leavers)
Further development of the targeted support for young people via youth centres, Refresh, VCS youth services, including capital development and maintenance of council youth facilities	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children Hull Drug and Alcohol Strategy Government – National Youth Strategy, National Drug Strategy – From Harm to Hope. FFP Guidance Safer Streets Mission Young Futures Hubs and Prevention Partnerships
Domestic Abuse Strategy – Prioritising Prevention	Community Plan – Reaching our Potential, Safe and Welcoming Neighbourhoods, A Healthier and Fairer City Hull Domestic Abuse Strategy (2025-28) Hull Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) FFP Programme

	Hull Drug and Alcohol Strategy PSHE/RSE Guidance ILACS Inspection Framework Working Together to Safeguard Children

2. Service Resources and Assets

Staffing and Financial Resources (including grants)

Budget 2026/27	**£000'**		
Staff Costs	9,073	**Budget Changes**	**£000's**
Other Expenditure	4,830	26/27 Efficiency Savings	
Gross Expenditure	**13,903**		
Fees & Charges	-328	25/26 Savings undelivered	
Grant Income	-3,171		
Other Income	-1,309	Removal of Grant Income Budget Line	1,437
Gross Income	**-4,808**		
		Investments	749
Net Expenditure	**9,095**	Funding of Base Pressures	