

If you want more information about how we are going to give children and young people a better future, please visit www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk

Sunderland Children's Trust
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Photos by Jonty Wilde, with thanks to the children of Hudson Road Primary School and Southmoor Secondary School, Sunderland.

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GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A BETTER FUTURE



EVERY CHILD MATTERS

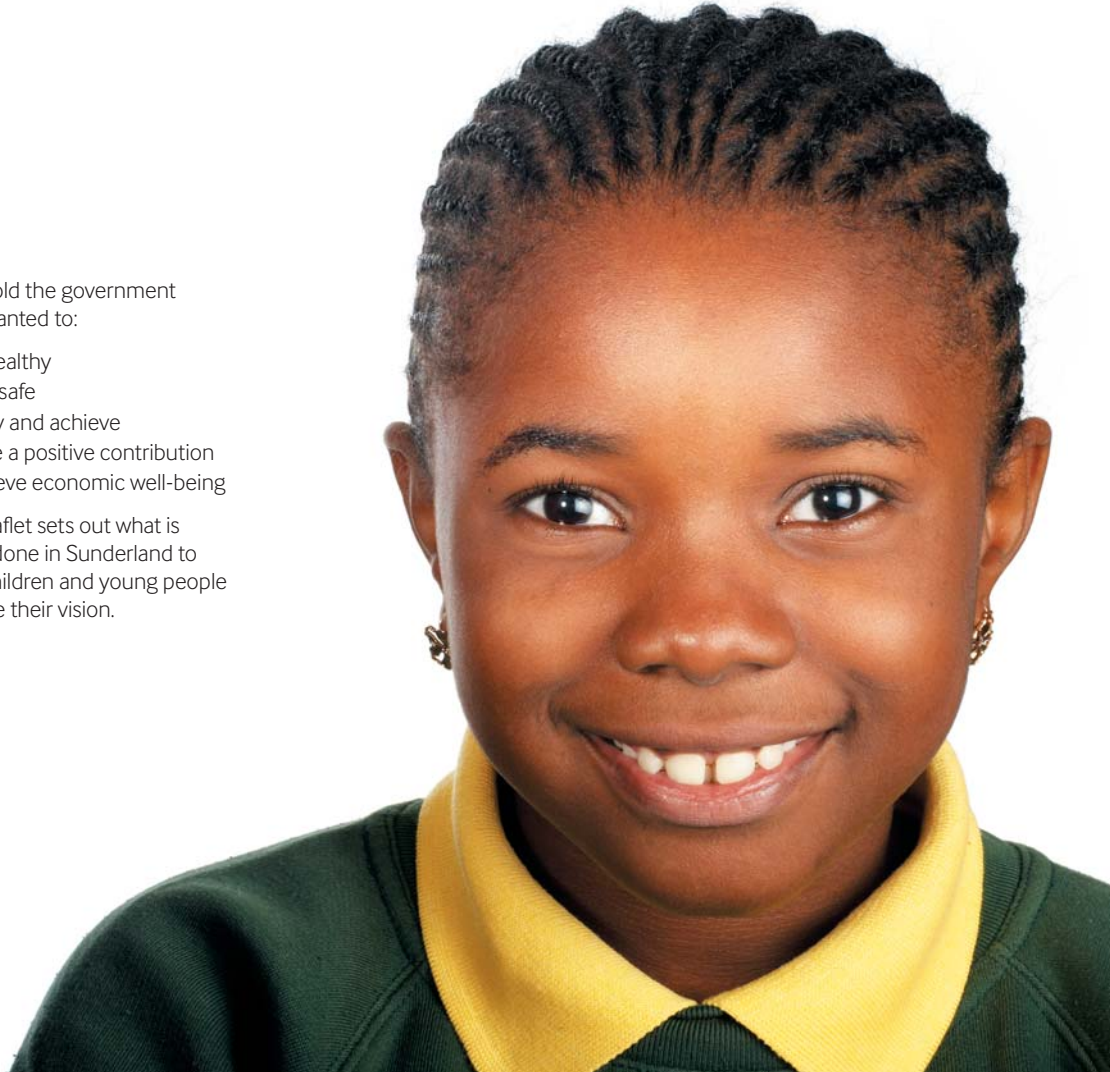
Sunderland should be a place where every child and young person has high aspirations and has the best opportunities to help them achieve their full potential.

The Government, through its change for children programme 'Every Child Matters' consulted with young people on how their lives could be improved.

They told the government they wanted to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

This leaflet sets out what is being done in Sunderland to help children and young people achieve their vision.





THE BIG PICTURE

Children and young people are a vital part of Sunderland's aspirations to be the UK's most liveable city.

The aim is to make Sunderland a city that children and young people want to invest their life in, a city that provides the lifestyle and the opportunities that they want for their future.

But part of that bigger picture is making sure that children and young people are given the skills and support that they need to take advantage of the opportunities that life in Sunderland can offer them.

It means listening to what children and young people want, and tailoring the services available to children and young people in order to meet those needs.

In total, there are approximately 45,000 children and young people aged 0-19 in the city of Sunderland. Of these, around 13,000 will need some extra support during their journey through health, education and care services.

WORKING TOGETHER

There are many different organisations delivering services for children in Sunderland. These organisations have come together in a Children's Trust arrangement.

The Sunderland Children's Trust enables organisations to work together to plan and deliver services around children and families.

There is commitment at the highest level in all partner agencies to the Sunderland Children's Trust. It is chaired by Cllr Bob Symonds,

Leader of Sunderland City Council and he is joined on the board by other leaders of Sunderland organisations, such as the Chair of the Teaching Primary Care Trust,





PLANNING TOGETHER

The Sunderland Strategy sets out the city's ambitions to make Sunderland a desirable, safe and healthy place to live, work, learn and visit, where all people can reach their full potential.

The children and young people of Sunderland have a key role to play in achieving that vision, making a difference to the city's – and their own – future.

The Sunderland Children's Trust has produced the first Children and Young People's Plan for Sunderland. In pulling together this ambitious plan, the Trust has tried to involve everyone working with children and young people: teachers, police officers, doctors, nurses, social workers, youth workers and many others.

Most importantly the Trust has listened to children and young people themselves.

IMPROVING TOGETHER

In putting the plan together we analysed need in the city. For example, how well different groups of children are doing at school; information about rates of youth offending; teenage pregnancy and key health issues such as demand for services to deal with substance misuse.

Here are some of the things the Sunderland Children's Trust wants to do for children and young people:

- Increase sport and physical activity
- Improve mental health and emotional well-being
- Reduce the number of racist incidents
- Reduce the incidence of bullying
- Reduce school absence
- Improve access to play and leisure opportunities
- Involve them more in the planning and delivery of services
- Reduce offending
- Increase the number in education, employment and training
- Support disabled young people to achieve economic well-being





CHANGING TOGETHER

To help it work towards the objectives of the Every Child Matters agenda, Sunderland City Council has changed the way it manages its services for children and young people.

All Council Directorates provide services for children, but those with the strongest focus on providing outcomes for children – children's social care, education and the Youth Offending Service – have come together to work as one in a new Children's Services Directorate, set up in 2005.

Under the leadership of Dr Helen Paterson, this new Directorate is driving forward a programme of change which will eventually transform the way in which the council's Children's Services are delivered.

Linking with partners through the Sunderland Children's Trust, the council's Children's Services Directorate will:

- Focus more on preventative work and offering help and support earlier when things begin to go wrong for children and their families
- Be based in local communities to make it easier for children and families to get the services and support they need
- Be planned and delivered around the needs of children and their families

FIND OUT MORE

Sunderland Children and Young People's Plan

The full version of the plan and an executive summary is available to download from the Sunderland Children's Trust website – www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk

To have a copy of the plan sent to you by post or email, please contact Karen Parry on 0191 566 1794 or karen.parry@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk

The Sunderland's Children's Trust

Visit the Trust's website www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk to find out more about the membership of the Sunderland Children's Trust and its work to date.

Every Child Matters

The Government's Change for Children programme is set out on www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

Sunderland's Community Strategy

Sunderland's Community Strategy for 2004-2007 is available to download from www.sunderland.gov.uk/public/editable/community-strategy/community-strategy.asp

