

Roadmap to excellence

Children, families and education
plan for improvement 2023 - 2026

Child friendly version



What is this document?

This is a three year plan for Lambeth Council's services who work with children and young people. It sets out what we want to do over the next three years to continue to improve our services to meet the needs of Lambeth's children and young people, at the right time and in the right place to give them the best support possible.

It is important that we work together with children, young people and their families to get it right and listen to what they have to say and what they need.



Our Vision

Our vision is that 'Lambeth will be the best borough for children to grow, develop and become adults'.

We want to:

- Work together with children, young people and their families
- Listen to their experiences and build good relationships
- Become a recognised child friendly place by UNICEF UK
- Welcome all children and young people regardless of background, culture, ability or anything else
- Make sure all children and young people have the same opportunities to grow, learn, explore and have fun and are protected from discrimination.
- Make sure our children and young people get the right help at the right time to support them

To achieve our vision, we must work in partnership with children, young people, their parents and carers. Lambeth are also working with UNICEF UK to become a recognised child friendly borough. You can find out more about that at www.lambeth.gov.uk/child-friendly-lambeth

We are committed to welcoming all children and young people, regardless of background, culture, ability or anything else, making sure they have the same opportunities to grow, learn, explore and have fun and are protected from discrimination.



Our priorities

Our three year plan has been put together by talking to all our services involved and with children, young people and their families.

There are 7 priorities (or main areas) that the actions relate to.

These are:

- 1** Excellent help and protection
- 2** Excellent response to vulnerable groups, tackling child sexual exploitation, children who are missing and gangs
- 3** Excellent experiences and progress for our children in care
- 4** Excellent experiences and progress for care leavers
- 5** Achieving permanency for our children (making sure they have stable and safe places to live)
- 6** Leadership and management
- 7** Excellent and inclusive education and learning from birth to adulthood

The following pages show the actions we will take over the next three years against our 7 priorities.



Priority one Excellent help and protection

- 1.1 Make sure that families get the right support and services at the right time
- 1.2 Make sure children and young people are fully involved in their plans and that their plans are clear and focussed on keeping them safe
- 1.3 When children are not safe in their own homes, quick action is taken to understand the best place for them to live
- 1.4 Have the right support and services in place to prevent children and young people coming into care where possible
- 1.5 Work with adult services to make sure the right plans and support are in place for children with disabilities. To support young people as they become adults and access different services
- 1.6 Children's voices are at the heart of all assessments, reports and plans
- 1.7 Provide the best support and services to support good health and wellbeing for our children under the age of five
- 1.8 Meetings for children who need protecting are managed well and children's voices are at the heart of this work
- 1.9 Children and young people attend safe and inclusive schools and access excellent education
- 1.10 Children and young people are protected and action is taken quickly when there is an allegation against a member of staff working with them



Priority two

Excellent response to vulnerable groups, tackling child sexual exploitation, children missing and gangs

- 2.1 All children who go missing have good return home interviews to understand their needs and have good support plans in place
- 2.2 Work with our partners to make sure children and young people who may be at risk of harm outside of their homes have the right support in place to be safe
- 2.3 Continue to improve our services who work with young people known to the Youth Justice Service and the criminal justice system to make sure we understand the needs of those young people and provide the right services and support
- 2.4 Work with schools to provide the best support to children and young people who are seeking sanctuary (our unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people)
- 2.5 Understand the roles and responsibilities of all services working with young people who are at risk of harm outside of their homes to provide the best support



Priority three

Excellent experiences and progress for children in care

- 3.1 Children who are looked after have their voices heard, we listen to what they say and we tell them what we have done
- 3.2 Develop our services so that children coming into care have the right support at the right time to keep them safe
- 3.3 Excellent plans are in place to make sure children and young people have safe and stable places to live
- 3.4 Work to make sure that children and young people in care have good health and wellbeing
- 3.5 Children and young people in care understand their history through good life story work
- 3.6 Children in care have the right support and services in place
- 3.7 Independent Reviewing Officers are strong advocates of our children and young people
- 3.8 Children and young people in care have the right places to live that meet their needs and provide the right support



Priority four

Excellent experiences and progress for care leavers

- 4.1 Care leavers have the right plans in place to meet their needs and have their voices at the heart of these plans
- 4.2 Work to ensure care leavers can access suitable work opportunities and education. They have access to the right benefits and financial support when needed
- 4.3 Care leavers have access to the right housing options to meet their needs
- 4.4 Care leavers understand what they are entitled to and this is advertised on Lambeth's local offer



Priority five

Achieving permanency for our children

- 5.1 Work to identify the best carers for children looked after, including members of their extended family where appropriate
- 5.2 Ensure that children in care who live with their parents are safe and their needs are met
- 5.3 Work to ensure our carers, for our children looked after, live in suitable housing
- 5.4 For those children where it is suitable, find forever homes



Priority six

Leadership and management

- 6.1 Make sure our children can build long term relationships with the people who work with them by keeping good staff
- 6.2 Make sure our staff continue to learn lessons from good practice and training
- 6.3 Provide training and support for our new workers
- 6.4 Make sure all our staff have good support and management to enable them to do their jobs well
- 6.5 Make sure our staff and teams are managed well and that we have clear plans in place to continue to improve
- 6.6 All Lambeth staff understand and value equality, diversity and inclusion in their work
- 6.7 Learn from reports and past events to make sure we provide the best services for our children and young people
- 6.8 Have a good service to provide good homes for our children and young people that meet their needs



Priority seven

Excellent and inclusive education and learning from birth to adulthood

- 7.1 Ensure children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have the right plans and services in place to support them
- 7.2 Work with Lambeth education providers from 0-18 years old to support them in providing the best education for children and young people
- 7.3 Work with all education providers from 0-18 years old to help tackle the climate
- 7.4 Work with all education providers from 0-18 years old to make their buildings use less energy
- 7.5 Work to provide the best alternative education when a young person cannot attend their school

