

Dumfries and Galloway Children's Services Plan, 2026 to 2029



Summary of our plan

As a partnership, our vision is to build a Dumfries and Galloway where every child and young person is treated with kindness and love, and their voice respected and valued to enable them to reach their full potential.

This is how we plan to work with children, young people and families to achieve our vision:

Priority 1 - children and young people are kept safe What will we do? • We will support children and young people to stay safe in all areas of their lives – including staying safe in the digital world and in their communities. • We will improve the way that schools deal with bullying. • We will train people who work with children and families to recognise signs of neglect. • We will look at how we can make sure that children are safe and cared-for if we don't see them in schools or health services. How will we know this is making a difference? We will look at data from Social Work that tells us how well we recognise neglect and take action to protect children from this. We will ask children and young people if they feel safe, and if they know how to keep themselves safe	Priority 2 - ensuring that families receive the support they need, when they need it What will we do? • We will provide support to families that meets the needs of the entire family unit. • We will change the way we provide services so that families don't have to go to different ones before they get the support they need. • We will work in partnership with children and families to identify what the support they need should look like, and how to build it. How will we know if what we do is making a difference? If families can get the right help when they need it, we should see fewer children needing to go into the care of the local authority.
Priority 3 Children and young people are supported to be healthy What will we do? • We will provide a range of supports to meet children and young people's mental health needs. • We will make sure that children, young people and families affected by neurodevelopmental conditions can access timely support that is not dependent on diagnosis. • We will ensure that our children and young people with complex health needs receive the care they need in learning and social settings. • We will improve the ways that children and young people experience transition at different stages of their lives. How will we know this is making a difference? Data will show the number of children and young people who have received low-level support with their mental health. We will listen to the experiences of children, young people and families affected by neurodevelopmental conditions and/or complex health needs.	Priority 4 - children and young people are able to access learning opportunities which meet their aspirations What will we do? • We will support children and young people to take part in education if they have barriers that are getting in the way of this. How will we know this is making a difference? Data from schools will show that we have higher attendance rates and fewer children and young people who are not attending school. More young people will stay on at school, and more will have positive destinations. Getting it Right for Every Child in Dumfries and Galloway

We are committed to keeping [The Promise](#) and to delivering [Children's Rights](#) in Dumfries and Galloway. We will produce a public report every year that says how well we are delivering what we said we would do in this plan.