

Kensington and Chelsea DRAFT vision for families and children

This is a statement of our joint ambitions for children and families in our communities. It sets the direction for the council and its partners to plan and provide services over the next three years. It makes a commitment to local people for what we aim to deliver.

We want all children and young people to have the best possible start in life:

- To respect themselves and others, and to engage positively with society
- To be enquiring and keen to learn, to help others and to enjoy life
- To grow up safely and healthily
- To get the extra help they need if they are in difficult circumstances
- To have their achievements recognised and built upon
- To be prepared for active, economically independent, participative adulthood

We encourage strong families at the heart of strong communities and we support parents and carers as the main contributors to their children's safety, success and well-being. We will assist families to find the information and services they need, and we aim to help families to help themselves - before small concerns become major crises. We expect parents to appreciate the significance of their demanding roles and to recognise that being a parent means making choices and sacrifices. We will prioritise children with the greatest needs, and those at risk of harm, to ensure their well-being and safety. We aim to be good parents to children and young people in public care.

We are ambitious for the children and young people who live or study in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. We are proud of the high educational standards that we help children to achieve and we intend to improve educational achievement even further. We want all children to attend schools and settings in which they achieve high standards through excellent teaching, a broad, rich and enjoyable curriculum, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, a positive learning environment and a range of additional supportive services. We recognise the importance and impact that health can have on the lives of children and their parents and carers, and we want to ensure that we promote access to high quality health services in our community.

Many of our services are run with the direct involvement of parents and carers, as school governors, committee members, advocates and advisers. Listening to parents, carers, children and young people helps us to offer relevant, efficient, timely and effective family support and we will consult users more on how we shape services. We shall be open with parents and carers about the decisions we make to offer services and about any steps we take to prevent harm to their children.

We recognise the diversity of our population and we are committed to treating everyone fairly and respectfully. We aim for our services to be high quality, easy to access, and provided by staff with high levels of expertise from all the relevant professions working together. Services for adults will work closely with children's services.