Early Years Strategy
April 2017 to March 2020

warrington.gov.uk
CONTENTS

Section One
Introduction & National Drivers

Section Two
Context & Our Vision

Section Three
Our Objectives

- To meet effectively the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the early years sector.
- Identify children with additional needs at the earliest opportunity.
- To ensure the quality of our early years provision in line with current legislation/practice.
- To monitor the supply and demand of quality early years provision to ensure sufficiency across the Borough.
- To promote good health and wellbeing which contribute to better outcomes for children.
This Early Years Strategy 2017-2020 continues the work achieved in the previous strategy (2014-17). It is an overarching strategy that encompasses Warrington’s statutory duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Childcare Act 2006. It champions the vision for improving outcomes for our youngest children.

The first five years of life are critical to a child's lifelong development. Children's earliest experiences and environments set the stage for future development and success in school and life. Early experiences provide the foundation for language, reasoning, problem solving, social skills, behaviour, health and emotional wellbeing.

Over the past few years Early Years provision has increasingly become subject to prescriptive legislation and regulation. This means that the law sets out what support must be provided and how it must be provided. Services are inspected by Ofsted and are judged on the quality of service and support being provided to the children and families in their care and the difference which it makes to their lives.
Introduction

Being at risk of poor outcomes can significantly reduce life chances and prevent social mobility. There are several powerful reports that highlight the need for early intervention to target support for children at risk of poor health, educational and wellbeing outcomes. Through this strategy, we aim to work in an integrated way with key partners to give the youngest children of Warrington the best start towards achieving their potential.

The role of local authorities is paramount. They are charged with meeting the needs of young children through the Childcare Act 2006. This places a duty on councils to improve outcomes for all young children, reduce inequalities and ensure that there is sufficient, high-quality early years provision and childcare for parents locally.

All this demands joined-up thinking. When learning, development and health are so inextricably linked for the under-fives, tackling all forms of inequality should be integrated across the range of local children’s services.

Unknown Children Destined for Disadvantage Ofsted 2015
The Children and Families Act 2014 seeks to improve services for vulnerable children and to support families. It underpins wider reforms and policies published in recent years to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Marmot Review published in 2010 ensures services and interventions are focused on prevention and early intervention for pregnant women and young children to ensure children get a good start in life and reach their potential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Practice Guidance &amp; Reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Childcare Act 2006</td>
<td>Graham Allen review on early intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Childcare Act 2016</td>
<td>Frank Field’s review of poverty and life chances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for LA September 2016</td>
<td>The Government's social mobility and child poverty strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Early Years Foundation Stage (Welfare Requirements) Regulations 2012</td>
<td>Sarah Tickell's Early Years Foundation Stage Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special educational needs and disability code of practice: January 2015</td>
<td>Marmot Review 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working together to safeguard children 2015</td>
<td>Unknown Children Destined for Disadvantage - Ofsted- 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section Three of this strategy sets out the key activities which the Partnership will undertake as well as the success measures which will be used to measure our progress and the difference we have made to the lives of children from birth to five years and their families.
There is ‘overwhelming evidence that children’s life chances are most heavily predicated on their development in the first five years of life. It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development in those crucial years that together matter more to children than money, in determining whether their potential is realised in adult life. The things that matter most are a healthy pregnancy; good maternal mental health; secure bonding with the child; love and responsiveness of parents along with clear boundaries, as well as opportunities for a child’s cognitive, language and social and emotional development’.

The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults Frank Field (2010)

The Monitoring and Review in Section Four sets out clearly how we will deliver our priorities, who will lead this work and how it will be monitored and reviewed.
The strategy will inform and guide the work of the Early Help Division and key partners and it will inform key strategic meetings in the council such as The Emotional Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group. It will set the priorities for partners to work together and improve early year’s services.

It will also support all early years’ professionals who work with children from birth up to the age of five years. This includes:

- Childminders
- Private, Voluntary and Independent sector (PVI)
- School Teachers
- Health visitors
- Midwives
- Elected Members
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Early Help Workers
- Children Centre workers
- Commissioners
- Parents and carers
- Health Professionals
The Early Years Strategy is based upon the national legislation and policy frameworks and sets out Warrington’s vision for the future to reduce inequalities in child development and school readiness so that every child has the opportunity to reach their potential. Strong leadership and a highly skilled and responsive workforce are essential to the delivery of high quality services. Effective intervention and evidence-based practice and intervention can support every child in achieving the best outcomes.

- Health, wellbeing and educational outcomes for some groups of children aged 0-5 are not improving fast enough and inequalities still exist; this puts many children at a disadvantage in terms of later life chances.

- Resources are stretched and in some cases reducing; we need to ensure what we do as a workforce is as effective as possible to improve outcomes especially for children at higher risk of poor outcomes.

- We need to ensure our workforce is highly skilled and responsive to the needs of children in the future to improve outcomes.
The objectives set out in this Strategy are based on what we know, including what research tells us contributes to giving children a good start in life, the needs of young children in Warrington, our current performance across our key indicators of success and emerging pressures and national policy changes. The objectives set priorities for universal services with a focus on targeted services for the identified hard to reach groups. All objectives contribute to children being ‘School Ready’. Our definition of school readiness is based on the work done by the Early Years Strategy Group. Our shared understanding is that to be school ready, children should have certain skills at key points within their 0-5 development. Important features include emotional readiness linked to personal social and emotional wellbeing (PSED). Children should be socially confident and able to interact with other children and unknown adults. They should be able to listen in a variety of situations and have age expected language skills. Children should be able and confident to communicate their needs. They should have good health and timely access to a Dentist and Health Visitor.

The five overarching objectives are:

• To meet effectively the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the early years

• To identify children with additional needs at the earliest opportunity.

• To ensure the quality of our early years provision in line with current legislation/practice.

• To monitor supply and demand of quality early years provision to ensure sufficiency across the Borough

• To promote good health and wellbeing which contribute to better outcomes for children

Integrated working with all partners is a thread that runs through all of the above objectives.
Objective One
To meet effectively the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the early years sector

Where are we now?

We consider children to be disadvantaged if they are at risk of not meeting their potential due to multiple risk factors which include:

- Poor parent mental health, parental substance misuse, domestic abuse, neglect, debt and lack of employment opportunities.
- Poor health outcomes have a significant risk on children not achieving their potential. Young children are particularly vulnerable to poor oral health and obesity.
- Poor access to good learning environment including quality early years provision and home learning environments.
- Minority groups including children with SEND, EAL and travelling community.

“Child poverty has long-lasting effects. Nationally by GCSE, there is a 28 per cent gap between children receiving free school meals and their wealthier peers in terms of the number achieving at least 5 A*-C GCSE grades.”

Department for Education, February 2015.

In Warrington there are 6 children’s centres which provide a local offer of early intervention and prevention services to our families. The centres work closely with a range of organisations such as health services, job centre plus, citizen advice bureau (CAB), children’s social care and adult learning so that families have access to the support and advice they need in one place.
Objective One

Services vary from centre to centre, but all families have access to:

- Play and learning facilities for children
- Books for families to borrow and reading sessions
- Crèche facilities
- Midwifery
- Breastfeeding support
- Targeted speech and language
- Family support services
- Health Visitors
- Support to engage in education, training and employment

Trained practitioners from a range of organisations across Warrington are able to deliver evidence based parenting programmes, such as the Webster Stratton Incredible Years, Triple P and Strengthening Families, some of which are endorsed by Graham Allen’s ‘19 Top Programmes’ and are recognised by the Early Intervention Foundation 2016, a recent review of what works to support parent and child interactions. www.eif.org.uk

Two year olds from the 40% most disadvantaged backgrounds are eligible for 15 hours of free childcare per week. The council's Free Early Years Entitlement (FEYE) team closely monitors places and attendance to ensure continuous take up of the offer, along with support from the two year outreach worker and promotion of the offer by children centre staff. In the autumn term of 2016 there were 708 two year olds that accessed a funded place.

The good level of development (GLD) data for Warrington 2016 demonstrates that much progress has been made in supporting our youngest children, as the percentage of children achieving GLD is now above the national average.

Our Priorities

- We will focus resources on supporting cohorts that demonstrate underachievement; including boys, EYPP, SEND and EAL.
- The local authority (LA) in partnership with the PVI, childminders and schools will provide access to 834 free nursery places for eligible two year olds.
- The LA in partnership with the PVI, childminders and schools will support access to early year’s provision for children with SEND. We will support the identification of children who qualify for Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).
- The LA will support children and their parents in accessing a suitable 2 year funded place following a professional referral.
- PVI, childminders, children’s centres and schools will monitor and track each child’s progress at frequent intervals to ensure children are making rapid progress.
- We will work in partnership with Family Nurse Partnership to plan for an enhanced transition into a funded 2 year nursery place.
- PVI practitioners and health visitors will continue to monitor the impact of the integrated two year old checks with health and pre-school practitioners.
- The LA will have a Children’s Centre Network Board, which will have 4 sub-groups: Health, School Readiness, Parent aspiration and Employability.
Objective Two

To identify children with additional needs at the earliest opportunity

Where are we now?

During the antenatal period through to age five children typically grow and develop at a rapid rate. Therefore it is vitally important to recognise when a child is not reaching developmental milestones so that timely, targeted provision can be offered to secure improved outcomes. In Warrington support advice and guidance can come from a variety of sources. Through the early years strategy professionals work in partnership to plan for improved outcomes for children with additional needs, we recognise that the earlier we identify additional need allows professionals and parents to work together to ensure the right support is in place.

“Parents’ early observations of their child are crucial. Children with more complex developmental and sensory needs may be identified at birth. Health assessments, such as the hearing screening test, which is used to check the hearing of all new-born babies, enable very early identification of a range of medical and physical difficulties. Health services, including paediatricians, the family’s general practitioner, and health visitors, should work with the family, support them to understand their child’s needs and help them to access early support”.

Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years statutory guidance January 2015

In Warrington our pathways for identifying additional needs begin during the antenatal period. Support is offered through the universal screening offer at approximately 12th week of pregnancy. This would be either first trimester screening or the Quadruple test if a woman is over 40. If through screening or diagnostic testing a diagnosis is made then the family will be given an individualised plan of care by their obstetrician, which may include increased monitoring such as additional ultrasound scans. A multidisciplinary team meeting would be arranged, to include the family, obstetrician, paediatrician, community midwife and any relevant specialist midwives.

The family would also continue to receive all routine care, including the offer of antenatal parent education classes, with the additional option of an antenatal visit to the Neonatal unit if the family wish. The midwife will liaise with Health visiting services.
Some babies might spend some time in neo-natal units. Warrington Children Centre Support Workers (CCSW) visit the Hospital to meet parents and babies and invite them to attend Family and Baby Sensory groups (FAB) once their child is discharged. FAB Sensory aims to support your baby’s all round development by building strong foundations based in play.

Bridgewater Health provides the universal health visiting service for all children in Warrington age 0-5. They lead and coordinate the Healthy Child programme requirements and deliver a comprehensive universal preventative health service for children and young people aged 0-5 years. They are a key professional in early identification of developmental and complex health needs and refer on for investigation, diagnosis, treatment and support.

They lead on the Integrated Developmental Review at age 2. During Q1 2017 there were 556.2-2.5 year health reviews undertaken and from those reviews 90 children fell below the cut off expected for their relative age in one or more of the 6 areas covered by the ASQ questionnaires, this equates to 16% of children reviewed.

During the quarter referrals were made to the following services;

We can see from the above data that our Health Visitors made significantly more referrals to Speech and Language than any other service.

Warrington Children’s Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Department works with children and young people with speech, language, communication or swallowing difficulties from 0 – 16 years of age (0-19 if attending special schools). For children in the early years with speech and language delay the service will offer parents an Early Language Parent Group; where focus is on understanding how non-verbal and verbal language develops in young children, ideas to support a child’s attention and listening skills and non-verbal communication as well as spoken language. Parents can then put these strategies into place at home while they wait for an assessment to be carried out by a Speech & Language Therapist.
Objective Two

The disadvantage gap opens early. Studies of the cohort of children born at the millennium have found that at the age of three children in the lowest income group have language skills on average 17 months behind children in their highest income group. At age five, the gap is 19 months.


A Speech and Language therapist or other professional might refer children onto a block of Chatterbox sessions. This intervention has been designed by our Speech & Language Therapists and is delivered by trained CCSW in the Children Centres. Through the programme children will develop the building blocks for communication through focusing on activities that support listening and attention, imitation, eye contact, taking turns and play. Many children who access Chatterbox sessions show significant improvement in their speech, language and communication and play skills. However for a small proportion of children with more complex needs there could be a need for further support and assessment.

Children who do not respond to interventions or who have ‘complex needs’ might be referred onto the Child Development Centre (CDC) for a holistic assessment. As part of their holistic assessment children who attend a nursery provision might be referred to Sandy Lane Outreach Service. The LA commission Sandy Lane Outreach service to support children who have been referred to CDC. The Early Years Outreach Teacher will support the PVI’s to develop an environment that best meets the needs of individual children.

Children who have a significant delay in more than one developmental/skill areas and are not accessing a nursery could be referred to our Portage service. Portage is a home visiting educational service for pre-school children with additional support needs and their families. This is a relatively new Warrington Service and it supports and strengthens our Early Help offer for children with additional needs. The Portage team work with children up until a secure transition into a Nursery or School has been achieved.

Currently around 28 children per year access the Rainbow Room in Sandy Lane & Forest School Specialist Nursery Provision. This provision supports children with complex needs who require a high staff to child ratio; they use alternative methods of communication such as Makaton and PECS and apply a multisensory approach to learning. This provision is in high demand and there are many children who require enhanced SEND support who for a variety of reasons can't access Sandy Lane.

Where a child attends a mainstream nursery and has additional needs, the nursery must have regard for inclusion and follow the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years January 2015 statutory guidance. Mainstream providers are required by law to make reasonable adjustments to include children, however the LA do
Objective Two

offer some funding for nurseries to support the inclusion of individual children. The introduction of 30 hours childcare has brought with it new statutory requirements around supporting nurseries to include and support children with SEND, there is now a requirement to have an inclusion fund. In September 2018 the LA consulted with Nurseries, Parents and SEN professionals around criteria for the revised inclusion fund. This is an opportunity to review our processes and create a more effective model for supporting and allocating the right resources at the right time for children in the early years who have SEN or a Disability. The funding is referred to as Early Years Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund EYSENDIF. It is made available following a successful application for 2, 3 & 4 year olds whose needs cannot be met through core funding streams.

Research demonstrates that children make most progress through enhanced support where:

- It is used to integrate children into the nursery
- Practitioners have high expectations for children
- It is used to deliver strategies and evidenced based programmes that make a difference.

Our Priorities

- Share the outcomes of early year’s special educational needs inclusion funding (EYSENDIF) consultation.
- Develop a multiagency Inclusion panel that offers the right service at the right time as part of the graduated approach.
- Improve the description of our early years local offer on Ask Ollie
- Review the support Plus paperwork to align with revised Inclusion funding model for implementation in January 2018.
- Support the sector to implement the graduated approach including early identification and offering targeted interventions to improve outcomes particularly around speech and language.
- Review how Health notifies the LA of children who have SEN or are likely to have SEN.
- Work with the Early Years sector to agree thresholds for applying for additional funding to support children with SEN
- Review SLA for Sandy Lane Outreach to reflect the 30 hour partnership model.
- Continue to improve the collation of information around the presenting need of children both operationally and strategically to improve with planning of School places.
- Review the 2 year integrated development check, looking to best practice gained from neighbouring local authorities.
Objective Three

To ensure the quality of our early years provision in line with current legislation/practice

Where are we now?

In Warrington 98% of all children age 3 and 4 access their Free Early Years Entitlement (FEYE) and 98% of children eligible for 2 year funding take up the offer. Children aged 2, 3 and 4 access their funded entitlements at one of Warrington's early year’s providers. There are 220 Childminders, 87 Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers, 29 Maintained Nurseries and 1 Maintained Nursery School with a provision for children with additional needs. Many parents purchase additional sessions from their chosen provider. Some parents access early year’s provision at two providers concurrently as this offers more flexibility and supports the needs of individual families.

The quality of early year’s provision is measured by Ofsted under their Common Inspection Framework (CIF). Childminders and PVI’s are inspected at least once in every Ofsted cycle. The current Ofsted cycle runs from September 2016 to August 2019. From April 2017 Ofsted will be directly responsible for early year’s registration and inspection and for the training and management of inspectors. 

https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk
Objective Three

Schools are also inspected under the CIF, however School nurseries no longer receive an early years Ofsted judgement independent from the School. Schools early years provision will be graded as part of the Schools overall judgement.

In April 2017 the quality of the early years provision in Warrington is good.

91% of childminders and providers on non-domestic premises are rated as good or better by Ofsted (non-domestic providers includes PVI’s and out of School clubs).

Ofsted are the sole arbitrators of quality, however through the Early Years Strategy, Warrington engages, challenge and inspires providers and practitioners to strive for quality improvements particularly for our disadvantaged groups.

All Ofsted registered Early Years providers must follow the EYFS statutory guidance. This states that there are two points where an assessment of child development must take place:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statutory Assessment at 2</th>
<th>Statutory Assessment at 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Between ages 2 and 3 the EYFS states that a 2 year development check must be completed. 2 year development checks should be carried out in partnership with parents and carers and with health visitor input. Between 2 -2.5 years Health visitors must offer every child a 2 year health screening assessment. Warrington use AQA ages and stages questionnaire. In Warrington we recommend that the EYFS and health check are integrated.</td>
<td>At the end of the foundation stage, in the academic year that a child turns 5; Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data (EYFSP) must be collated and shared with the local authority.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2016 EYFSP data shows that in Warrington 71% of children met the good level of development (GLD). This is above the national average of 69.3%. There is no statutory requirement for Early Years providers to share the outcomes of 2 year development check with the LA. However health visitors record and report the 2 year health screening outcome data to the ‘Healthy Child Strategy Group’.

Warrington has three localities with two Children Centres in each, which support the children and families who live in Central East, Central South and West Warrington. Children Centres in Warrington are inspected by Ofsted however inspections of Children's Centres have been suspended since 2015 pending a consultation into their use. In January 2016 the DFE confirmed that “the consultation has been delayed. A DFE spokesman did not give a reason for the hold-up but said the exercise is still scheduled to go ahead. Details are to be announced “in due course”, the spokesman said. www.cypnow.co.uk
Objective Three

Our Priorities

• The LA will develop or commission training in response to feedback on quality.

• The LA will support providers (PVI, Childminders and out of school clubs) in developing their quality provision through universal and targeted support.

• The LA will support providers to self-audit their provision so that they can work towards being an outstanding provider by sharing a locally developed suite of audit tools.

• The LA will provide each provider with a named contact for quality support.

• Where a provider receives an Ofsted judgement of less than ‘Good’, the LA will deploy intense quality support, to transition the provider back to ‘Good’.

• The LA will continue to lead termly networks for PVI around quality, safeguarding and SEND.

• The LA will support Childminders through childminder drop in sessions at Children centres and through Childminder peer support.

• Warrington Speech & Language Team (SLT) provide specialist training for PVI settings and SLT staff work with nurseries to support individual children and encourage Early Help workers and Portage staff to observe training sessions that they run for parents.

• Sandy Lane outreach in partnership with SENDIAS, Portage and integrated services will offer support for School transition for children who access the outreach service or who attend Sandy Lane.

• The LA will commission Sandy Lane outreach service to support children who have been referred to CDC. The outreach Teacher will support the PVI's to develop an environment that best meets the needs of individual children.

• The LA will seek out opportunities that are funded by the DFE and other sources to secure training opportunities that are evidence based or of national recognition such as Raising Early Achievement in Literacy (REAL).

• Children Centre clusters will reflect and develop their session and home visiting offer in response to the health and learning needs of the children in the immediate vicinity within their SEF and delivery plans.

• The LA will work in partnership with Warrington Teaching School Alliance (TSA) to develop and promote Early Years training opportunities for the sector.

• Each ‘Early Help Locality Children’s Centre Advisory Board’ will have a Health Sub-Group and an Education and attainment Sub-Group.
Objective Four

To monitor supply and demand of quality early years provision to ensure sufficiency across the Borough

Where are we now?

Around 90% of eligible two-year-olds in Warrington are consistently benefiting from free nursery places. Due to strong strategic support and innovative approaches to delivering this project, Warrington continues to provide places above both the North West and National averages. Around 10% of known eligible children do not take up a funded 2 year place. Children Centres make contact with this group and endeavour to engage them in Children Centre sessions and support transition to a funded place at 3. A strong partnership and strategic approach across the sector ensures a number of providers are dedicated to delivering the 2 year old offer, including 17 schools, 31 childminders and 60 PVI settings. In Warrington 98% of all eligible 3 and 4 year olds access some or all of their free entitlement.

Warrington has a diverse mix of early year’s providers:

- 54 Day Nurseries
- 33 Pre Schools
- 29 Maintained Nurseries
- 220 Childminders
- 15 Schools delivering the 2 year old offer
- 57 Out of School Providers
30 hours childcare

The most significant regulatory change to impact on the early year’s sector in recent years is the introduction of up to 30 hours of free childcare per week for eligible parents. The new entitlement to 30 hours free childcare is intended to support working parents with the cost of childcare and enable them, where they wish, to return to work or to work additional hours.

The additional 15 hours will be available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and less than £100,000 per year. Working will include employed and self-employed persons. Parents do not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week, but rather their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, which is £107 a week at the current NMW rate. This includes those parents on zero contract hours who meet the criteria. These eligibility criteria mean that around 390,000 three and four year olds will be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare. It is envisaged that around 1700 families across Warrington could benefit from the additional hours, given their current circumstances.

Both Early Years team and the Assets and Capital team are working on improved connectivity to provide a prediction of nursery children thus informing future planning for childcare provision in new residential developments.


Our Priorities

- Produce an annual Child Care Sufficiency Assessment Report (CSA).
- Offer advice, support and challenge to all early years and childcare providers to enable them to deliver high quality sustainable provision.
- Offer advice, support, challenge, training and guidance to early years and childcare providers to enable them to improve the quality of their provision.
- Offer advice, support and training to early years and childcare providers to enable them to promote inclusive learning environments able to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Support families to access the free early education offer.
- Offer business support to all early years and childcare providers, including advice on sourcing external funding opportunities where appropriate.
- Target funding to enable the inclusion of children with SEND.
- Produce a regular analysis of childcare sufficiency needs at a ward level.
- Work with the early years and childcare sector to provide sufficient, quality places to meet Free Entitlement demand for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Invest in excellent IT systems to improve efficiency.
- Work in partnership with local providers to ensure successful delivery of 30 hour childcare offer.
Objective Five

To promote good health and wellbeing which contribute to better outcomes for children.

Where are we now?

In order to tackle poor health outcomes Warrington Council offer a range of community based and specialist health services some of which are delivered from children’s centres, the Child Development Centre and the Hospital. This includes:

• Pre and post-natal care
• Safe Buy Scheme
• Speech and language support
• Breastfeeding support through the Bosom Buddies
• Integrated 2 year checks
• Smoking cessation
• Mental health services
• Accident and emergency care.
• Healthy Weight Strategy linked to the national healthy child measurement programme (NHCMP).
Objective Five

Good health and wellbeing is vital if children and young people are to enjoy their childhood and achieve their full potential. Establishing good lifestyle habits in childhood provides the basis for lifelong health and wellbeing. In Warrington the infant and child mortality rate is in line with the national average and comprehensive pre and post-natal care is accessible across children's centres, GP surgeries and Warrington Hospital.

Vaccination take up in Warrington is good and MMR immunisations are in line with the national average. Whilst breastfeeding initiation has increased across the borough over the past three years it continues to be below the national average.

Childhood obesity continues to be a key priority for the partnership, 21.8% of reception children in Warrington are obese. Although this is in line with the England average, statistics demonstrate that these children are at risk of poor life chances.

Our Priorities

- Aim for a seamless transition between Pregnancy and the early stages of parenting, through strong partnerships with Health Visitors, Family Nurse Partnership and Children Centre workers.

- Work in partnership with health visitors, midwives, family outreach workers and children's centres workers to implement a range of integrated child and family health services and programmes such as parent craft, chatterbox and baby massage.

- Improve parents understanding of how to live healthy lives and promote good physical, mental health and economic wellbeing among families through health and wellbeing initiatives such as change for life programmes.

- Support settings that work with children under five years to understand and implement best practices which will encourage a child's development and emotional wellbeing.

- Link with the 0-19 integrated health services.

- Link with the emerging Thrive model which is developing a holistic approach to children and young people's emotional health and resilience.

- Establish clear priorities in our children centre Self Evaluation Forms and delivery plans.