

Early Years Strategy (2023 – 2025) Plan on a Page

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

Start for Life	Quality and outcomes in Educational Settings	Childcare Sufficiency	Partnerships, collaboration and innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Start for Life Offer and an empowered start for life workforce • Promote key early play, development and health messages across pregnancy to two years • Develop and implement further support to strengthen infant and maternal mental health • Improved data sharing across the First 1001 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen cluster-based school support offer, targeting needs identified via data • Support the development and implementation of a rich and stimulating curriculum • Offer a comprehensive CPD programme, including needs led and bespoke training, and innovative partnerships including an antiracist practice network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out the expansion of Free Entitlement funding • Promote the take up of childcare places across Cumberland • Support the development of wraparound childcare • Explore possible solutions to recruitment and retention issues across the sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore emotional health and wellbeing models of support for families young children • Develop Cumberland’s Healthy Happy Foundations Early Years Pledge • Enhance home learning environments by creating collaborative partnerships with parks, community centres and arts organisations
Equality and child poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build parental engagement via Start for Life Champions, including Fathers, and link families with volunteering and employment opportunities via Family Hubs • Refresh support and advice for best practice for children with EAL and for welcoming refugee families • Promotion of help with childcare costs especially in targeted areas, ensuring that materials are accessible • Expand the Early Years ‘A Fairer Start’ toolkit, through training and examples to enhance targeted support • Work in partnership to ensure affordable and nutritious food is available to all early years children • Support the roll out of the safeguarding partnership neglect tools across Early Years providers 		
SEND and inclusive practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coproduce Cumberland’s new Speech and Language pathway with the sector and strengthen speech, language and communication support in the home and community • Refresh the early years SEND support pathway and strengthen inclusive practice further through embedding resources, training and good practice, and the effective use of intervention funding • Ensure sufficiency of childcare for families of children with SEND 		
Environmental awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable resources and practice across the early years sector, exploring partnerships that increase the availability of materials to recycle and reuse as enhancements to play and to reduce waste in early years • Promote the use of natural and sensory resources for play and learning, including enhancing outdoor experiences 		