

How do we help children and young people?

We all need to think about what we have done well and what we could do better.

This leaflet shows you what Gateshead Council has been doing to make Gateshead a good and safe place to live and grow up, and what we want to do to make it even better.

“Children and families are at the heart of everything we do, ensuring all children can thrive and reach their full potential.”

Who are we working with?

202,419 people
live in Gateshead



90,500
households



39,780 children live in
Gateshead, that's **19.7%**



About
1500
children are
getting
support from
Early Help

About
380
children are
looked after
and
live with
foster carers,
in a
children's
home,
or with family



About
270
children have a
Child
Protection
Plan
to keep them
safe

About
1620
children
are in need
of
extra help
and support
from
Social
Services

What have we been doing to make Gateshead a better place to grow up in?

1

Children in Gateshead are safe.

If children and their families need help from social workers or others, this happens quickly, and people do not wait for help and support.

2

Early help is helping.

Early Help is working. It is everyone's business (e.g. school, health, police). Early Help services are good at stepping in before things get worse.

3

We have good workers and managers, who work well with others when we need to.

Gateshead is a good place to work, where staff are supported by managers and councillors.

To keep young people safe, we work well with the police, people in health and education and anyone else we can.

4

Children who are looked after, don't have to move that often.

We try not to move children from their placements unless we really have to. 4 out of every 5 children are happy, in long term placements.

5

Helping young people to stay at home.

We always want to try and come up with new ways to keep families together. We have some new workers, who work evenings and weekends so they can help families when they might need it the most.

6

We know our families well.

We always try to get to know our children and young people. We are proud of them. And we listen to and use their ideas to help us meet their needs, while they are growing up.

What do we need to do to make it even better!

- 1 Better support for children who need our help.**

We want to improve on the work we have already done. We want to make sure that children and families and, most importantly you, get the right help at the right time.
- 2 Make sure that looked after children can live in, or close to, Gateshead.**

We have some young people, who we have moved a long way from Gateshead. We want to have more choice of placements closer to us, so you can grow up in your own community if you want to.
- 3 Listen, listen, listen.**

We need to make sure we listen to what you think, when decisions are being made to help you, after all, it's your right! (Article 12 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). When you tell us things, we need to get better at doing some of the things you have told us.
- 4 Make sure you have a good plan.**

We need to make sure you have a good plan for the future, which you understand. Although all the plans need to be done in the same way, they still need to be special to you and show that you are an individual who really matters to us. Again, we need to make sure we listen to you, when we create this plan.
- 5 Improve how we check what we are doing.**

We need to learn from information we have that tells us what we are doing well and what we are not. This can help us change things to make the help we give families better. We have lots of staff, in different teams. We need to make sure that all of these staff are supported in the same way by their managers to make sure you get the best help you can.
- 6 Make sure we plan for the future.**

We need to make sure that we make decisions as early as possible for you and all the other children and young people. This includes decisions about where you will live and who you will live with.
- 7 Help young people do better at school.**

We need to help young people get better grades in their GCSE's, to help you with training and jobs so you have a good life in the future.

For more information or to tell us what you think please contact:

Chris Hulme, Children's Rights Officer
Tel: 0191 433 2647 or email: rights@gateshead.gov.uk

