

Cumberland's Best Start in Life Strategy Plan on the Page 2026 – 2028

Overarching outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved levels of development at 2 years old Improved good level of development at EYFS (74.2%) including those facing disadvantage (56.6%) Sufficient and accessible childcare and a thriving workforce Children with SEND make good progress including with emotional wellbeing Improved health outcomes - ↓ tooth decay, ↓ obesity, ↑ breastfeeding ↑ toileting independence 			
	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	
	Expand and improve family support through a high quality Best Start in Life offer	Expand and improve access to early education and childcare	Improve quality of provision in early years settings and schools	
	<p>Strengthen the Family Hub <i>Best Start in Life</i> offer across Cumberland, including provision of evidence-based parenting programmes</p> <p>Integrate Health Partners further within Family hubs, developing a strong, universal, community offer and finding data sharing solutions from pregnancy onwards, including following the 2-2.5 year review</p> <p>Build family confidence with home learning and in supporting their child's development and health, including developing work with Fathers</p> <p>Develop system-wide support for the emotional health and wellbeing of babies and children from birth to 5 years</p> <p>Refresh the offer of Portage support in Cumberland and strengthen our Family Hub SEND offer and pathways, including co-location with Family Hubs</p>	<p>Strengthen sufficiency and take up of early education and childcare for all children and families across Cumberland.</p> <p>Ensure that information and advice on early years and childcare services and entitlements for families is up to date and accessible.</p> <p>Develop partnership wide recruitment pathways into early years and promote working in early years as a rewarding career</p>	<p>Roll out new offer of early years support for early years PVI Providers and Schools (Universal and Targeted offer) with a focus on identifying barriers and raising outcomes</p> <p>Deliver 'Moving the Box' pilot project in Carlisle focusing on raising outcomes for children facing disadvantage and work in partnership with Early Years Raising Attainment Consultants in identified Reception classes; increase effectiveness of EYPP</p> <p>Strengthen support for children with SEND and additional needs through a renewed pathway for speech, language and communication, and support for those with Neurodiversity</p> <p>Strengthen inclusive practice in the PVI sector including through delivery of the Level 3 SENCO qualification</p> <p>Promote early reading and literacy in the early years through a campaign linked to the National Year of Reading 2026</p> <p>Strengthen assessment at EYFSP using refreshed supporting materials and develop centralised data collection across EYFS including at points of transition</p>	
Cross cutting priorities	<p style="text-align: center;">Greater engagement with marginalised and disadvantaged groups Inclusive practice, belonging and anti-racism Greater co-production with families Digital access/enablement Quality assessment Environmental sustainability/climate action planning Meaningful data sharing and analysis All contribute to keeping children safe including responding early to neglect and trauma</p>			
Linked strategic plans	Cumberland Family Help and Prevention Strategy 2024 - 27 Public Health/OHID 2 – 2.5 year action plan Neighbourhood Health Plans	School and childcare sufficiency plans/reports	SEND and AP strategy 2024 – 28 Raising Attainment Strategy	