



Solihull Maternity and Early Years Strategy 2022-2025

Achieving the five essentials in their earliest years remains a Solihull priority.....

- Loving, nurturing relationships with parents and carers
- A safe home free from stress and adversity
- The right help to develop good language and cognitive skills
- Support to manage behaviour and regulate emotions
- Good physical and mental health and access to healthcare

Context update:

In 2022 Solihull published the Maternity and Early Years Strategy to complement the Additional Needs Strategy. This recognised that the period from conception to age 5 are very important in a child's life. It reinforced our commitment to work together across services to give children in Solihull the best start in life in the early years.

In 2022, 67% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception in Solihull. We continue to work with families, and across services, to support children to achieve the early learning goals with the aim that more children are at this expected stage of development at age 5 years old.

Since we began to review maternity and early years support and provision in Solihull there have been further strategy developments and initiatives that support this work.

- The [Additional Needs Strategy](#) and the [Strategy for Inclusive Education](#) – with a focus on early identification, support and high aspirations for all children
- [Health Inequality](#) including 1001 Days priority 1: Maternity and Early Years and the development of [Family Hubs](#) within the community.
- Refreshing the [Early Help](#) approach in Solihull and the [Neglect Strategy](#)

Much of the work partners across Solihull are focussing on in maternity and early years are covering the 6 priority areas listed below. At this point in our review of the work that we are doing, we have recognised that some of our planning and reflection is also discussed in these complementary focus areas.

The 6 priorities:

- Data – action planning to meet the needs of families and evaluating what works will have a high focus in the Solihull Family Hub development work. *How is this priority being delivered?* We will continue to update our data 'tartan rug' annually to reflect upon the needs of children and families we will address these as we work together to address health inequalities in the first 1001 days.
- Communication – ensuring families have access to the information and advice they need is also a key thread in the Family Hub work. *How is this priority being delivered?* Start for Life services included in the Family Hub offer include communication and information sharing with families, home learning support, parent advocates, signposting to expert help, etc. The [Family Information Service](#) and [Five to Thrive](#) websites will further develop to meet this need.

- Workforce – to build a workforce that have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to support young children and families continues to be an area within the Early Years Team and Local Authority statutory function, as is the need to ensure sufficient early education and childcare. *How is this priority being delivered?* The maternity and early years community and services remain committed to supporting all those who come into contact with families and children to support the five essentials listed above and to help families early to help children thrive. This includes training, coaching, working together across services to share up-to-date messages with families and our workforce.
- Transitions and [life course](#) – to provide seamless services and support for families and young children. This working group has been subsumed within the Family Hubs planning group. There is a strong focus on good physical and mental health and well-being within the Family Hubs development. *How is this priority being delivered?* Family Hubs provide a central access point for integrated services and a whole family approach. They are an integral part of our Early Help offer through maternity, birth and beyond.
- Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – to have high aspirations for all children and a clear vision for the education of children with special educational needs. This work continues as part of the Additional Needs and Strategy for Inclusive Education focus work and includes the younger years. *How is this priority being delivered?* You will have seen from the regular SEND newsletter that there is a lot of work taking place across Solihull to ensure everyone is working together to provide the right support to help make children's lives better. Early identification of support needs and working together to support families with young children continue as a priority focus. We will also be working with the early years community, settings and families, to ensure the child's voice is heard as part of the Graduated Approach.
- Speech, language and communication – to support all children to develop effective communication skills. This is a key thread in the Health Inequalities and Early Help work across Solihull. There is a strong multi-agency approach to service delivery. *How is this priority being delivered?* We will continue to work together to support and promote our early years speech, language, and communication (SLCN) pathway and the advice and guidance across the network of websites. Solihull is part of a West Midlands group of Local Authorities reflecting on, and discussing, provision for SLCN within the WM region.

Action for 2023- 2024.

We feel that this Early Years focussed work is within the work of the strategies and focus areas listed above. This removes the need to meet separately as a Maternity and Early Years Strategy group as well as being part of the overarching areas of priority. Key stakeholders will continue to work across strategies and monitor the aims of the original strategy to ensure that the early years in a child's life continue to be recognised and prioritised. Where specific action is required, we will draw together agency representatives to work to address the needs of maternity and early years aged children and their families.

Updates will continue to be shared through the following methods:

Solihull Local Offer - <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Children-and-family-support/localoffer/Early-Years-Team>

Five to Thrive - Family Hub developments <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/fivetothrive/>

SEND Newsletter - <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/children-and-family-support/localoffer/SEND-Newsletter>