

**Children and Young
People's Network**



**Representing the Voluntary and
Community Sector (VCS)
working with Children and
Young People in B&NES**

Members Manual

Section one – The wider context

1.1 What CYPN does

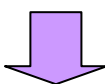
The Children & Young People’s Network informs and supports community groups and voluntary organisations, working with Children Young people and Families in B&NES, to come together to influence local policies and plans for the benefit of the local communities. CYPN is a member-led organisation, and has approx 150 community and voluntary organisations in its membership.

The Children & Young People’s Network members come together at regular meetings to identify key issues and priorities for the sector and the communities that they work with. Representatives are elected from within the CYPN membership to act as their spokespersons, and to represent their views at meetings of the local strategic partnerships.

Pathway of Influence

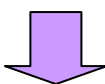
Children & Young People’s Network (CYPN)

CYPN = 150 Members



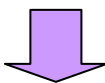
CYPN has a membership of approximately 150 and is actively recruiting new members to better represent the wide range of community groups and voluntary organisations working with children, young people and families in B&NES. Any non-profit group or organisation which has charitable aims or pursues a social purpose and is active in B&NES can be a member of CYPN.

CYPN Networks, Events & Bulletins



CYPN members meet at themed network meetings and other events throughout the year to allow an opportunity for discussion of local issues and priorities for the Voluntary Sector Children’s Workforce. Representatives are invited to feedback on strategic board meetings they have attended and any actions may be discussed. Regular bulletins keep members informed of current issues and opportunities and are used to request feedback from members unable to attend meetings.

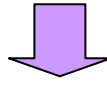
CYPN Position Statement



CYPN consulted members on the key issues and priorities for community groups & voluntary organisations aligned to the main themes of the local Children & Young People’s Plan for the area. These issues and priorities were brought together into a CYPN ‘Position Statement’. The Position Statement is a tool for elected representatives to ensure they accurately

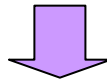
represent the sector and influence decisions made in B&NES. It will also be accessible as a reference on the viewpoint of the sector outside of formal meetings. The position statement is currently in use by the working group for the Children & Young People's Plan 2014-17

CYPN Elected Representatives



Representatives are elected from within the CYPN membership to represent the sectors' views on particular Strategic advisory and decision making boards. A list of the current boards and current network representatives can be found on the last page of this document.

B&NES Strategic Partnership Boards



B&NES has a number of strategic partnership boards which make decisions about local policies, plans and services. CYPN exists to enable its members to influence the decisions taken by these boards.

1.2 Delivering Strategic Priorities for Children & Young People in B&NES

The Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP)

The Children and Young People's Plan is the joint high level strategic plan for all services working with children and young people across Bath and North East Somerset. It has been jointly developed and owned by the Bath and North East Somerset Children Trust Board (CTB) and Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority.

The Children's Trust Board (CTB)

The CTB is a non-statutory body which currently includes representatives of the local authority, independent chair of Local Safeguarding Children Board primary, secondary and college representation, health, police, the voluntary sector. It also includes the chairs of the delivery and strategy groups who lead on the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and for making sure that services deliver the on the commitments outlined in the plan.

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

The purpose of the Local Safeguarding Children Board is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset. The LSCB is the key mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in the Local Authority area will co-operate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Bath and North East Somerset and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Steering Group advises on policy, planning and services affecting the emotional health & wellbeing of children & young people in B&NES.

Disabled Children's/SEND Strategy Group. The Disabled Children's Strategy Action Plan provides an overview of the council's long-term objectives for developing integrated services for disabled children and their families. It also sets out 'commissioning intentions' for service delivery, looking at how every disabled child can have the best possible start in life and fulfil their potential and considering what support they and their families need to make this a reality. Through this Strategy Action Plan, the Disabled Children's Strategy Group aims to ensure that there are appropriate links with other strategies, namely, Children & Mental Health Services, Safeguarding, Parenting/Think Family, Extended Services & Play, and Children & Young People's Plan. The Disabled Children's Strategy Group identifies 8 key areas for developing services for disabled children; these are integrated into the priorities of the Children & Young People's Plan.

CAF Quality Assurance Panel. This panel regularly looks at a selection of Common Assessment Framework cases to ensure that the process is carried out appropriately and to result in the maximum benefit for the child or young person involved.

Public Services Board VCS Focus Group – this group feeds into the Public Services Board which brings together senior officials from the key local **public sector** agencies (such as the Council, Police, Health, Fire & Rescue Services) to provide leadership and set the strategic direction for B&NES.

Early Help Board. This board was set up to oversee the development and implementation the 0-19+ Early Help Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset as part of the Children's and Young Peoples Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Board will also monitor progress and implementation of the strategy and its action plan.

Parenting Strategy Group. This group was set up to assess current parenting provision in B&NES, identify needs, assess methods and develop a new strategy of parenting support. It currently sits within the 14 - 25 Strategy Group.

Workforce Reform Strategy Group. The Change for Children/Every Child Matters 2020 Strategy sets out a vision that everyone who works with children and young people should share common core standards of working and have the skills and knowledge to do the best job possible. The Workforce Reform Strategy Group is responsible for developing and delivering an action plan to achieve these aims.

Additional Representation – from time to time the network is invited to provide VCS representatives to sit on working groups looking at specific policy change and implementation. Recently these have been:

- **SEND Core Group** which looks at the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reform in B&NES
- **Children & Young People's Plan Working Group** worked to finalise the Children & Young People's Plan for B&NES 2014 – 17. This group used the VCS Positional Statement prepared from a survey of members' views earlier this year.
- **Substance Mis-use Strategy** to help infor understanding of the needs of young people who misuse alcohol or other drugs in B&NES and identify future priorities. The final needs assessment report will be agreed at the Alcohol Strategy Group and the Joint Commissioning Board for substance misuse in March 2015.

- **Unicef Child-Friendly City.** This steering group will co-ordinate actions and initiatives to support Bath's application to be recognized as a Child Friendly City. This is more than just a range of activities etc for children – it includes things such as listening to the voice of the child in deciding and implementing strategy.

How you can influence decisions:

Through the Network:

- **By feeding into surveys and calls for information.** The Network will gather the views of the membership by occasional surveys and by calls for comment on specific themes ahead of strategy meetings, etc. We use this feedback to inform our representatives understanding of the wider opinion of the local sector.
- **By contributing to the Voluntary & Community Sector positional statements.** The Network is producing these themed statements as a more formal consultation of the sector and to inform the work of the Network reps.
- **Via your network representative.** If you have a specific comment on a particular issue, not covered by the above you can contact the relevant Network representative. Please see the list of contacts on page.

Other Methods:

- **By attending Stakeholder Events.** Stakeholder Events are organized by the Local Authority and other statutory partners on a specific issue e.g. Safeguarding. They are open to the voluntary sector and present an opportunity to express your views and concerns and network more informally during breaks.
- **By attending other events and trainings run by the local authority and its statutory partners.** Although not specifically consultation events these also are an opportunity to make your views and the position of your organization known.
- **By involving your Local Councillor.** Get to know your local councillor and make sure they know the good work your organization does in your area. Local councillors sit on many committees and sub committees and can be a way to introduce your views to the meeting. You can find out who your councillor is by looking on the following link: <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx?>
- **Influencing Policy Development & Scrutiny.** Information and links can be found on the Local Authority Website: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/your-council-and-democracy>.
 - **The Council's meeting diary** can tell you when Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel's are due to meet and will also direct you to the latest agenda and minutes for that Panel. You can register to speak at a Panel meeting by contacting Democratic Services at democratic_services@bathnes.gov.uk
 - **The Council's consultation calendar** will tell you what reviews they are currently working on and how members of the public and organisations can get involved. For more information about these reviews you can contact the Policy Development and Scrutiny team at scrutiny@bathnes.gov.uk
- **Making Statements or Asking Questions at Cabinet, Council and Other Meetings.** The meeting diary will also tell you when these other meetings will take place and what they will cover. You can register to ask questions or make statements and are usually given a limited time slot. Ask if you need more time as you may be able to register more than one person to speak on your behalf and get the extra time allowance that way. Contact: democratic_services@bathnes.gov.uk

Contacts

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Recruiting	Healthy Weight Strategy Group	Interim: caroline@bapp.org.uk

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