



One City Children and Young People's Board
Purpose, Vision Statement & Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference provide a starting point in discussions regarding the focus of the Board in delivering actions to improve outcomes for Bristol children. The first meeting of the Board will provide members with an opportunity to discuss and agree the role and responsibilities of the Board in delivering actions set out in the One City Plan.

In January 2019, Bristol came together as a city to publish the first iteration of the [One City Plan](#) and agree to work towards its vision of “a fair, healthy and sustainable city” by 2050.

As one of six One City thematic boards, the Children and Young People's Board will drive action and play a key role in coordinating delivery of the goals set out in the One City Plan. The Children and Young People's Board will sit alongside the other thematic boards: Connectivity, Economy & Skills, Health & Wellbeing, Homes & Communities and Environmental Sustainability. A central function of the board is to ensure consideration for children and young people remains at the heart of all One City priorities and activity.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Board is to bring partners together to work collaboratively to improve inclusion and equality in the city and its schools, to support parents and guardians to care for their children within their family, to give every child the best start in life and to offer our young people a voice in the future of Bristol. It will champion, initiate and drive projects to help make Bristol a fair, inclusive and child friendly city that leaves nobody behind.

The key function of the Board is to ensure the delivery of the priorities set out within the Children's Charter, the Belonging Strategy and the One City Plan. Crucially, it will work to ensure children and young people are put at the heart of the One City Approach, to give them the best possible start in life as well as continued support as they move into adulthood. The Children and Young People's Board will work alongside the 5 other One City Boards and supporting boards and steering groups to jointly create a positive, nurturing and affirming society that wraps around young people and helps them to flourish. The Board will support and actively work towards the overall aim of the One City Approach of making Bristol a fair, healthy and sustainable city by 2050.

One City Principles for the Children and Young People's Board:

- Putting children and young people at the centre of its work, listening to their needs and recognising their role as ‘the leaders of tomorrow’, as well as recognising the way in which young people are the leaders of today in many ways
- Inclusivity and diversity is at the core of all activity and shown within the culture of each board

- Commitment to working together by breaking down silos between sectors
- Open communications between boards when tackling systemic challenges or maximising opportunities
- A representative from each board is to participate in the quarterly multi-board sessions to enable a culture of cross-sector working and report key offers and asks to City Leaders
- For the purposes of the Board, the definition of children and young people encompasses those aged 0-25 years

Role of the Board:

- Provide leadership and strategic direction in how the city collectively responds to the needs of children and young people.
- Work collaboratively to embed a culture of inclusion across Bristol so that all children and young people in the city have a sense of belonging that empowers and enables them to thrive.
- Listen to children and young people in the city and ensure they are involved in the delivery of the One City Plan.
- Bring partners together to think creatively, talk openly and make progress in reducing inequality and child poverty in the city, ensuring all children have the best possible start in life.
- Bring partners together to connect planning, decision making and use of resources in the city.
- Promote and embed agreed principles for trauma informed practice through all the work of the partnership.
- Promote the use of the Children’s Charter in development and decision making in the city.
- To oversee the delivery of the Bristol Belonging Strategy and hold partners to account in delivering the agreed priorities.
- Work with One City partners to develop Bristol as a city where streets and public spaces are accessible to children and young people and provide opportunities for play and connection with where they live, for their health, happiness and sense of belonging.
- Work as part of the City Office leadership framework assisting the City Office in delivery, and engagement of stakeholders with the One City Plan and its associated projects.
- Offer advice to City Leaders and make recommendations regarding aspects of the One City Plan that affect children and young people’s lives.
- Hold other One City Boards to account in delivering on aspects of the One City Plan that affect children and young people’s lives now and in the future.
- Convene and enable sub groups to meet on a task and finish basis to progress project work as required.

Decision Making: The Board has no formal decision making power for the use of public resources. However, City Leaders including Bristol City Council and the City Office may take advice from the Board, with the Board playing a key role, amongst other partners, in influencing strategic decision making in the city around provision for children and young people.

Delegation and working with others: The Board will consider national and local developments and avoid duplicating the work of other organisations or partnerships. Board Members will use their involvement in other forums to ensure greater coordination and coherence across the city.

The Board will oversee Task Groups, to undertake work on identified priorities where necessary. These groups will reflect the decision making of the Board and report regularly on activity and progress. The

Board will support partners with their strategic planning to maximise and support alignment of resources, to broaden perspective and create new opportunities. Board Members may be asked to take a lead role for key aspects of work and/or represent the Board.

Membership: The membership of the Board will be reviewed annually and can contract, expand and respond to changing circumstances. Board members will have proven ability to convene, influence, champion and work collaboratively with a range of partners to deliver outcomes for the city.

- Co-Chairs: Cllr Helen Godwin & Youth Mayor (TBC)
- Tenure of membership: one year, following which Board members can continue for a second term if appropriate
- Frequency of meetings: A minimum of four times per year (initially six-eight weekly, to be reviewed according to necessity)
- Substitution for meetings will be by exception only
- Invitations may be extended to non-Board members, where their input or advice supports the discussion taking place at the meeting

Declaration of Interest and Confidentiality: Board members are required to declare any items under discussion which are of direct personal or professional interest to the Chair.

Equality and Diversity: The Board will recognise and encourage the valuable and enriching contribution that people from all backgrounds and experiences bring to the city and make an effort that membership of the board is reflective of the city. All individuals should be treated on the basis of merit and without prejudice. The board therefore, aims to actively promote equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination on grounds of age, cultural background, class, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, faith, part-time worker, language, union activity, and an individual's health status.

We will strive vigorously to remove conditions which place board members at a disadvantage and will actively challenge bigotry and discrimination. We encourage Chief Executives and senior leaders to consider the ways in which they can support the board's equality and diversity aims and enable a broad range of voices by offering their place to their deputies, particularly those with protected characteristics, and delegating decision making powers to these individuals in such cases.

Communications and Engagement: The City Office will oversee communication to engage citizens and partners in priorities agreed by the Board. Board members are encouraged to disseminate communications and encourage engagement within their areas of influence.

Review: The Board will keep the purpose of its work, priorities for action and governance structure under regular review. Terms of Reference will be reviewed and agreed annually.