



Bristol One City Children & Young People's Board

Date/time	Thursday 10 th July 2025, 13:00 – 16:00pm
Location	The Learning Room, First Floor, We The Curious, 1 Millennium Square, One Millennium Square, Anchor Road, Bristol BS1 5DB
Co-chairs	Rachel Robinson, Bristol Play and Youth Alliance Cllr Christine Townsend, Policy Committee Chair Children and Young People Committee
Attendees	Anne Wray (One Care), Beth Wilson (Wellspring), Chris Scriven (The Restore Trust), Des Brown (Growing Futures), Dom Wood (1625), Ellen Sheehey (Youth Council), Emily Bailey (SBY), Hannah Woodhouse (BCC), John Simpson (Public Service at Heart Ltd), Mark Coates (Creative Youth Network), Nicole Briggs (We The Curious), Rachel Robinson (Bristol Play and Youth Alliance), Sally Melvin (Ablaze), Zaheer Shabir (Building the Bridge)
Apologies	Annabel McGregor (Raised in), Catherine Howett (CoBC), Fiona Tudge (BCC), Jamie Cameron (Burgess Salmon), Lucinda Parr (UoB), Margaret Simmons-Bird, Massimo Bonaddio (PHAB), Ruth Pickersgill (BDEC), Susan King (Bristol Free School), Vicks Hayward-Melen (ASP), Vik Verma (BCC)
Observers	Amanda Bryan (BCC), Cesca Webb (BCC), Claire Corrigan (BCC), Emily Urquhart (BCC), Jude Langdon (City Office), Kristina Afford (BCC), Nicola Prosser (John James), Nick Bond (BCC), Cathy Bowstead (CoBC - sub for Catherine Howett)
ITEMS	
Welcome from Co-Chair (Cllr Christine Townsend)	
<p>CCT welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>CCT thanked We The Curious for hosting today's meeting.</p> <p>CCT noted apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annabel McGregor • Catherine Howett • Jamie Cameron • Lucinda Parr • Margaret Simmons-Bird • Massimo Bonaddio • Ruth Pickersgill • Su King 	

- Vicks Hayward-Melen

Youth Council update (Ellen Sheehy)

EH provided an update on the Youth Council's recent activity:

New Chair Elected

- Ellen was elected as Chair during the Easter residential.

Knife Crime and Safety Campaign Launched

- A city-wide campaign focused on knife crime and safety has been launched, with subgroups developing key projects:
 - A creative writing competition to spark conversations around knife crime.
 - Improving relations between the police and local communities.
 - An animation project to highlight how small changes (e.g. better lighting) can make public spaces safer.
 - Focus on three key geographic areas:
 - Central Bristol – youth services
 - South Bristol – knife crime
 - North Bristol – safety

Street Doctors and First Aid Education

- Young people are calling for better education on how to respond to stabbings and use bleed kits.
- Manchester is being looked to as a model for best practice.

Hackathon at Creative Youth Network

- A hackathon has taken place to generate new ideas and solutions to tackle knife crime and promote youth safety.

Empty Shirts Awareness Campaign

- Youth Council participated in the 'Empty Shirts' project – a visual and community-focused campaign to raise awareness and provoke discussion about knife crime in Bristol.

Area Youth Forums (June 2025)

- Forums engaged local communities and heard directly from young people about the Youth Council's work and local issues that matter to them.

Funding Progress

- Application for CIL funding has reached Stage 2. If successful, this will help support campaign delivery over the next six months.

Bristol Young Heroes Awards

- Youth Council members are participating in the judging panel for this year's Bristol Young Heroes Awards.

Next Youth Council Elections – February 2026

- The next election will be held in February 2026.
 - **ACTION** Board members are encouraged to promote the elections via social media.

Bus Passes for Under-16s Over Summer

- Discussion ongoing about how well the Youth Council is helping spread awareness.

- **ACTION:** CYP members to promote this offer through their networks and on social media.

Youth Council Gaining Momentum

- The Youth Council is making clear progress with its campaigns and delivery.
- The goal is to build a lasting legacy that carries forward into the next Youth Council term, with potential CIL funding further supporting this momentum.

Pupil Pledge (Hannah Woodhouse/ Kristina Afford)

HW provided a recap of the Bristol Future work to date.

Vision: To break the link between deprivation and low educational attainment.

Targeted focus:

- Geographical focus on South Bristol
- Schools and trusts most in need of improvement
- City-wide initiatives
 - The Bristol Teacher: introducing opportunities for teacher leadership development
 - The Bristol Leader: supporting schools and trusts to co-develop leadership strategies
 - The Bristol School: strengthening networks of schools through peer reviews, excellence visits, focus on attendance and racial equity
 - The Bristol Pupil – Pupil Pledge: a city-wide commitment to delivering consistent, enriching experiences for all pupils.

(Bristol One City Plan and BCC's corporate strategy have also included this as top priorities).

The Pupil Pledge – initial concept development

Vision: to create a universal guarantee of core experiences for all children, ensuring equity of access for most disadvantaged. Might include offers from employers, local businesses, VCSE orgs, HFE, Sports providers, cultural organisations, food initiatives etc.,

Board members were shown the draft Bristol Pledge (and Manchester/ London pledges as examples) and asked the following questions:

Consider if there are any experiences you think are missing, if so add them on the additional flip chart and make a note of which one should be removed. Consider if you disagree with any of the experiences in the draft. Make a note of why on the page. Could any of the experiences be more Bristol Centric?

Feedback on the Bristol Pupil Pledge – key points noted

Aspirations and Scope

- The current pledge is not aspirational enough – consider differentiating between primary and secondary school experiences
- Some examples included in the pledge represent basic human rights rather than aspirational opportunities

Equity and Accessibility

- Ensure the pledge is fully accessible, accounting for cultural differences and neurodiversity
- If mentors are offered within the pledge, there is a need for them to be culturally competent
- The working group developing the pledge should reflect cultural and class diversity
- Attention should be given to children not in school – how will they access the pledge?

Implementation and Delivery

- There is concern about placing additional workload on schools – how will the pledge be integrated and tracked?
- Focus on the most disadvantaged schools and pupils
- Identify which elements are already measured by schools to avoid duplication
- Explore whether the pledge can be built into school contracts or agreements
- School twinning could be a valuable way to share and widen access to opportunities

Partnerships and Promotion

- Clarify which organisations should be invited to contribute offers – how can we utilise the other One City boards?
- Consider how parents can advocate for their children to access pledge-related experiences
- The language in the Manchester pledge was well-received and may serve as a model

Additional pledges to consider

- I understand what makes Bristol special
- Nature-based experiences and the chance to see the sea
- Opportunities for pupils to debate and challenge information – critical thinking should be encouraged
- Consider experiences not currently part of the curriculum, such as swimming and food-related activities, or visiting different parts of the city, not just the centre
- Suggestion to combine the event-based and play-based pledge models into one cohesive offer

Families First (Cesca Webb)

Mandy Bryan introduced as programme lead for Families First. Cesca Webb is working as part of the transformation partner team supporting programme delivery.

Programme Overview and Context

- The Families First programme has been developed in response to both national and local priorities in safeguarding and family support.
- Locally there are high and rising numbers of children in care. Many of these children are placed outside of Bristol, leading to disconnection from:
 - Family and community networks
 - Educational opportunities
 - Supportive local services
- This programme is focused on bringing families closer together and increasing stability for children in care

National and Local Alignment

- The national Families First Partnership Programme was recently announced, focusing on:
 - Family help
 - Family Group Decision Making
 - Multi-Agency child protection
- The local programme is intentionally aligned with the national model to ensure coherence and shared impact.

Programme Structure and Progress

- The programme launched in April
- It comprises seven projects, outlined in the Programme on a Page document
- Since launch, these projects have been working closely with internal and external partners to understand practical implementation and outcomes for children and families.

Families First is an opportunity for city-wide partnership across all sectors. It's essential that all One City partners contribute to shaping and supporting this work.

Key issues and gaps identified:

- Children in care and the criminal justice system – a significant gap exists for children in care who come into contact with the criminal justice system, including:
 - Lack of family group conferences
 - Gaps in through care support
- Work is ongoing with the Youth Justice Service and courts to prevent:
 - Unnecessary remand into care
 - Entrenchment in the criminal justice system
- Post-18 support for care leavers
 - There is a critical support gap for care-experienced young people after the age of 18
 - The programme is exploring how to ensure smoother, more support transitions into adulthood

Next steps/ actions:

- Continue engagement with city partners and services
- Further development of data collection strategies to better understand and support children in care, especially those in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system
- Ongoing alignment between national direction and local delivery

Belonging Strategy 2 (Chris Duncan/ Emily Urquhart)

EU took members through the new Belonging Strategy, working title 'Belonging and Thriving'.

Key points to consider:

- Integration with One City Priorities – how will the One City priorities align and fit within the Belonging and Thriving strategy? There is a need to clearly articulate the relationship between the two frameworks
- Referencing ongoing work – what current initiatives or projects should be explicitly referenced within the strategy to ensure continuity and acknowledge existing efforts?

The following discussion points were noted:

- Digital safety and online exposure – digital safety must be incorporated across multiple themes, including:
 - Thriving in safe communities
 - Thriving through inclusive and supporting education
 - Thriving during transitions and teenage hood
- Concerns were highlighted around the cost of living and entry-level wages, which are causing young people to move out of Bristol due to affordability issues
- Poverty and Food Security – the strategy should address poverty more explicitly, including:
 - Provision of foodbanks
 - Access to food via Free School Meals (FSM)
 - Emphasis on food access broadly, rather than solely focusing on healthy food
- Opportunities and Barriers – it would be helpful to identify both opportunities and barriers within the strategy to provide a realistic and actionable framework
- Scope and Focus – the board acknowledges that the strategy cannot cover everything; instead, it should provide a clear structure to guide priorities
- Relationship between One City Plan and Belonging and Thriving Strategy – consideration is needed on which elements belong in the One City Plan versus the Belonging and Thriving strategy
 - One City Boards have the unique opportunity to add value by providing additionality beyond the core strategies
- Language and Framing – emphasise the opportunities young people need to thrive, making his language more prominent throughout the strategy
- Infant and Family Support – recommend removing breastfeeding as a standalone item and incorporating it within a broader pre- and post-natal support or infant feeding framework
- Family-Centred Approach – adopt a holistic view with concentric circles around a child:
 - Child
 - Family
 - Neighbourhood
 - Community
 - City
- Housing – engage with the housing sector to explore how housing issues and support can be integrated and referenced in the strategy
- Cross-Strategy Alignment – address how this strategy and other relevant strategies will reference and complement each other to ensure coherence and avoid duplication

One City Missions (Jude Langdon)

JL updated the board on One City Plan progress, sharing the final 4 missions which will form the foundation of the final plan.

JL posed the following question to the board:

What contribution could the CYP Board make to delivering on these missions over an (initial) five-year period?

As the Pupil Pledge work will link directly to the Life Chances mission, the board are asked to consider their contributions towards the other three missions.

A discussion took place to clarify the Board's role in delivering the One City Missions. Should the focus be on asking each member individually what their organisation can do to support the missions, or

should it be on what the Board can achieve collectively as the One City Children and Young People Board? Or should it be to support organisations external to the board who are already taking action?

The Board agreed that both approaches have value:

- Supporting individual organisations that may need assistance from the Board, and
- Taking collective action to drive change and deliver on the missions together.

The board recognised there are several points of connection between CYP board and the missions (pupil pledge, working groups, belonging & thriving, families first etc.,) and a further piece of work is required to unpack the action plan that the board will own.

ACTION: Members to bring concrete knowledge/ experience of the missions through their work/ organisations to the next board meeting to support the board's action planning.

ACTION: CCT to bring update on progress re attendance to future One City board.

Working Group updates

This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

AOB

There were no AOB's raised.