

# We want to make Dorset the best place to grow-up

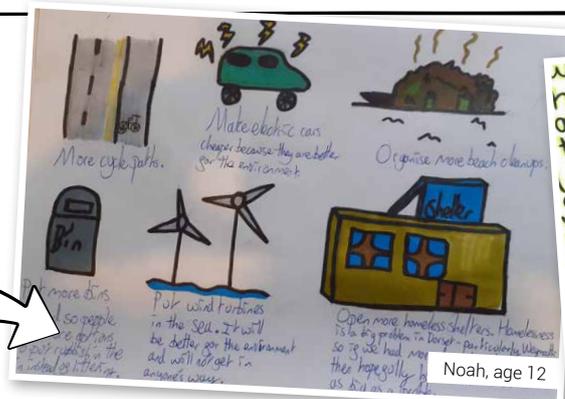
## So we asked children to help us make a plan. It is called the **Children, Young People and Families' Plan**

You told us we must make Dorset a kinder, more welcoming place, help the environment and provide more things to do.

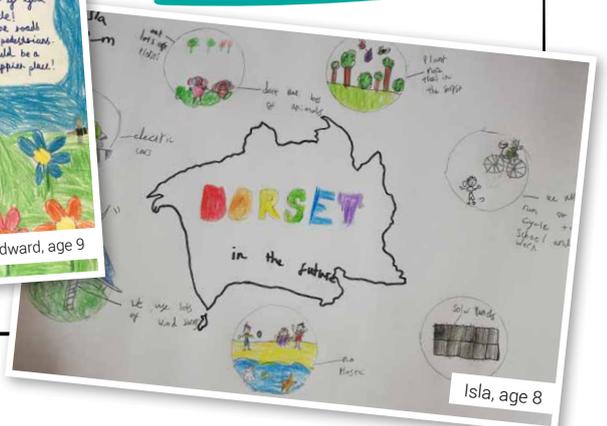
**Thank you** to everyone who shared an idea - they were brilliant...

**We studied your ideas** - Schools, Dorset Council, the NHS, Dorset Police, Parents, Carers, Volunteers and others worked together (this is called a Strategic Alliance).

**We drew-up the plan and agreed these priorities...**



**#liveinDorset**



**1 Best Start in Life - We want Dorset children to have the Best Start in Life**

**How?**

We will work with parents who may need help to look after their baby. We will help families get young children ready for school and develop language skills. We will promote immunisation so children are protected from diseases. We will work to make places child-friendly and make sure good childcare is available.

**2 Young and Thriving - We want Dorset children to become happy, successful adults**

**How?**

We will listen to and help young people. We will help young people find education, work and training opportunities. We will support children with special educational needs and / or disabilities get ready for life as a grown-up. We will help young people improve their emotional wellbeing and mental health. We will help young people if they get mixed-up with people who break the law.

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### Good Care Provision - We want Dorset children to be safe and properly cared for

#### How?

Sometimes families need help to look after their children. Sometimes children and young people need to be looked after by someone else, such as a foster family or carers at a home for children.

We want to help families stay together if possible. If children need to be looked after by someone else, we want them to be happy. We will help them enjoy time with their family wherever possible. We will find more great foster carers. We also want to provide more short breaks to help children with special educational needs and or a disability.



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### Best Education for All - We want Dorset children to have a great education and enjoy school

#### How?

We will work with children, young people, families and schools to create safe, engaging and exciting places to learn, where all children thrive. Every child is different so we will work with children and families in different ways. If children need extra help, for example if they have special educational needs and / or a disability, we will help them get the right support. We will help families get free school meals if they need them. We will provide more training so young people can get the jobs they want.



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### Best Place to Live - We want to make Dorset the best place to live and grow-up

#### How?

We will help the environment by cutting carbon and waste. We will help people with disabilities to visit countryside and beaches. We will try to create more cycle lanes and improve public transport. We will help children and young people get involved with their communities and help decide things. We will promote activities and opportunities. We will work with others to create more places to go and things to do, such as arts, music and sports. We will work to make places more welcoming and inclusive so young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities feel more included in community life. We will fight discrimination and promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



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### Delivering Locally - We want to serve Dorset children, young people and families as best we can

#### How?

Help will be available locally nearer to people's homes. We will make it easier to contact us online. Different services will work together more and will know local areas better. Working together more will also provide better value for money. We will make it easier for families to find the right help earlier. We will focus on helping a child's whole family, this may mean helping parents to improve their health.



## Want to get involved and find out more?

If you want to know more and get involved with helping to make Dorset the best place to grow-up, please sign-up for our free 'Young People' newsletter.

[news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

If you'd like to read the whole plan (it is quite long!) it is available here:

[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/childrens-young-peoples-and-families-plan](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/childrens-young-peoples-and-families-plan)



Dorset Council