

Children's services

Designing a joined up system that focuses on early identification and intervention to deliver improved outcomes for children and families while placing services on a more sustainable footing

Local government children's services are facing a challenge of rising demand, complexity and cost within systems widely seen as siloed and financially unsustainable. Against this backdrop, local areas need to implement national reforms.

In 2023/24, local authorities spent £13.3 billion on children's social care, 23% more in real terms than in 2019/20, against a backdrop of a reduction in core spending power.

The number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) has more than doubled over the last decade.

In this context, for local areas, the challenge is delivering these reforms across complex partnerships in a coherent way that puts the children and young people at the heart of service design.

We work across the local area children's partnership to:

- Transform services in line with the 'Families First' reforms – delivering earlier, integrated "Family Help" through multi agency teams and stronger use of family networks. This includes leveraging connected data and artificial intelligence to identify and safely keep families together.
- Build the right placement sufficiency internally while ensuring the best value for money, high quality placements for children in care.
- Transform services in line with current SEND reforms by ensuring families receive the right support as early as possible, and supporting more children and young people to have their needs met in mainstream settings.

"The focus on data and evidence, I think, is one of the fundamental reasons this programme has been successful and why it's feeling impactful already."

Director of Education

"I have worked for the council for 38.5 years and I can honestly say that Newton have been the exceptional and stand out consultancy that I have worked with in all this time"

Deputy Chief Executive

Impact

These outcomes, from a selection of recent client partnerships, demonstrate the impact for children and young people:

Children's social care

- 78% of families supported through a new service remain together
- 80 more children per year are being supported at home through early intervention and prevention services
- 30% reduction in children entering residential care
- 16% more children leaving care each year
- Double the number of children able to exit residential care to live with foster carers or outside the care system

Special educational needs

- 5 week reduction in the average time to complete Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments
- One third more referrals supported in mainstream education rather than specialist provision

About Newton

Resident centric | Connected | Financially sustainable

We partner with local authorities to improve and innovate public services, so that people and families thrive in their communities.

The quantum, scale, and complexity of change and reform in public services continues to grow.

As a strategic delivery partner, we help:

- define and deliver improvement activity to move towards financial sustainability at pace.
- set the digital and operating model foundations for innovation.
- leaders shape and deliver their ambitions for place.

Together, we transform across organisations, systems, and places to deliver resident centric, connected, and financially resilient public services.

We're committed to being excellent value for the public purse, as demonstrated by our 100% implementation fee guarantee.

Find out more



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Adult social care

Children's services

Housing

Place