

Our plans in Salford to protect young people and improve their wellbeing

Salford Adolescent Strategy

2023 to 2026

A strategy has been put together which looks at how to protect and increase the wellbeing of children and young people in Salford.

The Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP), which is made up of Salford City Council, the NHS and the police, has created the Salford Adolescent Strategy, which explains what improvements will be made to services in the city.

Children and young people have provided feedback on the plans so we can make sure we understand their experiences and we will work with them to meet their needs.

Teenage years can be a confusing and challenging time for many young people, their parents and the professionals working with them, particularly now because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Those years involve a lot of mental and physical changes and new experiences as young people become more independent. Young people can start to take more risks and those with vulnerabilities such as people with learning disabilities, or mental health problems, can sometimes be at risk of harm from others through criminal exploitation, or online and other types of abuse.



What children and young people told us

In September 2022, we sent a survey to Salford secondary schools to find out what young people felt it was like to live in the city and what improvements could be made.

We received surveys from 564 young people aged between 11 to 16 years old.

Findings:

**Q1. What is it like to live in Salford?
Think about the problems teenagers have to deal with in Salford.**

Bullying	409
Anti-social behaviour	354
Mental health difficulties	344
Gangs	342
Drugs and alcohol	340
Family difficulties	331
Not feeling safe	319
Crime	315
Litter	291
Nothing to do/boredom	261
Physical health worries	246
No jobs for young people	213
No opportunities for young people	200
Housing problems	200
Pollution	160
Finding services to help	140

Q2. What services are there to help teenagers in Salford?

Friends	426
Parent/carer	412
School	364
Mental health services	348
Police	325
Health services	286
Social worker	284
College	270
Salford City Council	260
GP/nurse	243
Youth centre	226
Foster carer	211
Sports clubs	183
Dance/drama/performing arts	143
Faith leader	120
Housing	118

Q3. Is there anything more services could do to help?

The top five were:

- Help with mental health
- Reduce bullying
- Help at school
- Reduce crime
- Help with difficulties at home

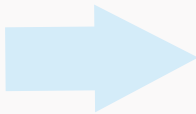
Q4. What changes can we make for teenagers in Salford? What would you like to see happen?

- Cleaner streets/less rubbish
- Less knife crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- More youth clubs/youth centres open more often
- More sports clubs/activities
- Help with mental health difficulties
- Help people having difficulties such as having no where to go or no job
- Help people be kinder to each other
- More jobs for young people
- More people to talk to
- Better use of spaces in Salford, including unused buildings and increased or improved outdoor activity spaces
- Supporting young people as they move from primary school to secondary school

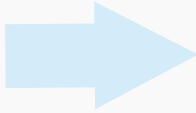
Findings:

What we plan to do

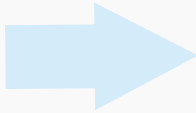
To improve the health and wellbeing of young people over the next three years (2023 to 2026):



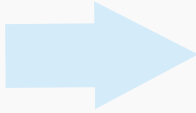
Our organisations and professionals will work together to prevent abuse



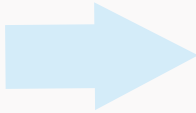
Where necessary organisations and professionals will take action to protect children from harm



We will work together with other groups and organisations in the city to share and communicate learning and information and to improve how professionals work to protect young people



Listen and respond to children and young people, their families and communities



We will continue to review what organisations and professionals in Salford do to keep children safe



There are **four** areas we will take action on so every young person in Salford is able to reach their full potential, receiving the right help, at the right time, from the right person.

We will listen to and feedback to young people and professionals as well as carry out surveys and look at statistics to see if improvements have been made to services.

Our Priorities

1

Helping children and young people to thrive

- Make sure services, information and training for professionals and young people gives them the understanding and information they need about teenage development, protection and difficult life experiences
- Ensure there are effective youth services, education, training and employment

2

Preventing harm from abuse and crime

- Educating children on services available and how to keep safe
- Look at how we can make communities safer together including how we can tackle issues such as child criminal exploitation and knife crime
- Work with young people's whole families to find solutions

3

Listening and responding to the voice of children and young people

- Consider how we work with and listen to vulnerable/hard to engage groups and young people from different cultures and backgrounds

4

Understanding and supporting times of big change for teenagers

We will look at the services we provide and how they meet the needs of young people with:

- Physical, psychological and developmental changes
- School changes, such as moving from primary, secondary and further education
- Gender, sexuality and other identity changes
- Changes in caregiving and care experienced children
- Emotional and mental health difficulties

