



# Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES): Best Start in Life Plan

We believe every child in B&NES should grow up healthy, safe and ready to learn, with families getting the right help at the right time from pregnancy and beyond.

This plan brings together partners from health, education, children's services, and local voluntary and community organisations.

Together, we want to improve outcomes for children and families in B&NES. We listened to parent/ carers, spoke with stakeholders, and looked at local and national data to help our understanding of what families need.

## Why Early Years Matter

The first 1,000 days of a child's life (from pregnancy to age 2) strongly shapes their brain development, early relationships, health and wellbeing.

Parent/ carers play a vital role in giving children a safe, nurturing environment. But this can be difficult when families face challenges such as physical or mental health issues, money worries, housing problems, isolation or relationship breakdown.

Some families feel overwhelmed or are unsure where to turn. We want every family to be able to get support early, before problems grow.

## What Success Will Look Like

- More children will be **school ready**
- More children will attend the **funded childcare** they are entitled to
- Families will feel **confident, supported and informed** as they raise their children

## Our Three Priorities

1

### Better Support for Families through Family Hubs

- Support strong parent–infant relationships and maternal mental health
- Provide early help and clear information through Best Start Family Hubs

2

### Improve Access to High Quality Early Education & Childcare

- Help families understand early education funding and childcare options
- Focus on speech, language, and helping children settle into nursery or school

3

### Raising Quality in Early Years

- Provide training for Early Years staff so every child receives nurturing, high quality education
- Identify children who need extra support early, and make sure they receive the right help

