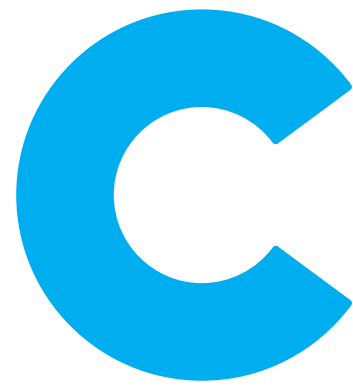

Children & Families: Councillor Graham Hinchey

CAPITAL AMBITION



Cardiff should be a great city for all our children to grow up in. That's why this Administration is committed to investing in aspiration and life chances from an early age, particularly for those children from our city's most deprived communities or troubled families.

In the face of austerity we have invested in recruiting new social workers, and some big strides have been made in improving statutory children's services. This Administration is determined that this continues. We will focus on the most vulnerable children, particularly on making sure that children in our care system are healthy and safe, and are given every opportunity to succeed in life.

We will work to align services and funding – from across the public and third sectors – around what each individual child and family needs. In doing so, we want to see a step-change in partnership working at a community level between our social services, our schools and other public services like health and police.

Families do best when they're healthy and empowered, and are able to play an active role in community life. We will do all we can to make sure that this happens. Early intervention will be critical, making a difference in the early stages to tackle an issue before it develops and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences. Again, this will rely on partnership working across the public sector and with our staff, citizens and communities, and building on partnerships like the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

We will:

- Continue to improve Children's Services and our work to attract, recruit and retain more **children's social workers**.
- Further develop effective **early help for families, so that fewer children need to be looked after by the Council**.
- Continue to **improve outcomes for looked after children and further enhance their experience of care**, with a particular focus on reducing the number placed out of area.
- **Enhance the support for young people when they leave local authority care**, making sure that they're given the opportunities to succeed, including continuing the Council's Corporate Traineeship Programme for Looked After Children.
- Pilot a 'Children First' approach to joining-up services and funding in support of children and families in a specific locality in the city.
- Improve engagement with communities at large - and faith communities in particular - to improve the safeguarding of children and adults across the various communities in Cardiff.
- Implement the '**Disability Futures**' Programme, remodelling services and improving outcomes for disabled children and young adults.
- Take forward '**Signs of Safety**', a strengths-based, safety-organised approach to child protection casework.
- Explore the potential of a new or **discounted bus travel scheme for young carers**.