

Quick read:

From left behind to leading the wa :

3. The blueprint

At the core of this report is an **overarching call to the UK government to commit to restoring health services for children**. It is unacceptable that children across the country are experiencing poor access to services, waiting times, and health outcomes, and that there is clear inequity between adults' and children's experiences of our health system.

Across seven themes, we set out a series of evidence-based, practical and immediate solutions. These are intended to act as a guide to the transformational change that is needed across child health services in England.

Four national foundations to recover children's health services and improve child health outcomes:

1. **Ensure fair funding for children.**
2. **Prioritise children in Integrated Care Systems.**
3. **Support a sustainable child health workforce.**
4. **Improve data and digital innovation.**

Three targeted areas of focus address parts of the health system under exceptional pressure:

5. **Reduce pressure on urgent and emergency care.**
6. **Reinvest in community health services.**
7. **Improve the interface between primary and secondary care.**

The blueprint focuses on challenges faced by child health services, but we recognise meaningful change must go beyond this. As such, alongside this report, we call for ambitious action on to prevent illness and address the wider determinants of health through a child health in all policies approach. And as children and young people have highlighted through RCPCH &Us, all of this should be set in the context of two fundamental principles: listening to children's voices, and respecting children's rights.

4. The solutions

Theme	Recommendation
4. Improve data and digital solutions	Implement the NHS number as a Consistent Child Identifier.
	Prioritise the development of a digital child health record.
5. Reduce pressure on urgent and emergency care	Improve the quality and accessibility of online health information available to families.
	Embed paediatric advice and assessment within every NHS111 service.
	Ensure national guidance on urgent and emergency care and winter planning addresses the distinct pressures in paediatric emergency care.
6. Reinvest in community health services	Prioritise community child health services in action to tackle elective waiting lists and waiting times.
	Invest in the community child health workforce.
	Ensure support for children in all settings (education, local authorities, and short break providers) is needs-led and does not require a diagnosis to access.
7. Improve the interface between primary and secondary care	Implement postgraduate training on children's health as a core part of GP and wider practice staff training.
	Develop models of joint working between primary care and paediatric teams.
	Re-invest in health visiting and school nurses.

5. What now?

As each week passes, more data and stories come to light that bear witness to the fact that childhood in our country is simply not **05d** **health**

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From left behind to leading the way: a blueprint
for transforming child health services