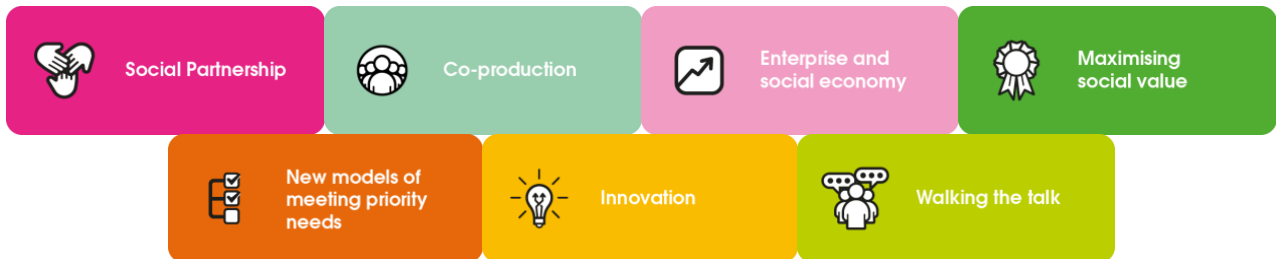


COMMUNITY



Knowsley Council

Delivering effective, high-quality services and support to residents

Knowsley Council's ongoing delivery of its Knowsley Council Plan 2025-2030 demonstrates how the Council is supporting local residents to thrive and overcome inequality through the practical delivery of effective, high-quality services and support which continue to make a real impact in communities across the Borough.

In shaping the plan, the Council builds on some of its recent successes (including reversing decades of population decline through the delivery of over 4,000 new homes and 10,000 new jobs in five years) to set out its clear and continued focus on:-

- Delivering effective, high-quality services and support for residents
- Encouraging growth that benefits everyone
- Delivering targeted support to encourage fairness and opportunity for all

This approach and the resulting achievements have been praised by the Local Government Association following the Council's participation in a Corporate Peer Challenge in November 2025 – highlighting the Council's positive organisational culture underpinned by high levels of trust and collaboration with stakeholders, its forensic approach to financial monitoring and service delivery which supports its successes and work to support local communities.



Knowsley Council Plan 2025-2030

In the first 9 months since the Knowsley Council Plan was launched, the practical, action-focused delivery plans which underpin it have enabled the Council to build further on its successes - delivering a wide range of tangible achievements which meet priority needs of local people and maximise social value across the Borough.

This involves significant investment and rapid improvements as part of the Council's Children's Services improvement journey, ensuring Knowsley children receive the best possible start in life by providing the right support at the right time. As part of this, Knowsley's "Start for Life and Beyond" Family Hubs model enhances local support services across the Council and its partners, making it easier for families to access advice and assistance to nurture children. It focuses on improving long-term health and educational outcomes through early intervention. This co-produced approach has been developed alongside local communities, ensuring it aligns with their specific needs and circumstances in accordance with Knowsley's well-established "Better Together" principles.

Further targeted interventions delivered alongside local partners is helping to support Knowsley's most vulnerable children and their families, including:-

- Shield - protecting children against exploitation through a coordinated and proactive approach to reduce exploitation and children going missing. This work was recently recognised as best practice by Ofsted, and over a 12-month period, nearly 75 at-risk children received support, thereby reducing the risk of child sexual exploitation by 100%, with 97% of children remaining at home, helping to decrease the number of missing episodes.

- STEP – identifying and supporting children at the earliest opportunity to divert them away from criminality, anti-social behaviour, and criminal exploitation. Over 12 months, 1,600 young people have engaged with the team, with 98% of positive outcomes;
- Additional domestic abuse support includes the Council investing an extra £1m in ongoing assistance, alongside the innovative 'Be the Change' programme designed to steer people away from serious and organised crime, which has helped over 6,000 young people through intervention efforts.
- Dedicated support for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities - through the creation of additional school places and an Autism Advisory Service operating across the Borough to identify issues early and offer suitable support.

In providing effective, high-quality Adult Social Care services and support for residents, the Council has been rated as Good by the Care Quality Commission across all areas, with the inspectors highlighting the Council's positive approach to assessing individuals' needs and supporting them to lead healthier lives through integrated and consistent care. Knowsley's preventative services, including innovative technology and extra care housing, were described by the CQC as transformative—enhancing residents' independence and overall quality of life.

This approach is complemented by the Council's Rapid Response service, which helps residents stay independent by reducing hospital admissions and enabling safe, effective discharge from hospital to home, with over 95% of Knowsley residents being supported to return home after a hospital stay.

The health and well-being of residents is a key priority and through partnership working to maximise social value:-

- The majority of the Borough's schools have signed up to the Healthy Schools Programme - adopting healthier school meals menus and promoting active lifestyles; and,
- An additional 61 wraparound childcare places for primary school-aged children in Knowsley have been created, providing essential support to parents and carers who are working or in education or training.
- 250 local businesses have benefitted from Working Well funding to promote health and wellbeing at work; and
- An engaging and accessible youth offer ensures that high-quality youth activities for all ages and interests are available in all areas of the Borough.

Through the ongoing delivery of the Knowsley Council Plan, the Council continues to support the most vulnerable residents through:-

- The Knowsley Better Together and Hardship Fund programme - with more than 9,000 families receiving a variety of essential support;
- The Knowsley Community Fund – enabling around 120 community groups to deliver projects that provide essential support, including helping residents stay warm, safe and well over the winter months;
- The Council’s well-established Knowsley Works service - providing employment, recruitment and training support to residents of all ages ; and,
- The Access to Affordable Housing Fund – delivering additional affordable homes across Knowsley, alongside social housing providers.

For further information contact:

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