

Evaluating Beyond

An easy read summary



The Beyond Programme works to improve the health and life chances of children and young people in Cheshire and Merseyside. A team was invited to look into what has been going well, and what are the opportunities for improvement.

During November 2023 to November 2024, the evaluation team asked people working on Beyond for their views. We also looked at information in other evaluation reports and feedback from children, young people, parents and carers related to the programme.



Our theory of change

The team began by working with the staff involved in the programme to come up with a **shared description** of the programme, **how it aims to work**, and **what it aims to achieve**. This produced this summary “**theory of change**” for the programme:

Why is the programme needed?

To act earlier, and more fairly, to improve health

Who is the programme for?

Children and young people and their parents and carers in Cheshire and Merseyside

What will the programme do?

Try new activity in seven key areas with the help of children and young people and parents and carers, learn and share what works

How will the programme work?

By different organisations coming together to problem solve along with children and young people and parents and carers

Impact of the programme:

Every child and young person in Cheshire and Merseyside having the best possible start in life

What has gone well?

The evaluation team has heard of the programme's progress in a number of ways. The three main areas of progress are:

Creating a programme through which people work and learn together

"They've all been fantastically passionate about what they wanted to do and what they wanted to achieve"

"To avoid spending huge amounts of money on older people, you need healthier, younger people"

Looking at the big picture for children and young people, and working together to prioritise their health

Positive improvements for children, young people, and parents due to activities being delivered as planned

Successful projects with services, in schools and in the community to help people with healthy lifestyles and to improve support

Successes and challenges

It is working well for the programme to have:

- A good reputation and leadership who are passionate and committed to the programme
- A focus on priorities for children and young people, and mobilising resources to address these
- A clear plan and priorities, with flexibility to respond to new opportunities
- An effective programme team, who build relationships with others who will support the programme
- People from different Places and sectors working together and learning from each other
- Skills in using data to help understand problems, target support, and measure whether things change
- The involvement of young people, parents and carers, who share their needs and experiences, and are part of improving healthcare support.

It is challenging for the programme that:

- Cheshire and Merseyside is a big area: coordinating a regional programme is very complex
- Seeing measurable change in big outcomes will take time, and can be influenced by external factors (like political, social, economic or environmental change)
- The demand for services is increasing, and finances are tight, which can make it harder to spend money in different ways
- There are different challenges and priorities among Places and organisations
- It can be a difficult balance to work to achieve national aims, improve services and try new approaches at the same time
- Ways to involve children, young people, parents and carers are still developing overall - although there is good practice to build on, professionals would like to get better at this.

Suggestions for improving the programme

To continue to work on **increasing investment** in children and young people.

To get **better evidence** that can show the **impact** the programme has on children's lives overall - and over time.

To have an **online space** to explain the programme's aims and celebrate successes.

To keep working on **bringing together staff from different organisations**, including people working in health, education, local authorities and the voluntary sector.

To **explain better** how the programme is led and fits in with other work.

To continue to work on **improving co-production** and the involvement of children, young people, parents and carers in the programme.

For further information about the Beyond Programme and opportunities to get involved please email beyond@alderhey.nhs.uk