

Healthy Child Development Brief:

Expressions of interest are invited for a partner organisation or group of organisations to contribute to the next phase of development of Sheffield's Healthy Child Development model.

Total funding available: £30,000

Time Period: March – September 2026

As part of work in Sheffield to develop the city's new SEND and Inclusion Strategy (*Shaped by What's Around Us* – <https://www.shefielddirectory.org.uk/localoffer/about-the-local-offer-and-other-information/sheffields-local-area-send-partnership-strategy-2025-2030/>), partners from education, health, the voluntary sector and children's services have been working on a holistic and connected description of the features of healthy child development. The work is based on the belief that a shared understanding of what this looks like through childhood and the teenage years will act as a guide for identifying children's needs, developing practice and supporting multi-agency working.

Our goal is to create a range of products that have value for children and young people, parents and carers, our colleagues in the children's workforce, and senior, executive and civic leaders in the city. We want the big ideas and the detailed healthy child development content to be understood and valued so that it influences the decisions people make and the things they do. We want more children have positive experiences and achieve good outcomes in early childhood, childhood and their teenage years.

There are three next steps:

- Assemble the content we have created in a way that makes it accessible and easy to navigate. We want to 'tell our story', provide a high-level picture of the theory and big ideas that have shaped our thinking as well as organise and present the detailed content clearly and coherently.
- Use co-production to develop digital products that will help the people we want to influence understand and use the healthy child development model. We want to do this in a 'do with not do to' way. The initial focus will be the features of an enabling environment for learning and development and what this looks like in practice [from different people's perspectives and building outwards from what they need themselves in their environment]. We will then replicate this approach for the other big ideas such as the principles of attuned relationships, interactions and guidance.
- Use a test and learn approach to develop different ways of working that are informed by the healthy child development model. These will be small-scale activities, such as the bedtime stories project in locality B and other activities that exemplify how the healthy child development model can be used in practice.

We are looking for a partner [or partners] who can work with us on:

- Developing a coherent communications strategy for the healthy child development model.
- Co-producing high-quality digital products for children and young people, parents and carers, education, health and children's services professionals, and senior, executive and civic leaders.

If you feel your organisation has the skills, expertise and desire to be part of delivering the Sheffield Healthy Child Development model please complete the short form below by Monday 23 February 2026:

Healthy Child Development- EOI Form

Please note you may be requested to attend an 'in person' meeting on **Thursday 5 March 2026** at **Learn Sheffield**, Suite 6, Albion House, Savile Street, Sheffield, S4 7UD, where you will be asked to present and pitch your ideas to the group of experts working across the NHS, Education, Early Years, Social Care and Voluntary Sector who are developing the Sheffield Healthy Child Development model. Further details will be provided.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact Bethan Plant via enquiries@learnsheffield.co.uk.