

Report of: Joint report from the Director of Public Health and Director of Children's services

Report to: Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 22nd October 2014

Subject: Best Start Plan on a Page

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	X No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	X No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	X No

Summary of main issues

1. Ensuring the 'best start' for every child in Leeds is one of the four top commitments of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Leeds Best Start Plan describes a broad preventative programme from conception to age 2 years which aims to ensure a good start for every baby, with early identification and targeted support for vulnerable families early in the life of the child. This is a progressive universal approach. In the longer term, this will promote social and emotional capacity and cognitive growth, and will aim to break inter-generational cycles of neglect, abuse and violence.
2. The overall outcomes for the programme will be:
 - Healthy mothers and healthy babies at population and individual level
 - Parents experiencing stress will be identified early and supported
 - Well prepared parents
 - Good attachment and bonding
 - Development of early language and communication
3. The over-arching indicator for the programme is reduced rate of deaths in babies aged under one year (infant mortality rate).

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the draft Best Start Plan on a Page for information prior to the Plan being circulated for discussion and consultation, including user engagement.
- To invite the Plan to be brought back for full discussion with partners at the Board meeting on 4th February 2015.