

Report of the Director of Childrens Services

Report to Children & Families Scrutiny Board

Date: 18/12/14

Subject: Children and Young People's Plan 2015-19



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The current plan runs from 2011-15. It is proposed to begin consultation on the 2015-19 plan which will require approval by full Council.
2. The target date for full Council approval is April 2015.
3. Consultation on proposals will take place with all stakeholders through a series of events and meetings commencing in December 2014. This includes a partnership event on December 15 in the Civic Hall to which members of this Scrutiny Board have been invited.
4. The basis of the consultation will be that the existing framework of obsessions, outcomes and priorities has enabled partners to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. However, progress is not always consistent or enjoyed by all children and young people across the city. To go further and faster it is necessary to engage partners in a discussion on key challenges and the best strategies for tackling them.
5. The existing framework of obsessions, outcomes and priorities is set on page 7 of this report, and the challenges identified to date are set out on page 8. The challenges are based on an analysis of performance against the CYPP 2011-14. A progress report is included in a separate item on this agenda.

Recommendations

6. Scrutiny Board to comment on the 3 main CYPP consultation questions:
 - a) Do the current outcomes, priorities and obsessions provide the right focus for improving outcomes for children, young people, families & communities?
 - b) Do the challenges capture all the key issues facing the city in its ambition to transform outcomes and build a child friendly city?
 - c) What are the best strategies and actions to help us tackle the challenges?

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To set out the intention to consult with stakeholders on the development of the 2015-19 Children and Young People's Plan before the final draft goes through to full Council for approval in April 2015.
- 1.2 To suggest that work done as part of the 2011-15 CYPP has produced progress in the form of clear improvements in outcomes but that these outcomes are not consistent across all areas or necessarily enjoyed by all children and young people. The main issue for the new plan is to build on progress by going further and faster in a number of key areas. It is proposed that consultation on the 2015-19 will seek views on continuing to use the existing framework of outcomes, priorities and indicators, and seek to agree with partners the key challenges and the best strategies for tackling them.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Children and Young People's Plan is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. As such it requires approval by full Council and should be the subject of consultation with a range of stakeholders. The current plan runs from 2011-15. The framework of obsessions, outcomes, priorities and indicators at the heart of the current plan (see page 7) has focused the efforts of partners on improving a range of outcomes for children, young people and families.
- 2.2 As well as Children and Young People, Executive Board, Cabinet, full Council and Council directorates, stakeholders include the Children & Families Trust Board, the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board, the Health and Well Being Board, the Safer Leeds Executive, Council Scrutiny Committees, Community Committees and elected member Children's Champions. Individual partners on the main city wide partnership boards include the police, voluntary and community sector; schools; colleges and academies; West Yorkshire Probation Trust; Youth Offending; the Families First Programme; Elected Members; Public Health; Clinical Commissioning Groups; NHS Acute; Community and Mental Health Trusts; Children's Centres; Adult Social Care Services; the Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards; Jobcentre Plus and the private sector. Local businesses, local media partners and local professional sports clubs are also involved in our work, and we engage with a range of national and international researchers and practitioners.
- 2.3 We have a strong performance management model to underpin the changes we are making. Partners have collectively adopted an **outcomes based accountability (OBA) methodology**, measuring our work against the question: what is it like to be a child growing up in Leeds, and how do we make it better? Applying the challenge: 'how much did we do? how well do we do it? and is anyone better off?

Main issues

- 2.1 Leeds has a bold, exciting ambition to become the '**best city**' and the best council in the UK. We will only achieve this if we become the best city for **180,000 children and young people** to grow up in - we want Leeds to be recognised by everyone as a '**child friendly city**'. Historically, many initiatives, both in Leeds and other places have made a positive difference to families, but too often these are pockets of success that are not spread or sustained effectively, particularly in the communities that need them the most. Gaps in the outcomes enjoyed by these communities and the average or best outcomes for the city remain significant.
- 2.2 Work to improve outcomes using our existing CYPP framework has led to significant improvements which are a testimony to the strength of our partnership working:
- the number of children looked after is currently at its lowest point since 2006
 - more children and young people were adopted in Leeds during 2013/14 (110) than any other financial year
 - child protection numbers have reduced by 27% since the start of the CYPP
 - primary and secondary school attendance are at the highest ever levels
 - the percentage of young people with a Level 3 qualification has risen from 42% in 2009 to 54% in 2013
- 3.3 However, significant, complex and stubborn challenges remain. The current CYPP framework of outcomes, priorities and obsessions is set out on page 7 of this report. The challenges identified to date are set out on page 8.
- 3.4 Three main consultation questions are proposed:
- a) Do the current outcomes, priorities and obsessions provide the right focus for improving outcomes for children, young people, families & communities?
 - b) Do the challenges capture all the key issues facing the city in its ambition to transform outcomes and build a child friendly city?
 - c) What are the best strategies and actions to help us tackle the challenges?

3 Corporate Considerations

3.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 3.1.1 Proposals for consultation and engagement are set out in this report.

3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The purpose of all the strategic and operational activity relating to this this area of work is to help all children and young people achieve their full potential. A central

element of this to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children, young people and families who experience inequality of opportunity or outcomes are identified and responded to at the earliest possible opportunity. The impact assessment will be carried out when the proposals for the CYPP 2015-19 are known.

3.3 Council policies and City Priorities

3.3.1 The outcomes and priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan complement those in the Best Council Plan 2013-17 and Joint Health and Well Being Plan 2013-15.

3.4 Resources and value for money

3.4.1 Whilst there are no financial and resource issues arising directly from this report, the financial challenges facing the Council and partner organisations over the coming years will necessitate a transformational re-design of services for children, young people and families.

3.4.2 Over recent financial years, the Council's prioritisation of resources to support vulnerable children and families has seen improvement in all of our CYPP priorities and our 3 strategic obsessions. The financial strategy must be based on sustaining these improvements and continuing to support the priorities whilst recognising the significant financial constraints and also the changing context and role of the local authority particularly around schools and education.

3.4.3 Looking forward, a cornerstone of the financial strategy will be to protect investment to support services around child protection and safeguarding whilst at the same time continuing to invest in preventative and early intervention services, including implementing new models for improving child and family services building on the current locality and cluster arrangements.

3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report is not subject to call in because the CYPP is part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. Subject to the exceptions set out below, the following may be called in to be reviewed and scrutinised by the relevant Scrutiny Board:

- all decisions of the Executive Board;
- Executive decisions taken by the Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- Key Decisions taken by Officers.

The power to call in decisions does not extend to;

- Decisions which have been the subject of a previous Call In;
- Decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules;
- Decisions made by the Leader in relation to the executive arrangements
- Decisions made by Community Committees;
- Decisions made under regulatory arrangements;
- Decisions made by Joint Committees; or

- Decisions not taken by the authority

3.6 Risk Management

3.6.1 Risks will be updated when the proposals for the CYPP 2015-19 are known.

4 Conclusions

4.1 Significant progress in improving outcomes over the lifetime of the CYPP 2011-15 can be demonstrated and is an indication of the strength of our partnership working and commitment to the plan. However, significant and complex challenges remain. Consultation on the CYPP for 2015-19 which is due for approval by full Council in April 2015 will focus on developing our understanding of the challenges and the best strategies for tackling them.

5 Recommendations

6 Scrutiny Board to comment on the 3 main CYPP consultation questions:

a) Do the current outcomes, priorities and obsessions provide the right focus for improving outcomes for children, young people, families & communities?

b) Do the challenges capture all the key issues facing the city in its ambition to transform outcomes and build a child friendly city?

c) What are the best strategies and actions to help us tackle the challenges?

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

OUR VISION, OBSESSIONS, OUTCOMES, PRIORITIES & INDICATORS

Our vision is for Leeds to be a child friendly city. As part of this vision we will minimise the effects of child poverty.

Our vision contributes to the wider vision for Leeds- By 2030 Leeds will be locally and nationally recognised as the best city in the UK.

5 outcomes	12 priorities <i>(3 starting points highlighted in italics)</i>	17 Key indicators <i>(3 "obsessions" highlighted in italics)</i>
CYP Are safe from harm	<i>1. Help children to live in safe and supportive families</i>	<i>1. Number of Children Looked After</i>
	2. Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected	2. Number of children and young people with child protection plans
CYP Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life	<i>3. Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement</i>	<i>3. School attendance Primary; Secondary</i>
	<i>4. Increase numbers in employment, education or training</i>	<i>4 % of Young people NEET</i>
	5. Support children to be ready for learning	5. % with good level of development in Early Years
	6. Improve support where there are additional health needs	6. % with good achievement at the end of primary school
		7. % gaining 5 good GCSEs including English and maths
		8. Level 3 qualifications at 19.
		<i>9. The number of CYP 16-18 who start an apprenticeship*</i>
CYP Choose healthy lifestyles	7. Encourage activity and healthy eating	11. Obesity levels at age 11
	8. Promote sexual health	12. Free school meal uptake- primary; secondary
	9. Minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol & tobacco	13. Teenage pregnancy
		14. Rates of under 18s alcohol related hospital admissions
CYP Have fun growing up	10. Provide play, leisure, culture and sporting opportunities	<i>15. % of CYP who agree with the statement "I enjoy my life"*</i>
CYP Are active citizens who feel they have voice & influence	11. Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	16. Proportion of 10-17 year olds offending
	12. Increase participation, voice and influence	<i>17. C&YP who report influence in a) school b) the community*</i>

**Indicators marked in blue are currently under review*

CHALLENGES

<p>1. Improving overall levels of educational achievement across the city, particularly literacy and numeracy. Improving readiness for learning and ensuring a best start in life for pre school children across the city. Tackling significant pockets of unauthorised and persistent absence.</p>
<p>2. Narrowing the gaps in outcomes for those children and young people vulnerable to a range of poor outcomes. eg. educational, health & employment outcomes for those from poorer families, those with special educational needs or disability, some ethnic minority groups and those living in particular areas of the city.</p>
<p>3. Tackling the impact of parental behaviour on outcomes for children, young people and their families; particularly where domestic violence, substance misuse, poor mental health and learning disability are issues. Developing innovative solutions and intensive interventions where these issues impact on children and/or adults, including work with the perpetrators of domestic violence and greater use of family group conferencing.</p>
<p>4. Developing more agile and responsive commissioning systems that deliver the right interventions effectively and quickly.</p>
<p>5. Reducing the number of 0-4 year olds entering the social care system and reducing the occurrence of repeat removals where babies taken into care are removed from families who have already had at least one child removed.</p>
<p>6. Developing sufficient school places across all phases of education and making sure that offers of free early years education are taken up in areas where this is currently not the case.</p>
<p>7. Building a restorative city where an entitlement to a family group conference rather than statutory intervention underpins the system. We are using restorative approaches working-<i>with</i> families instead of doing things <i>to</i> them or <i>for</i> them- to change attitudes, language and behaviours, to enable positive and practical decision-making and put in place safe, appropriate arrangements to support vulnerable children. This work includes the commitment to a city-wide roll-out of <i>family group conferencing</i>, which has long been recognised for its benefits to families, but has never been implemented on an area wide scale.</p>
<p>8. Developing our locality working practices to better engage families and communities in improving outcomes, and to deliver the right mix of universal, specialist and targeted services.</p>
<p>9. Strategies to maintain and develop social and emotional health and well being. Social and emotional wellbeing creates the foundations for healthy behaviours and educational attainment. It also helps prevent behavioural problems (including substance misuse) and mental health problems.</p>
<p>10. Investing in early help and intervention approaches on an invest to save basis, and estimating the medium and long term savings arising from our interventions.</p>
<p>11. Sustaining investment in priorities by the partners whilst recognising the significant financial constraints. Protecting investment in child protection and safeguarding, and continuing to invest in preventative and early intervention services, including new models for locality working.</p>