

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 24th June 2015

Subject: Children and Young People's Plan 2015-19 & Ofsted Post Inspection Action Plan



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (The first recommendation is not eligible for call-in)
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 2015-19 has been drafted following consultation with partners. The Children and Families Trust Board (CFTB) have approved the draft plan. The plan is part of Leeds City Council's Budget and Policy framework and therefore needs to be approved by the Council's Executive Board and by full Council.
2. The outcome of the 2015 Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and the effectiveness of partnership working, including the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board was reported to Leeds City Council's Executive Board on April 22. As is the case for all local authorities, Leeds is required to respond to the identified areas of improvement within 70 working days of the report publication date with copies of the Ofsted Post Inspection Action Plan provided to the Secretary of State (SofS) and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector. (HMCI) (The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Inspection of Local Authorities) Regulations 2007). The deadline for the responses is 3 July 2015. Approval is sought to submit the Ofsted post inspection action plan to the SofS and HMCI.
3. As in the case of the local authority, Ofsted has not identified any priority or immediate actions for the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB has developed

a separate, complimentary action plan to set out the response to the areas of improvement. For information and context, the LSCB action plan is attached at appendix 3.

4. The first recommendation is not eligible for call-in because the CYPP is part of the Council's Budget and Policy framework.

Recommendations

5. Executive Board approve the draft CYPP 2015-19 for submission for final approval to full council on July 8. (Document attached at appendix 1)
6. Executive Board approve the draft Ofsted Post Inspection Action Plan for submission to the SofS and HMCI. (Document attached at appendix 2)
7. Executive Board to note the officer responsible is the Chief Officer, Partnership, Development and Business Support.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To outline the background to the preparation of the draft CYPP 2015-19 and seek approval to submit it for final approval to full Council on July 8. The draft CYPP2015-19 is attached to this report for ease of reference.
- 1.2 The outcome of the 2015 Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and the effectiveness of partnership working, including the Leeds Safeguarding Children was reported to Leeds City Council's Executive Board on April 22. This current report follows up the next steps which revolve the production and submission of an action plan in response to the areas of improvement. Approval is sought to submit the Ofsted post inspection action plan to the SofS and HMCI. The draft action plan is attached to this report.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Children's Services workforce, children and young people, our partnership boards, partnership services and agencies, Council officers, and elected members have been consulted on the CYPP 2015-19. In addition the Ofsted inspection, the views of our local, national and international adviser networks, and our analysis of performance data have been used to develop the CYPP 2015-19.
- 2.2 Consultation included a joint planning session between the Children and Families Trust Board and children and young people; a session for elected members; an OBA workshop for a range of partners; and a discussion of challenges at the Children and Families Trust Board and in Scrutiny and Executive Board as well as the Health and Well Being Board.
- 2.3 Ofsted Post Inspection Action Plan is a one off response to the areas of improvement identified in the final Ofsted report. The wider issue of continuous improvement in services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers; and the effectiveness of partnership working, including the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board is reflected in key strategic documents such as the CYPP.
- 2.4 The first recommendation is not subject to call because the CYPP is part of the Council's Budget and Policy framework.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Improving social, emotional and mental health and well being for children, and young people emerged as a common strand in many of the consultation discussions. It is a priority for children and young people, schools and a range of partners across the city. In the specific context of schools and other learning settings there is also a strong emphasis on the links to the development of positive behaviour. In response to this aspect of the consultation discussions "Improve social, emotional and mental health and well being" and "Support schools and settings to improve attendance and develop

positive behaviour “ have been included as new priorities in the CYPP. Key indicators have also been added.

- 3.2 Consultees also commented on the lack of an explicit reference to outcomes for *children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability in the CYPP* priorities. A priority has been included along with a key indicator.
- 3.3 Consultees and the data continues to highlight significant gaps between the educational achievement of vulnerable groups and the average or best achievement levels for the city; gaps between the achievement of vulnerable groups and their peers nationally; and, gaps between overall achievement levels in Leeds and national achievement levels. Consultees view these gaps as significant, complex and stubborn challenges which were not visible enough in the CYPP 2011-15. The draft plan for 2015-19 highlights the gaps in the priorities.
- 3.4 Best start in life has been recognised as major issue across the city and it is therefore appropriate to reflect this shared focus in the CYPP priorities.
- 3.5 The tracking of young people with not known destinations is a central aspect of tracking those not in education, employment or training. (NEET) As a result the key indicator for NEET now also includes a reference to not knowns, and not knowns will be highlighted alongside NEET in the statistical dashboards
- 3.6 The wording of the outcome all children and young people choose healthy lifestyles has been amended to all children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles. This reflects the fact that the outcome is essentially about children and young people both having and enjoying healthy lifestyles.
- 3.7 The addition of a key indicator for the percentage of new school places created in good or outstanding schools reflects the challenge the city has around school places and the importance of good learning places in the drive to improve achievement and close achievement gaps.
- 3.8 Consultees identified various improvement programmes that they felt help us make further and faster progress on our obsessions, outcomes and priorities. These relate to one or more of the 7 city wide improvement programmes identified in the draft plan.
- *The best start plan*
 - *The review of social, emotional and mental health and well being*
 - *A life ready for learning strategy*
 - *The “think family work family” protocol*
 - *A city wide breakthrough project on domestic violence*
 - *Early help*
 - *Outstanding social work & support for vulnerable children and young people*
- 3.9 The Ofsted Post Inspection Action Plan is a one off response to the areas of improvement identified in the final Ofsted report. The wider issue of continuous improvement in services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and the effectiveness of partnership working, including the

Leeds Safeguarding Children Board is embedded in one or more of the 7 programmes.

- 3.10 The role of the CYPP is to articulate and restate the importance of working in partnership across the city. It highlights the behaviours, ways of working and improvement programmes that will help us make further and faster progress against the obsessions, outcomes and priorities. Through this work and by investing to save in early help and preventative work we are laying the foundations for an increasingly prosperous city. An investment in safe, healthier, skilled, confident, successful and more resilient children, young people, families and communities helps build a city where the social and economic benefits of growth increasingly are enjoyed by all.
- 3.11 The detailed planning and delivery of services within the overarching framework provided by the CYPP is the job of the 75,000 people in the city who work with children and young people on a daily basis. The combination of their dedication, commitment and professionalism and our relentless focus on a simple framework of obsessions, outcomes, priorities and improvement work has been the key to our success to date.
- 3.12 We now need to refresh our collective determination to using our people and framework to make a bigger difference to more children, young people and families. CFTB are asked to commit to the new plan and help embed its use across the Children Services' partnership. A quick route to understanding the new plan can be gained by studying pages 16 and 21.
- 3.13 Following approval, it is proposed to print the draft CYPP 2015-19 using appropriate professional design and layout services. It is proposed to formally launch the new CYPP in September 2015 but dissemination will commence as soon as final approval is received.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 See paragraphs 2.1 to 2.2 and 3.1 to 3.8

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The purpose of all the strategic and operational activity relating to this area of work is to help all children and young people achieve their full potential. A central element of this is 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.
- 4.2.2 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration assessment screening form is attached at appendix 4.

- 4.2.3 With effect from 2015 it is proposed to provide an Annual equalities report which pulls together relevant data and policy on EDCI issues into one easily accessible source. This will help the Children and Families Trust Board and Leeds City Council monitor and evaluate EDCI issues, and suggest work programmes to address these issues and improve the way services and agencies respond to need and vulnerability.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The outcomes and priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan complement those in the Best Council Plan 2015-20 and Joint Health and Well Being Plan 2013-15. The Children's Services Directorate will work to ensure that the CYPP is used to help deliver the Council's breakthrough projects, and that these projects in turn contribute to improving outcomes for children and young people, their families and communities.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 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.
- 4.4.2 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.
- 4.4.3 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.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The first recommendation is not subject to call because the CYPP is part of the Council's Budget and Policy framework. The power to call in decisions does not extend to those decisions made in accordance with budget and policy framework procedure rules.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Risks registers are maintained by Leeds City Council's Children's Services Directorate and by the other main organisations that are engaged in the work of the Children and Families Trust Board.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The recently published Ofsted report is an outstanding milestone in the Leeds improvement journey, arising from all the hard work done across the city in the last 5 years. It reflects a remarkable transformation in a relatively short period of time and is a fitting tribute to the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the Children's Services workforce and partners. ***However, we are not complacent. Leeds is a big and complex city facing significant and stubborn challenges. Outcomes are not always good enough and are not always consistent across the city and across different groups and communities.***
- 5.2 The core of our vision and framework of obsessions, outcomes, priorities and key indicators is little changed from that set out in the 2011-15 plan. We have updated the framework to better reflect the current position. This includes areas highlighted as vitally important by the data and our consultees, including children and young people. for example,
- narrowing gaps in learning outcomes
 - the importance of social, emotional and mental health and well being outcomes, including positive behaviour in learning settings,
 - outcomes for those with special educational needs and/or disability.
- 5.3 Our vision and framework is well understood across the city. Our relentless focus on these areas, and the way our partners have applied them on a day to day basis, and in a wide range of services, agencies, settings and interactions with children, young people and their families, has been the key to our success to date. The ***“development of a clear and ambitious vision has fostered a relentless focus on continuous improvement.”*** (Ofsted report, March 2015)
- 5.4 We know need to refresh the collective determination across the city to use the updated vision and framework to unpick the issues facing some of our children, young people and families, particularly those who are most vulnerable to poor outcomes or who face significant challenges.
- 5.5 The CYPP is the ambition, the intention, the framework; the commitment; the guide; the script. It is made real and translated into sustainable changes in outcomes for children, young people, families and their communities by our partners. Our partners pick up and run with the vision and framework every day of the year.

- 5.6 Through the application of our vision and framework and our shared behaviours and methods, we are confident that our partners, led by *the **Children and Families Trust Board (CFTB)***, can build on the progress made to date.
- 5.7 Our ***CYPP is central to the growth strategy for the city. An investment in safe, healthier, skilled, confident, successful and more resilient children, young people, families and communities lays the foundation for an increasingly prosperous city where the social and economic benefits of growth are enjoyed by all.*** The social and economic “payback” from investment in children’s services, particularly early intervention and preventative work, is healthy and flourishing communities and a thriving city where more people reach their potential. The scale and range of the potential gains of the “invest to save” approach is documented in study after study.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board approve the draft CYPP 2015-19 for submission for final approval to full council on July 8. (Document attached at appendix 1)
- 6.2 Executive Board approve the draft Ofsted Post Inspection Action Plan for submission to the Sofs and HMCI. (Document attached at appendix 2)
- 6.3 Executive Board to note the officer responsible is the Chief Officer, Partnership, Development and Business Support.

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 materials.