

Report of Director Children and Families

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 25 January 2018

Subject: Refresh of the Children and Young People's 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. The plan is being refreshed to take account of the current national picture, and evolving local challenges.
2. The third obsession - attendance - is being expanded to **improve attendance, achievement, and attainment**. This includes a disproportionate focus on 'vulnerable learners' so that all children and young people - particularly those who are 'vulnerable learners' - are able to realise their potential.
3. It is proposed to coalesce the current 14 priorities to eleven, to more closely align - and tighten the wording of - the indicators to ensure the plan is explicitly clear about what is being measured.

Recommendations

4. Scrutiny (Children and Families) are asked to:
 - Acknowledge the proposed changes to the CYPP, which will ensure that the plan remains relevant and focused on the children and young people who most require support, particularly those who are 'vulnerable learners'.

- Comment on the priorities and indicators in appendix one to inform further development of the CYPP.
- Comment on the revised 'how well do it' section in appendix two, which acknowledges the current national picture, and evolving local challenges, and outlines broad areas of action to address these challenges.

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is being refreshed. This report provides the latest draft of the refresh, sets out the proposed changes, with rationale, and seeks comments from Scrutiny. The approval process will continue throughout January and February, culminating with final approval at Full Council in March 2018.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. 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 for different groups and communities.
- 2.2 The CYPP was launched in 2011, and has been refreshed twice; once in 2013, and again, following the January 2015 Ofsted inspection. This refresh will cover the period 2018 to 2023 and takes account of the current national picture, and evolving local challenges. Changes include a revision to the priorities and indicators, and an amendment to the 'how we'll do it' section to reflect the changing priorities within the city.
- 2.3 The CYPP has, since 2011, supported and guided the partnership approach in Leeds, focused around the three obsessions, to improve outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. The changing national picture, and the evolving local situation requires the partnership to ensure that the CYPP remains focused on the most vulnerable children and young people who need the greatest support and intervention.
- 2.4 Leeds is a DfE Partner in Practice, as a result of the 2015 Ofsted inspection; is currently the only core city to be judged as good overall; and is one of only a handful of local authorities across the country with an outstanding judgement for leadership, management and governance. Leeds' Partner in Practice programme is based on creating the conditions for children's services and partner agency practitioners to work more closely together, providing more holistic support, advice and interventions for children, young people and families. The programme is also concerned with improving the quality of practice both in Leeds and with other local authorities.

3 Main issues

- 3.5 At the heart of the refresh is the expansion of the third obsession, from improve school attendance, to **improving attendance, achievement, and attainment**, to be known as the 'triple 'A' obsession'. This includes a disproportionate focus on pupils from disadvantaged groups so that all children and young people - particularly those who are 'vulnerable learners' - are able to realise their potential.
- 3.6 Pupils in Leeds generally achieve in line with their peers nationally, although this is not the case for vulnerable learners/disadvantaged groups. There are many complex issues that cause this disparity; some reflect the regional and national pictures, some are specific to Leeds. Disadvantaged/vulnerable groups can include those pupils eligible for free school meals, students who speak English as an additional language, and pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities. At the heart of the triple 'A' obsession is keeping the whole school community engaged, and ensuring that all those people who touch the lives of children and young people in Leeds help pupils to attain and achieve their potential so that they are ready for a life of learning.
- 3.7 The unprecedented changes in the curriculum and assessment system in recent years require an update of many of the indicators contained within the CYPP (for example, the key stage four headline measure). This refresh affords an opportunity to reflect these changes and ensure the CYPP remains relevant in a changing education landscape.
- 3.8 Further work is underway regarding the term 'vulnerable learners'. This phrase concisely identifies groups of young people who may be at risk of not achieving outcomes, but is a phrase that young people dislike. Options include retaining the phrase but being upfront and clear as to its definition; or using a different phrase such as pupils/young people who are (currently) vulnerable/experiencing vulnerabilities.
- 3.9 Appendix one contains the proposed revised priorities and indicators that will take the CYPP forward. The refresh provides a chance to coalesce the existing 14 priorities into eleven, and to align a revised set of indicators to those priorities. Whilst there are three fewer priorities, there is no reduction in the scope and ambition of the CYPP. Two current priorities - promote sexual health, and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour - are combined into one new priority: support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours.
- 3.10 The eleventh priority, improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable (public) connected transport for young people, was added following feedback from young people who identified this as their top priority. Concerns include transport around the edges of the city, the cost, and the manner in which many young people are treated on public transport.
- 3.11 The revised indicators include a tightening of some definitions, and a replacement of obsolete/less relevant indicators with more appropriate indicators. This will allow us to track impact and show improved outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. Much of the change is related to the changing school curriculum and assessment frameworks. Previous indicators have been replaced with the

current headline indicators (Progress 8 replacing 5 A*-C GCSEs, including English and maths, for example) so that pupils' progress can be tracked within Leeds, and compared to their peers nationally.

- 3.12 Aligning the indicators more explicitly to the priorities, and staying true to Outcome Based Accountability, will ensure that the revised indicators are appropriate, relevant, and demonstrate the impact that the CYPP is having. The central question of 'what difference have we made' remains the key driver.
- 3.13 Children and Families Trust Board receives six-monthly update reports against the indicators within the CYPP, allowing Board members the chance to provide challenge and support to services that are working with children and young people across the city. This reporting approach will continue, but will evolve along with the CYPP to ensure that additional sources of information are used, such as the My Health, My School Survey, and greater links with the Play Partnership. As is currently the case, information from the Trust Board will also be shared with Scrutiny (Children and Families) as part of the twice-yearly performance update report.
- 3.14 The removal of 'surveys of children and young people's views of fun growing up' is counter-balanced by the addition of a fourth behaviour that underpins the CYPP: we ensure that all children have fun growing up. Appendix two shows 'how we'll do it', with four behaviours that underpin everything we do, including the new 'fun behaviour'.
- 3.15 The 'how we'll do it' section of the plan has been amended to reflect the changes elsewhere in the CYPP. This section outlines the key areas of focus; the conditions that create barriers for children, young people, and their families; and the broad areas of action that will break down those barriers and improve conditions of wellbeing and outcomes across Leeds.
- 3.16 'A life ready for learning' has been replaced by 'attaining and achieving' to align with the revised third obsession; the introduction of restorative early start (RES) teams that will focus help where it is needed earlier is acknowledged under 'early help'; and 'challenging child poverty' is placed at the centre of the CYPP with the recognition of the impact that poverty can have on families, and outcomes for children and young people. The work that will be undertaken to mitigate the impact of poverty will be reflected through the agreed reporting processes, which sight the partnership on progress being made across Leeds.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The CYPP is the strategic plan of the Children and Families Trust Board. That Board has been consulted, as have senior leaders within the Children and Families directorate. Elected members are being asked for their views throughout January.
- 4.1.2 Children and young people's voice and influence is at the centre of everything that the Children and Families directorate does. Young people held a takeover of Trust

Board on 28 November, where the plan was consulted on, with those views incorporated into existing feedback.

- 4.1.3 The CYPP is one of a number of documents that forms part of the ‘family of strategies’ that help deliver the Council’s ‘best city’ ambition. This includes the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Leeds Health and Care Plan. These strategies link to the Best Council Plan; further consultation across these areas will ensure joined-up partnership work that will support improved outcomes for children and young people across Leeds.

4.2 Equality and diversity/cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 Some young people are statistically more likely to have relatively poor outcomes, for example those with learning difficulties and disabilities; those from some ethnic minority backgrounds; those with English as an additional language; those living in deprived areas; poor school attenders; and those involved in the social care system.
- 4.2.2 The purpose of 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 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.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.3 The CYPP forms part of the family of plans that support the Best Council Plan. Elements of the CYPP appear in the Best Council Plan, and work is taking place so that the refresh of both documents reference the other plan. This will ensure consistency across both plans. The current Best Council Plan (2017/18) has a Child Friendly City priority, which directly supports the CYPP and vice versa.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no specific resource implications from this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information and call in

- 4.5.1 There is no requirement for this report, or the CYPP, to be subject to call in as it is on the financial and policy framework.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 There are no inherent risks within the CYPP. Regular reporting is the key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges.
- 4.6.2 Children and Families Trust Board receives six-monthly updates on the progress against the priorities; Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) also receive updates. Internal management information is provided to services at a granular level on a more frequent basis to ensure that any dips in performance are immediately identified. The directorate’s practice improvement process considers

the whole system, making sure that good practice is disseminated across all teams.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Much progress has been made since 2011; the children's partnership in Leeds is mature and strong, and has retained cross-party support; outcomes for children and young people in Leeds have improved; Ofsted has acknowledged the improvements made throughout the system; and Leeds has raised its profile nationally through the Partners in Practice programme and its successful bids for Innovation Fund monies. However, we need to do more, and do it faster, to close the gap for disadvantaged groups/vulnerable learners.
- 5.2 The refreshed CYPP is at the heart of everything that is being done to improve outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. The revisions to the priorities, indicators, and 'how we'll do it' section ensure that the CYPP remains relevant, and that Children and Families Trust Board have the right information with which to challenge and support the partnership in Leeds.

6 Recommendations

6.3 Scrutiny (Children and Families) are asked to:

- Acknowledge the proposed changes to the CYPP, which will ensure that Plan remains relevant and focused on the children and young people who most require support, particularly those who are 'vulnerable learners'.
- Comment on the priorities and indicators in appendix one to feed into the refresh of the CYPP.
- Comment on the revised 'how well do it' section in appendix two, which acknowledges the current national picture, and evolving local challenges, and outlines broad areas of action to address these challenges.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 The current Children and Young People's Plan is published on the Council's website:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Leeds%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Plan%202015-2019%20WEB.pdf>

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.

Appendix one - priorities and indicators

Priorities	Indicators	Comments (blank is no change)
1. Help children and parents to live in safe and supportive families 2. Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected	1. Number of children who need to be looked after	
	2. Number of children and young people subject to a child protection plan	
	3. Parents having a child removed for a second or successive time	Potential addition
	4. Number of children and young people with a child in need plan	Potential addition
3. Support families to give children the best start in life	5. Percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage	
	6. <i>Placeholder - other best start measure</i>	
4. Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning 5. Improve achievement and attainment, for all 6. Improve at a faster rate educational outcomes for vulnerable children and young people	7. Percentage of new school places in good and outstanding schools	
	8. Attendance at primary and secondary schools	
	9. Number of fixed-term exclusions from primary and secondary schools	
	10. Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths at the end of Key Stage 2	
	11. Progress 8 score for Leeds at the end of Key Stage 4	
	12. Destinations of young people with special educational needs and/or disability when they leave school	
7. Improve social, emotional, and mental health and well-being	13. <i>Placeholder - children and young people's, and parents', satisfaction with mental health services</i>	To be agreed an appropriate measure

Priorities	Indicators	Comments (blank is no change)
8. Encourage physical activity and healthy eating	14. Obesity levels at age 11	
9. Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours	15. Proportion of young offenders who re-offend	New measure, replacing first time offenders measure
	16. Under-18 conception rates	Reworded to more closely match definition
	17. Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions - under-18s	Reworded to more closely match definition
10. Support young people into adulthood, to be ready for work and a lifetime of learning	18. Percentage of students achieving a level 3 qualification at age 19	
	19. Number of young people who are not in employment, education, or training, or whose status is 'not known'	
11. Improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people	20. <i>Placeholder - transport for young people</i>	Eleventh priority added following feedback from young people - need to scope and agree appropriate measure

Appendix two - how we'll do it

