

Report of: Director of Children & Families

Report to: Executive Board

Date: 21st November 2018

Subject: Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

- Poverty can have a life-long impact for those that experience it. Both within the council and across the city, there is fantastic practice being carried out by individuals, communities and provisions to improve the lives of people who live in poverty. However, due to national changes and local pressures, the percentage of people who are living in poverty continues to rise, and experiencing poverty continues to have a drastic impact on detrimental outcomes across all areas of life.
- Both in Leeds and across the UK, child poverty is increasing- a trend that has been evident since 2010. In 2016/17 there was an estimated 4.1 million children living in relative poverty across the UK, a rise of 100,000 children between 2015 and 2016. In Leeds, 19.2% of all dependent children under the age of 20 (31,740 children) lived in relative poverty in 2015, in comparison to 16.6% nationally. These figures are likely to be under-representative of the true number of children in poverty.
- Children who grow up in poverty face a range of disadvantages throughout childhood and their entire life course. Experiencing childhood poverty has severe short and long term consequences across all indicators for success, with statistically significant relationships evidenced in gaps for educational attainment, physical and mental health, longevity, wellbeing, housing, economic and employment.

4. The cost of poverty to the UK is approximately £78 billion per year. To tackle the impact and cost poverty has on individual's lives, it costs £69 billion- £1 in every £5 of all spending on public services (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Counting the cost of UK Poverty, 2016). If we, as a city, do not act, the risk is one that is both moral and economic- children and young people who experience poverty are far less likely to access the same opportunities as children who do not experience poverty. They have a higher chance of facing a range of difficulties, both in childhood and in adulthood. Poverty creates an unequal and inequitable system, which not only brings increased cost to all of our services, it also holds the moral cost of restricting the realities of Leeds citizens.
5. The opportunities, therefore, are profound- if we find solutions to poverty, we can both improve the lives of Leeds citizens and make savings across all directorates. In addition to that, this model is one of 'in-kind' partnerships, which aims to gather the buy-in of all sectors across the city. This will not only increase intelligence, relationships and the voice of citizens, we are also more likely to achieve significant impact.
6. We want to ensure that poverty presents no barriers for our children and young people, and we want all people to have access to the same opportunities, regardless of their background. We believe that all children and young people should have the freedom to choose their pathway, and that we can work together as a city to tackle any limitations that poverty may place on these pathways.
7. To address and improve the issue of poverty, therefore, a revolutionary approach is needed. We cannot make meaningful change unless we work together, tying in the intelligence, resources and work that is being done across the city to develop new knowledge and assess what makes the most difference, and why.
8. Thriving is Leeds' ambitious plan to tackle child poverty.

Recommendations

9. The Executive Board is recommended to:
 - 9.1 Approve the approach to developing Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds
 - 9.2 Endorse the approach to the development of the child poverty work across Leeds reflecting on the barriers faced by children who live in poverty, work with children, young people, families and communities to eradicate these barriers
 - 9.3 That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Director of Children and Families.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The proposed strategy encompasses Leeds City Council's ambition to create a strong economy within a compassionate city. It will deliver better outcomes for the most vulnerable populations in Leeds through working in partnership, incorporating all of our city wide priorities.
- 1.2 Thriving is centred on creating inclusive, equal partnerships, made up of children and young people, council directorates, schools, education provisions, academics, third sector, private sector, public sectors, and community representatives. These partnerships use their knowledge and expertise to investigate the impact of poverty on a specific area of children's lives, and then work together to create projects that mitigate this impact.
- 1.3 This report proposes a new, innovative way of working, incorporating research based intelligence with policies and projects to assess the most effective low cost, high impact solutions to improving the lives of children and young people in poverty. This creates the environment for new strategies, policies and projects to develop, that focus on eliminating the impact of experiencing poverty- which will contribute to eradicating poverty. A new research collaboration with the Child Poverty Action Group and the University of Leeds will place the voices of children, young people and families at the heart of this work.

2 Background information

- 2.1 National government changes to the definition and measurement of child poverty has led to complexity in the data collection, measures, and reporting on the numbers of children and young people who experience poverty, which has resulted in uncertainty in the true figure of children and young people who experience poverty, both in Leeds or across the UK. The data that does exist shows a clear upward trend in the percentage of children and young people who experience poverty.
- 2.2 This data, however, is unlikely to represent an accurate picture of the true number of children who live in poverty, partly because the principal measure of child poverty has, for many years, been based on relative income. In the recent recession there has been a reduction in median earnings. Therefore, this has had the effect of reducing the value of the relative poverty line which is measured against the median earnings figure. This has resulted in people being taken out of the relative poverty figures even though their earnings position may not have changed. The latest national figures showed that 300,000 fewer children were in relative income poverty between 2009-10 and 2010-11 largely due to reductions in median incomes. At the same time absolute poverty remained unchanged, implying that the living standards of children did not improve over this period.

- 2.3 Latest figures show that 4.1 million children across the UK experienced relative poverty (after housing costs) during 2016/2017; an increase of 100,000 children from the previous year.
- 2.4 In Leeds, 19.2% of all dependent children under the age of 20 (31,740 children) lived in relative poverty in 2015, compared to 16.6% (1.9m children) in England. With regards to children under the age of 16 in Leeds, 19.6% (28,145 children) were in poverty in 2015, compared to 16.8% (1.7m children) in England
- 2.5 School based measures, in the form of Pupil Premium figures, show that 33,467 pupils in Leeds are deprived (Pupil Premium index 2017-2018). Between 2011 and 2015, there was a 32% increase in the number of year 6 Leeds children living in the 10% most deprived areas in the UK; and a 91% increase in the number of year 6 Leeds children living in the 3% most deprived areas in the UK.
- 2.6 Adults being out of work is often cited as the main reason for child poverty; however, in Leeds, 67% of children who are in poverty were from a household where at least one person was in work in 2016/2017.
- 2.7 Whilst it is difficult to establish a causal link between the impact of child poverty on life quality indicators, research shows that experiencing poverty in childhood is a statistically significant factor for substantially lower outcomes in education, employment, wellbeing and physical and mental health.
- 2.8 The impact of living in poverty can be categorised into two types- structural and individual effects. The structural effects can include inadequate housing, fuel poverty, food poverty, parental unemployment and a lack of access to resources and facilities. Individual effects can include poor mental and physical health, low educational outcomes, restricted access to opportunities, lower wellbeing and low paid/ no employment.



(Child Action Poverty Group, 2018)

3 Main issues

- 3.9 There are two approaches when looking at strategies for poverty improvement; reducing the number of people who live in poverty, and reducing the impact of living in poverty on people. The first strategy is complex, as it is guided by national policy and practice, thus local authorities have restricted influence in reducing the core percentage of people in poverty. The second strategy is still complex, however it is one that can be influenced and changed, as it is looking to mitigate the negative outcomes of living in poverty. There should always be a long term goal of eradicating poverty; however improving practice, support and provision in the short term will drastically contribute to that overall aim.
- 3.10 We believe that every child and young person deserves equitable opportunities, a happy childhood and an optimistic future. Our strategy aims to provide this through working with partners to break down barriers, so that every child has an equal chance to decide their future.
- 3.11 The intention is to create a partnership approach to find and implement research-led interventions, integrating the voice of the child with the voices of parents and professionals. This city wide approach will create or develop research- led collaborations that assess the impact of low cost, high impact work, interventions and projects. These areas will focus on reducing the effects of child poverty, and thoroughly exploring the outcomes of these solutions.
- 3.12 The work is being carried out in collaboration with Communities & Environments work on Locality Neighbourhoods, to ensure that there is one, joined up approach across the city. It interacts with multiple areas of existing work that is showing fantastic practice, such as the Holiday Hunger project under the Communities Team, the Best Start Strategy under Health, and the 50 Things to Do Before You're Five partnership work. This strategy aims to bring together the work that is been done across the city, building on the good practice, assessing impact and joining partners to extend this work- in addition to focusing on new areas of work.
- 3.13 There are two parts to this work: The Child Poverty Impact Board, which is a city wide equal partnership that will apply robust measures and targets to reduce the negative impact of child poverty, through using research informed interventions and projects, and six Impact Workstreams.
- 3.14 The Child Poverty Impact Board will be a strategic governance board with a reformed membership, comprising a city region approach. Membership for the Strategic Board will remain consistent, and the Strategic Board will assess and oversee the interventions carried out by the Impact Workstreams, and create policy and strategic direction accordingly.

- 3.15 The Impact Workstreams will involve a wide range of partners across the city; they will develop, create and evaluate low cost, high impact projects that improve the lives and experiences of children and young people who live in poverty. These projects will research the impact of poverty, but, crucially, will see what we can change or improve to make a difference and mitigate this impact. This work will be research led, with students and academics from Universities in Leeds contributing to developing and assessing the impact of these interventions. The Impact Workstreams will have a more flexible membership, and interventions/ projects will be time-sensitive; if they are found to be having no/ low impact, they will be discontinued and replaced. If they are found to be having impact, they may be continued, expanded or developed.
- 3.16 Both the Strategic Board and the Impact Workstreams will consist of representatives from Leeds City Council, public, private and third sectors, academics, community representatives, youth voice representatives and other partners.
- 3.17 This model can be adapted for all age ranges and demographic groups, and a future way of working for Leeds could be the adoption of this model across the council and the city, for all people and communities who are impacted by poverty.
- 3.18 The Impact Workstreams will be clustered around six areas; Best Start for Health & Wellbeing, Employment & Pathways, Readiness for Learning & School Age Education, Housing & Provision, Empowering Families & Safeguarding, and Financial Health & Inclusion.
- 3.19 The workstreams may consist of new areas of work, or they may involve enhancements to existing areas of work.
- 3.20 In October, a city wide child poverty event was held, to review the approach to Thriving and to discuss potential partnerships to removing the barriers that poverty presents. Over 200 people attended, from a wide range of organisations including the NHS, West Yorkshire Police, education settings, schools, academies, academics, students, private sector organisations, public sector organisations, community representatives, children's voice representatives, elected members, and Leeds Poverty Truth Commission. A report is being created based on the feedback from the event, however initial feedback shows a desire for city wide partnership work, with suggestions including access to activities and opportunities, school uniforms, community advocates and holiday hunger.
- 3.21 The aim of having the workstreams is that we can focus on improving a specific area of children and young people's lives that is affected by poverty. We adopt a partnership approach because addressing these issues is the responsibility of

everyone who works with and cares about children and young people. The motivation behind choosing the six impact workstreams can be seen below:

3.22 ***Best Start for Health and Wellbeing***

- 3.23 Those living in poverty experience significant disadvantage in many areas of health and wellbeing. People living in deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to experience multiple disadvantage, die earlier, and have more years in long-term ill health. There are significant health and wellbeing inequalities across Leeds, with a gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas of the city of 10+ years. Analysis shows that economic investment into the early years gives the greatest return¹, and this shift in investment will impact on key longterm outcomes such as emotional wellbeing, improved behaviour, school readiness and educational attainment and fulfilment of potential.
- 3.24 The Best Start for Health and Wellbeing workstream will focus on the critical period from conception to age 2 years. The Best Start programme 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. There is abundant strong evidence that this approach will promote social and emotional capacity and cognitive growth, and can ultimately break inter-generational cycles of neglect, abuse and violence.
- 3.25 A positive pregnancy is essential for the best start. This incorporates factors including: a well balanced diet; not experiencing stress or anxiety; being in a supportive relationship without domestic violence; not smoking, using alcohol or drugs; not being in poor physical or emotional health; not socio-economically disadvantaged; and being at least 20 years old. Negative factors are associated with low birthweight, stillbirths and early deaths, and poorer behavioural and educational outcomes (including foetal alcohol syndrome disorder spectrum). Low birthweight itself is associated with poorer longterm health and educational outcomes. The Barker Theory indicates that poor fetal nutrition “programmes” physiological changes which lead to illness in later life such as coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension and diabetes².
- 3.26 Advances in neuroscience show that the development of the baby’s brain occurs most rapidly during pregnancy and the first 2 years of life, when connections are laid down at a tremendous rate, and new circuits are developed or pruned according the baby’s earliest experiences. The baby’s relationship with the primary care giver, and early attachment and bonding, are key components of the

¹ J Heckman & D Masterov (2005) Ch 6, *New Wealth for Old Nations: Scotland’s Economic Prospects*

² <http://www.thebarkerttheory.org/science.php>

way the baby's brain is "programmed" and have a profound influence on a child's emotional, social and cognitive development.

- 3.27 Parenting and the parent-child relationship are key aspects of a best start. Effective, loving, authoritative parenting builds resilience and prevents behaviour problems. Harsh, negative, inconsistent discipline, lack of emotional warmth, parental conflict and lack of supervision are linked to anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and crime. Results of the Millenium Cohort Study indicate that poor parenting has double the impact of persistent poverty on a child's Foundation level development. Strong parent-infant attachment is critical. The quality of early attachment and attunement is a key predictor of adult emotional health and resilience, and ultimately impacts on the quality of parenting across generations.
- 3.28 Language development at age 2 is strongly associated with school readiness. Early communication environment in the home provides the strongest influence on language at age 2, even stronger than social background. This can include factors like: availability of books; number of visits to libraries; being read to by a parent; number of toys; parents teaching a range of activities; and attendance at pre-school.
- 3.29 The Best Start programme incorporates the goal of reducing infant mortality (death in the first year of life) and narrowing the inequalities gap. Infant mortality is widely regarded as the single best indicator of child health, and higher levels of infant death are strongly associated with poverty and deprivation. A healthy pregnancy with good nutrition is essential to build the baby's growing body and brain. After birth, improving early nutrition by promoting breastfeeding is a key intervention to narrow the gap in infant deaths. Other key evidence-based interventions to narrow the gap in infant mortality include: reducing teenage pregnancies; targeted actions to reduce sudden unexpected deaths in infancy including action to reduce over-crowding; reducing smoking during pregnancy; and addressing maternal obesity. Infant mortality has been selected as the over-arching outcome indicator for the Leeds Best Start programme.
- 3.30 Projects under the Best Start for Health & Wellbeing Workstream: The Leeds Best Start programme is overseen by the Best Start Strategy Group – a partnership group jointly chaired by Public Health and Children's Services, which incorporates partners from across the Council, NHS and third sector. The work programme is underpinned by a 'live' Implementation Plan, and progress is reported at each meeting. Overall progress is monitored through the Best Start Dashboard, which brings together a range of outcome and process measures.
- i) It is proposed that two key projects will be identified which will make a specific contribution to addressing child poverty. Because of the critical role of parenting in mitigating the impact of child poverty, it is proposed that these workstream should focus on:

- ii) **Best Beginnings:** This initiative, in partnership with the national Best Beginnings Charity and University of Central Lancaster, aims to enhance early parenting capacity and increase breastfeeding, by making available localised evidence-based information via the Baby Buddy app and the Baby Express newspaper. The project is being rolled out universally in Leeds through frontline services but has a specific focus on young parents and those in more deprived circumstances. Formal monitoring and evaluation are built into this project.
- iii) **Perinatal education programmes:** The city-wide education offer to parents spans a range of different programmes provided by the statutory and third sector. There is a need to coordinate the programme in order to understand its reach and ensure that families living in deprived circumstances and with complex lives are able to benefit from the offer. This project aims to understand the current provision across the city, and to ensure that key perinatal education programmes are made available to those with greatest need. The Preparation for Birth and Beyond programme is aimed at all first time parents, whilst the Baby Steps programme is more suited to those with additional need. Formal monitoring of these programmes will be an element of this poverty impact workstream

3.31 Proposed Outcome Measures

It is proposed that the following outcome measures should be used for the Best Start for Health and Wellbeing workstream:

- Infant mortality rate for Leeds (annual)
- Infant mortality rate gap for “deprived Leeds” and “non-deprived Leeds, where “deprived Leeds” is defined as the super output areas that fall within the 10% most deprived SOAs nationally (annual)
- Breastfeeding initiation and maintenance rates (quarterly)
- Smoking rates at the end of pregnancy (quarterly)

3.32 ***Employment and Pathways***

3.33 Those who live in poverty are less likely to attend school, do well at school, and go on to enter secure employment.

3.34 UCAS data from 2016 showed that those who received free school meals, are less than half as likely to enter higher education than their more affluent peers. According to the figures, the university acceptance rate for more advantaged students is increasing around five times faster (up 1.4 percentage points to 32.8 per cent) than for their poorer peers who are on free dinners (up 0.3 percentage points to 16.1 per cent). The gap between those being offered university places was the widest ever recorded (2016) – a difference of 16.7 percentage points.

- 3.35 19,300 people in Leeds, aged 16+ are unemployed, which is the 2nd highest number across the country's 14 major cities (ONS Experimental Statistics, October 2016 to September 2017). To break this down further, 6% of 16 and 17 year olds (870 young people) are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (DfE 2016 local authority NEET figures).
- 3.36 Although it is clear that focus needs to be put on reducing unemployment, it is important to note that 67% of households with children living in poverty have at least one working adult (JRF). An estimated 65,000 FTE Leeds residents earned less than the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage in 2017 and 70% of families receiving tax credits in Leeds are in-work. This means that many people's wages are not covering their basic needs. To truly combat child poverty we need to not only get people into work, but ensure that citizens have access to good quality jobs at or above the Living Wage with progression opportunities.
- 3.37 There are a number of existing programmes and initiatives aimed at improving the learning and attainment of children and young people and addressing youth unemployment. The significant challenge is in ensuring better integration of the targeted services to effectively deliver early help to parents to support their child's development alongside support that enables them to acquire relevant skills training and to secure and sustain well paid employment.
- 3.38 An action research pilot project jointly sponsored by the Early Years and the Employment and Skills services has been initiated with evaluative expertise to assess impact and wider application provided by the School of Social Science, Leeds Beckett University.
- 3.39 The pilot is running in two centres, Beeston and Middleton, located in areas with higher than average benefit claimant rates, low pay and high child poverty rates. The pilot will seek to integrate employability support with childcare by locating Employment and Skills staff in the Children's Centres. Supported by their wider network of providers and partners, they will undertake assessments to enable appropriate sequencing of support, one to one guidance sessions and referrals to skills and employment support programmes and job opportunities. The provision is informed by consultation undertaken by centre managers with parents to ensure this meets local needs.
- 3.40 The pilot will seek to deliver the following key outcomes:-
- An increased number of new parents taking up the offer of a guaranteed place for 2 year olds
 - A reduction in the number of parents unemployed for over a year since their DWP conditionality became live
 - A reduction in the number of under-employed parents, with a focus on those on zero hours contracts that wish to increase their hours and earnings.

3.41 To date 3 promotional events have taken place across the summer supported by the Family Learning Team, the Stronger Families programme, DWP, Health4All, Vera Media, Learning Partnerships and Blue Apple. Training programmes planned include ESOL; Family English, Maths and Language; Beginners ICT and Ready for Work Skills. The pilot has commenced by supporting an initial cohort of 16 parents at Middleton Children's centre and anticipates similar numbers at Beeston.

3.42 ***Readiness for learning and school-aged education***

3.43 As established in the Best City for Learning, the Best Council Plan, and the Children & Young People Plan, improving education is key to Leeds' future.

3.44 Whilst there is progress to be seen in the provision of education across the city, the current education progress and achievement of children in Leeds who are disadvantaged or vulnerable learners is below national average. It is well established that the social background of children is interconnected to the inequality that is seen in educational outcomes.

3.45 Where Leeds sits in the league table of achievement is not acceptable and therefore, concerted, considered and comprehensive action should be taken. The reason for its position in the league tables is the incidence of poverty, disadvantage and deprivation amongst a growing young population and the failure thus far to tackle this issue.

3.46 There is now an overwhelming body of empirical research that links poverty, deprivation, social class and parental educational achievement to the education outcomes of children and young people. The linkage is so strong that these factors are considered to significantly outweigh any other factor in determining the likely success of any child. They are much stronger, for example, than the influence of a good teacher or a good school. In fact, the longer a child spends in poverty and the greater the depth of that poverty the greater the negative impact this will have on their educational achievement.

3.47 In looking at the standards of attainment both nationally and in Leeds in recent years this is very clearly borne out. Children living in poverty and deprivation are more likely to attain lower grades and make less progress in education than their better off peers.

3.48 The current picture in Leeds shows that educational attainment at early years, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, is below national average (2016/17 academic year). To add to this, the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key

stage 2 (2016) is met by 31% of disadvantaged pupils, compared to 58% non-disadvantaged pupils. A similar pattern can be seen when looking at those achieving A* - C in English and Maths (2016) with 39% disadvantaged achieving these grades, compared to 70% non-disadvantaged. Disadvantaged pupils finish primary school over 9 months behind non-disadvantaged pupils and finish secondary school over 19 months behind.

- 3.49 Poverty can impact a child's experience of education in a number of ways, resulting in them falling behind due to challenges around buying important books and materials as well as causing them to miss out on attending term-time school trips. Further costs that are recognised to place strains on low income households are uniforms, school dinners and school events. Previous research has also established that the rates for national persistent absence show that the 10% most deprived children are also the group with highest persistent absence. The relationship between child poverty and education is complex and multi-layered but it is well-established that child poverty is detrimental to a child's educational outcomes.
- 3.50 Whilst the effects of poverty on a child's educational attainment are evident, it is important to recognise that poverty also places schools under great pressure. Research by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) shows that the 1,000 schools with the highest number of children receiving free schools meals are facing much higher cuts in funding per pupil than schools generally. This places strains on schools, as they attempt to mitigate the impacts of poverty on children's educational attainment with greatly reduced funding and resources.
- 3.51 Therefore, the educational underachievement for disadvantaged or vulnerable learners in Leeds needs to be addressed, as a child's social background should not impact their educational experience and attainment in Leeds. Reducing the gap in the educational attainment of children in Leeds is of significant importance and in order to do this, emphasis needs to be placed on effectively diminishing child poverty and alleviating its detrimental effects. This involves working with settings, schools and academies to improve education provision, working with wider partners to better support schools, and working with children, young people and their families to exceed every child's ambitions.
- 3.52 Projects underneath this workstream are:

50 things to do Before You're 5

This project is a large scale partnership between early years provisions, schools, academics, private sector organisations, NHS and Leeds City Council. It aims to develop an App and Cards for parents and carers that encourage no cost activities which develops children's oracy and vocabulary, through experiential learning activities.

The intended outcomes are to:

Building understanding of professionals, children, parents and communities around how best to adapt education provisions to meet communities' needs, and how to improve out of school time to improve educational outcomes for all children

This will be measured by the gap between Leeds and national and disadvantaged/ non disadvantaged at EYFS, in addition to take up statistics, and feedback from professionals, parents, carers and children & young people.

Poverty, Attendance and Wellbeing

This project aims to work with education provisions, third sectors, university partners and private sector organisations to understanding the impacts of poverty on attendance and wellbeing, then to develop schemes with children and young people to tackle any arising issues.

The intended outcomes are to:

Improve attendance figures for pupils who experience poverty

Develop professional's understanding of the impacts of poverty, and to adapt practices accordingly

Build better schemes that support our pupils who experience poverty

3.53 ***Housing & Provision***

3.54 As the population of Leeds grows and the city expands, there is an increasing demand to effectively and compassionately meet the city's housing needs. In order to address these issues, there needs to be a clear understanding and recognition of the important role that housing plays in alleviating and exacerbating poverty for the citizens of Leeds. For an individual who is living in poverty, access to affordable and quality housing is extremely important, as it can help to increase an individual's disposable income and reduce their material deprivation. However, when looking at the housing circumstances for children living in Leeds, 31% of key stage 2 children are living in areas which are recognised nationally to be in the top 10% most deprived areas. The percentage of under 16s who are living in poverty in Leeds is 17.3% which is higher than the national average of 16.3%. The city is also currently facing issues surrounding population density, with areas such as the Bramley Inner West (BIW) area seeing one of the highest levels of population density in the city. The population density in the BIW area sees around

14,000 children and young people living in the area, which is similarly recognised to be one of the city's most deprived areas.

- 3.55 Within Leeds, individuals are also facing housing related issues such as fuel poverty, which is defined to be individuals who are on lower incomes living in housing with high energy costs. In Leeds, 13.1% of households live in fuel poverty, which is above the national average of 11.1%. Due to the nature of fuel poverty, which is tied to low household incomes and low standards of housing property, individuals are often forced to make trade-offs between meeting fuel bills and spending money on essentials such as food or bills. This is one example of the ways in which housing can exacerbate an individuals' standard of living. Social housing and low rent can help to play a part in reducing housing cost-induced poverty and material deprivation in Leeds. We believe that it is exceedingly important to recognise that for the individuals of Leeds who are living in poverty, their experiences of poverty are intertwined with their housing circumstances.
- 3.56 The difference between the nine most deprived clusters and the rest of the city is quite clear. These nine clusters have the most dense population of pupils, the highest rates of free school meals, the highest rates of new arrivals, and the highest proportions of BAME, EAL and SEND pupils.
- 3.57 ***Empowering Families & Safeguarding***
- 3.58 Family members living in poverty who had experienced social work interventions stressed the importance of professionals developing relationships in accordance with the value base of social work. Whilst financial and other practical support clearly does help families in poverty, the psychological impact, including low self-esteem, a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness must also be recognised by practitioners in relation to what services are provided, as well how these services are provided (ATD, 2005).
- 3.59 Family members' views on 'povertyism', as well as effective social work intervention, highlights the need for social workers and other professionals to be aware of the use of their power and how their actions can either increase or lessen feelings of powerlessness and oppression. These ideas also support a model of relationship-based practice that incorporates an understanding of power and difference in the content as well as the process of the work (Turney & Tanner, 2001; Ruch, 2005).
- 3.60 Austerity is having a negative effect on prevention and family support services, and this is disproportionately true for high deprivation local authorities (Bywaters, 2017).

3.61 ***Financial Health and Inclusion***

- 3.62 An Access to affordable financial services, taken for granted by the vast majority of citizens, is not generally available to people on low incomes. It is well known that the poorest members of our society often turn to high cost sources of finance such as doorstep and payday lenders, pawnbrokers and rent to buy options, or in the worst case scenarios illegal lenders. This effectively means that the poorest families pay a 'poverty premium' for basic goods and services, which reinforces poverty and offers little options for improving financial circumstances.
- 3.63 There are over 160,000 people who live in neighbourhoods that are amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Leeds and many individuals living in Leeds are vulnerable to financial crisis. This situation has been exacerbated in recent years following the slow economic growth and welfare changes, which have impacted disproportionately on the poorest people, and have led to increased problems of financial hardship and distress.
- 3.64 The council and partners have been working to address financial exclusion and hardship since 2003, and have developed many projects and initiatives to support people and families to mitigate the impacts of poverty which will directly affect children. Current projects include;
- 3.65 The **Council's Advice Contract** which has been developed with the aim to improve access to advice by increasing opening hours and expanding telephone based advice to help deal with increasing demand. From April 2018 the contract is being delivered by Citizens Advice Leeds. The previous contract period from 2014 saw the number of clients assisted increase significantly from 26,000 in 2014/15 to over 44,000 in 2017/18. Advice is delivered in a range of setting including children centres.
- 3.66 The council continues to support **Leeds Food Aid Network** which helps to deliver a joined-up approach to emergency food provision at a local level. Integral to the success of the Food Aid Network is the partnership the Council has with **FareShare** who now has a major distribution centre in Leeds.
- 3.67 FareShare Yorkshire support food aid providers in the city who are engaged in feeding vulnerable people alongside providing support to help people out of crisis and tackling the underlying causes of poverty. 142 charities, community groups and schools in Leeds now have access to food as often as every week. This includes providing access to breakfast cereal and fresh fruit to support breakfast clubs in school clusters. Since April 2015 FareShare Yorkshire and the Food Aid Network have provided the food parcel service for the Local Welfare Support Scheme (LWSS). Since 2015, over 3000 families have been supported through the scheme.

- 3.68 **Healthy Holidays initiative;** The Council provided support to Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) to run a grant scheme to provide activities, including the provision of a meal, to school children during the Easter and summer holidays in 2018. LCF secured matched funding from the JIMBO fund and a number of other organisations around the city. Over 42 schemes ran in the Easter and summer school holidays in 2018 with 4,500 children participating. All projects were focused in the more deprived areas of the city. Activities included outdoor as well as indoor activity, some including preparing and cooking a meal. Organisations sourced their food from a variety of organisations including Fareshare Yorkshire, Real Junk food project and local food suppliers.
- 3.69 **Frontline awareness;** Training sessions have been delivered to increase awareness across council services of the issues people face in relation to financial exclusion, poverty, the impacts of welfare reform, affordable credit and advice services. Officers across a number of services including Housing, Customer Access, Call Centre and Public Health have already receive training and further sessions are planned to roll out the training to all front line staff in Children's Services. The training is not intended to provide officers with debt advice skills but to better equip them to direct people to the most appropriate advice services at the first contact with the council.
- 3.70 Following a research study into the prevalence of problem gambling, the Council is co-ordinating work to support those suffering from or at risk of **gambling related harm**. Nationally data indicates that the rate of problem gambling amongst children and young people is the same as the adult population, however better evidence is needed at a local level. As of September 2018, the My Health My School survey will include questions on gambling and gaming. Awareness sessions for professionals working with young people are also underway.
- 3.71 The Council has provided a range of support to **Leeds Credit Union** for many years and supports the maintenance of a network of cash branches located in council Community Hubs. LCU membership has grown significantly in the last decade and this has enabled it to play a key role in helping to tackle financial hardship across the city. The credit union delivers many projects and services to families in Leeds, and is particularly keen to engage young members, it currently has 33 school saving clubs across Leeds which sees every pupil entering Key Stage 2 given a £10 contribution when opening a LCU account (funded by the council). This is conditional on the school running a school savings club. It is hoped that parents will also become engaged and join the LCU. Work is ongoing to promote the clubs within schools.
- 3.72 The Council and partners prepared for the implementation of **Universal Credit (UC)**, by delivering a range of awareness campaigns through a variety of methods including Community hubs, Community Committees, annual tenancy visits and publicity materials. Leeds City Libraries have launched a Tablet Lending scheme

offering iPads to residents through the normal library lending system. This is accompanied by a programme of courses and is part of the councils work on digital inclusion.

3.73 **The Local Welfare Support** Scheme has been in operation since 1st April 2013. The scheme continues to help families and vulnerable people under exceptional pressure to get help with food, fuel, travel & removal costs and basic household goods. The scheme is based on providing support to people through direct awards of goods and services. For the 12 month period April 2017 – Mar 2018, 2150 people have received an award through the scheme.

3.74 The benefit Cap was introduced in 2013 and as at July 2018 impacts approximately 876 households in Leeds, with over 2200 children being affected. The Government provides a contribution to a **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)** fund with the emphasis being on helping people affected by Housing Benefit reforms, which includes helping people to adjust to the new Benefit Cap. Intensive support is undertaken with these families to support them through the adjustment to the Benefit Cap which includes access to DHP. Support can also include looking at income and expenditure and helping people to look at more affordable alternatives around utility suppliers and other outgoings. This support has helped people mitigate the impacts of the Cap but has also provided the opportunities to support families with reviewing incomes and support for job searching.

3.75 Proposed outcome measures

3.76 It is proposed that the following outcome measures should be used for the Financial Health and Inclusion workstream:

- Initiate a programme to train all frontline children services staff to equip them with the knowledge to assist families in financial hardship.
- Increase the availability of advice provided to residents and families.
- Increase the number of children accessing the healthy holiday initiatives.

4 **Corporate Considerations**

4.1 **Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Consultation and engagement with children and young people is being established through work with the University of Leeds, Leeds City Council and Child Poverty Action Group. In addition to this, an Outcomes Based Accountability

Event will be held in October 2018 to gain the views and opinions of a wide range of partners.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Equality and diversity issues have been considered throughout this work. Disadvantaged pupils are not a single group; characteristics such as Special Education Need and Disability (SEND), ethnicity and EAL (English as an Additional Language) interact with disadvantage with varying impacts on progress rates, gaps with non-disadvantaged pupils and the long term impact of disadvantage.

4.2.2 Equality Improvement Priorities have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best city in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 This report provides information on poverty, which is a key city regional and national challenge. This priority is reflected in all city strategies contributing to the strong economy compassionate city including the Best Council Plan 2018/19-2020/21 and the Joint Health and Well Being Plan.

4.3.2 Equality Improvement Priorities 2016 – 2020 have been developed to ensure that the council meets its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 by helping the council to identify work and activities that reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.

4.3.3 The work fulfils some of the best council objectives and priorities as defined in the Best Council Plan 2018/19-2020/21. These include; improving educational achievement gaps; providing skills programmes and employment support; improving school attendance and reducing the percentage of young people who are NEET.

4.3.4 The strategy collaborates with local and city wide strategies such as the Locality Neighbourhoods work, the Children and Young People's Plan, Child Friendly Leeds, Future in Mind Strategy, and the Best City for Learning

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 None

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.2 None

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 None

5 Conclusions

5.1 As can be seen from this report, experiencing poverty has a significant correlation to poorer outcomes across a wide range of life indicators. This is a problem that is growing, both in Leeds and nationally, and it is clear that a radical approach is needed to reduce the impact of poverty- which will help to eradicate poverty.

5.2 In Leeds, we believe that a young person's life chances, and their ability to access opportunities, should not be impacted by their home circumstance or the area in which they live. We also know the challenges that are faced, both by the people who live in poverty, and by the services who work across the city.

5.3 For this reason, we need to work as a city, to share our understandings, knowledge and practice, to learn about the day to day impact of poverty for children and young people- and then to work with children and young people to tackle this impact.

5.4 We need a radically new approach to tackle child poverty, with all organisations sharing information, resources and good practice, to ensure that all barriers that young people face are broken down.

5.5 Thriving is the first step in a long journey to work better, together, to improve opportunities, and enable better outcomes, for our children and young people.

6 Recommendations

7 The Executive Board is recommended to:

7.1 Approve the approach to developing Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds

7.2 Endorse the approach to the development of the child poverty work across Leeds reflecting on the barriers faced by children who live in poverty, work with children, young people, families and communities to eradicate these barriers

7.3 That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Director of Children and Families.

7.4 Background documents³

7.1 None

³ 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.

Children and Families Service

Subject: Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds Terms of Reference for the Child Poverty Impact Board

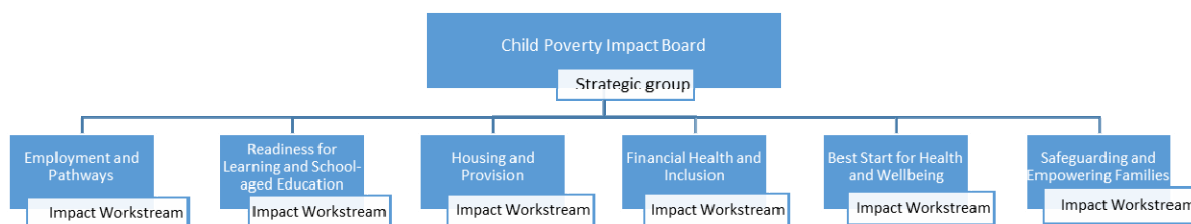
1.0 Background

1.1 Since 2011, the proportion of children and young people who live in poverty has increased. There is now an estimated 4.1 million children in relative poverty across the UK, with a rise of 100,000 children between 2016/17. In Leeds, 19.2% of all dependent children under the age of 20 (31,740 children) lived in relative poverty in 2015, compared to 16.8% in England. These figures are likely to be under-representative of the true number of children in poverty.

2.0 Purpose

2.0 To address this urgent problem, Children and Families (Leeds City Council) has developed *Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds*. The aim of this strategy is to alleviate the impact that living in poverty has on children and young people in Leeds. *Thriving* focuses on establishing a city-wide partnership which champions a multi-organisational approach to achieving this goal. The strategy will be implemented through 'Impact Workstreams', accountable to the Child Poverty Impact Board (CPIB). The CPIB will act as the strategic body for *Thriving*.

3.0 Governance and Accountability



3.0 The aim of the CPIB is to have a multi-organisational body with overall responsibility and strategic oversight of the Impact Workstreams (see Terms of Reference for Impact Workstreams). Each Impact Workstream is accountable to the CPIB, which has overall responsibility for the projects they implement. One of these responsibilities is to decide whether a project is to continue, based on its impact. Every six months, the projects should be evaluated by the steering group, reflecting on the project plan as a guide for progress. Once the evidence has been gathered, they can be taken to the CPIB for discussion. If the projects are found to be having little/no measurable effect, they should be considered for discontinuation, and work on the reserve project should begin if the project in question ends.

3.1 As the impact of projects can be measured in many different ways, individual projects will be evaluated against unique criteria, which will be decided by the steering group for each Impact Workstream. Based on the outcome of the evaluations, the workstream steering group will decide whether to continue with the project. The CPIB can offer guidance throughout this process.

4.0 Linkages

The CBIP will ensure that it links in with the Children and Families Trust Board, and the Children and Young People's Plan. The work conducted under the CPIB will be in line with the key priorities set out in the plan to ensure that the council-wide ambition is being achieved.

5.0 Membership

Membership of the Child Poverty Impact Board comprises:

Chair: Executive member for Children and Families
Deputy Executive member for Children and Families
Chief Officer for Partnerships and Health
Chief Officer for Communities
Chief Officer for Customer Access and Welfare
Chief Officer for Employment and Skills
Chief Officer for Strategy and Policy
Chief Officer for Housing Management
Deputy Director of Public Health
Head of Public Health
Head of Equalities
Policy Planning and Procedures Officer
Children and Families Projects Officer
Associate Professor, School of Education, University of Leeds
Community representative
Third sector representative

6.0 Meetings

6.0 At a minimum, the CPIB should meet every six months. This will preferably be coordinated around the six-monthly evaluations of the projects, carried out by the steering group for each workstream. At these meetings the CPIB will discuss the impact that individual projects have had, assess their progress and propose plans for the future. The CPIB will also discuss other strategic matters, in line with their responsibilities for the oversight of *Thriving*.

7.0 Information sharing

Each organisation should comply with its own data sharing protocols, in line with national and local legislation

Children and Families Service

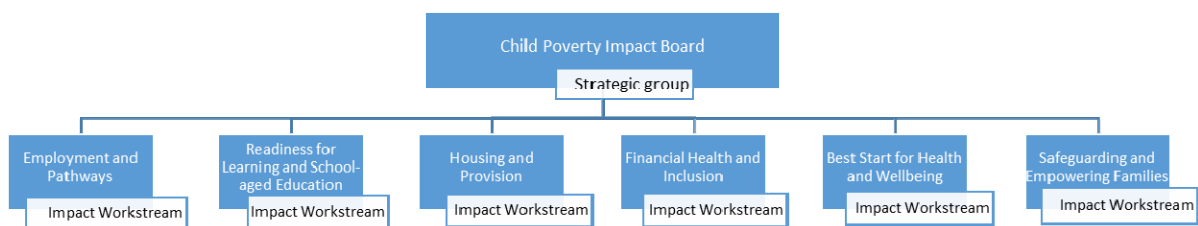
Subject: Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds Terms of Reference for the Impact Workstreams

1.0 Background

1.1 Since 2011, the proportion of children and young people who live in poverty has increased. There is now an estimated 4.1 million children in relative poverty across the UK, with a rise of 100,000 children between 2016/17. In Leeds, 19.2% of all dependent children under the age of 20 (31,740 children) lived in relative poverty in 2015, compared to 16.8% in England. These figures are likely to be under-representative of the true number of children in poverty.

2.0 Purpose

- 2.1 To address this urgent problem, Children and Families (Leeds City Council) has developed *Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds*. The aim of this strategy is to alleviate the impact that living in poverty has on children and young people in Leeds. *Thriving* focuses on establishing a city-wide partnership which champions a multi-organisational approach to achieving this goal.
- 2.2 The strategy will be implemented through 'Impact Workstreams', accountable to the Child Poverty Impact Board (CPIB) (see Terms of Reference for CPIB). Whilst the approach is multi-organisational and holistic, the workstreams have been devised to focus on a particular area of concern.



3.0 Governance and Accountability

3.1 The aim of the workstreams is to focus on improving a specific area of children and young people's lives that is affected by poverty. Each workstream will have a steering group who will create, implement, evaluate and report on projects in their specific area of work. Due to the interrelatedness of the workstreams, it is likely that a project may pragmatically fit under more than one. However each project will only have one workstream that is organisationally responsible for it (for example, by conducting evaluations of the project) to streamline and eliminate duplication of work.

- 3.2 When setting up projects, each steering group can decide how they will be formed: from pre-existing work within their service that is applicable and fit within the scope of *Thriving*; or by creating a new project.
- 3.3 Each Impact Workstream will have between one and three projects to be implemented over a two year period. Details of the project, including clear milestones, will be outlined in a project plan. Irrespective of how many projects are initially implemented, it is recommended to have at least one 'reserve' project ready to be implemented should another project be discontinued. Every six months, the steering group should evaluate the projects within their workstream, reflecting on the project plan as a guide for progress. Within these evaluations, if the projects are found to be having no/little effect, they should be discontinued, and work on the reserve project should begin.
- 3.4 As the impact of projects can be measured in many different ways, individual projects will be evaluated against unique criteria, which will be decided by each steering group. Based on the information discerned from the evaluations, the steering group will make a proposal for the project's (dis)continuation, which will be discussed and considered at the CPIB. The CPIB can offer guidance throughout this process.
- 3.5 To ensure good communication between the impact workstreams and the CPIB, each impact workstream lead will sit on the CPIB.

4.0 Membership

4.1 Membership of each Impact Workstreams will include the following:

4.1.1 Essential –

- Leeds City Council Officers
- Third Sector organisations
- University academics and/or students

4.1.2 Desired –

- West Yorkshire Police
- Private Sector
- NHS
- Community representatives
- Youth voice representatives
- Other partners

5.0 Meetings

5.1 Steering groups should, at a minimum, meet every six months. This will preferably be coordinated around the six-monthly evaluations of the projects. However, individuals within the impact workstream who are working on projects, are expected to meet more regularly in order to run the projects effectively.

5.2 The CPIB will also meet around every 6 months, in order to discuss the impact that individual projects have had, assess their progress and propose plans for the future. Impact workstream leads will be present at this meeting.

6.0 Information sharing

Each organisation should comply with its own data sharing protocols, in line with national and local legislation



LEEDS SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

**Impact Acceleration Account
Application Form 2017/18
Responsive Mode Impact Fund or Knowledge Exchange Fellowships**

All applicants should consult the [IAA guidance notes](#) prior to completing this form.

Activity Strand (please select one area)		Responsive Mode Impact Fund <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Knowledge Exchange Fellowship: Inward <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>external non-academic working at University of Leeds</i>) Outward <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>Leeds researcher working in external organisation</i>)	
Project Title		A Different Take: Promoting the voices of children, young people and families with experiences of poverty	
Relevant ESRC discipline		Social Policy; Sociology	
Proposed Start Date (dd/mm/yyyy)		Planned End Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	Duration (Months) 12
Faculty	ESSL	School	Education
Lead Applicant Name Job title		Gill Main Associate Professor	
Contact Details		Tel:	0113 343 0237
		E-mail:	g.main@leeds.ac.uk
Faculty Research and Innovation Manager			
Contact Details		Tel:	
		E-mail:	
Partner Company / External Organisation: Business Name and Address		Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) 30 Micawber Street London N1 7BT	
Company / Organisation Contact Person		Josie Tucker	
Contact Details		Tel:	020 7812 5205
		E-mail:	jtucker@cpag.org.uk

Partner Company / External Organisation: Business Name and Address	Leeds City Council Children and Family Services (LCCCFs) Merrion House Merrion Way Leeds LS2 8BB	
Company / Organisation Contact Person	Amelia Gunn	
Contact Details	Tel:	07712 216313
	E-mail:	Amelia.gunn@leeds.gov.uk
Total amount of IAA funding requested	£14,958	
Have you previously received internal funding for a related project? If yes, please provide details	No	

1. Project Background

1.1 Background/Research Profile

Provide a brief summary (maximum 100 words) of the background research that underpins this application, indicating how this relates to the remit of ESRC. If the application is related to ESRC-funded research, please provide grant number and award value

The background research by the PI investigates children's and families' understandings of, and reports on, child poverty and social exclusion (ESRC grant number ES/N015916/1; £187,873). Findings are in stark contrast to policy and media narratives, which position children and families in poverty as 'troubled', unskilled, and a societal threat. In contrast, findings indicate that parents and children demonstrate few behavioural differences to their better-off peers, but suffer from exclusion, bullying and stigmatisation. The purpose of this project is to provide structured opportunities for children and families to develop their own perspectives and challenge these narratives in media and policy settings.

1.2 Relationship with External Partner Organisation(s)

Provide a brief overview (maximum 100 words) of the company/external partner and outline the University's current relationship with them. (See Guidance Notes).

This project links the PI with new and existing stakeholders who are uniquely positioned to co-produce impact with the university, partner organisations, and children and families. Existing findings and new knowledge will be disseminated widely to policy, practice and media audiences. Partners comprise:

- The Child Poverty Action Group (advocates for children and families in poverty in the UK) host the End Child Poverty coalition, formed of 100+ organisations. They have no previous links with the University.
- Leeds City Council Children's Services are existing partners. They plan to pilot activities addressing child poverty in Leeds, offering timely collaboration opportunities.

2. Project Summary

2.1 Public Overview

Provide a short non-confidential summary (maximum 200 words) of the project – this will be placed on the LSSI website if the application is successful.

Current research by the PI highlights the dissociation between policy and media narratives on child poverty in the UK, and children's and families' own understandings and accounts of their experiences. The latter are notable in their absence from debates about what poverty is, how it affects individuals and society, and the most useful interventions. Reasons for this include: people in poverty have few opportunities to access practice and policy audiences; where these opportunities exist, stigma and shame present a substantial barrier; and policy makers and practitioners may not have the time, resources or connections to meaningfully engage.

This project will address this through the development of Leeds- and London-based panels of children, parents, and young people with experience of poverty. Research findings will be presented to these panels, and they will receive training in peer research and media engagement. This will enable them to generate new evidence to complement existing findings. We will then organise structured and supported launch events for policy makers, media representatives and practitioners (including representatives from the DWP and DfE; civil society and advocacy groups; and media representatives), at which panel members and project partners will have the opportunity to present their research and discuss findings.

2.2 Work plan

Provide a detailed work plan clearly highlighting the key objectives and milestones that have been agreed with the company/external partner and their expected date of achievement. Applicants must demonstrate those objectives and milestones are SMART (See Guidance Notes).

Will this project require ethical approval?

NOTE: All members of the project delivery team should be named and the recruitment of new members of staff must be disclosed.

The work plan is organised around several key milestones and objectives, which are summarised in the gantt chart below. These are expanded on here.

The project will require ethical approval, and this will be obtained during the first two months during which time we will also begin to publicise the project via an article in project partner CPAG's policy journal, 'Poverty'. This will be co-authored by the PI and both project partners, and will be widely disseminated to all our networks.

The RF, Camilla McCartney, who is currently working with the PI on another project and who has substantial experience of support, advocacy, and training work with young people and families from disadvantaged backgrounds, will come into post in September 2018. For her first two months in post her focus will be on recruiting panel members, to comprise six children (aged 8-17), six young people (aged 18-30), and six parents, with three people from each category in each of the panel locations (Leeds and London). The rationale for selecting these three groups to be represented on each panel is that (as noted above) children's and families' voices are notably absent in academic research and policy approaches to tackling child poverty; and in terms of recruiting young people with experience of poverty during childhood, we believe that this group will be able to speak about the impacts of childhood poverty on later life, and may have subtly different understandings of child poverty and its impacts compared to the child and parent panel members. The rationale for selecting Leeds and London as the location for the two panels is partly driven by the poverty rates in these locations – both have substantial rates of child poverty which warrant attention; and having one location in the north and one in the south will enable a comparison of experiences based on this geographical difference. Furthermore, in the light of limited budget and time, pragmatic concerns in relation to existing links with local groups in these areas and the ability to organise meetings and events at relatively low cost have informed our selection of these locations. We would, however, aim to treat this project as an initial phase in a larger ambition to achieve permanent panels (with shifting membership), which would cover a greater geographical spread within England.

Research training														
Peer research														
Panel meetings														
Media training														
Data analysis														
Report writing														
Report publication														
End-of-project events														
Evaluation of impact														
ERC proposal														
Policy journal articles														
Guardian/Huff Post comment piece														
Academic article														

3. Intellectual Property (only complete if relevant)

If applicable, summarise university and/or company background IP that will be required and the arrangements for any IP that may arise as a result of this project.

NOTE: The Contracts Team in Research & Innovation Service will provide detailed advice and commercial terms for any agreement relating to access to and subsequent exploitation of IP.

N/A

4. Outcomes and Impact

Provide details of the expected benefits to the university and to company partner (e.g. increased profitability, capacity building, development of a new product or service line, access to new markets etc.) and wider cultural, economic or social impacts.

The expected benefits of the project can be grouped into immediate, medium-term, and long-term benefits, for all project partners and in relation to societal impact. The project will generate new knowledge based on children's, young people's and families' own experiences and peer research, and these findings (alongside findings from my ESRC-funded research) will inform key messages. To avoid pre-empting the panels' conclusions, impacts at this stage are set out in relation to processes rather than specific outcomes. The impact of the project will be monitored through regular discussions with and feedback from panel members regarding their experiences and perceived benefits and weaknesses of the project; collecting feedback from policy, practice and media representatives attending events or engaging with the project in other ways; and maintaining a database of interested parties from these sectors so contact can be maintained and impact traced over the long term.

Short-term goals (during the life of the project):

- The development of new partnerships crossing academic (Leeds), civil society (Child Poverty Action Group), and public sector (Leeds City Council) stakeholders
- Demonstrating co-production in the project itself and in follow-on activities including publications and grant proposals incorporating the partners mentioned above and also panel members.
- Increasing the skills and knowledge of panel members, with potential improvements in confidence.
- Disseminating policy-, practice and media relevant findings to appropriate audiences, in the form of a report or reports co-authored by representatives of the project partners alongside panel members, drawing on the key messages, and events in Leeds and London in which panel members can directly engage with these audiences. In addition CPAG will incorporate the research findings into their ongoing

policy work, both nationally and in London.

Medium-term goals (within five years of the project):

- Maintaining a sustainable panel of children, young people and families who are willing and able to contribute to the development of campaigns, research proposals, and media-, policy- and practice debates.
- Generating new collaborations, with and beyond the immediate project partners, including obtaining funding for collaborative research projects (specifically, including CPAG and Leeds City Council in my developing European Research Council Starting Grant proposal, to be submitted 2018)
- Publishing one academic article and two trade journal articles about the project and its key findings

Longer-term goals:

- Improving the lives of children and families experiencing poverty, with concomitant benefits for society more widely
- Challenging common misconceptions about poverty and the people experiencing it, through providing children, young people and families with direct experiences of poverty with the training and opportunities necessary to promote their own perspectives
- Reducing the levels of child and youth poverty through influencing government policy and practice at national and local levels
- Facilitating the realisation of children’s participation rights – promoting their voices in debates around child poverty

5. Follow-on plans

Provide details of follow-on plans for the further development of the project and partnership.

It is anticipated that this project will continue beyond the life of the grant, and will be a springboard for future research and impact-related collaborations. The identification of funding to continue the panel, and the development of collaborative research proposals, are included in the work plan. I am in the process of preparing an ERC Starting Grant application, which would directly build on the work undertaken both within my current project and within this proposal. Both project partners are involved in the development of this proposal and will be named project partners.

6. Project Finances

6.1 Breakdown of Project Costs

Provide full financial details of the project/secondment, including salary costs, travel and subsistence costs, additional consumables and, any other fees associated with the project/secondment. **Please refer to the IAA guidance for details on eligible costs.**

	2017/18 (£)			2018/19 (£)			Project Total (£)		
	IAA	Other	Total	IAA	Other	Total	IAA	Other	Total
Staff costs (DI only)				£6,858			£6,858		

Travel & subsistence				£4,250			£4,250		
Events/meetings				£1,740			£1,740		
Consumables				£510			£510		
Other				£1,600			£1,600		
TOTAL				£14,958			£14,958		

6.2 Financial Overview

Source / year	2017/18 (£)	2018/19 (£)	Total (£)
Internal – IAA Total requested		£14,958	£14,958
Internal – Other (e.g. Faculty)		PI time 24 days	PI time 24 days
External Partner – Cash			
External Partner – In-kind		£4,290 (CPAG) £6,080 (LCCCFS)	£4,290 (CPAG) £6,080 (LCCCFS)
Total Value of project		£25,328	£25,328

6.3 Financial Overview

Provide a justification of all resources that are being requested from the ESRC IAA. (Max 200 words.)
<p>The PI will oversee all aspects of the project. Her time will be contributed in-kind.</p> <p>£6,858 is requested to employ a grade 5 0.3FTE Research Fellow for nine months, managed by the PI. The RF will manage day-to-day operation of the panels, including recruitment; facilitating meetings; attending training events; and attending end-of-project events. The RF will support panel members in conducting peer research, and will collate data and lead on data analysis and writing project report(s).</p> <p>£4,250 is requested for travel and subsistence, including travel for the RF, PI, CPAG and LCCCFS to two partner’s meetings and end-of-project events; and travel for panel members to attend panel meetings, training and end-of-project events.</p> <p>£1,740 is requested for refreshments for the partner meetings and London panel meetings. CPAG and LCCCFS are donating room hire for panel meetings and end-of-project events in-kind, and LCCCFS are donating refreshments for panel meetings in-kind.</p> <p>£510 is requested for materials for the panel meetings and peer research, project flyers, and 300 copies of the end-of-project report(s).</p> <p>£1,600 is requested for expert training in peer research and media engagement. This is based on quotes from CPAG, who have a strong history of engagement in this type of work.</p>

6.4 Company/External Partner Contribution

Give brief details of the resources the external partner will contribute to the project (e.g. cash or in-kind contributions such as non-academic staff time, use of meeting rooms) . A letter of support from the external partner(s) also detailing this level of contribution must be submitted alongside this application.

The external partners are committed to offering substantial in-kind support for the project, comprising:

CPAG

- Staff time of our London Campaign Manager and other policy and communications staff to: support the panel activities in London; arrange launch event in Parliament; identify influencing opportunities and facilitate involvement of the panel in other advocacy activities e.g. with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty (for which CPAG provides the secretariat), Greater London Authority/Mayor of London and End Child Poverty Coalition; disseminate the panel's report and information about the project to policy and practice audiences; promote the project and partnership with Leeds through our media, social media and public affairs work.
- Use of our London project networks to assist panel recruitment and promotion of the project and its findings, e.g. through our partnership with the London Child Poverty Alliance and with various community organisations (e.g. Hackney Citizens and 'Mums on a mission' based in Barking & Dagenham), schools and youth centres.
- Use of meeting rooms (London) for meetings and training.
- Publication of project findings/information in our policy journal 'Poverty', and in our newsletters and website/blog.

This represents an in-kind contribution valued at £4,290. This comprises 15 days of staff time at £230 per day (total £3,450), and 6 half-days of meeting room provision usually charged at £140 per half-day (total £840).

LCCCFS

- Staff time of a Service Improvement Officer who has significant experience of working with vulnerable children and young people and establishing research led partnerships
- Use of meeting rooms (Leeds) for panels, meetings, and training events
- Provision of Leeds city level understandings, data and knowledge of poverty
- Opportunity to provide intelligence and knowledge of LCC previous research and information around child poverty
- Use of Voice and Influence team, who have extensive experience of establishing parent, child and young people panels, to assist in recruitment and support of the panels
- Disseminate panel findings through existing networks
- Promotion of research findings and integration of these into the current work projects to improve the lives of children and young people who are experiencing poverty.

This represents an in-kind contribution valued at £6,080. This comprises 18 days of SIO time valued at a total of £1,580; 3 days of staff time from the Voice and Influence team, valued at £500; room hire for project meetings and an end-of-project event, valued at £3,500; and refreshments for 6 meetings, valued at £500.

Child Poverty Priority Mapping Exercise

Thriving: a Poverty Strategy

Impact Workstreams

Best Start - Health and Wellbeing; **Employment and Pathways;** **Readiness for learning and school-aged education;** **Housing and Provision;** **Empowering Families & Safeguarding;** **Financial Health and Inclusion.**

Best Council Plan

Overarching Theme: Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities

Priorities	Sub Priorities
Inclusive Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting growth and investment, helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential Supporting businesses and residents to improve skills, helping people into work and into better jobs Targeting work to tackle poverty in priority neighbourhoods Tackling low pay
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing health inequalities and improving the health of the poorest the fastest Supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles Supporting self-care, with more people managing their own health conditions in the community Enabling people with care and support needs to have choice and control
21st Centre Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving transport connections, safety, reliability and affordability Strengthening 'Smart City' infrastructure and increasing digital inclusion Improving the city's infrastructure and natural environment, including flood protection Reducing consumption, increasing recycling and promoting low carbon energy Improving air quality, reducing noise and emissions
Safe Strong Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable Helping people out of financial hardship Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour Being responsive to local needs, building thriving, resilient communities Promoting community respect and resilience
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing of the right quality, type, tenure and affordability in the right places Minimising homelessness through a greater focus on prevention Providing the right housing options to support older and vulnerable residents to remain active and independent Tackling fuel poverty
Child Friendly City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting families to give children the best start in life Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing the cultural and creative sector Ensuring that culture can be created and experienced by anyone Enhancing the image of Leeds through major events and attractions

Children and Young People's Plan 2018-23

Challenging child poverty is a central theme of the plan

<p>One Vision</p> <p>Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK and the best city for children and young people to grow up in. We want Leeds to be a child friendly city. Through our vision and obsessions we invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city. We aim to improve outcomes for all our children whilst recognising the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds.</p>
<p>Three Obsessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely and appropriately reduce the number of children looked after Reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training Improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school
<p>Five outcomes</p> <p>Conditions of well-being we want for all our children and young people. All children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are safe from harm Do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life Enjoy healthy lifestyles Have fun growing up Are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence
<p>Eleven Priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Help children and parents to live in safe, supportive and loving families Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected Support families to give children the best start in life Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning Improve achievement and attainment for all Improve at a faster rate educational progress for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes Improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing Encourage physical activity and healthy eating Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, and be ready for work Improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people

Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 -2021

Ambition: Leeds will be the best city for health and wellbeing

<p>Vision: Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest.</p> <p>5 Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> People will live longer and have healthier lives People will live full, active and independent lives People's quality of life will be improved by access to quality services People will be actively involved in their health and their care People will live in healthy, safe and sustainable communities
<p><i>In Leeds, as we grow up and as we grow old, the people around us, the places we live in, the work we do, the way we move and the type of support we receive, will keep us healthier for longer. We will build resilience, live happier, healthier lives, do the best for one another and provide the best care possible.</i></p>
<p>12 Priority Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Child Friendly City and the best start in life An Age Friendly City where people age well Strong, engaged and well-connected communities Housing and the environment enable all people of Leeds to be healthy A strong economy with quality, local jobs Get more people, more physically active, more often Maximise the benefits from information and technology A stronger focus on prevention Support self-care, with more people managing their own conditions Promote mental and physical health equally A valued, well trained and supported workforce The best care, in the right place, at the right time
<p><i>In our city... wellbeing starts with people and everything is connected</i></p>

Future in Mind: Leeds 2016 -2020

Improve the social, emotional & mental health 0-25 year olds

<p>Vision: Our vision for this strategy is to develop a culture where talking about feelings and emotions is the norm, where it is acceptable to acknowledge difficulties and ask for help and where those with more serious problems are quickly supported by people with skills to support their needs.</p>
<p>What we will do....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strong programme of prevention that recognises how the first 1001 days of life impacts on mental health and wellbeing from infancy to adulthood. In Leeds this is delivered through our Best Start Plan. Work with young people, families and schools to build knowledge and skills in emotional resilience and to support self-help. Continue to work across health, education and social care to deliver local early help services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs who require additional support. Commit to ensuring there is a clear 'Leeds offer' of the support and services available and guidance on how to access these. Deliver a Single Point of Access for referrals that works with the whole Leeds system of mental health services so that we enable children and young people to receive the support they need, as soon as possible. Ensure vulnerable children and young people receive the support and services they need, recognising that this is often through mental health practitioners working alongside education, social care or third sector colleagues in multi-disciplinary teams (current examples in Leeds being The Market Place, the Therapeutic Social Work Service, and Youth Offending Service). Ensure there is a coherent city-wide response to children and young people in mental health crisis. Invest in the transformation of our specialist education settings to create world class provision. Work with children and young people who have mental health needs as they grow up and support them in their transition into adult support and services. Establish a city-wide Children and Young People's Community Eating Disorder Service in line with national standards and access targets. Improve the quality of our support and services across the partnership through evidence-based interventions, increased children and young people participation and shared methods of evidencing outcomes.