

## SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

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Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on  
Wednesday, 29th March, 2023 at 10.00 am  
(A pre-meeting will take place for ALL Members of the Board at 9.45 a.m.)

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### Councillors

- H Bithell - Kirkstall;
- J Bowden - Roundhay;
- E Bromley - Horsforth;
- A Forsaith - Farnley and Wortley;
- J Heselwood - Bramley and Stanningley;
- C Howley - Weetwood;
- Z Hussain - Roundhay;
- A Lamb (Chair) - Wetherby;
- L Martin - Roundhay;
- D Ragan - Burmantofts and Richmond Hill;
- K Renshaw - Ardsley and Robin Hood;
- L Richards - Wetherby;
- J Senior - Morley South;
- R. Stephenson - Harewood;

#### Co-opted Members (Voting)

- Mr E A Britten - Church Representative (Catholic)
- Mr A Graham - Church Representative (Church of England)
- Vacancy - Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
- Ms J Ward - Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

#### Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

- Mr N Tones - School Staff Representative
- Ms H Bellamy - School Staff Representative
- Ms L Whitaker - Young Lives Leeds
- Mrs K Blacker

**Please Note:** Please do not attend the meeting in person if you have symptoms of Covid-19 and please follow current public health advice to avoid passing the virus onto other people.

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**Principal Scrutiny Adviser:**  
**Angela Brogden**  
**Tel: (0113) 37 88661**

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# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25* of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p> <p>(* In accordance with Procedure Rule 25, notice of an appeal must be received in writing by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting).</p>	
2			<p><b>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.</li> <li>2. To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</li> <li>3. If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-</li> </ol> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:</p> <p><b>No exempt items have been identified.</b></p>	

3

### **LATE ITEMS**

To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.

(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)

4

### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.

5

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES**

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

### **MINUTES - 8TH MARCH 2023**

7 - 14

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

7

### **THRIVING: THE CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY FOR LEEDS**

15 - 54

To receive a report from the Director of Children and Families that presents an overview of Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds and the work that sits underneath the strategy.

8

### **THE REFRESHED 3AS PLAN**

55 - 74

To receive a report from the Director of Children and Families that presents an update on the refreshed 3A's plan.

9

### **YOUTH SERVICES - IMPACT OF NEW MODEL**

75 - 82

To receive a report from the Head of Early Help Services which provides details of the work that has been undertaken since March 2022 to progress the new model of youth work delivery in Leeds.

10

**2022/23 END OF YEAR SCRUTINY BOARD STATEMENT**

83 -  
94

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services which presents the 2022/23 end of year statement for the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) for the Board's consideration and approval.

11

**WORK SCHEDULE**

95 -  
110

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services which presents a draft work schedule for the 2023/24 municipal year for Members' consideration.

12

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 10.00 am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.30 am).

## **THIRD PARTY RECORDING**

Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the contacts on the front of this agenda.

Use of Recordings by Third Parties – code of practice

- a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.
- b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete.

### **Webcasting**

**Please note** – the publicly accessible parts of this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the City Council's website. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed.

## SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillor A Lamb in the Chair

Councillors J Bowden, E Bromley,  
Amanda Carter, J Heselwood, Z Hussain,  
J Lennox, L Martin, K Renshaw,  
R. Stephenson and J Tudor

### **CO-OPTED MEMBER (VOTING)**

Mr E A Britten - Church Representative (Catholic)

Mr A Graham – Church Representative (Church of England)

Ms J Ward – Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)**

Mr N Tones – School Staff Representative

Mrs K Blacker

#### **60 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents**

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

#### **61 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There was no exempt information.

#### **62 Late Items**

The Chair highlighted that a request had been made by Councillor Stephenson for a late item of business to be added to the agenda for today's meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To note that the request for an additional late item of business to be added to the agenda had been declined by the Chair.

#### **63 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **64 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes**

The Board received the following apologies and notification of substitutes.

Councillor Bithell (Cllr J Lennox attending as substitute)

Councillor Ragan (Cllr Tudor attending as a substitute)

Councillor Richards (Cllr Amanda Carter attending as substitute)

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 29th March, 2023

Councillor Senior  
Councillor Howley  
Councillor Forsaith  
Helen Bellamy- Co-opted School Staff Representative

## **65 Minutes - 25 January 2023**

The Board noted that the minutes had incorrectly referenced Kate Blacker as a parent governor co-opted member, which had been her previous role, and therefore needed to be amended.

### **RESOLVED:**

That subject to the amendment outlined above, the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

### Matters arising

Minute No. 57 - Initial Budget Proposals for 2023/24

The Chair confirmed that the Board's deliberations on the relevant budget savings proposals did inform a composite report from Scrutiny which was acknowledged by the Executive Board during its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and also formed part of the agenda papers for consideration at Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

## **66 Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership - Update**

The Board received the report from the Head of Democratic Services which presented updates on recent Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) activity.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education
- Julie Longworth, Director of Children and Families
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work
- Farrah Khan, Chief Officer Family Help
- Jasvinder Sanghera CBE, Independent Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Chief Superintendent Steve Dodds, West Yorkshire Police District Commander for Leeds
- Karen Shinn, Business Manager of Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Phil Coneron, Manager of Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Rebecca Roberts, Section Head of Social Care Legal and legal adviser to the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership



The Chair explained that the meeting was being dedicated to the important issue of safeguarding children and follows the work that was undertaken by the Scrutiny Board last year. It was noted that the LSCP Executive had provided three separate update reports as follows:

- Appendix 1 – Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive on the LSCP Notifications Process
- Appendix 2 – Report of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive on Cross Cutting Themes from Review Processes
- Appendix 3 – LSCP Annual Report Overview

The Chair highlighted that the date of the LSCP report at Appendix 1 had been entered incorrectly and should read 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

It was agreed that the Board would consider each of the reports in turn.

### ***LSCP Notification Process***

The Independent Chair of the LSCP introduced the update report set out in Appendix 1 and highlighted the following key points:

- The Board was reminded of the background context that led the LSCP Executive to undertake a review of its notification process and decision making in relation to Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents (SCSI).
- It was acknowledged that the current legal framework places a duty on the Local Authority to consider and decide whether a case meets the criteria for notification to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, even if there are differences of opinion amongst partners. However, it was highlighted that the review of the notification process has now led to an enhanced process of open, honest and robust discussions amongst all partners, along with appropriate challenge, and resulted in a more equitable approach to decision-making.
- In addition to the area of decision-making, it was noted that the review had identified further areas of learning and enhancements, particularly around enhancing the dissemination of learning and monitoring the implementation and monitoring from all local learning. Linked to this, it was highlighted that a work plan is being developed and will be implemented and monitored through the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership.
- Reference was also made to the anticipated update of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 Guidance and the benefits of sharing the journey undertaken in Leeds to help inform future national guidance around SCSIs and associated review processes.

The following areas were also discussed during the Board's consideration of this report:

- Issues surrounding different agencies risk assessment processes, particularly in relation to the assessment and management of Registered Sex Offenders, and the work of the LSCP to improve greater

awareness and understanding amongst practitioners, as well as ensuring that systems are kept up to date.

- The importance of staff feeling confident to escalate concerns and the work being undertaken across the Partnership to understand and address barriers to implementing the LSCP multi-agency Concerns Resolution Process, which supports the escalation and resolution of concerns.
- The purpose of the Rapid Review process in relation to serious child safeguarding cases and the improvements made to simplify the process to support any partner agency wishing to refer a potential SCSI to the LSCP Review Advisory Group (RAG).
- The role and involvement of the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in relation to Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR).
- The work being undertaken by the LSCP, in collaboration with Safer Stronger Communities and the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board, to develop consistent city-wide resources to improve greater understanding around disguised compliance and the application of professional curiosity.
- The importance of capturing the voice and lived experience of the child in all cases.
- The role of the courts and opportunities to share learning, with the acknowledgement that the national Care Review also included a recommendation to improve the quality and consistency of local and judicial decision making through improving the quality and transparency of data and facilitating learning at a local level.
- The position of the LSCP Executive in terms of feeding into the forthcoming review of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance.

### ***Cross Cutting Themes from Review Processes***

The Business Manager of the LSCP introduced the update report set out in Appendix 2 and highlighted the following key points:

- The LSCP undertakes learning from a broad range of reviews in order to learn from those cases to help make improvements to the systems that protect children and to prevent other children from being harmed.
- The LSCP starts from a strength-based approach as it recognises that learning is obtained by considering what worked well and associated good practice, as well as areas for improvement.
- Good practice and learning is disseminated through the LSCP Business Unit to the partnership in a variety of ways, including learning briefs, refresher training sessions, presentations to the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership and practitioner presentations.
- There is a recognised need for greater assurance with regards to the dissemination of learning by and within partner agencies and evidencing how learning is being implemented and improving outcomes for children and young people.
- Going forward, the monitoring and evidencing of learning will be a focus for the LSCP Business Unit and the RAG.

The following areas were also discussed during the Board's consideration of this report:

- The definition and use of Section 7 reports in accordance with the Children Act 1989 and the recent changes made by Children and Families to ensure there is additional oversight of Section 7 reports by a service delivery manager.
- Workforce development measures around disguised compliance and professional curiosity, including a regional Masterclass series, collaborative working with local universities and utilising existing supervision frameworks.
- The use of language and ensuring that practitioners have a clear understanding of what key definitions mean in practice.
- Embedding learning through practice standards and constant reinforcement.
- The importance of accurate and timely risk assessments, particularly in complex cases, and ensuring that workforce development measures are reinforcing the need to keep systems up to date.

### ***Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report***

The Manager of the LSCP introduced the update report set out in Appendix 3 and highlighted the following key points:

- The independent role of the LSCP Business Unit in terms of supporting the partnership and providing quality assurance and advice.
- The purpose of the Annual Report in terms of providing an objective analysis of the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in the city and reflecting on the LSCP priorities and activity over an 18 month period.
- That data is showing the timeliness of statutory safeguarding functions to be good, with the two external reviews from Ofsted also endorsing outstanding practice and leadership.
- That poverty remains a key area that can impact on outcomes of children and families.
- That the LSCP supports and will continue to monitor the review of the city's Early Help system.
- That the LSCP supports the city's focus on children experiencing adverse childhood experiences through the development of its Trauma Informed Strategy and the drive to make Leeds a Trauma Informed City.
- That the LSCP will be preparing for any changes arising from the review of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance as well as considering the recommendations from the national Care Review.

The following areas were also discussed during the Board's consideration of this report:

- Tackling the challenge of poverty through the Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds, with an acknowledgement that a more detailed report on this Strategy is expected to be considered at the Scrutiny Board's next formal meeting.
- The content and ownership of the forthcoming LSCP Annual Report, including confirmation that the report will be reflecting on the LSCPs review of the notifications process.

- The use of the LSCP website to help signpost parents to relevant information, advice and support.
- Information sharing with schools and the positive work being undertaken through Pol-Ed, which is a West Yorkshire Police education programme, written by teachers for teachers in schools across West Yorkshire.

Having considered the LSCP update reports, the Chair sought views on appropriate next steps by the Scrutiny Board and following a further discussion with Members, the majority view of the Board was to receive a further update report from the LSCP Executive in September/October 2023 covering the following elements:

- The findings from the LSCP Executive's twelve-month review of its revised notification processes, which will be undertaken in July 2023.
- Progress on the work being undertaken around practitioner escalation and resolution of concerns.
- Capturing the voice of the child and evidencing how the learning stemming from reviews is being disseminated and is improving outcomes for children and young people.
- Addressing the use of language and jargon and understanding the use of definitions used in the sector.
- The work being undertaken to ensure the use of accurate and timely risk assessments and improving awareness and understanding amongst practitioners around differing risk assessment processes.
- The Leeds input into the review of the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 guidance, with an update on progress dependent upon the timing of the national review process.
- Clarification of the levels of oversight, including democratic oversight, that surrounds those Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews that are notified to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

During the discussion with Board Members on appropriate next steps, Councillor Stephenson put forward a particular suggestion that the Scrutiny Board recommends that where a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is notified to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the published findings of that CSPR is considered by the Council's Executive Board for consideration.

Following a vote requested by two Members, the Board decided (by a majority vote) not to support the suggested additional recommendation.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the content of the LSCP update reports, including the comments made by Members, be noted.
- (b) That the LSCP Executive provides a further update report to the Scrutiny Board in September/October 2023 covering the agreed elements set out above.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5 Councillor Stephenson and Councillor Amanda Carter required it be recorded that they voted in

support of the suggested additional recommendation that where a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) is notified to the National Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, the published findings of that CSPR is considered by the Council's Executive Board for consideration)

**67 Work Schedule**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented the Board's latest work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Principal Scrutiny Adviser made specific reference to the proposal that the Board defers receiving an update report on the Youth Justice Plan and the Future In Mind Strategy until the new municipal year, with the specific reasons set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the work schedule, as presented, be agreed
- b. That update reports on the Youth Justice Plan and the Future in Mind Strategy be deferred to the new municipal year.

**68 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:**

Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at 10.00 am (pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.45 am).

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## Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children & Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of '[Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds](#)', and the work that sits underneath the strategy, including work that has occurred during and post-pandemic. This report gives an update on each of these workstreams in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps. It also considers the impact that the national cost of living crisis is having on local levels of poverty and the impact this is having on children and families.

A full and comprehensive "[Cost of Living Update report](#)" on the cost-of-living crisis and actions being undertaken by the Council and partners from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective was presented by the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment to Executive Board in March 2023.

We know that the feeling of being in poverty, the feeling of being excluded and the feeling of being ashamed can impact a child for the rest of their life. We don't want this in Leeds. So, we are working together, as a city, to reduce the impact of poverty on young people. This is our moral imperative

This report provides information on poverty, which is a key city, regional and national challenge. This priority is reflected in all city strategies contributing the Best City Ambition, including the three pillars of

- Health and wellbeing
- Inclusive growth
- Zero carbon

This report is an updated report that was presented to Scrutiny Board in March 2022.

The Thriving Strategy is currently being reviewed with a plan for consultation; aiming to launch in January 2024.

### Background information

In 2016, Children & Families started to develop a plan around mitigating the impact of child poverty across Leeds. In 2017/2018, a scrutiny enquiry on child poverty recommended that Children & Families integrated more of a central focus on child poverty. The first Child Poverty Impact Board met in 2018, and 'Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds' was launched in 2019.

The child poverty strategy has been co-created with children, young people, families with direct experience of poverty, third, private and public sector, schools, academics and other organisations.

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

Equality Improvement Priorities 2021 - 2025 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.

## **Recommendations**

- a) That Scrutiny Board acknowledges the ongoing strategic framework in place to mitigate the impact of child poverty, and the work being undertaken by the council and other partners in the key areas of activity.
- b) The Scrutiny Board acknowledges the need to promote the work of the Thriving strategy across the city and across council directorates and through our wider city partnerships in order to highlight the impact of poverty on children and their families.
- c) Note the responsible officer is the Chief Officer Family Help Children and Families.



## What is this report about?

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of 'Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds', and the work that sits underneath the strategy, including work that has occurred during the pandemic. This report gives an update on each of these workstreams in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 This is an ongoing strategy about mitigating the impact of child poverty for children and families in Leeds. Further detail is set out in Appendix 1 of this report in terms of the outcomes and outputs of each project linked to the Strategy for the Scrutiny Board's information.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

This strategy directly relates to [the Best Council Ambition](#); specifically:

Our mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home

**Health and wellbeing** -In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.

**Inclusive growth** -In 2030 Leeds will have an economy that works for everyone, where we work to tackle poverty and ensure that the benefits of economic growth are distributed fairly across the city, creating opportunities for all

**Zero carbon** -In 2030 Leeds will have made rapid progress towards carbon neutrality, reducing our impact on the planet and doing so in a fair way which improves standards of living in all the city's communities.

- The work supports some of the best council objectives and priorities as defined in the Best Council Plan 2020 and 2025. These include: improving educational achievement gaps; providing skills programmes and employment support; improving school attendance and reducing the percentage of young people who are not in Education Employment or Training (NEET).
- The strategy aligns with local and city-wide strategies such as the Priority Neighbourhoods work, the Children and Young People's Plan, Child Friendly Leeds, Future in Mind Strategy, and the Best City for Learning
- This strategy relates to the council priority around the climate emergency. As the climate continues to change, extreme weather patterns across the globe will become increasingly common. The knock-on effects of these changes will be profound; however, it is hard to determine what specifically they will look like. What is certain is that there will be scarcity of various resources, such as food and energy, which could lead to price increases, which will have a disproportionate impact on people who live in poverty. We should seek to mitigate the impact of poverty and reduce insecurity and inequality around these basic needs to build strengthened communities for the future.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes                       No

- 3 Extensive consultation has been carried out with regards to this strategy, with private, public, third and education sectors, children, young people and parents, universities and community groups

## What are the resource implications?

- 4 There are no new proposals with resource implications presented in this paper.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 5 None

## What are the legal implications?

- 6 There are no legal implications.

## Options, timescales and measuring success

### What other options were considered?

- 7 This is an agreed corporate wide strategy which is ongoing.

### How will success be measured?

- 8 This is an agreed corporate wide strategy which is ongoing.

### What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 9 This is an ongoing strategy.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Update on Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds
- Appendix 2 – EDCI Thriving Equalities Screening

## Background papers

- None

## Appendix One

### Update on Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds

#### 1. Main issues

This report provides an update on Thriving, the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy<sup>1</sup> and progress of the workstreams that sit underneath the strategy. It also details our responses to the post pandemic and cost of living crisis, in terms of ongoing work, impact and next steps.

##### 1.1 National picture <sup>2</sup>

###### ***Updated statistics are due for publication end of March 2023***

In FYE 2021, there were 2.92 million children (aged 0 to 19) living in families in Relative low income and 2.37 million children (aged 0 to 19) in Absolute low income across the United Kingdom; 81% of children were aged under 16 for both measures.

In the United Kingdom, the proportion of children aged under 16 in low income families was 19% for Relative low income and 15% for Absolute low income.

At a local level, the proportion of children aged under 16 living in low-income families varies greatly, ranging from 3% to 42% across local authorities for Relative low income and from 3% to 39% for Absolute low income.

Some groups, such as children, lone parents, those with disabilities and people from ethnic minorities are more likely to experience poverty, to remain in poverty for longer and to experience deeper poverty than others. The proportion of families in poverty where at least one adult is in work reached a record high in 2019-20 with two thirds of families in poverty having someone in work<sup>3</sup>

Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty report<sup>4</sup> published in 2023 detailed the following -

- 13.4 million people were in poverty during 2020/21, including 3.9 million children. Of these, 1.3m were primary school children and 1m children under the age of four, who are now 'experiencing the sharp end of the hardship caused by the cost-of-living crisis'.
- One in six (18 per cent) children were living in persistent poverty (spending at least three out of the last four years in poverty). The JRF says that 'for young children, that is nearly their whole life.' Almost 40 per cent of children in a lone parent family are in poverty.
- The Government showed it could make a meaningful difference to the numbers experiencing poverty during the pandemic when it introduced the temporary £20 a week increase to universal credit and working tax credit. However, the period of respite was brief, with the Government taking away this help just as the cost-of-living crisis began, with benefits instead rising by only 3.1 per cent - a fraction of the inflation many families are experiencing.

##### 1.2 Local picture in Leeds

###### ***Please note updated statistics are due for publication end of March 2023 Latest figures available: FYE 2020***

- 22% of Leeds' population is living in relative poverty after housing costs are deducted from income. This equates to approximately 174,000 people<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [Child Poverty Strategy Report Appendix 1 121119.pdf \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Children in low income families - Local area statistics](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Only good, well-paid work is a route out of poverty | TUC](#)

<sup>4</sup> [UK Poverty 2023: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK | JRF](#)

<sup>5</sup> DWP, [Households below average income \(HBAI\)](#)

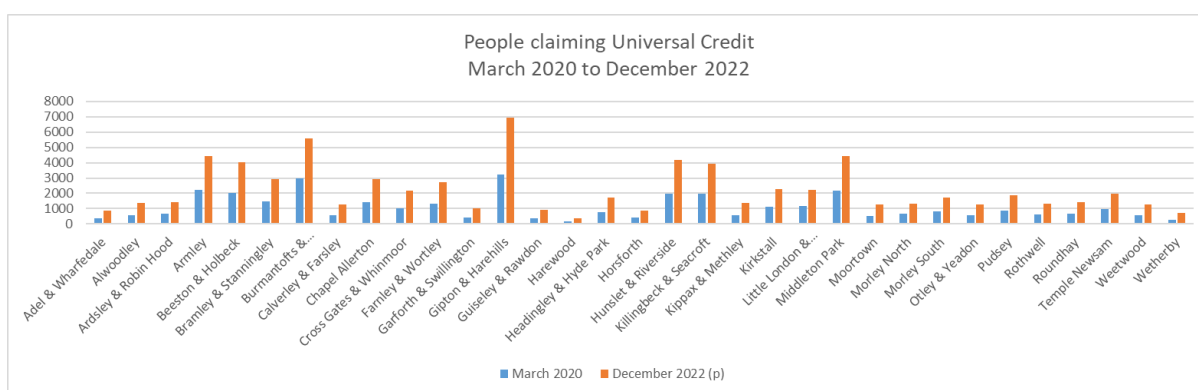
Please note: data collection for HBAI FYE 2021 (released in 2022) was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the figures produced are subject to additional uncertainty and may not be strictly comparable with previous years. Therefore, figures for FYE 2020 (released in 2021) have been referred to as most the most reliable and up to date source.

- 24% of children, (36, 496) were living in relative low income families BHC in 2019/20. This is an increase of 1% (1634) children since 2018/19.

In March 2020, 35,450 were claiming Universal Credit in Leeds, this increased to a high of 74,515 people in March 2021. The latest provisional data shows that in December 2022, that figure has slightly reduced to 74,183 claimants, however, still remains more than double the pre-pandemic level.

All wards in Leeds have seen an increase in people claiming UC (Not in Employment), with the highest impact on our poorest wards. The most affected wards are Gipton and Harehills, where claimants have increased from 10.6% of WAP, 2,210 claimants in March 2020 to 21.1% of WAP, 4,384 in October 2022, and Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward where claimants have increased from 11.0% of the working age population, 2,068 claimants in March 2020 to 18.2% of the working age population, 3,421 claimants in October 2022.

Below details the information by ward across for UC all claimants.



The University of Leeds report, Deep Poverty: Everyday Financial Crisis in Leeds<sup>6</sup> published late 2022 states that indicators suggest an increasing prevalence and severity of poverty in Leeds. Between 2014 and 2020, the number of children living in ‘relative low-income’ and ‘absolute low-income’ increased by 49% and 19% respectively in Leeds. As a result, the economic gap between Leeds and the rest of the UK has widened in recent years. Alongside this, cuts to local authority funding are presenting a challenge to the operations of statutory agencies and third sector support organisations at a time of rising demand for their help from low-income communities.

Similarly, the Child of the North report<sup>7</sup>, published in December 2021, found that children in the north are more likely to live in poverty than the rest of England and increasingly so as living costs rise. Child poverty, including fuel poverty and food insecurity, are higher in the North than the rest of England and minority ethnicity families, families with younger children, families in which someone is living with a disability, renters, larger families and lone parents, are all more likely to be going without, falling behind with essential bills, or taking on debt as living costs rise, reflecting real harm and suffering. Poverty is the lead driver of inequalities between children in the North and their counterparts in the rest of the country, leading to worse physical and mental health outcomes, educational attainment, and lower lifelong economic productivity.

It also found that 34% of children in the North are living in poverty compared to the overall English figure of 28%. In Yorkshire and the Humber and the North East, child poverty is now the highest it has been since 2000/2001. Findings include that Leeds has 2 of 11 parliamentary constituencies in the North (Leeds East and Leeds Central) where relative child poverty after housing costs has reached 45% or higher. Findings also show that that over 20% of households in these constituencies were already fuel poor before the current crisis.

<sup>6</sup> [Deep Poverty Report FINAL \(deep-poverty.co.uk\)](https://deep-poverty.co.uk/)

<sup>7</sup> [COTN-APPG.pdf \(thenhsa.co.uk\)](https://thenhsa.co.uk/)

### 1.3 Poverty, the cost-of-living crisis and the impact on children and families

Poverty has a profound effect on families and children living in them.

The cost-of-living crisis is having a severe impact on families with children. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the war in Ukraine, Brexit and austerity and inflation has all increased pressures on low-income households and the most vulnerable in society, as well as pushing many additional households to experience financial uncertainty and hardship for the first time.

A full and comprehensive “Cost of Living Update report”<sup>8</sup> on the cost-of-living crisis and actions being undertaken by the Council and partners from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective is being presented by the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment to Executive Board in March 2023.

With the increase in prices, families are finding it increasingly harder to provide for their children and are struggling to keep their children warm and fed which in turn is having an impact on mental wellbeing of parents. A report by Barnardo’s<sup>9</sup> in October 2022 evidenced that

- More than half of parents (54%) have been forced to cut back on food spending for their family over the past 12 months.
- One in five parents said they have struggled to provide sufficient food due to the current cost-of-living crisis, and over a quarter (26%) said their child’s mental health has worsened due to the situation.
- Parents have admitted resorting to desperate measures, with a quarter (26%) having sold possessions, one in five (20%) having taken on new credit cards, extra debt or a payday loan, and sixteen respondents have even left pets at rescue centres due to the rising cost-of-living.

The cost-of-living crisis is also having an impact on children’s learning. Education charity Sutton Trust<sup>10</sup> surveyed 6200 schoolteachers in Autumn 2022 and found staff were seeing serious issues linked to the cost-of-living crisis

- 38% said more children were coming to school hungry (rising to 56% in the most deprived schools)
- 54% saw an increase in kids without adequate winter clothing (but 65% in the poorest areas)
- 17% had more families asking to be referred to a foodbank (increasing to 27% in the least well-off places)
- 74% have seen an increase in pupils unable to concentrate or tired in class
- 67% have more students with behaviour issues
- 54% have seen an increase in those coming into school without adequate winter clothing like a coat.

The End Child Poverty<sup>11</sup> Youth Ambassadors<sup>12</sup> have researched, written and launched a report in November 2022 detailing the experience of 16- to 25-year-olds in relation to the Cost of Living Crisis. 476 young people were asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to the cost-of-living crisis. 97% said they thought the rising cost of living was a problem for young people aged 16- 25 today. Responses included young people struggling to pay bills, the cost-of-living crisis having a negative impact on the mental and physical health and a loss of independence and a feeling on uncertainty due to the crisis.

A report published in December 2022 “Survival is not easy”<sup>13</sup> captures the views of 461 care experienced young people on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis; with 65% stating that this crisis has had a significant effect of them including paying for food, bills, and effect on mental health.

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<sup>8</sup> [Corporate report template for committee and officer decisions \(new\) \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://leeds.gov.uk/corporate-report-template-for-committee-and-officer-decisions-new)

<sup>9</sup> [At What Cost - the impact of the cost of living crisis on children and young people.pdf \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-cost-the-impact-of-the-cost-of-living-crisis-on-children-and-young-people.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [Cost of Living and Education 2022 - Sutton Trust](https://www.suttontrust.com/research/cost-of-living-and-education-2022)

<sup>11</sup> [We're Skint - End Child Poverty](https://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/whats-new/we-re-skint)

<sup>12</sup> [Youth Ambassador Scheme - End Child Poverty](https://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/whats-new/youth-ambassador-scheme)

<sup>13</sup> [Survival-Is-Not-Easy-Full-Report-with-Word-Cloud-NLCBF-December-2022.pdf \(catch-22.org.uk\)](https://www.catch-22.org.uk/research/survival-is-not-easy-full-report-with-word-cloud-nlcbf-december-2022.pdf)

Research indicates that poverty is also having a significant impact of the health of children and families in the UK. In January 2023, the British Medical Journal published a report<sup>14</sup> as to how the cost-of-living crisis is damaging children’s health.

In January 2023 Bristol University published a study<sup>15</sup> which found a “strong social gradient” linking poverty with increase in mortality. Of the children who died in the Sudden unexpected death in infancy or childhood (Sudic) category, four times as many came from the most deprived fifth of the population, compared with the least deprived fifth. These findings follow a report that revealed homelessness may have been a contributing factor in the deaths of at least 34 children in England between April 2019 and March 2022.

Health visitors have warned of a developmental delay<sup>16</sup> and rise in babies born into poverty. The survey found that over one in ten health visitors reported an increase in poverty affecting families over the past few months.

*“I am seeing children at 17 months old not walking due to gross motor delay as a consequence of lack of space and inadequate housing; speech and social development impacted by lack of play and stimulation secondary to the harmful impact of poverty, deprivation and poor housing”*

Research published<sup>17</sup> in January 2023 stated that homelessness may have been a contributing factor to at least 34 unexpected children’s deaths 2019 – 2022 temporary accommodation.

## 1.4 The Leeds Approach

Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds was launched in 2019. We know that the feeling of being in poverty, the feeling of being excluded and the feeling of being ashamed can impact a child for the rest of their life. We don’t want this in Leeds. So, we are working together, as a city, to reduce the impact of poverty on young people. This is our moral imperative.

The child poverty strategy was co-created with children, young people, families with direct experience of poverty, third, private and public sector, schools, academics and other organisations.

There are seven workstreams which sit under the Child Poverty Impact Board:

1. Readiness for learning and school-aged education
2. Housing and provision
3. Empowering families and safeguarding
4. Financial health and inclusion
5. Transitions and employment
6. Best start for health and wellbeing
7. Green spaces

### Our Ambitions

- We will be innovative, together, to break down the barriers that poverty creates.
- We will be brave, together, to revolutionise the way that Leeds works with children, young people and families who live in poverty.
- We will fight, together, to ensure that every child and young person who experiences poverty can thrive.

Thriving has **five fundamental principles**:

- 1) All work needs to be informed by the knowledge of children, young people and parents/carers
- 2) All projects need to work with a wide variety of partners

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<sup>14</sup> [How the cost of living crisis is damaging children’s health | The BMJ](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Child Mortality in England During the First 2 Years of the COVID-19 Pandemic | Pediatrics | JAMA Network Open | JAMA Network](#)

<sup>16</sup> [State of Health Visiting Report 2022 FINAL VERSION 13.01.23.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> [APPG report final version 13th Jan \(householdstemporaryaccommodation.co.uk\)](#)

- 3) The focus is on changing structures, not individuals
- 4) We need to reframe the language and understandings that are used
- 5) Research is incorporated into every project

## 2.0 Main issues

This section provides an update on each impact workstream, the projects that sit within the impact workstreams and details responses to COVID-19, impact and Next steps.

## **3.0 Financial Health & Inclusion**

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want every family to be equipped with the support, guidance and opportunities needed to live financially secure and stable lives.***

This workstream is led by Lee Hemsworth, Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare Communities and Environments.

The main projects are: Financial health and inclusion support directly to families; Increasing engagement in wider support and guidance to families to support financial health and inclusion; and Ensuring knowledge and understanding of financial health and inclusion issues and support.

### ***3.1 Priority 1: Increasing engagement in financial health and inclusion support directly to families***

#### **Update on recent activities**

The key areas of activity for priority 1 are the Healthy Holidays programme, Household Support Fund, and Free School Meal uptake.

#### **Healthy Holidays**

Leeds City Council leads the Healthy Holidays programme, which has been running since 2018, in partnership with Leeds Community Foundation. The programme provides enriching activities and healthy food to school aged children who are eligible for Free School Meals across the city. Funded by Department for Education, for 2022 Leeds City Council received just under £3.5 million. As a result, Healthy Holidays programmes in 2022 took place within 120 schools, 52 third sector organisations and 19 Council provisions within Community Hubs, Breeze and through the Youth Service. The multiplicity and varied nature of the programme within Leeds is a key strength.

Additional support for the programme is provided by a range of Council and external providers enhancing the local offer and including: Food support from Catering Leeds, FareShare, Rethink food, Hamara and Give a Gift; Active Leeds swimming catch up programme; Parks & Countryside's trips and visits to our Activity Centres as well as nutritional education support through Zest-Foodwise.

#### **Household Support Fund**

The Department for Work and Pension's Household Support Fund is a short-term national funding stream, delivered by local authorities in England to support those most in need with the costs of food fuel and essential items. Leeds City Council received £7.1m to allocate between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to the end of March 2023.

#### **Free School Meals**

See data below



## Outcomes and outputs:

### Healthy Holidays

Over the course of Easter and summer and Christmas 2022, Healthy Holiday provision in Leeds reached over 24,250 individual children and young people. During summer provision this number included 1786 children and young people with a special educational need or disability.

Across Easter, summer and Christmas 2022, 169,000 portions of food were served. Over Christmas, there was a target to reach 4,500 children but over 5800 children and young people actually took part in Healthy Holiday activities and over 29,000 portions of nutritious, predominantly hot meals were served across the programme.

The Healthy Holidays Programme in Leeds has a significant, beneficial impact upon the children and young people participating. Providers, especially schools, report ongoing and improved engagement from children and young people who have accessed the Healthy Holidays Programme; better transitions between primary and secondary education settings and reassurance in seeing children throughout Easter, summer and Christmas holidays from a safeguarding perspective.

A video was also produced for the 2021 provisions<sup>18</sup> - [Healthy Holidays Leeds - YouTube](#)

- **Feedback received from a third sector provider over summer 22:** *One family has a child with special needs who are also struggling financially. We were not only able to give the children the opportunity to take part in fun activities we were also able to refer mum to our food pantry for support. Her children, one with SEND, responded well to the cooking activities and a normally 'faddy' eater was happily found tucking into Lentil Ragu with a tomato and vegetable sauce. Mum is convinced that he would not have tried that at home.*
- **Feedback from a parent over summer 22:** *"Please keep putting on these events - they're excellent and invaluable for families who struggle (for all sorts of reasons) with access to other activities."*
- **Feedback received from a parent whose child attended a school provision over Christmas 22:** *"Winter wonderland has removed my guilt from this year not been able to treat the kids to a Christmas experience that would be ridiculously overpriced and underwhelming, this club has had everything & more. I felt my children were in safe environment to go off with friends and explore safely, whilst having fun It was an event for all ages to enjoy together."*
- **Feedback from a school provider over Christmas 22:** *We had one individual who we had tried to get involved in our Easter and Summer programmes but who had not been able to come to any of the sessions. We discovered that this was largely a financial/transport issue which we were able to help the family out with and the pupil was able to attend for the whole 7 days. This pupil comes from a background of high poverty and there have been issues with school attendance and fitness/lifestyle. He hugely benefitted from the activities themselves, the contact with the strong adult role models, the fruit provided and the hot, healthy lunch which they greatly enjoyed. The pupil also benefitted from the contact with their peers as quite often they didn't leave their flat for the whole of the holidays and was very lonely. They had also clearly made some friendships with some of the other young people and when I asked them about the course they told me 'I've had the best time made some great friends and cannot wait until the Easter activities.'*

Data-sharing and collaboration between Performance and Intelligence team in Children and Families and the Financial Inclusion team enabled a map to be created with Child Poverty indicators, Healthy Holidays provision and new applications to assist in decision making for the next round of funding and help assess any gaps in provision.

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<sup>18</sup> [Healthy Holidays Leeds - YouTube](#)



## **Household Support Fund**

Government funding of £7.1m to support vulnerable people with the costs of energy, food and essential items between October and the end of March 2023. Funding is being used as follows;

- Support to Housing Benefit recipients not eligible for the £650 DWP Cost of Living payment- January/ February (approximately 600 households)
- £70 payments to working age people in receipt of Council Tax Support- Letters sent out w/c 5<sup>TH</sup> December (42,484 households)
- Additional funding to the Local Welfare Support Scheme and additional payments for people claiming Discretionary Housing Payments.
- Funding to Childrens services and Housing Leeds to support foster carers.
- Third sector support through Voluntary Action Leeds, Forum Central, Leeds Food Aid Network and advice organisations.

## **Free School Meals**

The number of children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM) has increased substantially over recent years. In January 2020 (pre-pandemic) 25,473 children were eligible. By January 2022 this had increased by 7,413 to 32,886.

Data from the January 2022 census showed out of the 32,886 FSM eligible pupils, 7,625 were reported to not take up the offer of the FSM (76.8% take-up). To support schools to increase take up the Health and Wellbeing Service alongside Catering Leeds delivered a free school meals campaign in January 2023. The campaign shared images and key messages to raise the profile of school meals and encourage families to take up their entitlement. Early indications show 27 schools took part and the campaign had a positive impact. 58 schools are now accessing the Free School Meals Toolkit and 12 schools attending FSM training in Nov 2022 delivered in partnership with the Council Tax and Benefits Service. Data on take-up from the January 2023 census will be available for the next report.

## **Next steps:**

In terms of Healthy Holidays, work is now ongoing planning the programme for 2023 with bids assessed for the third sector; schools' assessment panels currently convened and the development of the Leeds City Council programme underway, including a focus upon targeting under-represented cohorts of children and younger people including older young people and children living in families with experience of domestic abuse.

## ***3.2 Priority 2: Increasing engagement in wider support and guidance to families to support financial health and inclusion***

### **Update on recent activities**

In terms of engagement in wider support and guidance, current focus is on the Uniform Re-use scheme and gambling-related harm work.

### **Leeds School Uniform Exchange (LSUE)**

Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Foundation have funded Zero Waste Leeds (ZWL) to bring a co-ordinated uniform reuse scheme to the city. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the amount of uniforms sent to waste, reduce the stigma of wearing second hand clothing and tackling poverty through encouraging more families to reuse and donate rather than to feel pressured to buy new uniform every term.

Uniform exchange promotional events supported by ZWL now take place across the city, during half term and seasonal periods. Various regular weekly exchanges have now also been established, alongside other support services such as food pantries.

In addition to the uniform activities, ZWL has also coordinated a Winter Coat Campaign and established the 'Together for Sport' project, for the donation and distribution of sport kit and equipment.

### **Gambling Related Harm**

The annual "My Health, My School Survey" includes questions on gambling for the fourth year running. The 2020-21 survey showed that figures remained consistent with those of previous years: 24% secondary school pupils reported to have taken part in gambling activities during the past year.

A survey carried out with staff in Secondary and Further Education settings (PSHE, Pastoral and Safeguarding Leads) earlier this year found that there is a need for further training and support with gambling harm resources. In response to this, a training and resource package is being developed in partnership with the charity Gambling with Lives and will be piloted in Leeds in February/March 2023.

A 'One Minute Guide' on Gambling and young people has now been approved for distribution to the Children's Directorate workforce<sup>19</sup>. Online information on gambling harm has also been added to the MindMate website.

Leeds City Council continues to roll out Harmful Gambling Guidance for all staff. This guidance aims to support staff experiencing gambling related harms, whether it is caused by their own gambling or that of a loved one. Plans are being developed to roll this out across Anchor Employers in the city.

A communications campaign ran during the Football World Cup with the aim of making the people of Leeds think when gambling crosses the line, increasing much-needed awareness of gambling harms and where people can find support, if they feel that they are negatively affected by gambling. There is a particular emphasis on considering 'affected others' (those impacted by the gambling of someone close to them), including social media posts aimed at families to encourage people to think about the impact their gambling could have on parents, children and/or siblings.

In October 2022, Public Health delivered an online workshop in partnership with the National Centre for Gaming Disorders for the Children's Social Care workforce. This session included content on the 'gamblification' of gaming, such as skin betting; raising awareness amongst frontline workers working with vulnerable young people in a range of settings.

The Leeds Gambling Harms Group is a citywide partnership bringing together services to collectively address gambling-related harm in the city. The group met on 17 January 2023 and identified 'protecting children and young people from gambling-related harm' as a key priority for the group. This will be built into the forward work programme and a specific working group set up to identify projects to address this priority, building on work already undertaken.

The Communities, Housing and Environment Scrutiny Board hosted a consultative meeting with a focus on Reducing Gambling Harm on 20 January 2023. The Board endorsed the work already undertaken in the city around early intervention and communications as part of a preventative approach to tackling gambling harm within children and young people.

### **Outcomes and outputs:**

#### **LSUE**

There are now 273 exchanges operating in the city, covering 92% of schools in Leeds.

The Winter Coat Campaign exceeded its target of distributing 2,000 coats, with over 3,600 coats collected and distributed across community settings in Leeds.

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<sup>19</sup> [One Minute Guide - Gambling and Young People.pdf \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Gambling Related Harm**

The My Health, My School Survey analysis showed that 1988 secondary school pupils completed the gambling questions within the survey. Of those, 24% reported they had gambled, 0.6% reported gambling as a cause of concern or worry (an increase of 0.2%) and 49% reported they need better information on learning material in school on gambling.

### **Next steps**

#### **Winter Coats Campaign**

Due to the success of the campaign, the scheme has been extended, utilising a self-supporting model (sites both collect and redistribute coats). The scheme is expected to continue throughout the winter period (estimated close in March 2023).

#### **Gambling Related harm**

The findings of the gambling survey will be analysed and will inform the children and young people's gambling work stream, alongside the results from the My Health, My School Survey.

Once fully implemented in Leeds City Council, the Financial Inclusion Team and Public Health will be working with other anchor organisations in the city to implement their own Harmful Gambling Guidance to support employees.

### ***3.3 Priority 3: Ensuring knowledge and understanding of financial health and inclusion issues and support***

#### **Update on recent activities**

##### **Google drive**

A Google drive has been established to share key resources, and messages across services and organisations. Physical resources are available to download or request for printing, including flyers (including translations), concertinas and business cards.

##### **Training Awareness Sessions**

A suite of themed awareness videos are being developed to be shared with frontline staff and volunteers on key subjects including advice and support, energy, mental health.

A range of awareness raising sessions have been undertaken over the past 3 months focussed on financial health and inclusion. These have included sessions on tackling poverty and financial inclusion, cost of living, fuel poverty support and training, signposting to warm spaces.

Each session has been facilitated by the financial inclusion team in collaboration with the relevant partners organisations and experts. Sessions have been promoted across the council and attended by a range of services including services working directly with families with children.

##### **Gypsy and Traveller Energy Support Pilot Project**

Green Doctor and other advice services worked on a pilot project explore how targeted support around energy and utilities can be made available and accessible to Gypsy and Traveller families in Leeds, particularly those living on LCC Settled Sites (Cottingley Springs & Kidacre Park) and families engaging with GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange).

## **Outcomes and outputs:**

### **Google Drive**

Over 70,000 resources have been distributed to organisations including council services, NHS and health settings, DWP, third sector and universities over the past two months.

### **Training Awareness Sessions**

Financial Inclusion Team have delivered training and awareness sessions to a wide range of council (including elected members) and health services since October 2022 including;

- Inner North East Community Committee Workshop - Cost of Living (approx 60 attendees)
- Training Session on Money Information Centre & signposting to advice services for DWP staff – 80 attendees
- Public Health Want to know more about 'Tackling Poverty & Financial Inclusion' Session – 40 attendees
- Fuel Poverty & Support Training for PCN – 25 attendees
- Tackling Poverty & Financial Inclusion Session for Childrens Services – 80 attendees
- Childrens Services Directors Development session- 40 attendees

### **Gypsy and Traveller Energy Support Pilot Project**

Green Doctor attended sites alongside support agencies, for site 'walkabouts' and visits. All residential plots across the three sites have been visited and offered support. Immediate uptake on Green Doctor appointments has remained low, however Green Doctor have reported this approach has enabled staff to strengthen understanding and working relationships with frontline services supporting the community and it is felt that as overall awareness of the service is embedded, over time, uptake in the community is likely to increase.

## **Next steps**

### **Google Drive**

To continue updating resources

### **Training and Awareness sessions**

Continue establishing a clear and concise narrative using poverty statistics, data and local evidence, maintaining resources such as the Leeds Poverty Fact Book and Leeds MIC Website and Printed Resources.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Energy Support Pilot Project**

Green Doctor have now offered to provide tailored training sessions to frontline services, both in order to further enhance the existing working relationships between services, and to enable staff/volunteers from a range of services to offer additional one to one support and advice with respect to energy and utilities, directly to residents.

## **4.0 Best Start for Health & Wellbeing**

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want every Leeds baby from conception to age two to have the best start in life, especially those who are the most vulnerable.***

This workstream is led by Kathryn Ingold, the Chief Officer - Public Health.

### **4.1 Priority 1: Baby Buddy App**

#### **Update on recent activities**

Baby Buddy is a parenting app that is free to use. It provides evidence-based support and information throughout pregnancy and the first year, which is accessible at any time. The most recent data show that 47% of expectant and new parents in Leeds are using the app. Leeds is the top local authority for the

numbers of fathers downloading and using the App, with over 5 times more downloads by fathers than any other local authority.

Baby Buddy 2.0 launched on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021. The new App has been completely updated with additional functions including content up to the first birthday, information for fathers/partners, choice of place of birth and in App support plans/spaces.

New content to support healthy lifestyles has been developed and Best Beginnings have agreed to come and share this at the Perinatal Parenting Programmes Network in April to ensure practitioners have all the available information to share the messages and signpost to the content.

### **Outcomes and outputs:**

We are due a report from Baby Buddy for the last quarter in the coming weeks meaning there is no available new data to report until next time. There will be an annual report available in May 2023.

The App continues to be promoted widely, however due to there being no funding for ongoing work with Best Beginnings there is limited opportunity to report on outcomes and outputs directly from Baby Buddy. Additional feedback regarding usage and user satisfaction will continue to be requested from practitioners.

### **Next steps**

To continue to work with Best Beginnings and services/organisations on the interconnected workstreams and activities to increase the uptake of Baby Buddy 2.0 in Leeds. This includes:

- Ensuring the Leeds bespoke promotional resources are shared and displayed in places families visit, including libraries, children's centres and health centres
- Sharing the bespoke training and promotional videos across services in Leeds  
[Leeds Trailblazer Square Local 60s](#)  
[Leeds Trailblazer Promo 2m20s](#)
- Collating feedback via the App and via the Champions from new and expectant parents, this will be provided as part of the annual report in May 2023.
- Exploring opportunities for additional funding/partnership working with Best Beginnings and Baby Buddy app.

## **4.2 Priority 2: Preparation for Birth and Beyond**

### **Update on recent activities**

The virtual PBB courses continue to run with good attendance from pregnant people and their support partner. The sessions are delivered in partnership by 0-19 service and children's centres with 4 courses being delivered per month on a rolling programme. Face to face courses are running alongside the virtual courses and are now running 4 per month. In the 6-month period from June-Dec 2022 over 40 courses were delivered (virtual and face to face combined), with more than 300 participants in total. Face to face groups are now much more popular and are now organised with Children's Centres for at least 3 months in advance.

The practitioner PBB forum continues to run quarterly to ensure that practitioners are skilled and confident in facilitating the sessions. The most recent forum was in Dec 2022 and had a focus on 'crisis support' for families with an excellent presentation and sharing of resources from Public Health.

## Outcomes and outputs:

Verbal feedback from virtual sessions continues to be positive, with many commenting on how much they have learned about caring for baby and about baby brain development. The electronic survey has been reintroduced with a reminder to complete at the end of each session.

Many of the recently run virtual courses have seen large numbers of fathers/partners attending the sessions, fathers/partners have commented that they feel much more part of the pregnancy journey and that they feel more informed and involved.

### Parent feedback from a recent course (Jan 23)

One thing you enjoyed about the session?

- Videos
- Game
- Interactivity
- Learning to self-pump
- Enjoyed baby benefits game
- Had zero knowledge but you guys nailed it
- All of the session
- Useful info about breastfeeding
- Technique of latching on the breast for feeding

One thing you have learnt that you didn't know before?

- The importance of bonding and brain development in the first 2 years of baby's life
- That baby's lungs aren't fully developed until born
- What babies' brains are like when they're born
- Didn't know about process of development of brain
- Baby's move away when they have had enough of things
- The growth and development from a baby's brain from birth
- You get eyebrows & lashes very early
- There's an app to help me
- Brain development
- Development Stages
- Weekly progress of baby
- Red/amber/green traffic light system

From today's session, is there anything new you would you plan to do with baby?

- Communicate with baby bump
- Use the traffic light system
- Invest in a sling
- Look out for green, amber, red signs
- Traffic light system
- Music before birth
- Red/amber/green
- Playing music & singing around him
- Already planned to connect with my baby

- More interactions with baby
- I will interact more

### **Next steps**

We will continue the rolling programme of courses including 4 virtual courses 4 face to face courses per month.

Further promotion and usage of the Baby Buddy app will continue in PBB sessions with expectant parents. The team will continue to develop the resource pack for parents using the PBB forum as a training platform to inform staff.

The infant mental health service will continue to provide on-going training to enable more practitioners to be able to facilitate the courses.

### **4.3 Priority 3: Economic wellbeing 0-19 service**

#### **Update on recent activities**

The 0-19 Public Health Integrated Nursing Service has an economic wellbeing pathway linked to their internal intranet, making it accessible to all practitioners. The pathway describes how the 0-19 PHINS and Early Start practitioners will support families to achieve economic wellbeing. This includes support to families to:

1. Maximise income
2. Manage debt
3. Access support services
4. Reduce fuel bills
5. Develop financial literacy
6. Access education and work

The pathway includes links to a vast range of support that practitioners can signpost to including food banks and Healthy Holiday clubs.

#### **Outcomes and outputs:**

The 0-19 PHINS practitioners continue to support families with social and economic needs through their mandated contacts with children and families. Needs are identified and reviewed with practitioners enquiring about food availability, debt, benefit entitlement and employment. They signpost/refer families to benefit support, healthy start vouchers, child benefit and local support networks including food banks, Healthy Holiday clubs, One Stop centres, Children's Centres, or libraries. Between July 2022 to Sept 22 the service made over 2400 contacts to offer signposting, support and advice around issues related to economic wellbeing. In total there have been over 4100 contacts since the start of April 2022. Data on economic wellbeing interventions for Q3 will be available in early February 2023.

### **Next steps**

Commissioners will ensure the service is kept up to date on local support services and encourage promotion of the Together Leeds web page.

Commissioners will also continue to monitor the number of economic wellbeing interventions and will report back through all relevant channels.

## **5.0 Housing & Provision**

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want to support every family and young person living in social housing in Leeds to achieve a sustainable tenancy***

This workstream is led by Gerard Tinsdale, Chief Officer Housing, Resources and Housing.

### ***Priority 1 - Joint Working Between Housing and Children's Social Work Teams to Support Families in Council Tenancies***

#### **Update on recent activities**

Representatives from local Housing team and Children's Social Work area teams are attending each other's team meetings regularly to discuss common issues, problem solve and ensure families' needs are being met.

Housing Management have been attending the Children's Health and Disability (CHAD) Operations Group meeting to foster closer working. They also work to improve the referral process and outcomes for families with disabled children. Additionally, they have been exploring options for minor works to existing assets, without impacting on assessment waiting times. Learning outcomes have been shared with staff and further guidance / training to be developed for staff.

Housing and Early Help Hubs managers have been meeting to strengthen referral pathways for early intervention - with a view to housing teams becoming part of the multi-disciplinary pathways meetings in the hubs. This will ensure a well-considered, inclusive offer of intervention for families and prevent tenancies failing. These are currently taking place as and when required, due to the ongoing review of the Early Help Hubs and consideration to expanding the hubs across new locations.

Housing staff attendance at Domestic Violence and Abuse Briefings has been important in helping staff identify the signs and indicators and the impact of domestic violence and abuse on victim-survivors. It also has the effect of increasing understanding of how domestic violence and abuse affects adults, children and families, and how they can be supported.

#### **Current themes:**

There's been a significant increase in the level of debt owed by tenants in arrears compared to the same period last year – difficulties continue with engaging some families in the support process and a collaborative, multi-agency approach is often the most successful at overcoming barriers.

There has also been a significant increase in the number of families reporting issues with damp and mould in their properties following the coroner's report on the death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale. This coupled with the cost of living / fuel crisis, has meant some people are not heating their homes as much. Housing have set up a dedicated team to log, triage and take appropriate action on these enquiries, prioritising the most urgent cases and using remote technology to identify / diagnose cases more efficiently.

#### **Outcomes and outputs:**

##### **Case study Mr and Mrs B – couple with 6 children**

Mr and Mrs B have a large amount of disrepair in their home and large arrears on their rent account. The couple were not engaging with the service, refusing access for inspections and repairs, and falling to take up offers of support. Safeguarding referral submitted due to concerns the children's needs were not being met and poor property condition. Multi agency meeting convened with Housing, Children's Services, School and repairs contractor.

Agreement reached that decanting the family into another property on a temporary basis to enable unrestricted access for contractors to carry out necessary repairs in their home. A combination of



encouragement and enforcement with regards best interest for children and risks to tenancy on not engaging helped to secure agreement from Mr & Mrs B to accept the plan and also attend a meeting with benefits advisor to discuss their debt and maximising their benefit income.

Family have moved into temporary decant property, repair works on schedule and due to complete mid February. Benefits Advisor has secured extra income entitlement and arrangement made and to date adhered to pay rent plus and amount of their arrears. Also awaiting the outcome of a referral to the emergency housing support fund to further reduce the debt.

It's still early days with much work still to be done on improving trust and relationship between Mr & Mrs B and services, but initial signs are positive and teams have made more progress together in the last six weeks, than they did individually in the previous six months.

### **Next steps**

There will be training / guidance developed for housing teams to ensure requests for adaptations / assessment are directed to the correct people, and that waiting lists for Children's Health and Disability are not impacted.

There will also be further targeted work with families with rent arrears to access funds through the Household Support Fund to prevent enforcement action due to debt / potential homelessness.

### ***Priority 2 -Refreshing the Rehousing Pathway for Care Leavers***

#### **Update on recent activities**

Project Steering Group on Preventing Homelessness for 16/17-year olds

A Report was completed covering:

- The national and local context relating to young people in housing need.
- Upstream universal work with young people and families on housing and future options.
- Targeted early intervention work to avert a crisis of homelessness.
- What happens at the point a 16/17-year-old is or may be homeless.
- Supported housing options in Leeds.
- Settled accommodation with support options.

Lead officers identified for the five different areas of recommendations within the report:

- Upstream universal work with young people and families on housing and future options.
- Targeted early intervention work to avert a crisis of homelessness.
- What happens at the point a 16/17 year old is or may be homeless.
- Supported housing options in Leeds.
- Settled accommodation with support options.

Recommendations have been made within the report, which cover several dimensions of work with this age group, from upstream prevention work through to assisting those who are unable to remain in their family home or network.

#### **Outcomes and outputs:**

Focusing on the *Settled accommodation with support options* theme, the report showed that young people make up 3% of our tenants, but account for 13.8% of all tenancy failure (defined as abandonment of a tenancy or eviction). The working group will look in more detail at the data to break down the tenancy failure reasons and try to identify any trends and areas that may be more affected than others. Further

work is ongoing to consider what existing provision can do, the integration of leaving care, local housing and supported housing teams and enhancement of the offer for young people taking up a new tenancy both in terms of practical support around the basics of managing their home and the standard of accommodation offered to give them the best chance of success. Consideration will also be given to the role of the Evict Alert service and improving access to the private rented sector for young people.

## **Next steps**

The Task and Finish groups are to continue working through recommendations and progressing the action plan. The aim is to be in a place to say what priorities of actions are, and to know what they can and will do as well as how to measure it.

## ***Priority 3 - Supporting Families in Council Tenancies to Maximise their Income***

### **Update on recent activities**

#### Context

Between October 2022 and December 2022, the Housing Officers Income (HOI) have worked with 1117 Households in total and have been able to secure around £324k in additional income for them. Between these date our HOI have secured additional income for:

Oct £23,556.22 Families with Children  
Oct £134,877.70 Families Without Children  
**Total £158,434.01**

Nov £17,112.66 Families with Children  
Nov £97,490.73 Families Without Children  
**Total £114,603.39**

Dec £4,563.78 Families with Children  
Dec £46,264.70 Families Without Children  
**Total £50,828.48**

#### **Households with Children:**

Between Oct 2022 and Dec 2022, we worked with 309 household with Children, this work generated around of £45k of additional income. This works out as an average of around £290 of additional income per family supported. The teams have been able to secure income for households with children from 16 sources. The top five of these income streams (which have generated the most for households with children) are:

- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- DHP
- Council Tax Support
- Disability Benefits

#### **Overview**

We have seen an increase in the total number of individual households supported compared to the same period last year. We have also seen an increase in the number of households with children supported when compared to the same period.

### **Current themes**

Due to cost-of-living increases tenants are reporting they are finding it harder to make ends meet, as neither benefit levels nor wages have increased accordingly. HOI's have noticed an increase in referrals/enquiries relating to pensioner benefits, with some pensioners advising of a need to return to the job market following retirement. Added to this, many tenants have advised that their utility providers are less willing to help with emergency top up credit, which saw many referred to the recent LCC/British Gas Energy Trust (BGET) Fuel Voucher Scheme, where were able to provide £120k of BGET fuel vouchers to tenants. Advisors are also reporting an increased number of requests for food parcels in recent months.

### **Outcomes and outputs:**

#### **Case Studies 1**

Mr A, alongside his 2 younger brothers, found themselves alone in their property following the death of their Mother. Mr A was under 18 at the time and his Auntie moved into the property to care for the boys. The Auntie allowed high rent arrears to accrue alongside other priority debts including C Tax.

Once turning 18 it was arranged for Mr A to succeed the tenancy from his late Mother, but he also inherited the historical rent arrears. Upon succeeding the tenancy, he asked his Auntie to vacate the property. She did, but also took his 2 younger brothers with her, leaving him under occupying a 4-bed property. Mr A admitted to feeling out of his depth and felt like he had nowhere to turn for help.

Mr A also had an ongoing sanction to his UC award which had meant he had received no benefit for over 12 months.

Our HOI was asked to intervene following referral from Housing Officer with the following results:

- DHP approved – Credit to rent account of around £1700.
- Council Tax arrears backdate of £347 and Single Person Discount applied. A hold was placed on the account and Bailiffs asked to return debt to the council reducing debt to Mr A by £135.
- UC backdated payment to January 2022 when sanction began - award received by claimant £2328.
- A Support worker was assigned and Mr A engaging well.
- Housing Application made to deal with under occupation. Mr A awarded Band A and Direct Let status.

#### **Case Studies 2**

Mr & Mrs B live in a 4-bed property with their 2 children. English is not the families first language and communication had been difficult with both support and benefit agencies. Both adults are in receipt of PIP and one child receives DLA.

Mr B's PIP claim had ceased and he needed assistance completing review.

Referred to HOI following suspension of HB claim as couple could not complete the form due to the language barrier. Our HOI attempted contact several times until finally managing to speak with Mrs B whilst she was in hospital. Mrs B was able to translate between HOI and Mr B and HOI arranged a call with PIP who employed an interpreter. PIP claim now back in payment.

Reconsideration of HB claim resulted in a backdated HB payment of £900 which cleared the arrears.

HOI was able to award £147 in Fuel Vouchers through the LCC/BGET Fuel Voucher scheme.

#### **Case Studies 3**

Mrs T is a single Mum with 5 children. Referred to HOI due to escalating rent arrears. HOI discovered that Mrs T had not declared any housing costs when making her UC claim so no housing element in payment. Mrs T advised that she had long standing mental health issues which, although she had support in place, she felt lost when trying to understand the benefit system. Our HOI assisted with confirming housing costs correctly and then liaised with DWP, who agreed to backdate the housing element due to Mrs T's mental health. Our HOI arranged for a work capability assessment for Mrs T which could see an additional element awarded to her UC claim. Our HOI also assisted Mrs T with making a PIP claim which is currently being processed. Referral made to Green Doctor for home to be assessed for energy efficiency. Referred to LCC/BGET fuel voucher scheme and Mrs T was issued £147 in fuel vouchers.

## Next steps

We are continuing to strengthen our partnership working and training offer to staff to enable ongoing support to tenants with their energy costs through referrals, help with emergency fuel vouchers and support contacting suppliers.

### **6.0 Employment & Transitions**

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want every young person and family to have the relevant skills and experience to access and secure well paid employment.***

This workstream is led by Martyn Long, Head of Service Employment and Skills

#### **6.1 Priority 1 - Raise awareness for access to employability and skills provision to support people into work and/ or improve their skills.**

##### **Update on recent activities**

- Leeds Creative Skills Festival (LCSF), a weeklong festival of activities took place 14th – 18th November 2022 with a Creative Skills Showcase event held at the Leeds First Direct Arena on Thursday 17th November 2022. The event, sponsored by Channel 4, 4Skills and Leeds City College, aimed to inspire young people to consider a career in creative skills and provided a platform for industry experts to deliver presentations and take part in topical panel discussions. A total of 63 employers, training providers and SEND support exhibited at the event and 2,200 people attended. Artforms Leeds, Leeds 2023, Grand Futures Leeds and Leeds Cultural Education Partnership attended the event as Friends of the Festival.
- Connecting Communities to Health and Care Careers: 12 information and assessment sessions were delivered during this quarter, 6 within the localities, (CATCH in Harehills, Chapel FM in Seacroft, Stocks Hill Centre in Armley and Reginald, Hunslet and Dewsbury Road Community Hubs). 109 people attended, 70 progressed onto courses, Careers in Care or Customer Service and You and 29 people were referred for further Numeracy and Literacy support. This quarter 32 people were successful in securing a job including 5 Apprenticeships and 41 people completed courses.
- The Inclusive Recruitment event was held with McDonalds at Armley Community Hub on 16th November 2022, 6 people attended.

##### **Outcomes and outputs**

From April to December 2022 Employment and Skills Service:

- Supported 2,239 people into work of whom 58% are from the top 20% most deprived SOA's of the city. Jobs were secured across all sectors with the largest numbers in health and care, food retail, logistics, distribution, and transport, digital and technology.
- Supported 2,948 people to improve their skills, 59% of these learners lived in neighbourhoods that fall within the 20% most deprived SOA's on the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Academic Year 2022/23 - 571 courses, including 36 courses on-line, city wide, have been planned at 64 venues city wide including ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages), Employability, Family Learning and Arts and Crafts. For further information on courses available both online and face to face at community venues, please visit: <https://leedsadultlearning.co.uk>
- Parents can access a range of employment support services. The data shows that between April to December 2022 a total of 10,623 customers accessed Employment and Skills, of whom 64% (6,797) are from the 20% most deprived SOA's in the city. 25% (2,647) had a child under 16 years of age and 10% (1,075) were lone parents. While this information is requested of service users, a number prefer not to provide this information.

April – December 2022	No. of residents supported	Residents supported with a child under 16 yrs		Lone Parents supported	
		Number	% of total	Number	% of total
Jobshops	2,896	977	34%	432	15%
Employment Hub	4,147	1,153	28%	520	13%
Adult Learning	2,946	459	16%	84	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,989</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>10%</b>

### Next steps

- Connecting Communities to Health and Care Careers - 3 information and assessment sessions took place in January 2023 at City Centre, Compton and Dewsbury Road Hubs to support recruitment to Health and Care support roles including We Care Academy, Apprenticeships in Business Admin and Clinical Support Worker roles as part of the NHS Winter Workforce Programme.
- Reducing Re-Offending Programme.
- In partnership with West Yorkshire Combined Authority an event is scheduled for early 2023 to support the children of current serving prisoners at HMP Wealstun and aims to raise employment and education aspiration levels of the children attending.
- A Construction event (23 January - 3 February 2023) was held at HMP Leeds aims to encourage employers to engage in recruiting prison leavers and to increase the number of prison leavers offered employment in the construction industry.

Jobsfairs, recruiting for range of posts within Leeds City Council, 4 events took place at the following Community Hubs:

- City Centre, Wednesday 25th January 2023
- Armley, Friday 3rd February 2023
- Dewsbury Road, Thursday 9th February 2023
- Compton Centre, Thursday 16th February 2023

### **6.2 Priority 2 - Connecting parents / carers to Family Learning provision to enhance children's learning through activities, techniques and games delivered in schools**

#### Update on recent activities

- Lifelong Learning Week took place 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Adult Learning, Leeds Apprenticeship Hub and Employment Hub delivered 4 skills marketplace sessions at Armley, Dewsbury Road, Compton and Seacroft Community Hubs which focused on digital skills for life and work. 13 people attended.
- This quarter Family Learning Provision was delivered in 5 Children's Centre's and 9 schools across the city.

#### Outcomes and outputs

From April to December 2022

- In this period, 57 courses were delivered across 37 venues.
- There have been 281 learners and 338 enrolments on courses so far.

#### Next steps

The first ever Leeds Family Learning Festival took place on the 16th February at The Carriageworks. Exhibitors included staff from housing, libraries, health, sports and leisure, local skills providers, colleges, universities, and employment advisors.

### **6.3 Priority 3 - Ensuring career information, advice and guidance supports young people to move into Education, Employment or Training (EET) from school**

### **Update on recent activities**

- Staff supported and attended a careers event in October 2022 held at Leeds University and Elland Road Conference Centre. Engagement reached 360 young people, 40 parents and 12 teachers.
- Department for Transport Outreach Day held on 25th November 2022 showcased jobs and roles within DWP, inspiring students to consider pursuing a career in the sectors. 30 students from Leeds City College 14+ Academy attended.
- Delivered training to 9 Apprentices to enable them to become Apprenticeship Ambassadors to speak to young people in schools and colleges across Leeds about the benefits of doing an Apprenticeship so students can make informed choices. A further training session is booked for February 2023 for Council and external Apprentices to attend. Further sessions will be offered during the remainder of the academic year

### **Outcomes and outputs**

- The following school and college engagement activities took place during quarter 3, engaging with 2,101 students, 168 parents and 79 teachers.
- Supported and attended careers events and parents' evenings at Leeds University, Temple Moor High, Lawnswood, Ruth Gorse, Bishop Young, Prince Henrys, Mount St Marys, Ralph Thoresby, Leeds City, Morley, Co-Op, Woodkirk, Oulton, Prince Henrys and Cockburn John Charles Academies.
- Delivered Apprenticeship presentations at Lawnswood School, Carr Manor, Co-op Priesthorpe, Farnley, Priesthorpe Academies. Feedback from the presentations showed:
  - 97% of students found the sessions useful
  - 97% of students had a clearer understanding of apprenticeships
  - 80% of students said they would now consider an apprenticeship

### **Next steps**

- Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair (LARF) took place on Monday 6th February 2023 to mark the start of National Apprenticeship Week (6th – 12th February 2023), Over 100 employers and training providers participated, with over 8,000 visitors attending throughout the event. A series of sessions were delivered to secondary schools and colleges to help prepare students to get the most from the event.
- Apprenticeships For Graduate's Webinar took place on 26th January 2023 to inform university students about Apprenticeships as an option when they graduate and help them prepare for attending LARF23. 18 students attended.
- Apprenticeship Awareness sessions are planned for delivery during January – March 2023 at Allerton High, Notre Dame 6th Form College, Boston Spa Academy, Brigshaw Academy, Elliot Hudson Academy, Leeds City Academy, Prince Henry Grammar, Pudsey Grammar, and Stephen Longfellow Academy.
- Apprenticeship Awareness Videos have been produced which highlight the opportunities available with a range of employers across the city. Discussions are ongoing as to where and when they will be published.
- Leeds City Council will be a sponsor of the Ahead Partnership's headline event on 16th March 2023. Girl Tech. An Apprenticeship focused workshop will be delivered to approximately 60 female students from year 8. A marketplace event will also take place on the day to discuss Apprenticeships.

## **7.0 Empowering Families & Safeguarding**

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want to change the structure around social care to better support children, young people and families living in poverty.***

This workstream is led by Farrah Khan, Chief Officer, Children and Families Service.

## **7.1 Priority 1 – Connecting services to better support families**

### **Update on recent activities**

Cost of living crisis: we have worked in partnership with the Communities directorate and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations to provide additional support to families. This includes emergency food support through vouchers which diverts the need for EDT (Emergency Duty Team) resources.

We also partnered with ZeroWaste Leeds to support a winter coat campaign. So far, the scheme has given out over 4000 free second hand coats to local communities across Leeds.

We have recently recruited new volunteers for EPEC (Empowering Parent Empowering Communities), and they are currently going through their training programme. By supporting more volunteers this will mean we're able to increase the reach of this evidence-based parenting programme.

GRT collaborated with a charitable Organisation and a local community centre to set up a soup kitchen for families to access. There are regularly over 80 children and families who attend. We also use the space to provide positive messages for families such as; safe sleeping, supervision of children, healthy eating and community cohesion.

We have connected a charitable organisation with CHAD (Child Health and Disability) teams to support children and families on managing periods with a disability.

We are currently exploring with faith organisations and the migration team to raise awareness of our early help offer to marginalized groups

We will be incorporating the recommendations of the National Social Care Review around Family Help and engaging the third sector. We are engaging Young Lives Leeds as a forum to work with our voluntary sector organisations. We are developing a plan for implementing our Early Help Review recommendations around Family Hub Models in localities. This will strengthen locality working with community groups and third sector groups to support children and families

### **Next steps**

There will be work to identify key strengths in the Community and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and Community leaders who may be able to offer Early Help to a family.

We will work to identify community strengths- cultural awareness/ additional languages so that the family can be offered a 'menu of support options'

We will be led by the voice of Families- begin to gather feedback from families who we have made contact with- what did we do well during the conversation, and what are our areas for improvement?

EPEC courses are to be planned for the year which will include a range of course options.

## **7.2 Priority 2 – tackling inequality in accessing services and support**

### **Update on recent activities**

We will look to tackle inequality through our work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, faith groups and community leaders, this will begin with listening exercises to ensure that families voices and experiences are heard.

Furthermore, we will work ensuring that organisations who are supporting families, such as faith organisations, are aware of the Leeds offer of Early Help.

## **Next steps**

We will Arrange to meet with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector through Young Lives Leeds to begin discussions and fact finding.

Further to this we are proactively engaging with faith organisations and community leaders.

## **7.3 Priority 3 – Workforce Development**

### **Update on recent activities**

Reducing parental conflict coordinator (now known as 'relationships matter) now in post. Deep diving of the programme up to date is now complete and a relaunch is planned for March 2023. We are also working on a bid for the challenge fund 2 from DWP with partners.

Support for the workforce will include training sessions to ensure clarity on the differences between parental conflict and Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and different options of support.

Training offer being devised for the parental advocacy service in collaboration with Advonet.

Early Intervention apprenticeship for LCC employees will launch in March 2023- expressions of interest are currently open.

## **Next steps**

There will be a relaunch of the parental conflict training offer.

There will be further delivery of training to a wider workforce.

## **8.0 – Readiness for Learning**

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of children and young people who live in poverty.***

### **8.1 Priority 1 Early Years - Take up of free nursery places for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds**

#### **Update on recent activities**

Leeds has entered into a long term partnership with Nesta alongside York and Stockport. The partnership is called Fairer Start Leeds and is a three-to-five-year innovation partnership with an aim to work together so that all children have a brighter start for a stronger future. The partnership centres on a shared commitment to reimagining early years support to deliver tangible improvement to the lives of disadvantaged children. There is a greater focus on collaborative working with York and Stockport, sharing the learning across the partnership. The new partnership started on 24th November 2022 and will build on the learning from the discovery phase.

Priorities for the first year: The partnership is structured so that each year there are two local priorities agreed and one shared priority across the three authorities. In the first year we will continue to focus on engagement with the two-year-old offer, evaluation of PEEP and improving speech, language, and communication.

- One element of the 'Engagement' strand was explored through a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) looking at the offer letter, which was sent to parents when we advise them, they may be eligible for the 2-year-old funded offer. Two new types of letters were issued in March and April to families, and the RCT assessed the impact of the language used in the letters on the take up of places. The findings from the RCT trial suggests that the type of letter has no impact on the take up of the offer.



- The attendance project which was a shared priority with York and Stockport focused on looking at opportunities to increase attendance with the offer. Children Centres have very much supported and been a key part of this work which has now concluded. The final report was published in January. In Leeds twenty-one settings took part, so this is a very small proportion of our settings, so any findings need to be seen within this context.
- The local priority will build on the current work with regards to speech, language and communication and builds on the work undertaken in the discovery phase and current work with the Speech & language team. Data information agreements are being worked up and Nesta have been making plans to scope out referral data and information for those children on the waiting list for speech therapy. We will build on this work going forward and report progress.
- We have now 45 trained in Leeds on the Peep programme<sup>20</sup> which has been delivered across Leeds. This is a programme for practitioners who work with partners / carers and babies / young children. The aims of the programme are to
  - engage and support parents to build on what they already do to enhance their baby's or child's early learning and communication (contributing to school-readiness), through talking and playing as part of everyday life,
  - explore practical ideas, strategies and resources, using the comprehensive and flexible Peep Learning Together Programme,
  - deliver universal or targeted sessions with parents and children together – in person or online: 1-to-1, groups or drop-ins.

## **Outcomes and Outputs**

### **Two-year-olds take-up**

Leeds has an average take-up city wide of 75%, based on three terms worth of data (spring 2022, summer 2022 and autumn 2022). The inner city areas of Holbeck, Harehills, Burmantofts and Woodhouse are still below the city average at 69%, 50%, 65% and 58% respectively. Further work to increase take-up in these areas is a priority and action.

### **Three and four-year-olds take-up**

Take up for 3 and 4 year olds was 93% as of Summer 2022, which is an increase on the previous year of 89%. The average over the past 3 years (which includes the lockdown period of 2020) is 92% city wide. The areas of Burmantofts, Harehills and Holbeck are significantly below this figure and are deemed priority areas in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, to increase take-up

### **Next steps**

There will be some changes to the partnership going forward with a focus on one priority for the whole year and a clear timeline and project plan to support this work. We will continue to work with York and Stockport, but this will be around sharing practice as opposed to a shared priority. The proposal is that authorities will meet two or three times a year around a common theme and share ideas/practice. The first of these took place in January in London.

## **8.2 Priority 2 – Emotional Health and wellbeing/ Mental Health**

### **Update on recent activities**

#### Wellbeing for Return to Education

Three phases of the DfE Wellbeing for Return to Education were delivered, since implementation in 2020. Phase 3, delivered in the 2021-2022 academic year, is a free core offer for one day to every school in Leeds focusing on making meaning of social, emotional, mental health needs and extended school non-

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<sup>20</sup> [Peep Learning Together Programme](#).

attendance - two key themes from school feedback. This has now become an embedded core offer to schools and includes the development of an early years offer. Webinars and progression courses are available for free CPD available on Leeds for learning.

The Educational Psychology team has developed guidance on Extended School Non Attendance to support settings with evidence based approaches. This area is an emerging theme within local data and national literature as of increased concern following the pandemic.

#### Headteacher Support Offer

The headteacher support offer is being developed to support wider leadership teams. The local authority is exploring and implementing initiatives that enable school leaders and governors to support whole staff wellbeing.

The new service is currently focused on preparation, planning and setting a solid base from which to build. Ensuring effective discussion on future strategies is key to ensuring that the service has impact from September 2022.

#### My Health, My School Survey

Following partner consultation on the My Health, My School (MHMS) survey a reviewed and refreshed question set was produced for the 2021-22 academic year. All participating schools were able to access their own data to plan interventions. The Health & Wellbeing Service collated survey data at a city-wide level. A new 'School Resource Pack and Pupil Campaign Tool' was made available to schools In September 2022 to support with pupil analysis and reporting - a dedicated PowerPoint presentation facilitates 'peer-to-peer' sharing of results enhancing opportunities for pupil voice, underlining ownership and supporting change on key issues in school. The MHMS survey is included in the actions within priority 4 of The Refreshed 3As Plan.

### **Outcomes and outputs**

Wellbeing Support – evaluations continue to be positive. Data on impact of intervention will be collated and reported on annually as part of evaluation of service delivery. Annual evaluations of support will be part of the whole EP team evaluation process and guide future service delivery.

#### My Health, My School Survey

A total of 22,389 pupil responses were received from across 181 Leeds schools and settings that participated in the 2021-22 survey. The raw data results were made publicly available on Data Mill North. A number of resultant Annual Reports reflecting the eight themes of the survey were published. As of February 2023, there have been an encouraging 8,741 survey responses from 79 Leeds schools and settings indicating a degree of confidence that the total number of survey returns for the 2022-23 academic year will be at least in line with last year's results.

#### **Next steps**

- Continued offer via Leeds for Learning to all schools to support targeted mental health needs within the schools' context. Embedding of universal and systems support in the education context.
- Future in Mind Strategy to continue to have oversight of prevention and early support for mental health needs.
- Development of the priorities in line with the Future in Mind priorities for prevention and reduction of health inequalities and in line with the SEND and Inclusion Strategy priority of integrating practices.

The consultation on the question set for the My Health, My School survey 2023-24 opened at the beginning of February with a deadline of the end of March. Leeds City Council Service representatives have been invited to review and suggest amendments to the survey questions to be used with schools for the next survey period as well as being tabled as an agenda item on various strategic Programme/Project Boards

facilitating broader discussion. Following the review, the survey will be revised and amendments drafted in time for the next MHMS Steering Group meeting in summer 2023.

### **8.3 Priority 3 – The 3 As strategy - working with schools to improve attendance, achievement and attainment.**

The two-page plan can be found here [- The 3As gateway | Leeds for Learning](#)

#### **3As Strategy**

- The original 3As Strategy has been **renamed The Refreshed 3As Plan** and is now being utilised by teams across Children and Families Services to deliver the priorities and actions detailed in the plan. The 5 key priorities of the refreshed plan are:
- **Priority 1** - All children in Leeds are supported to improve their fluency in reading taking into account their individual needs
- **Priority 2** – All children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years' education settings, schools, and post-16 education settings to benefit from learning opportunities, protective factors, and enrichment activities
- **Priority 3** - Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families receive timely and appropriate support to achieve their best possible outcomes and prepare for adult life
- **Priority 4** – All children and staff working in learning settings are supported with their wellbeing
- **Priority 5** - All children make the best start to each stage of their learning

#### **Outcomes and outputs**

A report on the Refreshed 3As Plan is due to be presented to the Children and Families scrutiny board on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Some of the headlines so far are listed below.

#### **Priority 1 Reading:**

- 132 deep dives in reading have taken place since September 2021.
- 104 delegates from 74 schools have completed the Level 1 training we offered on 'Meeting the needs of children with specific learning differences (SpLD) and literacy difficulties'.
- A cross phase conference focussed on reading after phonics is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- A Reception Reading Stars Project took place in the summer to encourage children about to start reception to meet their new classmates at the library and enjoy books together.
- Refreshed Leeds Book Award (Launch Feb 23). The Book Award aims to encourage reading for pleasure for all children from Early Years through to Key Stage 4 and it will culminate in an Oscar style celebratory event at Elland Road in the autumn with all shortlisted authors, illustrators and publishers.
- A leaflet for parents with advice about how to read to your child has been produced in English and 8 other languages common to Leeds. This will be widely distributed in the city and shared with social workers to inform their conversations with parents and carers.
- A guide for supporting older readers who need to catch up has been produced for secondary leaders and has been accompanied with a training offer and briefings to senior leaders.
- Working in partnership with University of Leeds on the ICKLE+ project looking at how to support primary aged pupils with their reading who have been impacted by the pandemic.
- A secondary training offer to support struggling readers has been developed.

#### **Priority 2 Attendance:**

Register checks with primary and secondary ongoing and to date 64 have been completed. These register checks were prioritised based on attendance and persistent attendance absence data 2020/21.

The register checks have meant that there has been a co-ordinated approach between services (School Attendance Service and School Improvement) which has reinforced the advice, guidance, and challenge to schools on their attendance practices to support vulnerable children.

Schools have found the register checks useful with significant positive feedback being received by the team. Schools have also been able to implement advice on attendance codings to improve consistency across Leeds schools.

Primary attendance half-terms 1-4 2021-22.

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>94.3</b>	Leeds ranks 26/151 LAs Band A
<b>National</b>	<b>93.8</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	93.9	
<b>Core Cities</b>	93.9	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	93.8	

Secondary attendance half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>91.3</b>	Leeds ranks 74/151 LAs Band C
<b>National</b>	<b>91.4</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	91.5	
<b>Core Cities</b>	91.1	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	90.8	

Primary persistent absence half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>16.4</b>	Leeds ranks 32/151 LAs Band A
<b>National</b>	<b>18.2</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	17.6	
<b>Core Cities</b>	18.4	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	18.3	

Secondary persistent absence half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>25.5</b>	Leeds ranks 59/151 LAs Band B
<b>National</b>	<b>26.7</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	26.3	
<b>Core Cities</b>	27	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	28.2	

**Priority 3 SEND:**

To improve outcomes SEND will be the main focus of the secondary traded package to schools for 2023-24 which is a series of 3 termly networks in 13 subjects for curriculum leaders. The aims of the package are to ensure that all subject leaders can articulate an ambitious vision for what pupils with SEND can achieve in their subject; be clear what the core knowledge is pupils including those with SEND, should learn for each part of their curriculum that will enable them to access future learning; can give examples of how learning is scaffolded for pupils with SEND within their subject, so that they access the curriculum and support future learning; explore the best strategies that will support pupils with SEND in a specific subject context; ensure each team member of their team has the required knowledge to be able to identify, assess and scaffold their teaching to meet the specific needs of pupils with SEND within their classroom and work with colleagues to develop and challenge their understanding of SEND provision in the classroom.

#### **Priority 4 Well-being**

- The Headteacher Support Service has been further developed with 2 new colleagues, Cath Lennon and Deborah Park (both experienced senior leaders in schools) now in post.

#### **Priority 5 Transition**

- To support the implementation of the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, 90 delegates (practitioners from school, childminder and PVI settings) attended 12 free-of-charge training sessions covering various elements of transition. Further sessions are on offer for up to 200 delegates throughout the coming year, including a number of bespoke in-house sessions. An estimated 80 delegates will receive the training in January and February 2023.
- The secondary traded offer, the Leading Learning Partnership (LLP), which is subscribed to by 30 settings in Leeds, has focussed this year on the transition between KS2 and KS3.

#### **Next steps**

- To report to Scrutiny on the progress made against the actions outlined in the Refreshed 3As Plan on 29<sup>th</sup> March;
- To continue to implement the actions detailed on the Plan;
- In summer 2023, consider the effectiveness of the Plan and consider consulting with education settings across the city about future priorities.

### **9.0 Green Spaces**

The aim of this workstream is: **We want to improve access to green spaces by improving the quality of existing green spaces, influencing the location and quality of new local green spaces through the Planning System, creating an online map of all Leeds green spaces, and making travel to green spaces easier, safer and more affordable**

This workstream is led by Sarah Wilson, Senior Design Officer.

#### ***Priority 1 / Project 1 Lincoln Green***

##### **Update on recent activities**

###### Complete:

The Mini-Holland Highways project to make key roads through Lincoln Green safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The project budget also part-funded new play equipment for the adjacent Lindsey Gardens play area, primarily for children aged 8-12.

###### In progress:

Roxby Community Garden, which is a former disused play area designed as a new community garden in partnership with Mafwa Theatre – a community theatre company working mainly with women from migrant backgrounds. The Council have awarded the construction contract and work will begin in Spring 2023 to make the garden a multi-functional performance, play and gathering space. Mafwa Theatre have also set up Lincoln Greeners residents' gardening group and they have revitalised the planting beds in the garden and at Lindsey Mount with fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The Public Realm Masterplan for the area is under development to continue to improve the green spaces and streets for residents, especially children. Consultation has been carried out with residents at Granville Road maisonettes and the Council's new Play Strategy Officer will also be advising on the Masterplan. Additionally, Urban Trails are being designed across Burmantofts, Richmond Hill, Harehills as part of a Department for Transport funded walking, cycling, wheeling project and Lincoln Green has been identified as a pilot area for a play-focused trail.

## **Outcomes and outputs**

The success of completed and developing green space and play improvement projects will be measured through ongoing engagement with Shakespeare Primary School, Mafwa Theatre and the Lincoln Greeners.

## **Next steps**

The team will continue development of the Public Realm Masterplan and Urban Trails.

## ***Priority 2 / Project 2 Green Spaces Mapping***

### **Update on recent activities**

There is a project in partnership with Strategic Planning Data & Intelligence colleagues to develop an up-to-date interactive digital map of all green spaces in Leeds including: spaces managed by Parks & Countryside, privately managed/maintained public open spaces, accessible natural green space, amenity space on Housing land. It is intended for the map to be used by officers to investigate options for quality and accessibility improvements, will also investigate how best to make the map useable for the public. The team have acquired data sets for Gipton & Harehills and are currently undertaking detailed work to map the green spaces, aiming to have a draft map ready to share in Spring 2023.

Natural England launched the new national Green Infrastructure Framework on 31.1.2023 which includes a map with green spaces, which is proving useful to see what spaces are currently mapped and compare with other places in England. However, it is not 100% accurate and does not show all types of green space.

## **Outcomes and outputs**

It is expected that it will take 6-12 months to map all green spaces in Leeds. As each Ward is completed in this period, staff will be able to start using the data to inform assessments of quality and propose improvements, and potentially start making the map publicly available.

## **Next steps**

The team are aiming to have a draft map ready to share in Spring.

## ***Priority 3 / Project 3 Green Spaces Design Guidance***

### **Update on recent activities**

Guidance for how green spaces should be designed in planning applications for proposed developments was presented to Leeds Planning Services Senior Officers at Planning Board in September 2022 and a range of revisions, improvements and further internal consultation was requested. The final version of the guidance is now awaiting approval from Senior Management in the Leeds Planning Service to publish the guidance on the Council Landscape Planning and Development website.

The published guidance is likely to be developed into a new green infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) once new green space policies in the Local Plan Update are adopted. The new national Green Infrastructure Framework will also influence these local Planning policies and document.

**Outcomes and outputs**

Once guidance has been published there will be ongoing monitoring of use by officers, and a resulting green space quality assessment will be carried out.

**Next steps**

The team are aiming for publication on the Council website in March 2023, subject to approval from Senior Management in the Planning Service.

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As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions. Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: Children &amp; Families</b>	<b>Service area:</b> children and families
<b>Lead person: Julie Devonald</b>	<b>Contact number: 01133786922</b>

**1. Title: Thriving: A Child Poverty Strategy**

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**       **Service / Function**       **Other**

**If other, please specify**

**2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening**

The Child Poverty strategy has been created based on consultation from a wide range of partners. The main report reflects upon the barriers faced by children who live in poverty and looks at how council directorates and a large range of partners can do more for children living in poverty in Leeds. The content of the strategy is being screened to ensure that there are no negative impacts on equality, diversity, cohesion or integration. Executive board requested oversight of monitoring the impact of the actions taken under each priority workstream in the strategy. This will include qualitative and quantitative information reported twice a year.

### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?	X	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?		X
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	X	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?	X	
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	X	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

### 4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment. Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

• **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (**think about** the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

The Child Poverty Strategy has been developed in consultation with a wide range of partners. Placing prominence on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is key to

this work, as it aims to improve the lives of those who experience poverty. A key stakeholder in our work is children and we have ensured that the voices and experiences of children living in Leeds is at the forefront of our strategy. Children and young people will be consulted as we understand the impact of mitigating poverty.

There is a focus on Equality and Diversity & Cohesion and Integration throughout our strategy and this will be highlighted as we report on the impact and outcomes. The Equality and Diversity & Cohesion and Integration section within this report highlights that equality and diversity issues have been considered throughout the work in developing the strategy. We have recognised that disadvantaged children 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.

Equality Improvement Priorities have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010.

- **Key findings**

**(think about** any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The Child Poverty strategy is focused upon mitigating the impact of experiencing poverty, which has provided the opportunity for partnerships to form between external and internal partners. We recognise the variations in the complexity and breadth of the impacts of poverty and are therefore addressing the impacts of experiencing poverty from a multi-organisational approach, which is based upon inclusive and equal partnerships. The strategy incorporates the formation of strong relationships between children and young people, council directorates, schools, education provisions, academics, third sector, private sector, public sectors, and community representatives to work on policies and projects which are low cost, but provide high impact solutions to improving the lives of children and young people in poverty.

Through this strategy, different partners across the city will work together to share their understanding, knowledge, resources and good practice to help tackle the impact of poverty on children and young people. We want to improve the opportunities and enable better outcomes for children and young people by collectively combatting the challenges that they face. The work will be overseen by the Child Poverty Impact Board, who will analyse key findings and promote these across the city, We will report on the impact the strategy has on the lives of children and young people in the city which has been brought into focus during the Covid19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

- We will maintain and develop the work that is already being done to mitigate the impact of child poverty in Leeds
- We will continue to work in partnerships with children, young people, their families and internal and external partners, to ensure our strategy is shaped by the people who are living in poverty and by the partners who are working first-hand with these individuals
- We will also be working in close partnerships with third sector and private sector groups to provide further support to disadvantaged individuals and to collaborate with these partners to see what more can be done to help those living in poverty
- We will continue to monitor the data and trends on poverty in Leeds to ensure that the work we are doing is still effective and targeting the right areas across the region
- We will assess the success of the work being done by the impact workstreams to ensure that each workstream is producing tangible outcomes and working towards the broader ambition of reducing the impacts of poverty on children. We will also seek to understand the qualitative impact on the lives of children through their lived experience.
- The strategic board will assess the learnings of the impact workstreams and promote positive improvements both locally and nationally

**5.** If you are **not** already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you **will need to carry out an impact assessment.**

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

**6. Governance, ownership and approval**

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

Name	Job title	Date
Julie Devonald	Head of Service, Children and Families	07/02/23

**7. Publishing**

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

<b>Date screening completed</b>	07/02/23
<b>Date sent to Equality Team</b>	
<b>Date published</b> (To be completed by the Equality Team)	

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## The Refreshed 3As Plan

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

- This report is an update on the refreshed 3A's plan which runs from August 2021 – August 2023 with information on each priority and each action's KPI using the latest data available. A full list of the five priorities, fourteen actions can be found in Appendix 1.
- The report is structured sequentially with each priority being divided into its actions and the KPIs they are being measured by.
- Each KPI has 3 sections: 'In Summary', which gives an overview of how we are doing against the KPI; 'Recent activity', which details what has been undertaken over the 21-22 and 22-23 academic years to date and 'Next steps', which details what the service or team responsible for delivering against the KPI is working on between March and August 2023, when the plan will end.
- Nearly all the KPIs are on-track to achieve their targets by the end of the refreshed plan, and some, such as action KPIs 1 and 2 for priority one "All children in Leeds are supported to improve their fluency in reading taking into account their individual needs" have exceeded their targets.

### Recommendations

Scrutiny Board members are asked to have a full and informed discussion concerning this update on the Priorities, Actions and KPIs for the plan. Local authority officers will be present at the board meeting to provide appropriate inputs and to respond to questions.

## What is this report about?

- 1 [The Best Council Plan](#) has the aspiration for Leeds to be a child-friendly city. The [Leeds Children and Young People's Plan](#) (CYPP) explains this child friendly approach in greater detail and sets out eleven priority areas of work and three key obsessions. The third obsession is to *improve achievement, attainment, and attendance in learning settings*. To deliver on this obsession, the 3A's Strategy was developed in 2018.
- 2 The Covid-19 pandemic necessitated a re-evaluation of the strategy to address the significant, immediate, and longer-term impacts on the health, wellbeing and learning of our children and young people. A series of meetings with educational professionals from all phases were held in the summer of 2021 to hear at first hand what they considered to be the priorities for the city and what would have the greatest impact on children's achievement, attainment, and attendance. Consequently, the 3A's Strategy was revised in autumn 2021. The resultant Refreshed 3A's Plan can be found in Appendix 1.
- 3 The Refreshed 3A's Plan set out to align the work of teams in the Children and Families Directorate around five key priorities. Progress against each priority is measurable against key performance indicators (KPIs). The Refreshed 3A's Plan was designed to be whole Children and Families directorate strategy, not simply a learning team plan. It aims to ensure that all resources and capacity across the directorate are employed to support better outcomes for young people.
- 4 The plan was not designed for educational professionals to enact; rather the priorities selected to be areas of focus were where the Children and Families Services could have the most impact in *supporting* learning settings who work with children and young people. We recognised that each early years' setting, school, academy, and college would have its own priorities and development plan.
- 5 Our Leeds vision, as expressed in the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy, is to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities that still exist. We recognise some groups have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The priorities were selected because addressing them is likely to have a positive impact particularly on disadvantaged cohorts of children.
- 6 The Refreshed 3A's Plan runs to August 2023. This paper reports on the progress made so far against the five priorities.
- 7 The five key priorities and the associated key performance indicators are:

### **7.1 Priority 1: All children in Leeds are supported to improve their fluency in reading taking into account their individual needs.**

- 7.1.1 KPI 1: The Learning Improvement Service will have carried out 100 reading deep dive reviews by the end of the academic year 2021/22:

#### In summary:

- 144 reading reviews have been carried out in total since the start of the plan. 132 primary reading deep dives were completed by the end of the summer term 2022. A further 12 reading deep dives have been completed this academic year.
- All primary schools which were Ofsted grade 3 at the time of their reading deep dive and were subsequently inspected received a judgement of good. In four out of the five inspection reports, reading is noted as a strength.

#### Recent activity:

- The primary team are continuing to undertake reading reviews.



- Schools are receiving an additional half day follow up visit to capture the impact of a school's work against the recommendations made in their reading review. 53 review follow up visits have taken place so far for academic year 22/23.

Next Steps:

- The primary team are continuing to work with the English Hubs to identify schools where additional funding and/or training would support the school's actions to improve attainment outcomes and the quality of early reading provision across Leeds.
- The team are continuing to collate information about which systematic synthetic programme schools are using. This will be correlated with the 2023 phonics data. Where outcomes were not in line or above the national percentage the team will be able to offer bespoke, programme specific training and development opportunities.

7.1.2 KPI 2: There is an offer to all primary schools to access Level 1 training 'Meeting the needs of children with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) and literacy difficulties'. By the end of the academic year 2021/22, 40 schools will have accessed the training.

In summary:

- 77 delegates from 45 schools have completed the Level 1 training.

Recent Activity:

- Due to differences in how the needs of learners with literacy difficulties/dyslexia are met in primary and secondary schools, courses have been specifically developed and designed for primary and secondary schools.

Next Steps:

- 2 SENIT officers are studying for a diploma in SpLD/dyslexia to increase the capacity of specialist assessors and advisors.
- 1 SENIT officer is studying for a diploma in SpLD/Dyscalculia to develop capacity in mathematics difficulties.
- A training programme 'Key principles for an effective Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme for SEND learners' is being developed.

7.1.3 KPI 3: All families with involvement with Children's Social Care will be given the advice on how to read to their child.

In summary:

- A reading guide has been produced and translated into 8 commonly spoken languages in Leeds.
- The guide has been shared widely. The library service has made it available in their libraries; the University of Leeds have posted it on their ICKLE research project website; it is available on Leeds for Learning and has been shared with school leaders via head teacher briefings and head teacher newsletters.

Recent Activity:

- Meetings are arranged to share the guide with social workers who will then be able to support parents to read to their children.

### Next Steps:

- The team will continue to distribute and publicise the leaflet with the aim of reaching as many parents as possible.

## **7.2 Priority 2: All children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years education settings, schools, and post-16 education settings to benefit from learning opportunities, protective factors, and enrichment activities.**

7.2.1 KPI 1: 100 attendance reviews will have been carried out by the end of the plan in 2023.

### In Summary:

- Of the 47 register check offered to secondary schools 15 have been completed.
- Of the 86 register check offered to primary schools 49 have been completed.
- There have been several schools that chose to defer their register check due to factors such as staff illness, Ofsted inspection, staff capacity, and severe weather. These schools will be prioritised as we resume the 'Register Checks'
- There are 5 schools that have declined the offer of a register check.
- Staff are confident they will be able to meet the KPI target by the end of the 22/23 academic year.
- The Register checks were prioritised based on attendance and persistent absence data for 2020/21 and those schools due Ofsted within the academic year.
- A register check summary report is completed after each visit. The report includes advice and guidance on appropriate register codings, recommendations, and actions to be implemented by the school to improve attendance, policy, and procedures. The report is shared with school and School Improvement colleagues.
- The register checks have meant that there has been a co-ordinated approach between services (School Attendance Service and School Improvement) which has reinforced the advice, guidance, and challenge to schools on their attendance practices to support vulnerable children.
- Schools have found the register checks useful with significant positive feedback being received by the team. Schools have also been able to implement advice on attendance codings to improve consistency across Leeds schools.
- Attendance staff have been able to promote the use of Individual Healthcare Plans (IHP) for children with long term health conditions/medical needs. This has increased an awareness within schools that although the IHP is not statutory it is good practice to enable pupils to fully access the education that they are entitled to through clear planning.
- Promotion of attendance training during the register checks has led to more schools attending courses.
- The attendance checks are only one aspect of the work of the Schools' Attendance Service. Their work, together with the considerable work undertaken by the schools themselves has been focussed on improving attendance following the pandemic. Across the country, school leaders are reporting challenges regarding attendance post-pandemic and this is generally lower than it was pre-pandemic. However, attendance and persistent absence data is slightly more positive in Leeds than it is nationally and regionally.

Primary attendance half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>94.3</b>	Leeds ranks 26/151 LAs Band A
<b>National</b>	<b>93.8</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	93.9	
<b>Core Cities</b>	93.9	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	93.8	

Secondary attendance half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>91.3</b>	Leeds ranks 74/151 LAs Band C
<b>National</b>	<b>91.4</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	91.5	
<b>Core Cities</b>	91.1	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	90.8	

Primary persistent absence half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>16.4</b>	Leeds ranks 32/151 LAs Band A
<b>National</b>	<b>18.2</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	17.6	
<b>Core Cities</b>	18.4	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	18.3	

Secondary persistent absence half-terms 1-4 2021-22

	%	
<b>Leeds</b>	<b>25.5</b>	Leeds ranks 59/151 LAs Band B
<b>National</b>	<b>26.7</b>	
<b>Statistical Neighbours</b>	26.3	
<b>Core Cities</b>	27	
<b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>	28.2	

Recent Activity:

- The School Attendance Service was significantly impacted by staff absence and register checks were temporarily paused.
- The appointment of a newly created post of Exclusions lead Officer in September 2022 has led to the following:
  - A school exclusion handbook updated in line with new DFE guidance and legislation.
  - Support for schools to meet statutory duties and provide advice for children at risk of suspension, permanent exclusion and pupils with 15 days plus suspensions in a term.
  - Close working with AIP leads to support the attendance of vulnerable children.

- More work has been done in partnership with attendance and admissions to ensure permanently excluded children have a school place.

#### Next Steps:

- The register checks will resume with schools which have previously deferred their checks being prioritised.
- Attendance training via Leeds for Learning will continue to be promoted.
- Several new members of staff have started in the attendance team which will add capacity to this area.
- The team will establish a monthly liaison meeting with Learning Improvement colleagues.
- They will also establish city-wide attendance briefing sessions on 'Expectations of schools.' This was previously trialled with Rothwell and ARM cluster 2023 and shown to work well.
- An Updated Attendance Toolkit will be available in summer term 2023.
- Documents supporting schools in implementing their statutory responsibility will be reviewed in the coming months and made available for all schools on Leeds for Learning.
- There will be localised information for schools regarding implementing new DFE guidance.
- The traded services arm is under review and a new offer is being finalised in March 2023.

#### 7.2.2 KPI 2: Increase in take-up of Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) within areas of high deprivation and historical low take-up.

##### In Summary:

- Over a 3-term period against the eligible number of children, the citywide average take-up of 2yr old FEEE is 75%. This ranges from 96% take-up in Burley to 53% in Harehills.
- Data also shows that over a 3-term period against the eligible number of children, the citywide average take-up of 3&4yr old FEEE is 93%. This ranges from 97% in Swarcliffe to 70% in Harehills.

##### Recent Activity:

- In June 2020, a Children's Centre working party was set up specifically in response to challenges arising from the Covid 19 pandemic around children eligible for 2-year FEEE accessing Little Owls nurseries. Home learning resources were produced by the Children's Centre Teacher team to support the quality of learning opportunities in the home environment for children unable to access nursery provision and to encourage and support the use of '50 Things To Do Before You're 5' app.
- Using DWP data, outreach visits were undertaken to families with eligible 2-year-olds to encourage take-up of the 2-year free early education entitlement offer, help find providers & to deliver the home learning and Bookstart packs:
  - March 2020: 1,701 children were eligible for 2-year-old FEEE and 1,543 packs were delivered i.e., 91% of eligible 2-year-olds received a pack.
  - March 2021: 1,231 children were eligible for 2-year-old FEEE and 949 packs were delivered i.e., 77% of eligible 2-year-olds received a pack.
- Where packs have been distributed, data shows that there has been an increase in families making enquiries and take-up has increased.

- Leeds, along with Stockport and York, has entered a Fairer Start local partnership research programme with NESTA to better understand engagement with the offer and to evaluate ways to improve take-up. This research has focused on the areas of action where take-up is the lowest. For those families who are not eligible or reluctant to accept the offer, all Children's Centres offer weekly Stay and Play groups to reduce isolation and support parents with the school readiness agenda.
- Within the Little Owls settings, data shows that all areas of learning and development have seen an increase in the percentage of children assessed as 'on track' since their entry into the setting.

#### Next Steps:

During the 2022-23 academic year several initiatives and pieces of work continue to take place within the Little Owls settings and are led by the Children's Centre Teacher team. These are already contributing to raising attainment and achievement across all groups of children within the 2023 cohort. These include:

- A focus on city wide initiatives such as the 'Curriculum Focus' linked to 'Making words count' and currently a role modelling programme.
- Continued development of the moderation programme which has supported the increase in accuracy of assessments.
- Continued development of CPD opportunities to support nurseries in improving mathematical outcomes.
- Continued support for Little Owls nurseries from the Children's Centre Teacher team to develop quality teaching and learning.
- Further development of the EAL programme (CCT team) in settings.
- Support and Training in developing an ambitious curriculum.
- Support and training in the revised EYFS.
- Termly SENCo Forums and partnership working with colleagues from SENIT and the STARS teams to support developing practice and meet the needs of children with SEND.
- Continued support and challenge for Little Owls nurseries (CCT Team) to improve outcomes for children in receipt of EYPP.
- Continued use of the Little Owls Tracking system to provide nurseries with a tool to enable them to monitor attainment and achievement and use information to inform planning for individuals and groups of children.
- Forward Planning Meetings to support nursery leaders and managers to identify, address and monitor impact in relation to teaching and learning priorities.
- Training packages to support apprentices within Little Owls settings.
- Development of literacy training packages in line with the revised EYFS e.g., Phonological Awareness and Literacy.

### **7.3 Priority 3: Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families receive timely and appropriate support to achieve their best possible outcomes and prepare for adult life.**

- 7.3.1 KPI 1: Working with schools, the Learning Inclusion Service will launch and roll-out the new Leeds SEND and Inclusion Practice Framework. 75% of schools will access the framework by the end of 2023.

### In Summary:

- The Graduated Approach Toolkit for SENCOs is now live and accessible to all settings on Leeds For Learning.

### Recent Activity:

- The roll out of the Graduated Approach Toolkit has been supported by training and professional development opportunities for school-based colleagues. Feedback from colleagues will inform the next phase of planning.

### Next Steps:

- With regards to the Graduated Approach Toolkit the team will:
  - Increase engagement with the Graduated Approach Toolkit through seeking an alternative web base platform.
  - Develop Early Years and secondary versions.
  - Continue to seek SENCO feedback for review and modifications.
  - Ensure that the Toolkit keeps abreast of best practice, law and research.
- We are also working on the development of matrixes for identified needs.
- There will be a formal evaluation of the pilot and framework in July 2023.

7.3.2 KPI 2: The Learning Improvement Service will ensure that supporting the lowest 20% of learners is the key service priority and will be a focus for its work with schools. Outcomes for this cohort will improve.

### In Summary:

- We have made modest improvements in outcomes data for pupils with SEND since 2019.
- In 2022, pupils in Leeds with SEND support performed one percentage point better than this cohort nationally, with 45% reaching the required standard at the end of Year 1. There is a larger disparity in the proportions of pupils with an EHCP meeting the expected standard between Leeds and national. In Leeds, this figure was 8% below the national figure, although there was no decrease compared to 2019, compared to a reduction of 1% nationally.
- In Leeds in 2022 at KS1, contrary to national data, the attainment of pupils with SEND Support or with an EHCP increased in both reading and mathematics compared to 2019.
- At KS2 5% of pupils with an EHCP achieved the expected standard in the three subjects of reading, writing and maths. This is a 1% improvement on the 2019 figure. By contrast, nationally, the percentage of pupils with an EHCP achieving the expected standard fell by 2% from 2019 to 7%. 21% of pupils receiving SEND support achieved the expected standard, a 2% reduction from 2019. However, the fall was greater nationally, at 4%, which means that Leeds is now in line with national.
- In Leeds there was an improvement of 2.7% in the percentage of pupils with SEND support achieving a grade 4 or better in English and maths. This was expected due to the change in grade boundaries in 2022 however, the size of the improvement is greater than national, which is only 0.2%. This means that outcomes for this measure are broadly in line with national now at 22%. There was a reduction in the percentage of pupils in Leeds with an EHCP who gained a grade 4 or better in English and maths. However, at 0.4, this is modest, and smaller than the national reduction of 0.9. This means again that outcomes for this measure in Leeds are now broadly in line with those nationally.

### Recent activity

- Our secondary traded offer (the LLP) will focus in the coming year (April 23-March 24) on whether each school's subject curriculum meets the needs of pupils with SEND.
- We have developed an audit tool with SENIT for schools to use to quality assure their SEN provision.
- School improvement advisers comment on the provision for pupils with SEND when undertaking curriculum reviews.
- Standardisation and moderation training for primary consultants and teachers which helps to identify children working below the expected standards has been conducted.
- Training has been offered for SENDCOs and senior leaders on meeting the needs of the lowest 20% in the school/classroom.
- Meeting the needs of the lowest 20% is addressed in subject leader networks and training.

### Next Steps:

- The service is planning quality training on SEN that can be facilitated by Learning and Teaching specialists, who lead the 13 secondary subject networks of the LLP.
- The service will also publicise the new SEND audit tool and conduct SEND curriculum reviews in schools.

## **7.4 Priority 4: All children and staff working in learning settings are supported with their wellbeing**

7.4.1 KPI 1: All leaders and schools will have access to effective wellbeing support services.

### In Summary:

- Leaders in schools have access to the continued and enhanced Headteacher Support Service (HTSS). Colleagues support leaders with a range of immediate and current issues. Since September, the service has had contact with 38 individual Headteachers (HTs). 28 of these have been face to face, with other contact being via telephone or email support.
- More effective connections between a range of Local Authority teams forged by the Learning Improvement team and the HTSS has resulted in more rapid and 'joined-up' support for HTs
- Additional workshops have been presented to support staff e.g. The HTSS and Health and Safety team led a workshop on wellbeing for school staff supporting children who are looked after.
- Increased promotion of the LCC Employee Assistance Programme (Vivup) is being effective in promoting access to support.
- Analysis by the newly initiated 'Wellbeing Working Group' has commenced to identify what well-being support is available from each service and where the gaps are. A survey will soon be distributed to school staff to assess their understand of what is available, their usage of existing services and any blockers and good practice.

### Recent activity

- 2 new experienced senior leader colleagues have been appointed to the HTSS

- Regular meetings have been initiated between the Headteacher Support Service and the Health and Safety team (*who co-ordinate the Headspace programme*) to review and develop the provision for well-being support to Headteachers.
- The HTSS have made contacts with colleagues doing the same/similar role in other authorities. This has resulted in sharing good practice and attendance at a wellbeing conference. Discussions are under way with HS&W Team and Education Support to produce a similar event for leaders in Leeds.
- HTSS and HS&W are in contact with Education Support who have national funding to support wellbeing for school staff. Discussions are being held about what the service can offer bespoke to Leeds and how we make Leaders aware of what support is available to them through this service.
- The New HT network meetings have been increased in frequency from 3 to 6 per year following feedback from the participants. 3 of these are hosted by new heads to support the sharing of good practice.
- HTSS are expanding their support network meetings to involve a cohort of leaders who came into their roles during the pandemic.
- Connections are being made between Learning Improvement/HTSS and GSS to involve Governors more in the wellbeing support of school leaders. This includes making governors aware through training sessions and discussions with Governors at Headteacher appointment
- A Wellbeing Working Group has been established that includes HS&WT, HR, Governors Support, Health and Wellbeing Team and Occupational Health. The aim of the group is to provide a single point of information about the wellbeing services available to school staff, analyse effectiveness of current support and identify potential changes / opportunities to improve the support available.
- Ongoing work continues to engage schools and young people in the 'My Health-My School' Survey.
- An identified in the recent survey by Leeds Youth Council into young people's well-being was the issue of exam and test stress. A meeting has been arranged to look at how the Local Authority can work to support schools and academies in reducing this as a pressure for young people across the city.
- The Voice Influence and Change team, Bardsey Primary and the Children's Mayor programmed a 'Togetherness Event' in July. The event enabled attendees to reflect on friends and family whom they lost, celebrate personal resilience during such a challenging time and identify and share positive mental health and wellbeing strategies.
- In October a new Leeds Childrens Mayor was elected – planning work is currently underway (co-ordinated with CFL/Cllr Venner) to identify partners including Breeze, Active Leeds and 2023 who can support the Child Mayor manifesto aims which includes schools running mini-Olympics and activities that support pupil well being

#### Next Steps:

- Significant ground-work around this priority has been put in place during the last 2 terms and this development work needs to continue to enable initiatives, such as the new well-being working group, to be put in place and come to fruition.
- The creation of a Wellbeing website to signpost the wide range of support available to Headteachers and senior Leaders will be a positive development.
- The focus on supporting Governors to support the wellbeing of their school leaders will continue.



7.4.2 KPI 2: A multi-agency trauma informed service will be established with a clear offer of training, support and information communicated to all schools and settings.

In summary

- A team has been established and are now working on the outcomes framework, including understanding of workforce needs. In addition to training/workshops, a key aspect of this will be models/structures to support on-going reflective practice enabling an embedded approach and attending to staff well-being.
- Leeds LA is engaged in the 'West Yorkshire trauma informed network' of practice and practitioners sit within many of the workstreams, including the education, community and workforce development workstreams.
- Further work on the 'Trauma Informed Outcomes Framework' is being undertaken.
- Initial outputs for the projects are expected to be reported in July 2023.

Recent activity:

- The 'Compassionate Leeds: Trauma awareness, prevention and response strategy for children, young people and families' has been developed and is now at the final stage of sharing at key partnership boards. The Launch is April 2023.
- A Trauma Information hub is being developed to sit within the Mind Mate website
- The 'Compassionate Leeds Trauma Awareness, Prevention and Response Steering Group' has been established and this includes representatives from education, health and care.
- A draft Trauma-Informed Practice Integrated Resource Team service specification has been developed following collaborative multi-agency meetings.
- A core group has been created that includes a Community & Young People's Engagement & Development Lead for the Trauma Informed programme.
- The appointment of permanent social care and education posts have been agreed to join the trauma informed core group
- Trauma Informed information and awareness sessions have been held at a range of school leader forums
- Mapping of existing practice within schools/education settings is being undertaken and a group that will contribute to the development of the workforce development offer to schools/educational settings is being established. In addition, further links with educational settings, including Leeds City College, to become trauma-informed organisations are being explored.
- Third Knowledge Exchange across West Yorkshire is being held in March 23. In the Week beginning 20th February there was an education focus knowledge exchange. Leeds contributed to this in terms of input around supporting staff well-being.
- Leeds has been given increased access to NHS funded community-based children and young people's mental health services (*third sector funding*)
- A pilot project within a cluster for a families and schools project has been started to support a child or young person with neurodevelopmental differences.

Next Steps:

- We will work on the development of a workforce programme which supports the whole organisation including leadership support, policies/practice, workforce training and on-going structures to support reflective practice. The roll out of this work will be linked to areas of the city with higher levels of deprivation, poorer educational outcomes etc, as well as interest from leadership in schools.
- Linking in with other initiatives and programmes, such as the Safe Taskforce and Mindmate Support Teams to ensure a joined-up support approach to settings and

communities, to support the early identification of need and appropriate intervention to improve outcomes.

- A priority for Learning Inclusion teams to work with early help, social care and health partners to support organisational and workforce development across the system.

7.4.3 KPI 3: The Health & Wellbeing Service will support 115 schools/settings to complete the My Health My School survey and achieve a completion rate of 11,000 responses.

In Summary:

- 265 schools registered on the 'My Health, My School' website with 22,389 children and young people from 181 schools completing the survey in 2021-22.
- In the 22/23 academic year, so far 279 schools are registered and 9,124 children and young people from 82 Leeds schools have completed the survey. We are confident that we remain 'on track' to match, and hopefully surpass, the previous years' results ensuring that the MHMS survey continues to represent the biggest data source reflecting the voice of children and young people in Leeds.

Recent activity:

- A My Health, My School (MHMS) Survey School Resource Pack to support schools, school leaders and Governors, to navigate through school and city level data was made available to schools. The post-survey School Resource Pack includes:
  - A PowerPoint presentation template alongside a Headteacher's survey results template for effective sharing of school results with staff, SLT and with school Governors.
  - A set of focus group questions to enable staff to carry out focussed interviews with groups of pupils on themes that may be an area for further exploration.
  - A Case Study template to provide schools/settings the opportunity to show evidence of change, interventions and improvements made in relation to the outcome of their survey results.
- Healthy School Advisors regularly address survey analysis with schools as an integral part of school support visits. Further one-to-one support to schools/settings has been tailored.
- A Pupil Campaign Toolkit has been made available that supports peer-to-peer education to share survey results and raise awareness of what is 'going well' and 'not so well'. Opportunities can then be developed for pupil voice to be heard in supporting changes on key issues in school arising from the survey results.
- Two My Health, My School survey Steering Group meetings have taken place ensuring that a cross-service voice is steering and supporting the survey and impacting on better outcomes for young people.

Next Steps:

- A comprehensive review will be taken of the survey, ensuring it remains streamlined, 'fit for purpose' and effective for schools - including consultation with services as well as with schools as users of the survey
- There will be a continued on-going awareness and promotion of the survey to encourage greater school participation through various channels including Family of Schools briefings.

- A concerted drive capturing school case studies for impact to answer the question 'so what difference is this making' will take place.

## **7.5 Priority 5: All children make the best start to each stage of their learning.**

7.5.1 KPI 1: With the new EYFS framework, the exchange of information at transition points to support the child's learning and development is of prime importance. To support this transition, we will create early years transition modules. 400 Leeds settings will have accessed and utilised the new online transition modules by the end of 2023.

### In Summary:

- Transition training sessions and training materials have been written and developed.
- 125 practitioners have received the transition training so far. A number of sessions are scheduled for the rest of the year and we are receiving increasing requests for in house training.

### Recent activity:

- The approach to providing the training has needed to be flexible and responsive. Initially take-up of the free training was quite slow. Feedback from providers told us that due to staffing shortages, settings were finding it difficult to release staff for training and that certain times of the day were very difficult. In response:
  - We made a recorded version of the training available for settings to deliver in their staff meetings at a time to suit them.
  - We have also adapted the training to offer a condensed training session for those settings that could not release staff for two sessions.
  - We have offered training in house to the whole team so that everyone could access the training at the same time in their own location.
- On the Leeds for Learning platform we have created a Transition page where early years providers can find useful information, publications, links and reporting templates. This has registered 220+ views to date.
- An article about transition has been written and shared on Leeds for Learning with all providers and has had 280 views.
- A Transition area has been created at the resource base at Sunnybank Mills to provide information, resources and good practice ideas for early years providers.
- Assessment and reporting formats have been updated in response to changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and these have been shared with all providers (approx. 1000).

### Next Steps:

- We are continuing to explore ways of making the training easier to access as well as other ways of sharing the key messages and share good transition practice with providers.
- To further extend the scope and reach of the transition programme:
  - Transition will be the focus of the leadership forums, and EY provider networks at the summer meetings. In addition to reaffirming key messages, case studies and examples of impact will be shared with delegates.
  - At the Early Years Summer Festival there will be a transition display and stall to share the key information, resources and training offers.

- On the Early Years Leadership and Management Gateway on Leeds for Learning we will develop a bank of case studies, tools, resources for schools and settings to use to enhance transition processes.

7.5.2 KPI 2: The transition of vulnerable students into school will be undertaken in a timely and effective manner dependent on the individual needs of the child and the provision.

In summary:

- The current priority is to establish appropriate ways to capture this data across the three identified targeted groups – EHE, Re-inclusion from AP and FAP re-inclusion.

Recent activity:

- Fair Access Protocol (FAP) Re-inclusion: A review of the return to mainstream for those accessing school places with the support of the FAP has been undertaken, and the length of time taken is recorded for all pupils who require the support of the Fair Access Protocol to secure a place.
- From this baseline, the AIP service level agreements will be aligned to support improvements in this data, and that good practice is evidenced and shared between areas to encourage timely and successfully planned reintegration for all.
- An initial 'Development Day' is being planned for the AIP Leads in April 2023 to support this action.
- Elective Home Education (EHE): An initial review of some digital platforms available has been undertaken, and work is ongoing to determine the appropriateness of this offer. The focus is currently on ensuring a timely return to mainstream can take place where parents decide to no longer home educate.
- Re-inclusion from Alternative Provision (including AIP Inclusion Units): The planned development day in April for the AIP Leads will include a focus on how we develop robust and meaningful re-inclusion plans for return to mainstream, including a clear understanding of the support needed from other services during the re-inclusion to schools' process.

Next Steps:

- We are currently at the initial stages of working towards these targets. Processes for monitoring the timeliness of return to school are now in place or underway:
  - Once 2 terms of re-inclusion data is available (Summer 2023), this will be reviewed to identify any barriers to timely re-inclusion (from FAP, EHE and AP)
  - Support opportunities will be explored to enhance the offer to pupils returning to mainstream (e.g., Attendance Improvement officer input, support and guidance / challenge to RIOs in AIPs)
  - In line with the newly available information from School Census (available from April 2023 onwards) the LA will develop a process for oversight of all pupils educated in off-mainstream site learning provision to offer support and challenge to schools to ensure timely reintegration to mainstream, identifying support needs where appropriate
  - Development activity with Area Inclusion Partnership leads and other AIP staff to ensure robust and meaningful re-inclusion plans are in place for all, and that oversight and regular reviews happen to ensure pupils return to mainstream as soon as appropriate

7.5.3 KPI 3: The proportion of children meeting the expected levels of development at the end of Reception will show an upward trend towards bringing outcomes in line with national.

#### In Summary

- The EYFSP assessment criteria were new in 2022 and so we are unable to compare assessment data with previous years. However, there is some validity in comparing the gap between outcomes in Leeds and those seen nationally. Whilst the Leeds figure is below the national figure, the gap has been steadily closing since 2016.
- Recent Activity:
  - 0-19 Learning Improvement consultant is contributing to the NESTA programme.
  - The Early Years consultant team now have identified SEND lead who meets regularly with SENIT and Children's Centre Teacher team to coordinate the approach and identify joint working opportunities e.g., co-delivery of training.
  - An Early Years Improvement Manager meets regularly with lead children's centre teachers and attends relevant Early Start leadership Team meetings, to align and coordinate teaching and learning work and share Early Years priorities.
  - The Early Years Learning Improvement Manager now meets termly with the Early Years SENIT lead and a Senior Educational Psychologist to better align the teams' work and approaches and share and develop new guidance, tools and identify priorities.
  - Joint early years good practice sessions with Little Owls and PVI settings have been established to promote closer working and identify and disseminate best early years practice.
  - Closer working and regular opportunities for updates takes place with the Family Information Service and Sufficiency teams to ensure a coordinated approach and clear messages for providers.
  - Work with the Library Service to develop an early years Reading resource area at Sunnybank Mills promotes best practice in terms of curriculum, progression and resources.
  - The development of the Early Years Leadership and Management Gateway on Leeds for Learning provides a range of resources, information and tools for early years providers and shares links and information from a range of directorate teams

#### Next Steps:

- The service is working on closer co-ordination between the early years learning improvement team, 5-11 consultants and school improvement advisers to raise awareness of the early years agenda and develop a better understanding of early years priorities.
- They will also look to develop further opportunities to engage with school leaders to share early years information and priorities and so develop knowledge and confidence in monitoring the quality of early years provision.

### **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 8 By updating Scrutiny board on the trajectory of the 3A's plan it will begin to shape the process of the plan which is due to be refreshed again in August 2023. This process will be in conjunction with discussing with head teachers and from the Annual Standards Review, and the refreshed children and young people's plan.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 9 Providing the right support at the right time, the local authority enables children, families and learning settings to succeed. This, in turn, has significant positive influence within the Inclusive Growth Plan for Leeds as children and young people who enter apprenticeships and into working life will add their wealth of talents in contributing to the city's economic growth.
- 10 Work continues to promote energy efficiency and eco-awareness with schools, students and with families. There are likely to be environmental impacts associated with the pandemic that will become clearer over time. It is important to focus on the longer-term impacts of Covid-19 on the climate emergency. Where current changes how work is undertaken, how schooling is delivered and where support is offered to children and families, there are potential opportunities for carbon saving efficiencies. This potential is being balanced against the determination to continue to deliver high quality services.
- 11 The health and wellbeing of staff within learning settings, as well as the children and young people who attend them, is incorporated into the aims of the 3As Plan. Through consultation with learning settings during the Big Learning Conversations during the refresh in 2021, it was evident that the mental health of people across the city has suffered because of the pandemic. Mental and physical health are intrinsically linked and learning settings have existing plans in how to improve the wellbeing of every child, young person, and adult within their learning community. Children and Families Services proactively supports settings to support their staff and the children and young people who attend their settings.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 12 No Consultation specifically for this update has taken place. However, a communications strategy, created in October 2021, supported the launch and progress of the Refreshed 3As Plan.

## What are the resource implications?

- 13 The catalyst for refreshing the 3As Plan in 2021 was the enormity of the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people in Leeds.
- 14 The Council's Plan and Resources Scrutiny Board maintains oversight of the financial management plan in accordance with its remit.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 15 Children and Families Services Leadership Team, The Good Learning Places Board and the Learning Leadership Team will continue to monitor the progress of the refreshed 3As Plan and the actions which sit below it and will regularly assess the risks associated with the implementation of the Plan.

## What are the legal implications?

- 16 This report has no specific legal implications.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **How will success be measured?**

17 Each of the priorities identified in the refreshed plan has measurable key performance indicators which will enable those directing the plan to regularly assess the impact of the work being undertaken by the local authority.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

18 The 3As Plan runs until the August 2023, and as demonstrated above, each of the measurable targets have their own timeframe for completion, implementation, delivery, and monitoring.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – The refreshed 3As Plan 2021 - 2023.

### **Background papers**

- None.

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# Introduction

In 2018, the 3As Plan was developed by Children and Families Services to deliver the third obsession set out in the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), to improve attendance, attainment and achievement in education settings across Leeds. We have decided to re-evaluate our plans due to the significant, immediate and longer-term impacts of the pandemic on the health, wellbeing and learning of our children and young people.

In reshaping our plans, we have been keen to hear the views of people working in early years provisions, our schools, and colleges. In summer 2021, we consulted education leaders in Leeds, in a series of Big Learning Conversations, to hear their priorities and concerns. The plan has been shaped by what they told us.

This Refreshed 3As Plan has also been informed by the most recent data we have for the city. The Annual Standards Report for 2018-19 showed that Leeds is behind other authorities on headline measures for early years, phonics screening and reading, although young people in Leeds do make accelerated progress throughout their school years and by age sixteen achieve results broadly in line with the rest of the country.

Our Leeds vision, as expressed in the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy, is to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities that still exist. We recognise some groups such as those with English as an Additional Language and children from disadvantaged backgrounds have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

This is not a plan for schools and other settings, as we recognise that each early years' setting, school, academy, and college will have its own priorities and development plan, but rather a plan to shape our focus and offer in helping schools to support improved outcomes for children and young people. Of course, there are strategies in place across the directorate which focus on specific areas of need and which sit alongside The Refreshed 3As Plan, for example, the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

## Children and Families Services The Refreshed 3A's Plan 2021-23: Attend, Attain, Achieve

The refreshed plan has five priorities and details how Children and Families Services will focus on some key areas to support education settings to support all children and young people's learning.



1

Priority 1 - All children in Leeds are supported to improve their fluency in reading taking into account their individual needs.



2

Priority 2 - All children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years education settings, schools, and post-16 education settings to benefit from learning opportunities, protective factors, and enrichment activities.



3

Priority 3 - Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those vulnerable to inequalities (SEND) and their families receive timely and appropriate support to achieve their best possible outcomes and prepare for adult life.



4

Priority 4 - All children and staff working in learning settings are supported with their wellbeing.



5

Priority 5 - All children make the best start to each stage of their learning.



1

**Action 1** - Over the next two years, all Leeds primary schools will be offered a one day on site reading deep dive review and all secondary schools will receive a training and deep dive offer.

**Action 2** - There is an offer to all primary schools to access training which meets the needs of children with specific learning differences (SpLD) and literacy difficulties.

**Action 3** - A simple guide will be shared with families where there is social care involvement detailing how to read to your child.

**Impact**

- Improvement in outcomes from phonics screening test.
- Improved provision and outcomes for pupils with specific learning difficulties (SpLD).
- The reading experience will help develop close and nurturing relationships in families.

**Further measures**

- A training offer will be developed for secondary settings to support staff working with pupils who struggle to read.
- There will be a comprehensive early reading training offer to support staff in schools.
- We will signpost best practice and highlight opportunities for system leaders to support other schools in developing a good quality reading curriculum.

2

**Action 1** - The Attendance Service will contact every school in Leeds to offer a review of the attendance register.

**Action 2** - Monthly liaison will take place between Learning Improvement and the Attendance Service to discuss school level attendance data and identify issues that will be raised with schools via learning colleagues.

**Action 3** - We will increase the take up of free early education entitlement (FEEE) for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old, with a targeted focus in areas of high deprivation and where take up is low.

**Impact**

- Attendance personnel in Leeds schools are knowledgeable about DfE attendance guidance and legislation and confident in implementing it.
- Improved attendance levels at schools with identified need.
- Improving education and development of children at an early age and readiness for school.

**Further measures**

- All schools have a clear document which outlines schools' responsibilities and duties regarding attendance and children missing out on education.
- The Attendance Service will offer a variety of training for professionals working with families.
- The Attendance Service will offer school professionals training on attendance, including training to school governor teams, leadership colleagues and AIP personnel.

3

**Action 1** - Working with schools, we will launch and roll-out the new Leeds SEND and Inclusion Practice Framework.

**Action 2** - Learning Improvement will ensure that supporting the lowest 20% of learners is a key service priority and will be a focus for its work with schools.

**Impact**

- Additional needs will be met holistically and at an earlier stage.
- There is a sharper focus on meeting the needs of the lowest attaining cohort.
- Schools are better supported to identify and support the needs of all children, particularly vulnerable learners and those who use English as an Additional Language (EAL).

This priority is also incorporated within the overall SEND and Inclusion Strategy which drives the agenda to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs.



4

**Action 1** - The current headteacher support offer will be extended beyond its term and further developed to support wider leadership teams. The LA will explore and implement initiatives that enable school leaders and governors to support whole staff wellbeing.

**Action 2** - We will work in partnership with colleagues in health and social care to develop a city-wide trauma informed service.

**Action 3** - We will engage Leeds schools and settings with the My Health, My School survey.

**Action 4** - The winning manifesto of the Children's Mayor of Leeds, Zulaykha Hussain from Bardsey Primary School, is about 'togetherness' and bringing families together to remember loved ones they have lost during the Covid pandemic. The Voice, Influence and Change Team will work with Zulaykha to agree which elements of her manifesto can be delivered and how.

**Impact**

- Leadership teams and staff will feel supported and reassured that they have access to a service when needed.
- There will be a better understanding of trauma informed approaches by those working in schools and settings leading to a greater understanding of the needs of children and young people, including the ongoing impact of the pandemic and how best to address those needs.
- An improvement in health outcomes for children and young people through developing whole school and setting provision for PSHE (including relationship, sex and health education), healthy eating, physical activity, and emotional health.
- Children and families across the city will be encouraged to remember their loved ones lost to Covid.

**Further measures**

- Signposting staff to the training offer, via Leeds for Learning, around wellbeing.
- Circulation of DfE and LA produced guidance on wellbeing to all settings.
- Increased information and guidance will be available to all school staff who need support and advice on aspects of their own wellbeing.
- Effective signposting to further professional advice where there is a need.

5

**Action 1** - All 0-5 settings will have access to a series of online modules that cover transition, looking particularly at the importance of relationships, with and between parents, staff and children.

**Action 2** - We will improve transition back into school for vulnerable learners at different points in their educational journey.

**Action 3** - We will foster an aligned and coordinated approach between the range of directorate teams that have responsibilities for early years provision, support, and outcomes.

**Impact**

- Transition for children into early years is more effective as early years staff have a clearer understanding of the 'key person' role and an awareness of the impact the relationship with parents has on this process.
- Assessment information is more effectively shared between settings at transition points.
- A deeper understanding amongst early years professionals of key knowledge, such as attachment issues, will improve the quality of transition.
- Transition for vulnerable learners will be more successful so the start to the next stage of their learning is more effective.
- A more coordinated approach between teams dealing with fair access protocols will result in children entering education more quickly and relevant information is shared to promote an effective transition.
- Clearer oversight of early years provision and outcomes will enable a sharper focus on identifying and responding in a co-ordinated approach to early years' issues.

**Further measures**

- Collecting early years settings 3/4-year old 'exit' data to enable more effective identification of need at an early stage and to support schools and settings in providing effective transition between nursery and reception.
- Developing systems that produce the most reliable place projections possible to enable colleagues and providers to map post-16 provision effectively and ensure places are aligned with student aspirations.

## Youth Services – impact of new model

Date: 29th March 2023

Report of: Head of Early Help Services

Report to: Children and Families Scrutiny Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

This report provides details of the work that has been undertaken since March 2022 to progress the new model of youth work delivery in Leeds.

Youth work delivery supports the Best Council Plan priority of Leeds being a Child Friendly city by providing youth work services across the city and helping young people to develop life skills and be ready for work as they move into adulthood.

The model of youth work delivery will help achieve the priority of inclusive growth by supporting more young people to be active citizens that are able to participate in education, employment or training.

The principles that are set out in the shared vision for youth work in the city support more effective partnership work on a locality basis to ensure young people are safe from harm and community respect and resilience are promoted.

### Recommendations

- a) For the Board to support and endorse the approach being taken to continue developing a joined up and consistent approach to the quality assurance and promotion of the Youth Work Offer in Leeds.

## **What is this report about?**

1. This report provides an update relating to the youth work delivery taking place across the City since March 2022. The report references the new Life Coaching Service, locality-based youth work delivery, delivery of the enhanced youth work offer through the commissioning of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations and developments in relation to the youth work quality assurance framework.

## **What impact will this proposal have?**

### **Core Offer – Locality Youth Work**

2. Since the commencement of the updated model of Youth Work, Leeds Youth Service have delivered over 5000 sessions to young people. Each individual session within our core offer delivery is part of a wider programme aligned to both the Leeds Vision for Youth Work and the 2018-2023 Children and Young People priorities.
3. The delivery of the core Youth Work offer has taken several forms which include;
  - Centre -based provision, using a range of community spaces to provide young people with a safe environment to be themselves and often engage in much needed support.
  - Mobile van provision, enabling our Youth Work teams to take this safe space into environments where centre-based delivery is not always available.
  - Detached provision has continued, ensuring a regular youth work presence across all communities, engaging young people in their own space whilst targeting identified areas in need of support and intervention.
  - Through constant engagement with young people, communities and partners we ensure that service is targeted to the areas most in need of support to ensure we maximise potential to make a difference to the lives of young people living across Leeds.
4. Core offer sessions are planned, programmed, and delivered to address the needs and priorities highlighted by young people as part of the review. This includes support to ensure their voices are heard, tackling racism and discrimination, support regarding emotional and mental wellbeing and assistance in sourcing employment and apprenticeships. Furthermore, young people identified the importance of support around sexual health, peer pressure and exploitation further supporting the absolute necessity of our centre -based provision in providing the safe space to enable these conversations and subsequent support and guidance.
5. More recently, young people have also identified poverty as a current challenge. Whilst this was a key factor in the review, the escalation in the prevalence of poverty and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic has been unprecedented and as such we have taken several steps to increase support to young people to address this area. From increasing sessions on subjects such as exploitation due to young people being more vulnerable to a new level of risk, to ensuring that many of our centre-based provisions offer basic refreshments to every young person who attends.
6. There is a plan for Locality Youth Work teams to move from the Children and Families Directorate structure to the Safer, Stronger Communities Service within Communities, Housing and Environment Directorate from April 2023. This presents a number of opportunities, specifically in terms of improved locality working. Moving forwards, there is a commitment from both of the relevant leadership teams to work together to achieve a smooth transition into Safer, Stronger Communities whilst ensuring the close working

relationships between locality youth work and the wider children and families partnership, including (but not limited to) early help, statutory social work and the youth service projects is maintained.

### **Enhanced Offer – commissioned Youth Work consortia**

7. As part of the new model of youth work delivery three contracts were awarded in December 2021 to deliver the Enhanced Youth Work offer in the 12 wards across Leeds with the highest levels of deprivation. This enhanced, targeted/specialist provision commenced in April 2022 and aims to meet the needs of our most vulnerable groups of young people living in Leeds, whilst complimenting a Core Offer delivered by the Youth Service Localities Team.
8. Since mobilisation, the total number of sessions and hours of delivery from the Enhanced offer during this period is as follows;
  - Barca Leeds – Leeds Youth Alliance West Consortium – 389 sessions - 1,167 hours of youth work delivery and working with 513 distinct young people
  - LS-TEN - Leeds Youth Alliance South Consortium- 279 sessions - 964 hours of youth work delivery and working with 425 distinct young people
  - Barca Leeds – Youth Alliance East Consortium- 210 sessions – 391 hours of youth work delivery and working with 280 distinct young people

### **Grants – commissioned Youth Work providers**

9. As per the Enhanced delivery offer in the new model of youth work delivery, the grant funded provision continues to focus on the twelve wards with highest indices of deprivation.
10. The providers are Barca Leeds; BHI Black Health Initiative; CFYDC (Chance); Getaway Girls; Hamara HLC; LS14 Trust; New Wortley Community Centre; Reestablish; Shantona; St Luke's Community and Regeneration; and The Youth Association. Whilst several grant recipients are members of the Leeds Youth Alliance, the grants have also supported the delivery of youth work from several other providers including BHI Black Health Initiative and St Luke's Community and Regeneration.

### **Life Coaching team**

11. The new life coaching team was established in November 2022. An Advanced Practitioner and six of the eight youth work posts are now filled. Recruitment is ongoing and it is expected that the team will be at full capacity around May 2023 following a robust recruitment and selection process.
12. In establishing the Life coaching team, the Leeds Practice Model and Re-think Formulation have been at the heart of its development, which along with embedding the new Early Help forms including formulation and other processes on Mosaic, ensures that the team are fully aligned with other Early Help teams and services.
13. As previously stated, young people on the edge of care and those who are NEET or are likely to become NEET and experiencing poor mental health will be given priority access to this service; as such, extensive discussions have taken place with leaders and managers of referring agencies to ensure an awareness of the service offer.
14. The team have started to caseload and support young people, spending time with those young people weekly and liaising with other professionals involved as appropriate with some excellent feedback from the other professionals involved and the young people and their families as well.



## **Quality Framework**

15. The quality assurance of all youth work provision is being developed in consultation with partner agencies. Workshops have taken place with youth work providers in Leeds to establish some consensus as to what quality youth work should look like.
16. A working group with membership from Leeds Beckett University, Yorkshire & Humberside regional Youth Work Unit, Voluntary Action Leeds, Leeds Youth Service and Leeds Youth Alliance has been formed and are developing an appropriate Youth Work Quality Framework for Leeds.
17. The Framework is being designed as a supportive and developmental tool that provides youth work organisations with an opportunity to assess and improve their work within a Leeds structured framework in partnership with Leeds City Council and the partnership are keen to support these developments, to grow the youth work sector in Leeds.

## **Level 3 and level 6 Youth Work qualification**

18. In recognition of the local and national challenges pertaining to the recruitment and retention of qualified youth workers, we have established and successfully recruited to eight Youth Worker in Training posts. A key requirement for recruiting to this role is that the service provides the Trainees with an opportunity to complete the Level 3 qualification in youth work as part of their job. Once successfully completed, trainees will automatically move onto the professional pay scale for Youth workers. The first cohort will commence their 12-month training course in April 2023.
19. In addition, a new Level 6 Degree Youth Work Apprenticeship has been approved. Leeds Beckett University are keen to offer the training element of this Apprenticeship as they already offer the Degree in Youth and Community Work. The course, which will take three years to complete includes one day “off the job” a week for tutoring, placements and written tasks is suitable for staff employed for a minimum of 30 hours in a youth work or related field. The Youth Service are keen to identify and support staff to take up this professional development opportunity in a sustainable way, with course costs being covered by the apprenticeship levy. To develop this opportunity, Leeds and other neighbouring authorities are meeting regularly with Leeds Beckett.

## **How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

- a.  Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

20. The model of youth work delivery will help achieve the priority of inclusive growth by supporting more young people to be active citizens that are able to participate in education, employment, or training.
21. Youth Work makes a significant contribution to the health & wellbeing of young people in Leeds by providing new opportunities and experiences that will increase informal learning, helping them to develop the life skills and abilities to build healthy relationships, increasing social and emotional capabilities, independence, confidence, and resilience.
22. Youth work programmes include sessions and projects that educate young people about the impact and consequences of climate change and work with them to engage in social action activities that will help tackle and address the causes of climate change.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

23. Extensive consultation took place with a wide range of key stakeholders as part of the youth work review which took place in 2020. Further consultation was undertaken in June 2021 with young people, practitioners and elected members to inform the specific needs and priorities for the grant project brief and specification for the Enhanced Youth Work contracts.
24. Youth work offers young people opportunities for learning that are educative, expressive, participative, inclusive, and empowering. Much of the core offer provision is devised and planned alongside young people from the local communities in which the sessions are delivered. Through consultation with young people as part of the review, young people were clear in the need for Youth Work to be delivered outside of formal learning hours. Whilst this was intrinsic to much of previous delivery, this was re-enforced further by the development of our Core offer with the vast majority of sessions taking place between 18:30 and 21:00, with some sessions running to 23:00 due to identified needs.
25. The Youth Service sees engagement and consultation with key stake holders as essential to the continuous development of the youth service offer. Collaboration with elected members, children and young people, internal partners and external partnerships provide the necessary challenge to ensure the service is meeting the needs of communities.

## What are the resource implications?

26. Three contracts were awarded to deliver the Enhanced Youth Work in the 12 wards across Leeds with the highest levels of deprivation. Each contract has an individual specification to reflect the priorities and needs of the three geographical areas of the city (West/North West, South/South East and East/North East) to:
- Barca Leeds – Leeds Youth Alliance West Consortium
  - LS-TEN - Leeds Youth Alliance South Consortium
  - Barca Leeds – Youth Alliance East Consortium
27. Following the competitive application process 14 grant agreements were awarded. Grants were allocated through a robust evaluation, which considered the quality of the applications, fair distribution of funds across the localities and the provision of a varied offer in each ward.
28. The providers are Barca Leeds; BHI Black Health Initiative; CFYDC (Chance); Getaway Girls; Hamara HLC; Health for All; Leeds United Foundation; LS14 Trust; New Wortley Community Centre; Reestablish; Shantona; St Luke's Community and Regeneration; and The Youth Association.
29. The grants were initially awarded for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and there is a proposal to extend these for a further twelve months for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

30. As in other areas of Children and Families services we continue to see a challenge regarding the recruitment and retention of qualified Youth Workers. This is a national issue and the picture in Leeds reflects this. As a result, there continues to be a number of Youth Worker vacancies within the in-house Youth Service. To mitigate this risk the service has established a rolling recruitment process for qualified Youth Worker posts and has established twelve Youth Worker in training posts. We have now successfully recruited to eight of the Youth Worker in training posts. These trainees will be supported to gain an appropriate Youth Work qualification, thus enabling the service to develop and grow its own

workforce for the future. We are confident that by May 2023 all twelve posts will be recruited to.

31. We also hope to be offering the Level 6 Youth Work Apprenticeship opportunity our existing Youth Workers in the near future. This professional progression opportunity will support the development needs of our existing workforce and therefore support the retention of our existing experienced and committed Youth Workers.
32. We continue to work closely with the consortia, supported through colleagues in commissioning to ensure that the new arrangements to deliver the enhanced element of youth work continues to meet the requirements outlined in the contracts. The contracts are closely managed, and regular contract meetings take place with the partnership to navigate any barriers and celebrate successes.

### **What are the legal implications?**

33. This report has no specific legal implications.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **What other options were considered?**

34. The Youth Service Leadership team are confident in the current youth work offer within the city. Given the relatively new changes to the model of delivery, we have not considered other options at this time. In consultation with our commissioning colleagues, we will continue to review the consortia arrangements to ensure that the enhanced offer of youth work continues to meet the needs of communities.

#### **How will success be measured?**

35. The performance and quality of Youth Work delivery has been monitored by the Service Lead and Contract Manager ensuring the six principles of the shared vision for youth work are demonstrated. These principles include:
  - Youth work will be valued and understood
  - Participation and Empowerment
  - Collaboration.
  - Inclusiveness, equality and diversity.
  - Respect and positivity
  - Quality, safety and well-being
36. To ensure both the Enhanced and Core Youth Offer can be measured effectively all Youth Work providers are required to use Core+ as the information management tool for youth work. Alongside this quantitative information, providers are required to submit a detailed qualitative report.
37. By presenting both the quantitative and qualitative information we have adopted the 'Making Connections' reports which are completed on a quarterly basis and provide a summary of youth work activity across the South, East and West of the City. The development of these reports provide data and insight into the number of young people benefiting from youth work, broken down by age, gender and ethnicity. This engagement data can be compared with the population data on a ward basis to help inform youth work providers of the cohorts of young people that we need to work harder together to reach and engage.
38. Feedback received from the Making Connections Report has been positive, from both the perspective of contract management but also all youth work providers. This information plays an essential element of the agenda for wedge-based quarterly collaboration meetings, particularly around plans for next quarter, problem-solving and lessons learnt.



**What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

39. Delivery is on-going and the service lead will be responsible for the implementation.

**Appendices**

40. None

**Background papers**

41. None

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## 2022/23 End of Year Scrutiny Board Statement

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

Article 6 of Leeds City Council's Constitution states that the Head of Democratic Services, as designated Scrutiny Officer, will provide an annual report to Council setting out how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions during the preceding twelve-month period. As such this year's Annual Report will collate highlights of the work of all five Scrutiny Boards over 2022/23.

To complement the Annual Report, each Scrutiny Board also produces an end of year statement. This provides details of the full work programme for each Scrutiny Board for the last municipal year, with links to the associated agenda packs, minutes and webcast recordings. The document also includes a statement from the relevant Scrutiny Chair reflecting on the key priorities for the Scrutiny Board over the last year.

The 2022/23 summary for the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is appended to this report. Once it has been approved by members it will be published on the Council's website.

### Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to note the appended 2022/23 end of year statement for the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) and, subject to any agreed amendments, approve its publication.

## What is this report about?

- 1 The appended report summarises the 2022/23 work programme for the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families), providing links to the associated agenda packs, minutes and webcasts. It also includes a statement from the Scrutiny Chair, which highlights the issues that have been priorities for the Scrutiny Board over the last municipal year.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 It is intended that the detail in the appended summary will complement the Annual Report to Council, which will bring together highlights from all five Scrutiny Boards during 2022/23.
- 3 The appended statement illustrates how the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) has operated within its Terms of Reference and in the context of the [Vision for Scrutiny](#) to add value to the organisation.
- 4 Items reflected in the work programme illustrate how the Scrutiny Board has assisted with the development of the Budget and Policy Framework, monitored progress against key performance indicators, analysed proposed Council policy, and provided 'critical friend' challenge to decision makers. The work programme further reflects engagement with Executive Members, senior Leeds City Council officers and representatives from partner organisations.
- 5 Where the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) has made recommendations to the Executive Board, Council and/or other committees these can be accessed via the links included in the schedule. In line with the requirements of the Budget and Policy Framework, this has included a contribution to the composite Scrutiny Statement on the Budget, as provided to Executive Board in February 2023.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 6 All Scrutiny Boards aim to ensure that they add value through engagement in programmes of activity that reflect the three pillars of the Best City Ambition. Within this context the appended report sets out the items of business conducted by the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families).

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 During 2022/23 the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) has aimed to add value through a member led process of examination and review, involving engagement with a range of stakeholders. The nature of such engagement has varied depending upon the issue under consideration – full details are available via the links in the appended statement.

## What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 9 The appended report provides a summary of work already undertaken and therefore presents no risks that require management.

### **What are the legal implications?**

10 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **What other options were considered?**

11 It has previously been agreed with Scrutiny Chairs that an end of year statement will be produced for individual Scrutiny Boards to complement the publication of the Annual Report to Council.

#### **How will success be measured?**

12 The appended report summarises the activity of the Scrutiny Board during 2022/23.

#### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

13 All five Scrutiny Boards will be asked to approve their respective end of year statements at the final public meetings of the 2022/23 municipal year.

14 Once the five statements have been approved, they will be published on the [Leeds City Council website](#).

### **Appendices**

- End of Year Statement – Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

### **Background papers**

- None

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# Scrutiny Board (Children & Families)

## Year End Summary: 2022/23



# Scrutiny at Leeds City Council



## Purpose

Scrutiny is nationally recognised as an integral part of the improvement landscape for local government and forms part of governance arrangements for councils and some other local statutory bodies.

## Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference that are applied to all Scrutiny Boards are set out in Leeds City Council's Constitution. The variations in the Scrutiny Boards' remits, together with any special responsibilities, are captured within Article 6 of the Constitution.

Article 6 also sets out the Council's agreed 'Vision for Scrutiny'.

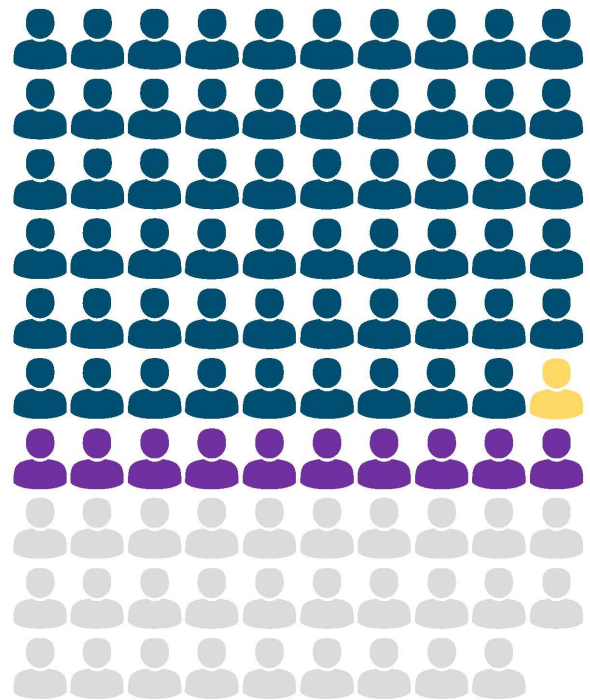
## Transparency & Accountability

Scrutiny Boards usually meet in public, holding key decision makers to account, as well as providing 'critical friend' challenge and support for public service improvement and policy development.

## Membership

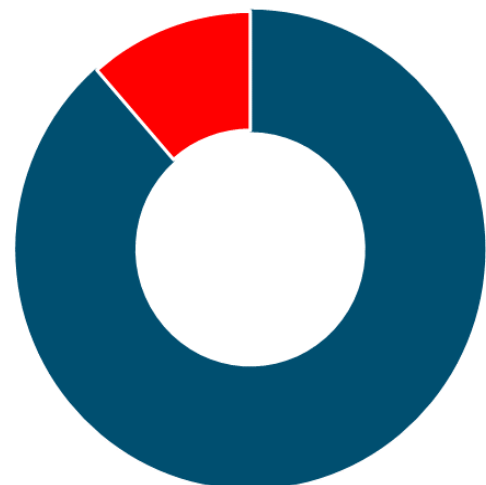
Membership of all Scrutiny Boards broadly reflects the political balance of the Council and cannot include members of the Council's Executive.

There is provision for Scrutiny Boards to appoint additional Co-opted Members.



Councillors who are members of a Scrutiny Board

## Scrutiny Board Membership



■ LCC Councillor ■ Co-Opted



# Children and Families Scrutiny Board

## 2022/23



Cllr Hannah Bithell



Cllr Jordan Bowden



Cllr Emmie Bromley



Cllr Ann Forsaith



Cllr Julie Heselwood



Cllr Chris Howley



Cllr Zara Hussain



Cllr Alan Lamb



Cllr Lisa Martin



Cllr Denise Ragan



Cllr Karen Renshaw



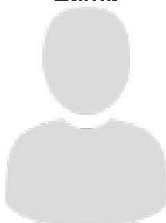
Cllr Linda Richards



Cllr Jane Senior



Cllr Ryan Stephenson



Mr E Britten  
(co-opted member)



Mr A Graham  
(co-opted member)



Ms J Ward  
(co-opted member)



Mr N Tones  
(co-opted member)



Ms H Bellamy  
(co-opted member)



Ms L Whitaker  
(co-opted member)



Mrs K Blacker  
(co-opted member)

### **Children & Families Scrutiny Board**

*Focusing on services affecting the lives of children and families across the city to monitor progress towards becoming a child friendly city and putting children first.*

### **Completed Work Schedule for the 2022/23 Municipal Year**

Each Scrutiny Board schedules eight formal meetings throughout the course of a municipal year. The Local Government Act 1972 requires formal meetings to be held in person to enable members of the public to be admitted as observers wherever the meeting is being held. To further promote access and engagement, formal meetings are also webcast.

In addition, the Scrutiny Board may choose to carry out additional work using alternative methods including site visits, working groups and remote consultative meetings (consultative sessions do not constitute formal meetings but do enable public access via a webcast).

The completed work schedule of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) for the 2022/23 municipal year has been provided as part of this summary. This presents an overview of all meetings held throughout the year and the work items considered at each meeting. The work schedule also includes links to the agenda papers, minutes and webcast recordings of the Scrutiny Board's publicly accessible meetings.



# Children and Families Scrutiny Board Statement from the Chair



"I am once again very proud to Chair this Scrutiny Board given the important role we have in providing 'critical friend' challenge and support to key services affecting the lives of children and families across the city.

This year we gave particular attention to the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which will cover the period 2023 to 2028. This Plan is part of the strategic framework helping to deliver the mission at the heart of our Best City Ambition to tackle poverty and inequality and to improve the quality of life for the children and young people who call Leeds home. Early engagement with Scrutiny enabled us to inform the development of the CYPP and consider proposed changes that later formed the basis of a wider formal public consultation exercise. With the new CYPP expected to be approved in July 2023, the Board will maintain regular oversight through its performance monitoring role.

We also maintained a focus on the ongoing development and implementation of the new Leeds strategy 'Everyone's included: the Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2027'. As well as remaining responsive to the national agenda around SEND system reform, we are really pleased that the shared views and experiences of local children and young people and their families has also informed the content of this new strategy. We particularly welcome the name of the strategy, which had been suggested by young people who wanted to share the important message that 'everyone's included' in making our city a child-friendly and inclusive place.

Over the last twelve months we also monitored progress against other key strategic documents including the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy and the Leeds 3As Plan, as well as reviewing the impact of the new Youth Service delivery model following its introduction in April 2022.

In recognition of the current challenges and pressures facing the Children and Families workforce in Leeds, the Board also gave particular attention to the broader strategy work being undertaken by the Children and Families directorate around the recruitment and retention of the workforce and has committed to continue monitoring such work in the new municipal year.

In March 2023, the Board held a dedicated meeting on safeguarding as we welcomed back the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) Executive. This enabled us to really focus on the progress made by the LSCP following its earlier review of the notification arrangements linked to serious child safeguarding incidents, as well as explore the cross cutting themes and learning identified through the LSCP review processes more generally.

I am very grateful to my fellow Board Members for their ongoing dedication and commitment to make Leeds the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in. On behalf of the Board, I would also like to thank the Executive Members, officers and partners for their support and valuable contributions to the Board's work this year.



# Children and Families Scrutiny Board Work Schedule 2022/23

June	July	September
<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 10 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 10 am</u></a>
Co-opted Members  Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference  Scrutiny Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – Statement of Progress  Potential Sources of Work  Performance Update	Improvement Plan stemming from the 2022 Ofsted Inspection  Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – initial consultation	The Schools Bill 2022-23 - Update  Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – update
Additional Sessions		
		<b>Working Group:</b> Children’s Services Workforce Planning 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2022

October	November	December
<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 10 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 10 am</u></a>	
<b>Meeting Cancelled</b>  Notification of Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents – update – <i>deferred to a future meeting</i>  Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds – <i>deferred to November meeting</i>	Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds  Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2022 to 2027 – update	
Additional Sessions		
		<b>Working Group:</b> 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022



# Children and Families Scrutiny Board Work Schedule 2022/23

January	March	March
<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 10 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 8th March 2023 at 10 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Meeting Agenda for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 10 am</u></a>
Performance report Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals Best City Ambition – Update Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – summary of consultation	Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Update	Leeds 3As Plan 2021-2023 – review of progress Leeds Child Poverty Strategy – Update Youth Services – impact of new model End of Year Summary Statement
<b>Additional Sessions</b>		

**More information about Leeds City Council's Scrutiny Service, along with the activity and membership of individual Scrutiny Boards, can be found on the Council's committee webpages.**

**You can also follow @ScrutinyLeeds on twitter.**





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## Work Schedule

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

- Today's meeting is expected to be the final formal public meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for this municipal year. As such, a draft work schedule of the successor Scrutiny Board for the 2023/24 municipal year has been appended to this report for Members' consideration. This includes preliminary future meeting dates and reflects known items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, as well as other identified areas of work that the Board has already recommended for the successor Scrutiny Board to pursue in the new municipal year.

### Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the draft work schedule of the successor Scrutiny Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.

## What is this report about?

1. Scrutiny Boards are subject to an annual review and appointment process as part of the overall governance arrangements presented and agreed by Council at its Annual General Meeting.
2. Scrutiny Boards have tended to adopt different approaches to planning for the new municipal year and providing a 'handover' of issues to be considered by the appropriate and newly constituted Scrutiny Board. Linked to this, a draft work schedule of the successor Scrutiny Board for the 2023/24 municipal year has been provided for Members' consideration (see Appendix 1). This includes preliminary future meeting dates (these remain subject to confirmation following the Annual General Meeting in May 2023) and reflects known items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, as well as other identified areas of work that the Board has already recommended for the successor Scrutiny Board to pursue in the new municipal year.
3. In agreeing to recommend any specific matters for consideration by the successor Scrutiny Board, members should recognise the future work schedule will:
  - Become the responsibility of a successor Scrutiny Board (subject to the arrangements agreed by Council in May 2023).
  - Remain flexible and adaptable to reflect any new and emerging issues or changing priorities identified in the new municipal year.
  - Need to reflect any timetabling issues that might occur from time to time.
4. Nonetheless, setting out proposed meeting dates and a draft work schedule for the new municipal year will provide a foundation that will not only help with the initial planning for next year's Scrutiny Board, it also has the potential to help with planning the work programme in the longer-term.
5. Also appended to this report for information are the Executive Board minutes from the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and consider any matter where specific scrutiny activity may also be warranted.

## What impact will this proposal have?

6. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

7. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the Best City Ambition.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No



8. To enable Scrutiny to focus on strategic areas of priority, it is recognised that each Scrutiny Board needs to maintain dialogue with the Directors and Executive Board Members holding the relevant portfolios. The Vision for Scrutiny also states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

### **What are the resource implications?**

9. Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.
10. The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met.
11. Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should:
  - Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources;
  - Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue;
  - Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

12. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

### **What are the legal implications?**

13. This report has no specific legal implications.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Draft work schedule of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.
- Appendix 2 – Minutes of the Executive Board meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

### **Background papers**

- None.

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## Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2023/2024 Municipal Year

June	July	August
<b>Meeting Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10 am</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>
Co-opted Members (DB)		
Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference (DB)		
Potential Sources of Work (DB)		
Performance Update (PM)		
Youth Justice Plan Update (PSR)		
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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### Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



## Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2023/2024 Municipal Year

September	October	November
<b>Meeting Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10 am</b>
Children and Families Workforce Recruitment and Retention in Leeds (PSR)	Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Update (PSR)  Refresh of the Leeds 3As Plan (PDS)	
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		

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PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



## Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2023/2024 Municipal Year

December	January	February
<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting.</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 10 am</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting.</b>
	Performance report (PM) Financial Health Monitoring (PSR) 2024/25 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) Best City Ambition – Update (PDS)	
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
2024/25 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) – <i>date to be confirmed</i>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

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**Scrutiny Work Items Key:**

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response



## Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2023/2024 Municipal Year

March	April	May
<b>Meeting Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>
Leeds Child Poverty Strategy – Update (PSR)		
<b>Meeting Agenda for 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>		
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
<b>Site Visits</b>		

### Scrutiny Work Items Key:

PSR	Policy/Service Review	RT	Recommendation Tracking	DB	Development Briefings
PDS	Pre-decision Scrutiny	PM	Performance Monitoring	C	Consultation Response

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, D Coupar, S Golton,  
M Harland, H Hayden, J Pryor, M Rafique  
and F Venner

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Carter

**SUBSTITUTE MEMBER:** Councillor B Anderson

**119 Substitute Member**

Under the provisions of Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 3.2.6, Councillors B Anderson was invited to attend the meeting on a non-voting basis on behalf of Councillor A Carter, who had submitted his apologies for absence from the meeting.

**120 Director of Resources**

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair, on behalf of the Board paid tribute to Neil Evans, Director of Resources, given that this marked his final Executive Board meeting prior to his forthcoming retirement.

**121 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There was no information contained within the agenda which was designated as being exempt from publication.

**122 Late Items**

There were no late items of business submitted to the Board for consideration.

**123 Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

**124 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**ADULTS AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS**

**125 Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which, informed by a formal consultation exercise, presented a refreshed version of the Children and Young People's Plan for the Board's consideration, and which sought the Board's approval for the submission of the plan for the period 2023 to 2028 to Full Council with the recommendation of formal adoption.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 19th April, 2023

In introducing the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the key proposals within the refreshed plan, with the comprehensive consultation exercise which had informed the review process being highlighted. Specific reference was made to the plan's consideration at Children and Families Scrutiny Board, the Leeds Children and Young People's Partnership and also the engagement which had taken place with children and young people themselves, which it was noted, had been key to the formation of the refreshed 12 Child Friendly 'Wishes'. It was also noted that the plan set out the vision and objectives for the Council and the wider partnership in terms of working with children and young people, and that the refresh was being undertaken in order to acknowledge the significant changes and challenges which had occurred in recent years.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the proposed format of the plan, it was noted that whilst the plan was comprehensive and reflected the wishes of children and young people, it was felt that it was succinctly presented.

Responding to a Member's comments, the Board received further detail on the plan's objectives, and how the work streams that lay beneath the plan were consistent with the ongoing actions taking place to manage the financial, resource and demand based challenges which continued to be faced in this area.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That following the associated consultation exercise undertaken in late 2022 (a summary of which is presented in Appendix 2 to the submitted report) the proposals for a refreshed Children and Young People's Plan, as presented, be noted;
- (b) That approval be given for the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028 (as presented in Appendix 1 to the submitted report) to be submitted to Full Council on 12 July 2023, with a recommendation of formal adoption.

(The matters referred to within this minute, given that they were decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, were not eligible for Call In, as Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions being made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules)

**126 Outcome of statutory notice on a proposal to change the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11 with effect from September 2023**

Further to Minute No. 93, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Director of Children and Families submitted a report regarding a proposal to lower the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 years to 2-11 years and create Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) provision for 24 eligible 2-year-olds in the



area. Specifically, the report also invited the Board to consider and note the outcomes from the statutory notice process and recommended approval of the proposal, as presented.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the outcome of the statutory notice period, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the recommendation to permanently change the age range of Wykebeck Primary School from 3-11 to 2-11, with effect from September 2023, be approved;
- (c) That the resolutions within this minute be exempted from Call In for the reasons of urgency, as set out in paragraph 31 of the submitted report;
- (d) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Head of Learning Systems.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (c) above, and for the reasons as detailed above and as set out within section 31 of the submitted report)

**ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

**127 Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Programme Update**

The Director of City Development submitted a report which provided an update on the Ad:Venture programme and Digital Enterprise Business Support programme which had been delivered by the Council on behalf the Leeds City Region since 2016. The report outlined the efforts made by the Council in developing new funding packages for these programmes and sought approval to enter into a series of contracts and funding agreements with the principal funder – West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and delivery partners.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the support and opportunities which had been delivered as a result of both programmes since 2016, and the role of such programmes in contributing towards the growth of the local economy.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further details on the actions which were being taken, and which continued to be developed, in order to proactively market and promote the programmes across all communities. It was noted that whilst such an approach would focus upon West Yorkshire moving forward, it was anticipated that proposed developments in the marketing approach would further improve how the programmes targeted their services in future.

Also in response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further detail on the processes in place to monitor and measure the outcomes arising from the programmes, with it being noted that there was an established evaluation procedure in place, and that the outcomes from that process were considered by WYCA, as appropriate.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the progress and success of Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise which has been achieved to date in supporting businesses and individuals across the Leeds City Region, be noted;
- (b) That the necessary authority be delegated to the Director of City Development in order to enable the Director to enter into contract with West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise Business Support Programmes;
- (c) That the necessary authority be delegated to the Director of City Development in order to enable the Director to enter into funding agreements with delivery partners and take all necessary actions to ensure that the Ad:Venture and Digital Enterprise programmes continue to support businesses and individuals across West Yorkshire;
- (d) That the authority to spend up to £5m of Gainshare funding on the Ad:Venture Programme, and up to £4,676,147 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) on the Digital Enterprise Programme, be approved.

#### **RESOURCES**

##### **128 Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 - Month 10 (January)**

The Chief Officer (Financial Services) submitted a report presenting the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account as at Month 10 of the 2022/23 financial year.

It was noted that recommendation (b) in the submitted report should be amended to read as follows: '*Savings actions identified to date are included in the reported overspend position and actions will continue to be identified for receipt at the April meeting of this Board*'.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member for Resources provided an overview of the key information within it, which included reference to the fact that an overspend of £13.7m was projected for the Authority's General Fund services, as at month 10 of 2022/23, and that a balanced budget was expected to be achieved by the year-end, via a range of actions including the delivery of savings, the utilisation of reserves and the application of Government funding.

Responding to a Member's enquiries, the Board received further information on the work which had been undertaken to date and which continued to

ensure that the budget available within the Children and Families directorate was appropriate and sustainable moving forward. It was noted that this included a review undertaken as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process on the monitoring of key areas such as levels of demand for services. In addition, the work undertaken by a cross-directorate 'task and finish' working group and the establishment of a cross-directorate delivery board were also highlighted.

Also in relation to the Children and Families directorate, responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received clarification on the funding which had been confirmed by Leeds Health and Care Partnership Executive Group (PEG) from 2023/24 in relation to the provision of new and existing services, with it being undertaken that the Member in question would be provided with a further briefing on such matters, as appropriate.

Responding to an enquiry regarding the increased costs experienced in relation to the provision of fleet vehicles, the Board received an update on the approach being taken towards the management of the Council's current vehicle fleet, together with the ongoing review to inform the medium to longer term strategy. It was noted that the approach to such matters would contribute towards the target of achieving net zero emissions for the city by 2030.

Regarding an enquiry on the projected reduction in the level of recycling income received by the Council from the Green Bin waste due to a fall in market prices, it was noted that currently there was no significant impact projected on the 2023/24 Communities, Housing and Environment directorate budget, however, it was undertaken that this issue would continue to be monitored and that Executive Members would be kept informed, as appropriate.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That it be noted that at Month 10 of the financial year (January 2023) the Authority's General Fund services are forecasting an overspend of £13.7m and that the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a balanced position;
- (b) That it be noted, that where an overspend is projected, directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action plans to mitigate their reported pressures, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in 2019; with it also being noted that savings actions identified to date are included in the reported overspend position and (as referenced in the correction detailed above), actions will continue to be identified for receipt at the April 2023 meeting of Executive Board;
- (c) That it be noted that known increased inflation and known impacts of the rising cost of living, including the agreed 2022/23 pay award, have been incorporated into this reported financial position, with it also being noted that these pressures will continue to be assessed, with the latest

position being incorporated into future reports to be received by this Board.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE**

### **129 Climate Emergency Annual Report**

The Director of Resources submitted a report which presented the Council's Climate Emergency Annual Report for Members' consideration. The Annual Report provided an update on the progress being made at both a Council and a citywide level towards the target set by the Council when declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019 of achieving net zero emissions for the city by 2030. The report also reflected upon wider changes relevant to the city's decarbonisation that have occurred both regionally and nationally.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the key areas of work which had been undertaken over the past year in response to the Climate Emergency and in progressing towards the target of achieving net zero emissions for the city by 2030. In doing so, it was highlighted that in 2022 Leeds City Council had been recognised as one of 122 city authorities across the world leading the way on climate action by the Carbon Disclosure Project. In conclusion, the Executive Member, on behalf of the Board extended her thanks to the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality team for the progress that was being made in this area, and also to the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board for the role it continued to play.

In response to a comment, the Board received further information on and discussed the compatibility between the planning system and the Council's net zero emissions target. Members also considered the funding which had been secured by the Council from Government to date and the process by which such funding was secured, whilst the Board also discussed the progress being made both as a Council and as a city towards the Council's 2030 net zero emissions target.

Specifically in response to an enquiry relating to transport contributing around a third of the city's emissions, it was confirmed that the emissions from Leeds Bradford Airport were not included within that, which it was noted was consistent with the Government's approach to such matters.

Responding to a Member's concerns regarding the statistics presented in the submitted report and the rate of progress being made across the Council's directorates towards achieving net zero emissions, it was undertaken that such matters would be followed up with the Member in question in order to gain further detail.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the Net Zero Housing Plan for the Council, as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be adopted;
- (b) That the consultation responses regarding the Leeds Food Strategy, as detailed within Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be noted; and that

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 19th April, 2023

approval be given to the adoption of the updated Leeds Food Strategy, as presented at Appendix 3 to the submitted report;

- (c) That approval be given for Leeds City Council to be a signatory of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's 'Climate Action Pledge';
- (d) That the next Climate Emergency Annual Report to Executive Board be submitted in September 2024 (and every 12 months thereafter), in order to improve transparency by aligning the Annual Report with the Council's Carbon Disclosure Project submission.

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillor Golton required it to be recorded that he abstained from voting on the decisions referred to within this minute)

## **COMMUNITIES**

### **130 Cost of Living - Update Report**

Further to Minute No. 73, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report which provided an updated position on the cost-of-living situation in Leeds, and which reflected upon national policy interventions and the actions being taken by the Council and partners in response to such matters from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective.

The Executive Member introduced the report highlighting the key aspects within it, which included an update on the related training which had recently been provided by the Financial Inclusion Team to Members and Group Office staff. An update was also provided on the current position regarding the receipt of external funding via the Household Support Fund, whilst specific reference was also made to the appended Cost of Living Action Plan and the report on the Council's State of the City event, which had focussed upon the cost of living situation. In conclusion, the Executive Member extended her thanks to officers for the work which they continued to undertake in this area, to frontline staff for the valuable service that they provided to residents across the city and also to third sector partners for their collaborative approach.

In considering the report, Members highlighted the value of the December 2022 State of the City event. The Board also emphasised the importance of cross-party working in this area and the need to ensure that a localised and inclusive approach continued to be taken.

Responding to comments, it was undertaken that both the Executive Board and the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board would continue to be kept informed and involved in this area of work moving forward.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted; and that the approach being adopted, as detailed within the submitted report, be endorsed;

- (b) That it be noted that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is responsible for overseeing and implementing any actions arising from the submitted report.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION:** FRIDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN  
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00 P.M., FRIDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023