

Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan

Date: Wednesday 12 July 2023

Report of: Director of Children and Families

Report to: Full Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The Children and Young People's Plan is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It is being refreshed to acknowledge the significant changes and challenges that have occurred in the last few years, and to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate to improving outcomes for children and young people, whilst offering opportunities for play and fun.

The refreshed plan includes a revised Vision, a change to the three obsessions, and two new priorities. This report sets the context for the Children and Young People's Plan, summarises the consultation and refresh, and requests that Full Council adopts the refreshed plan as required in the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Recommendations

- a) Adopt the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028.

What is this report about?

- 1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. The refreshed CYPP has been shaped by a formal consultation exercise that took place in November and December 2022. The changes will ensure that the plan remains relevant and appropriate for the coming years, will continue to improve outcomes for children and young people, and will help services to provide the support needed to keep young people safe from harm.
- 2 The main changes to the CYPP are:
 - A revised Vision, recognising the importance of children living in “loving and nurturing families”, and of “play and having fun”, alongside improving outcomes for children and young people.
 - A change to the three obsessions, combining two (“reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training”; and “improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school”) into “young people in Leeds attain well and continue their route of a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination”; and the introduction of a health-focused obsession: “increase the number of children that are a healthy weight; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed”.
 - Two new priorities: “children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun”; and “everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change”.
 - An update to the performance measures, to ensure that they remain relevant and appropriate.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds and has shaped the work of the children's partnership in Leeds for almost 15 years. The refreshed plan takes account of changes in the local and national landscape in recent years and incorporates feedback received from a consultation exercise in late 2022. It sets out the key priorities for both the Council and the children's partnership over the next five years and will help to improve outcomes for children and young people living in Leeds, with a specific focus on vulnerable children and young people who require the most support and intervention.
- 4 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening exercise was carried out as part of the initial stages of the CYPP refresh. A copy of this document is included in appendix two.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 5 The current CYPP has priorities and measures that align to two of the three pillars. Part of the consultation for the refresh of the CYPP asked how the plan can contribute to the Zero Carbon pillar, by considering a climate emergency priority; this was strongly supported in the feedback and comments, leading to a new priority being added to the CYPP.
- 6 Two CYPP measures are also Best City Ambition measures: pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Health and Wellbeing); and pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (Inclusive Growth). Children in care is a Council organisational performance measure for keeping children safe and this organisational measure supports our best city ambitions. Safely

reducing the need for children to be in care ('looked after') remains a CYPP obsession for ensuring that children are safe, and for measuring the effectiveness of the Council's collective support for parents and families.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: This is a city-wide partnership plan

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 7 A formal public consultation exercise ran from 07 November 2022 to 12 December 2022. 142 responses were received from across the city. Each question saw at least two-thirds of respondents 'strongly agree', or 'agree' with the proposed changes, with one question seeing a 90 per cent combined agree rate.
- 8 Feedback was obtained from several partnership meetings, where the consultation questions were discussed in addition to questions specific to each meeting; school governors were encouraged to complete the questionnaire and share with their peers; several updates and discussions were held with Scrutiny (Children and Families); and a child-friendly 'session plan' was provided to practitioners who work with young people's group, to ensure that the consultation exercise reached as many young people as possible. 67 young people contributed through these sessions.
- 9 The 12 Wishes were originally developed in 2021 and were refreshed for the tenth birthday of Child Friendly Leeds in July 2022. Three years' worth of consultation took place, capturing the voice of 80,000 children and young people in Leeds, with some of the most important issues being safe and clean places, spaces to play and to have fun, young people's voices to be heard and listened to, a focus on mental health and wellbeing, and a growing concern about climate change. The views of young people from the consultation exercises for the 12 Wishes have been incorporated into feedback from the CYPP-specific consultation and have helped shape the refreshed CYPP.
- 10 The outputs from the above consultation exercises have helped shape the refreshed CYPP. The wording of the Vision was altered based on the feedback received, and the positive response to the suggestion to add a climate emergency priority (including aligning the wording to one of the 12 Wishes) confirmed that this priority should be introduced.

What are the resource implications?

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

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

12 There are no inherent risks in the CYPP. Regular reporting is key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified, and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges. Discontinuing, or not refreshing, the CYPP would reduce the effectiveness of the work of the children's partnership in Leeds and increase the risk that children and young people are not kept safe from harm and do not achieve their potential.

What are the legal implications?

13 There is no requirement for this report, or the CYPP, to be subject to call in as it is part of the Budget and Policy framework.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

14 In the five years since the CYPP was last refreshed, both the local and national context have significantly altered. The refresh acknowledges the significant changes that have affected children and young people in recent years as well as establishing the partnership's response to those issues. The CYPP has guided the children's partnership over the last decade and has worked in parallel with Child Friendly Leeds to improve outcomes and opportunities for children and young people in Leeds. For these reasons, a sympathetic refresh was deemed to be most appropriate compared to no refresh, or a radical design of the CYPP.

How will success be measured?

15 Regular reports will be presented to both the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership Meeting, and to Scrutiny (Children and Families). These reports will provide an update on the three obsessions and the latest data for the measures in the CYPP. Additionally, two of the CYPP measures feature in the Best City Ambition.

16 The CYPP is the overarching strategy that guides the work of the children's partnership in Leeds, with reporting against the plan focused on strategic messages. More detailed, granular, reporting will take place through linked strategies and plans, for example the 3As Strategy, the Annual Standards Report, and the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

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

17 The refreshed CYPP will cover the period 2023 to 2028. Regular updates will be provided by or on behalf of the Director of Children and Families to the Leeds Children and Young People Partnership Meeting, which is part of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, and to Scrutiny (Children and Families).

Appendices

- Appendix one: The draft refreshed Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028. A graphically designed version of the CYPP will be published in September.
- Appendix two: CYPP refresh EDCI screening document.

Background papers

- None.

Appendix one: the Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028

The way we work

Making connections

Developing quality connections, conversations, and relationships with children, families, and professionals is how we work in Leeds

Valuing families

Children live in families
Families create communities
Communities create cities

Three mindsets

Always remember...
Do the simple things better
The child is the client
Safeguard and promote the welfare of children

Equality, diversity, and inclusion

We want Leeds to be a city of equal opportunity, an inclusive city where everyone has a fair chance, and people from all backgrounds take part in community life, creating a society that is varied, vibrant and proud. The CYPP will help reduce the impact of poverty and reduce inequalities and discrimination that still exist within some of our communities within Leeds

And a relentless focus on the question...

What is it like to be a child or young person growing up in Leeds and how do we make it better?

Our city

About Leeds

Total population: 809,036
Including 170,571 children and young people aged up to 18 (263,392 aged under 25)
280 state-funded schools
191 different languages spoken in Leeds schools
Figures correct at February 2023

The 12 Child Friendly Wishes 2023-28

The Child Friendly Leeds Wishes were developed in partnership with children and young people. Top issues and priorities were identified following the review of local and citywide consultations, surveys, and ballots, capturing the views of over 80,000 children and young people. The Wishes highlight what young people think is important and what they think would make Leeds an even better city for children and young people to grow up in. The Wishes have influenced the priorities in the CYPP and a wishes action plan has been developed to ensure children, young people, and families are kept up to date on what actions are being taken to address the wishes. Updates on the 12 Wishes will be part of monitoring the impact of our CYPP. For more information, visit

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds/cfl-the-story/12-wishes>

Working together

The ambition of the Child Friendly initiative is to make Leeds the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in. To help us make this happen, we have a Leeds Children and Young People's Partnership, which brings together leaders from the main organisations working with children and young people, to make sure the work we do keeps children safe from harm, and has a positive impact on improving outcomes

We work with all partners to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people who live in Leeds. The CYPP is part of the strategic framework that supports the Best City Ambition, which is our overall vision for the future of Leeds. At its heart is our mission to tackle poverty and inequality, and to improve quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home



Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2023 to 2028

The priorities that guide our work have been developed through consultation across the city, including the views of children and young people

Ensuring that our Best City Ambition delivers for Leeds' children and young people, we will focus on:

- children in all areas of the city having the best start in life and enjoying a healthy, happy, and friendly childhood
- young people having the skills that enable them to realise their potential and to thrive

Find out more

Follow us on Twitter, [@Child_Leeds](https://twitter.com/Child_Leeds), or visit www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds for more information about our work

To understand how we work together to keep children and young people safe, visit www.leedsscp.org.uk

To see our one minute guides on all aspects of children's services, please visit www.leeds.gov.uk and search for 'one minute guides'

To become a Child Friendly Leeds supporter, ambassador, or partner, e-mail childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk

What we'll do

One vision

Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK and the best city for children and young people to grow up in, to thrive from early years into adulthood. We want Leeds to be an inclusive and welcoming child friendly city where children live in loving and nurturing families. We invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city by improving outcomes and providing young people with the skills for life, as well as opportunities for play and having fun. In ensuring our children are starting well, we recognise the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds

Five outcomes

All children and young people:

1. Are safe from harm
2. Do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life
3. Enjoy healthy lives
4. Have fun growing up
5. Are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence

Fourteen priorities

1. Help children and parents to live in safe, supportive, and loving families
2. Ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people are protected
3. Support families to give children the best start in life
4. Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning
5. Improve achievement and attainment for all pupils
6. Improve at a faster rate educational progress for pupils vulnerable to poorer learning outcomes
7. Improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
8. Children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out, and have fun
9. Promote and enable physical activity and healthy eating
10. Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours
11. Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, and be ready for work
12. Everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change
13. Improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people
14. Encourage greater use of sustainable transport (eg walking, cycling, scooting, public transport) for children and young people

Three obsessions

1. Safely and appropriately reduce the number of children looked after
2. Young people in Leeds attend school, achieve, and attain well, and continue their route
3. Leeds is a healthy place for all children; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed

Helping 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

How we'll do it



Behaviours that underpin everything we do

Use Outcome Based Accountability and ask the question: is anyone better off?
Use restorative practice to work *with* people, not *do to* or *for* them
We listen and respond to the voice of the child
We support and prioritise children and young people to have fun growing up
Our work aims to eliminate discrimination and ensure equity, equality, and inclusion

How we'll know if we've made a difference

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Number of children looked after | 13. Children and young people who report being happy most days in the My Health, My School Survey |
| 2. Number of parents that have had more than one child enter care at different times | 14. Timely access to the right healthcare when needed |
| 3. Number of children subject to a child protection plan | 15. Young offenders that re-offend |
| 4. Number of children in need | 16. Under-18 conception rates |
| 5. Pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (end of reception year) | 17. Under-18 alcohol-related hospital admissions |
| 6. Infant mortality rates | 18. Students achieving a level 3 qualification at age 19 |
| 7. School attendance | 19. Young people not in employment, education, or training, or whose employment status is 'not known' |
| 8. Fixed-term school suspensions | |
| 9. Pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2 (end of year six) | |
| 10. Progress 8 score for Leeds at the end of Key Stage 4 (end of year 11) | |
| 11. Destinations of young people with special educational needs and/or a disability when they leave school | |
| 12. Children that are obese in reception and in year | |

Appendix two: CYPP refresh EDCI screening document

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



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 or has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

Directorate: Children and Families	Service area:
Lead person: Chris Hudson	Contact number: 0113 37 85515

1. Title: The Children and Young People's Plan (refresh for 2023 to 2028)

Is this a:

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

If other, please specify

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

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the strategic document that guides the work of the children's partnership in Leeds. Through its vision, outcomes, priorities, obsessions, and performance measures it provides a framework to: keep children safe from harm; do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life; enjoy healthy lifestyles; have fun growing up; and have a voice and influence in the services that are provided for them. These five priorities - or conditions of wellbeing - focus on all children and young people living and growing up in Leeds.

The CYPP was last refreshed in 2017, with that iteration of the plan covering the period 2018 to 2023. The current refresh acknowledges the increased focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing following the Covid-19 pandemic, greater advocacy for action on the climate emergency, and the cost-of-living crisis. The proposed areas of change have been identified through conversations across the children's partnership, with senior officers and leaders of the Council, and elected members through Scrutiny (Children and Families).

A six-week public consultation on the proposed areas of change will take place to establish the level of support for the proposed changes. Scrutiny will consider the outputs from that consultation in January 2023. The refreshed plan will be approved at Full Council in summer 2023 and will cover the period 2023 to 2028.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or 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. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

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"> Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment Advancing equality of opportunity Fostering good relations 	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?**

The CYPP is the strategic plan for improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families in the city, and supports the overarching Best City Ambition. Specific proposals for the way services are delivered and designed are covered in separate reports by the council and its partner organisations as and when they emerge. This includes specific equality, diversity, cohesion and integration impact assessments. The CYPP covers all children and young people living and growing up in Leeds by asking the question: what is it like to be a child or young person growing up in Leeds and how do we make it better? As the strategic plan for improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families in the city, the CYPP is the document to which other plans and strategies must align. The SEND and Inclusion Strategy, and the 3As Strategy, for example support (large) sub-cohorts that the CYPP is focused on. It is not the purpose of the CYPP to address all issues for children and young people living and growing up in Leeds, but it sets the tone and direction for other strategies and plans, which have a more

specific focus than the CYPP. These strategies and action plans will address areas of concern and will have a specific focus on a range of protected characteristics.

Each update to the CYPP addresses emerging issues since the last refresh. The proposed changes that will be consulted acknowledge the increased focus on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing following the Covid-19 pandemic, greater advocacy for action on the climate emergency, and the cost-of-living crisis. The proposed introduction of a health obsession will bring greater prominence to health and wellbeing issues within the CYPP; introducing a climate change priority, and a sustainable transport priority acknowledges the growing calls and actions from young people for these areas to be addressed.

The CYPP is likely to reference Leeds working towards becoming a Marmot City. The Marmot Review into health inequalities in England (2010) proposes an evidence-based strategy to address the social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and which can lead to health inequalities. The first policy objective of the Marmot review is "giving every child the best start in life", a concept already embedded within the CYPP.

The proposed changes to the CYPP have been developed following discussions with Scrutiny (Children and Families), Corporate Leadership Team, the Children and Families Leadership and extended leadership forum, the LSCP Bi-Annual Network meeting, and children and young people through consultation over the last year on the updating of the 12 Wishes. The proposed changes will now be shared publicly as part of the formal consultation process. Young people will be consulted during the formal consultation process through existing forums and groups. This will be done in conjunction with the Voice, Influence, and Change Team, who have significant experience working with children and young people.

- **Key findings**

The CYPP has existed in its current form since 2011. Its previous refreshes (in 2014/15 and 2017/18) have been accompanied by an EDCI screening form. Each refresh has also evolved the plan rather than radically redesigning it. Consequently, the CYPP is well-established and understood across the partnership, with each refresh acknowledging its potential impact on different groups and communities.

Scrutiny (Children and Families) receive regular updates on progress being made against the priorities in the CYPP. Increasingly, the Board has been focused on the different life chances of children and young people across Leeds depending on where they are living. This focus has fed into the proposed changes, with challenging child poverty remaining central to the CYPP.

There is no single overarching report which brings together an overview of EDCI issues. Attainment information, for example, is reported in detail through the Annual Standards report, and is referenced in existing reports provided to various accountability meetings.

- **Actions**

The CYPP is based on OBA principles: how much have we done, how well have we done it, and what difference have we made. The reporting on the outcomes and priorities focuses on these three questions. Scrutiny (Children and Families) provides high support and high challenge when updates are provided (every six months). The Board monitors and evaluates EDCI issues and suggests work programmes to address these issues and improve the way services respond to need and vulnerability.

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)	
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6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Julie Longworth	Director of Children and Families	
Date screening completed		

7. Publishing

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision**.

A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent: