

## SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

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Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on  
Wednesday, 7th September, 2022 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

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)
Mrs K Blacker	-	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

**To 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.

**Note to observers of the meeting:** To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Meeting Recording' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1089&MId=11921>

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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 - 6TH JULY 2022**

5 - 12

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

7

### **NEW CO-OPTED MEMBER**

13 -  
16

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services regarding the appointment of a new co-opted member to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

8

### **REFRESH OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN - UPDATE**

17 -  
22

To receive an update report from the Director of Children and Families on the preparations linked to the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan.

9

### **SCHOOLS BILL**

23 -  
30

To receive a report from the Director of Children and Families which provides a summary of the recent Schools Bill for the Scrutiny Board's consideration.

**WORK SCHEDULE**

To consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2022/23 municipal year.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 10.00 am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.45 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, 6TH JULY, 2022

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

Councillors H Bithell, J Bowden, E Bromley,  
K Brooks, P Carlill, A Forsaith, C Howley,  
Z Hussain, D Ragan, R. Stephenson and  
E Thomson

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

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

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

Ms C Foote – School Staff Representative  
Ms H Bellamy – School Staff Representative  
Ms L Whitaker - Young Lives Leeds

### **OPENING REMARKS**

At the start of the meeting, the Chair informed the Board that the Director of Children's Services, Sal Tariq, will be moving onto a new role in September where he will be working to support other councils on the Strengthening Families, Protecting Children programme. It was noted that while Sal was unable to attend today's meeting, an invitation had been extended for him to attend the Board's next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The Chair also announced that Celia Foote was retiring and will therefore no longer be a co-opted member of the Scrutiny Board. The Chair paid tribute to Celia for representing teachers and other school staff in the work of scrutiny over the last 20 years and highlighted that her longstanding commitment had also been acknowledged by the Lord Mayor. The Board then joined the Chair in relaying their thanks and best wishes to Celia.

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

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

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

There were no exempt items.

#### **16 Late Items**

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 7th September, 2022

There were no late items of business.

## **17 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Heselwood, Councillor L Martin, Councillor K Renshaw, Councillor L Richards and Councillor J Senior.

Councillor P Carlill attended as substitute for Councillor Heselwood.  
Councillor K Brooks attended as substitute for Councillor Martin.  
Councillor Thomson attended as substitute for Councillor Renshaw.

## **19 Minutes - 8th June 2022**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be approved as an accurate record.

## **20 Ofsted Inspection Report**

In introducing this item, the Chair explained that last year the Scrutiny Board had considered the findings of Ofsted inspectors following the two-day focused visit to Leeds Children's Services in July 2021 and more recently in relation to the inspection of children's social care services that was undertaken in late February/early March 2022 in accordance with the ILCAS framework.

The report submitted by the Director of Children and Families presented an update on the outcomes of the ILACS inspection that relate to the front door focused visit recommendations, as well as setting out the planned actions to respond to the recommendations that had stemmed from the ILACS inspection.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Julie Longworth, Deputy Director of Children and Families
- Shaheen Myers, Deputy Director of Learning
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work

The Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships gave a brief introduction and in doing so, had made reference to the Child Friendly Leeds Awards event which had taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and marked the celebration of Child Friendly Leeds' 10th birthday. The event had showcased the diverse talent and achievements of the city's

children and young people, as well as highlighting and celebrating those people, places and organisations that are dedicated to making Leeds a child friendly city. Linked to this, the Executive Member particularly acknowledged the strong commitment and hard work of frontline staff and other key partners in maintaining an outstanding judgement by Ofsted, but also stressed that the Council would not become complacent and is keen to continue to learn and improve in collaboration with partners and also via the engagement of scrutiny.

The Deputy Director of Children and Families then gave a brief overview of the planned actions in place to respond to the recommendations that had stemmed from the ILACS inspection.

In consideration of the report, the following issues were discussed by the Board:

- *Improvements to contingency planning* – The Board acknowledged that a program of practice improvement is to be developed in relation to contingency planning and that part of this work will include a review of the electronic record that is used to record children’s plans to ensure there is a clear and usable section for contingency planning, which will also help prompt regular reviewing of such plans.
- *Caseloads of social workers* – The Board discussed social worker caseloads and sought clarification of current caseload levels for children's social workers, particularly as it was acknowledged by Ofsted that caseloads are high for some workers, including for some newly qualified workers. The Deputy Director of Children and Families acknowledged again that caseloads are not what they want them to be and that while the service is working to address this matter locally, the position is reflective of challenges facing the social work sector nationally in terms of workforce vacancy rates and recruitment difficulties. A Board Member put forward a suggestion that the Board may want to explore a way of obtaining a representative view from the social work sector.
- *Response to a personnel query* – In response to a query raised by a Board Member in relation to a personnel matter involving social work staff, the Deputy Director of Children and Families and Executive Member for Adult and Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships advised that it would not be appropriate for them to comment on any confidential personnel matters and particularly within a public meeting. The Board Member then sought legal clarification surrounding access to information rights of Scrutiny Boards, to which the Chair agreed to progress after the meeting and to share with Board Members in due course.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report and the comments made by the Board be noted.

- (b) That specific progress on recommendations from the front door focused inspection be noted and that the Board approves completion of the actions taken.
- (c) That the recommendations from the ILACS inspection and the actions set out in relation to these be noted.
- (d) That the Chair progresses the request for legal clarification surrounding access to information rights of Scrutiny Boards and shares this with Board Members in due course.

## 21 Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which provided an overview of the planned refresh process linked to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), which is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds.

In introducing the item, the Chair welcomed this opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to review the existing plan and to discuss areas that may be changed in the early planning stages of the refresh process.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Julie Longworth, Deputy Director of Children and Families
- Shaheen Myers, Deputy Director of Learning
- Ruth Terry, Chief Officer for Social Work
- Chris Hudson, Policy, Planning and Procedures Leader
- Hannah Lamplugh, Voice and Influence Lead

The Planning and Procedures Leader gave a brief introduction to the report, primarily setting out the timetable for the refresh process. The Voice and Influence Lead then gave an overview of the consultation work that was undertaken with children and young people to refresh the 12 Wishes (a copy of the refreshed 12 Wishes was circulated to Board Members for information) and highlighted the intention of ensuring that these are reflected as part of the refresh of the CYPP.

The following issues were raised during the Board's discussion:

- *Transport* – The Board felt that transport should remain a priority within the CYPP in recognition that transport issues would have an impact on delivering on a number of the 12 Wishes. Linked to this, particular reference was made to cost of bus travel and while acknowledging that bus companies are offering concessions to young people through the new Fair Deal scheme, it was highlighted that this concessionary price was only accessible using a digital App. Those unable to access this App would therefore be disadvantaged. Linked to this, the Chair agreed to write to the West Yorkshire Mayor to share the views of the Scrutiny Board on this issue.

- *Mentoring opportunities with local businesses* – The Board encouraged stronger links with local businesses to explore mentoring opportunities, particularly linked to the Wish around young people accessing a wide range of work experience opportunities.
- *Including a focus around travel* – It was recognised that by encouraging active travel opportunities, particularly in relation to traveling to and from school, then this would have a positive impact on protecting the environment as well as improving mental health and emotional well-being, which are already key priority areas identified by young people.
- *Recognising the importance of play* - The Board supported the inclusion of both creative and construction play as a priority within the refreshed CYPP and felt that the value of play also needs to receive greater recognition by regulators such as Ofsted.
- *Opportunities to enable different cultural experiences* – The Board recognised the valuable opportunity available through the Leeds 2023 year of culture to enable children, young people and their families to access different cultural experiences.
- *The use of meaningful language* – As well as reflecting the need for children and young people to feel safe, a suggestion was made for the words ‘nurtured’ and ‘loved’ to also be reflected into the refreshed CYPP linked to being a compassionate city.
- *Ownership of the CYPP across all directorates* – linked to the Board’s earlier inquiry work around Child Friendly Leeds, the Board emphasised the importance of all directorates having ownership of the CYPP in terms of successful delivery.
- *Working with other Scrutiny Boards* – The Board acknowledged the importance of other scrutiny boards having access to views raised by children and young people to inform the areas within their remits too.
- *Consultation process and online questionnaire* – The Board emphasised the importance of ensuring that a wide range of views are gathered by children, young people and their families, with particular efforts made in targeting particularly hard to reach groups. Members also recognised the importance of using meaningful language as part of the consultation process.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and requested that the Board is given the opportunity to consider the consultation questions in advance of the consultation being launched, and to also consider the consultation feedback and draft Plan prior to approval.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and comments raised by the Board be noted.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 7th September, 2022

- (b) That the Chair writes to the West Yorkshire Mayor to relay the views of the Scrutiny Board in relation to the Fair Deal scheme for young people travelling by bus.
- (c) That the Board is given an opportunity to consider the consultation questions in advance of the consultation being launched, and to also consider the consultation feedback and draft Plan prior to approval.

## 22 Work Schedule

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

The Chair reminded everyone that during the Board's initial meeting last month, Members were presented with a draft work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year but were also invited to suggest any other areas of interest that may warrant further scrutiny. However, in recognition of the need to ensure that the work of the Scrutiny Board remains manageable, it was noted that the Chair had met with the Director of Children and Families to identify those areas of priority where it was felt that the Scrutiny Board could add value this year.

Linked to this, it was noted that three priority areas had been identified, which included the following:

- It was proposed that the Board undertakes an in-depth review of Children's Services Workforce Planning and that the September meeting is used to help determine the scope of the Board's review.
- It was proposed that the Board maintains a watching brief on the new Schools Bill and the consequential impacts locally and to hold an initial discussion on the Schools Bill during its September meeting.
- It was proposed that the Board Reviews the existing Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy within the context of recommendations and proposals stemming from the SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper and the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. It was highlighted that an item on the Leeds SEND and Inclusions Strategy had been scheduled for the Board's November meeting.

As well as reflecting the above, it was noted that the Board's latest work schedule also still includes traditional items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, and is still reflective of the Board's early commitments to track key strategic plans, including the 3As Plan, Youth and Justice Plan and Child Poverty Strategy.

**RESOLVED** – That the latest work schedule, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

## 23 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 7th September, 2022

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 10.00 am (pre-meeting for Board Members at 9.45 am)

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting  
to be held on Wednesday, 7th September, 2022

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## New Co-opted Member

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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

- For a number of years, the Council's Constitution has made provision for the appointment of co-opted members to individual Scrutiny Boards. For those Scrutiny Boards where co-opted members have previously been appointed, such arrangements have tended to be reviewed on an annual basis, usually at the beginning of a new municipal year.
- The appointment of non-voting school staff representation has been a longstanding approach adopted by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board and this year both Celia Foote and Helen Bellamy had been nominated again by the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) to continue their role on the Scrutiny Board. Their appointment was formally approved by the Scrutiny Board in June 2022.
- However, in July 2022 the Chair informed Board Members that after representing teachers and other school staff in the work of scrutiny over the last 20 years, Celia Foote was now retiring. As such, the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee has nominated Mr Nick Tones to replace Celia's position on the Scrutiny Board from September onwards.
- The Board is therefore asked to formally approve the appointment of Mr Nick Tones as a non-voting co-opted member to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the appointment of Mr Nick Tones as a non-voting co-opted member to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

## What is this report about?

1. The appointment of non-voting school staff representation has been a longstanding approach adopted by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board and this year, both Celia Foote and Helen Bellamy had been nominated again by the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) to continue their role on the Scrutiny Board. Their appointment was formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board in June 2022.
2. However, in July 2022 the Chair informed Board Members that after representing teachers and other school staff in the work of scrutiny over the last 20 years, Celia Foote was now retiring. As such, the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee was asked to nominate another representative to replace Celia's position on the Scrutiny Board and this has been confirmed as Mr Nick Tones.
3. The Board is therefore asked to formally approve the appointment of Mr Nick Tones as a non-voting co-opted member to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

## What impact will this proposal have?

4. It is widely recognised that in some circumstances, co-opted members can significantly aid the work of Scrutiny Boards.
5. The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules make it clear that co-option would normally only be appropriate where the co-opted member has some specialist skill or knowledge, which would be of assistance to the Scrutiny Board.
6. In considering the appointment of co-opted members, Scrutiny Boards should be satisfied that a co-opted member can use their specialist skill or knowledge to add value to the work of the Scrutiny Board. However, co-opted members should not be seen as a replacement to professional advice from officers.
7. Co-opted members should be considered as representatives of wider groups of people. However, when seeking external input into the Scrutiny Board's work, consideration should always be given to other alternative approaches, such as the role of expert witnesses or use of external research studies, to help achieve a balanced evidence base.
8. When considering the appointment of a co-opted member for a term of office, Scrutiny Boards should be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the course of the year in view of the Scrutiny Boards' wide ranging terms of reference. To help overcome this, Scrutiny Boards may wish to focus on the provision available to appoint up to two non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that relates to the duration of a particular and specific scrutiny inquiry.
9. The process for appointing co-opted members should be open, effective and carried out in a manner which seeks to strengthen the work of the Scrutiny Board. In doing so, due regard should also be given to any potential equality issues in line with the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

10. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function and it is widely recognised that co-opted members can significantly aid the work of Scrutiny Boards.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

11. Nominations for non-voting school staff representation on the Children and Families Scrutiny Board is sought from the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee (JCC).

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes                       No

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

12. Where applicable, any incidental expenses paid to co-optees will be met within existing resources.

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

13. When Scrutiny Boards are considering the appointment of a standing co-opted member for a term of office, they should be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the course of the year in view of the Scrutiny Boards' wide ranging terms of reference.

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

14. Where additional members are co-opted onto a Scrutiny Board, such members must comply with the provisions set out in the Member's Code of Conduct as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

### **Appendices**

- None.

### **Background papers**

- None.

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## An update on the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan

Date: Wednesday 07 September 2022

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

The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. The Plan is being refreshed, with a formal consultation exercise planned for October.

Proposed changes include merging two obsessions and introducing a new health-focused obsession; and a change to the wording of the vision.

### Recommendations

The Children and Families Scrutiny Board is recommended to offer views on the proposals for renewing the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan, relating to:

- a) The content of the plan, especially the vision and the obsession.
- b) The consultation and timetable for developing and approving the plan.
- c) The implementation and monitoring of the plan.

## What is this report about?

- 1 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. The Plan is being refreshed, with a formal consultation exercise planned for October. The results from this consultation will inform the development of the refreshed Plan, which will be approved at Full Council in the summer of 2023.
- 2 An initial discussion was held with Scrutiny in June 2022 where a request was made to provide Scrutiny with an update before the consultation questions were confirmed so that Scrutiny could offer further views. Appendix two contains a list of the proposed changes, on which the questions for the consultation will be developed. The proposed changes continue the approach taken in the refreshes of the Plan over the last ten years, with an evolution for each iteration whilst remaining true to the principles of Outcome Based Accountability, which is the framework that underpins the CYPP.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. The refreshed plan will set out the key priorities for both the Council and the 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 required the most support and intervention.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 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 will ask how the plan can contribute to the zero carbon pillar. Currently there is accompanying work being undertaken on defining Best City ambitions for Leeds, linked to the three pillar strategies. We will ensure the CYPP is joined up with this work and the measures that represent our ambitions are consistent.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 The CYPP is a citywide, partnership, plan and therefore affects all wards. A formal consultation exercise is planned for the autumn of 2022. This will be an online questionnaire that will be shared with all elected members, as well as children and young people, Council officers, members of the children's partnership in Leeds, and the general public.

## What are the resource implications?

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

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

- 7 There are no inherent risks within the CYPP. Regular reporting is the key to ensuring that outcomes are improving and that challenges are swiftly identified, and remedial action is taken to mitigate the negative impact of those challenges.

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

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

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

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

- 9 In the four years since the CYPP was last refreshed both the local and national context have significantly altered. The CYPP requires a refresh to acknowledge the significant changes that have affected children and young people in recent year as well as establishing the partnership's response to those issues. The CYPP has guided the children's partnership throughout the last ten years 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?**

- 10 The current iteration of the CYPP has twenty performance measures that have been identified as some of the most important measures to monitor as progress in these areas should help drive improvements in other areas that affect children and young people. These measures will be reviewed during the refresh process to ensure that they remain relevant and focused on the most important areas.

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

- 11 The formal online consultation is planned for six weeks, starting in October. The results will be analysed and incorporated into a draft refreshed CYPP in the early weeks of 2023. The Director of Children's Services is responsible for the Plan's implementation.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix one contains the current CYPP.
- Appendix two contains the proposed changes to the CYPP. The formal consultation questions will be based on this appendix. One of the main changes is the proposed merging of two obsessions (improve achievement, attainment, and attendance at school; reduce the number of young people no in education, employment or training) into a new learning destinations obsession, and the introduction of a health-focused obsession. The children looked after obsession will remain unchanged. There is also a proposal to change the wording of the vision, to reference 'play' and 'fun'.

## **Background papers**

- There are no additional papers for this report.

# Appendix one: the 2018-2023 Children and Young People's Plan

## 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

### Four behaviours

Listening to the voice of the child  
Working restoratively: doing things with families instead of to them, for them or doing nothing  
Using outcome based accountability to measure our progress and challenge whether anyone is better off  
We support and prioritise children and young people to have fun growing up

### 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: **781,700**  
Including **189,600** children and young people aged up to 19 (269,500 aged under 25)  
**270** state-funded schools  
**195** different languages spoken in Leeds schools

### Working together

The Child Friendly Leeds initiative's ambition 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 Children and Families Trust Board, and a Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership. They bring senior people together from the main organisations working with children and young people to make sure the work we do keeps children safe, and has a positive impact on improving outcomes. We work with schools, governors, police, the youth service, the youth offending service, children's centres, housing services, third sector, health, and local councillors, amongst others, to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people who live in Leeds.

### Find out more

Visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/childfriendlyleeds) for more information about our work  
Follow us on Twitter: [@Child\\_Leeds](https://twitter.com/Child_Leeds)  
For information about how we work together to keep children and young people safe, visit [www.leedsscp.org.uk](http://www.leedsscp.org.uk)  
To see our one minute guides on all aspects of children's services, please visit [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk) and search for one minute guides.  
To help by being a Child Friendly Leeds supporter, ambassador or partner, email [childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:childfriendlyleeds@leeds.gov.uk)



# Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2023

we are child friendly Leeds

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



Leeds CITY COUNCIL

Making Leeds a child friendly city

# Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2018-2023

## What we'll do

1

### 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. We want Leeds to be a child friendly city. Through our vision and obsessions we invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city. We aim to improve outcomes for all our children whilst recognising the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds.

5

### Five outcomes

Conditions of well-being we want for all our children and young people

- |                                                               |                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. All children and young people:                             | 3. enjoy healthy lifestyles                                     |
| 2. are safe from harm                                         | 4. have fun growing up                                          |
| 5. do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life | 6. are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence |

11

### Eleven priorities

- |                                                                                            |                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Help children and parents to live in safe, supportive and loving families               | 7. Improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing                             |
| 2. Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected                                           | 8. Encourage physical activity and healthy eating                                         |
| 3. Support families to give children the best start in life                                | 9. Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours          |
| 4. Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning | 10. Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, and be ready for work       |
| 5. Improve achievement and attainment for all                                              | 11. Improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people |
| 6. Improve at a faster rate educational progress for children and young people             |                                                                                           |

3

### Three obsessions

- |                                                                        |                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Safely and appropriately reduce the number of children looked after | education, employment and training                          |
| 2. Reduce the number of young people not in                            | 3. Improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school |

Helping deliver the Best Council Plan and our Best City ambition of a strong economy in a compassionate city

## How we'll do it



## Behaviours that underpin everything we do

- |                                                                                      |                                                                            |                                                        |                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Use Outcome Based Accountability, and ask the question: is anyone better off?</b> | <b>Use restorative practice to work with people, not do to or for them</b> | <b>We listen and respond to the voice of the child</b> | <b>We support and prioritise children and young people to have fun growing up</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



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

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Number of children looked after                                                                                     | 12. Destinations of young people with special educational needs and/or a disability when they leave school |
| 2. Number of children subject to a child protection plan                                                               | 13. Progress against measures in the Future in Mind dashboard                                              |
| 3. Number of parents that have had more than one child enter care at different times                                   | 14. Children that are a healthy weight at age 11                                                           |
| 4. Number of children in need                                                                                          | 15. Young offenders that re-offend                                                                         |
| 5. Pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (end of reception year) | 16. Under-18 conception rates                                                                              |
| 6. Infant mortality rates                                                                                              | 17. Under-18 alcohol-related hospital admissions                                                           |
| 7. Newly created school places in good and outstanding schools                                                         | 18. Students achieving a level 3 qualification at age 19                                                   |
| 8. School attendance                                                                                                   | 19. Young people not in employment, education, or training, or whose employment status is 'not known'      |
| 9. Fixed-term exclusions from schools                                                                                  | 20. Transport for young people indicator to be developed after further discussions with young people       |
| 10. Pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 2 (end of year six)                                  |                                                                                                            |
| 11. Progress 8 score for Leeds at the end of Key Stage 4 (end of year 11)                                              |                                                                                                            |



## Appendix two: proposed changes to the CYPP

<b>General comments</b>	
1.	Revisit the wording to update it, accepting that much of the content is ten years old
2.	Incorporate equality, diversity, and inclusion into the plan in a meaningful way, possibly in the 'how we'll do it' section. Including being specific and supportive of the needs of LGBT+ young people.
3.	The revised CYPP will reflect how we support children and young people through the recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and the disruption and impact this has had on their lives.
4.	Emphasise that the CYPP is consistent with our commitment to becoming a Marmot City. Addressing the social determinates of health and tackling health inequalities. The initial focus in Leeds will be on taking a Marmot approach to supporting families to give children the best start in life.
<b>The Vision</b>	
5.	<p>Revisit the wording of the Vision, to incorporate play and fun:</p> <p><b>Current vision:</b> Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK and the best city for children and young people to grow up in. We want Leeds to be a child friendly city. Through our vision and obsessions we invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city. We aim to improve outcomes for all our children whilst recognising the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds</p> <p><b>Proposed vision:</b> Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK and the best city for children and young people to grow up in. We want Leeds to be a child friendly city where children live in loving and nurturing families. Through our vision and obsessions we invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city by providing opportunities for play and for having fun, as well as improving outcomes and providing young people with the skills for life</p>
<b>The three obsessions</b>	
6.	Retain the children looked after obsession, no change
7.	Combine the attendance/achievement, and NEET obsessions into a new learning destinations obsession
8.	Consider the introduction of a new, health-focused obsession
<b>The five outcomes</b>	
9.	Retain all five priorities, with minimal changes
10.	Outcome three is all children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles. We are proposing to change it to all children and young people enjoy healthy lives
<b>The eleven priorities</b>	
11.	Introduce a climate emergency priority
12.	Review priority 20 (transport for young people), expanding it to focus on sustainable transport (eg walking to school, using public transport, encouraging cycling)
<b>The twenty measures</b>	
13.	Does the learning destinations obsession require a measure on phonics screening?
14.	Replace measure 13 (progress against the Future In Mind dashboard) with a more appropriate measure
15.	Should a measure be introduced that indicates the impact of poverty on children and young people? What would this be?

## Schools Bill

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Report of: The 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

- The government has published a schools bill, the first major piece of legislation for the sector since 2016.
- The draft bill sets out proposed new academy intervention powers, new duties on attendance and support for more schools to join trusts.
- If passed, the bill will implement many of the policies set out in the government's recent schools' white paper. The draft legislation was introduced in the House of Lords and will now begin its journey through Parliament.
- Caveat: The bill can be amended in Parliament, so what is set out below is the government's intentions, not necessarily what will end up being signed into law.
- This report provides the Scrutiny Board with a summary of the schools bill which aims to implement many of the policies set out in the government's recent schools white paper.

### Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to note the information provided regarding the government's recent schools bill to inform a discussion and offer guidance to local authority officers.

## What is this report about?

1. On 13 May 2022, the Schools Bill was introduced to Parliament. This aims to implement many of the policies set out in the Government's 'Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child' White Paper, which was published in March 2022.
2. This report provides the Scrutiny Board with a summary of the Schools Bill. However, Board Members can read the full draft bill [here](#), and Department for Education policy documents about each proposed law change [here](#). An impact assessment is also published [here](#).

## Summary of the Schools Bill

3. **Trust standards replace 'inconsistent' regulation**
4. Most trust regulation will move from current funding agreements, legislation, and guidance to a new statutory "academy trust standards" regime.
5. This will create a consistent, "simplified legal framework", as funding agreements currently differ depending on when they were signed.
6. The DfE said this would "mostly" replicate existing rules, with new requirements on attendance, local governance and complaints.
7. There will also be a new collaborative standard requiring trusts to work "constructively" with partners.
8. **Government can terminate academy trusts**
9. The DfE will have new powers to intervene at academy trust level from September 2023. At present, most of its intervention happens at school-level.
10. There will be new powers to:
  - Issue a 'notice to improve', where the education secretary believes a trust has "significant weaknesses in management or governance"
  - Issue a direction to an academy trust that has "failed to discharge a duty imposed on it" (including, but not limited to, the academy trust standards)
  - Replace an academy trusts' board of trustees with an interim board if weaknesses are not addressed
  - Appoint additional trustees if no progress after a 'notice to improve'
  - Terminate academy trusts.
11. **Tackling 'unequal' church land issues**
12. Many Church of England and Catholic schools operate on sites owned by special charitable trusts.
13. When they academise and move site, councils currently only have to give these trusts a 125-year lease – whereas non-academy peers are handed land freehold.
14. The DfE will end this "unequal" setup by mandating that councils hand over sites freehold.

15. **Academy faith rights**

16. The DfE will remove a “disincentive” to Christian school academisation by enshrining in statute that they will have the same protections over delivering religious education and collective worship as maintained schools.

17. It will also ensure the same statutory protection for academies’ religious character as for maintained schools. The laws will provide “reassurance” for faith groups, guarding against trusts amending their rules to “weaken the religious nature” of particular academies.

18. **Only parent ballot can remove selection**

19. The ability of trusts or governing bodies to propose to remove selection from a grammar school will be removed, with a public ballot of parents the only mechanism to make them comprehensive.

20. No parental ballot has been held since 2011.

21. **Councils able to initiate academy conversion**

22. Councils will be able to apply for an academy order for their schools – this could be for just one, some or all of their schools.

23. LAs will only need to consult with the schools’ governing bodies, and obtain consent from the trustees (if they are applying for foundation and voluntary schools).

24. When an academy order is issued, the governors and local authority will have to take “all reasonable steps to facilitate the conversion of the school”.

25. If agreement can’t be reached between the LA and schools about conversion, the DfE will consider in any decision whether the local authority is prepared to continue to maintain individual schools.

26. The DfE has indicated that this change is “expected” to begin in September 2023.

27. The DfE said this would “support” councils to establish new MATs. It is currently DfE policy not to allow council trusts, rather than law. There is little clarity and information on how a council trust would work in practice.

28. **Attendance Regulations**

29. The government plans to change the law to require councils to use their powers to promote regular attendance and reduce absences.

30. Schools will also be required to publish attendance policies and implement strategies that promote regular attendance.

31. The education secretary will be enabled to decide what will warrant an absence fine, which is currently set at council level.

32. Current laws on granting absence will be extended to academies.

33. The government plans for these changes to come into effect in September 2023.
34. **Fair Funding Consultation**
35. There will be legislation to provide “direct” school funding, rather than funding being distributed to maintained schools via the local authority. Local funding formula criteria will not be able to be applied to school funding.
36. DfE will consult on the plans “before summer 2022” detailing how it will be implemented. The laws could allow special and alternative provision schools to be funded that way in future.
37. **A register of children not in school**
38. The government will legislate to create a duty on councils to keep a register of children not in school.
39. There will also be a duty on parents to provide information to councils for the register.
40. Out-of-school education providers will be required to provide information to LAs on request.
41. Councils will need to provide support to registered home-educating families where it’s required.
42. **Powers to speed up truancy crackdown**
43. The government will legislate to speed up the issuing of school attendance orders, which are issued by councils on behalf of headteachers to parents or carers of absent pupils. School attendance orders are a precursor to absence fines.
44. It is not currently against the law for parents who have been issued with an order to withdraw their child from school. This will become a crime under the proposed legislation.
45. The maximum penalty for breaching an attendance order will increase to a £2,500 fine or up to 3 months’ imprisonment.
46. **Teacher Misconduct Referrals**
47. Powers to ban teachers will be widened to cover misconduct by teachers working in online, post-16 and FE settings, as well as to those teachers not currently teaching. The new law would enable DfE officials to refer teachers for misconduct.
48. **Ofsted inspections of illegal schools**
49. The DfE plans to strengthen powers available to Ofsted to identify and investigate illegal schools.
50. It will become a criminal offence to obstruct or not provide information and assistance to inspectors during visits over suspected lawbreaking.
51. Ofsted will be able to request a warrant where inspectors are denied entry, including for a police constable to attend where “reasonable force is needed”.
52. Inspectors will be able to search for and seize evidence.

53. **Private school suspension powers**

54. The legislation provides powers to the DfE to suspend registration of an independent school for a set period, with the ability to extend that period where there is a risk of harm to pupils, a breach to the independent school standards or a breach in the implementation of the early years framework.

55. The legislation would make it an offence for the school to operate during the suspension, punishable by up to six months in prison and/or an unlimited fine.

56. **New registration rules**

57. Settings will have to be registered as a school if they provide full-time education to five or more children, or one or more child who has either an education health and care plan or is looked after.

58. The proposed legislation would require independent schools to apply for government approval if they change proprietor, address, age range of pupils, maximum number of pupils or if there was a change to/from it being a single gender setting or if it provides accommodation.

59. **Speed up private school closure appeals**

60. Deregistration (closure) is the “ultimate sanction” for independent schools, and is often appealed, meaning that institutions can stay open until the action is resolved.

61. The DfE plans to change the law so that appeals from institutions that have failed for a long time can be heard and resolved more quickly.

62. **Educational Landscape Changes**

63. The DfE have published an implementation framework which outlines how the government plans to ensure all schools are part of a strong multi-academy trust (MAT) by 2030 or have plans to join one.

64. **Appropriate Bodies**

65. The DfE plans to make Teaching School Hubs (TSHs) the main providers of Appropriate Body (AB) services so local authorities will no longer carry out this role. The DfE plans to do this from September 2023, although they are consulting on whether this provides a sufficient transition period.

**What impact will this proposal have?**

66. **Implementing school system reform in 2022 to 2023: Next steps following the Schools White Paper**

67. In the year 2022-23, there will be an area-based approach to commissioning trusts in Education Investment Areas (EIAs). Leeds is an EIA. As part of this, working with local partners, the DfE will identify trusts which can grow at pace to support vulnerable schools. Where there are sufficient trusts locally, pragmatic decisions will be taken as far as possible, considering phase coherence so that schools which are close by can work together. Trusts which do not have capacity for growth should be encouraged to focus on existing practice or join another trust.

The DfE is committed to avoiding local monopolies and ensuring sufficient diocesan trust exist and those with specialist expertise.

68. In autumn 2022, the DfE will publish a prospectus for each EIA setting out the priorities for MAT development in that area, detailing, for example, if there is space for a trust to grow in the area and detailing the phase of schools which might join it.
69. There will also be some test and learn projects to set up a small number of LA established MATs where they are needed. LA MATs could be established where too few strong MATs exist, enabling schools with a strong local partnership to formalise their relationships. This could include schools with a religious character. There will be no limit on the number of LA personnel who can be members of a trust; however, there must be fewer than 20% of LA personnel on the trust board. LAs wishing to be part of the initial project should contact their regional team and consult relevant schools about whether they would like to be part of a LA MAT.
70. New powers to be introduced will enable LAs to request all their schools being brought into the academy system and therefore accelerate this process. The DfE will invite expressions of interest for this route. An LA Trust can form part of this planning. Funding will be available to support LA wishing to move at scale.
71. In EIAs, subject to parliamentary approval, schools and academies currently judged as RI and which were RI at their previous inspection could become eligible for intervention, in the way that inadequate schools are now. Each case would be considered on its merits. Intervention would be an academy order or a termination warning notice. Schools in this position are asked to engage with regional DfE teams to discuss which trusts would be best to support the school. LAs are expected to work alongside the DfE to identify a solution which supports rapid improvement.

### **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

72. This report provides information directly from the Department for Education and as such is not subject to consultation at this stage. Consultation on next steps for the local authority will be part of the discussion at the Scrutiny Board.

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

73. N/A

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

74. N/A

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

75. N/A

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Background papers**

- None.

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## Work Schedule

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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

- All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as a document that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.
- The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules also state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.
- The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached to this report for the Board's consideration.

### Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2022/23 municipal year.

## What is this report about?

1. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year and therefore the latest iteration of the Board's work schedule for the remainder of the municipal year is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
2. The latest Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 are also attached as Appendix 2. 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.

### Developing the work schedule

3. When considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:
  - Avoid unnecessary 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.
  - Avoid pure "information items" except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review.
  - Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings, taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place.
  - Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year.
4. In addition, in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where necessary and appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

## What impact will this proposal have?

5. 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

6. 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

7. The Vision for Scrutiny 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?**

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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?**

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

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

12. This report has no specific legal implications.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Latest work schedule of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.
- Appendix 2 – Draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

### **Background papers**

- None.

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## Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) Work Schedule for 2022/2023 Municipal Year

June	July	August
<b>Meeting Agenda for 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10 am</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>
Co-opted Members (DB) Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference (DB) Scrutiny Inquiry into Exclusions, Elective Home Education and Off-rolling – Statement of Progress (PSR) Potential Sources of Work (DB) Performance Update (PM)	Improvement Plan stemming from the 2022 Ofsted Inspection (PSR) Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – initial consultation (PDS)	
<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 2022/2023 Municipal Year

September	October	November
<b>Meeting Agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 10 am</b>
The Schools Bill 2022-23 - Update (PSR)  Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan – update (PDS)	Notification of Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents – review findings (PSR)  Children's Services Workforce Planning – formally agree inquiry terms of reference (PSR)	Leeds SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021 to 2026 – review of progress (PSR)
<b>Working Group Meetings</b>		
Children's Services Workforce Planning – considering the potential scope of inquiry (PSR) – <i>date TBC</i>		

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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 2022/2023 Municipal Year

December	January	February
<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting.</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 10 am</b>	<b>Meeting Agenda for 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 10 am</b>
	Performance report (PM) Financial Health Monitoring (PSR) 2023/24 Initial Budget Proposals (PDS) Best City Ambition – Update (PDS) Refresh of the Children and Young People’s Plan – draft new Plan (PDS)	Leeds 3As Plan 2021-2023 – review of progress (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 2022/2023 Municipal Year

March	April	May
<b>Meeting Agenda for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>	<b>No Scrutiny Board meeting</b>
Youth Services – impact of new model (PSR)  Youth Justice Plan 2021–24 – progress update (PSR)  Leeds Child Poverty Strategy – 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

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 27TH JULY, 2022

**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

**SUBSTITUE MEMBER:** Councillor A Lamb

**15 Substitute Member**

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

**16 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.

**17 Late Items**

Late Item of Business – ‘Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds’

With the agreement of the Chair, a late item of business was admitted to the agenda entitled, ‘Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds’ to be considered within the ‘Adults and Children Social Care and Health Partnerships’ portfolio. Given the significance of this matter, it was deemed appropriate for the Board to receive an update at this meeting. This report was coming to Executive Board as a late item of business to ensure that Board Members received detailed information on this issue as requested, and as undertaken by the Executive Member for Adult and Children Social Care and Health Partnerships at the recent meeting of full Council. (Minute No. 34 refers).

**18 Declaration of Interests**

In relation to Agenda Item 6, ‘Refreshing Leeds’ Cultural Investment Programme’, Cllr Pryor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, and as such, Councillor Pryor did not participate in the consideration of that item, and left the meeting room for the duration of that consideration. (Minute No. 20 refers).

**19 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 be approved as a correct record.

## **ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

### **20 Refreshing Leeds' Cultural Investment Programme**

Further to Minute No. 9, 23 June 2021, the Director of City Development submitted a report that sought approval for a one-year cultural grants programme for 2023/24 whilst a comprehensive review and refresh of the Council's current cultural funding programmes, arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired, was undertaken, prior to a revised funding programme being launched for the period 2024-27.

By way of introduction to the report, the Board received information on the key reasons as to why the proposal for a one year programme was being put forward. It was noted that the one year programme would operate within the existing budget envelope and that organisations would be required to apply for grants. However in doing so, it was emphasised that there would be an extensive application window and that organisations would be supported through this process.

Responding to an enquiry, Members received further information regarding the guidance and supportive measures which were currently available to organisations, with it being noted that consideration was being given to the ways in which cultural organisations could be signposted and supported in accessing other funding streams, where appropriate.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information and assurance regarding the role which would be played by the Leeds 2023 Neighbourhood Hosts, with it being noted that the Hosts were currently being recruited for each Ward, which was a process being undertaken by the Leeds 2023 organisation.

Also, in response to a specific enquiry officers undertook to provide the Member in question with details of the current financial position regarding the funding of the Leeds 2023 initiative.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the delivery of a one-year arts@leeds programme for 2023/24, which supports the transition towards a refreshed cultural funding programme, be approved;
- (b) That the necessary authority be delegated to Director City Development in order to enable the Director to approve funding decisions for the one year programme, 2023/24;
- (c) That the development of a refreshed three-year Culture Investment Programme for 2024-27, be approved, with the development and adoption of the Cultural Investment Programme being subject to open consultation and engagement with the sector prior to Executive Board approval being sought in 2023.

(Further to the declaration of interest as detailed at Minute No. 18, Councillor Pryor took no part in the consideration of, or voting upon this matter and left the meeting room for the duration of this item)

**21 Outcome of consultation to permanently increase learning places at Leeds City Academy from September 2023**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report on a proposal to increase learning places at Leeds City Academy, brought forward by The White Rose Academies Trustees working in partnership with Leeds City Council. The report detailed the outcomes of the associated consultation undertaken and which sought agreement to related Authority to Spend proposals.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted and welcomed the popularity of the school, which had led to the submitted proposals of expansion.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the proposal to permanently expand Leeds City Academy from a capacity of 750 to 1050 students by increasing the admission number in year 7 from 150 to 210 with effect from September 2023, be noted; and that it also be noted that The White Rose Academies Trust Board, as the decision maker, have considered the outcome of that consultation and approved the proposal to expand Leeds City Academy;
- (b) That approval for authority to spend (ATS) up to £8.9m to deliver the proposed permanent expansion at Leeds City Academy, be granted, with final approval of expenditure being confirmed by the Director of Children and Families (in consultation with the Director of Resources and Director of City Development) following receipt of further detailed design work and planning applications;
- (c) That it be noted that The White Rose Academies Trust intends to self-deliver the build scheme and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2023.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLES**

**22 Living with Covid - What does 'Living with Covid' mean for Leeds?**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report outlining what 'Living with Covid-19' meant for Leeds, and which sought the Board's support for continuing to promote safer behaviour messaging and the Covid vaccination programme in communities. The report also highlighted the robust and resilient plans and systems in place to protect the highest risk settings and groups from the impact of Covid, and the structures that were in place to respond to any change in circumstances.

Members received an introduction to the report which provided an overview of the key points, with it being noted that work continued on the preparation and management of winter pressures in this area.

Responding to a Member's comments regarding the Council's post-pandemic ways of working and the need to ensure that customer facing roles continued, it was highlighted that many services across the Council continued to be delivered in person. Further to this, the Board was assured that work continued in liaison with Scrutiny on this matter, with a view to submitting a related report to a future Executive Board.

Emphasis was placed upon the need to ensure that the impact of the pandemic on young people remained a priority. In response, assurance was provided that this was the case and it was noted that this would be further addressed in the subsequent agenda item (*Leeds – A Mentally Healthy City: Update Report*). Further to this, assurance was provided that a key principle to the approach taken remained the need to strike the correct balance between minimising the risk from the virus and infection whilst at the same time looking to preserve an individual's overall wellbeing.

Tribute was paid to the Director of Public Health and her team for the work which had been undertaken throughout the pandemic to the present day. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of the work undertaken by the Leeds Health Protection Board together with the guiding principles of that work, and how that had been used as a platform for the wider actions taken in response to the pandemic across the city.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the proposed approach for the Leeds system going forward, as set out in section 11 of the submitted report, be approved, which looks to ensure that people are supported as we move into 'Living with Covid'.

**23 Leeds - A Mentally Healthy City: Update report**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which provided an update on the current position regarding mental health in Leeds and the provision in place to support good mental health across the city. In addition, the report outlined the actions being taken to further develop a partnership approach in this area, in line with the 'Best City Ambition' and which aimed to ensure that Leeds was a Mentally Healthy City which created conditions for positive mental health in all our communities.

In introducing the submitted report, the Board received an overview of the current position in Leeds, how that position had been affected by the Covid pandemic, and the actions being taken to address the challenges faced. Members received further information on the Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategy: 'Future in Mind', and it was noted that the 'All Age Leeds Mental Health Strategy' was currently scheduled to be relaunched on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, which was World Mental Health Day.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board was provided with further information on how the relaunch of the 'All Age Leeds Mental Health Strategy' would be promoted.

The importance of further liaison taking place with partners across the city to continue the development of self-support networks in Leeds was highlighted as an area to focus upon and promote moving forward.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the current and future challenges around promoting good mental health in the city, be recognised, together with the fact that Leeds City Council has invested in programmes of work in the city that promote good mental health and prevent mental ill health;
- (c) That the mental health work being undertaken across Leeds be promoted, with support being provided for the continued creation of conditions for positive mental health in local communities.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE**

#### **24 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan**

The Director of Resources submitted a report which presented a range of actions being taken across the Council, and with partners, to better understand and deliver on the city's ambition to strengthen resilience against the impacts of climate change locally, and in doing so, which sought the Board's approval for the development of a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, based upon the approach outlined. The report also sought agreement to enhanced city-wide engagement in Leeds on the Council's activity to support both climate mitigation and adaptation.

By way of introduction to the report, the Board received an overview of the key challenges faced as a result of climate change, and the range of actions being taken to adapt to the current position and become more resilient. However, it was highlighted that at the same time, work continued on progressing towards a position of net zero emissions.

Regarding Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC), a Member noted the recent change in Chair of that committee. In response to a Member's comments encouraging Executive Member attendance at CEAC meetings, it was noted that the Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate was a member of CEAC and a regular attendee. Further to this, clarification was sought as to whether this comment related to other Executive Members.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information regarding the range of key areas which were intended to be included within the proposed programme of engagement over the coming 12 months.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the development of a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, based upon the approach as outlined within the submitted report, be approved;
- (b) That a programme of enhanced citywide engagement in Leeds over the next 12 months on the Council's activity to support both climate mitigation and adaptation, be supported.

**COMMUNITIES**

**25 Understanding and addressing the cost of living crisis**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report providing an overview of the current position regarding the cost of living crisis and which highlighted measures being undertaken nationally to address such issues. The report also focussed upon the local approach being undertaken from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective, highlighting the key actions and programmes.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member highlighted the current position in Leeds with regard to the cost of living crisis and provided an overview of the key actions being taken and proposed to address the challenges faced.

Members discussed the role of Government in such matters. Also, the Board considered the importance of reflecting on the experience gained from the supportive approach taken during the pandemic and how that could be utilised when looking to support communities throughout the cost of living crisis.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board further considered the role of the Council in this area and received details on how the supportive approach taken by the Council continued to adapt to current circumstances, and the ways in which this approach would continue to evolve, with officers undertaking to provide further detail to the Member in question, if required. In discussing the proposed key areas of focus moving forward, specific reference was made to the establishment of a cross-cutting welfare group, with further detail being provided on the intended work programme, timeframe and reporting mechanisms for that group.

In conclusion, Opposition Groups were invited to become involved in the welfare group and the associated work that it would undertake.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, be noted, and that the approach being adopted, as outlined within the report, be endorsed;
- (b) That the next steps, as set out fully in paragraphs 94-99 of the submitted report, be endorsed, which will accelerate progress towards the mission set out in the Best City Ambition through:-

- Ensuring the three pillars of the Best City Ambition strongly and consistently reflect the challenges of tackling poverty and inequality.
  - Transitioning to a new performance framework for the Best City Ambition to reinforce and embed linkages between the three pillars in tackling poverty and inequality.
  - Establishing a breakthrough priority with the aim of: “working together across sectors to harness the capacity and capability in the city, its communities and those with lived experience to develop a city solution to welfare provision and addressing the cost-of-living crisis – with a specific focus on food, fuel, housing and digital inclusion”.
- (c) That it be noted that the Chief Officer for Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the actions and recommendations as detailed above and included within the submitted report.

### **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

#### **26 Review of Protocol for the Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making**

The City Solicitor submitted a report setting out proposed amendments to the Council’s Protocol for the Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making, following a review which had been undertaken as an action arising from the Annual Governance Statement approved in 2021. The purpose of the proposed amendments was to ensure that the protocol remained up to date and fit for purpose.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the amended Protocol for the Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making, as presented at Appendix A to the submitted report, be approved;
- (b) That the authority to make future amendments to the Protocol be delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Leader of Council, Opposition Members of Executive Board and the Chief Officer Financial Services; with it being noted that the Monitoring Officer will amend Article 15 of the Council’s Constitution to reflect this resolution.

#### **27 Annual Corporate Risk Management Report**

The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided the Board with an update on the most significant risks currently featured on the Council’s corporate risk register. In addition, the report provided summary assurances which described the key controls in place to manage those risks and also provided information on further actions planned in this area.

**RESOLVED –** That the Annual Risk Management Report together with the assurances provided on the most significant corporate risks, as presented

within the submitted report and appendix, be noted, in line with the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy and the Board's overarching responsibility for their management.

## **28 Annual Corporate Performance Report 2021/22**

The Director of Resources submitted a report presenting the Annual Corporate Performance Report for 2021/22 which reviewed the progress made in delivering the Council's ambitions, outcomes and priorities, as set out in the Best Council Plan (BCP) during the 2021/22 financial year. The report also noted that for performance reporting purposes, 2022 would be a transitional year given that there would be a shift from existing reporting frameworks based on the Best Council Plan towards a revised approach to support the Best City Ambition.

Responding to a Member's specific enquiry, the Board received further detail on the work currently being undertaken on the refresh of the target and performance framework as the Council transitioned from the Best Council Plan to the Best City Ambition.

In response to an enquiry, the Board noted that some of the performance data compiled could be broken down to Ward level, and that the Member in question could be provided with further information on this, if required. In addition, Members discussed the range of priorities that the Council had, and the ways in which the Council's day to day decision making and establishment of wider policies linked to such priorities.

**RESOLVED** – That the Annual Performance Report, be received, and that the progress made during 2021/22 in delivering the ambitions and priorities set out in the Best Council Plan, as detailed within the submitted report and appendix, be noted.

## **RESOURCES**

## **29 Financial Health Monitoring 2022/23 – Quarter 1 Update**

The Chief Officer (Financial Services) submitted a report providing an update on the financial health of the Authority in respect of both the General Fund revenue budget and the Housing Revenue Account, as at Quarter 1 of the 2022/23 financial year.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the key points within it. The Board also received details of the final pay offer from the National Employers which had recently been announced, and it was noted that work was being undertaken to identify the potential financial impact of this upon the Council. An undertaking was provided that the Board would be kept updated on such matters and that the intention was to submit a report on this, together with the impact of other inflationary pressures, to the September 2022 Board.

Responding to a specific enquiry, it was reiterated that an update report would be brought to Executive Board 6 months after the implementation of the

amendments made to aspects of the Council's non-residential Adult Social Care charging policy.

A Member requested that as part of the monthly financial health update report to Executive Board, further detail was provided within those reports to the current position regarding the 'Business As Usual' savings proposals.

Responding to a Member's comments, the Board received an update on the work being undertaken to manage the identified budget pressures referenced in the report within the Children and Families directorate, with specific reference to the 'Little Owls' nurseries and the provision of semi-independent living placements for 16 – 17 year olds.

In conclusion, the Executive Member for Resources highlighted the cross-directorate approach that continued to be taken when looking to manage and overcome the significant financial challenges that continued to be faced.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That it be noted that at Quarter 1 the Authority is forecasting an overspend of £1.8m for 2022/23, which is comprised of directorate pressures of £2.3m, netted down by a strategic saving of £0.5m;
- (b) That it be noted that directorates will be required to present action plans to mitigate the £2.3m pressures, in line with the Revenue Principles agreed by Executive Board in 2019, which are scheduled to be received at the September 2022 Executive Board;
- (c) That it be noted that the position as detailed within the submitted report does not reflect the potential effects of the 2022/23 pay award negotiations, other inflationary rises or the wider impact of rising cost of living pressures on the Council's financial position, above that which has already been included within the 2022/23 Budget; with it being noted that any pressures arising from emerging issues will be reported to a future Executive Board. Furthermore, it be noted that proposals will need to be identified by directorates in order to absorb such pressures, which will be included in the action plans as referenced in resolution (b) above.

#### **30 Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27 Quarter 1 Update**

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report setting out the Council's updated Capital Programme for 2022-2027, which was split between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA), with a forecast of resources available over that period. The report also included a specific update on the 2022/23 programme and sought agreement to several injections into the Capital Programme, as detailed.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received details on the proportion of the Capital Programme that was funded via borrowing, and with regard to a related enquiry regarding the impact upon Minimum Revenue

Provision (MRP), officers undertook to provide this further information to the Member in question.

In response to a specific enquiry, the Board received clarification and further detail regarding the 'City Development Public Realm' entry within the 'Major Programmes & Other Directorate Schemes' section of the report.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the following injections into the Capital Programme, as detailed at Appendix A (iii) to the submitted report, be approved:-
- £2,000.0k of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Grant for the 'Fitting The Future' Housing Leeds scheme;
  - £150.0k of additional Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Grant from WYCA for the Public Bike Hire Scheme; and
  - £100.0k of Department for Education Grant for Sustainable Drainage at two Schools in Otley.
- (b) That it be noted that the above resolution to inject funding of £2,250.0k into the Capital Programme will be implemented by the Chief Officer Financial Services;
- (c) That the latest position on the General Fund and HRA Capital Programme, as at Quarter 1 of 2022/23, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted.

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

**31 Leeds City Council Fostering Service: Annual Fostering Report, April 2021 to March 2022**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting an overview of the work of the Fostering Service during 2021/22, and which invited the Board to adopt the 2021/22 Fostering Service Annual Report, as appended, together with the priorities set out for the forthcoming year.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the key points detailed within the Fostering Service Annual Report, with it being noted that attracting more foster carers remained a key priority moving forward.

Members welcomed the contents of the report, and highlighted the valuable role played by foster carers across the city.

Responding to an enquiry, the Board received further detail on the processes in place and the range of data that was available to identify the reasons why foster carers had left the Council, and how that data could be used when looking to recruit more foster carers.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the 2021/22 Fostering Service Annual Report, as appended to the submitted report, be adopted, together with the service priorities for

next year; with it being noted that this resolution will be implemented during 2022-23;

- (b) That the Fostering Service's plans to increase the range of carers and placements available, be noted and supported, with it being noted that this resolution will be implemented during 2022-23;
- (c) That it be noted that the responsible officer for such matters is the Head of Service, Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting.

### **32 Adults & Health Service Review 6 - Care Delivery: Care Homes, Implementation**

Further to Minute No. 25, 23 June 2021, the Director of Adults and Health submitted a report providing an update on the implementation of the decommissioning of services at Home Lea House residential long stay care home, in Rothwell, and Richmond House Short Stay Residential Care Home, in Farsley.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update on the expected timeframe of the current refurbishment of Dolphin Manor and the management of that process in terms of the residents living there.

Regarding the site of the former Richmond House in Farsley, it was requested that officers continue to work with local Ward Councillors on the development of proposals. Also, responding to an enquiry, officers undertook to investigate whether it would be feasible for the site to be used for extra care housing, considering that an adjacent facility was used for the same purpose, and provide the findings to the relevant Members.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the successful transfer of all customers to alternative services where that was their preference, be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the closure of both care homes has been achieved without any compulsory redundancies, with staff having made a successful transition to their new posts within the Council where they have chosen to remain in employment, a process which has been supported through the Council's Managing Staff Reductions policy;
- (c) That the achievement of financial savings of £165k in 2021/22, and £1.531m per annum from 2022/23 following the closure of the two care homes, be noted;
- (d) That it be noted that work is ongoing in relation to the future use of the sites.

(As detailed within section 34 of the submitted report, this report was not eligible for Call In on the grounds that the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2 states that 'The power to Call In decisions does not extend to decisions which have been the subject of a previous Call In').

### 33 **Leeds Health and Care Partnership Memorandum of Understanding**

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report which recommended to Executive Board the approval and formal sign-up to the Leeds Health and Care Partnership (LHCP) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU formally presented the approach towards working together that the Leeds Health and Care Partnership was taking to achieve the agreed vision for Leeds to be “*a healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest will improve their health the fastest*”.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the reference to ‘Scrutiny’ in the diagrams at section 14 of the submitted report, with a recommendation that the Memorandum of Understanding document, as presented at Appendix 1 be amended to incorporate appropriate reference to Scrutiny, in line with the illustration within those diagrams.

Responding to a Member’s comment that aspects of the approach were complex, the Board received further information on the reasons for this approach, with assurance being provided that the Council would continue to work collaboratively with partners in this area, look to maximise the benefits of this model for the people of Leeds and West Yorkshire, and that the approach taken would be made as comprehensible as possible.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That subject to the comments above regarding the inclusion of appropriate reference in the Memorandum of Understanding document to ‘Scrutiny’ being taken into consideration, the Board approves and signs up to the Leeds Health and Care Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, as presented within the submitted report and appendices;
- (b) That the draft Leeds Integrated Care Board (ICB) Committee Terms of Reference (which were approved by the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board on 1 July 2022), be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which sets out the strategic priorities in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Pillar of the new City Ambition, is due to be refreshed later in the year.

### 34 **Late Item of Business: Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds**

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report providing an overview of the national and regional context together with the current position in Leeds regarding Children’s Social Work Services. The report also outlined the actions being taken by Children and Families to ensure that the service was able to continue to support vulnerable children and young people to enjoy good outcomes.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that this was a report that she had undertaken to submit to Executive Board at the recent meeting of full Council. Further to this, the Executive Member provided a

detailed summary of the key points within the report in terms of the challenges being faced in this area both on a national and local level, together with the range of actions being taken to address them. The Executive Member emphasised the crucial role played by all those involved in the outstanding delivery of children and families social work across the city which it was acknowledged was being undertaken in very challenging circumstances.

In considering the report, Councillor Lamb brought to the Board's attention that he was attending Executive Board in a non-voting capacity, whilst also being Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board. Given the timing of this report's submission, he advised that he was not aware that the Board would be considering this item when agreeing to attend the Executive Board meeting, however, he emphasised that in approaching this matter he would endeavour to keep both of his respective roles in mind.

Officers responded to several questions which were put by Members. In summary, the answers provided were as follows:-

- With regard to a number of enquiries around caseload levels, assurances were provided that cases would remain open whilst it was felt that a child or family continued to require support or protection;
- Regarding the level of vacancies reported, it was noted that the vacancies existed in teams across the service;
- With regard to the approach taken towards co-working, it was confirmed that this practice continued, with the benefits of that approach being highlighted;
- Responding to an enquiry, further to the details within the report, Members received an update on the current position with regard to the grievance submitted by a group of social workers;
- The Board received an update regarding the work which was being undertaken regionally and nationally, in terms of collaborative working with other Authorities and also as part of Leeds' role to help shape the service going forward.

From a national perspective, emphasis was placed upon the need for Local Government funding structures to be reviewed, and specifically regarding Local Authority delivered children and families social care, it was highlighted that in terms of the resourcing of such services there needed to be a parity of esteem with that delivered by the NHS.

In response to a Member's comments regarding the lateness of the report, those comments were acknowledged, and the Executive Member highlighted that it had been deemed appropriate to submit the report to this meeting, following the undertaking at the recent full Council meeting and in order to demonstrate that the concerns raised were being taken seriously and to formally provide assurances in response to them.

Emphasis was placed upon the integral and highly valued role played by social workers in the safeguarding of children and young people across the city which was being undertaken under very challenging circumstances. Further to this, assurances were provided that the Council would continue to

listen to and work through the concerns that had been raised, both in the short and longer term.

Members discussed the importance of an open approach being taken when considering such important matters, which it was noted was the key factor to submitting this report to the Board as a late item of business.

In conclusion, the Executive Member reiterated the Council's appreciation for the integral role played by all those involved in the delivery of children and families social work across the city and the outstanding service that was being provided in very challenging circumstances. In addition, the Executive Member reiterated the importance of championing the services provided by children and families social care in Leeds and promoting the service as a positive place to work.

**RESOLVED** – That the assurances regarding the Children and Families Social Care Workforce in Leeds, as outlined within the submitted report, be noted.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION:** FRIDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN  
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00 P.M., FRIDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022