



A meeting of the Council will be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 13th November, 2024 at 1.00 pm

Members of the Council are invited to attend and transact the following business:

1 Minutes of the last Meeting 5 - 24

To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th September 2024.

2 Declaration of Interest

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

3 Communications

To receive such communications as the Lord Mayor, the Leader, Members of the Executive Board or the Chief Executive consider appropriate.

4 Deputations

To receive deputations in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

5 Recommendations of the Executive Board - Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027 25 - 50

To consider the report of the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment setting out recommendations from the Executive Board on 18th September 2024 to Full Council to adopt the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27.

6 Recommendations of the Executive Board - Youth Justice Service Plan - 2024-2027 51 - 118

To consider the report of the Director of Children and Families setting out recommendations from the Executive Board on 18th September 2024 to Full Council to approve the Leeds Youth Justice Service Plan, and formally adopt the Plan as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

7 **Recommendations of the Executive Board - Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy** 119 - 188

To consider the report of the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment setting out recommendations from the Executive Board on 16th October 2024 to Full Council to approve the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2027 to have effect from 31st January 2025.

8 **Report on Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service** 189 - 194

To consider the report of the Interim Assistant Chief Executive – People, Digital & Change in respect of the recommendation of the Employment Committee of 24 October 2024 to appoint Ed Whiting to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

9 **Report on Attendance at Meetings** 195 - 198

To consider the report of the City Solicitor in respect of attendance at meetings.

10 **Report on Appointments** 199 - 202

To consider the report of the City Solicitor on appointments.

11 **Report on Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report, 2023-24** 203 - 216

To consider the report of the Chief Planning Officer presenting to Council the 2023-24 Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel annual report.

12 **Executive Questions**

To deal with executive questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.

13 **Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board** 217 - 248

To receive the minutes in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

14 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lamb) - Jobs Tax** 249 - 250

This Council notes that the Labour Government inherited the fastest growing economy in the G7, with mortgage interest rates falling and inflation back to

the Bank of England target after the impact of the COVID pandemic and the energy price crisis because of the war in Ukraine.

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts that growth will now be lower, inflation will rise and mortgage interest rates will increase as a result of the Chancellor's budget on 30 October.

The OBR also forecasts that the policies in the budget directly:

- increase tax take to an historic high at 38 per cent of GDP by 2029-30;
- lower medium-term GDP growth to 1.5 per cent;
- push up CPI inflation, projected to rise to 2.6 per cent by 2025;
- increase borrowing by £19.6 bn this year and by £32.3 bn over the next five years;
- reduce real household disposable income by 2029;
- raise the bank rate and five-year gilt yield higher than forecast; and
- cut wages by £7.5 bn as a result of a hike in employers' national insurance.

This Council rejects the Chancellor's tax on jobs, which will hit businesses in Leeds. According to the OBR: *"policy changes leave nominal and real earnings growth lower over the remainder of the forecast as employers pass on the national insurance contribution rise"*. The OBR further notes: *"in 2025/26 firms will pass on 60 per cent of the higher costs to workers and consumers, via lower wages and higher prices"*.

Council believes this budget is a tax on working people.

15 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lay) - Leeds General Infirmary** 251 - 252

This Council is dismayed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not commit in her recent Autumn Statement to funding approvals for the long planned new hospital buildings on the Leeds General Infirmary site, as requested via letter by all political groups on Leeds City Council.

Council is concerned that further delay to getting spades in the ground on this project will lead to higher construction costs for the taxpayer, a drag on economic growth in the city, and worsened health outcomes for our citizens.

Council calls on the Government to recognise the significant investment already made to demolish and clear the city centre site for construction, and to confirm the inclusion of this project as one of those 'in build' schemes that qualify for 'swift' delivery through the New Hospital Programme, and for the funding to be committed by the end of this year.

16 **White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Farley) - Employment Rights Bill** 253 - 254

This Council supports the Government's new landmark Employment's Rights Bill that will improve the lives of thousands of workers in Leeds by raising living standards for all.

Council welcomes measures in the Bill to provide protection against unfair dismissal from day one; establish parental and bereavement leave from day one; end exploitative zero-hour contracts; end unscrupulous practices of fire and rehire and fire and replace; make flexible working the norm where practical; deliver stronger protections for pregnant women and new mothers; and strengthen statutory sick pay.

Council supports the Bill will establish a new Fair Work Agency to enforce employment rights such as holiday pay and provide support to employers looking for guidance on how to comply with the law.

Council further supports the Government's commitment to increase the national living wage by 6.7% to give a much-needed pay rise to thousands of low paid working people in Leeds, and is a significant step towards delivering a genuine living wage for all workers.

Council is pleased the Bill will modernise Trade Union laws to help in their vital role representing workers' interests and improving working conditions.

Council believes the Bill will complement this Administration's achievements on inclusive growth in Leeds and as part of this Council commits to bring a report to a future Executive Board meeting to ensure the measures in the bill support work to ensure the future of our city is more inclusive and that all in the city can benefit from the Leeds economy growing.



Mariana Pexton
Interim Chief Executive

Civic Hall
Leeds
LS1 1UR

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[Council and democracy](#)

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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 clerk.

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.

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Leeds City Council held
Civic Hall, Leeds on Wednesday, 11th September, 2024

PRESENT: The Lord Mayor Councillor Marshall-Katung in the Chair.

WARD

ADEL & WHARFEDALE

Caroline Anderson
Billy Flynn
Barry John Anderson

ALWOODLEY

Neil Buckley
Lyn Buckley
Dan Cohen

ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD

Karen Bruce
Stephen Holroyd-Case
Karen Renshaw

ARMLEY

Lou Cunningham
Andy Parnham

BEESTON & HOLBECK

Shaf Ali
Andrew Scopes
Annie Maloney

BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY

Adele Rae
Tom Hinchcliffe
Kevin Ritchie

BURMANTOFTS & RICHMOND HILL

Nkele Manaka
Luke Farley
Asghar Khan

WARD

CALVERLEY & FARSLEY

Craig Timmins
Peter Carlill
Andrew Carter

CHAPEL ALLERTON

Mohammed Rafique
Jane Dowson
Eileen Taylor

CROSS GATES & WHINMOOR

James Gibson
Jessica Lennox
Pauleen Grahame

FARNLEY & WORTLEY

Kate Haigh

Adrian McCluskey

GARFORTH & SWILLINGTON

Sarah Field
Suzanne McCormack
Mark Dobson

GIPTON & HAREHILLS

Mothin Ali
Asghar Ali
Salma Arif

GUISELEY & RAWDON

Sonia Leighton
Oliver Edwards
Eleanor Thomson

HAREWOOD

Sam Firth
Ryan Stephenson
Matthew James Robinson

HEADINGLEY & HYDE PARK

Tim Goodall
Abdul Hannan
Jonathon Pryor

HORSFORTH

Raymond Jones
Emmie Bromley

HUNSLET & RIVERSIDE

Mohammed Iqbal
Paul Wray
Ed Carlisle

KILLINGBECK & SEACROFT

David Jenkins
Katie Dye
John Tudor

KIPPAX & METHLEY

James Lewis
Michael Millar
Mary Harland

KIRKSTALL

Fiona Elizabeth Venner
Andy Rontree
Hannah Bithell

LITTLE LONDON & WOODHOUSE

Javaid Akhtar
Abigail Marshall-Katung
Kayleigh Brooks

MIDDLETON PARK

Rob Chesterfield
Emma Pogson-Golden
Wayne Dixon

MOORTOWN

Mohammed Shahzad
Mahalia France-Mir
Sharon Hamilton

MORLEY NORTH

Simon Brown
Robert Finnigan
Robert Gettings MBE JP

MORLEY SOUTH

Jane Senior
Wyn Kidger
Oliver Newton

OTLEY & YEADON

Sandy Edward Charles Lay
Ryk Downes
Colin Campbell

PUDSEY

Dawn Seary
Trish Smith
Simon Seary

ROTHWELL

Conrad Hart-Brooke
Diane Chapman
Barry Stewart Golton

ROUNDHAY

Lisa Martin
Jordan Bowden
Zara Hussain

TEMPLE NEWSAM

Helen Hayden
Nicole Lloyd
Debra Coupar

WEETWOOD

Emma Flint
Julie Heselwood
Izaak Wilson

WETHERBY

Alan James Lamb
Penny Stables
Norma Harrington

29 Announcements

(a) The Lord Mayor welcomed members to this meeting of Full Council and also any members of the public who were joining the meeting and reminded those present that the meeting was to be streamed live.

(b) The Lord Mayor informed members that the Chamber now had new technology and explained in brief some of the functionality.

(c) The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Sherry Bradley and referenced that it was the 23rd Anniversary of 9/11 and Council stood in silent tribute.

(d) The Lord Mayor informed Council that during September Councillor Coupar, Councillor Rae, Councillor Lewis and Councillor Downes would be celebrating their birthdays and wished them a happy birthday.

(e) The Lord Mayor informed Council of the forthcoming Festive Ball in aid of the Lord Mayor's Charity.

(f) The Lord Mayor congratulated Olympians on their efforts in the recent games.

(g) The Lord Mayor informed Council that Councillor Smart had recently given birth to Arthur and wished Councillor Smart, Mark and Oscar congratulations.

30 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was moved by Councillor Flint, seconded by Councillor Stephenson and

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2024 be approved.

31 Declaration of Interest

The Lord Mayor announced that a list of written declarations submitted by Members in respect of the White Paper Motion in the name of Councillor Lamb in respect of the winter fuel allowance was on display in the ante-chamber and invited Members to declare any further interests.

The following Members had made the declaration;

Councillors Gettings, Harrington, Flynn, L Buckley, N Buckley, Carter, Dowson, Campbell, Scopes, Jones, Kidger, Lennox, Parnham, Harland, Brown, Carlill, Jenkins, Newton, Akhtar, Dye, Hamilton, M Ali, France-Mir, Taylor, Thomson, Pogson-Golden, Grahame, Coupar.

32 Communications

There were no communications.

33 Deputations

Two deputations were admitted to the meeting and addressed Council, as follows:-

1) Leeds leads against Antisemitism

2) Leeds Fairtrade Steering Group

RESOLVED – That the subject matter in respect of deputation 1 be referred to the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member and that the subject matter in respect of

deputation 2 be referred to the Director of Strategy and Resources for consideration in consultation with the relevant Executive Member.

34 Report on Appointment of Interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Coupar and

RESOLVED – That the report of the Chief HR Officer be noted and the recommendation of the Employment Committee of 2 September 2024 to appoint Mariana Pexton to the post of Interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service be approved.

35 Report on a proposal to Change the Member Allowance Pay Date from 16th to 26th of the Month

Prior to consideration of the item Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor Stephenson in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2(d) and 14.10 sought leave of Council to withdraw the amendment in his name.

Upon being put to the vote leave of Council was given and the amendment withdrawn.

It was moved by Councillor Coupar, seconded by Councillor Flint that the recommendations as set out in the joint report of the City Solicitor and Chief HR Officer be approved;

- a) That the contents of the report be noted,
- b) That the change of payment date for Members Allowances from 16th of the month to on or around the 26th of the month be approved.
- c) To approve that the Members' Allowance Scheme be amended to reflect the change of payment date from 16th to on or around the 26th of the month as set out in Appendix C to the report.

Upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED -

- a) That the contents of the report be noted,
- b) That the change of payment date for Members Allowances from 16th of the month to on or around the 26th of the month be approved.
- c) To approve that the Members' Allowance Scheme be amended to reflect the change of payment date from 16th to on or around the 26th of the month as set out in Appendix C to the report.

36 Report on Appointments

It was moved by Councillor Flint, seconded by Councillor Farley that in accordance with Community Committee Procedure Rules where the nomination for the Chair of a Community Committee is unopposed, the Lord Mayor invited those Members of the Community Committee present at the Council meeting to vote in respect of that nominee.

Upon being put to the vote those Members listed to vote in respect of the appointment of the Chair for the Outer West Community Committee

RESOLVED – That Councillor McCluskey be appointed as Chair of the Outer West Community Committee.

37 Chief Executive and Director of City Development

The Lord Mayor reported that this would be the last Council Meeting attended by the Chief Executive, Tom Riordan and the Director of City Development, Martin Farrington.

Members thanked both officers for their valuable service to the City over many years.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor both Mr Riordan and Mr Farrington addressed Council.

At the conclusion of this item there was a short adjournment whilst the outgoing Chief Executive, Tom Riordan was replaced in the meeting by the Interim Chief Executive, Mariana Pexton.

38 Report on Community Committees

It was moved by Councillor Harland, seconded by Councillor Flint and

RESOLVED – That the report of the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment presenting to Council the Community Committees’ Annual Report for 2023/24 be received and that the work now being progressed to further improve the effectiveness, community engagement role and improvement work of the Community Committees, via the Community Committee Review be noted.

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 15.01 to 15.12.

39 Annual Report of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Prior to commencement of the item the Interim Chief Executive, Mariana Pexton addressed the Council meeting in respect of her appointment.

The item was moved by Councillor France-Mir, seconded by Councillor Coupar and

RESOLVED - That the report of the Chief Officer Financial Services be received and the matters set out in the annual report reflecting the work of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee in the 2023-24 municipal year be noted.

40 Executive Questions

Q1 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Equality, Health and Wellbeing):-

Can the Executive Member for Equality, Health and Wellbeing list those organisations she has invited to attend the International Day of Older People event at Headingley Stadium on Tuesday 1st October?

The Executive Member (Equality, Health and Wellbeing) replied.

Q2 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development):-

Could the Executive Member inform Council when the historic steps (part of the adopted highway) at the junction of High Street and Town Street Yeadon will be repaired.

The Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development) replied.

Q3 Councillor McCluskey to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport, Sustainable Development):-

Could the Executive Board Member for Economy, Transport, Sustainable Development provide an update on improvements to bus routes in my ward of Farnley and Wortley?

The Executive Member (Economy, Transport, Sustainable Development) replied.

Q4 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development):-

Does the Executive Member for Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development agree with the Prime Minister that we should 'back the builders and not the blockers'?

The Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development) replied.

Q5 Councillor Tudor to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Spaces):-

Can the Executive Member update Council on the recent introduction of glass collections in Leeds?

The Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Spaces) replied.

Q6 Councillor Lamb to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space):-

Would the Executive Member for Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space like to take this opportunity to rule out the introduction of car parking charges at any further district car parks, including the Wilderness and & Station Gardens in Wetherby?

The Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space) replied.

Q7 Councillor Hart-Brooke to the Executive Member (Resources):-

At a time when we are constantly told that difficult decisions have to be made, when community and heritage buildings are being sold and care homes closed to save money this Council apparently values a number plate so highly it hasn't even tried to get a valuation despite promises to do so months ago. Could the Executive Member for Resources confirm that she is still committed to obtaining a valuation and potentially a sale this fiscal year?

The Executive Member (Resources) replied.

Q8 Councillor Bowden to the Executive Member (Housing):-

Please can the Executive Member update Council on delivery of new housing in Leeds?

The Executive Member (Housing) replied.

At the conclusion of question time, the following questions remained unanswered and it was noted that, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.6, written answers would be sent to each Member of Council:-

- Q9 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space):-
- Q10 Councillor Thomson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q11 Councillor L Buckley to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q12 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q13 Councillor Dowson to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q14 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q15 Councillor Thomson to the Executive Member (Adults Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture).
- Q16 Councillor Stephenson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q17 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q18 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q19 Councillor C Anderson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q20 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q21 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q22 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q23 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q24 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q25 Councillor N Buckley to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q26 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Adults Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture).
- Q27 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q28 Councillor Stephenson to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).

- Q29 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Adults Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture).
- Q30 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q31 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q32 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q33 Councillor Dobson to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q34 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q35 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q36 Councillor M Ali to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q37 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q38 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q39 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q40 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q41 Councillor Campbell to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q42 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q43 Councillor Robinson to the Leader of Council.
- Q44 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q45 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q46 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q47 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q48 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).

- Q49 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q50 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q51 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q52 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q53 Councillor Golton to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q54 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q55 Councillor Robinson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q56 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q57 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Adults Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture).
- Q58 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q59 Councillor Chapman to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q60 Councillor Pogson-Golden to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q61 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q62 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q63 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q64 Councillor Smith to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q65 Councillor B Anderson to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q66 Councillor Smith to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q67 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Housing).
- Q68 Councillor Smith to the Executive Member (Adults Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture).

- Q69 Councillor Firth to the Executive Member (Adults Social Care, Active Lifestyles and Culture).
- Q70 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q71 Councillor Carlisle to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q72 Councillor Dixon to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q73 Councillor Goodall to the Executive Member (Communities, Customer Services and Community Safety).
- Q74 Councillor Stables to the Executive Member (Resources).
- Q75 Councillor M Ali to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q76 Councillor Carlisle to the Executive Member (Economy, Transport & Sustainable Development).
- Q77 Councillor Goodall to the Executive Member (Children and Families).
- Q78 Councillor M Ali to the Executive Member (Climate, Energy, Environment and Green Space).
- Q79 Councillor Carlisle to the Executive Member (Resources).

41 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive Board

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Flint that the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

An amendment (reference back) was submitted by Councillor Finnigan, seconded by Councillor Senior to add the following at the end of item 11:

‘To ask the Executive Board to reconsider the decision in relation to the ‘Adults & Health – In House Care Homes Service Review: Knowle Manor and Dolphin Manor, post consultation recommendations report.’ contained in minutes 21(a) and 21(c) of the Executive Board minutes of 24th July 2024.

The amendment (reference back) was declared lost and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That the minutes be received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i).

Council Procedure Rule 4, providing for the winding up of business, was applied prior to all notified comments on the minutes having been debated.

On the requisition of Councillor Finnigan and Senior the voting on Councillor Finnigan’s amendment (reference back) was recorded as follows;

YES -31

Campbell, Chapman, Downes, Golton, B Anderson, C Anderson, L Buckley, N Buckley, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Harrington, Lamb, D Seary, S Seary, Stephenson,

Kidger, Smith, Chesterfield, Dixon, Cunningham, Brown, Finnigan, Newton, M Ali, Cunningham, Goodall, Carlisle, Stables, McCormack, Field

NO – 55

Akhtar, A Ali, S Ali, Arif, Bowden, Bromley, Brooks, Bruce, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Edwards, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Gibson, Grahame, Haigh, Hannan, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, Hinchcliffe, Holroyd-Case, Z Hussain, Iqbal, Jenkins, Jones, Khan, Leighton, Lennox, Lewis, Lloyd, Maloney, Manaka, Martin, McCluskey, Millar, Parnham, Pryor, Rae, Rafique, Renshaw, Ritchie, Rontree, Scopes, Shahzad, Taylor, Thomson, Timmins, Tudor, Venner, Wilson, Wray,

ABSTAIN – 0

At the conclusion of this item Council adjourned from 16.20 to 16.52.

42 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Lamb) - Winter Fuel Allowance

It was moved by Councillor Lamb, seconded by Councillor L Buckley that this Council believes the pensioners' winter fuel allowance is an invaluable lifeline to thousands of older people in Leeds at risk of not being able to heat their homes.

Council therefore opposes the proposal to scrap this vital pensioner benefit and calls on the Government to honour the pre-election promise made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to fully fund the winter fuel allowance.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Harland, seconded by Councillor Coupar

Delete all after "This Council" and replace with:

"...notes the Labour Government's work to return stability to the economy and address the £22bn budget black hole left by the previous Conservative Government.

Council notes the Labour Government's commitment to ensure all pensioners eligible for Pension Credit are signed up to ensure they receive the Winter Fuel Payment and other benefits linked to Pension Credit. Council also notes the Labour Government's commitment to extend the Household Support Fund which will further help support those in need in Leeds this winter.

Council regrets the voting record of the Conservative Group in the Council chamber including voting 9 times since 2017 against or not supporting motions calling for the extension of the Household Support Fund; provide support with energy costs; tv licences for pensioners; and reduce the impact of universal credit cuts.

Council further notes comments by a Conservative leadership candidate calling for Winter Fuel Payments to be means tested.

Council remains committed to working with partners to signpost residents to local support available to older people across Leeds and encouraging eligible pensioners to claim Pension Credit.

Council calls on the government to maintain the Winter Fuel Payment for those pensioners that need it, put in place a programme to insulate homes, extend the Warm Homes Discount, a windfall tax on giant oil and gas companies and to reduce everyone's energy bills for good with clean homegrown energy."

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Goodall, seconded by Councillor Cunningham

In the second paragraph, delete all after “Council therefore opposes” and replace with:

“such a harsh change to the allowance, which will particularly affect those with incomes just above the pension credit income threshold.”

Add an additional third paragraph:

“Council calls on the government to raise the pension credit threshold to allow more people to receive the winter fuel allowance and to introduce a wealth tax to tackle income inequality for all, including older people.”

The amended White Paper will then read:

This Council believes the pensioners' winter fuel allowance is an invaluable lifeline to thousands of older people in Leeds at risk of not being able to heat their homes.

Council therefore opposes such a harsh change to the allowance, which will particularly affect those with incomes just above the pension credit income threshold.

Council calls on the Government to raise the pension credit threshold to allow more people to receive the winter fuel allowance and to introduce a wealth tax to tackle income inequality for all, including older people.

The amendment in the name of Councillor Goodall was declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Harland was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council notes the Labour Government’s work to return stability to the economy and address the £22bn budget black hole left by the previous Conservative Government.

Council notes the Labour Government’s commitment to ensure all pensioners eligible for Pension Credit are signed up to ensure they receive the Winter Fuel Payment and other benefits linked to Pension Credit. Council also notes the Labour Government’s commitment to extend the Household Support Fund which will further help support those in need in Leeds this winter.

Council regrets the voting record of the Conservative Group in the Council chamber including voting 9 times since 2017 against or not supporting motions calling for the extension of the Household Support Fund; provide support with energy costs; tv licences for pensioners; and reduce the impact of universal credit cuts.

Council further notes comments by a Conservative leadership candidate calling for Winter Fuel Payments to be means tested.

Council remains committed to working with partners to signpost residents to local support available to older people across Leeds and encouraging eligible pensioners to claim Pension Credit.

Council calls on the government to maintain the Winter Fuel Payment for those pensioners that need it, put in place a programme to insulate homes, extend the Warm Homes Discount, a windfall tax on giant oil and gas companies and to reduce everyone’s energy bills for good with clean homegrown energy.”

On the requisition of Councillors Lamb and Cohen the voting on the substantive motion was recorded as follows;

YES -59

Akhtar, A Ali, S Ali, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Bruce, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Edwards, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Grahame, Haigh, Hamilton, Hannan, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, Hinchcliffe, Holroyd-Case, Z Hussain, Iqbal, Jenkins, Jones, Khan, Leighton, Lennox, Lewis, Lloyd, Maloney, Manaka, Martin, McCluskey, Millar, Parnham, Pryor, Rae, Rafique, Renshaw, Ritchie, Rontree, Scopes, Shahzad, Taylor, Thomson, Timmins, Tudor, Venner, Wilson, Wray, Chesterfield, Dixon, Pogson-Golden, Gettings

NO – 24

B Anderson, L Buckley, N Buckley, Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Harrington, Lamb, D Seary, S Seary, Stephenson, Kidger, Smith, Cunningham, Brown, Finnigan, Newton, M Ali, Cunningham, Goodall, Stables, McCormack, Field

ABSTAIN – 6

Campbell, Chapman, Downes, Golton, Hart-Brooke, Lay

43 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Dobson) - Refuse Service

It was moved by Councillor Dobson, seconded by Councillor Dixon that this Council acknowledges that during this spring and summer the refuse service has continuously underperformed and has now dipped below any reasonable standard, taking into account and accepting the many complexities around service delivery in Leeds.

Council further accepts that attempts to instigate positive change through scrutiny have proved largely ineffective and that the necessary tools to drive forward improved delivery are already, broadly, in place.

With that in mind, Council therefore resolves to immediately form a cross-party working group to work with the service to bring about meaningful and sustainable change.

Council commits to working collegiately to ensure that the mechanisms that are currently in place to support improved service delivery are fully adhered to and adopted and to further ensure that the people of Leeds are obtaining the best possible service.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Harrington, seconded by Councillor Firth

Insert the following between original paragraphs 1 and 2:

“Council does not believe that End of Day figures always reflect the reality on the ground in terms of all missed streets, particularly given that bins are not regarded as missed if recovered within 48 hours.”

Insert the following between original paragraphs 3 and 4:

“The working group should look to develop options that will achieve the following:

- Improved communication with residents who report missed collections and faster notification to ward members;
- A commitment to recover all missed bins within 24 hours;
- Every missed collection to be recorded rather than just those that are not recovered within 48 hours;

- Any addresses that are missed consecutively to be the subject of an action plan to identify and resolve problems.”

Insert the following after “best possible service”:

“Council calls on the administration to show greater leadership and ambition for this key service and respond to local concerns, bringing a report to Executive Board to update members on the establishment of the working group, its remit, and timetable for conducting its work.”

Motion would read:

“This Council acknowledges that during this spring and summer the refuse service has continuously underperformed and has now dipped below any reasonable standard, taking into account and accepting the many complexities around service delivery in Leeds.

“Council does not believe that End of Day figures always reflect the reality on the ground in terms of all missed streets, particularly given that bins are not regarded as missed if recovered within 48 hours.

“Council further accepts that attempts to instigate positive change through scrutiny have proved largely ineffective and that the necessary tools to drive forward improved delivery are already, broadly, in place.

“With that in mind, Council therefore resolves to immediately form a cross-party working group to work with the service to bring about meaningful and sustainable change.

“The working group should look to develop options that will achieve the following:

- Improved communication with residents who report missed collections and faster notification to ward members;
- A commitment to recover all missed bins within 24 hours;
- Every missed collection to be recorded rather than just those that are not recovered within 48 hours;
- Any addresses that are missed consecutively to be the subject of an action plan to identify and resolve problems.

“Council commits to working collegiately to ensure that the mechanisms that are currently in place to support improved service delivery are fully adhered to and adopted and to further ensure that the people of Leeds are obtaining the best possible service.

“Council calls on the administration to show greater leadership and ambition for this key service and respond to local concerns, bringing a report to Executive Board to update members on the establishment of the working group, its remit, and timetable for conducting its work.”

A second amendment was moved by Councillor Hart-Brooke, seconded by Councillor Golton

Delete paragraphs 1 and 2 and replace with:

This council acknowledges that recycling levels in Leeds for too many years left our city ranked poorly compared with many other UK areas and that in the period 2011-

2024 recycling levels went backwards. The council welcomes the roll out of glass collection that will boost recycling figures and will commit now to rolling out of city wide separate food waste collection and processing of food waste in a way that will give the most environmental and fiscal benefit to the city. The council also commits to reviewing working methodologies to ensure that delays and misses to collections that have increased in 2024 are minimised.

The amended White Paper will read:

This council acknowledges that recycling levels in Leeds for too many years left our city ranked poorly compared with many other UK areas and that in the period 2011-2024 recycling levels went backwards. The council welcomes the roll out of glass collection that will boost recycling figures and will commit now to rolling out of city wide separate food waste collection and processing of food waste in a way that will give the most environmental and fiscal benefit to the city. The council also commits to reviewing working methodologies to ensure that delays and misses to collections that have increased in 2024 are minimised.

With that in mind, Council therefore resolves to immediately form a cross-party working group to work with the service to bring about meaningful and sustainable change.

Council commits to working collegiately to ensure that the mechanisms that are currently in place to support improved service delivery are fully adhered to and adopted and to further ensure that the people of Leeds are obtaining the best possible service.

A third amendment was moved by Councillor Rafique, seconded by Councillor Tudor

Delete all after "This Council" and replace with:

".... is grateful to all staff in the refuse service who work hard for the benefit of the residents of Leeds and notes that during spring and summer this year, over 10.5 million household bins have been emptied across Leeds.

Council welcomes the recent introduction of city-wide kerbside glass collections in green bins, which will be more convenient for residents, have a positive impact on the environment, and provide the Council with a sustainable income stream. Council further welcomes the 30% increase in green bin contents that refuse staff have successfully collected.

Council also welcomes the fact that, together with the introduction of plastic pots, tubs and trays in 2020, Leeds has delivered, ahead of schedule, the national Simpler Recycling requirement to collect and recycle glass, plastics, metals, paper and card from all households by 2026 and achieved this without the need for more coloured bins or complexities for residents.

Council notes that in spring 2024 a further 10,000 households in Leeds started to receive fortnightly recycling collections for the first time and that a further 20,000 households will shortly see weekly recycling collections introduced.

Council further welcomes that Leeds residents continue to receive a free garden waste collection, which is by far the largest garden waste collection service in the UK with over 220,000 homes using brown bins, with over 23,000 tonnes of garden waste collected and turned into compost over this spring and summer, which is over 2,000 tonnes more than in previous years.

Council requests that a report comes to a future Executive Board meeting on how the service can be further improved to benefit the residents of Leeds.”

The amendments in the name of Councillor Harrington and Councillor Hart-Brooke were declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Rafique was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council is grateful to all staff in the refuse service who work hard for the benefit of the residents of Leeds and notes that during spring and summer this year, over 10.5 million household bins have been emptied across Leeds.

Council welcomes the recent introduction of city-wide kerbside glass collections in green bins, which will be more convenient for residents, have a positive impact on the environment, and provide the Council with a sustainable income stream. Council further welcomes the 30% increase in green bin contents that refuse staff have successfully collected.

Council also welcomes the fact that, together with the introduction of plastic pots, tubs and trays in 2020, Leeds has delivered, ahead of schedule, the national Simpler Recycling requirement to collect and recycle glass, plastics, metals, paper and card from all households by 2026 and achieved this without the need for more coloured bins or complexities for residents.

Council notes that in spring 2024 a further 10,000 households in Leeds started to receive fortnightly recycling collections for the first time and that a further 20,000 households will shortly see weekly recycling collections introduced.

Council further welcomes that Leeds residents continue to receive a free garden waste collection, which is by far the largest garden waste collection service in the UK with over 220,000 homes using brown bins, with over 23,000 tonnes of garden waste collected and turned into compost over this spring and summer, which is over 2,000 tonnes more than in previous years.

Council requests that a report comes to a future Executive Board meeting on how the service can be further improved to benefit the residents of Leeds.

44 White Paper Motion (in the name of Councillor Arif) - Community Cohesion

It was moved by Councillor Arif, seconded by Councillor Lewis that this Council is proud to represent a city built on the values of unity, acceptance and togetherness and believes these values are key to promoting community cohesion and resisting those who seek to create division and undermine community relations.

Council welcomes Executive Board’s agreement at its July meeting to zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination and hatred, including discrimination based on religion such as anti-muslim prejudice, antisemitism, or any other religious prejudice. Council further welcomes the Administration’s commitment to deliver a new cohesion strategy for Leeds that will be shaped with input from community groups, stakeholders, partners and young people, and will be reported to future meetings.

Council is grateful to those working to safeguard vulnerable people, the police, community leaders, third sector organisations, local councillors, council staff and other agencies for their response to incidents over summer, and for their ongoing work to support community relations and keep our city safe.

Council believes the existing strong local partnerships with community and faith leaders are a huge asset in Leeds and we will continue working alongside all

partners to show resilience, strength and solidarity. Council is clear that racism, prejudice, intolerance and hatred have no place in Leeds and Council reaffirms our commitment to the values of unity, acceptance, togetherness and celebrating diversity.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Golton

Append the words “commit the Council” after “meeting to” in the second paragraph.

Insert the following new paragraph after “... religious prejudice.” In the second paragraph:

“Council takes this opportunity to recommit to The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism first adopted in 2018 and the Anti-Muslim Prejudice report of 2022”.

Finally, delete the word “Administration’s” from the original third paragraph.

The amended White Paper would thus read:

This Council is proud to represent a city built on the values of unity, acceptance and togetherness and believes these values are key to promoting community cohesion and resisting those who seek to create division and undermine community relations.

Council welcomes Executive Board’s agreement at its July meeting to commit the Council to zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination and hatred, including discrimination based on religion such as anti-muslim prejudice, antisemitism, or any other religious prejudice.

Council takes this opportunity to recommit to The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism first adopted in 2018 and the Anti-Muslim Prejudice report of 2022.

Council further welcomes the commitment to deliver a new cohesion strategy for Leeds that will be shaped with input from community groups, stakeholders, partners and young people, and will be reported to future meetings.

Council is grateful to those working to safeguard vulnerable people, the police, community leaders, third sector organisations, local councillors, council staff and other agencies for their response to incidents over summer, and for their ongoing work to support community relations and keep our city safe.

Council believes the existing strong local partnerships with community and faith leaders are a huge asset in Leeds and we will continue working alongside all partners to show resilience, strength and solidarity. Council is clear that racism, prejudice, intolerance and hatred have no place in Leeds and Council reaffirms our commitment to the values of unity, acceptance, togetherness and celebrating diversity.

A second amendment was moved by Councillor M Ali, seconded by Councillor Goodall

In the second paragraph, delete the words “anti-muslim prejudice” and replace with “Islamophobia”.

After the fourth paragraph, insert a final fifth paragraph “Council commits to make Leeds the first City of Belonging, a place where all citizens can feel like they are part of a place where they are valued and a place they can call home.”

The amended White Paper would then read:

This Council is proud to represent a city built on the values of unity, acceptance and togetherness and believes these values are key to promoting community cohesion and resisting those who seek to create division and undermine community relations.

Council welcomes Executive Board's agreement at its July meeting to zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination and hatred, including discrimination based on religion such as Islamophobia, antisemitism, or any other religious prejudice. Council further welcomes the Administration's commitment to deliver a new cohesion strategy for Leeds that will be shaped with input from community groups, stakeholders, partners and young people, and will be reported to future meetings.

Council is grateful to those working to safeguard vulnerable people, the police, community leaders, third sector organisations, local councillors, council staff and other agencies for their response to incidents over summer, and for their ongoing work to support community relations and keep our city safe.

Council believes the existing strong local partnerships with community and faith leaders are a huge asset in Leeds and we will continue working alongside all partners to show resilience, strength and solidarity. Council is clear that racism, prejudice, intolerance and hatred have no place in Leeds and Council reaffirms our commitment to the values of unity, acceptance, togetherness and celebrating diversity

Council commits to make Leeds the first City of Belonging, a place where all citizens can feel like they are part of a place where they are valued and a place they can call home.

A third amendment was moved by Councillor Cohen, seconded by Councillor Lamb

In the second paragraph, insert the following between "any other religious prejudice" and "Council further welcomes":

"This Council reaffirms its commitment to using the full IHRA working definition of Antisemitism including the 11 contemporary examples of Antisemitism, and this Council reaffirms its commitment to using the Leeds definition of Anti-Muslim Prejudice."

Motion would read:

This Council is proud to represent a city built on the values of unity, acceptance and togetherness and believes these values are key to promoting community cohesion and resisting those who seek to create division and undermine community relations.

Council welcomes Executive Board's agreement at its July meeting to zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination and hatred, including discrimination based on religion such as anti-muslim prejudice, antisemitism, or any other religious prejudice. This Council reaffirms its commitment to using the full IHRA working definition of Antisemitism including the 11 contemporary examples of Antisemitism, and this Council reaffirms its commitment to using the Leeds definition of Anti-Muslim Prejudice. Council further welcomes the Administration's commitment to deliver a new cohesion strategy for Leeds that will be shaped with input from community groups, stakeholders, partners and young people, and will be reported to future meetings.

Council is grateful to those working to safeguard vulnerable people, the police, community leaders, third sector organisations, local councillors, council staff and other agencies for their response to incidents over summer, and for their ongoing work to support community relations and keep our city safe.

Council believes the existing strong local partnerships with community and faith leaders are a huge asset in Leeds and we will continue working alongside all partners to show resilience, strength and solidarity. Council is clear that racism, prejudice, intolerance and hatred have no place in Leeds and Council reaffirms our commitment to the values of unity, acceptance, togetherness and celebrating diversity.

The amendments in the name of Councillor Campbell and Councillor M Ali were declared lost the amendment in the name of Councillor Cohen was carried and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED – That this Council is proud to represent a city built on the values of unity, acceptance and togetherness and believes these values are key to promoting community cohesion and resisting those who seek to create division and undermine community relations.

Council welcomes Executive Board's agreement at its July meeting to zero tolerance to all forms of discrimination and hatred, including discrimination based on religion such as anti-muslim prejudice, antisemitism, or any other religious prejudice. This Council reaffirms its commitment to using the full IHRA working definition of Antisemitism including the 11 contemporary examples of Antisemitism, and this Council reaffirms its commitment to using the Leeds definition of Anti-Muslim Prejudice. Council further welcomes the Administration's commitment to deliver a new cohesion strategy for Leeds that will be shaped with input from community groups, stakeholders, partners and young people, and will be reported to future meetings.

Council is grateful to those working to safeguard vulnerable people, the police, community leaders, third sector organisations, local councillors, council staff and other agencies for their response to incidents over summer, and for their ongoing work to support community relations and keep our city safe.

Council believes the existing strong local partnerships with community and faith leaders are a huge asset in Leeds and we will continue working alongside all partners to show resilience, strength and solidarity. Council is clear that racism, prejudice, intolerance and hatred have no place in Leeds and Council reaffirms our commitment to the values of unity, acceptance, togetherness and celebrating diversity.

On the requisition of Councillors Stephenson and Lamb the voting on the amendment in the name of Councillor Cohen was recorded as follows;

YES -84

Akhtar, A Ali, S Ali, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Bruce, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Edwards, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Grahame, Haigh, Hamilton, Hannan, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, Hinchcliffe, Holroyd-Case, Z Hussain, Iqbal, Jenkins, Jones, Khan, Leighton, Lennox, Lewis, Lloyd, Maloney, Manaka, Martin, McCluskey, Millar, Parnham, Pryor, Rae, Rafique, Renshaw, Ritchie, Rontree, Scopes, Shahzad, Taylor, Thomson, Timmins, Tudor, Venner, Wilson, Wray, Chesterfield, Dixon, Pogson-Golden, Gettings, B Anderson, C Anderson, L Buckley, N Buckley, Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Harrington, Lamb, D Seary, S Seary, Stephenson, Kidger,

Finnigan, Senior, Dobson, McCormack, Field, Campbell, Chapman, Downes, Golton, Hart-Brooke, Lay

NO – 1

M Ali

ABSTAIN – 3

Cunningham, Goodall, Stables,

On the requisition of Councillors Stephenson and Lamb the voting on the substantive motion in the name of Councillor Cohen was recorded as follows;

YES -87

Akhtar, A Ali, S Ali, Arif, Bithell, Bowden, Bromley, Bruce, Carlill, Coupar, Dowson, Dye, Edwards, Farley, Flint, France-Mir, Grahame, Haigh, Hamilton, Hannan, Harland, Hayden, Heselwood, Hinchcliffe, Holroyd-Case, Z Hussain, Iqbal, Jenkins, Jones, Khan, Leighton, Lennox, Lewis, Lloyd, Maloney, Manaka, Martin, McCluskey, Millar, Parnham, Pryor, Rae, Rafique, Renshaw, Ritchie, Rontree, Scopes, Shahzad, Taylor, Thomson, Timmins, Tudor, Venner, Wilson, Wray, Chesterfield, Dixon, Pogson-Golden, Gettings, B Anderson, C Anderson, L Buckley, N Buckley, Carter, Cohen, Firth, Flynn, Harrington, Lamb, D Seary, S Seary, Stephenson, Kidger, Finnigan, Senior, Dobson, McCormack, Field, Campbell, Chapman, Downes, Golton, Hart-Brooke, Lay, Cunningham, Goodall, Stables,

NO – 0

ABSTAIN – 1

M Ali

Council rose at 7.17 pm

Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27

Date: 14th November 2024

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report presents the appended Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 and sets out the strategic direction of Leeds Community Safety Partnership (CSP), the Safer Leeds Executive, which has responsibility for holding partners to account in keeping communities in Leeds safe by tackling crime and disorder.

The Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 will replace the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021 - 2024) and forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. As such, its adoption is in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules for consideration by Executive Board prior to formal approval by Full Council.

This strategy will contribute directly to the Best City Ambition, specifically in relation to the Wellbeing pillar and the focus on keeping people safe and feeling safe.

Fundamental to this approach will be connecting the wider social and economic determinants that impact on safer and stronger communities and the interdependencies and cross-cutting nature of community safety issues, regardless of the presenting crime. We will look to do this through effective partnership collaboration with communities and through joint work with local connected boards (e.g., Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board) and key West Yorkshire boards, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and our wider valued and trusted voluntary and community sector.

Recommendations

Full Council is requested to:

- a) Adopt the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 attached as Appendix 1 to this report and recommend to Full Council its formal adoption.
- b) Note that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment will lead and implement the Strategy which will supersede the Leeds Community Strategy 2021 - 2024.
- c) Note that the strategy forms part of the budget and policy framework and it is not eligible for call-in.

What is this report about?

- 1 The Safer Leeds Executive has a statutory requirement to prepare and implement a Local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. Locally, this strategy will be known as the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27.
- 2 In line with the Team Leeds approach, we recognise that no single agency can address the complex risks, threats and harm alone. The following are committed to working collectively through the Safer Leeds Executive in line with the agreed terms of reference and information sharing protocols:

Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, Public Health, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; West Yorkshire Probation Services, HMP Service and the Voluntary & Community Sector.
- 3 The plan sets out the overarching ambition of the Community Safety Partnership: 'People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets and the places they go'.
- 4 The approach used to develop the refreshed strategy has changed since the last iteration, placing more focus on the Problem-Solving Triangle which is an established community safety methodology. Interventions should wherever possible seek to eliminate at least one element of the triangle leading to a reduction/eradication of the community safety issue. The focus on these three areas is fundamental to our overall approach to tackling community safety effectively.
 - Victim - Keep People Safe
 - Offender - Deter and Disrupt Offending
 - Location - Community Cohesion and Resilience
- 5 Building Trust and Confidence in community safety services and in our partnership working arrangements is critical to ensure people have confidence in providing community information and reporting incidents and crime. Without this we will be unable to deploy our resources effectively intelligently and will not be able to address the already significant issue of under reported crime.

The Community Safety Strategic Assessment completed early in 2024, identified the following strategic crime and disorder issues, and we will seek to address these through the Delivery Boards and key deliverables included in the strategy:

- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Illicit Drugs and Substance Use
- Neighbour nuisance and ASB
- Theft and Neighbourhood Crime
- Violent and Sexual Crimes (incorporating Organised Crime and Urban Street gangs)
- Reducing Offending Behaviours

Work in the above areas will be supported and supplemented by the cross-cutting activity as detailed in the Community Cohesion and Resilience section of the strategy.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 6 The Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 sets out the strategic direction of the Safer Leeds Executive and will guide the work of the Community Safety Partnership and its work with communities across the city.
- 7 Several Delivery Boards will take forward plans to deliver the strategy for the next three years (2024-27) and report progress to Safer Leeds Executive against the key deliverables through regular highlight reports. However, reporting against strategic community safety themes is often complex, and uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative data, along with professional judgement and the experience of professionals working in these areas to understand the nuances of effective performance and outcomes measurement. For example, improving confidence to report incidents of Domestic Violence, Hate Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, etc, will lead to increased crime reporting, however this does not necessarily equate to an increase in the prevalence of these incidents. Performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated by the appropriate local partnership arrangements, supported by the work of the Performance and Intelligence Team. In addition, thematic areas of priority are overseen and held to account by the Safer Leeds Executive and further inspected as part of the regular Communities, Housing and Environments Scrutiny Board.

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 8 This plan supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's outcome of: 'People will live in healthy, safe, and sustainable communities. Specifically, it links directly to the safer, stronger communities' active application of working with and for communities, families, and individuals, so people are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go. The impact of crime and disorder has a direct correlation with people's health and wellbeing, experienced by some members of the communities and different population groups.
- 9 This plan also supports the Inclusive Growth pillar and the ambition for Leeds to have a strong economy within a compassionate city. Specifically, it links directly to the safer, stronger communities' emphasis on early identification, prevention, and intervention, so as a city we can be responsive to local needs by working with individuals, families and communities before a crisis point and prevent future victimisation and offending.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 10 Before developing the strategy, the Community Safety Partnership has identified the key local crime and disorder priorities and activity through a strategic needs assessment. It has used data collected from residents of Leeds through the 'Your Voice' survey conducted by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to understand perceptions of safety and residents' main concerns relating to community safety. We have also engaged third sector partners and community groups to understand the key community safety issues whilst also seeking feedback from groups and networks that represent the diverse communities of Leeds, including the Religion or Belief and Disability and LGBT+ hubs.
- 11 The strategy has been developed in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities, Customer Service and Community Safety and the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment approved a Delegated Decision to authorise the release of the draft Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 for a formal 6-week public consultation exercise on 22nd May 2024.
- 12 As part of due diligence and scrutiny, the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board received early sight of the draft Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27. On 18 July 2024, (in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules), the draft strategy was presented to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing & Communities) and supported as part of the formal consultation, prior to proceeding to this Executive Board for its consideration. Scrutiny Board supported the direction of travel for the proposed strategy, with a particular offer of support around the Hate Crime agenda. This has now been added to the Scrutiny Board work program and will be discussed in detail in December 2024.
- 13 Finally, partners and representatives from a range of stakeholders (Leeds City Council; West Yorkshire Police; West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; Prison & Probation Service; the Voluntary and Community Sector, Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board; and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership have helped ensure the strategy has been developed in an appropriately co-produced way.

What are the resource implications?

- 14 Resources are in place to progress activity against the delivery of the strategy, notwithstanding significant efficiencies being delivered over the last three years against the net managed budget for Safer Stronger Communities. Further savings requirements in support of the wider council budget challenges may result in reshaping/redesigning service delivery through the life span of the new strategy if required.

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

- 15 National developments in relation to changes in legislation and developing governmental priorities have brought both challenges and opportunities for the city, which the strategy aims to address.
- 16 Several strategic operational boards are in place as part of the governance and accountability framework of Safer Leeds, to manage both the risks and threats presented

within the strategy as well as providing flexibility to adjust to any new national priorities and/or emerging local issues, linking to the corporate risk relating to community cohesion. In addition, connections to other relevant governance boards in Leeds and across West Yorkshire will be maintained and strengthened.

- 17 There are potential risks associated with the need for ongoing budget reductions and efforts will be taken to manage any resourcing reductions, so they have the least impact on capacity and capability as has been the case in recent years.

What are the legal implications?

- 18 This Strategy is made pursuant to the Council's statutory duty set out in s.5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 19 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.
- 20 The Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 is a refresh of and supersedes the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-2024) which features within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework as the Strategy forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework the recommendations are not subject to call-in. As set out above, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules, the relevant Scrutiny Board has already been consulted on the initial proposals.

What other options were considered?

- 21 None, as the Community Safety Partnership has a legislative requirement to develop a refreshed 3-year community safety strategy and to ensure the strategy is informed by a locally produced Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and consultation.

How will success be measured?

- 22 A performance and accountability framework is in place to monitor and track progress against outcomes, performance indicators and activity, including regular highlight reports from the Chairs of the respective Boards.
- 23 Additionally, the delivery of the plan will be monitored through the preparation of an annual report which will provide a summary of key areas of work for each of the priorities. The final annual report for 2023/24 relating to the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-2024) is included on the agenda for this meeting.

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

- 24 The Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27 will be in place for the next 3 years; the Safer Leeds Executive will collectively be responsible for the implementation; however the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment will oversee the Council's part in delivery.

Appendices

- 1) Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27
- 2) Equality, Diversity, Cohesion, and Integration Screening

Background papers

None

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Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



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

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

Directorate: Communities, Housing and Environment	Service area: Safer, Stronger Communities
Lead person: Sharon Coates	Contact number: 0113 378 7810

1. Title: Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

Safer Leeds Executive has a statutory responsibility to prepare and implement a Community Safety Strategy which outlines the overarching ambition of the CSP for the next three year cycle.

The screening is being completed in relation to the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027. The plan will contribute directly to the Best Council Plan (2020-2025) specifically in relation to the Safe, Strong Communities element and the overarching ambition that: ‘People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets and the places they go’.

The CSPs activity contributes to the wider aims of the “Best City Ambition”.

- Working with and for communities, families and individual, so people are safe and

feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go.

- Focusing on early intervention and problem solving in partnership to deliver effective community safety related solutions.
- Identifying and harnessing the contribution and value to be derived from the many community-based assets existing across the city s with a focus on building increased neighbourhood resilience and self-reliance.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

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

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

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

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

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

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

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

Fundamental to the approach of the overarching ambition and the strategy is the connecting of the wider social and economic determinants that impact on safer and stronger communities and the independences and cross-cutting nature and issues of community safety, regardless of the presenting crime.

Therefore, before developing the strategy, the Partnership has identified the key local crime and disorder priorities and activity through a strategic needs assessment, we have used data collected from over 1,350 residents of Leeds through the Your Voice Survey conducted by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to understand perceptions of safety and residents' main concerns relating to community safety, we have also engaged third sector partners and community groups to understand the key community safety issues. We have also sought feedback from groups and networks that represent the diverse communities of Leeds including the Religion or Belief, Disability and LGBT+ hubs.

Furthermore, partners and representatives from a range of stakeholders (Leeds City Council; West Yorkshire Police; West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; Prison & Probation Service; the Voluntary and Community Sector, Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board; and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership have helped shape the new Plan.

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

The strategic priorities of the strategy have been developed through giving due consideration to the Problem Analysis Triangle (an established methodology for analysis of recurring problems of crime and disorder, looking at victim, offender and location). As part of this, the partnership response considers EDCI to ensure, where relating to the victim element the approach is victim centered and trauma informed. Similarly, where relating to the offender element, that rehabilitation and trauma informed interventions are considered. As part of the use of the Problem Analysis Triangle, cross-cutting themes are also identified as being central to the partnership response, these include:

- Equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Strategic crime and disorder issues.

- Improve health and wellbeing: Individuals presenting with severe complex needs.

The plan supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's outcome of: 'People will live in healthy, safe, and sustainable communities'. Specifically, it links directly to the safer, stronger communities' active application of working with and for communities, families, and individuals, so people are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go. The impact of crime and disorder has a direct correlation with people's health and wellbeing, experienced by some members of the communities and different population groups.

This plan also supports the Inclusive Growth pillar and the ambition for Leeds to have a strong economy within a compassionate city. Specifically, it links directly to the safer, stronger communities' emphasis on early identification, prevention, and intervention, so as a city we can be responsive to local needs by working with individuals, families and communities before a crisis point and prevent future victimisation and offending.

- **Actions**

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

To ensure that EDCI continues to be central to the implementation and delivery of the Strategy, supporting positive relationships between groups, effective partnership collaboration with communities will continue through joint work with local connected boards (e.g., Health and Wellbeing Board, Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership, Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board) and key West Yorkshire boards, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and our wider valued and trusted voluntary and community sector.

The Strategy itself breaks down how the strategic priorities will consider EDCI within the crime and disorder and community safety remit, therefore forming what and how interventions/ projects will be delivered.

The governance arrangements will ensure work across the shared priorities are managed more effectively and there are clear lines of accountability and opportunities to escalate risk.

In line with governance arrangements, the plan and work of the respective Boards will be open to the relevant Scrutiny Board as part of the work programme.

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

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:

N/A

Date to complete your impact assessment	N/A
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	N/A

6. Governance, ownership and approval		
Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening		
Name	Job title	Date
Paul Money	Chief Officer, Safer Stronger Communities	20/08/2024
Date screening completed 20/08/2024		

7. Publishing	
<p>Though all key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council only publishes those related to Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions or a Significant Operational Decision.</p> <p>A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council. • The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions. • A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk for record. <p>Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:</p>	
For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to Governance Services	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate Directorate	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk	Date sent:

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LEEDS COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2024-27

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Foreword



I am pleased to introduce to you the refreshed 2024/27 Leeds Community Safety Strategy. This sets out the statement of intent of Safer Leeds, the Community Safety Partnership in achieving our ambition to deliver the most effective community safety outcomes for residents, businesses and people visiting the city.

The often detrimental effects of crime and anti-social behaviour on individuals and communities are something we are committed to reducing wherever they take place. Over the past three years, we have made significant progress on the key deliverables set out in the previous strategy, including introducing measures to support long term problem solving to address anti-social behaviour within communities, continuing to drive activity to tackle violence against women and girls in Leeds, and tackling serious youth violence, as well as many other highlights.

Whilst we have made significant progress over the last three years, we are not complacent about the challenges we still face. The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated a host of inequalities within our communities and resulted in increased community safety concerns across the city. I also acknowledge the significant work that has been done to mitigate the

impact of diminishing capacity and capability in both statutory and non-statutory partners as a result of ongoing austerity. As a partnership, we remain steadfast in our commitment to work collaboratively, ensuring that we are using our collective resources effectively and efficiently in an innovative and flexible way to deal with increased demand.

From reaching out and listening to our communities, and engaging with our third sector partners, we have heard and seen how the impact of crime on individuals, families and neighbourhoods can be devastating. Using this feedback, we have refreshed our strategy, and set out a framework to effectively respond to our community safety priorities.

Finally, we would like to thank all staff and volunteers across the community safety partnership for your continued commitment and passion to serve the people and communities of Leeds, keeping people safe and feeling safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Harland'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Cllr Mary Harland

Executive Member for Communities,
Customer Service and Community Safety.

Introduction

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and implement measures to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities.

Safer Leeds is the city's statutory CSP and comprises of a wide range of organisations including Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police, Public Health, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service; West Yorkshire Probation Services, HMP Service and the Voluntary & Community Sector.

Safer Leeds meets bi-monthly and monitors, reviews, and progresses the work of the CSP against agreed priorities and deliverables. It considers performance and outcomes whilst addressing gaps in service delivery and supports several statutory duties. Safer Leeds is supported by a Core Group of members, made up of priority leads and a Partnership Performance and Intelligence Team.

Before developing the strategy, the Partnership has identified the key local crime and disorder priorities and activity through a strategic needs assessment. We have considered information and data collected from over 1,350 residents of Leeds through the 'Your Voice' Survey conducted by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to understand perceptions of safety and residents' main concerns relating to community safety. We have also engaged third sector partners and community groups to understand the key community safety issues, seeking feedback from groups and networks that represent the diverse communities of

Leeds including the Religion or Belief, Disability and LGBT+ hubs.

The overarching vision for Safer Leeds is:

“People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go.”

The CSPs activity contributes to the wider aims of the “Best City Ambition”.

- Working with and for communities, families and individual, so people are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go.
- Focusing on early intervention and problem solving in partnership to deliver effective community safety related solutions.
- Identifying and harnessing the contribution and value to be derived from the many community-based assets existing across the city with a focus on building increased neighbourhood resilience and self-reliance.

The lifespan of the last strategy has seen the introduction of several new statutory duties, including The Domestic Violence Duty and The Serious Violence Duty. The Partnership has adapted and flexed its approach to ensure that these duties have been incorporated into normal working practices and we continue to identify and exploit opportunities to innovate and develop a culture of continuous improvement notwithstanding the context of ongoing budgetary and resourcing challenges.

Approach

Safer Leeds will continue to utilise the Problem Analysis Triangle theory based around Victim, Offender and Location when developing, implementing, and reviewing delivery plans to address the cross-cutting themes to achieve the strategic outcomes.

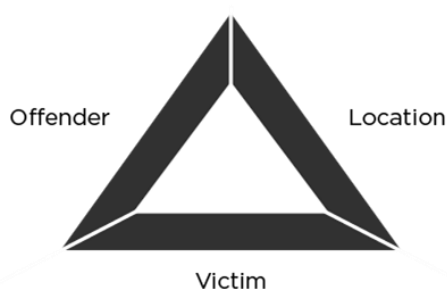
The problem analysis triangle is an established methodology for analysis of recurring problems of crime and disorder.

It is based on the theory that when a crime or incident occurs, three things happen at the same time and in the same space: a suitable target / victim is available, there is the lack of a suitable guardian to prevent the crime from happening, and a motivated offender is present.

However, although it is recognised that crime and disorder issues cluster in these ways, this is not evenly distributed across time, place, or people.

People in Leeds are safe and feel safe in their homes, in the streets, and the places they go.”

Based upon the Problem Analysis Triangle theory, the below recommendations for themes and planning are based around Victim, Offender, Location and additionally those key strategic themes that cut across all three areas.



Problem Analysis Triangle	Themes	Partnership Response
Victim	Keep People Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support victims and witnesses • Victim centred and trauma informed approaches
Offender	Deter and Disrupt Offending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention and prevention • Partnership enforcement and rehabilitation • Trauma informed interventions
Location	Community Cohesion and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer spaces and places • Community engagement
Cross Cutting	Building Trust and Confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality, diversity, and inclusion • Strategic crime and disorder issues. • Improve health and wellbeing: Individuals presenting with severe complex needs.

Strategic Themes

Keep People Safe

Support victims and witnesses

Being a victim of crime (including witnesses) can have long term impacts. We will focus on:

- Supporting ALL victims and witnesses, including those who may not have (or may not wish to) report to the police.
- Ensuring people get the individual support they need, including long-term support for vulnerabilities or complex needs that can compound barriers to coping and recovery.
- Addressing barriers that prevent timely and appropriate support, identifying and taking action to fill gaps in services through new and improved working.
- Increasing confidence in the criminal justice system and empowering individuals to take up different options available to them through it.
- Working to ensure needs of children and young people are given appropriate attention, especially those who have been victims or witnesses to potentially traumatic events.

Victim centred and trauma informed approaches.

As a partnership we acknowledge that the rights and dignity of victims, including their voice, well-being and safety are paramount, we will focus on:

- Providing appropriate local and personal support around housing, finance, mental / physical health needs, relationship skills, substance misuse.
- Supporting and informing around safer behaviours.
- Encouraging reporting of crimes through various channels.

Deter and Disrupt Offending

Early intervention and prevention

Early intervention and support are key to divert vulnerable individuals away from criminal behaviour and influences, especially in preventative approaches around risks of child criminal and sexual exploitation where several factors can increase an individual's risk.

Safer Leeds has identified that there are several ways we can improve outcomes for people, no matter at what age intervention takes place, to help divert them from initial or continued involvement in criminality. We will focus on the following to maximise opportunities to intervene early and prevent such behaviours:

Resilience and protective factors

- Identification of coping strategies to boost positive behaviour.
- Identify and encourage positive supportive relationships, interpersonal, and parenting skills.
- Mindfulness and relaxation.

Service configuration

- Stable, safe environments and relationships with support staff and peers.
- Awareness and avoidance of triggers.
- Coproduction and giving service users an element of control and choice.
- Multidisciplinary approach, access to appropriate services and support, service transparency and open communication, training, and awareness.

Behavioural interventions

- Personal development, including education, thinking skills, anger/emotion management, self-worth, motivation, and responsibility.
- Psychological treatment at times of crisis, e.g., bereavement counselling

- Family-orientated interventions.

Partnership enforcement and rehabilitation

Not all enforcement is direct Policing action. We will utilise approaches to manage and challenge offending by collaboration, co-operation, and communication to ensure appropriate legislation is assessed and considered to reduce the use of direct criminal legislation and custodial approaches where possible.

Safer Leeds will use a range of civil and regulative powers to assist in coordinated approaches to reduce the impacts of crime, displacing, or changing behaviours, and / or increasing the “capable guardians” around vulnerable people and locations.

We will focus on preventing re-offending and deterring individuals at risk of becoming involved in the justice system from harmful or criminal behaviours through engagement and rehabilitation. We aim to ensure that there is appropriate availability and access to services and support based on individual needs.

Trauma informed interventions

Safer Leeds acknowledges that some offender behaviour is a result of trauma, as such we will collaborate to ensure that we develop trauma informed interventions, ensuring that we focus on:

- the widespread impact of trauma on thoughts feelings and behaviour, recognise the signs of this and respond accordingly.
- Recognise that services and systems can create further traumatising and work to prevent this.
- Ensure people’s safety – people need to feel safe to prevent further harm and re-traumatisation.

Community Cohesion and Resilience

Safer Spaces and places

Levels and impact of crime and disorder are not spread equally: our strategic planning and development will consider delivery and outcomes at a district, ward, community, and neighbourhood level. In particular:

- Links between all relevant strategic boards around collaborative working on cross-cutting issues and cost-saving at a local and district level.
- Strategic and delivery plans with district, ward, and neighbourhood focus.
- City Centre community safety as a specific area of focus due to the levels of risk, threat, harm
- Links to partnership working through Neighbourhood Improvement Boards

Community Engagement

Local issues that affect feelings of safety and security including emerging / ongoing concerns around nuisance, crime, or the local environment. We will develop plans and interventions to have localised aspects that are flexible to respond to such issues and potential change, through:

- Involving local individuals and residents in discussions and decisions, through a range of mediums including social media.
- Coordinating deployment of services to respond to any increasing concerns or tensions to prevent issues escalating and ensuring appropriate interventions across agencies with the communities affected, including communities of identity / interests /

needs as well as specific neighbourhoods.

- Developing interventions and strategies that can be mobilised across different areas or communities as priority areas change.

All this work will be underpinned by an overarching community safety crosscutting social cohesion strategy for the council.

Building Trust and Confidence

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

As a CSP we strive to recognise and embrace people's different needs, situations, and ambitions. We will adopt an inclusive and supportive approach to underpin community safety in all our consultation, planning and measures we implement.

Improve health and wellbeing: individuals presenting with severe complex needs

As a partnership we acknowledge that individuals that are presenting with multiple complex needs, many of whom have been in and out of the criminal justice system, are often impacted by experiences of trauma, by substance misuse, as well mental and physical health needs and often accessing acute or crisis interventions can be challenging. We are endeavouring to work across the partnership and the wider council to address system changes to help meet the needs of these individuals.

Crime and Disorder Issues

The Performance and Intelligence Team conducted a Community Safety Strategic Assessment in early 2024 where the following crime and disorder issues were identified that affect safety and feelings of safety, for individuals, neighbourhoods, and communities.

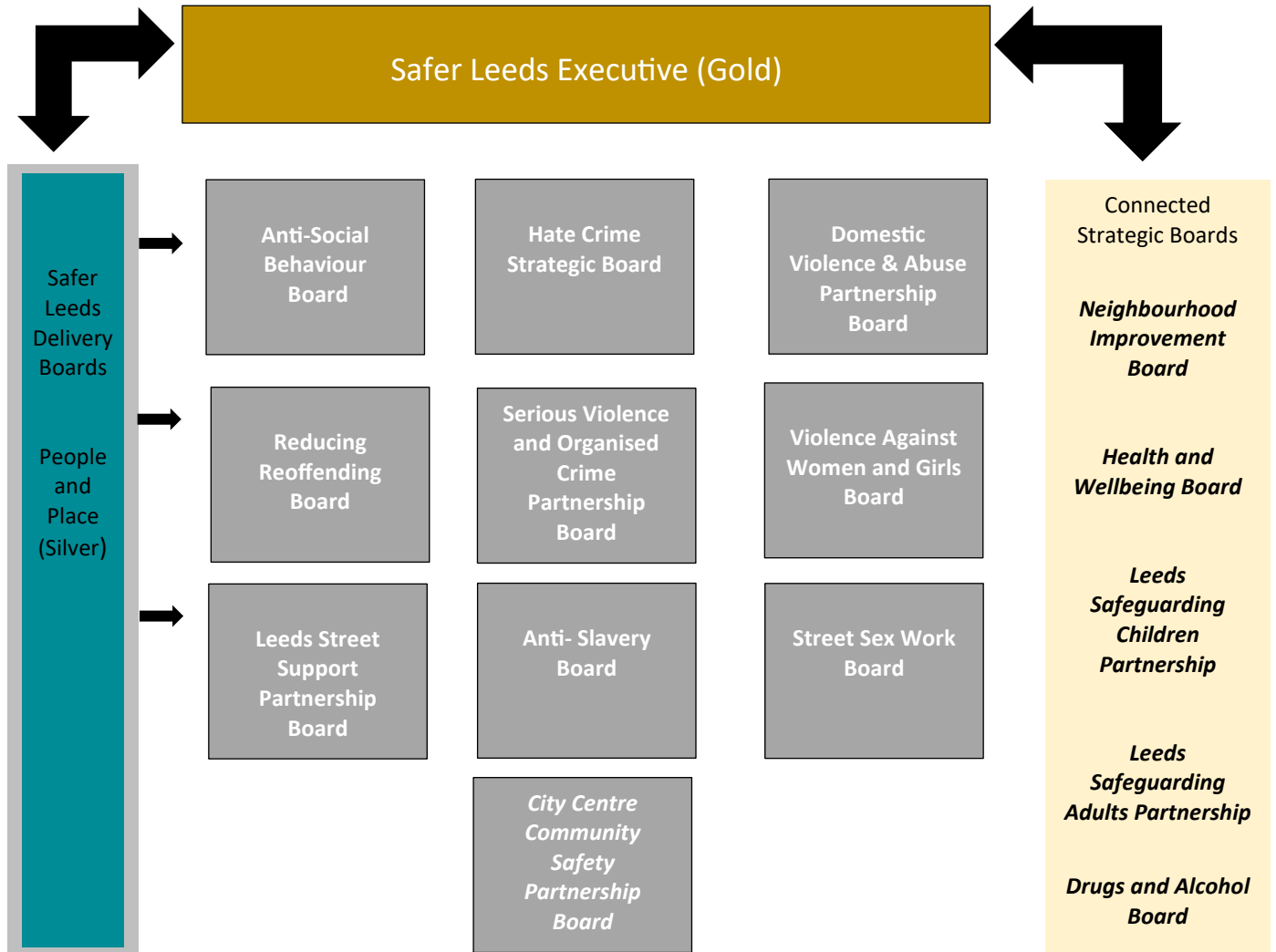
We will seek to address these issues that cause the most significant concern using the problem-solving triangle. We will focus on these issues, flexing to respond to need and demands ensuring we are intelligence led and agile in our partnership response.

Crime and Disorder Issue	What are the key issues?
Domestic Violence and abuse	<p>Significant impacts on victims and families, including high levels of repeat offending as well as under-reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homicide prevention. • Repeat offenders targeting multiple victims. • Impacts on children and families.
Hate Crime	<p>Impact on victims, families, and communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tensions relating to local, national, and international events. • Targeted communities and repeat offending.
Illicit Drugs and Substance Use	<p>Main organised criminal activity in the district and underpins many other crime and disorder issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multicommodity markets and use (including impacts around health and overdose risk). • Changing drugs markets; intelligence gaps; potential criminal, social and medical impacts. • New and emerging drugs and chemicals, including “cutting agents” and pharmaceuticals becoming part of illegal drugs trade and use.
Neighbour nuisance and ASB	<p>Significantly impacts on feelings of safety in a neighbourhood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth nuisance and aggressive behaviours. • Environmental impacts around vandalism, damage, and littering / fly-tipping. • Vehicle nuisance and road safety.
Theft and Neighbourhood Crime	<p>Public concerns around thefts. Many offenders are opportunistic and target the easiest property to steal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery and personal theft • Commercial crime (including shop thefts)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary and vehicle crime (especially in residential areas)
<p>Violent and Sexual Crimes</p>	<p>Significant personal and public impacts, often long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against women and girls (including sexual offending). • Violence against men and boys. • Serious youth violence, including knife crime and street gangs (offending and victimisation).
<p>Reducing Offending Behaviours</p>	<p>Crosscutting all crime and disorder issues we will seek to reduce offending behaviours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention and prevention • Partnership enforcement and rehabilitation • Trauma informed interventions

Implementation Framework

Governance arrangements have been put in place to support and manage the delivery of the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-27.



Safer Leeds Executive (Gold) - consists of officers from the ‘Responsible Authorities’ and ‘Co-operating Bodies’ and includes political representation from the Lead member for Community Safety and co-opted local representation from the West Yorkshire Police Crime Panel.

Delivery Boards (Silver) - are chaired by a member of Executive reporting on progress, risks or threats as part of their duties. Below these there are subgroups and/or where appropriate Task and Finish Groups.

Connected Strategic Boards, play a significant role in contributing to Safer Leeds shared priorities and at least one person from the Executive is a member of these Boards, to ensure synergy, at a strategic and operational level.

In addition, this strategy links to other strategic plans, priorities, including contributing to West Yorkshire’s Police and Crime Plan.

What will we do, and how will we know whether we have been successful:

The relevant Delivery Board (Silver) will take forward plans to deliver the strategy for the next three years (2024-2027) and will be held to account for progress to Safer Leeds Executive (Gold) and will report against the key deliverables listed below.

At the end of each year a review of what has been achieved will take place and report to the relevant Scrutiny Board and Executive Board, any amendments to priorities and key deliverables will then be updated.

Key Deliverables

Anti-Social Behaviour Board

- Effectively collaborate with partners to ensure we are using the most appropriate tools and powers to support the community against youth nuisance and aggressive behaviours whilst ensuring the young person is safeguarded by referring through the relevant channels.
- Implement a motor vehicle misuse strategy, to respond to the communities' concerns relating to the anti-social use of motor vehicles, keeping people safe utilising legislation effectively.

Hate Crime Strategic Board

- To increase awareness of the impact of hate crime on individuals and communities through a programme of targeted awareness raising campaigns and educational programmes.
- Develop the confidence of communities and individuals impacted by hate crime to report such incidents and crimes by supporting the development of hate crime reporting centres in local communities and high-risk environments, including schools and the private sector, alongside specific reporting centres for the range of protected characteristics.
- Improve support for the victims of hate crime by ensuring effective provision is available at the time of reporting, so that agencies supporting hate crime victims are encouraged to make appropriate referrals to access the appropriate support. Working with the CJS and Victim Support to ensure victims of hate crime are adequately supported through their involvement with the criminal justice process.

Domestic Violence & Abuse Partnership Board

- Improve the immediate and long-term support available to all those living with domestic violence and abuse through awareness, prevention, and early intervention.
- Deliver, monitor, and improve our offer to provide an effective response to immediate risk.
- Challenge and support those who are causing harm (perpetrators).
- Build on the work done with children and young people to improve how we keep them safe and supported.

Reducing Reoffending Board

- To address issues affecting access to accommodation and support for offenders on prison release or in the community, provide a forum for discussion of operational problems and improve pathways and communication between partners.
- Identify and address issues/barriers in the partnership in relation to supporting access and maintenance with Education Training and Employment provision across the area.
- Identify and address issues/barriers in the partnership in relation to supporting access and understanding of Financial, Debt and Benefit provision across the area.
- To strengthen linkages from custody into the community focussing on developing an effective release process with the development and embedding of resettlement passports/supporting linkages across Leeds.
- To strengthen and develop the interface for Criminal Justice pathways across all partner services, with specific focus on neurodiversity, mental health, substance misuse.

Serious Violence and Organised Crime Partnership Board

- Understand the picture of serious violence and organised crime in West Yorkshire by working in partnership and sharing information.
- Undertake partnership prevention work in communities to prevent serious violence and organised crime in the first place with a specific focus on serious youth violence.
- Reduce risk, vulnerability and susceptibility of individuals, families, and communities to being drawn into violence and organised crime.

Violence against Women and Girls Board

- Prevention: tackling misogyny/inequality, behaviour change, involving women and girls in decision making within the public realm/parks design.
- Intervention: Develop and support intervention activities such as Women's Night Safe Space, Ask Angela, etc
- Recovery and resilience: reducing reoffending, and support for victims

Leeds Street Support Partnership Board

- Implement and deliver the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme for people with multiple disadvantages and complex needs.
- Refresh the Target Priority Group, with sustained partnership focus at an individual level.
- Further develop the health and wellbeing offer for people as part of an integrated care package on street, in accommodation and in the community

Anti-Slavery Board

- Recognise, safeguard, support and empower victims.
- Increase awareness and reporting across all sectors and communities.

- Identify and pursue perpetrators.
- Remove slave-based labour from supply chain.

Street Sex Work Board

- Reducing vulnerability and improving the safety, health, and wellbeing of street sex workers
- Targeting those exploiting or causing harm to street sex workers
- Address ASB, building trust and confidence with local communities

City Centre Community Safety Partnership Board

- Produce, implement, and monitor a refreshed city centre community safety strategy to 'add value' in the day, evening, and night-time economy.
- Develop activities and interventions which will be underpinned by collaboration, co-ordination and communication aligned to our desired outcome: 'We want people in Leeds city centre to be safe and feel safe, on the streets, the places they go, have a good experience, get home safely and return'.

Leeds Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Board

- Fewer people misuse drugs and / or alcohol and where people do use, they make better, safer, and informed choices.
- Increase the proportion of people recovering from drug and / or alcohol misuse.
- Reduce crime and disorder associated with drug and/or alcohol misuse.
- Reduce the impact of harm from drugs and alcohol on children, young people, and families.

Youth Justice Service Plan – 2024-27

Date: 13th November 2024

Report of: The Director of Children & Families

Report to: Full Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to submit a Youth Justice Plan relating to its provision of Youth Justice Services under s.40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 'Youth Justice Service Plan,' which includes the refreshed multi-year plan for the Youth Justice Service (YJS) covering 2024-27, and the work that sits underneath the plan.

This report gives an update on each of the workstreams under the previous multi-year plan 2021-24 in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps, and provides rationale for the refreshed plan. It also considers the impacts that the national cost of living crisis is having on children and their families, and how that impacts on offending behaviours, paired with links with child exploitation and serious youth violence on offending behaviours.

This report provides information on the youth justice service, both at a preventative and statutory level, and supports and strengthens existing strategies within Leeds, including the Children and Young People's Plan, the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan and contributes to the Best City Ambition, with a focus on taking a Team Leeds, strengths-based approach to focusing on preventing children from entering the criminal justice system.

Recommendations

- a) That Full Council approves the Leeds Youth Justice Service Plan, and formally adopts the Plan as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.
- b) To note that the responsible officers for implementation will be the Service Delivery Manager, Leeds Youth Justice Service and the Head of Service, Children Looked After and YJS. The Youth Justice Service Partnership Board has statutory responsibility to monitor performance, ensuring the delivery of service improvements and the meeting of local priorities.

What is this report about?

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Youth Justice Service Plan, and the work that sits underneath. This report gives an update on workstreams under the previous strategy in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps, and demonstrates the evidence base for the refreshed plan.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The aim of this plan is to reduce offending behaviours in children across the city. The Leeds Youth Justice Service Plan 2024-27 sets out our ambitions and priorities for the next three years, including arrangements to ensure that we continue to deliver our successful YJS in the city. It provides detail as to how Leeds YJS intends to deliver services to improve outcomes for children, families and communities through delivery of four key priorities:
 - Prevention & Diversion: Reduce the number of children entering or re-entering the youth justice system
 - Custody & Resettlement: Reduce the number of children in custody and positive resettlement from custody
 - Risk Outside of the Home: Reduce and prevent exploitation and serious violence whilst developing families as protective partners
 - Disproportionality: Identify and address inequality in the youth justice system

Underpinning the priority areas are the six Golden Threads of the service, which the YJS will have a relentless focus on:

- Child-First
- Education, Training and Employment
- Think Family, Work Family
- Trauma-Informed Practice
- Mental Health
- Victims

- 3 An equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening has been completed, which identifies that achieving the priorities identified in the plan would have a positive impact on equality characteristics and promote strong and positive relationships between groups.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 **Health & wellbeing:** Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, with health and care inequalities reducing, and people being supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - ensuring children have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy childhood, where their right to play and have fun is protected and they are free to express their views and feel heard
 - promoting a mentally healthy city for all, where people are treated with compassion and are well-supported by their families, workplaces and communities
 - providing high quality care as part of an integrated system, with equitable access to essential services which support people to age well and are focused on prevention and early intervention

Inclusive Growth: Leeds will be a place where we create growth in our economy that works for everyone, where people and businesses can thrive, and we work together to tackle poverty and inequality.

- ensuring people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy access to education, skills development, and employment opportunities to meet their needs and the needs of a growing economy, where businesses and educators are encouraged to invest in upskilling people and supporting them to reach their full potential
- supporting our businesses, organisations and social enterprises to be productive, innovative, creative, ambitious and connected to their local community, with access to the talent they need to boost productivity in a rapidly changing labour market

Zero Carbon: Leeds aims to become the first net zero city in the UK, rapidly reducing carbon emissions and reversing the decline in biodiversity, while supporting people to make more sustainable choices which can improve their standard of living.

- improving transport to give people in Leeds a good alternative to car use, creating a safer and more walkable city to reduce unnecessary travel and support people to be physically active, while enabling drivers to switch to zero emission vehicles
- promoting a vibrant and resilient food economy for Leeds so everyone can access and enjoy a healthy diet, where more produce is grown locally, and less food is wasted

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:
Have ward members been consulted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

- 5 The ongoing work highlighted within the Youth Justice Service Plan remains under the scrutiny of the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board which comprises of statutory services, including Children’s Social Work Service (CSWS), the YJS, education, police, health and probation, third sector organisations, education sector representatives, Elected Members, including the Executive Member for Children & Families, and includes the voice of the children, their families and victims.
- 6 The Youth Justice Service Plan was considered and approved by Children & Families Scrutiny Board on 10th June 2024 following a delegated decision taken by the Director of Children and Families which released the initial proposals for the Plan for the purposes of consultation and consideration by Scrutiny Board. The Plan was endorsed at the Executive Board on 18th September 2024. The Children and Families Directorate will provide an update on progress against the plan to the Children & Families Scrutiny Board in Spring 2025.

What are the resource implications?

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

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

- 8 Legislative changes, new youth crime trends and financial challenges are key risks to the delivery of this plan. 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. The Youth Justice Service Partnership Board has strategic oversight of the delivery of this plan which will be reviewed annually.

What are the legal implications?

- 9 The Youth Justice Service Plan sits in the Budget and Policy Framework 4 1 (i) (of the Constitution) and specified by the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) 2000 to require adoption by the full Council.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

10 This is an agreed plan for the YJS, endorsed by the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board.

How will success be measured?

11 The plan includes four priorities with outcomes measures, describing what success will look like. These measures will be reviewed regularly under the oversight of the strategic Youth Justice Service Partnership Board, and annually reviewed against the Youth Justice Service Plan, as required by the Youth Justice Board as part of the core grant terms and conditions.

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

12 The Youth Justice Service Partnership Board and Director of Children's Services (Chair of the Board) will have strategic responsibility for the implementation of the Plan. The Plan was endorsed at the Executive Board on 18th September 2024. Formal adoption by full Council is sought in November 2024.

Appendices

- Leeds Youth Justice Service Plan 2024-27.
- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) Screening.

Background papers

- None

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



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

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

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

Directorate: Children & Families	Service area: Youth Justice Service
Lead person: Helen Burton	Contact number: 0113 3784059

1. Title: Youth Justice Service Plan 2024-27

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

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

The Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 is the strategic document which guides the work of the youth justice service in Leeds. It provides an overview of the ‘Youth Justice Plan 2024-25,’ which includes the refreshed multi-year strategy for the YJS covering 2024-27, and the work that sits underneath the strategy.

This report gives an update on each of the workstreams under the previous multi-year strategy 2021-24 in terms of recent activities, outcomes and next steps, and provides rationale for the refreshed strategy. It also considers the impacts that the national cost of living crisis is having on children and their families, and how that impacts on offending behaviours, paired with links with child exploitation and serious youth violence on offending behaviours.

This report provides information on the youth justice service, both at a preventative and statutory level, and supports and strengthens existing strategies within Leeds, including

the Children and Young People’s Plan, the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan and contributes to the Best City Ambition.

This report is developed to meet the core grant terms and conditions as set out by the Youth Justice Board.

The proposed areas for change have been identified through conversations across the youth justice partnership, with senior officers and leaders of the Council, and elected members through the Youth Justice Partnership Board and Scrutiny (Children and Families).

A six-week public consultation on the proposed changes will take place to establish the level of support for the proposed changes. Scrutiny will consider outputs from that consultation in June 2024. The refreshed plan will be approved at Full Council in November 2024, and will cover the period 2024-27.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

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

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

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

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.

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

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

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

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

The Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 is the strategic plan for improving outcomes for children within the youth justice system, and their families, and designed to promote community safety across the city. This plan strategically aligns and supports the Children & Young People's Plan, the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan and contributes to the Best City Ambition.

This plan covers all children living and growing up in Leeds. This strategy addresses the areas of concern in relation to both children within the youth justice system, and also those at risk of becoming first-time entrants. Within the plan there is a specific strategic priority focusing on disproportionality; identifying and addressing inequalities in the youth justice system.

The proposed changes to the Youth Justice Plan have been developed following discussions with Scrutiny (Children & Families), Children & Families Leadership Team, the Youth Justice Partnership Board, the Youth Justice Service workforce and through consultation with children currently working with the Youth Justice Service.

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

The Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 refreshes the strategy for the service. Disproportionality and addressing inequalities within the youth justice system was a priority for the Youth Justice Plan 2021-24, and although this aspect of the strategy has been refreshed, the ECDI remains a priority focus area for the service.

The Youth Justice Service governance arrangements means that there is strategic oversight of the service through the Youth Justice Partnership Board who receive regular updates on progress made against the priorities of the Plan. Scrutiny (Children and Families) receives an annual update on the plan and progress made against the priorities.

- **Actions**

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

The reporting on the outcomes and priorities within this plan focuses on the outcomes highlighted within this plan, for which ECDI is a key focus.

Scrutiny (Children and Families) provides high support and high challenge when updates are provided (annually). The Youth Justice Partnership Board monitors and evaluates EDCI issues and suggests work programmes to address these issues and improve the way services respond to need and vulnerability (quarterly).

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

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Julie Longworth	Director of Children & Families	28/06/24
Date screening completed		15/5/24

7. Publishing

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

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

making report:

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

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

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

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Youth Justice Service Plan 2024 / 25

Service	Leeds Youth Justice Service
Service Manager/ Lead	Helen Burton
Chair of YJS Partnership Board	Julie Longworth

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Chair's Foreword

It continues to be my great privilege to chair the Leeds Youth Justice Partnership Board and to provide the opening words for the 2024/2025 Youth Justice Plan.

This plan sets out our continued multi-agency commitment and shared priorities to meet the needs of children who are involved with or at risk of involvement with the youth justice system, preventing and reducing youth crime in Leeds and helping children to achieve better outcomes.

As always, the Youth Justice Service and the Leeds Youth Justice Partnership Board remain ambitious for the children of Leeds and committed to addressing barriers to children fulfilling their potential such as the impact of poverty, inequality, discrimination, trauma, mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence, special educational needs and disability, child exploitation, serious youth violence.

We maintain a relentless focus on Early Intervention and Prevention within this year's plan recognising the need for a multi-agency integrated approach that ensures the needs of children are identified, assessed and met in as timely and effective a way as possible. Within this we recognise the centrality of education as a protective factor and enabler for children, we welcome the Leeds Local Safeguarding Partnership's (LSCP) decision to recognise Education as a fourth LSCP statutory partner and we retain a sharp focus on Education within our 24/25 Youth Justice plan.

It is the Leeds Practice Model and our shared values and principles that underpin our work, cultivating and embedding culture and evidence-based practice founded on Child First principles, Restorative Practice, Strength Based Relational and Trauma Informed approaches.

A Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) focussing on how well the Local Authority and its partners help and protect children aged 10 and over who are at risk of, or affected by, serious youth violence or criminal exploitation was conducted in Leeds in March 2024.

The inspection was carried out by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). The final inspection report was published on the 16th May 2024, the inspectors praised the "effective and well-coordinated response" of the city's agencies to serious youth violence and highlighted the "strong" multi-agency relationships among the city's strengths as well as organisations' use of data, research and information-sharing.

They found that *"Practitioners are astute and committed and many work relentlessly and passionately with children and families to reduce risks and inspire and divert children away from serious youth violence"* and that *"Children's diverse needs are considered, and services are designed to address the disproportionality of black and ethnic minority children involved in the criminal justice system, and additional vulnerability factors."*

This aligns with what I know and what I observe of the practice from dedicated colleagues within the Children and Families directorate and across the wider multi-agency partnership and I am delighted that their excellent work was recognised and acknowledged by the inspectors.

Inspectors also reported that *"The Youth Justice Board is a strong partnership. It contributes effectively to the understanding of serious youth violence in the city. It routinely and systematically reviews incidents of serious youth violence and identifies key issues.... There is evidence of challenge between partners facilitating actions at a strategic and operational level."*

The findings of the inspection provide reassurance of the many areas of good practice that exist in Leeds in one of the most challenging and dynamic areas of our work whilst identifying areas for further improvement and learning.

The Youth Justice Partnership Board will now work with our key partners involved in the inspection to develop and implement an action plan based on the findings in order to achieve the very best outcomes for children and their families. The plan will be overseen by the LSCP as part of the city's multi agency safeguarding arrangements.

We have recently appointed Jacinta Kane to the role of Head of Service with responsibility for the Youth Justice Service. I am delighted that Jacinta will join us on 15th July 2024 to take on her new role and to work tenaciously with colleagues and partners to implement this plan. Jacinta has over 20 years' experience of working in corporate parenting roles in local government. She comes to Leeds from a previous Assistant Director Role in the South of England and brings with her a wealth of knowledge, passion and commitment to the children and young people of our city, having managed a range of children's services including Youth Justice services in Harrow.

As in previous years this plan sets out clear expectations for how children should be helped and treated by all professionals within the partnership, Voice and Influence, enabling children and families with lived experience to have their voices heard, to shape and influence service delivery is central to our work our Youth Justice Plan and broader Children and Young People's Plan.

We are committed to working 'with' children and their families to translate our Child Friendly Leeds ambition into reality – with Leeds really being the best city for ALL children to live and grow up in.



Julie Longworth

Julie Longworth
Director Children and Families
Leeds City Council

Introduction, Vision and Strategy

The strategic aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending by children as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Leeds Youth Justice Service Partnership Board is responsible for coordinating provision of youth justice services across the city, overseeing the Youth Justice Service (YJS) which is our multi-agency service with representation from a range of organisations including the Probation Service, West Yorkshire Police, Health Services, Education, the Voluntary Sector and the Local Authority Children's Services. We aim to achieve this through the delivery of safe, just and inclusive services, based on child-first principles, which ensure children are safeguarded, the public and victims of crime are protected and those who enter the criminal justice system are supported with robust safety planning and risk management arrangements.

Leeds YJS Partnership Board actively promotes Child Friendly Leeds, striving to make Leeds the best city for children to grow up in, to thrive from early years to adulthood. The Board shares the ambitions of the [Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028](#) (LCYPP) and the 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?' The YJS strategy is underpinned by the LCYPP five outcomes for all children:

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

We are committed to playing our part in delivering on the priorities in the LCYPP, with a particular focus on:

- Helping children and parents to live in safe, supportive and loving families
- Ensuring the most vulnerable children are protected
- Increasing the number of children participating and engaging in learning
- Improving achievement and attainment for all pupils
- Improving at a faster rate educational progress for pupils vulnerable to poorer learning outcomes
- Improving social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing of children
- Supporting children to make good choices and minimise risk taking behaviours

Our vision is to be safe, just and inclusive in our approach and the value set detailed in our plan shows what this means in terms of the way in which we work with children, their families and communities.

This plan is intended to support and strengthen the [Safer Stronger Communities Plan](#) while also contributing to the following ambitions set out in the [Best Council Plan 2020-2025](#) and the [Best City Ambition](#)

Safe, Strong Communities: Delivery of the priorities identified in the Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 will help keep people safe from harm and protect the most vulnerable. Reducing offending and reoffending and providing appropriate, targeted and positive support to children and their families will help us create safer, stronger, and more resilient communities.

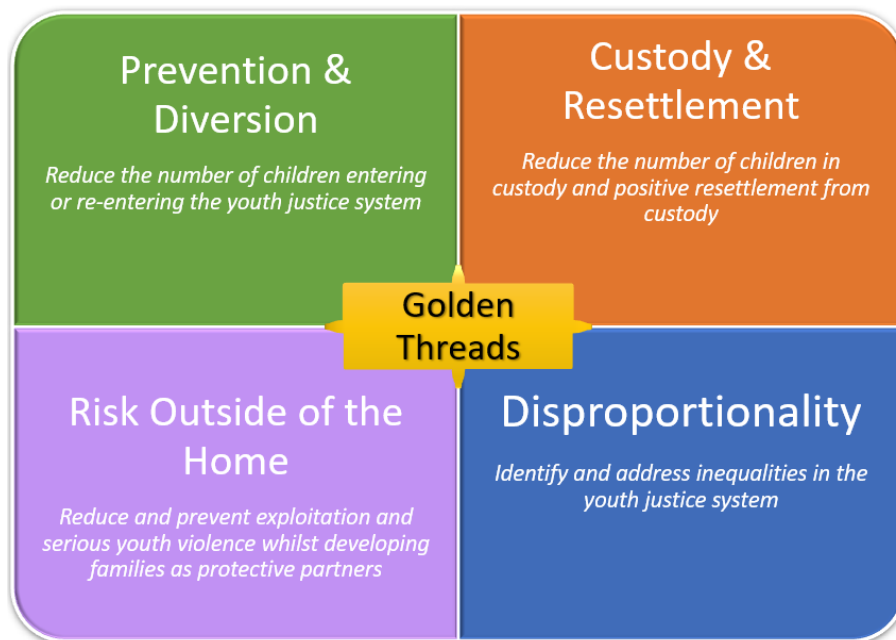
Promoting Community Resilience: By working as a partnership to give 'the right support at the right time' to children and families and by listening to and acting upon solutions voiced by children and families themselves we aim to deliver more locally derived solutions to crime committed by children in Leeds.

Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls: This plan recognises the role played by the YJS Partnership in tackling gender-based violence and the importance of promoting and modelling positive masculinity.

Child Friendly City: The Child-First principles embedded within this plan and encapsulated in the YJS values statement directly contribute to several of the priority areas in the Children's and Young People's Plan – for example, helping children to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours.

The YJS strategically aligns with the Children's Population Health Board, which is responsible for improving the outcomes, experience and value of NHS spend for all children who live in.

Our three-year Youth Justice Strategy 2024-27 has been developed through consultation with children and their families, with staff, with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, and with the YJ Partnership Board and sets out our four priority areas as follows:



Underpinning the priority areas are the six Golden Threads of the service, which the YJS will have a relentless focus on:



These priorities will be achieved during 2024/25 by:

Prevention & Diversion		
Outcome	What will we do?	How will we measure success?
Reduce the number of children entering the youth justice system	Develop a strategic and operational response to the end of Turnaround funding to ensure that there continues to	There will be a preventative offer for children in place by 31 st March 2025 which will be underpinned by policy

	be a preventative offer to children	FTE data will measure success
	Establish links and a clear pathway between the YJS and the new Family Help Hubs	Policy will be in place which outlines the pathway between the YJS and Family Help Hubs
Reduce the number of children re-entering the youth justice system	Undertake a multi-agency audit and review of decision-making for out of court disposals	Audits will be undertaken, learning will feed into service development at an operational and strategic level Reoffending data will measure success
	Establish a Referral Order Scrutiny Panel	Referral Order Scrutiny Panel will have been established
	Embed the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool	The tool will be embedded in the case management system Training will be delivered to the whole service on the tool The use of the tool will be embedded in the service

Custody & Resettlement		
Outcome	What will we do?	How will we measure success?
Reduce the number of children in custody	A YJS & CSWS joint remand policy will be developed	There will be a remand policy embedded in the YJS and CSWS Data will demonstrate a reduction in short-term remands YDA and an increase in remand LA
Ensure positive resettlement from custody	Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be developed for children in custody	All children in custody will have an IEP Data will demonstrate that children leaving custody will have an education offer upon resettlement
	Children leaving custody will be supported to safely return to the care of their families upon resettlement	A parenting strategy will be developed which encompasses support for parents / carers of children in custody to be protective partners Data will demonstrate an increase in children leaving custody into the care of their families

Risk Outside of the Home		
Outcome	What will we do?	How will we measure success?
Reduce and prevent exploitation and serious violence	Embed the Concerns for the Safety and Wellbeing of the Child and Others Tiered Approach to Managing Risk	The tiered approach will be embedded in the service Training will be delivered to the service on the tiered approach

		Quality assurance will demonstrate the effectiveness of the tiered approach
	Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be developed for children in Tier 3	All children in Tier 3 will have IEPs Data will demonstrate a decrease in children in Tier 3 who are NEET
	Communication Access Accreditation will be achieved for speech and language inclusivity	Accreditation will be achieved
Develop families as protective partners	A Parenting Strategy will be developed focusing on harnessing the capacity of parents and carers as protective partners	Parents will be consulted on the YJS offer to parents and carers A parenting strategy will be developed QA will demonstrate greater input of parents and carers as protective partners

Disproportionality		
Outcome	What will we do?	How will we measure success?
Identify and address inequality in the youth justice system	Undertake multi-agency audits focusing on disproportionality at key decision-making points	Audits will be undertaken, learning will feed into service development at an operational and strategic level both within the YJS and across the partnership
	The YJS will take part in research with the University of Manchester: <i>Exploring race, disproportionality in diversion from the youth justice system</i>	The service will commit resource for the research project Feedback will be received from the researcher which will feed into service development at an operational and strategic level
	The Race & Identity Action Plan will be refreshed	The plan will be refreshed

Local Context

Local Delivery Environment

Local Population Demographics

Leeds is a growing city with an estimated population of 809,036 (ONS, Census 2021) and is home to an estimated 172,651 children aged 18 or under (ONS, Mid-Year Estimates 2021). As a core city, the size and scale of the city, both in terms of the children, families and communities within it, alongside a complex landscape of services, creates additional challenges for all working within this environment.

The 2023 School Census tells us that:

- 37.8% of pupils are from ethnically diverse backgrounds (38.9% of primary pupils and **36.2%** of secondary pupils)

- 21.6% have English as an additional language (EAL) (22.8% of primary pupils and **20.2%** of secondary pupils). This has nearly doubled over the past decade but there is no change from last year.
- 26.0% of pupils are entitled to free school meals (FSM) (25.4% of primary pupils and **26.0%** of secondary pupils). This has reduced slightly from last year, following the significant increase from the year before.

44.0% of the school population live in the most deprived areas of the city (IMD, 2019); which are also areas of higher crime and anti-social behaviour by children. The [Leeds Best City Ambition](#) (an overall vision for the future of Leeds) focusses on tackling poverty and inequality, improving the quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home. Key workstreams for the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy include empowering families, safeguarding, financial health and inclusion and transitions and employment. Members of the YJS Partnership Board also sit on the Child Poverty Impact Board and ensure join up.

Service Delivery Environment

Leeds YJS sits within the Directorate of Children and Families within Leeds City Council. The YJS comprises of three area-based teams in the north east, north west and south of the city, with a city-wide Interventions and ISS team, an early intervention Turnaround Team and Court Team. In addition, the management team is complimented by a Performance and Improvement Manager, and a Finance and Resource Manager. Geographically, the service works from three locality bases, one within each area-based wedge that the city is organised into, and the youth court. The YJS area-based team model works well in understanding local needs and developing relationships with the rich and diverse network of community support organisations working in localities.

The Court Team provides daily cover for Leeds Youth, Magistrates and Crown Courts, with dedicated Youth Courts and Youth trials, and is staffed by Leeds, Wakefield and Kirklees Youth Justice Services. On Saturdays and Bank Holidays Leeds Magistrates Courts provide bail and remand Courts for children from across West Yorkshire, with a duty YJS Court service provided by West Yorkshire Youth Justice Teams. The work of the Court team received praise from HMIP Inspectors who visited Leeds YJS for the Joint thematic inspection of children remanded in youth detention accommodation in May 2023.

Leeds has seen an increase in out of area children appearing in Leeds Courts, as a direct result of children being charged with offences committed inside HMYOI Wetherby, which has posed challenges for the Court Team, due to the impact on resources. The Court Team work closely with HMYOI Wetherby to mitigate impact wherever possible.

The manager of the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium is seconded from Sheffield but located and managed within Leeds YJS structures. Our youth justice practitioners comprise two grades, the Youth Justice Officer grade which requires a professional qualification in social work, probation, youth justice or youth work; and an unqualified Youth Justice Worker grade. We have a centralised team of Education Officers and a dedicated YJS activities worker. We have retained dedicated business support arrangements. Partnership arrangements in Leeds are strong, with seconded CAMHS nurses, police officers, probation staff and speech and language therapists. We have an in-house specialist family group conference officer, a volunteer coordinator and two victim liaison officers as well as an in-house information officer and good links to the directorate's policy and information team. The YJS seconds one member of staff to the Skill Mill. This year has seen increased links with the city's drug and alcohol service, Forward Leeds, whose staff base themselves at the area offices weekly, and who run groups within the service.

Leeds YJS management structures include a dedicated Service Delivery Manager with Operational Managers and Practice Managers.

The YJS structure chart can be found in appendix 2.

[Leeds Children's Services](#)

In 2022 Ofsted judged Leeds Children's Services to be 'outstanding' in their overall effectiveness, stating that: *'The Leeds model of practice, based on a restorative approach with families, is coherent and palpable throughout the services offered to children'.*

‘Children and families benefit from well-established and extensive early help support, including through cluster arrangements with schools and children’s centres, with early help teams provide targeted support formulated with families to identify children’s needs and families’ strengths – meaning children receive the right support and at the right time. Children who are missing from education are managed well, as are those who are electively home educated’.

‘Leeds City Council prides itself on promoting a child-friendly city, where it is a good place to be a child. The Leeds practice model of restorative practice is wholly and authentically embedded within the strategic leadership group as much as it is within the operational layers of the service. This brings a strong and supportive value base and culture that ensures a keen focus on children and families’ partnership and empowerment’.

‘Children at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation are identified and well supported. Multi-agency approaches to identifying and disrupting exploitation are effective’.

‘Despite the pressures, Leeds has maintained a relentless focus on prioritising services and support to children and families’.

Leeds is developing a new Family and Community Hub Model of Delivery for Family Help, building on the strength of the partnership approach that was praised by Ofsted. The city will expand from three to seven Hubs, which will be embedded in local communities. Such an approach also builds on relationships with third sector organisations, who play a key role in the Youth Justice Partnership Board. The Family Hub model directly supports the aim of the YJS to reduce the rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system. The YJS works closely with partners implementing this model to provide data which assists in ensuring that this provision targets those who may be disadvantaged and therefore more at risk of entering into the youth justice system. In addition, West Yorkshire Police has funded staffing resource and Leeds has also recruited a Police Researcher and Inspector posts, funded through the Supporting Families budget, to support the work of the Hubs and wider Children and Families Directorate.

CSWS has embedded a Risk Out of the Home Pathway in Child Protection processes, which utilises a Contextual Safeguarding approach where extra-familial significant risk of harm is identified. Over the past 12 months the YJS has reviewed internal processes for risk management to ensure better alignment with Contextual Safeguarding approaches. One of the key successes of this approach has been engaging non-traditional safeguarding partners in processes, and supporting parents and carers to be ‘Protective Partners,’ the learning from which has been utilised to inform YJS service delivery.

Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

Governance arrangements for Leeds YJS are provided through our Youth Justice Service Partnership Board which is chaired by the Director of Children’s Services and includes executive leaders from across partner services, political leadership and relevant contributory third sector organisations. The YJS Partnership Board has an active role in informing strategic decision-making and is well placed to facilitate resource allocation where required. Quarterly meetings are themed around one of the Youth Justice Plan priorities, with the Board also retaining critical and strategic oversight of the performance of the service.

The Head of Service with responsibility for the YJS post is currently vacant however Jacinta Kane joins us as the new Head of Service in summer 2024. Cover has been provided in the interim, from a Head of Service with youth justice experience, to ensure continuity during this period. The YJS structurally sits alongside Children Looked After Services within the Children and Families Directorate of Leeds City Council. The dedicated YJS Service Delivery Manager is part of the extended Children’s Services Leadership Team, resulting in excellent partnerships and joint working between services such as fostering, children’s homes, children looked after social work teams, leaving care services and Adel Beck Secure Children’s Home.

Strategically, Leeds YJS is fully integrated into local partnership planning arrangements for children and criminal justice services. The YJS has representation on a number of strategic groups including the Local Children’s Safeguarding Partnership, the Prevent Silver Group, the Corporate Parenting Board, the Children and Families Equality and Diversity group, MACE Silver Group, the Liaison and Diversion Board, the Safer Leeds Executive, the Reducing Reoffending Board, the Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime Board, and the

ASB Silver Board; reports are provided to all Boards in relation to cross cutting safeguarding and youth crime related issues.

As highlighted elsewhere within this report, the YJS is strategically linked with partners with respect of the Serious Violence Duty, and operationally with respect of the partnership response to children identified as being at risk of serious violence through Project Shield.

West Yorkshire YJSs have worked together productively for a number of years, recognising the benefits of sharing good practice and problem solving. Whilst each has solid foundations in their local authority structures, the county-wide nature of other criminal justice agencies and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Mayor provide an incentive to co-operate across local authority boundaries. West Yorkshire YJS Service Managers meet monthly to identify areas of common interest and work together on joint projects. In addition the Leeds YJ Service Delivery Manager represents the five West Yorkshire YJSs at the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) for West Yorkshire, and has recently taken on responsibility for the strategic representation of West Yorkshire YJSs at the Serious Violence Reduction Strategic Executive Group under the serious violence duty.

Operationally, Leeds YJS benefits from a good range of partnership arrangements:

- Three police officers are seconded directly into the Service and take a lead on out of court disposal arrangements and information sharing between the two agencies. There are close links between the YJS police officers and the Safer Schools officers, Family Help Hub police officers and Youth Crime Prevention police officer who share management arrangements.
- 2.8 youth justice nurses are seconded from CAMHS.
- Two SLT practitioners are seconded from health
- Probation second x1 FTE Officer and x1 FTE Support Officer.
- Forward Leeds provide substance use workers and specialists to facilitate groupwork for each of the area teams.
- Skill Mill Ltd. Continues to work in partnership with Leeds YJS.
- Leeds YJS Court Team works in partnership with Bradford and Kirklees Youth Justice Services to provide daily cover for the Leeds Youth, Magistrates and Crown Courts.
- Partnership with LASBT has continued to strengthen the YJS response to contextual safeguarding, with ASB colleagues sitting on concerns for the safety of others panels.
- CSWS specialist risk outside of the home service, the Safe Project, is co-located with the YJS, .

[Speech & Language Therapy](#)

This year we have had a re-organisation of the Speech and Language resource within the YJS to respond to the needs of the service to enable a holistic, whole-system approach. The service assesses all children at risk of custody, to ensure that courts are informed about speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and those aged 13 and below, to have maximum impact on education outcomes. All other children are screened during assessment and are referred for assessment based on need. Recognising the importance of parents/carers as protective partners, the service actively promotes their engagement with SLT. The SLT is also involved in training and conferences for health and education professionals. For example, short training/workshops about identifying SLCN in schools, making the link between unidentified needs and increased risk of exclusion, leading to increased vulnerability and risk of exploitation. The aim is to share the knowledge to increase school awareness of link between SLCN and SEMH. The YJS is committed to speech and language inclusivity and aims to achieve communication access accreditation for the service over the next year [Communication Access UK – Inclusive communication for all \(communication-access.co.uk\)](https://communication-access.co.uk).

Case Study

C (aged 14) was on a Referral Order when seen for SLCN assessment across two sessions, one in the Alternative Provision they were attending and the other in the Youth Justice Centre. A full communication profile (including strengths and areas of need and difference) was gained through formal and informal assessment, including self-evaluation of his communication skills.

Assessment scores and reported impact on daily life indicated difficulties in receptive language (understanding spoken information), and that needs may meet the criteria for Developmental Language Disorder. This term describes a cluster of persistent language difficulties; while each individual is affected differently, their needs impact on interactions and educational progress. SLT attended and contributed to a 5 P's formulation with other professionals; following this meeting, specific resources were sent to school to use with C (to support understanding of time concepts). A full SLT report with findings, advice and recommendations was provided.

Direct support with SLC skills from the SLT team was offered and it was agreed that further sessions would be of benefit. Due to the complexity of needs, the planning and timing of these sessions needed careful consideration in the context of other needs (e.g. support with substance misuse, emotional and mental wellbeing) and continued liaison with the case manager to provide the right level of support at the right time. C started sessions with the SLTA, which started with a review of what support they would want (using a health coaching approach, centring their views so they led their communication goals). Following intervention, they will be asked for their opinions about how useful the input was to evaluate any progress made with goals.

Health Needs

It has been a priority this year to ensure health and education specialists work in a co-ordinated way due to the complexity of needs of many of the children working with the YJS, including SEND and the impact of their needs on education outcomes, safeguarding and re-offending. This is achieved through joint supervision and joint specialist meetings which are co-ordinated to include education and SLT specialists due to the high level of need relating to neurodiversity and SEND. This enables health professionals to sequence assessments appropriately, which ensures full attendance at formulations, which support concerns for the welfare of others panels.

The YJ Nurses have excellent relationships with the community neurodevelopmental team in CAMHS, they undertake the preliminary information gathering and screening with parents and children and where a need for an assessment is identified, children open to the YJS are fast tracked for a neurodiversity assessment. However, the national shortage of ADHD medication has had some impact on children working with the YJS. The YJ Nurses continue to liaise with a range of health professionals to try to ensure everyone is kept safe. This includes co-ordinating services for FCAMHS, community consultant psychiatrists prescribing medication and the early intervention psychosis service, Aspire. Monthly meetings take place with FCAMHS to discuss potential referrals and seek advice. This has improved joint working and increased the access to service from FCAMHS for children working with the YJS.

The YJ Nurses continue to support trauma informed practice in the YJS through their oversight through formulation of all children where there is a high level of concern for their own or others safety. The formulations provide sequencing advice and a next steps plan, which helps to inform risk management and contingency planning.

However, despite the strength in the resource within the service, there have been distinct challenges in achieving services for some children, who have been impacted by the wider impact of resource constraints in mental health services for children nationally. Learning from these circumstances has been appropriately shared with the Youth Justice Partnership Board. Leeds Community Healthcare have reported that CAMHS are in a financially challenging situation and are anticipating severe pressures on CAMHS in forthcoming years, and therefore likely gaps in CAMHS provision across services.

Update on the Previous Year

Progress on Priorities in Previous Plan

Leeds YJS Partnership Board set a number of priorities in the Youth Justice Plan 2021-24. Below highlights progress on those priority areas.

Priority 1

Reduce the number of children and young people entering or re-entering the criminal justice system.

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure	Performance at February 2024	Rag
Reduce the number of young people re-entering the criminal justice system due to subsequent disposals	Reoffending Data PNC	Reoffences per re-offender (Jan to Dec '21) is on average 5.63, an increase from 3.9 the previous year. The rate increased both locally and nationally in the same period but at a slower rate than in Leeds. The binary rate for reoffending Jan '21 to Dec '21, (latest period) was up to 40.3% from 35.9% the previous year. This compares to an England and Wales rate of 31.4%.	
Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time	First Time Entrant Data PNC	In the YJB's most recently published figures, the FTE rate per 100,000 of 10–17 population October 2022 to September 2023 was 251, a decrease of 6% from the previous year. This compares to an England and Wales average rate of 171.	

The numbers of children entering and re-entering the criminal justice system remains an area of development for the service. Turnaround and Outcome 22, Chance to Change, are starting to have positive impacts on FTEs, as highlighted in the decrease from the previous year, however this remains a key strategic priority area for the YJS Partnership Board.

Priority 2

Identify and address racial inequality in the youth justice system and support cultural cohesion

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure	Performance at February 2024	Rag
The Service delivers on its race and identity action plan	Rag rating of the plan	Race & Identity Action Plan has progressed, however there remain opportunities to strategically link YJS priority in this area across other strategic priorities across the partnership, and to share learning from YJS data in this regard.	

There is a proportionate representation to the demographic of Leeds in the youth justice service cohort	Childview YJB disproportionality toolkit	Whilst the proportion of white to ethnically diverse children remains in line with the city's demographic, there continues to be over-representation of ethnically diverse and Gypsy Roma children in the justice system in Leeds	
The Service monitors and analyses racial disproportionality in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cohort as a whole • Assetplus needs analysis • Compliance and breach • Engagement in services • Disposal and sentence outcome • Custody 	Childview	Data highlighting racial disproportionality is a golden thread and a consideration in all data sets across the service. This includes consideration at every Youth Justice Partnership Board meeting and within management meetings. This data is shared both strategically and operationally to support a partnership response to tackling racial inequality and disproportionality.	

The YJS Race and Identity Action Plan is held to account by the YJS Partnership Board and sets out the detail as to how the service will identify and address racial inequalities within the youth justice system and actively promote cultural cohesion. This remains a priority for the Board, and as highlighted above there is still key progress to be made in this area; this Action Plan will be refreshed alongside the priorities.

Case Study

The Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Outreach and Inclusion Team deliver the 'Fresh Start' programme within Primary and Secondary schools. The programme focuses on developing aspirations and life skills in the UK with a particular emphasis on education. The program is designed to help targeted students from Eastern Europe with Romani backgrounds to develop the skills and competencies they need to succeed in school and beyond.

Over the course of four weeks, students engage in a range of activities, including group discussions, goal setting exercises, role play and interactive workshops, all aimed at helping them identify their aspirations, develop a growth mindset, and build the necessary life skills to achieve their goals. Our program also includes a strong focus on the role of education in the UK. Students are introduced to various career paths and opportunities and learn how education can open doors to new possibilities.

Planning is currently taking place to expand the Fresh Start programme to include additional sessions on healthy relationships.

This programme aims to directly reduce the numbers of children from GRT communities entering into the criminal justice system.

Priority 3

Doing the simple things better

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure	Performance at February 2024	Rag
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Delivery of Service Improvement Plan	Service Improvement Plan	The YJS Service Improvement Plan has	
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The Service Improvement Plan has driven service delivery and developments at an operational level, supporting improvements in performance and ultimately outcomes for children within the YJS.

Priority 4

Reducing Serious Youth Violence

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure	Performance at February 2024	Rag
A reduction in the number of young people convicted of serious violence offences	YJB SYV toolkit Any drug, robbery or violence against the person offence which has a gravity score of 5 or more	Convictions for SYV offences remains a concern.	
A reduction of the number of young people presenting to the emergency department of Leeds hospitals with injuries caused through violence	Data from the A & E navigator	The funding to the YJS for Safe Talk ceased in the previous year as the VRU wanted this work to be undertaken by a single provider, the hospitals, through the A&E Navigators, thereby mirroring how other such services across West Yorkshire are carried out. The YJS has an established link with the A&E Navigator service delivering on this work.	
A reduction in the number of young people convicted of knife crime offences	Childview	Convictions for knife offences have continued to fluctuate in the last few years. Knife crime offence charges remain over 50% more prevalent than our West Yorkshire counterparts. This continues to remain a priority for Leeds, with recent tragedies highlighting the devastating impact of knife crime.	

Please see the Section on Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding for further information.

Priority 5

Attendance, achievement and attainment

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure	Performance at February 2024	Rag
Young people are engaged in suitable education, training and employment through the course of their intervention with the YJS that is sustained after their Order	Childview: ETE hours offered ETE hours engaged in	A deep dive into ETE outcomes undertaken in November 2023 indicated that 65% of school aged children had the full offer, consistent with previous years but only 40% attended the full offer (down from 55%). 52% of children post 16 were NEET, a 9% increase from the previous year.	

With the launch of the new Leeds Children and Young People’s Plan, the time was right to update the Refreshed 3As Plan. Education remains a key focus area in the Leeds Youth Justice Strategy 2024-27 as one of our ‘Golden Threads’, with our latest data showing low levels of education, training and employment for children aged 16 – 18 in the justice system, with 52% of children post-16 being NEET, an increase on the previous year. There is therefore clear evidence that there is more work to be done to tackle the number of NEET children involved with the YJS. Education colleagues are key Board Members. The synergy between the overarching refreshed 3A’s Strategy and this key focus area ensures opportunities for collaboration with the education sector both at a strategic level and in relation to the specific action plan and implementation. The Youth Justice Service Education Action Plan, which was reviewed in January 2024, sets out the detail as to how the YJS, alongside key partners, will improve educational outcomes for children within the justice system, ensuring a better quality experience for children, whilst promoting inclusion and belonging, alongside better support for children and families to make the changes that they need to.

Priority 6

Reducing custody and positive resettlement of children from custody

Outcome Statement	Outcome Measure	Performance at February 2024	Rag
Resettlement promise delivered to young people	Audit on each young person on release and three months after release	The resettlement promise is delivered to children on their release from prison.	Green
Reduced numbers of young people sentenced to custody	Childview	There was a slight decrease in children serving custodial sentences, down to 14 in 2023 from 16 in 2022	Yellow
Reduced numbers of young people remanded to custody	Childview	There was a total of 21 children remanded to custody in 2023, an increase from 17 in 2022.	Red
Reduction in remand nights annually	Childview	There were 1884 remand nights for children from Leeds in 2023, an increase from 1307 the previous year.	Red
Improved ETE provision on release from custody	Childview	Our review of the resettlement arrangements of each young person released from custody in 2022/23 indicates that this remains an area of challenge for us.	Red

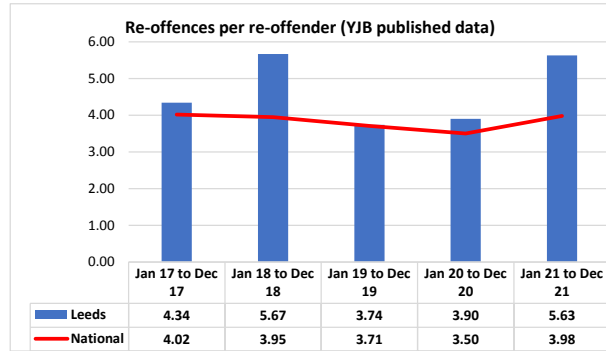
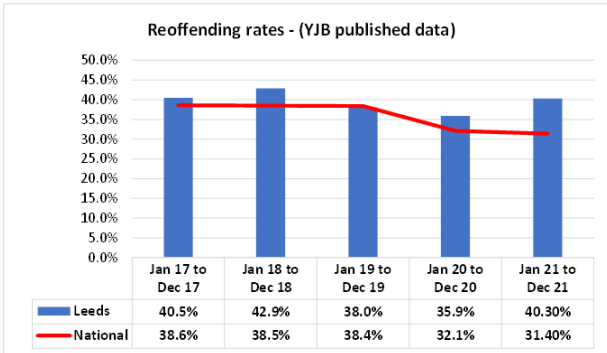
Leeds YJS is an active partner in the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium at both strategic and operational levels, as highlighted within this document, which enables joint working and standard setting at a strategic level across South and West Yorkshire. This remains a key strategic priority area for the service.

Performance Over the Previous Year

National Key Performance Indicators

Existing key performance indicators

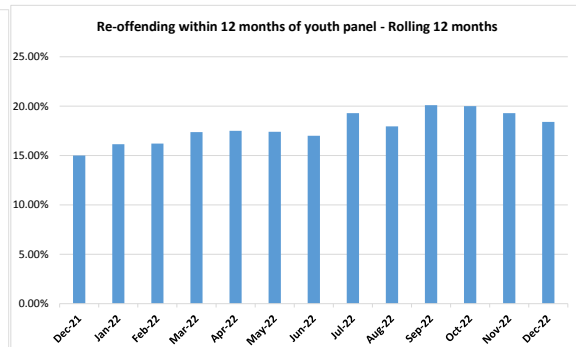
Reoffending



These graphs show the latest reoffending rates published by the YJB for 12 month period ending December 2021, which were published in December 2023. The YJB published data tracks re-offences in the 12 month period following qualifying outcome but continues to track over a longer period; this means that figures are more lagged than those produced locally, but allows the time for cases to be processed.

In the five-year period the rate in Leeds has fluctuated, with an increase in the latest period to similar levels seen to the end of 2017 (40%). Nationally rates have steadily fallen over the same period to a low of 31.4%, widening the gap between local and national performance.

There was an increase in the average number of reoffences per reoffender in Leeds, up to 5.63. Although there has also been a rise national, this was at a slower rate so the gap between Leeds and national performance has increased.



Local reoffending measures are taken from ChildView and show the rolling twelve-month average of children who re-offend within 12 months of receiving a qualifying outcome/within 12 months of a youth panel outcome. These are provided to show the latest information, whilst acknowledging that there will be some children who have not yet received an outcome therefore actual rates will be higher; however, this is consistently the case and therefore the general trend in reoffending rates will be reflected.

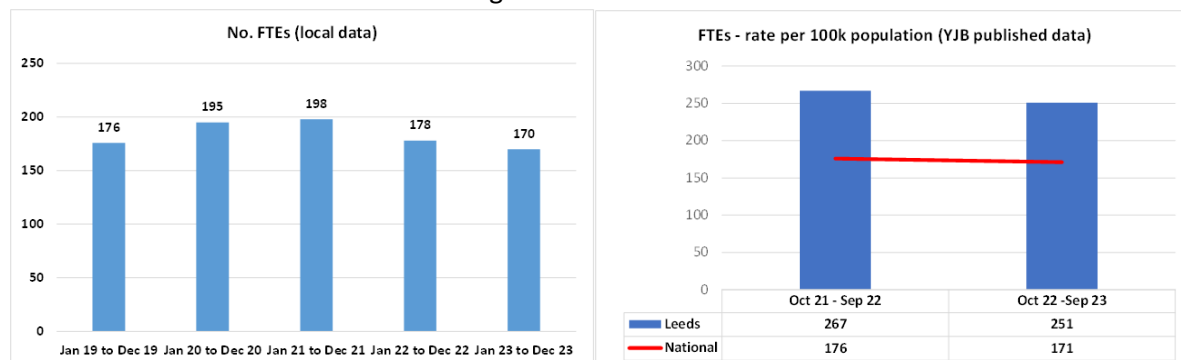
Overall reoffending rates have remained at around 20% in the reporting period.

For those who receive an outcome at Youth Panel, the reoffending rate has fluctuated and latest figure in December 2022 stood at 18%.

Education is a key factor in reducing the reoffending rate. The additional Education Officer capacity within the service provides the opportunity to further develop this area of work, with the focus for the forthcoming year on developing Individualised Education Plans for targeted cohorts of children. The number of NEET children, particularly post-16, highlights a significant gap for those at risk of reoffending.

First Time Entrants

The latest annual YJB figures were published in December 2023 and relate to the period to end of September 2023. The FTE rate (per 100k population) in Leeds has fallen by 6% in the 12-month period to September 2023, whereas nationally the numbers have fallen by 2.8%, so although the rate in Leeds remains higher, the gap has been narrowed. The YJB has changed the source data for the figures, from PNC to case level data, so we are not able to compare with historic FTE rates beyond the last year. This cohort includes children who receive an outcome at court and those who are given a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution.



Reducing the number of FTEs remains a strategic priority for the service.

Use of Custody

Custody and Remands Q3 2023/24	Young People
DTO/Custody Programme	3
Remand in Custody (YDA) SCH	5
Remand in Custody (YDA) STC	0
Remand in Custody (YDA) YOI	7
Remand to LAA Status/Programme	2
Section 250 Through Care Programme (prev Section 90/91)	8
Grand Total	25

This table shows the number of children on remand or in custody in the quarter from data held in ChildView. The numbers of children in custody has increased, both for the remanded and sentenced cohort. As highlighted in this report, learning from the Remand Thematic Inspection (May 2023) has highlighted opportunities to improve work with CSWS to prevent unnecessary remands, and has directly fed into this refreshed strategy.

Additional key performance indicators

From April 2023 the YJS was required to report on the following new Key Performance Indicators, with the first submission from August 2023. Data is scheduled for publication by the YJB in Spring 2025. It is not yet possible to obtain over 12 months data on these additional KPIs at a local level for trends and themes to be demonstrated.

Suitable accommodation

Suitability of accommodation is recorded for all children on Childview. Guidance has been developed for case managers on the recording requirements for the date that accommodation is secured for custodial releases for case managers, to ensure consistency and accurate data is able to be reported on.

Suitability is impacted by families living in temporary accommodation due to homelessness, difficulties identifying suitable placements for children looked after, and children becoming homeless due to family breakdown after the age of 16. A housing consultant has worked with LCC to identify a strategy between CSWS and Leeds housing, which is under consideration. There is an invest to save strategy within the Corporate Parenting service; a placements team manager for 16 and 17 year olds has been appointed, a family reunification team has been set up, new inhouse children's homes are being developed and a placements support team is being recruited to. Managers within the service have provided training on youth justice to the

Our Way Leeds supported housing team to increase their understanding and enhance the support they can provide to children they are working with in the youth justice system.

[Education, training and employment](#)

An education screening tool has been developed for Education Officers to complete at the start and end of interventions on all children with regard to the suitability of their education offer. This takes into account hours offered and attended, and plans to support with special educational needs or reintegration into school if on a reduced timetable. The screening has been developed with an educational consultant within the Virtual School to provide objective standards for suitability, the consistency of this judgement is benchmarked by Education Officers.

Education hours offered for school age children and post-16 children is part of current performance data set; education suitability data is now being harnessed and will be included in future data sets.

[Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs](#)

In order to identify SEND needs, initial case checks take place on education systems and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are uploaded onto Childview. The education screening tool (as outlined above) further identifies whether children have SEN, are on the SEN register and whether they have a SEN support plan other than an EHCP.

All new intervention checks include a history check on the speech and language (SLT) service database also, and all children are eligible for referral for assessment to the Speech and Language Therapist, where case managers identify a need, including those priority areas highlighted above. SLT assessments have increased the identification of children with undiagnosed SEN and communication passports are provided to education provisions where new needs are identified.

[Mental health care and emotional wellbeing](#)

The YJS is working with CAMHS to look at collecting and matching data for the KPIs including identifying children already receiving an intervention. However, given that the emotional wellbeing and mental health offer within Leeds is diverse, the work to understand this verifiable fuller picture of intervention engagement will take some considerable time to establish. YJ Nurses undertake case manager caseload review meetings to ensure all children requiring referral for intervention are being identified, and then identify the appropriate level of Thrive intervention.

[Substance misuse](#)

The YJS and Forward Leeds have reviewed service provision and recognised the positive impact of having dedicated workers attached to teams. Each YJS area team now has a substance use worker one day per week. Within the first quarter of implementation this has increased referrals and sustained interventions. Forward Leeds also have a groupwork education offer, which is currently being trialled with the plan to roll out across the service over the forthcoming year. Substance use is one of the KPIs which is recognised as an area for development as children can be reluctant to be referred to a specialist service however it identified that there is a high level of need regarding substance use within the current cohort of children. The YJS SDM chairs the Children's Drug and Alcohol Partnership meeting, which develops and oversees the children's priority for the citywide Drug and Alcohol Action Plan.

There are currently challenges in being able to record prior involvement with Forward Leeds as part of the KPI for children commencing with the YJS due to data sharing barriers, the YJS and Forward Leeds are working together to overcome these barriers.

[Out-of-court disposals](#)

The KPI requirements are already met by data already included in quarterly YJS performance report and highlighted within this report.

[Links to wider service](#)

Information on wider service involvement is gathered through initial new intervention checks against relevant databases.

[Management board attendance](#)

Management board attendance is monitored (see Appendix 1). The KPIs are discussed at the partnership meeting and performance data is being revised to include the new KPI requirements.

[Serious violence](#)

This is monitored through the Youth Justice Application Framework and internal performance data. In addition, as outlined within the section on Serious Violence and throughout this report, this is a significant priority and challenge for the city and YJS.

In February-March 2024 the YJS was part of the JTAI focusing on Serious Youth Violence, within which positive feedback was received regarding the response of the service and partnership to children identified as being at risk or involved in serious youth violence.

[Victims](#)

This data is already collected by Victim Liaison Officers, as highlighted within this report

[Local performance](#)

Over the past twelve months the YJS has developed an internal monthly reporting-up mechanism which monitors the performance of all teams. This requires each team to analyse key data alongside the narrative relating to that data. This is providing the service with greater strategic oversight of the key strengths and challenges in performance, and highlights areas for development for the service.

An internal quarterly performance review meeting is currently being developed to compliment the reporting-up mechanism. This will commence in Q1.

Risks and Issues

Serious Youth Violence

Serious Youth Violence has been a significant challenge for the city over the past few years. Multi-agency focus on the local needs assessment, and strategic and operational response to serious violence and to the prevention of it, as detailed within this document, has resulted in tangible measures in place to reduce serious violence. The city's response was recently praised in the JTAI focusing on Serious Youth Violence, 2024. Data has demonstrated a reduction in incidents of violence, however despite these efforts the city has sadly seen tragedies that have impacted across all services, not least the YJS.

The level of risk and concern for the safety of others that the service is working with currently is unparalleled. An increase in the complexity of work paints a worrying picture for many of the children that we are working with. This in turn impacts on the resilience of staff, previously those covering the East of the city, where there is the highest prevalence of serious youth violence, have been most impacted, however the past year has seen incidents of violence spread further across the city, and as a result staff resilience across the service has been impacted. The links between serious youth violence, exploitation, urban street gangs and serious organised crime is evident, and as the new 'Working Together Model' has rolled out that as a city the focus has shifted to becoming more preventative in our responses, alongside having clearly established processes for a timely, partnership response when an incidence has occurred, with the aim to ultimately save lives.

In addition to the citywide response, internally the YJS undertake regular 'mapping' exercises to try to better understand children, concerns for them and the safety of others, in order to try and better understand rivalries and keep children and staff safe when attending appointments.

Staff safety is an absolute priority, and in response to the increase in serious youth violence the YJS has reviewed all risk assessments and made appropriate amendments to reflect the increase in risk to children and staff; individualised staff communication agreements have been put in place to ensure that should a significant incident occur that staff are supported in a way that is tailored to their needs. The YJS is part of a wider Leeds City Council working group looking at lone working and safe working practices; new guidance has been developed for staff across the whole directorate in that regard.

Poverty and the cost of living crisis

The impact of poverty and the cost of living crisis continues to be evident in relation to the children we work with, their families, to staff, as a service and within the wider council itself. We have continue to see families having to choose between food and heating over the winter period. With deepening inequalities impacting on social exclusion, disaffection and crime, alongside a growth in children being exploited into serious organised crime, seemingly taking advantage of the poverty that many find themselves within. The YJS continues to advocate for children and their families, routinely signposting to specialist support services and distributing Fareshare food to those in need.

The impact of the cost of living crisis also has a knock-on effect to staff and their morale, many of whom may themselves have had to make difficult financial decisions. As a service, budgets have had to be balanced, with decisions taken to reduce spend in some areas to ensure that the service can keep running without impacting on children, and without necessitating a reduction in staffing.

Public sector finances

Organisationally, there continues to be significant financial pressure on the city council and other public services. One of the significant factors in the deficit are the rising costs of caring for vulnerable children in the city. Within the YJS we have seen an increasing number of children requiring placements, often outside of Leeds due to the perceived risk within the city. The benefit of the service strategically focusing on parents and carers as 'Protective Partners' aims to increase the number of children living safely within their families, thereby reducing any unnecessary spend on the cost of care.

In addition, many third sector partners are seeing a reduction in funding, impacting on their ability to support vulnerable children and families across the city. Leeds has a strong partnership, demonstrated through the citywide work in respect of serious youth violence, however it has to be acknowledged that reduced resources and financial pressures over the forthcoming years is a risk for the service.

At the time of writing, the YJS has yet to receive confirmation of grant for 2024/25 from the Youth Justice Board, making financial planning a challenge. In addition to this we have received notification that Turnaround funding will cease from March 2025 presenting a significant challenge to our preventative and diversionary offer. Additional specific grant funds remain subject to annual renewal, meaning funds may reduce or potentially cease altogether. Where short-term funding streams have been made available to the YJS, their time limited nature means it is often difficult to adapt our delivery model and staffing arrangements in the required timescales, Immediate Justice has been a prime example of this.

As part of our strategy to manage risks to future service delivery in an uncertain financial climate, the Youth Justice Service will consider the organisational structure over the forthcoming year. This will ensure that it is fully aligned to enable the delivery of statutory work, whilst aligning strategically with partners to deliver non-statutory work where the service is not able to fund delivery internally. The strong restorative value-base of the service will continue to transcend these challenges 'with' children, families and multi-agency partnerships. We are committed to continuing to innovate and improve outcomes for children in the city, alongside our key partners.

Plan for the Forthcoming Year

Child First

Child Friendly Leeds was launched in 2012 and is the thread which brings together all the work we do to create better outcomes for all children in the city. This is a crucial element of the council's work to become the best city in the UK by 2030 and the Youth Justice Service work with partners across Leeds to ensure children in the justice system are fully included in this work. The concept of Child Friendly Leeds is well understood by agencies and means that a child-first approach to youth justice is an accepted ambition in the wider partnership beyond the Children and Families Directorate. The YJS values statement was developed in 2018 as a way of describing what child-friendly youth justice means both in principle and practice. The values statement is very visible in the buildings where we meet children, is widely shared with partners and forms part of the induction for Partnership Board members.

The key priority areas and objectives identified by the Youth Justice Partnership Board and Service in the Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 are founded on child-first, relational principles and demonstrate our ambition to address disadvantage and discrimination, prevent offending and divert children away from the formal criminal justice system and promote positive opportunities for those within the system. Examples of our child-first approach are woven throughout this document.

Voice of the Child

The YJS remains committed to putting the child at the centre of all we do and recognise the importance of creating a collaborative and inclusive environment which supports them to take ownership and helps improve their motivation. Understanding the journeys of the children we work with leaves us better placed to work with them in ways which are the most effective in achieving best outcomes.

The service recognises the importance of building a strong foundation when working with children and key to achieving this is through taking a relational approach. With this in mind the service is committed to appointing staff with the requisite skills and values to engage with children in the right way, at the right time. In order to get this right, the YJS involves children in the recruitment and selection of staff and places significant weighting on the views of children.

Recognising the benefits of the work we did last year with Leeds Involving People who represented the independent voice of the child, we are once again working with an independent project. The 'Child First' research project, commissioned by The Nuffield Foundation, aiming to develop a greater understanding of what children think about how they're involved in the Youth Justice decision-making processes.

Our model for Referral Orders includes the report for panel being written in the child's words and focus is placed on the child achieving their desired outcomes through help and support and ensuring victim needs are met through Making it Right.

The YJS ensures that children's views are gathered at the start of every intervention and at subsequent reviews. The YJS places importance on the child having a voice in all processes and on them taking ownership of their plan, which is done in collaboration with the child and their family, which also includes an emphasis on parents and carers as protective partners.

Children and parents/carers also complete self-assessment questionnaires at the start of an intervention, which are periodically reviewed. The information from the questionnaire is used not only to inform how we work most effectively with the child but also enables the YJS to identify service delivery strengths and areas for development, in order to ensure delivery of the best service possible to children.

The YJS undertakes an annual Child's Voice survey and uses the feedback to inform service development. It is the aim of the service to develop collaborative opportunities with children and to increase the child's voice within the strategic partnership.



Trauma Informed Practice

[Public Health England's Child Health Profile for Leeds](#), March 2023, estimates that:

- Children in relative low income families (under 16s) has increased to 24.6% compared to a national average of 18.5%

[Public Health England's report into health outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in Leeds](#) estimated in 2021 that:

- 19.8% of children in Leeds live in households with any of the so-called toxic trio (domestic violence, parental mental health, parental substance abuse)
- 1.2% of children live in households with all three

Leeds is on a journey to becoming a trauma-informed city, and as a result 'The Compassionate Leeds: Trauma awareness, prevention and response strategy' was launched in April 2023 and sets out the ambitious vision for partners in Leeds to work collectively as a trauma-informed city where we realise the widespread and unequal impact of adversity and recognise the part we can each play in overcoming this.

In response to this some significant developments have been undertaken recently including -

The Trauma Awareness Prevention and Response Community Grants Scheme has been set up and administered. The NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board in Leeds, Leeds City Council and Forum Central have partnered with Leeds Community Foundation to deliver a grants programme that seeks to boost protective factors in children who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, adversity.

The Leeds Trauma Informed Practice Integrated Resource Team has been further developed and will deliver on the following outcomes:

- The workforce working with children and families in Leeds will understand and adopt a trauma informed lens within their practice
- The organisations they work within will understand and actively support them to adopt this trauma-informed approach
- Key workforce groups will be able to access ongoing support to develop and embed a trauma informed approach in their work through reflective case discussion, supervision formulation and consultation
- There will be easy and streamlined access to joined-up, integrated trauma-focused expertise and recovery-focused intervention where needed.

- Stakeholder agencies and arenas will be working in partnership towards a Compassionate, Trauma-Informed Leeds across the life-course; families, schools/colleges and communities will have increased awareness of the impact of trauma and adversity in childhood.

This work will be a collective effort across the Leeds System to ensure children and their families are supported and with members represented from the Youth Justice Partnership Board on the Trauma Awareness, Prevention and Response Steering Group we can continue to ensure join up across the programmes of work. Trauma continues to be a key priority for children in Leeds, with a considerable number having adverse experiences which increase the risk of poor outcomes through into adulthood. In Leeds we are prioritising the early identification and support of these children and families, developing trauma informed practice across the city with clear access to expert advice and intervention when needed. The wider Leeds partnership works closely with colleagues in adult services to include the intergenerational aspect of trauma and the importance of [‘Think Family, Work family’](#).

Within the YJS staff take a trauma-informed approach to their work with children and families in recognition of the impact of trauma in childhood, an understanding of the reasons that underpin the difficulties that some children have with their relationships, engagement in a learning environment and with their behaviour supports the journey to better outcomes. This approach also enables staff to advocate for the children that they are working with.

Resources and Services

Funding for Leeds Youth Justice Service for 2022/23 is made up of contributions from statutory partners, Childrens Services, Probation, NHS, Police, Youth Justice Board, Ministry of Justice and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The YJS also oversees the local authority budget provided to meet the cost of children remanded to the secure estate. Probation, Police and NHS resources are notionally allocated based on staff seconded to the service.

The full contributions that make up the overall Youth Justice Service budget can be seen in Appendix 4.

We use our grant, partner contributions and available resources to deliver the services detailed within this document and believe that they meet our statutory obligations, and the obligations of grant funding. As outlined above, part of our strategy to manage financial risks to service deliver, the YJS will consider the organisational structure over the forthcoming year with the aim of improving performance across our priority areas.

Board Development

In September 2023 the Leeds YJ Partnership Board had a workshop, and requested that this was facilitated by the YJB, the Leeds YJ Partnership Board identified a number of actions to support its journey and commitment to continuous improvement. Subsequently the membership of the Board has been reviewed, with additional representatives from Education and Wetherby YOI joining the Board, a new Board induction has been developed and Terms of Reference updated. Board meetings continue to be themed to one of the identified priority areas, underpinned by data. A further Board workshop is planned for the summer.

The 2024 JTAI focusing on serious youth violence recognised the YJ Partnership Board to be a ‘strong partnership.’

Workforce Development

Leeds Youth Justice Service workforce development strategy is in line with the Youth Justice Service Professional Framework and aims to develop and maintain a high-quality workforce. In the last 12 months, there has been an 18% increase in the total caseload, this is compared to the previous 12 months when there was a 2% increase. Non-statutory interventions have increased by 65% and statutory interventions have decreased by just 2%. Alongside the volume of cases increasing, the level of complexity of the cohort of children known to the YJS has also increased. The workforce development strategy has been designed to support the workforce in response to increases in workloads.

This year, the YJS has recognised the Level 5 Youth Justice apprenticeship as the main progression route for staff to achieve qualified status. The YJS has chosen to partner with Intelligencia training. The apprenticeship is fully funded by the Apprenticeship Levy, thus being comparably more accessible for staff than the previous Youth Justice Foundation degree route, as they do not need to make a financial contribution. Due to this and the additional support built into the programme for those without passes in English and/or maths GCSEs the apprenticeship offers a more inclusive option for staff to develop, who may have experienced disadvantage. The YJS has 3 candidates on cohort 1 of the apprenticeship and 3 more staff about to start cohort 2. The cohorts are being delivered with candidates across Yorkshire, enabling our staff to learn from other YJS practice. We are expecting the first cohort to complete in 2025. It is an ambition of the service to develop existing staff and to create an evidence-based progression route for staff.

Practice Managers (PMs) provide new starters with thorough and tailored inductions with a mix of group and individual training opportunities. The Information Officer and PMs have worked with the Council IT trainers to develop video packages for Childview training, which can be used for induction but also an ongoing reference resource for the service. Our induction processes for practitioners detail their learning for the first six months of their employment in the Service; it includes the minimum training required, expectations around informal learning and competency expectations.

Staff continue to benefit from the wide-ranging offer from Leeds City Council Workforce Development Team for example restorative practice, child exploitation/contextual safeguarding and trauma informed practice. The LCC Prevent team, also provide an annual Prevent awareness week programme, with online speakers around a range of related subjects, which YJS have participated in.

AIM3 training for Harmful Sexual Behaviour was jointly recommissioned by West Yorkshire YJSs this year, co-ordinated by Leeds. Managers have also attended AIM3 supervision training, to strengthen quality assurance arrangements for AIM3 assessments within the service, the demand for which has increased over the last year.

Risk Management Panels have been refreshed in the service into a Concerns for the Safety of Others Tiered Approach. Training has been delivered to the whole service, alongside a programme of risk training delivered by PMs. This programme of training will also include training for Chairs of those meetings to ensure consistency. The training plan for 2024 will continue to embed this new process.

The whole service attended Risk Out of the Home (ROTH) Pathway training to enable the YJS to be a proactive advocate for the newly embedded ROTH Child Protection pathway in CSWS.

We continue to work with PATH Yorkshire to give a local person from an ethnically diverse community the opportunity of a traineeship in the Service. There is currently one PATH trainee in the service, with the plan to recruit a further trainee. This has previously recognised as a good practice example by HMIP.

The whole service has undertaken a number of Restorative Practice sessions with the aim of refreshing the restorative culture of the service, alongside which the management team have been accessing Restorative Practice Action Learning Sets, supported by the Workforce Development Team. This work will continue into 2024/25 and aims to support resiliency within the workforce.

The YJS has primarily focused on recruiting and supporting referral order panel volunteers and mentors this year. We currently have 27 volunteers, a third of whom are from ethnically diverse backgrounds and around a third are male. Volunteers have had a monthly training offer from the YJS specialists including SLCN and trauma informed practice, to ensure they have a good knowledge of the issues faced by children in the criminal justice system. The Volunteer Co-ordinator post was vacant, however a new co-ordinator has now started with the service. Whilst the post was vacant there was some impact on volunteer retention, with the business support team providing extra support to panel members. The plan is for a volunteer recruitment drive to be undertaken late Spring 2024.

The training plan for the forthcoming year will include embedding the Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool in the Service.

Evidence-based Practice and Innovation

Leeds Youth Justice Service works within the context of the city's ambition to be child friendly. In practice this means working with children and their family in a positive, individualised and future focussed way. This child-first, relational approach is evidence based, grounded as it is in desistance theory. Some examples of our innovative projects are below:

[Seed to Feed and Beyond](#)

At the Youth Justice Centre, we have continued to make the most of the generous gardens and the specific skills of an Activities Worker who combines lived experience of the justice system with huge knowledge of the natural world and practical expertise. Children have the opportunity to engage in the 'Seed to Feed' project, growing food to give to local charities. In addition, opportunities to develop and accredit creative outdoor work have been individualised around children's own interests. Children love their one-to-one time with our worker, whose expertise and enthusiasm for his work is infectious, he describes his work as not being solely about the seed that is planted in the ground, but also the seed that is planted in the minds of children, about the different possibilities and perspectives in life, and the opportunities that children have *beyond* the YJS.

Case Study

In Summer 2023, the Activities Worker was approached by a delivery driver who introduced themselves as the step-father of a child that the YJS had previously worked with, and who had undertaken work under the Seed to Feed and Beyond umbrella two years prior. Now aged 19, they were described as often talking about the Activities Worker, and the things that they had learned from him.

Whilst with the YJS during one Seed to Feed session, the child shared that their watch had broken. The Activities Worker encouraged the child not to throw the watch away, but to mend it, teaching him how to fix it, and what tools were needed. This particular session planted a seed in the mind of the child, who has since gone on to do an apprenticeship as a watch-maker, and who is now working at one of the top jewellers in Leeds, fixing high-end watches.

[Skill Mill](#)

Leeds YOS over the past nine years established a Skill Mill. The Skill Mill provides young ex-offenders with a paid job working in natural environments, developing practical and employability skills and promoting desistance from crime.

The model works by employing a cohort of 4 children at any one time for a period of 6 months. During this time each cohort receives six months paid employment, invaluable practical real work experience, a nationally recognised qualification, and further opportunities for progression with local companies at the end of their time with The Skill Mill.

The programme has four main objectives; Reducing Re-Offending; Job Creation; Skill Development and Flood Risk Reduction/Natural Habitat Protection. In addition, it is designed to provide a step up arrangement into mainstream opportunities and to challenge discrimination by employers and the wider community of young ex-offenders.

We have established commercial partnerships with CEG, Myers and Leeds City Council among others to attract paid work. Over the past 12 months we have continued to work to establish better links with local communities and organisations to create added value for children and those communities.

For the last 2 years Skill Mill nationally has been awarded £2 Million in central Government funding through the Life Chances Fund. This enabled Leeds YJS to run two cohorts of Skill Mill, this funding has now finished and as a result the YJS has reverted to a single cohort.

[ROCLA / Preparing for Adulthood Forum](#)

Recognising the longstanding over-representation of children looked after (CLA) in the justice system, The Reducing Offending by Children Looked After (ROCLA) multi-agency panel aims to find ways of appropriately diverting children in the care system away from offending and into positive support services. Currently Leeds YJS chair the ROCLA panel alongside: SAFE project, Liaison and Diversion, Therapeutic Childrens social work, CAMHS, Leeds Virtual school, Leeds Youth Service, Barca-Leeds, and WY Police attending as panel members. ROCLA was praised by Inspectors in the recent JTAI inspection focused on Serious Youth Violence.

Referrals into the ROCLA multi-agency panel provide CLA social workers the opportunity to refer children who have been identified as most at risk of being involved in offending before they have had any statutory contact with the justice system. ROCLA is held monthly and provides opportunity for an early intervention, trauma informed conversation about the appropriate services and responses to meet the child's needs. ROCLA uses a holistic approach and is solution and strengths focussed, aiming to understand the vulnerabilities and complexities of the child and where appropriate, different services are identified and recommended to the allocated Social Worker, aiming to avoid the stigma of criminalisation. ROCLA is underpinned by a relational approach, creating a strong partnership focused on reducing the numbers of care experienced children entering the criminal justice system.

The Preparing for Adulthood Forum is run jointly between Children's Social Work Service and Adult's Services, and provides a multi-agency forum to discuss vulnerable children on the cusp of adulthood in order to identify support available to them in that transitional period. This is an invaluable forum for many children within the YJS.

[Knife Angel & Project Shield](#)

As a response to the serious violence duty and concerns relating to serious violence within the city, February 2024 saw the arrival of the Knife Angel in the city for that month, alongside a Knife Crime Intensification Month and the launch of Project Shield as highlighted within this Plan. The YJS plays an active role in this partnership.

[Stay on Track](#)

Music is a powerful tool for engagement and one which all our children are familiar with. The YJS continues to run a music programme which is delivered both on a 1:1 basis and in groups which offers hands on experience of using music equipment and writing lyrics with positive messages. Key skills that are embedded through this programme include: communication, literacy, exploration of different cultures and confidence in public speaking.

[Resolve / ReConnect](#)

The YJS has had a dedicated family group conference and restorative conference practitioner for some years. All children open to the YJS are eligible for consideration for a family group conference or restorative meeting. These meetings are designed to improve family relationships and positive support networks for children and their parents/carers with the aim of reducing re-offending. This area of work embeds the restorative practice element of the Leeds Practice Principles within the YJS. The impact of this method of working can be significant, with families developing and owning their own plan, and addressing issues that had previously been 'stuck'. The evidence base for family group conferencing and restorative practices is well established and we are aligned with the city's family group conferencing service which undertakes the same work with the aim of supporting families to reduce care proceedings.

[Black History Month](#)

Throughout October the service celebrated Black History Month through a number of initiatives which included working with children to produce pieces of work that could be displayed at an event at the culmination of the month, undertaken in 1:1 and group sessions. This included artwork, poems, songs and raps/drill music. The inspirational event had a number of speakers from the global majority, including senior leaders, who shared their own personal experiences with children.

[Holocaust Memorial Day](#)

Leeds YJS has an educational Holocaust Memorial Day display. The display is designed to inspire YJS children and staff, to educate them about the events of the Holocaust and other genocides and devote their energies to 'building up' rather than 'tearing down' others. The display is available to view throughout the year. It is suitable for all ages and abilities, and all staff are encouraged to attend and bring their children to access it. In addition to the annual display, two Holocaust Awareness sessions have also been created which are designed to help children understand the context of the Holocaust, and to encourage them to consider how they can reach out to other individuals and groups who are in need of support and protection from hate and bigotry. These sessions help with identifying and addressing racial inequality in line with the Youth Justice Plan, developing empathy and victim awareness, issues relating to peer pressure and social pressure, consideration of belief systems and morality and decision making. Participation in the sessions and attendance at the HMD display also contribute to Making it Right hours. In addition, Antisemitism awareness training for all staff was provided by the Community Security Trust.

[Family Practitioner](#)

Leeds YJS have this year created a Family Practitioner role sat within the Turnaround prevention and diversion team. The focus of this role, in line with the Turnaround objectives, is to 'improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children' by supporting parents and carers with their own struggles that may then impact on their child's well-being and risk of (re)offending. Our worker also has a background in Speech and Language which has meant she has been able to tailor her work in a way that is meaningful for the child. This role takes a collaborative approach to identifying issues within the family, and can be delivered alongside our dedicated FGC worker. Examples of the work undertaken by the Family Practitioner: advocacy with bureaucracy, meeting practical needs in the home in relation to poverty, making referrals into more sustainable support such as counselling, supporting parents to develop their skills as protective partners, such as in setting boundaries and safety plans, educational work around specific risk concerns such as exploitation, enabling skills such as body language, comfort, and re-setting emotions when things get hard. We are also establishing a coffee morning for peer support for parents and carers.

[Swimming](#)

Recognising the benefits of engaging children in positive activities the YJS delivered a 10-week swimming programme delivered by a qualified Swim England instructor. The objectives were:

- To improve children's confidence in and around water.
- To encourage children to engage in constructive activities.
- To improve physical and mental wellbeing.
- To gain a swimming certificate.
- To promote the other positive activities available at council run health centres.

The programme was very well received by the children who took advantage of this vital life skill.

[Christmas Event](#)

In order to raise funds to provide additional support to children and their families over the festive period, a fundraising event was held for staff and partners, supported by children working with the YJS and local businesses. The event raised in the region of £700, and enabled the purchase of everyday and luxury items for 45 hampers for children and their families. We were also able to provide 65 gifts for children, either for themselves or to give to parents and carers.

[PACT](#)

The PACT (Parents and Children Together) programme is a specialist group-work programme for families where a child has been violent or abusive towards their parent/s or carer/s. The group involves parallel

programmes for parents and children and has been running for a number of years facilitated by the YJS. The programme is currently being evaluated.

[Leeds Practice Model](#)

The Leeds Practice Model builds on all aspects of practice and what we know to be useful when assessing, implementing and evaluating what we do, and underpins the practice of the YJS, and aligns the partnership in Leeds. The Leeds Practice Model contains the five key elements of:

- Rethink Formulation - a way of unifying and developing practice across services in Leeds.
- Leeds Practice Principles – always working WITH, creating a context of high support and high challenge with children, families and each other; relationship-based practice; working early in the life of a problem; ensuring interventions are evidence based, formulation driven and systemic; strengths based
- Outcome Focused Supervision.
- Continuous Development; and
- Multi-agency Context.

The model places the family at the central point of convergence of these elements; each element is complementary and necessary to the other, and in turn they place emphasis on creating effective relationships, staying focused and using evidence-based approaches.

Evaluation

[Child-First Research](#)

The Nuffield Foundation commissioned a Child-First research project to develop a greater understanding of what children think about how they're involved in youth justice decision-making processes. The research explored how the system places children centre stage, prioritising their rights and engagement, and views, thereby promoting diversion away from the youth justice system and focusing on positive results for children. The researchers interviewed children involved with the service to share their experiences and views. The project aims to produce child-friendly guidance and materials on collaborative practice, with training made available to youth justice staff on embedding children's views into their practice. The research took place over a 6 month period, and a total of 20 children were interviewed. The researcher reported that "the children I interviewed were very positive about the support they received from Leeds YJS, saying that they were involved in decision-making about what their plan, felt supported by their Youth Justice Worker and they were listened to."

[Exploring Racial Disparity in Youth Justice Decision Making](#)

Leeds YJS are currently part of a research project, undertaken by the University of Bedfordshire and Manchester Metropolitan University, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, aims to explore the extent to which, and in what ways, decision-making at the gateway to the youth justice system influences racial disparities within that system. The research highlights that while the number of children entering the youth justice system has fallen substantially in recent years, that there has continued to be an increase in the over-representation of minoritised children. The research will aim to test the hypothesis that these trends can be explained, at least in part, by an increase in the use of diversion – including to non-formal outcomes – which appears to have benefited white children to a great extent than other groups.

[Immediate Justice](#)

WYCA have commissioned an independent evaluation of the Immediate Justice Pilot across West Yorkshire, which will take place 2024/25. This will encompass an evaluation of how each YJS has implemented and delivered on this agenda, and upon its effectiveness.

Standards for Children

Self-Assessment

The YJB self-assessment for “Standard 2: Work in Court” was undertaken in October 2023. The assessment explored three categories; Strategy, Reports and Process, with the latter two requiring an assessment of practice by considering a sample of cases going through court during the period from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

Strategy

The self-assessment identified that we have a number of strategies in place to minimise the unnecessary use of remands, including Bail and remand management policy, Remand Checklist and West Yorkshire PACE Joint Protocol. The positive impact these overarching strategies have on avoiding the unnecessary use of remand into youth detention accommodation, was demonstrated when HMIP visited Leeds as part of their Thematic Inspection of Remands in May 2023.

Ensuring that we are taking all possible steps to divert children away from Court was identified as an area for improvement. Although we have a number of diversionary areas of practice in Leeds, including; Youth Panels (Out of Court Disposals/Outcome 22), early help through the Turnaround Team and the recent addition of a restorative diversionary intervention through the ‘Immediate Justice’ pilot, with written and up to date procedures in relation to diversionary areas of practice, there is not an over-arching procedure regarding the approach and how the service aims to divert children from court. A piece of work is currently underway to develop this, including ensuring defence solicitors are fully aware of Outcome 22 and putting in place procedures to divert children who have already been summonsed to Court back to Youth Panel where appropriate.

Reports

The quality of reports produced for the Courts was identified as an outstanding area of practice. They were found to be child-focussed, analytical, desistance focused, using sufficient sources of information, considering diversity, balanced and impartial, succinct and written in plain, jargon-free language. Ensuring the views of the child and their parents/carers were evidenced within the reports was also identified as an area of good practice, as was ensuring that reports took account of the impact on victims. No areas for development were identified in this category.

Process

Ensuring that children are able to engage in the Court process was an area of good practice, with strong evidence that staff are taking sufficient steps to ensure that children understand the outcome of court, including explaining the outcome immediately following court, and then subsequently reiterating court outcomes following the hearing. Although the assessment found that parents were informed of Court outcomes, there was less evidence of them being supported to fully understand proceedings and outcomes. It is felt that this is primarily a recording issue and has been identified as an area for development.

Risk Management

As highlighted above, the YJS has continued to keep risk management processes under review. This year we have launched a new tiered system, incorporating the YJB’s preferred terminology change in line with the Child First agenda and so practice previously known as ‘risk management’ is being re-framed around ‘concerns for the safety of the child and others’. In line with this shift, but also in response to learning from quality assurance processes and critical learning reports, Leeds YJS have committed to reviewing the way that the child and the public’s safety is managed across the board. The objectives around this piece of work have been to shift case-manager’s understanding of the concept of ‘keeping safe’ as opposed to ‘managing risk’; to improve skills around analysis and professional curiosity; to improve the effectiveness of the way our partners

and staff work as a 'team around the child', including the parent and child; reduce duplication where possible; and to improve lines of escalation and senior oversight both within Children's Services but also alongside the Probation Service and MAPPA.

This piece of work has been a focus throughout 2023/24 and has included audits, reviewing best practice from other YJS around the country, and critical learning processes into cases that have resulted in death/serious injury and/or custody. An action plan has been developed alongside consultation with partners, and staff groups. A new tiering system has been introduced which will enable our existing assessment processes to target the right resources and level of seniority to those children who present the highest concerns. Work is ongoing with our Probation colleagues about how to manage children who present concern in the context of serious youth violence both whilst still a child, but also once the adult threshold has been reached. A modular training package sits alongside this area of development.

Quality Assurance

The YJS undertakes routine auditing as part of QA work within the service. This has included auditing MAPPA cases, auditing case work against the current draft HMIP Inspection Framework and multi-agency auditing following identified actions at the YJ Partnership Board into themes such as FTEs. This work is planned to continue into the forthcoming year, aligning strategic priorities to the auditing cycle as part of our QA framework. It is the intention to explore how the voice of children and families can be brought into auditing, aligning with the Interactive Audit style that Leeds CSWS has adopted.

Service Development

This plan outlines the key priorities of the service for the Leeds Youth Justice Plan 2024-27. This strategy has been devised in reference to existing and linked strategies as highlighted above, and also aligns with the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales Strategic Plan 2024-27.

Serious incidents

There have been eight serious incidents concerning Leeds children between April 2023 and March 2024, as defined by the YJB's Community Safeguarding and Public Protection Incident reporting procedures. Two were tragically murdered whilst involved with the YJS, two children were charged with murder, one with attempted murder and three were under the criteria of GBH or wounding with or without intent – section 18/20. Multi-agency learning lessons reviews have been undertaken locally, with learning shared in the YJS itself, with partner agencies and at the YJS Partnership Board, with findings directly feeding into the service development plan.

Learning from HMIP inspections

At the time of writing, Leeds Youth Justice Service was last inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation in June 2019, with the final inspection report published in early January 2020. The inspectorate's final judgement in that report was that the Service required improvement. Since that time the YJS has been working towards a service improvement plan linked to those recommendations, however given the passage of time a new service development plan is being developed alongside the refreshed strategy.

In 2021 Leeds YJS was one of a number of YJSs to participate in the HMIP's thematic inspection on work with 'black and mixed heritage boys.' Disproportionality continues to be an area for development for the service despite being a key focus of the previous multi-year Youth Justice Plan, and will continue to be a strategic priority for the service moving forward.

In May 2023 Leeds YJS was one of eleven YJSs to participate in the HMIP and Ofsted's joint thematic inspection on '[Work With Children Subject to Remand in Youth Detention.](#)' The thematic report made a number of recommendations for Youth Justice Services and partners. In response we are working closely with colleagues

in CSWS to develop a joint remand policy with the aim of improving joint working to reducing the number of children remanded YDA.

From the 19th February – 8th March 2024 Leeds was visited under a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) with a focus on Serious Youth Violence, and in particular the partnership response to serious youth violence under the Serious Violence Duty. The report’s headline findings stated there is a “clear and mutually agreed focus on locally-based early intervention and prevention” and this involved a “high level” of engagement with children and families. It recognised that “Practitioners are astute and committed and many work relentlessly and passionately with children and families to reduce risks and inspire and divert children away from serious youth violence.” Inspectors also highlighted the “strong” multi-agency relationships among the city’s strengths as well as organisations’ use of data, research and information-sharing.

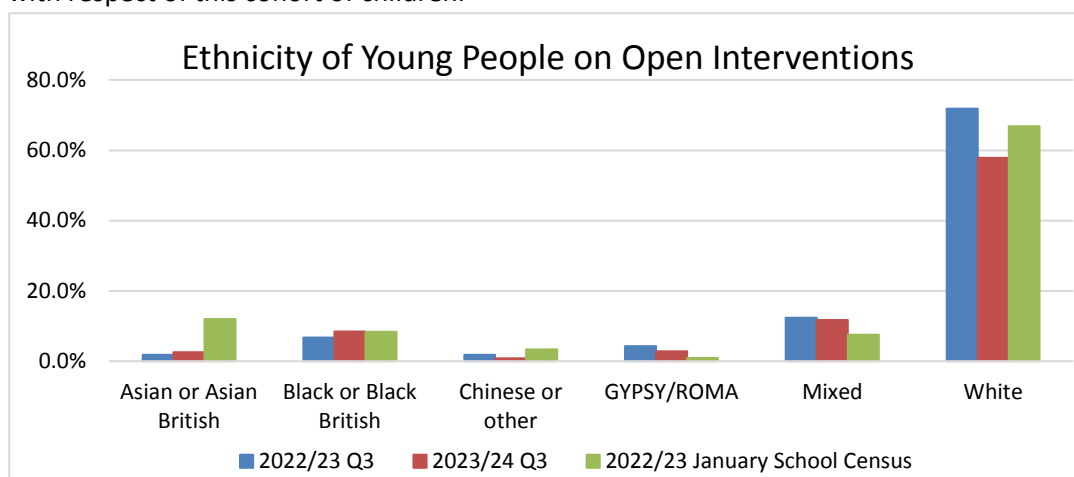
National Priority Areas

Children from groups which are over-represented

Our analysis of children working with the YJS in the year 2023–24 uses school census information as a comparator.

	2021 Census 10-17 population	2023 School census (Yrs 7 to 13)
White	79%	66.9%
Mixed	3.4%	7.1%
Asian	9.7%	12.3%
Black	5.6%	7.9%
Other	2.3%	5.9% <i>(includes unknown)</i>

As highlighted in the graph below, there is disproportionality in the numbers of Gypsy/Roma and Mixed ethnicity children who are over-represented in the youth justice cohort. The proportion of children of Mixed ethnicity is 11.7% in the youth justice cohort, compared to 7.1% in the school population. Gypsy/Roma children represent 2.8% of the youth justice cohort, compared to 0.8% in the school population. The YJS works closely with the Gypsy Roma Traveller Outreach and Inclusion Team within Leeds to address disproportionality with respect of this cohort of children.



Gender	F	M	% female
Asian or Asian British	1	9	10.0%
Black or Black British	0	33	0.0%
Chinese or other ethnic group	0	3	0.0%
GYPSY/ROMA	1	10	9.1%
Mixed	5	41	10.9%
Unknown	13	49	21.0%
White	25	202	11.0%
Grand Total	45	347	11.5%

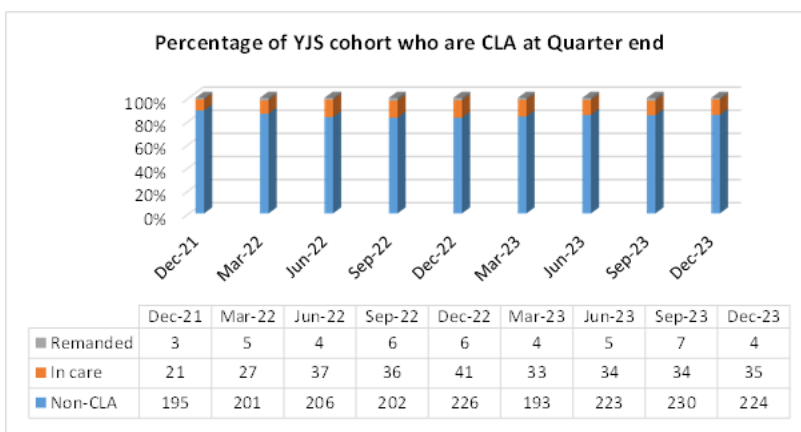
The above table highlights the open interventions in relation to gender and ethnicity. 11.5% of the overall cohort is female, which is a reduction of 0.8 percentage points from last year.

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	% 10-14
Asian or Asian British	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	3	0	30.0%
Black or Black British	0	0	2	0	3	13	7	8	0	15.2%
Chinese or other ethnic group	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	66.7%
GYPSY/ROMA	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	3	0	36.4%
Mixed	1	0	2	2	5	9	7	19	1	21.7%
Unknown	1	5	7	4	16	12	12	5	0	53.2%
White	0	1	14	23	41	41	57	48	2	34.8%
Grand Total	3	6	27	31	69	79	88	86	3	34.7%

As per last year, there was a higher proportion of White children in the younger end (10-14) of the cohort compared with ethnically diverse children. Numbers in other ethnic groups are smaller so percentages fluctuate more easily.

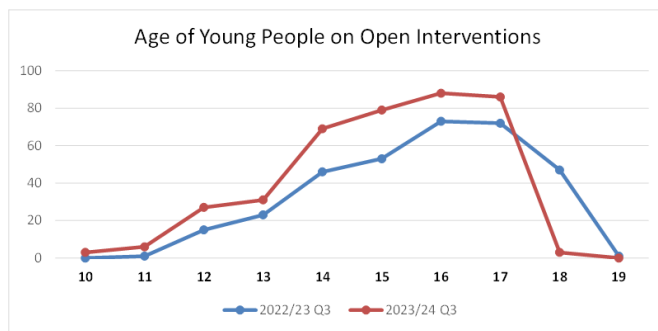
An analysis of Assetplus gives us a profile of needs amongst different ethnic groups in the cohort and has indicated differentials in mental and physical health concerns, school hours offered and risk profile. We track the ethnicity of children referred for support services, opportunities and programmes to ensure all children have appropriate access to these services. It is acknowledged that the learning from the YJS tracking of disproportionality needs to filter learning upstream in order for to unblock barriers to accessing services in order to preventatively address this agenda. We are actively working with Early Help colleagues to address this issue, and support the development of Family Hubs.

Children Looked After



The numbers of Children Looked After known to the youth justice system continues to be of concern, with the latest percentage of the overall cohort at 13% in December 2023. The Reducing Offending in Children Looked After (ROCLA) meeting aims to prevent and divert children who are looked after from entering the justice system, as referenced within this document. The YJS works closely with the Staying Close pilot which seeks to develop a model of support for care leavers, and which prioritises those children who have been in custody in Leeds.

Age and gender



This graph shows the age breakdown of children on open interventions compared with the same quarter last year.

16 years old remain the most common age of children on open interventions. Q3 saw a large increase in the numbers of 11/12yr olds. Almost one third of these children (30%) are open due to diversion work being delivered through the Turnaround project.

We continue to be mindful of this age group and are aware that younger children are now being identified as being at risk of exploitation and serious youth violence, as a result interventions have been adapted to meet the needs of all age groups. Outcome 22 and Turnaround have provided further opportunities for appropriate diversion for younger children whose offending is often an indicator of safeguarding concerns and for whom the risks of engendering a pro-criminal identity through association with the justice system are particularly apparent.

11.8% of the overall cohort were female, with the highest levels of interventions with females aged 14 and 15. There is a reduction in the overall cohort of females. Girls are more likely to be assessed at high risk to safety and wellbeing, but less likely to be assessed as posing a risk of serious harm to others. The link between girls and gangs has been identified through Contextual MACE; the YJS is part of a multi-agency working group looking at girls and gangs with the aim of improving the identification of girls, ensuring a consistent approach to safeguarding girls with interventions tailored to the specific needs of girls. The Safe Project are also now co-located with the YJS which supports this area of practice. This supports the city's priority focusing on violence against women and girls and the importance of positive masculinity.

Policing

Early Help PCs

Leeds benefits from a number of Early Help PC's who take a 'think child / think family' approach and are co-located with council colleagues and third sector Partners in 'Family Help Hubs' in the South, East and West of the City. Early Help PCs focus on identifying children at risk of becoming involved in criminality and entering the criminal justice system, identifying 'first time suspects' who have come to Police attention over the last 24 hours. These children are discussed in a multi-disciplinary meeting with a Council Hub Manager, in addition to Early Help Practitioners from the council and third sector partners. This allows for a holistic view of what support is needed for the child/family and if the child has a Social Worker, information is shared with them, as the lead practitioner for the child.

Information is shared appropriately with schools, to ensure joined-up support and pathways through school and cluster support can be accessed. PC's work collaboratively and share information to ensure the best outcomes for the child and family. They also assist those schools that do not benefit from having a dedicated 'Schools Officer' with education and diversionary activities and support and they also work to support Cluster Leads and Family Support Workers. Leeds also has a Youth Engagement PCSO who conducts 'transition visits' and delivers education to Year 6 students in preparation for their move to high school, including topics such as; road safety, bullying, trusted adults / who to turn to for support at high school, spotting the signs of grooming, etc. Where there are serious incidents, such as the murder of a child in Leeds outside a school in 2023, Early Help PC's helped to ensure an effective and impactful response to support staff and students at the school and surrounding schools.

PC's also have strong working relationships with Youth Services and diversionary activities are offered to children. In addition, officers regularly give advice to families / signpost them accordingly. The Early Help Hub

PC's endeavour to work with children and to avoid unduly criminalising them and have delivered training to District Officers in relation to 'Intervention 22' educational inputs as a positive disposal for lower-level crime, offering education, support and signposting, with a view to preventing children entering the criminal justice system, where it is appropriate.

Early Help PC's work closely with council colleagues to deliver a number of projects to build positive relationships with children, with a view to breaking down barriers and delivering safeguarding and diversionary support in a manner that is truly impactful. Projects currently ongoing throughout the City, supported by the Early Help PC's and Leeds City Council's teams, include the '90 Minute Project', which offers children on the periphery of offending a 45minute sports activity as an 'ice breaker', followed by a 45 minute educational input. 'Herd Farm' - a cycling based intervention, where a number of school students who are on the edge of crime, at risk of becoming NEET, or who have been reported missing, are engaged around cycling sessions with topics around their identified needs and risk factors, with a view to preventing escalations in their behaviour. Finally, 'Bumpy', is an intervention provided with the Bumpy charity, where vulnerable children work to obtain a qualification in motor vehicle studies, during which the cohort of individuals, many of whom are identified by partner agencies and in many cases are those at risk of becoming 'NEET', are engaged and supported, which has a positive impact on their attendance within education and assists in keeping them away from criminality. Whilst funding and partner support from charities and council partners, such as Youth Services, is vital to the above work, grants from avenues such as the 'Mayor's Community Safety Fund', in the case of Herd Farm, help to support the delivery of some projects.

Given the very nature of the role, it can be somewhat difficult to accurately measure the true long-term impact of some of the preventative work undertaken by officers within the team, although those who participate in some of the project work provide a basis for understanding some of the shorter-term impacts.

Schools

A number of education providers across Leeds benefit from the presence of a dedicated Safer Schools, Further Education or Higher Education Police Officer within their setting. We currently have 24 officers working within education settings; ranging from universities (Leeds University and Leeds Beckett University), colleges - including Leeds City College and Leeds College of Building, along with 25 further school partners across the City. These officers play an essential role in each setting, working closely with pastoral, safeguarding and teaching teams to identify, support and divert those at greatest risk of harm or exploitation, or of entering the criminal justice system.

Officers and education partners share key information on a regular basis with the intention of best safeguarding and protecting children. Officers work to build trust and break down barriers with students – in particular, those who may, for a number of reasons, not have previously felt comfortable approaching police if in need of help. They also seek to avoid unduly criminalising young people – taking a restorative and education-based approach to criminality within their settings where it is proportionate and appropriate to do so, with a view to diverting children away from crime and seeking to better equip them to make positive life choices.

Officers will also seek to engage with and support children around issues which are specific to them or their settings – from providing inputs and support around themes such as hate, violence and substance misuse, to working to support individuals who are for at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity or becoming NEET – often alongside police and council partners who can offer additional support or diversionary programmes. Whilst the roles and remits themselves are somewhat broad, given the range of settings – some of whom have a full-time officer and some an officer for part of the week, promoting the safety and wellbeing of children remains at the heart of this partnership role.

Youth Justice

Youth Justice PC's work closely with colleagues in the Youth Justice Service to provide a strong and effective link between Policing and the local Youth Justice Service. The PC's have children at the heart of their work and are co-locating with Council, Youth Justice and health partners within the individual localities in Leeds, working to take an outcome orientated and restorative approach to supporting children who are entering, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system.

Youth Justice PCs triage cases, in a number of instances advising officers to issue Police Issue Community Resolutions or Educational Inputs where there is no benefit for discussing the case at Youth Panel. They also ensure a referral for further support is made when this is needed, advising colleagues in relation to 'Turnaround' and Liaison & Diversion referrals.

They participate on the 'Youth Outcomes Panel', which looks to take a holistic view of a child's offending behaviour and life circumstances to identify appropriate crime outcomes that not only provides justice for victims but, crucially, looks to avoid unduly criminalising children. This also ensures that appropriate support is both identified and delivered with a view to changing a child's behaviour and improving their life prospects. Youth Justice PC's ensure that appropriate oversight from supervisors is considered to support appropriate outcomes, albeit with consideration to DPP guidelines / NPCC Child Gravity Matrix and work closely with children and partner colleagues to oversee the delivery of and engagement with those outcomes.

Where there is appropriate evidence of mitigation, such as with a young, vulnerable female Domestic Violence victim who had been coerced into keeping drugs for her boyfriend, or a vulnerable young child who had carried (but not used) a weapon due to bullying at school, the circumstances have supported deviations from more formal sanctions to take a child centred approach to prioritise looking to achieve best outcomes, over criminal sanctions.

Youth Justice PC's also work alongside Police and Leeds City Council colleagues, Youth Justice and Social Work teams as part of the MACE / Risk Management meetings, to ensure that services work closely together to understand risk factors around those children who are at risk of harm and at risk of being involved in criminality or exploited. This ensures a joined-up and cohesive strategy can be devised and delivered to best protect those most at risk.

Furthermore, our PC's support multi-agency initiatives, such as 'Project Shield', working with colleagues to identify and safeguard those at risk of engaging in and / or becoming a victim of Serious Youth Violence.

Prevention

The Leeds partnership is committed to providing the support that children and their families need, as soon as they need it, when they need it and by the people who are best placed to help. All agencies see early help as part of the 'day job'. Leeds' early help approach focuses on shifting the balance of power so that work with families is led by their voice. This sits alongside our strategy to 'rebalance' the system safely and appropriately away from statutory and specialist services to working with children and families early in the life of a problem. This approach is crucial in improving outcomes for children as well as managing demand and cost pressures. [The Leeds Early Help Approach and Strategy](#) illustrates this approach.

The city's approach to youth crime prevention has many aspects. Restorative early support teams work with children and families as an alternative to statutory processes and the Youth Service provides youth work activities in the areas of highest need, including the city centre. Our YJS teams are co-located with Youth Service colleagues and there is frequent joint working on projects with vulnerable teenagers. The city's Pathways team, who work with NEET 16 – 18 year olds are based within the Youth Service and are therefore well linked to the YJS. The wider youth offer commissioned from the third sector includes work specifically targeting youth crime prevention activity, focussing on the 8 – 14 age group. In addition, the Youth Service offers a Life Coaching service which is focused on children who are experiencing mental health issues which are contributing to them being NEET or where they are on the edge of care.

Leeds is fortunate to have a robust family support offer which includes Multi-Systemic Therapy where the approach targets support for family with teenagers at risk of involvement in the justice system. The three Early Help Hubs, which will soon expand to seven Family Help Hub, include nine police officers who work as part of a wider multi-agency team and who proactively screen children who have come to police attention due to missing episodes, anti-social behaviour or low-level offending to refer to services as appropriate, a pathway into Turnaround has been developed through the Hubs. Liaison and Diversion work from the main Leeds police station, and also feed into this pathway.

Leeds YJS has built an excellent working relationship with the city's anti-social behaviour team (LASBT) and the Head of Service of LASBT sits on the YJ Partnership Board. Relationships between LASBT and the YJS have been strengthened through MACE and the serious youth violence work, and more recently LASBT have started to support the Concerns for the Safety of Others Tiered Approach to managing risk, which has enabled better information sharing and earlier identification of children in need of a preventative offer of support.

As highlighted elsewhere, the city's Child-Focused and Contextual MACE forums and Project Shield Daily Meeting all provide opportunities for the early identification of emerging concerns for children, all of which feed into the preventative offer across the partnership and within the preventative offer across the partnership and within the YJS.

Diversion

Leeds YJS are embedding the successful West Yorkshire Child-First diversion pathfinder, which was approved and launched by West Yorkshire Police in May 2023. This new model uses Outcome 22 to provide a deferred pre-court option named 'Chance to Change'. The pilot in Bradford saw a reduction of numbers of Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions (YCC) which the Youth Justice Board (YJB) class as first-time entrants (FTEs). This is beginning to be replicated in Leeds since the launch, meaning that less children are formally brought into the criminal justice system, thereby meaning that they are prevented from the negative impact of being labelled as an offender and having the offence recorded on their criminal record which can impact on their future aspirations. A driver for this model has been an understanding around different influences upon a child when faced with making choices around interaction with the police and formal justice system. The Child First approach understands that the context will be very different than for adults and so allows for work and support to be delivered to the child even if they do not formally indicate guilt. This allows for varying factors such as age, maturity, learning needs, extent of parental support, and trauma to be taken into account, alongside the added structural barriers for children from ethnically diverse backgrounds and their perception of how they may be treated by those in authority.

Leeds YJS have seconded a team of staff to deliver upon the Ministry of Justice funded Turnaround programme (funded until March 2025), as outlined below, which seeks to achieve positive outcomes for children with the ultimate aim of preventing them going on to offend and actively promotes the diversion of children from the youth justice system. This programme enables the Turnaround team to work with children at an earlier point of entry than ever before, however only when there is evidence of formal contact with the police and/or the anti-social behaviour team. This hopefully fills a gap between net-widening and stigmatisation, whilst identifying children who are vulnerable to re-offending in order to receive support and diversion.

[First time entrants into the justice system](#)

Leeds Youth Panel provides the framework for decision making when children have committed a crime and are considered potentially suitable for an out of court disposal. The Youth Panel decision is based on a thorough assessment of the child's circumstances, history, strengths, and concerns completed by a YJS worker. The YJS victim liaison officer contacts the victim of the offence to give them the opportunity to let the panel know about the impact of the offence on them and to explore restorative outcomes. The panel is attended by a police officer, community volunteer, victim liaison officer and a manager from Early Help services and is chaired by a YJS manager. The panel is city-wide, meets weekly and considers the most appropriate requirements for the child as well as the outcome itself.

The child and their parent/ carer are required to attend at the police station following the panel's decision in order to receive their out of court disposal. An intervention following receipt of an out of court disposal usually lasts for three months and can be extended on a voluntary basis.

The West Yorkshire Child-First Pathfinder proposal has also been adopted this year which provides a further option at Leeds Youth Panel; to defer an outcome for a child. The West Yorkshire Police Force's position is that all children who are eligible and brought through our multi-agency panel should be now considered for this deferred outcome. The Pathfinder piloted and evidenced how a deferred outcome could be used with children to appropriately divert them out of the justice system and into alternative support arrangements. This uses Outcome 22 to deliver an offer known in West Yorkshire as 'Chance to Change.' This diversion offer was formally launched in the spring of 2023 and has become well-embedded, and already is having an impact on FTEs. Outcome 22 does not require an admission of guilt or acceptance of responsibility and so can be used to respond to scenarios where children's options may otherwise be impacted by a range of factors including influence of adults (or lack of support), structural barriers, ability and maturity levels, or a distrust in authority figures and the justice system.

This strengthens a broader range of options now available for children who are accused of offences with a gravity score lower than would attract immediate charge. The National Police Chiefs' Council Child Gravity Matrix has also been updated this year and provides a framework for making Child First decisions in terms of appropriate outcome. There is no expectation of an 'escalator' approach and individual children and their offending behaviour are assessed upon the individual circumstances. The YJS court team continue to identify children for diversion, who may have been charged to court due to a variety of factors, where an Out of Court of Disposal could have been considered.

Work also continues with other local partners to address the drivers behind the levels of FTEs in Leeds. The YJB guidance issued February 2024 states that the focus of prevention work with children should be on the underlying causes, not the offence itself, and therefore this work is key as many of the causes lie in a wider context than the child's own choice. The YJS is part of a multi-agency team in various hotspots in the city, working directly with children at risk of offending or involved in anti-social behaviour. Examples of partnership work to address FTEs, would also be the expansion of multi-agency forums across the city to identify children who are at any way at risk of association with urban street gangs and serious youth violence, through Project Shield, complemented by the Contextual MACE meetings. We continue to work closely with LASBT and this is being strengthened through the Turnaround and Immediate Justice initiatives. Our PACT programme offers support to teenagers involved in adolescent to parent violence and their families, to help them improve relationships and avoid conflict in a domestic setting which often leads to criminalisation. And our ROCLA panel provides a forum to identify appropriate support and diversion for identified children looked after at risk of offending. There is also work being done across the Partnership to address structural barriers for children in the youth justice system to improve their life chances, for example with schools and colleges to ensure children are in receipt of a suitable educational offer.

The expansion of the Family Hub model across the city, which when evaluated in May 2023 through the Family Hubs Innovation Fund, indicated that the impact of the Hubs demonstrated positive signs of a downward trend in first-time entrants, will support the YJS in a whole-system approach to achieving its priority of a reduction in this area.

Turnaround

Turnaround, developed by the Ministry of Justice, has provided multi-year grant funding (from December 2022 to March 2025) to enable the Youth Justice Service to work with a different cohort of children who would not appear within our statutory responsibilities. The MoJ has confirmed that the funding for Turnaround will not continue past March 2025. The cohort of children sit even earlier in the system than those that come through the Youth Panel for consideration of an Out of Court Disposal, as detailed above. The overall aims of the Turnaround programme are to:

- achieve positive outcomes for children with the ultimate aim of preventing them going on to offend;
- build on work already done to ensure all children on the cusp of the youth justice system are consistently offered a needs assessment and the opportunity for support;

- improve the socio-emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children; and
- improve the integration and partnership working between YOTs and other statutory services to support children.

Leeds YJS have used this funding to establish a team who have a focus upon prevention and diversion. The team is comprised of case managers and a family support practitioner. Turnaround has tight eligibility criteria that ensures that there is timely intervention when children first come into contact with either the police, courts or the anti-social behaviour team. We have built a triage system and closer working with our colleagues in the Early Help Hubs and Liaison and Diversion to identify and target children at this early stage who may need support at points such as street-based Youth Community Resolutions, first arrest/interview, or release under investigation or police bail. This allows partners to view all children subject to first time Youth Community Resolution (that sit below the qualifying second outcome for Youth Panel) on a weekly basis, and also any other children across the points of contact at the police station or Hubs that may need to be viewed for more support.

The team take a whole family approach towards reducing the risk of re-offending for the child. To do this, we have employed experienced and creative staff who have particular specialisms in, for example, youth work, early intervention, domestic violence, art-based interventions, speech & language, family and parental support. Our ethos is in avoiding bringing any child into the formalised youth justice world and ensuring a non-stigmatising approach. We are careful to ensure the right language is used, right information shared with partners, and that the child is seen in an environment most appropriate to them. Our priorities are around ensuring the child’s educational offer meets their needs, that their speech and language needs will be assessed, and that help and support is offered to parents and siblings too – with the overall aim of improving the strengths in a child’s life and reducing factors against desistance. Part of the underpinning research for Turnaround is the findings of the HMIP 2021 Thematic Inspection into the experiences of ‘Black and mixed heritage boys’ in the YJS. Therefore, we are also doubly aware of trying to bring support at an early stage for children and families from these backgrounds who may have previously been either overlooked in terms of their welfare needs, or faced other forms of structural barriers that have prevented services either being offered or taken up.

Examples of key pieces of work that Turnaround have completed this year are:

- Establishing a partnership with Think Like a Pony which is a charity that provides a nurturing learning environment using horses to aid children to learn calming strategies, and respect for self and others.
- Running an art group where, amongst other projects, artwork was produced with children and displayed in the Royal Armouries when the Knife Angel was in residence.



Education

Leeds has 9 specialist schools, 2 alternative provision free schools and 280 mainstream schools. The Leeds [SEND and Inclusion Strategy](#) outlines how the city will improve outcomes for vulnerable children, enabling them to thrive in learning and in wider life.

Leeds YJS works closely with colleagues in the Inclusion team to improve outcomes for children in the justice system. The city is currently benefiting from the investment of the SAFE taskforce which is providing Education Inclusion Mentors (EIMs) and additional positive activities for children identified as being at risk of serious violence particularly in the east of the city.

The YJS employs five specialist Education Officers (one is a temporary contract funded by Turnaround) who work with YJS staff, schools, education support services and training providers to try to ensure children receive an individualised offer and are supported to access it. Given that one post is funded by Turnaround it enables children who are on the cusp of the youth justice system have full access to the Education Officer resource also, this resource has been designated in response to the significant barriers identified for this cohort of children with regards to them accessing education.

The Education Officers work to a detailed education plan (updated January 2024), linked into the priority areas for the service. Good links are maintained to inclusion and support services and appropriate escalation systems are in place should challenge be required. The Deputy Director for Education, Head of Service for Vulnerable Learners and the Director of Student Life at Leeds City College sit on the YJS Partnership Board. Education Officers are networked into the geographical areas they cover and attend Area Inclusion Partnership (AIP) meetings, secondary heads meetings, Fair Access Panels and sit on the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Pathways panel. We continue to build relationships with the children missing education team, attendance team, SENSAP and SENIT. We regularly attend the area-based meetings for school Designated Safeguarding Leads and have presented an overview of the work of the YJS.

The Education Officers are supported by 2 lead YJS managers, an Educational Psychologist and a Consultant from the Virtual School for children with a Social Worker. The team meet fortnightly with the lead managers to track progress against the education action plan. They have regular peer supervision with the Educational Psychologist and have full access to the consultant. This has significantly improved the knowledge and skills of the team, which they have disseminated across the service. In addition, for children with a Social Worker or who have had a Social Worker in the last 6 years, the education consultant has offered individual advice, liaised with schools and chaired multi-agency meetings. The Education Officers and virtual school meet regularly to ensure alignment for children with a Social Worker. They also work closely with CAMHS nurses and Speech and Language Therapists in order to provide a holistic package which can support schools to meet the needs of the child in their setting, with the aim of reducing the number of NEET children.

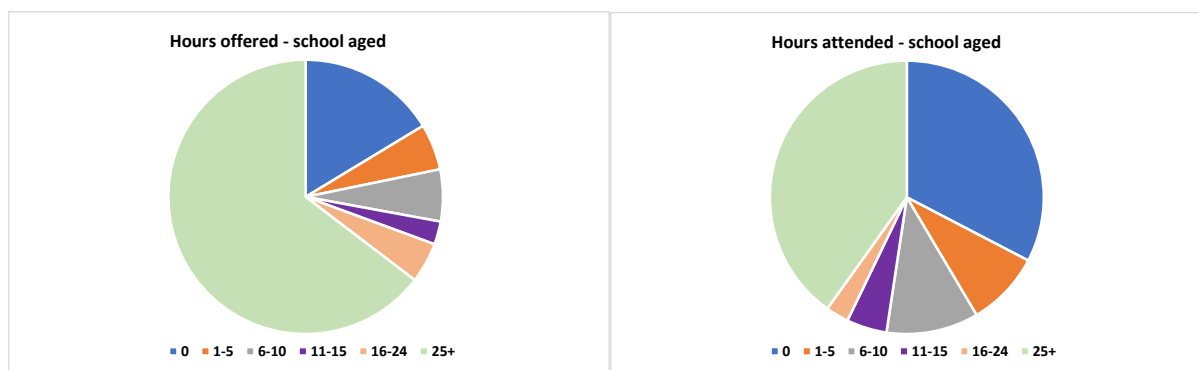
One of our key priorities is to ensure children can access a full education timetable. The whole service has received training on a number of topics to upskill all workers to have the right conversation with the right person in education to work towards this priority. We have had training on the graduated approach, education as a protective factor and the procedures around reduced timetables and exclusions and Extended School Non-Attendance (ESNA) to unpick the barriers for children who have not been at school and provide strategies to improve this. The Education Officers are also attending training on SEMH. Education Officers have half-termly consultations with all case holding staff to discuss the ETE needs of the children they support, providing advice and escalating where necessary. We also identify all children with SEN and monitor their individual learning plans or EHCPs.

The YJS has adopted the lines of enquiry questionnaire developed by a Virtual School consultant, and this has significantly improved the quality of information we receive from education providers to assist in determining what support we can offer. As referenced above, the education suitability KPI provided opportunity for the development of a structured questionnaire to inform an assessment of suitability, which has further enabled the service to start tracking themes and prioritise resources.

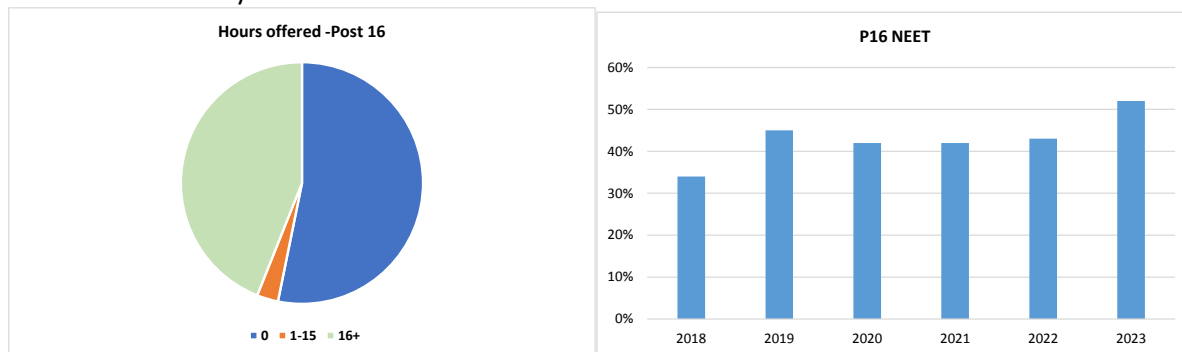
In relation to post-16 provision, we continue to attend the 14-19 strategic partnership and have links with the Positive Destinations Manager. We have visited Leeds City College, Leeds College of Building and NACRO to build relationships to improve access to post-16 opportunities for children within the YJS. We delivered training to the safeguarding leads at Leeds City College about the YJS, vulnerabilities of our children and how

we can work together. From this, a pilot has been set up to jointly risk assess, taking a contextual safeguarding approach, with a view to planning for children to access and be safe in college. The Education Officers meet the Pathways workers regularly to identify NEET children and set up appointments for them. We have attended several careers fairs with children and are always searching for opportunities to inspire children. As one of the priorities in the Youth Justice Plan 2021 – 24, Leeds YJ Partnership Board has examined the barriers to accessing appropriate education, training and employment for children known to the YJS and remains committed to improving access to education. Education, training and employment was a focus of the YJS Partnership Board meeting in January 2024, where key data was explored to look at how existing workstreams could be used to improve the offer to and ETE outcomes for children in the justice system. The YJS is part of the children missing education strategic and operational groups, aligning the city’s priorities for this cohort of children.

Hours Offered vs Hours Attended



These charts show the number of school aged children in Leeds known to the YJS by education hours offered and the hours that they are attending. The proportion of the children in receipt of the full offer has remained at a similar level to 2022 (65%). 16% had no hours offered by an establishment, double the rate reported at the same time last year.



This chart shows the percentage number of children post 16 on statutory and non-statutory orders by the number of hours offered and engaged in ETE. Sadly, the proportion of NEET children further increased by 9 percentage points, up to 52%.

Hours Offered by Provision Type

The majority of school aged children open to the YJS are educated at a mainstream school (61%), and of those in school, 80% are in receipt of the full offer of 25 hours per week. 28.6% of school aged children are educated in an alternative provision, with only 48% of those children in receipt of the full offer of 25 hours per week.

Hours by Provision type	School		Alternative		None		Custody		Home school	
0	12	13%	3	7%	8	100%	0	0%	1	25%
1-5	2	2%	5	12%	0	0%	0	0%	1	25%
6-10	1	1%	8	19%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
11-15	1	1%	3	7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
16-24	2	2%	5	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
25+	71	80%	18	43%	0	0%	4	100%	2	50%
Grand Total	89		42		8		4		4	

All those children who were in employment were working at least 16 hours per week. 90% of children attending college were in receipt of the full offer, with the remaining three children offered 10 to 15 hours.

Hours offered by type	Alternative		Apprentice		College		Custody		Employed		NEET		School	
0	1	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	74	100%	0	0%
1-15	0	0%	0	0%	3	10%	1	7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
16+	3	75%	3	100%	27	90%	13	93%	11	100%	0	0%	5	100%
Grand Total	4		3		30		14		11		74		5	

Hours Offered by Ethnicity

Similar to last year, just half of Black children were in receipt of the full offer and a third had zero hours. 17% of White children had zero hours offered.

*(NB the high number of unknown ethnicities this year were where cases had been newly opened to the service and this information had not yet been obtained.)

Hours by Provision type	Asian		Black		Gypsy / Roma		Mixed		Other		White		Unknown	
	0	0	0%	4	33%	2	50%	1	8%	0	0%	14	17%	3
1-5	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%	6	7%	0	0%
6-10	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	7	9%	1	3%
11-15	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%	0	0%	2	2%	1	3%
16-24	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	15%	0	0%	4	5%	1	3%
25+	3	100%	6	50%	2	50%	8	62%	2	100%	49	60%	25	81%
Grand Total	3		12		4		13		2		82		31	

For children 16+ within each ethnic group numbers are small, however, 60% of Black children and 50% of Gypsy/Roma children had no hours offered compared with 44% of White children.

Hours offered by ethnicity	Asian		Black		Gypsy / Roma		Mixed		Other		Unknown		White	
0	1	25%	5	45%	2	67%	11	42%	1	100%	9	60%	46	57%
1-15		0%	1	9%		0%	2	8%		0%		0%	1	1%
16+	3	75%	5	45%	1	33%	13	50%		0%	6	40%	34	42%
Grand Total	4		11		3		26		1		15		81	

Hours Offered by SEN Status

In the cohort there were 39 children flagged as having some SEN – 30 with an EHCP and a further 9 with some SEN support offered in the school. Just 43% of children with an EHCP were in receipt of the full offer, compared with 69% of those with no SEN. Almost a quarter of those with an EHCP were not offered any hours.

SEN type	EHCP		Other SEN		No SEN	
0	7	23%	1	11%	16	15%
1-5	3	10%	0	0%	5	5%
6-10	2	7%	0	0%	7	6%
11-15	1	3%	0	0%	3	3%
16-24	4	13%	1	11%	2	2%
25+	13	43%	7	78%	75	69%
Grand Total	30		9		108	

The following shows the children who are post 16 who have an EHCP, or who had some form of SEN support whilst they were of school age. The proportion who are NEET is highest for those with an EHCP (58%), with 47% of those who had received in school support and 53% of those without SEN now being offered no hours.

Hours offered by SEN status	In school					
	EHCP		SEN Support		No SEN	
0	14	58%	7	47%	54	53%
1-15	1	4%	0	0%	3	3%
16+	9	38%	8	53%	45	44%
Grand Total	24		15		102	

Hours Offered by CLA Status

There were 12 CLA in the cohort and a further two who were CLA due to remand status. Unlike in previous years, a higher proportion of CLA were in receipt of the full offer compared with their non-CLA counterparts; however, there were two who were not in receipt of any offer. One of these had been placed out of area and the placement was seeking suitable provision; the other child was new to the service and there was an immediate recommendation of a referral to the education officer. There was one CLA on a very reduced timetable, but this was deemed to be suitable.

CLA status	CLA due to					
	CLA		Remand		Non CLA	
0	2	17%	0	0%	22	17%
1-5	1	8%	0	0%	7	5%
6-10	0	0%	0	0%	9	7%
11-15	0	0%	0	0%	4	3%
16-24	0	0%	0	0%	7	5%
25+	9	75%	2	100%	84	63%
Grand Total	12		2		133	

Restorative Approaches and Victims

Restorative Approaches

Within the Leeds YJS, restorative approaches underpin practice at all levels, as highlighted throughout this document. As outlined below victims are at the heart of our approach.

Making it Right

Children are encouraged to 'Make it Right' within all statutory orders, both directly and indirectly, with opportunities to do so tailored to the individual child. In addition, through Immediate Justice, restorative reparative activity is now offered to children identified who have committed ASB.

Over the past year new reparative opportunities have started to be identified in communities across Leeds, enabling children to be supported to undertake restorative interventions within local communities and in conjunction with third sector partners. In addition, when the Knife Angel visited Leeds in February 2024, the Project Shield Intensification Month created a number of creative and innovative 'Making it Right' opportunities for children, linked to knife crime.

Immediate Justice

In 2023/24 the Mayor of West Yorkshire received funding of £1million from the Government Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver 'Immediate Justice' to tackle anti-social behaviour through reparative activities, for YJSs the aim was to divert children away from and preventing further ASB, or offending that impacts their communities. This funding was shared amongst West Yorkshire partners, with each YJS receiving a proportion to deliver on this agenda.

In Leeds the funding has been used to recruit additional staffing to deliver on this agenda, including sessional staff. Our Interventions Team have been working with community organisations to identify community projects for reparation. As a service we are dedicated to ensuring that this agenda remains child-focused and trauma-informed. Our VLOs are embedded within Immediate justice, ensuring that restorative justice runs throughout this piece of work.

Victim work

Leeds YJS have two specialist Victim Liaison Officers (VLOs) who work closely with their case manager colleagues to enable victims to have a meaningful say in work undertaken with children. VLOs are embedded in the child's assessment and planning processes with a focus upon both how to protect, and potentially make reparation to an immediate victim, but also with a view to wider issues of public protection. The VLOs also continue to play a key role in the Leeds out of court disposal process, ensuring the panel hears victims' views on potential outcomes and conditions, in addition the VLOs have started to embed their offer in Immediate Justice enabling the voice of victims to play a key role in shaping reparative opportunities for ASB.

Victims have been included as a 'Golden Thread' for the service, ensuring that there is strategic alignment with the Victims' Code, this has included ensuring the voice of victims within the YJ Partnership Board. Operationally, the VLOs ensure compliance with the Victims' Code, and are fully embedded within Youth Panels and Concerns for the Safety of Others Tiered Panels. The table below demonstrates the volume of victim support provided by the YJS between April 2023 and January 2024. With a 98% conversion rate from an offer of an intervention for victims.

Total Closed Cases	Victim Support	Indirect Mediation	Direct Mediation	Unable to contact	Not appropriate
252	136	94	16	4	2

Case Study

A child was dealt with via an out of court disposal for an assault on an emergency worker offence. The child told their case worker that the offence was out of character for him and was a one off mistake, and asked if there was an opportunity to apologise to the Officer.

A restorative meeting was arranged between the child and the Officer where they were able to discuss the offence and the impact caused. They considered how the outcome might have changed if the child had made different choices throughout the incident. The child apologised to the Officer, which was accepted. They discussed the child's plans for the future when it transpired the Officer worked previously in the field that the child wanted to pursue a career so they had a conversation about things to consider to be successful in the future.

Both parties were really pleased with how the meeting went and the child said that a weight had been lifted and that they felt much better.

Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Serious Violence

As a compassionate city, preventing victimisation and supporting people harmed by crime is central to our work, as is tailoring our response to individual needs. The [Leeds Safer, Stronger Communities Plan 2021 - 24](#) sets out the strategic direction of Safer Leeds Executive and is used to hold the partnership to account for keeping communities safe. The Serious Violence Duty, and governance arrangements to ensure the execution of that duty, of which the YJS is a Duty-Holder, strategically sit under the Safer Leeds Executive Board.

The Leeds Serious Violence Needs Assessment, undertaken by the Violence Reduction Partnership, in response to the Duty, directly feeds into the Leeds Local Delivery Plan. Leeds YJS is embedded and an active member of the Youth Violence Development Group, operationally responding to the identified needs within Leeds directly stemming out of that assessment. There is clear, strategic alignment and attendance across Boards all working towards this agenda, including the Leeds Youth Justice Partnership Board.

For the purposes of the Duty YJSs are a separate specified authority, and are therefore responsible for engaging in the partnership in their own right.

- The YJS has played a key role in supporting the development and implementation of the Response Strategy, ensuring that children and their interests are fairly represented in discussions. This includes:
- Identify and act to ensure children's best interests are kept at the forefront of any strategic planning
- Advice on appropriate response to increase levels of safety within the local partnership area and enable children to be able to move beyond their offending behaviour and status
- Assist in the delivery of prevention and early intervention initiatives where possible, and explain to partners how their input can help enhance this work
- Work across local authority areas and organisational boundaries where children are not located in the partnership area (e.g. when leaving custody, transitioning from youth to adult custody or in county lines drug dealing cases where children may be far from their home area)

The Service Delivery Manager for the YJS represents all five YJSs across West Yorkshire at the Serious Violence Reduction Strategic Executive Group for the combined authority.

At both a strategic and operational level within Leeds, the YJS has played a key role in the development of the 'Working Together Model' along with a range of multi-agency partners, and have contributed to the development of a model which aims to improve practice and local integration around children at risk of serious violence. This model was formally launched under 'Project Shield' in February 2024, and encompasses:

- Project Shield Daily Meeting – where live intelligence is shared in a multi-agency meeting, in relation to serious youth violence with a specific focus on sharing information, assessing risk and ensuring appropriate safeguarding responses are in place.
- Area-Based Serious Violence Meetings – locality based multi-agency meetings for children who have a Social Worker, and who have potential gang affiliation and/or there are concerns regarding weapon-carrying. The aim is to utilise current local knowledge and intelligence to support and supplement existing plans in place. This meeting is for children (under 18) and CLA (under 21).
- ‘Guiding a New Generation’ Meeting – city-wide multi-agency meeting with a strategic remit around serious violence, with an upper age limit of 24 years old, focusing on high-harm and high-risk individuals.

This Model links to existing MACE arrangements. Strategically this Model sits under the Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime Board, for which members of the Youth Justice Partnership Board sit on and vice versa. This ensures consistency across the city with regards to the approach for tackling serious youth violence, whilst also providing the governance arrangements for information sharing across the partnership.

Exploitation and Risk Outside of the Home

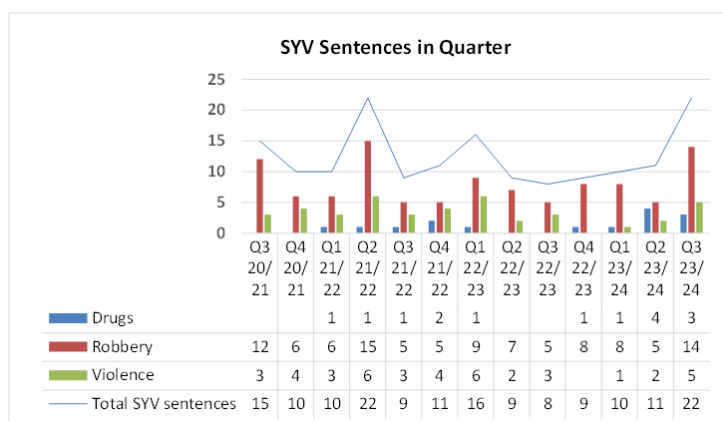
Leeds has developed a Contextual Safeguarding response to exploitation and risk outside of the home, following the Risk Out of the Home (ROTH) pilot that Children’s Services took part in alongside Professor Carlene Firman and the DfE in 2022/23. Subsequently a ROTH ICPC pathway has been developed for children where it is identified that there is a significant risk of harm, or likely to be a significant risk of harm, to a child outside of their family home, which may be for reasons such as exploitation, serious youth violence, gang affiliation etc... ROTH meetings focus on the context of a child’s life in which there is a significant risk of harm, which could be in their community, within their peer group or at school for example. These meetings have been the catalyst to shift focus to seeing parents as Protective Partners, which the YJS is adopting into our practice, as highlighted in our shift to a new process for managing Concerns for the Safety of Others through a tiered approach. Strategically the YJS is committed to developing protective partner capability of parents and carers, in order to reduce risks, and ultimately prevent children from entering the criminal justice system and from reoffending, and aims to develop a parenting strategy over the forthcoming year. The alignment of YJS processes with those of CSWS works towards bringing risk assessment and planning together with the ultimate aim of working towards children having ‘one plan.’

The SAFE project is part of Leeds Children and Family Services and is a multi-disciplinary team which offers support and information to children who are at risk of or have been sexually or criminally exploited. The service is delivered in a flexible, timely and when required, intensive way and also provides support and information to parents and siblings. The SAFE project is co-located with the YJS.

SAFE leads on the implementation of the MACE model, both Child-Focused and Contextual; Child-Focused MACE meetings are for children where there is a low, emerging risk of exploitation, and also at those where the risks are higher but current safety plans are not effective. Contextual MACE considers places, spaces, peer groups, perpetrators and themes and trends relating to risk outside of the home. Both meetings are very well attended by key partner agencies and use the formulation model. The YJS works closely with the SAFE team, is always represented at MACE, including Co-Chairing the Child-Focused MACE panel. The YJS Service Delivery Manager co-chairs the LSCP MACE Silver Group.

The YJS regularly undertakes CE risk assessments, makes referrals to CSWS where concerns are identified, and also refers into the NRM as appropriate.

Serious youth violence & weapons related offending



As highlighted in this chart, the number of serious youth violence sentences increased in Q3 to 22, the joint highest in the period. As demonstrated below there has been a reduction in the total weapons offences compared to the last year.

	Q1 2022/23	Q2 2022/23	Q3 2022/23	Q4 2022/23	Q1 2023/24	Q2 2023/24	Q3 2023/24
Total weapons offences	10	10	13	20	12	8	2
- those in school	2	0	0	1	1	0	0

The local picture in Leeds remains of concern, with on-street and gang related violence ongoing with conflicts targeting individuals or their associates and / or families. Sadly during 2023/24 saw two tragic deaths as a result of serious violence. There is a significant impact on staff when there is a tragedy that touches the service, the emotional support and wellbeing of staff remains a priority for the service.

Prevent

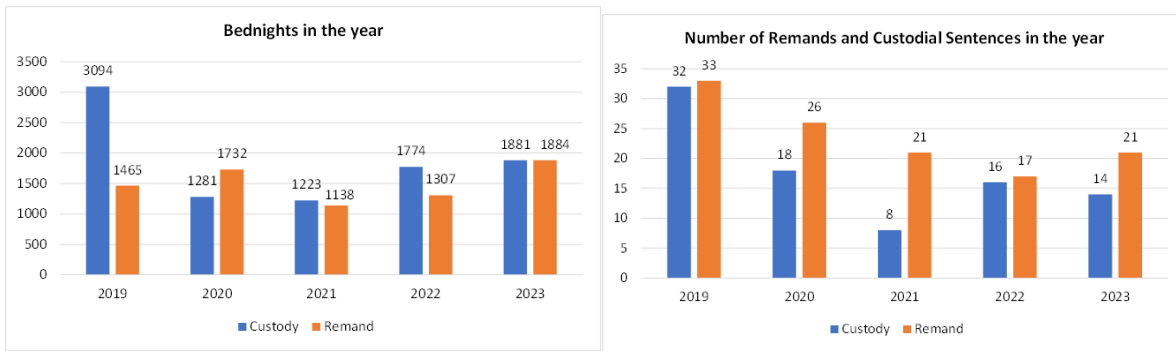
The YJS sits on Channel and the strategic Prevent Silver group. As referenced within the Workforce Development section the Prevent Team offers training which is open to the service. It is notable that over recent years there has been an increase in children identified as victims of radicalisation, with a high proportion of those children identified as having both diagnosed and undiagnosed ASD.

Detention in Police Custody

West Yorkshire Police Custody Services, in conjunction with WYCA and the five local authorities, rewrote the Joint Protocol regarding PACE beds. There has been an extended project over the past two years to improve the number of beds available and compliance with PACE / Childrens Act and the Childrens Concordat. As such, placements are now massively improved and are incorporated into scrutiny panel meetings which involve unpicking the journey of every remanded child, with our partners, to ensure responsibilities are understood and any lessons learned. In line with this, a feedback system exists to notify Custody Sergeants about court decisions, thereby improving ongoing decision making about remands.

Police policy has recently changed to require a referral to Child Social Work Services for every child that comes into police custody. In the custody areas, The Appropriate Adult Service (TAAS) provides appropriate adult provision where required. The use of this commissioned service is currently being scrutinised within Leeds and across West Yorkshire, to ensure that it is being used appropriately, that children are being supported by the right person, which should be parents/carers wherever possible, and that the available resource meets the need.

Remands



The first chart above shows the number of custodial bed-nights for both remands and sentenced children in the calendar year. The second shows the total number of instances this relates to. Total bednights for both remands and custodial sentences increased in the year compared with 2022, with remand nights at the highest level in the reporting period. Six of these remands were over 100 nights, with one child remanded for the whole year whilst awaiting sentencing.

Following feedback HMIP and Ofsted’s joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention it was recognised that as a city there is good practice with regards to avoiding unnecessary remands into custody, with remand into the care of the local authority being used successfully where appropriate to avoid the use of custody. However, the seriousness of some offences, particularly those linked to serious violence, has necessitated the use of remand into custody in some cases. All children who are remanded into custody have an internal custody review undertaken in order to identify if there are any learning opportunities, which directly feeds into service development.

A working group has been established, jointly with CSWS, with the aim of improving the timeliness and quality of the multi-agency response to children under arrest in the police station and likely to face serious charges which might lead to a remand into custody. The development of a child-first approach to police custody and strengthened communication processes with the Children’s Social Work Service Placements Team has enabled there to be planning around potential placements as an alternative to a remand in custody at the earliest opportunity. There is a continued commitment to doing everything possible to ensure that children have suitable accommodation on release from custody. A joint policy will be developed over the forthcoming year.

Recognising the issues raised in the MoJs Review Custodial Remand for Children (January 2022) which includes a range of Next Steps and proposals around remand the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium has recently expanded its remit to not only consider those children who are sentenced, but in 2022 and 2023 analysed data on children from the area who were remanded. Leeds contributed to this review and are also working with the Consortium to support the Local Criminal Justice Board’s request for the 2024 analysis to be repeated. It is anticipated that this data and analysis will support work to develop and agree effective information-sharing procedures in relation to remand that enable youth justice services to present robust alternatives to custody to courts in a timely manner and also allow the Consortium, LCJBs and YJSs to monitor remand trends and provide oversight and regularly review practice. The Leeds YJ Partnership Management Board conducts regular practice reviews of children remanded to identify and properly understand trends and anomalies in performance, including a focus on disparity in outcomes, and taking appropriate action to tackle emerging issues and implement lessons learned.

Use of Custody and Constructive Resettlement

As highlighted in the graphs in the above section, the number of bednights for those sentenced to custody was at the highest level since 2019, although the number of children this related to has not increased. This reflects the general reduction in the use of shorter custodial sentences, with alternatives to custody being more widely used, however the seriousness of some offences within this period has necessitated the use of custody for some.

Leeds YJS is an active partner in the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium at both strategic and operational levels. The Consortium has been in place since 2014 when Leeds YJS supported its initial development including hosting the seconded Consortium Manager to co-ordinate the work around resettlement. Its remit is to improve resettlement outcomes for the children in the nine youth offending services in the area and to work with partners to support those children in custody and on release. This has included the introduction of resettlement clinics, improved multi-agency partnership work, increased advocacy for the children in custody and an Accommodation Standard for children.

The Accommodation Standard was enhanced in 2022 following consultation with Directors of Childrens Services which will hopefully see accommodation identified earlier for children in custody and also increase the use of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) to ensure accommodation placements are successful and to reassure children about their provision on release. Work is ongoing by the MoJ to look at disseminating this practice across the country. The Consortium continues to work to overcome the challenges presented by the current issues in youth custody including Operation Safeguard and the admission of girls to Wetherby YOI. In addition to the oversight of the Consortium, locally the Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership has scrutiny over both Wetherby YOI and Adel Beck SCH through the Secure Settings Subgroup, of which the YJS and a number of Board Members also sit on.

Originally funded through the Youth Justice Board the Consortium is now supported by the nine Youth Justice Services in South and West Yorkshire, and the links developed, and partnerships made continue to enhance the resettlement work of the local youth justice services. The Consortium has a range of strengths, including; enabling joint working and standard setting at a strategic level, providing an operational managers forum to share effective practice and problem solve, offering a combined voice when responding to changes in national policy or consultations, enabling sharing of resources between areas for a relatively small cohort e.g. group work sessions and importantly providing an evidence base which allows data comparison through the resettlement tracker.

The Consortium objectives are:

- Understand the cohort and analyse need through work with key academic institutions/organisations
- Raise the standard of the 'resettlement offer' across South and West Yorkshire including improving take-up of ROTL
- Work with local, regional, and national government to deliver required change
- Ensure appropriate allocation of resources in accordance with identified need and ensure best value
- Communications – provide stakeholders with timely and relevant progress updates
- Undertake performance monitoring and evaluation as required by the Strategic Group
- Identify and share effective practice in the consortium and nationally
- Raise awareness of the work of the 'value added' through work undertaken in custody
- Continue to share learning from the Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder

The Consortium seeks to influence national considerations and agendas around key issues relating to Custody and Resettlement including discussions around the potential to increase the use of ROTL. Leeds YJS works to promote ROTL opportunities for it's children who are in custody.

The Consortium objectives are developed from an understanding of the issues which impact on resettlement as identified through the Consortiums Annual Cohort Analysis. Data from all nine Youth Offending Teams is collated and analysed to consider the trends and information around local resettlement issues and is shared with partners including the West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor (Policing and Crime). Leeds have also analysed data at a local level to utilise in the focus on resettlement in our area. In addition, custody reviews, where there is learning at a strategic level with respect of this agenda are shared with the YJ Partnership Board.

The collective work of the Consortium gives a focus on a small, but complex and vulnerable cohort who could cost the public sector a considerable amount if their offending continues and also provides a platform for obtaining funding on a regional basis e.g. the SEND Department of Education work, Nuffield Research, Pathfinder Grant.

Working with the Consortium as part of a YJB Constructive Resettlement Pathfinder Leeds YJS supported the Consortium to develop training programmes around Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift. Staff from Leeds YJS were included in training and development opportunities which were organised by the Consortium. Phase 1 Training was an introduction to Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift. The training introduced practitioners to the concept of Constructive Resettlement and the role Identity Shift plays in transforming a child’s future. The training drew upon research undertaken by Professor Neal Hazel (Criminology and Criminal Justice at Salford University & YJB Board member) and Beyond Youth Custody (NACRO) and offered a comprehensive overview of the key principles of Constructive Resettlement and how it supports a positive Identity Shift in children. Phase 2 Training considered how the Constructive Resettlement and Identity Shift principles can be put into practice. The training, resources and practice continue to be shared with newly recruited team members as well as reflecting on practice to ensure that future development.

Local analysis of children’s experiences of resettlement has highlighted education and accommodation as significant factors in which children are disadvantaged. In response to this the service aims to develop and embed Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for all children in custody, akin to Personal Education Plans for CLA. It is hoped that IEPs will ensure a continued focus on ETE for children in custody, and support enhanced planning to ensure that there is an education offer for children upon release. Availability of placements for children upon release continues to be a challenge, the YJS is working closely with CSWS and the placements team to aid the identification of placements for children, through better analysis of concerns for the safety of the child and others, using a contextual safeguarding lens. However, it is recognised that the best place for children upon release, wherever possible, is with their own families, and therefore the service aims to develop a parenting strategy which will include supporting families whilst children are in custody, with the ultimate aim of develop parents and carers to be protective partners, and for children to be able to safely return to their families upon release.

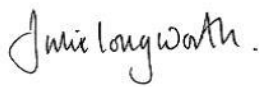
In response to HMYOI Wetherby’s recent inspection the YJS undertook a review of all children in custody to assure ourselves of the care they were receiving. Staff now request to see children’s cells, and as a result one issue with a cell was escalated and appropriately responded to by HMYOI Wetherby.

There are representatives of both HMYOI Wetherby and Adel Beck SCH on the YJ Partnership Board.

Working with Families

As highlighted throughout this report, the importance of services working with families as protective partners to keep children safe, and in preventing and diverting children from the criminal justice system is a key focus for the service, and one of our strategic ‘Golden Threads.’ Over the past 12 months the service has created a Family Practitioner role thereby enhancing the parenting offer, and worked to align our work with families with the contextual safeguarding model within CSWS. The service remains committed to working with families, and plans to develop a parenting strategy over the forthcoming year, further embedding our commitment to a ‘Think Family, Work Family’ approach.

Sign-Off, Submission and Approval

Chair of YJS Board – Julie Longworth	JULIE LONGWORTH
Signature	
Date	28/06/2024

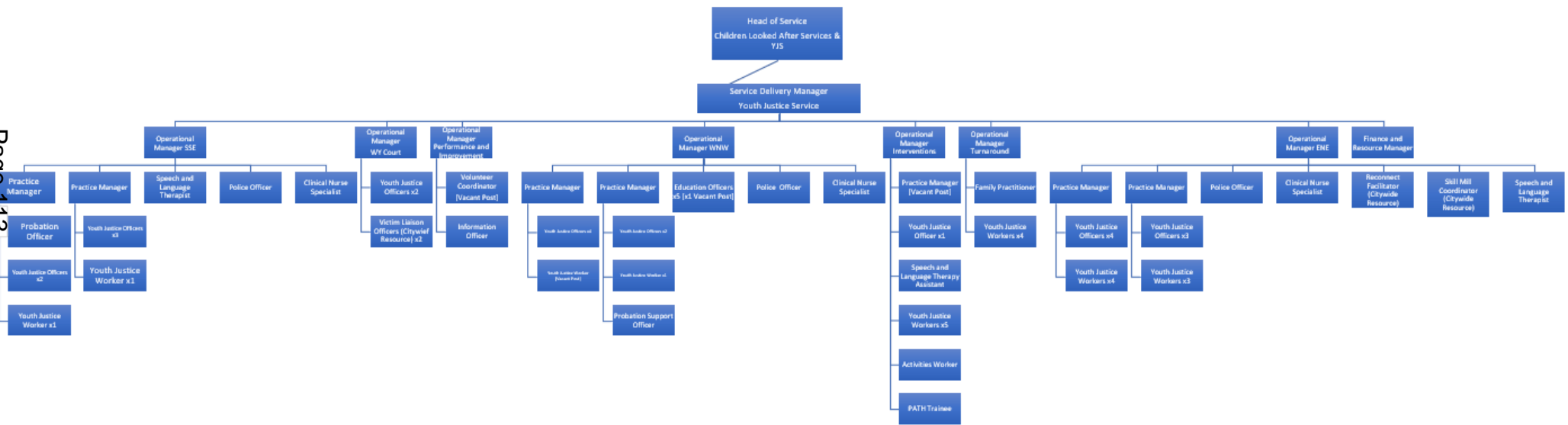
Appendix 1: Outline of full Board membership, including attendance, job title of the Board members and dates of Board meetings

Board Member	Title	09/05/2023	20/07/2023	26/09/2023	23/10/2023	07/11/2023	22/01/2024	16/04/2024
Andrea Cowans	Director of Student Life - Luminate Education Group	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Benjamin Finley	Head of Service, Corporate Parenting – Children & Families	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Claire Smith	Head of Service – Safer Neighbourhoods & ASB	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cllr Jenkins	Councillor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Venner	Councillor	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Dan Wood	Superintendent Neighbourhoods & Partnerships- West Yorkshire Police	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Hines	Deputy Head- National Probation Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Francis N'Jie	Service Delivery Manager – Secure Accommodation- Adel Beck	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Helen Burton	Service Delivery Manager – Youth Justice Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jayne Bathgate-Roache	Operational Lead – NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group	No	Yes	No	No	No		
John Hazlegreaves	Finance & Resource Manager – Youth Justice Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Julie Longworth	Director of Children & Families & Chair of the YJS Partnership Board	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dan Barton	Deputy Director Education, Children & Families						Yes	Yes
Karen Jessup	Principal Educational Psychologist – Children & Families	No	Yes	No	No	Yes		
Kelly Laycock	VRP Senior Programme Delivery Manager- Violence Reduction Partnership	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Laura Whitaker	BARCA Leeds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Patsy Burrows	Head Of Service- Corporate Parenting- YJS/ CLA & Care Leavers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Toni Littlewood	Service Manager, Leeds CAMHS			Yes	No	No		
Sara Clarke	Head of Service- CAMHS						Yes	Yes
Victoria Fuggles	Head of Service – Early Help	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Sid Hussain	Head of Resettlement- Wetherby YOI						No	No
Warren Wilman	Head of Safeguarding- Wetherby YOI						Yes	Yes
Stewart Locker	VRP Programme Delivery Manager (Leeds)- Violence Reduction Partnership	Yes		No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Kelly Connolly	Liaison & Diversion Team		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Rebecca McCormack	Head of Service- Vulnerable Learners Lead						No	Yes
Emma Tollis	Deputy Head- National Probation Service							Yes

Appendix 2: Service Structure Chart

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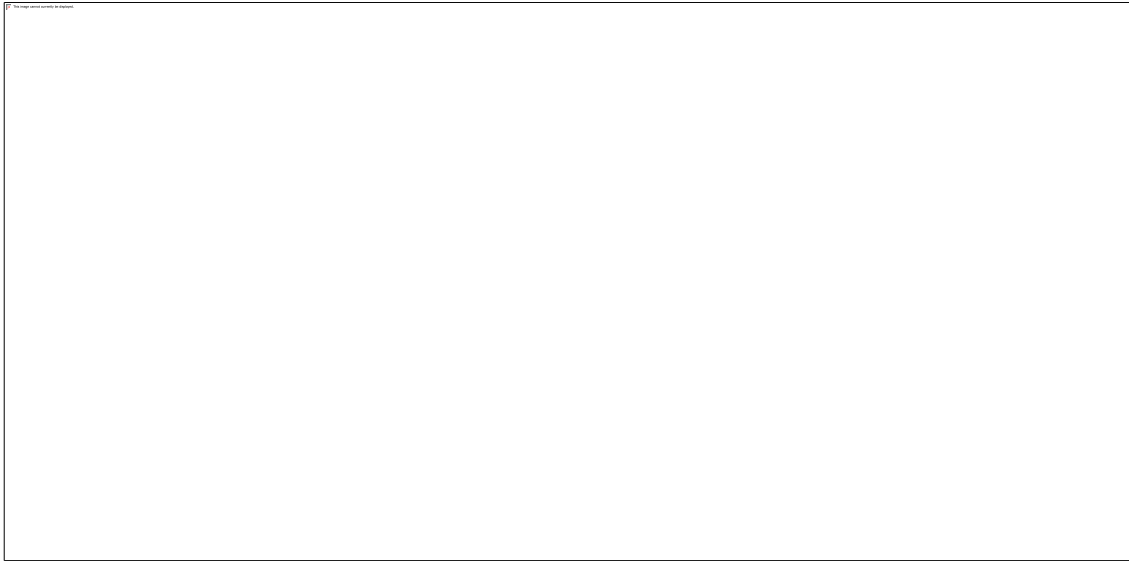


Appendix 3: Staff equality and diversity

Ethnicity	Managers Strategic		Managers Operational		Practitioners		Administrative		Sessional		Student		Referral Order Panel Volunteer		Other Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	7
Black	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	8	5
Mixed	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
White	0	0	3	9	14	33	1	6	0	0	0	0	8	14	3	2	29	64
Any other ethnic group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Not known	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	0	5	10	23	41	1	8	0	0	0	1	10	18	4	5	43	83

Type of Contract	Strategic Manager (PT)	Strategic Manager (FT)	Operational Manager (PT)	Operational Manager (FT)	Practitioners (PT)	Practitioners (FT)	Administration (PT)	Administration (FT)	Sessional	Students/trainees	Referral Order Panel Volunteer	Other Volunteer	Total
Permanent	0	0	0.61	14	9.09	37	0.61	7	0	0	0	0	68.31
Fixed-term	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Outsourced	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vacant	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Seconded Children's Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seconded Probation	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Seconded Police	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Seconded Health (Substance misuse)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seconded Health (Mental health)	0	0	0	0	1.71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.71
Seconded Health (Physical health)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seconded Health (Speech/language)	0	0	0	0	1.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.75
Other/Unspecified Seconded Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seconded Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seconded Connexions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seconded Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0.61	14	12.55	54	0.61	8	0	1	0	0	90.77
Disabled (self-classified)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix 4: Budget costs and contributions



Youth Justice Terms

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school

EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
ESNA	Extended School Non-Attendance
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
ROTH	Risk Outside of the Home
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

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Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Date: 13 November 2024

Report of: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Every three years the Council is required by the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) to review the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy (Policy), and to consult upon any changes. The three yearly review I has taken place this year.

Officers have reviewed the current Policy and made changes relating to the inclusion of research results and strengthened requirements around risk assessments.

The draft Policy has been subject to public consultation in line with the requirements of the Act as well as referral to Executive Board and Scrutiny Board in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework procedure. It is now presented to Council for final consideration on recommendation from Executive Board for adoption.

Recommendations

- a) Council is requested to approve the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2027 to have effect from 31st January 2025

What is this report about?

- 1 The Gambling Act requires that the council's Statement of Licensing Policy is reviewed every three years and that a statutory consultation takes place. Under the council's Budget and Policy framework the review of the Policy is carried out through a specified approval process including being considered by Executive Board and Scrutiny Board. The review of the Policy has followed all the required steps and has been amended following consultation with the public and Scrutiny Board and is now being presented to Full Council for adoption. This process provides a high level of scrutiny which ensures the Policy is robust, fit for purpose and aligns with the council's aims.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 This proposal will ensure a new Policy is in place before the previous policy expires in line with the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005 which states that the licensing authority will have reviewed their statement of principles every three years. The final policy is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3 The Statement of Licensing Policy and the consultation process is subject to Equality Impact Screening, which is attached at Appendix 2.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 In Leeds, gambling harms is regarded as a matter of public health, and this has been the case since partnership working to address gambling related harms. Public Health co-lead on the partnership working arrangements and project delivery in the city and continue to provide advice, support, and evidence to guide possible interventions to reduce gambling harms.
- 5 Part of this work is to establish the Leeds Gambling Harms Group. This group, in existence for a number of years, looks at how best to implement change to mitigate gambling harm. It includes officers from all relevant parts of the council, including Entertainment Licensing, Public Health and Financial Inclusion, and external partners which provide support to those experiencing gambling harm such as Citizens Advice, GamCare, Leeds Community Gambling Service and the NHS Northern Gambling Service. This group includes officers that represent those vulnerable to gambling harm, for example Financial Inclusion and the city's Universities.
- 6 Leeds City Council's Public Health and Financial Inclusion teams co-lead partnership working arrangements, treatment service liaison and project delivery. Entertainment Licensing lead on the licensing of physical gambling premises, enforcement of these same premises and lobbying through the Local Government Association and liaison with the Gambling Commission.
- 7 In addition, Public Health and Financial Inclusion have worked with the licensing authority to develop a mapping tool, to inform local area risks assessments (a requirement under the Gambling Act 2005 for applicants), and to further assist and strengthen any objections to licensing and planning applications. This excellent piece of cross council partnership work has already been used to model alcohol harm since 2018.
- 8 When compared to other areas the work to address gambling harm in the city is well developed. The Leeds approach has been recognised nationally by both the Local Government Association and the Gambling Commission and is a key reason for the city now hosting two treatment services (the NHS Northern Gambling Service and Leeds Community Gambling Service) in the city.

- 9 The Statement of Licensing Policy seeks to strengthen the Council's policy in this matter, to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the city's residents.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: all

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 10 The draft policy was initially shared with partner organisations working with the council's Gambling Harm Group, but up to that point the input had been predominantly with Public Health and Financial Inclusion.
- 11 The draft policy was considered by Licensing Committee in July, and released for consultation by the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment by way of a [delegated decision](#). It was subject to a 4 week public consultation with the people and organisations required by the legislation. Briefly these comprise of businesses and people affected by the proposals. As part of this consultation the council's Gambling Harms Group, all ward members, all Members of Parliament, support organisations, and all licensed premises have been consulted. In addition the consultation was advertised on the council's website.
- 12 The public consultation had three responses from the Betting and Gaming Council, Gamcare and Talarus/Luxury Leisure. The council's response to these comments is provided in the consultation report. The policy has been amended in line with the responses.
- 13 The report was referred to Executive Board for consideration with no comments being made.

What are the resource implications?

- 14 No resource implications for the authority have been identified.

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

- 15 There are no issues relating to risk management identified.

What are the legal implications?

- 16 Review of the Gambling Act Statement of Policy is a legal requirement and is also subject to the Constitutional procedures which control how the review should take place within the Budget & Policy Framework. The steps set out in this report should ensure that both statutory and Constitutional requirements are met.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 17 This is a statutory process set out in the Gambling Act 2005. Therefore options are limited. Council could decide not to adopt the policy, in which case the existing policy would expire and there would be no new policy to replace it. However this risk is low as the Budget and Policy Framework ensures that all interested parties, and all formal committees have been consulted and provided with opportunities to feed into the process.

How will success be measured?

- 18 Publication of an approved policy on 1st January 2025.

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

- 19 The current policy was adopted by Council in November 2021, came into force on 31st January 2022 and expires on 31st January 2025.
- 20 The approval of the policy is a matter for full Council.
- 21 The adopted policy will be published on 1st January to come into effect on 31st January. This publication will be the responsibility of Entertainment Licensing and will be progressed by the report author.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Statement of Licensing Policy
- Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Screening

Background papers

- None

Statement of Licensing Policy

2025-2027

Gambling Act 2005



Further copies of this document can be obtained from:

Entertainment Licensing
Leeds City Council
Civic Hall
Leeds
LS1 1UR

Tel: 0113 378 5029

Email: entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk

Web: www.leeds.gov.uk/licensing

Please note:

The information contained within this document can be made available in different languages and formats including Braille, large print, and audio cassette.

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Executive Summary

The Gambling Act 2005 obtained Royal Assent in 2005 and came into effect in 2007.

Under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 the Licensing Authority is required to prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Act. This process is to be repeated every three years from 31st January 2007.

The consultation process is laid out clearly in the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and the Guidance to Licensing Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission (www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk).

The purpose of the Statement of Licensing Policy is to set out the principles that the Council propose to apply when determining licences, permits and registrations under the Gambling Act 2005.

Any decision taken by the Council regarding determination of licences, permits and registrations should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.

The principles to be applied specifically to the determination of premises licence applications include definition of premises, location, duplication with other regulatory regimes, conditions, door supervision, layout of the premises and supervision of gaming facilities. The policy also specifically mentions adult gaming centres, family entertainment centres, casinos, bingo premises, betting premises, tracks and travelling fairs.

The council can issue permits for prize gaming and unlicensed family entertainment centres. The council can specify the information it requires as part of the application process which will aid determination and this information is described in this Policy.

Club gaming and club machine permits are also issued by the council. The process for this is described, along with other processes specified in the legislation for example temporary use notices, occasional use notices and small society lotteries.

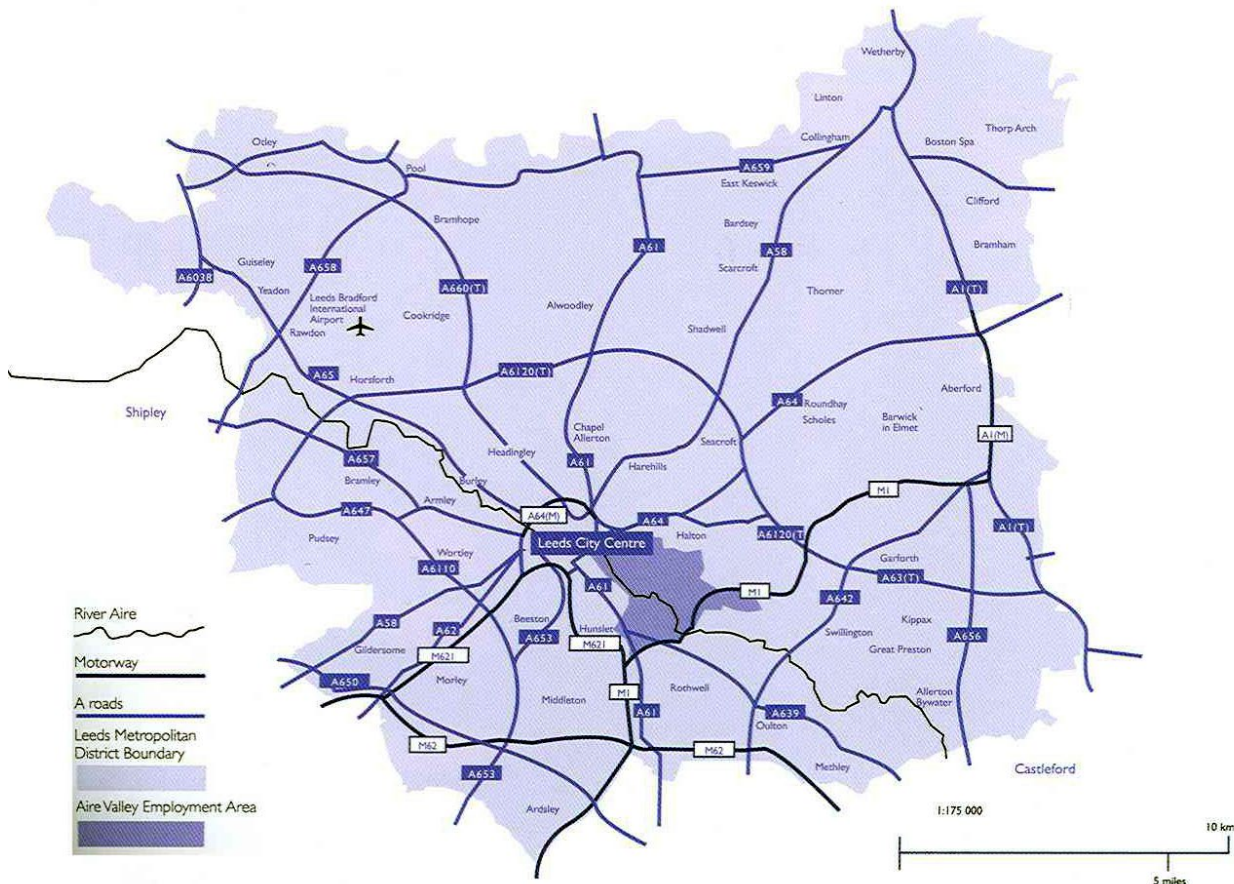
Enforcement of the legislation is a requirement of the Act that is undertaken by the council in conjunction with the Gambling Commission. The policy describes the council's enforcement principles and the principles underpinning the right of review.

Part A The Gambling Act 2005

1. The licensing objectives

- 1.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) Leeds City Council is the licensing authority for the Leeds district and licences premises for gambling activities as well as granting various other gambling permits. In this document, unless otherwise stated, any references to the council are to the Leeds Licensing Authority.
- 1.2 The council will carry out its functions under the Act with a view to aiming to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it is reasonably consistent with the three licensing objectives set out at Section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:
- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime
 - Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
 - Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- 1.3 More information can be found about how the council will achieve this in Part B and C of this document.
- 1.4 The council will follow any regulations and statutory guidance issued in accordance with the Act and will have regard to any codes of practice issued by the national gambling regulator, the Gambling Commission.
- 1.5 The council is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:
- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
 - in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
 - reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
 - in accordance with this document.
- 1.6 The Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Code of Practice (LCCP) require gambling premises to undertake a risk assessment taking into consideration their local information. Specific information about localities is provided in this policy at Section 14.

2. The Leeds district



- 2.1 Leeds City Council has sought to establish Leeds as a major European city and cultural and social centre. It is the second largest metropolitan district in England and has a population of 2.2 million people living within a 30 minute drive of the city centre.
- 2.2 The Leeds metropolitan district extends over 562 square kilometres (217 square miles) and has a population of 811,953 (ONS, 2021). It includes the city centre and the urban areas that surround it, the more rural outer suburbs, and several towns, all with their very different identities. Two-thirds of the district is greenbelt (open land with restrictive building), and there is beautiful countryside within easy reach of the city.
- 2.3 Over recent years Leeds has experienced significant levels of growth in entertainment use within the city coupled with a significant increase in residential development. The proximity of a range of land uses and the creation of mixed-use schemes has many benefits including the creation of a vibrant 24-hour city.
- 2.4 Leeds has strong artistic traditions and top performing artistes can be seen at the Leeds first direct Arena, Leeds Town Hall and at other indoor and outdoor venues across the city. The success of arts and heritage organisations including

the Grand Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Harewood House and the Henry Moore Institute, has helped to attract other major arts and heritage investments such as the award winning Royal Armouries and the Thackray Medical Museum. The city also boasts a wealth of community based sports, entertainment, heritage, and recreational facilities. There is a vibrant voluntary sector including thousands of groups and societies.

- 2.5 Sport is a passion for people in Leeds and Yorkshire. Leeds United Football Club has a loyal and passionate following and Elland Road is one of England's great traditional grounds. Cricket is followed with enthusiasm with Yorkshire Cricket Club's home in Headingley. Leeds has a world's first dual code rugby partnership – Leeds Rhino Rugby League and Leeds Carnegie Rugby Union. The Leeds Rhinos have enjoyed great success in recent years. Wetherby racecourse was established in 1891 and is considered one of the best jump courses in the country.
- 2.6 Leeds is a city with many cultures, languages, races, and faiths. A wide range of minority groups including Indian, Pakistani and African being predominant, but with many other smaller communities which make up 21% of the city population (ONS, 2021).

Deprivation

- 2.7 Leeds has a strong economy that has enabled the city to recover well from the recession. However, Leeds is also a city marked by health inequalities, indicating that not everyone has benefited from the economic growth equally. In 2015 the National Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data, a set of descriptive statistics that are published by the Office of National Statistics every 3-4 years, identified sixteen neighbourhoods in Leeds that were categorised as being in the most disadvantaged 1% of neighbourhoods nationally.
- 2.8 According to the 2019 Leeds Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), of the 482 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) that make up the city, 114 of them (10%) are ranked amongst the most deprived 10% nationally, 9 higher than the figure from 2015's IMD. 12 of them have been ranked in the most deprived 1% nationally, though this a reduction from the 16 that were ranked in this group in 2015.¹
- 2.9 In 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic emergency initiated a crisis that quickly brought to the fore a large number of needs across the communities in Leeds. The impact of Covid-19 has been greater in the poorer areas of the city where the ability to withstand shocks is restricted. Work continues to take place in Leeds to understand and get a picture of the disproportionate or differential impact on

¹ [Current housing strategy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/city-planning-and-development/leeds-current-housing-strategy)

inequality that is happening due to Covid-19. However, the emerging evidence highlights that the Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated social and economic inequalities. It mirrors national evidence and the local narrative that Covid-19 does have a disproportionate and differential impact based on where you live, your gender, your ethnicity, and your job.²

- 2.10 The council is committed to locality working and has identified the 12 priority neighbourhoods, located in six of the city’s wards. These neighbourhoods have been identified for more intensive support:

Priority Wards	Priority Neighbourhoods (LSOA)
Hunslet & Riverside	Stratford Street, Beverleys
	Wickham Street, Seftons, Harlechs
Killingbeck & Seacroft	Foundry Mill Terr, Brooklands
	Boggart Hill
	Foundary Mill Drive, Hawkshead Cres, Alston Lane
Beeston & Holbeck	Crosby St, Recreations, Bartons
Armley	Holdsforth, Clyde Approach
	Armley Grove Place, Hall Lane, Abbot View
Burmantofts & Richmond Hill	St Hildas, Copperfields, Gartons
	Cliftons, Nowells
	East Park Drive, Glensdales, Raincliffes
Gipton & Harehills	Easterly Grove, St Wilfreds

Economy

- 2.11 Leeds is the UK’s fastest growing city and is the main driver of a city region with the £64.6 billion economy, a combined population of 3 million and a workforce of 1.37 million. Over the next ten years, the economy is forecast to grow by 21% with financial and business services set to generate over half of GVA growth over that period.
- 2.12 Financial and business services account for 38% of total output. Other key sectors include retail, leisure and visitor economy, construction, manufacturing and the creative and digital industries.
- 2.13 Leeds has one of the most diverse economies of the all the UK’s main employment centres. In 2016, Leeds saw the fastest rate of private sector jobs growth of any UK city and has the highest ration of public to private sector jobs of

² [Locality Working and Priority Neighbourhoods.pdf \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

all the UK's Core Cities. The city has the third largest jobs total by local authority area with 392,000 people aged 16 and over work in Leeds (ONS, Dec 2023).³

- 2.14 For further health and deprivation information about the local area visit <http://observatory.leeds.gov.uk>.

3. Integration with other guidance, policies, objectives, and strategies

Best City Ambition

- 3.1 The [Best City Ambition](#) is our overall vision for the future of Leeds. At its heart is our mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve quality of life for everyone who calls Leeds home.
- 3.2 The 3 pillars of the Best City Ambition bring together the key priorities set out in the main strategies we are working together towards. They provide a clear and coherent vision for the future of Leeds.
- **Health and wellbeing** – Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, with health and care inequalities reducing, and people being supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - **Inclusive Growth** – Leeds will be a place where we create growth in our economy that works for everyone, where people and businesses can thrive, and we work together to tackle poverty and inequality.
 - **Zero Carbon** – Leeds aims to become the first net zero city in the UK, rapidly reducing carbon emissions and reversing the decline in biodiversity, while supporting people to make more sustainable choices which can improve their standard of living.
- 3.3 Tackling poverty and inequality is at the heart of our Best city Ambition. We know that across Leeds, many issues disproportionately impact some groups of people and communities, and this can make stubborn long-term challenges even more difficult to overcome.

Better Lives Strategy 2022 to 2027

- 3.4 We believe that everyone has the right to a good and fulfilling life. In Leeds, we want every person with care and support needs to be able to live the life they want to live, doing what's important to them in good homes, and in caring communities. We know that to live a good life, people need more than adult social care. This Council wide strategy sets out how our services, from parks to libraries, housing to physical activity, will work together to achieve our vision.

³ [Leeds economy](#)

3.5 Our vision is:

We want every person in Leeds that needs care and support to live in the place they call home with the people and things they love, in communities that look out for one another, doing the things that matter most to them.

3.6 The [Better Lives Strategy](#) is a whole Council strategy. While this strategy does include our approach to services provided via Adult Social Care, we also want to consider the ways in which other parts of the Council and our community can support people drawing on care and support services to live a good life.

Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2030

3.7 [Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) describes the council's vision for health and wellbeing as 'Leeds will be a health and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest improve their health the fastest'. This policy is particularly affected by the following health and wellbeing priorities:

- Strong, engaged, and well-connected communities
- Safe and sustainable places that protect and promote health and wellbeing
- Promoting prevention and improving health outcomes through an integrated health and care system

Leeds Suicide Audit

3.8 The [Leeds Suicide Audit 2019-2021](#) shows an average rate of 9.6 deaths per 100,000 for all persons, with a female rate of 6.3 and a male rate of 12.9. The most recorded risk factor was having a history of a mental health problem. Other risk factors are:

- Partner relationship issues
- Divorce or separations
- Physical illness or disability
- Bereavement
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Previous suicide attempts
- History of drug and alcohol misuse
- Long term conditions
- Worklessness

3.9 Financial difficulties were recorded in 24% of the audit population which is lower than the previous audit. The most common age group where financial difficulties was recorded was the 40-49 age group. Men were more likely than women to have financial difficulties and those identified were evenly represented across the deprivation quantiles. There were frequent records of negative benefit decisions, debt, housing debt, repossession and drugs debt amongst other worries and concerns.

- 3.10 Gambling With Lives is a community of families bereaved by gambling-related suicide that provides support, raises awareness of the devastating effects of gambling disorder and campaigns for change. In their response to the National Suicide Prevention Strategy, Gambling With Lives provided a well referenced statement on how gambling harm is linked with a high suicide rate. In this paper it is explained that people suffering with gambling disorder are two to three times more likely to attempt to kill themselves or have major depressive episodes than other types of addicts, with 12-18% of those seeking treatment having already attempted suicide. One landmark study found that people suffering with gambling disorder are 15 times more likely to take their own lives than members of the general population.
- 3.11 Further to this, analysis on pupils asked about gambling in the latest My Health My School survey of school pupils in Leeds found that the gambling rate for young people who reported suicidal thoughts was higher than for those who did not (35.2% v 26.3%).

Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028

- 3.12 The UN convention on the rights of the child set out the basic rights for children worldwide. The UN developed the model for child friendly city model; a place where children's rights are known and understood by children and adults alike and where these rights are reflected in policies and budgets.
- 3.13 The council's [Children and Young People's Plan](#) describes 5 outcomes, 14 priorities and 3 obsessions. The most relevant priorities to this policy are:
- Help children and parents to live in safe, supportive, and loving families
 - Ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people are protected
 - Improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
 - Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk taking behaviours
 - Help young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, and be ready for work

Other strategies and plans

- 3.14 The council has developed [several strategies and plans](#) which support the ambition to be the Best City. These include:
- Housing Strategies
 - Leeds Food Strategy
 - Parks And Green Spaces Strategy
 - People Strategy 2020 – 2025
 - Financial Strategy 2020 – 2025
 - Estate Management Strategy
 - Digital Strategy 2022 – 2025
 - Equalities Improvement Priorities Strategy

4. The purpose of the Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy

- 4.1 Licensing authorities are required by the Gambling Act 2005 to publish a statement of the principles which they propose to apply when exercising their functions under the Act. This document fulfils this requirement. Such statement must be published at least every three years. The statement can also be reviewed from “time to time” and any amendments must be consulted upon. The statement must then be re-published.
- 4.2 Leeds City Council consulted widely upon this policy statement before finalising and publishing it. The policy was presented for public consultation on the website, and by email and post to solicitors, licensees, support organisations, responsible authorities, ward members, MPs, trade associations, and parish councils. In total xxx emails and xxx letters were sent advising interested parties of the consultation. The consultation was also advertised via a press release.
- 4.3 The consultation took place between 29th July and 27th August 2024 and followed the Cabinet Office’s Code of Practice on Consultation and the requirements of the Gambling Act 2005. The consultation elicited three response which are available on request. The policy was approved at a meeting of the Full Council on 23rd November 2024.

5. The licensing framework

- 5.1 The Gambling Act 2005 brought about changes to the way that gambling is administered in the United Kingdom. The Gambling Commission is the national gambling regulator and has a lead role in working with central government and local authorities to regulate gambling activity.
- 5.2 The Gambling Commission issues operators licences and personal licences. Any operator wishing to provide gambling at a certain premises must have applied for the requisite personal licence and operator licence before they can approach the council for a premises licence. In this way the Gambling Commission can screen applicants and organisations to ensure they have the correct credentials to operate gambling premises. The council’s role is to ensure premises are suitable for providing gambling in line with the three licensing objectives and any codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission. The council also issues various permits and notices to regulate smaller scale and or ad hoc gambling in various other locations such as pubs, clubs, and hotels.
- 5.3 The council does not licence large society lotteries or remote gambling through websites. These areas fall to the Gambling Commission. The National Lottery is not licensed by the Gambling Act 2005 and is regulated by the Gambling Commission under the National Lottery Act 1993.

6. Declaration

- 6.1 This statement of licensing policy will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.
- 6.2 In producing this document, the council declares that it has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and any responses from those consulted on the policy statement.

7. Responsible authorities

- 7.1 The Act empowers certain agencies to act as responsible authorities so that they can employ their area of expertise to help promote the licensing objectives. Responsible authorities can make representations about licence applications or apply for a review of an existing licence. Responsible authorities will also offer advice and guidance to applicants.
- 7.2 The council is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:
- a. the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area
 - b. the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected people, rather than any particular vested interest group etc.
- 7.3 In accordance with the regulations the council designates the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership for this purpose. Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership has produced a "West Yorkshire Consortium Inter Agency Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures Manual" which can be found at <http://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com>. Applicants may find this manual useful as a point of reference, a guide for good practice and the mechanism by which to make a referral to Social Care, when producing their own policies and procedures in relation to the objective of protection of children and vulnerable people.
- 7.4 The contact details of all the responsible authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 are available on the council's website within the guidance documents at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/Business/Pages/Gambling-Premises-Licences.aspx>.

8. Interested parties

8.1 Interested parties are certain types of people or organisations that have the right to make representations about licence applications or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

“For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the application is made, the person-

- a. lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities,
- b. has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- c. represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)”

8.2 The council is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

- Each case will be decided upon its merits. The council will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission’s Guidance to Local Authorities.
- Within this framework the council will accept representations made on behalf of residents and tenants associations.
- To determine if an interested party lives or has business interests, sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the gambling activities, the council will consider factors such as the size of the premises and the nature of the activities taking place.

8.3 The council will provide more detailed information on the making of representations in a separate guidance note. The guidance note has been prepared in accordance with relevant Statutory Instruments and Gambling Commission guidance.

9. Exchange of information

9.1 Licensing authorities are required to include in their policy statement the principles to be applied by the authority with regards to the exchange of information between it and the Gambling Commission, as well as other people listed in Schedule 6 to the Act.

9.2 The principle that the council applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that the Data Protection Act 2018 will not be contravened. The council will also have regard to any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission to local authorities on this matter, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

10. Licensing authority functions

10.1 Licensing authorities are responsible under the Act for:

- Licensing premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing premises licences
- Issuing provisional statements
- Regulating members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issuing Club Machine Permits to commercial clubs
- Granting permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
- Receiving notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) of the use of two or less gaming machines
- Granting Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where more than two machines are required
- Registering small society lotteries below prescribed thresholds
- Issuing Prize Gaming Permits
- Receiving and endorsing Temporary Use Notices
- Receiving Occasional Use Notices (for tracks)
- Providing information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'Exchange of information')
- Maintaining registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions.

10.2 The council is not involved in licensing remote gambling. This is in the remit of the Gambling Commission via operator licences.

Part B The licensing objectives

11. Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime

- 11.1 The Gambling Commission will take a lead role in keeping gambling crime free by vetting all applicants for personal and operator licences. The council's main role is to try and promote this area with regard actual premises. Thus, where an area has known high levels of organised crime the council will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there (see paragraph 14.8 and 14.9) and whether conditions may be required such as the provision of door supervision (see paragraph 14.31).
- 11.2 There is a distinction between disorder and nuisance. To make the distinction, when incidents of this nature occur, the council will consider factors such as whether police assistance was required and how threatening the behaviour was.
- 11.3 Issues of nuisance cannot be addressed by the Gambling Act provisions however problems of this nature can be addressed through other legislation as appropriate.
- 11.4 Examples of the specific steps the council may take to address this area can be found in the various sections covering specific premises types in Part C of this document and in Part D which covers permits and notices.

12. Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

- 12.1 The council is aware that except in the case of tracks (see section 18) generally the Gambling Commission does not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way as this will be addressed via operating and personal licences.
- 12.2 However the council will familiarise itself with operator licence conditions and will communicate any concerns to the Gambling Commission about misleading advertising or any absence of required game rules or other matters as set out in the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Code of Practice.
- 12.3 Examples of the specific steps the council may take to address this area can be found in the various sections covering specific premises types in Part C of this document and in Part D which covers permits and notices.

13. Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Protection of children

13.1 This licensing objective means preventing children from taking part in most types of gambling. The council will therefore consider whether specific measures are required at premises, regarding this licensing objective. Appropriate measures may include supervision of entrances/machines, segregation of areas etc.

13.2 The Act provides the following definition for child and young adult in Section 45:

Meaning of “child” and “young person”

- (1) In this Act “child” means an individual who is less than 16 years old.
- (2) In this Act “young person” means an individual who is not a child but who is less than 18 years old.

For this section protection of children will encompass both child and young person as defined by the Act.

13.3 The council will pay particular attention to any codes of practice which the Gambling Commission issues as regards this licensing objective in relation to specific premises such as casinos.

13.4 Examples of the specific steps the council may take to address this area can be found in the various sections covering specific premises types in Part C of this document and in Part D which covers permits and notices.

Protection of vulnerable people

13.5 The council is aware of the difficulty in defining the term “vulnerable person”. In most recent literature it is not a term that is used, with the term “adults at risk of abuse or neglect” or “adults at risk” being the preferred terms.

13.6 The Gambling Commission, in its Guidance to Local Authorities, does not seek to define ‘vulnerable persons’ but it does, for regulatory purposes, assume that this group includes

“people who gamble more than they want to, people who gamble beyond their means and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to, for example, mental health, a learning disability or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs.”

13.7 However, in their Vulnerability Statement⁴ they also state:

“We know that adults may be in a vulnerable situation at any age, but young adults may be particularly vulnerable to gambling related harms due to a combination of biological, situational and environmental factors.”

13.8 The Care Act 2014 imposes a requirement on a local authority to “make enquiries if it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area, whether or not ordinarily resident there, has needs for care and support, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it”.

13.9 The local authority must make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult’s case (whether under this Part or otherwise) and, if so, what and by whom. The Care Act 2014 considers abuse to include financial abuse. It states “financial abuse” includes:

- a. having money or other property stolen,
- b. being defrauded,
- c. being put under pressure in relation to money or other property, and
- d. having money or other property misused.

13.10 Leeds Safeguarding Adults considers “financial and material abuse” to include theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with financial matters, or the misuse of someone else’s finances.

13.11 Prior to the introduction of the Care Act in 2014, the No Secrets statutory Guidance which covered adult safeguarding, used a broad definition of a ‘vulnerable adult’ as a person: “who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”. The Care Act 2014 has superseded this, and s42 now identifies ‘an adult at risk.’ An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is defined as someone who has needs for care and support, who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and because of their care needs – is unable to protect themselves.

Vulnerability to gambling harms in Leeds

13.12 In 2016 Leeds City Council commissioned Leeds Beckett University to undertake research into gambling harm in Leeds (*Problem Gambling in Leeds; Kenyon, Ormerod, Parsons and Wardle, 2016*). This research, which focussed specifically on gambling harm in Leeds, established that Leeds and areas like Leeds are broadly likely to have gambling harm rates at double the national

⁴ [What do we mean by vulnerability? \(gamblingcommission.gov.uk\)](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/what-do-we-mean-by-vulnerability/)

average. The research also looked specifically at identifying groups in society that could be considered vulnerable to, or at higher risk of, gambling harm:

- Young people
- Minority ethnic people
- Unemployed people and those constrained by economic circumstance
- Area of deprivation
- Homelessness
- Mental ill health
- Substance abuse/misuse
- Personality traits/cognitive disorders
- People gambling at problem level seeking treatment

13.13 The Public Health England Evidence Review (2021, updated by OHID in 2023) provides national context on the prevalence of gambling harm. It states:

“During 2018, 0.4% of the population were gambling at ‘problem’ levels, with an additional 3.5% gambling ‘at risk’. The proportion of people gambling at lower-risk levels has increased since 2016 (from 1,094,066 in 2016 to 1,213,830 in 2018), and a recent 2023 evidence update has estimated around 1.76 million people in England have a level of risk attached to their gambling participation (Jan 2023, Office for Health Improvement & Disparities). Local prevalence data requires further development, but current estimates indicate that 60.8% of adults gambled in the past 12 months in Yorkshire and Humber (Y&H ADPH) with 3.6% at-risk and a further 0.7% gambling at ‘problem’ level.

Those harms are experienced as debt (often long term), impact on employment and personal relationships, involvement in crime, mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, suicidal feelings and behaviour, and homelessness. Furthermore, for each person who gambles with negative consequences, around 6 other people are affected, often partners and children. Women are more likely to experience this type of harm and severity increases according to the closeness of the relationship with the person who gambles.”⁵

13.14 The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) commissioned researchers at the University of Sheffield and the University of Glasgow to produce estimates of the number of adults who gamble in England who might benefit from treatment or support. The estimates are by national, regional and local authority level.⁶

⁵ [Gambling-related harms: evidence review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/evidence-reviews/gambling-related-harms-evidence-review)

⁶ [Gambling treatment need and support: prevalence estimates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/evidence-reviews/gambling-treatment-need-and-support-prevalence-estimates)

13.15 This estimates that 25,719 adults might benefit from some type of gambling treatment or support in Leeds. There are an estimated 15,140 children living with these adults.

Council approach to Gambling Harms

13.16 In Leeds, gambling harms is regarded as a matter of public health, and this has been the case since partnership working to address gambling related harms. Public Health co-lead on the partnership working arrangements and project delivery in the city and continue to provide advice, support, and evidence to guide possible interventions to reduce gambling harms.

13.17 When compared to other local areas the work to address gambling-related harms in the city is well developed. The Leeds approach has been recognised nationally including by both the Local Government Association and the Gambling Commission and is a key reason for the city now hosting two treatment services (the NHS Northern Gambling Service and Leeds Community Gambling Service) in the city.

13.18 Leeds City Council's Public Health and Financial Inclusion teams co-lead partnership working arrangements, treatment service liaison and project delivery. Entertainment Licensing lead on the licensing of physical gambling premises, enforcement of these same premises and lobbying through the Local Government Association and liaison with the Gambling Commission.

13.19 The Council's local approach to gambling related harm is delivered successfully through a multi-agency approach and has been since 2016 when the Leeds Gambling Harms Group was formed. Representatives from a wide range of services attend the quarterly meetings, including Financial Inclusion, Public Health, Entertainment Licensing, treatment services (Leeds Community Gambling Service/GamCare, NHS Northern Gambling Service, YGAM), Citizen's Advice, University money support teams, GambleAware and Leeds City Council Communications.

13.20 The partnership was recently refreshed, and key priorities identified by the group, based on evidence and local insight. These four priorities are:

- Building and sharing the evidence base
- Improving identification and recognition of gambling-related harm
- Protecting children and young people from gambling-related harm
- Reducing exposure of vulnerable people to gambling products

- 13.21 The priorities already contribute to aspects of the three pillars from the Best City Ambition but as the themes are developed, further consideration will be given to this to ensure that the pillars are embedded within the work programme. The work is also well linked to range of other city strategies and plans including the Thriving Strategy and Better Lives strategy. Work will continue to ensure that there is link up with relevant strategies and work areas.
- 13.22 On a national level, the Council is represented at a Communities of Improvement Group, coordinated by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), which brings together Public Health leads in Yorkshire and the Humber with a focus on gambling related harm. ⁷

Considering vulnerability when making applications

- 13.23 In the case of premises licences the council is aware of the extensive requirements set out for operators in the Gambling Commission’s Code of Practice regarding social responsibility. In this document the Gambling Commission clearly describe the policies and procedures that operators should put in place regarding:
- Combating gambling harm
 - Access to gambling by children and young people
 - Information on how to gamble responsibly and help for problem gamblers
 - Customer interaction
 - Self-exclusion
 - Employment of children and young people
- 13.24 All applicants should familiarise themselves with the operator licence conditions and codes of practice relating to this objective and determine if these policies and procedures are appropriate in their circumstances. The council will communicate any concerns to the Gambling Commission about any absence of this required information.
- 13.25 Applicants may also like to refer to Leeds Safeguarding Adults Partnership document entitled “Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Policies and Procedures – West and North Yorkshire and York” which provides extensive guidance on identifying vulnerable people and what can be done to reduce risk for this group. This document can be accessed via <http://www.leedssafeguardingadults.org.uk>
- 13.26 The council has developed a risk matrix which identifies those areas which may have a population experiencing higher levels, and an accumulation of risk, therefore increasing vulnerability to gambling related harms. More information on areas identified as very high risk can be found in Part C.

⁷ [Council and democracy \(leeds.gov.uk\)](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)

13.27 Applicants could consider offering measures to be imposed on licences as conditions, which protect and support vulnerable people in the area, for example:

- Reduced opening hours.
- Working with local authority and treatment partners in training staff in gambling harm prevention.
- Training for staff members which focuses on building an employee's ability to maintain a sense of awareness of how much (e.g. how long) customers are gambling, as part of measures to detect people who may be vulnerable.
- Training for staff members which focuses on identifying and providing support to vulnerable people
- Restrict single manning operations (no lone working) due to concerns over timely age verification, safety of staff, supervision, ability to comply with company policies on gambling harm, and the ability to provide brief interventions.
- Use of security to minimise risk of disturbances including CCTV, SIA licensed security presence at the venue.
- Outline the amount and content of gambling harms support advertising that should be in the premises, including advertising of local treatment support.
- The level of detail that will be collected in the incident log, including interventions made by staff to support customers who are gambling problematically. Define how often this information should be shared with the local authority.
- Provision of leaflets aiding problem gamblers should be available on gambling premises in a location that is both prominent and discreet, such as toilets
- The administration and enforcement of self-exclusion schemes
- Windows, entrances, and advertisements to be positioned or designed not to entice children or other vulnerable people.

13.28 When licensed premises wish to advertise to local communities, a risk assessment with the Licensing Authority should be undertaken to ensure the most deprived areas and vulnerable client groups are not targeted. To protect those most vulnerable or susceptible to gambling related harm Leeds City Council recommends advertising material is not displayed within 100 metres of venues accessed by vulnerable groups, such as council offices, community hubs, addiction treatment services, advice centres, family centres and organisations that may provide financial and other advice.

13.29 It should be noted that some of these measures form part of the mandatory conditions placed on premises licences.

13.30 The council may consider any of the above or similar measures as licence conditions should these not be adequately addressed by any mandatory conditions, default conditions or proposed by the applicant.

Part C Premises licences

14. General Requirements

- 14.1 The council will issue premises licences to allow those premises to be used for certain types of gambling. For example premises licences will be issued to amusement arcades, bingo halls, bookmakers, and casinos.
- 14.2 Premises licences are subject to the permissions/restrictions set out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which are detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities can exclude default conditions and attach other conditions, where it is believed to be necessary and proportionate.
- 14.3 Applicants should also be aware that the Gambling Commission has issued Codes of Practice for each interest area for which they must have regard. The council will also have regard to these Codes of Practice.

Definition of “premises”

- 14.4 Premises is defined in the Act as “any place”. Different premises licences cannot apply in respect of a single premises at different times. However, it is possible for a single building to be subject to more than one premises licence, provided they are for different parts of the building and the different parts of the building can be reasonably regarded as being different premises. Whether different parts of a building can properly be regarded as being separate premises will always be a question of fact in the circumstances.
- 14.5 The council will take particular care in considering applications for multiple licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. The council will assess entrances and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more licences to satisfy itself that they are separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised, and that people do not ‘drift’ into a gambling area.
- 14.6 The council will pay particular attention to applications where access to the licensed premises is through other premises (which themselves may be licensed or unlicensed). Issues that the council will consider before granting such applications include whether children can gain access, compatibility of the two establishments; and the ability to comply with the requirements of the Act. In addition an overriding consideration will be whether, taken as a whole, the co-location of the licensed premises with other facilities has the effect of creating an arrangement that otherwise would, or should, be prohibited under the act.
- 14.7 An applicant cannot obtain a full premises licence until they have the right to occupy the premises to which the application relates.

Location

- 14.8 The council is aware that demand issues (e.g. the likely demand or need for gambling facilities in an area) cannot be considered regarding the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. The council will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling, as well as issues of crime and disorder.
- 14.9 With regards to these objectives it is the council's policy, upon receipt of any relevant representations, to look at specific location issues including:
- the possible impact a gambling premises may have on any premises that provide services to children or young people, for example a school, or vulnerable adult centres in the area
 - the possible impact a gambling premises may have on residential areas where there may be a high concentration of families with children
 - the size of the premises and the nature of the activities taking place
 - deprivation in the area
 - any levels of organised crime in the area.

Local Risk Assessments

- 14.10 From 6 April 2016, it is a requirement of the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP), under section 10, for licensees (except for those which hold betting licences for tracks) to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at their premises and have policies, procedures, and control measures to mitigate those risks. In making risk assessments, licensees must consider relevant matters identified in this policy.
- 14.11 The LCCP goes on to say licensees must review (and update as necessary) their local risk assessments:
- a. to take account of significant changes in local circumstance, including those identified in this policy.
 - b. when there are significant changes at a licensee's premises that may affect their mitigation of local risks.
 - c. when applying for a variation of a premises licence; and
 - d. in any case, undertake a local risk assessment when applying for a new premises licence.
- 14.12 The council will expect the local risk assessment to consider the urban setting:
- The proximity of the premises to schools.
 - The demographics of the area in relation to vulnerable groups.
 - The location of services for children such as schools, playgrounds, toy shops, leisure centres and other areas where children will gather.

- The range of facilities in the local area such as other gambling outlets, banks, post offices, refreshment, and entertainment type facilities.

14.13 The local risk assessment should show how vulnerable people, including people with gambling dependencies, are protected:

- The training of staff by a quality assured training provider in brief intervention when customers show signs of excessive gambling, the ability of staff to offer brief intervention and how the manning of premises affects this.
- Information held by the licensee regarding self-exclusions and incidences of underage gambling.
- Arrangements in place for local exchange of anonymised information regarding self-exclusion and gaming trends.
- Gaming trends that may mirror days for financial payments such as pay days or benefit payments.
- Arrangements for monitoring and dealing with under-age people and vulnerable people, which may include:
 - dedicated and trained personnel,
 - leaflets and posters,
 - self-exclusion schemes,
 - window displays and advertisements designed to not entice children and vulnerable people.
- The provision of signage and documents relating to games rules, gambling care providers and other relevant information be provided in both English and the other prominent first language for that locality.
- The proximity of premises that may be frequented by vulnerable people such as hospitals, residential care homes, medical facilities, doctor surgeries, council community hubs, addiction clinics or help centres, places where alcohol or drug dependent people may congregate.

14.14 The local risk assessment should show how children are to be protected:

- The proximity of institutions, places, or areas where children and young people frequent such as schools, youth clubs, parks, playgrounds, and entertainment venues such as bowling allies, cinemas, etc.
- The proximity of place where children congregate such as bus stops, cafes, shops.

14.15 Other matters that the assessment may include:

- Details as to the location and coverage of working CCTV cameras, and how the system will be monitored.
- The layout of the premises so that staff have an unobstructed view of people using the premises.
- The number of staff that will be available on the premises at any one time. If at any time that number is one, confirm the supervisory and monitoring arrangements when that person is absent from the licensed area or distracted from supervising the premises and observing those people using the premises.
- Where the application is for a betting premises licence, other than in respect of a track, the location and extent of any part of the premises which will be used to provide facilities for gambling in reliance on the licence.

- 14.16 The council has developed a Gambling Harm Vulnerability Matrix which identifies localities in Leeds which may have a higher the normal number of vulnerable adults and children at risk. The Matrix uses several data sources to rank Medium Super Output Areas against one another to identify the risk of harm. This matrix is available on request from Entertainment Licensing.
- 14.17 Information in the Local Area Risk Assessment and the council's Gambling Harm Vulnerability Matrix may be used to inform the decision the council makes about whether to grant the licence, to grant the licence with conditions or to refuse the application.
- 14.18 This policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus being upon the applicant to show how the concerns can be overcome.
- 14.19 Applicants may find it useful to request a copy of the Matrix and use the results to develop their local area risk assessment. When considering the application, the licensing authority and other responsible authorities and interested persons will use the Matrix to rank the location. This may be a determining factor in any representations and this evidence will be provided to licensing sub-committee.

Local Area Profile

- 14.20 Each locality has its own character and challenges. To assist applicants, where there is an issue in a local area which impacts on how the applicant should complete their risk assessment, the council may publish a local area profile. This profile, compiled in conjunction with the Community Hubs and approved by the Licensing Committee, can be obtained from Entertainment Licensing.
- 14.21 The local area profiles should be given careful consideration when making an application. Applicants may be asked to attend a meeting with licensing officers to discuss the profiles, appropriate measures to mitigate risk in the area and how they might be relevant to their application. The local area profiles will be presented to any subsequent licensing subcommittee when they determine an application that has received representations.
- 14.22 The council recognises that it cannot insist on applicants using the local area profiles when completing their risk assessments. However an applicant who decides to disregard the profiles may face additional representations and the expense of a hearing as a result.

Duplication with other regulatory regimes

14.23 The council will seek to avoid any duplication with other statutory/regulatory systems where possible, including planning. The council will not consider whether a licence application is likely to be awarded planning permission or building regulations approval, in its consideration of it. It will though, listen to, and consider carefully, any concerns about proposed conditions which are not able to be met by the applicant due to planning restrictions, should such a situation arise.

Conditions

14.24 The council is aware that the Secretary of State has set mandatory conditions and default conditions and the Gambling Commission has set Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice which are necessary for the general good conduct of gambling premises, therefore it is unlikely that the council will need to impose individual conditions imposing a more restricted regime in relation to matters that have already been dealt with.

14.25 Where there are specific risks or problems associated with a particular locality, or specific premises, or class of premises, the council will attach individual conditions to address this.

14.26 Any conditions attached to a licence issued by the council will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility.
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for, and/or related to the area where the premises is based.
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale, type, and location of premises.
- consistent with the licensing objectives, and
- reasonable in all other respects.

14.27 Decisions about individual conditions will be made on a case by case basis, although there will be a number of control measures the council will consider using, such as supervision of entrances, supervision of adult gaming machines, appropriate signage for adult only areas etc. There are specific comments made in this regard under each of the licence types in this policy. The council will also expect the applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to the way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively

14.28 Where certain measures are not already addressed by the mandatory/default conditions or by the applicant, the council may consider licence conditions to cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes.
- CCTV.
- Supervision of entrances.
- Supervision of machine areas.
- A reduction in the number of betting machines (betting premises).
- The manning of premises.
- Physical separation of areas.
- Location of entrance points.
- Notices/signage.
- Specific opening hours.
- A requirement that children must be accompanied by an adult (in premises where children are allowed).
- Enhanced DBS checks of the applicant and/or staff.
- Staff training in brief intervention, conflict resolution, basic knowledge of mental health, learning disabilities and addiction, including substance misuse.
- Support to people with gambling addiction, including brief intervention.
- Policies to address seasonal periods where children may more frequently attempt to gain access to premises and gamble such as pre and post school hours, half term and school holidays.
- Policies to address the problems associated with truant children who may attempt to gain access to premises and gamble.
- Obscuring windows where appropriate and labelling premises so it's clear that they are gambling premises.

14.29 This list is not mandatory or exhaustive and is merely indicative of examples of certain measures which may satisfy the requirements of the licensing authority and the responsible authorities, depending on the nature and location of the premises and the gambling facilities to be provided.

14.30 There are conditions which the council cannot attach to premises licences which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible for the applicant to comply with an operating licence condition.
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation.
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required (the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated) and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winnings, or prizes.

Door supervision

14.31 The council will consider whether there is a need for door supervision in terms of the licensing objectives of protection of children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and in terms of preventing premises becoming a source of crime. It is noted though that the Gambling Act 2005 has amended the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and that door supervisors at casinos or bingo premises are not required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. Where door supervisors are provided at these premises the

operator should ensure that any people employed in this capacity are fit and proper to carry out such duties. Possible ways to achieve this could be to carry out criminal records (DBS) check on potential staff and for such personnel to have attended industry recognised training.

15. Adult gaming centres

- 15.1 Adult gaming centres are a category of premises introduced by the Act that are most closely related to adult only amusement arcades seen in many city centres.
- 15.2 Under the Act a premises holding an adult gaming centre licence will be able to make category B, C and D gaming machines available and no one under 18 will be permitted to enter such premises.
- 15.3 The council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling in these premises. The council will expect applicants to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises.
- 15.4 Where certain measures are not already addressed by the mandatory and default conditions and the Gambling Commission Codes of Practice or by the applicant, the council may consider licence conditions to address such issues.

16. Licensed family entertainment centres (FECs)

- 16.1 Licensed family entertainment centres are those premises which usually provide a range of amusements such as computer games, penny pushers and may have a separate section set aside for adult only gaming machines with higher stakes and prizes. Licensed family entertainment centres will be able to make available unlimited category C and D machines where there is clear segregation in place, so children do not access the areas where the category C machines are located.
- 16.2 Where category C or above machines are available in premises to which children are admitted then the council will ensure that:
- all such machines are in an area of the premises separate from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance. For this purpose a rope, floor markings or similar provision will not suffice, and the council may insist on a permanent barrier of at least 1 meter high
 - only adults are admitted to the area where the machines (category C) are located
 - access to the area where the machines are located is always supervised
 - the area where the machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by staff; and
 - at the entrance to, and inside any such area there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to people under 18.

- 16.3 The council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling in these premises. The council will expect applicants to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas.
- 16.4 The council will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations.
- 16.5 The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits; however, they may include:
- appropriate measures and training for staff as regards suspected truant children on the premises
 - measures and training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises
 - measures and training covering how staff would deal with children causing perceived problems on or around the premises
 - the arrangements for the supervision of the premises either by staff or the use of a suitable CCTV system. Advice regarding the suitability of a CCTV system can be obtained from West Yorkshire Police.
- 16.6 Due to the nature of these premises, which are attractive to children, applicants who employ staff to supervise the premises should consult with the Disclosure and Barring Service to determine if their staff need to undertake a DBS check.
- 16.7 The council will refer to the Commission's website to familiarise itself with any conditions that apply to operating licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. The council will also make itself aware of the mandatory or default conditions and any Gambling Commission Codes of Practice on these premises licences.

17. Casinos

- 17.1 Leeds has several casinos which were licensed under the Gaming Act 1968, which have been subsequently converted into Gambling Act 2005 Converted Casino Premises Licences.
- 17.2 The Gambling Act states that a casino is an arrangement whereby people are given the opportunity to participate in one or more casino games whereby casino games are defined as a game of chance which is not equal chance gaming. This means that casino games offer the chance for multiple participants to take part in a game competing against the house or bank at different odds to their fellow players. Casinos can also provide equal chance gaming and gaming machines. Large and small casinos can also provide betting machines.

Licence considerations/conditions

- 17.3 The Gambling Commission has provided Guidance for Licensing Authorities and Licence Conditions and Code of Practice which are applied to Operator's Licences. The council will take this into consideration when determining licence applications for converted casino licences.
- 17.4 The council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling in these premises. The council will expect applicants to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises.
- 17.5 Where certain measures are not already addressed by the mandatory/default conditions, Gambling Commission Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice or by the applicant, the council may consider licence conditions to cover certain issues.
- 17.6 Detailed information on the Large Casino Application Process can be found in Appendix 2.

18. Bingo premises

- 18.1 There is no official definition for bingo in the Gambling Act 2005 however from a licensing point of view there is a category of premises licence specifically for bingo premises which is used by traditional commercial bingo halls for both cash and prize bingo. In addition this premises licence will authorise the provision of a limited number of gaming machines in line with the provisions of the Act (see Appendix 1).
- 18.2 The council is aware that it is important that if children are allowed to enter premises licensed for bingo that they do not participate in gambling, other than on category D machines. Where category C or above machines are available in premises to which children are admitted then the council will ensure that:
- all such machines are in an area of the premises separate from the remainder of the premises by a physical barrier which is effective to prevent access other than through a designated entrance. For this purpose a rope, floor markings or similar provision will not suffice, and the council may insist on a permanent barrier of at least one meter high
 - only adults are admitted to the area where the machines are located
 - access to the area where the machines are located is always supervised
 - the area where the machines are located is arranged so that it can be observed by staff
 - at the entrance to, and inside any such area there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the area is prohibited to people under 18
 - children will not be admitted to bingo premises unless accompanied by an adult.

- 18.3 The Gambling Commission has provided Guidance for Licensing Authorities and Licence Conditions and Code of Practice which are applied to Operator's Licences. The council will take this into consideration when determining licence applications for bingo premises.
- 18.4 Where certain measures are not already addressed by the mandatory/default conditions, the Gambling Commission Code of Practice or the applicant, the council may consider licence conditions to address such issues.

19. Betting premises

- 19.1 Betting premises are premises such as bookmakers where various types of gambling are authorised to take place. The Act contains a single class of licence for betting premises however within this single class there are different types of premises which require licensing such as high street bookmakers, bookmakers located in self-contained facilities at racecourses as well as the general betting premises licences that track operators will require.
- 19.2 The council will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling in these premises. The council will expect applicants to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises.

Betting machines

- 19.3 The council is aware that Section 181 of the Act contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature, and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence. When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the council, amongst other things, will consider the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines.
- 19.4 Where an applicant for a betting premises licence intends to offer higher stake category B gaming machines (categories B2-B4) including any Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs), then applicants should consider the control measures related to the protection of vulnerable people, highlighted in section 13.
- 19.5 Where certain measures are not already addressed by the mandatory/default conditions, Gambling Commission Code of Practice or the applicant, the council may consider licence conditions to address such issues.

20. Tracks

- 20.1 Tracks are sites (including racecourses and dog tracks) where races or other sporting events take place. Betting is a major gambling activity on tracks, both in the form of pool betting (often known as the “totaliser” or “tote”), and general betting, often known as fixed odds betting. Multiple betting outlets are usually located on tracks such as ‘on-course’ betting operators who come onto the track just on race days to provide betting for the races taking place on that track. There can also be ‘off-course’ betting operators who may operate self-contained facilities at the tracks which offer customers the chance to bet on other events, not just those taking place on the track.
- 20.2 All tracks will require a primary ‘general betting premises licence’ that the track operator will hold. It should be noted that track operators do not require an operating licence from the Gambling Commission although they may apply for one. This is because the various other gambling operators offering betting at the track will each hold an operating licence.
- 20.3 Tracks may also be subject to one or more premises licences, provided each licence relates to a specified area of the track. This may be preferable for any self-contained premises providing off-course betting facilities at the track. The council will however assess each individual case on its merits before deciding if this is necessary. Where possible the council will be happy for the track operator to decide if any off-course operators should apply for a separate premises licence.
- 20.4 If any off-course operators are permitted to provide betting facilities under the authorisation of the track operator’s premises licence, then it will be the responsibility of the premises licence holder to ensure the proper conduct of such betting within the premises boundary.
- 20.5 Gambling Commission guidance also indicates that it would be possible for other types of gambling premises to be located at a track under the authorisation of separate premises licences, e.g. a casino premises licence or adult gaming centre premises licence. If you require further guidance on this provision, please contact the Entertainment Licensing Section.
- 20.6 Children and young people will be permitted to enter track areas where facilities for betting are provided on days when dog-racing and/or horse racing takes place, although they are still prevented from entering areas where gaming machines and betting machines (other than category D machines) are provided.
- 20.7 The council will consider the impact upon the protection of children licensing objective and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of betting premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

Betting machines

- 20.8 The council is aware that Section 181 of the Act contains an express power for licensing authorities to restrict the number of betting machines, their nature, and the circumstances in which they are made available by attaching a licence condition to a betting premises licence. When considering whether to impose a condition to restrict the number of betting machines in particular premises, the council, amongst other things, will consider the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions and the location of the machines, to ensure they are in a properly segregated area where children are not permitted.
- 20.9 Where certain measures are not already addressed by the mandatory/default conditions, the Gambling Commission's Licence Conditions and Code of Practice or the applicant, the council may consider licence conditions to address such issues.

21. Travelling fairs

- 21.1 Travelling fairs have traditionally been able to provide various types of low stake gambling without the need for a licence or permit provided that certain conditions are met, and this provision continues in similar fashion under the new Act.
- 21.2 Travelling fairs have the right to provide an unlimited number of category D gaming machines and/or equal chance prize gaming (without the need for a permit) as long as the gambling amounts to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair (see Appendix 1).
- 21.3 The council will consider whether any fairs which take up the above entitlement fall within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.
- 21.4 The council is aware that the 27 day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair is per calendar year and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. The council will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses the council boundary is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

22. Provisional statements

- 22.1 A provisional statement application is a process which allows a developer to examine the likelihood of whether a building which he expects to be constructed, to be altered or to acquire a right to occupy would be granted a premises licence. A provisional statement is not a licence and merely gives the holder some form of guarantee that a premises licence would be granted so the developer can judge whether a development is worth taking forward considering

the need to obtain a premises licence. An applicant may also apply for a provisional statement for premises which already hold a premises licence (either for a different type of gambling or the same type).

22.2 In terms of representations about premises licence applications, following the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from responsible authorities or interested parties can be considered unless they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances. In addition, the council may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- a. which could not have been raised by objectors at the provisional licence stage; or
- b. which in the authority's opinion reflect a change in the operator's circumstances.

22.3 When determining a provisional statement application the council will operate in accordance with the Act and will not have regard to any issues related to planning consent or building regulations, e.g. the likelihood that planning consent will be granted.

Part D Permits, notices, and lottery registrations

23 Unlicensed family entertainment centre gaming machine permits (UFECs)

- 23.1 The term ‘unlicensed family entertainment centre’ is one defined in the Act and refers to a premises which provides category D gaming machines along with various other amusements such as computer games and penny pushers. The premises is ‘unlicensed’ in that it does not require a premises licence but does require a permit to be able to provide category D machines. It should not be confused with a ‘licensed family entertainment centre’ which requires a premises licence because it contains both category C and D gaming machines.
- 23.2 The Gambling Act 2005 contains provision for local authorities to prepare a “Statement of Principles” that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit. Schedule 10, Para 7 of the Act states “In preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it [the council] need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission.
- 23.3 In line with the above provision the council has prepared a ‘Statement of Principles’ in relation to unlicensed family entertainment centre gaming machines as follows:

Statement of Principles

- 23.4 The council will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations.
- 23.5 The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits; however, they may include:
- appropriate measures and training for staff as regards suspected truant children on the premises
 - measures and training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises
 - measures and training covering how staff would deal with children causing perceived problems on or around the premises.
 - the arrangements for supervision of premises either by staff or the use of CCTV. Any CCTV system installed should both the interior and the entrance working to the latest Home Office and ACPO standards and to the satisfaction of West Yorkshire Police and the local authority. The system must record images clearly and these recordings be retained for a minimum of 31 days. If the equipment is inoperative the police and local authority must be informed as soon as possible, and immediate steps taken to make the system operative. Notices must be displayed at the entrances advising that CCTV is in operation.

- 23.6 Due to the nature of these premises, which are attractive to children, applicants who employ staff to supervise the premises should consult with the Disclosure and Barring Service to determine if their staff need to undertake a DBS check.
- 23.7 The council will also expect, as per the Gambling Commission Guidance, that applicants demonstrate:
- A full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed family entertainment centres,
 - That the applicant has no relevant conviction (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act), and
 - That staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes.
- 23.8 In line with the Act, while the council cannot attach conditions to this type of permit, the council can refuse applications if they are not satisfied that the issues raised in the “Statement of Principles” have been addressed through the application.
- 23.9 Applicants only need to address the “Statement of Principles” when making their initial applications and not at renewal time.

24. Gaming machine permits in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol

- 24.1 There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have two gaming machines of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the council. The council can remove the automatic authorisation in respect of any premises if:
- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives.
 - gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of Section 282 of the Gambling Act (i.e. that written notice has been provided to the licensing authority, that a fee has been provided and that any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine has been complied with)
 - the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
 - an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises.
- 24.2 If a premises wishes to have more than two machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the council must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and “*such matters as they think relevant.*” The council considers that “such matters” will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling. The council will also expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient

measures to ensure that children and young people under the age of 18 do not have access to the adult only gaming machines.

- 24.3 All alcohol licensed premises with gaming machines must have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling and provide sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not use the adult only gaming machines.
- 24.4 Measures which may satisfy the council that people under 18 years will be prevented from using the machines may include the machines being near the bar, or in any other area where they are capable of being adequately supervised. Notices and signage may also help. As regards the protection of vulnerable people, applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets and or helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare, as well as any policy they may have regarding people becoming distressed or who may be gambling excessively, or for an excessive amount of time.
- 24.5 The council can decide to grant the permit with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for. Conditions (other than these) cannot be attached.
- 24.6 The holder of a permit must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine(s).
- 24.7 It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would need to be dealt with under the relevant provisions of the Act.
- 24.8 Alcohol licensed premises can provide some limited equal chance gaming. Licensees are referred to the advice provided by the Gambling Commission and Appendix 3 of this document.

25. Prize gaming permits

- 25.1 Section 288 defines gaming as prize gaming if the nature and size of the prize is not determined by the number of people playing or the amount paid for or raised by the gaming. The prizes will be determined by the operator before play commences. Prize gaming can often be seen at seaside resorts in amusement arcades where a form of bingo is offered, and the prizes are displayed on the walls.
- 25.2 A prize gaming permit is a permit issued by the licensing authority to authorise the provision of facilities for gaming with prizes on specified premises.
- 25.3 The Gambling Act 2005 contains provision for local authorities to prepare a “Statement of Principles” that they propose to consider in determining the suitability of an applicant for a permit. Schedule 14, Para 8 of the Act states, “in

preparing this statement, and/or considering applications, it [the council] need not (but may) have regard to the licensing objectives and shall have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under Section 25.

25.4 In line with the above provision the council has prepared a Statement of Principles in relation to prize gaming permits as follows:

Statement of Principles

25.5 The council will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations.

25.6 The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits; however, they may include:

- appropriate measures and training for staff as regards suspected truant children on the premises
- measures and training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises
- measures and training covering how staff would deal with children causing perceived problems on or around the premises. the arrangements for supervision of premises either by staff or the use of CCTV.
- Any CCTV system installed should both the interior and the entrance working to the Home Office and ACPO standards as described PSDB leaflet 09/05 and to the satisfaction of West Yorkshire Police and the local authority. The system must record images clearly and these recordings be retained for a minimum of 31 days. If the equipment is inoperative the police and local authority must be informed as soon as possible, and immediate steps taken to make the system operative. Notices must be displayed at the entrances advising that CCTV is in operation.

25.7 Due to the nature of these premises, which are attractive to children, applicants who employ staff to supervise the premises should consult with the Disclosure and Barring Service to determine if their staff need to undertake a DBS check.

25.8 The council will also expect, as per the Gambling Commission Guidance, that applicants demonstrate:

- A full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible
- That the gaming offered is within the law.

25.9 In line with the Act, while the council cannot attach conditions to this type of permit, the council can refuse applications if they are not satisfied that the issues raised in the “Statement of Principles” have been addressed through the application.

- 25.10 Applicants only need to address the “Statement of Principles” when making their initial applications and not at renewal time.
- 25.11 There are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 by which the permit holder must comply. The conditions in the Act are:
- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with.
 - all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played.
 - the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
 - participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

26. Club gaming and club machine permits

- 26.1 Members clubs and miners’ welfare institutes may apply for a ‘club gaming permit’ or a ‘club machine permit’. The ‘club gaming permit’ will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (three machines of categories B4, C or D), equal chance gaming. i.e. poker, bingo etc. A ‘club machine permit’ will enable the premises to provide gaming machines (three machines of categories B4, C or D). Commercial clubs may apply for a ‘club machine permit’ only.
- 26.2 To qualify for these special club permits a member’s club must have at least 25 members and be established and conducted “wholly or mainly” for purposes other than gaming. A members’ club must be permanent in nature, not established to make commercial profit, and controlled by its members equally. Examples include working men’s clubs, branches of the Royal British Legion and clubs with political affiliations.
- 26.3 Clubs must have regard to the protection of children and vulnerable people from harm or being exploited by gambling. They must provide sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not use the adult only gaming machines. Measures which may satisfy the council that people under 18 years will be prevented from using the machines may include the machines being near the bar, or in any other area where they are capable of being adequately supervised. Notices and signage may also help. As regards the protection of vulnerable people, applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets and or helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare, as well as any policy they may have regarding people becoming distressed or who may be gambling excessively, or for an excessive amount of time.
- 26.4 Before granting the permit the council will need to satisfy itself that the premises meets the requirements of a members’ club, and that most members are over 18.

- 26.5 The council may only refuse an application on the grounds that:
- a. the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members' or commercial club or miners' welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which they have applied.
 - b. the applicant's premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young people.
 - c. an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities.
 - d. a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years; or
 - e. an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.
- 26.6 There is also a 'fast-track' procedure available for premises which hold a club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003. Under the fast-track procedure there is no opportunity for objections to be made by the Commission or the police, and the ground upon which the council can refuse a permit is reduced. The grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:
- a. that the club is established primarily for gaming,
 - b. that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
 - c. that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

27. Temporary use notices

- 27.1 Temporary use notices allow the use of premises on not more than 21 days in any 12 month period for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling. Premises that might be useful for a temporary use notice would include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues.
- 27.2 Temporary Use Notices allow the use of premises for any form of equal chance gambling where those participating in the gaming are taking part in a competition which is intended to produce a single, overall winner.
- 27.3 Only people or companies holding a relevant operating licence can apply for a temporary use notice to authorise the class of gambling permitted by their operating licence.
- 27.4 A temporary use notice must be lodged with the licensing authority not less than three months and one day before the day on which the gambling is due to take place. Detailed information about how to serve a temporary use notice will be available in a separate guidance note.
- 27.5 The Act makes a special reference, in the context of temporary use notices, to a "set of premises" to try and ensure that large premises which cannot reasonably

be viewed as separate are not used for more temporary use notices than permitted under the Act. The council considers that the determination of what constitutes “a set of premises” will be a question of fact in the circumstances of each notice that is given. In considering whether a place falls within the definition of a “set of premises”, the council will look at, amongst other things, the ownership/occupation and control of the premises. The council will be ready to object to notices where it appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises.

28. Occasional use notices (for tracks)

- 28.1 There is a special provision in the Act which provides that where there is betting on a track on eight days or less in a calendar year, betting may be permitted by an occasional use notice without the need for a full premises licence. Track operators and occupiers need to be aware that the procedure for applying for an occasional use notice is different to that for a temporary use notice. The application may be made in writing, to the council by the person responsible for the administration of the events on a track or by an occupier of the track.
- 28.2 The council has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. The council will however consider the definition of a ‘track’ and whether the applicant is entitled to benefit from such notice.

29. Small society lottery registrations

- 29.1 A lottery generally refers to schemes under which prizes are distributed by chance among entrants who have given some form of value for their chance to take part.
- 29.2 The Act creates two principal classes of lotteries: Licensed lotteries and exempt lotteries. Licensed lotteries are large society lotteries and lotteries run for the benefit of local authorities. These will be regulated by the Gambling Commission. Within the class of exempt lotteries there are four sub classes, one of which is small society lotteries.
- 29.3 A small society lottery is a lottery promoted on behalf of a non-commercial society as defined in the Act which also meets specific financial requirements set out in the Act. These will be administered by the council for small societies who have a principal office in Leeds and want to run such lottery.
- 29.4 A lottery is small if the total value of tickets put on sale in a single lottery is £20,000 or less and the aggregate value of the tickets put on sale in a calendar year is £250,000 or less.
- 29.5 To be ‘non-commercial’ a society must be established and conducted:

- for charitable purposes,
- for the purpose of enabling participation in, or supporting, sport, athletics, or a cultural activity; or
- for any other non-commercial purpose other than that of private gain.

29.6 The other types of exempt lotteries are ‘incidental non-commercial lotteries’, ‘private lotteries’ and ‘customer lotteries’. If you require guidance on the different categories of lotteries, please contact the council.

29.7 The National lottery is not licensed by the Gambling Act 2005 and continues to be regulated by the National Lottery Commission under the National Lottery Act 1993.

Part E Enforcement

30. Enforcement principles

30.1 The council will work closely with the responsible authorities in accordance with a locally established joint enforcement protocol and will aim to promote the licensing objectives by targeting known high risk premises following government guidance around better regulation. Specifically the council is subject to the Regulators' Code which provides the following six provisions which the Council should follow in its enforcement activities, unless it concludes, based on material evidence, that a specific provision of the Code is either not applicable or outweighed by another relevant consideration.

- a. Regulators should carry out their activities in a way that supports those they regulate to comply and grow
- b. Regulators should provide simple and straightforward ways to engage with those they regulate and hear their views
- c. Regulators should base their regulatory activities on risk
- d. Regulators should share information about compliance and risk
- e. Regulators should ensure clear information, guidance and advice is available to help those they regulate meet their responsibilities to comply
- f. Regulators should ensure that their approach to their regulatory activities is transparent

30.2 In carrying out its enforcement duties with regards to the inspection of premises; and the powers to institute criminal proceedings in respect of certain offences under the Act the council will endeavour to be:

Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised.

Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions and be subject to public scrutiny.

Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly.

Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and

Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem and minimise side effects.

30.3 The council will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

30.4 Where there is a Primary Authority scheme in place, the council will seek guidance from the Primary Authority before taking any enforcement action. At

the time of the publication of this policy there were seven Primary Authority arrangements with host local authorities:

BACTA	Reading
Coral Racing	Milton Keynes
Ladbrokes	Milton Keynes
Paddy Power	Reading
Rank Group	City of Westminster
Sky Betting & Gaming	Wakefield
William Hill	Reading

- 30.5 Further information, including an index of all Primary Authority arrangements can be found at <https://primaryauthorityregister.info/par>
- 30.6 The council will also adopt a risk-based inspection programme in line with government recommendations around better regulation and the principles of the Hampton Review.
- 30.7 The main enforcement and compliance role for the council in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 will be to ensure compliance with the premises licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for the operator and personal licences. Concerns about the manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will not be dealt with by the council but will be notified to the Gambling Commission. In circumstances where the council believes a premises requires a premises licence for gambling activities and no such licence is in force, the council will alert the Gambling Commission.
- 30.8 The council will also keep itself informed of developments as regards the work of the Better Regulation Executive in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.
- 30.9 The council's enforcement/compliance protocols/written agreements will be available upon request.

31. Reviews

- 31.1 A review is a process defined in the legislation which ultimately leads to a licence being reassessed by the Licensing Committee with the possibility that the licence may be revoked, suspended or that conditions may amended, or new conditions added.
- 31.2 Requests for a review of a premises licence can be made by interested parties or responsible authorities; however, it is for the council to decide whether the review is to be carried out. This will be based on whether the request for the review is:

- a. in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- b. in accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission
- c. reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- d. in accordance with this authority's Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Policy.

31.3 In addition the council may also reject the application on the grounds that the request is frivolous, vexatious, will certainly not cause this authority to wish to alter, revoke or suspend the licence, or is substantially the same as previous representations or requests for review.

31.4 The council can also initiate a review of a licence based on any reason which it thinks is appropriate.

Appendix 1 Glossary of terms

Term	Description
ATM	Cash machine.
Betting	Betting is defined as making or accepting a bet on the outcome of a race, competition or other event or process or on the outcome of anything occurring or not occurring or on whether anything is or is not true. It is irrelevant if the event has already happened or not and likewise whether one person knows the outcome or not.
Betting Machines / Bet Receipt Terminal	Betting machines can be described as automated betting terminals where people can place bets on sporting events removing the need to queue up and place a bet over the counter.
Bingo	There are essentially two types of bingo: cash bingo, where the stakes paid make up the cash prizes that can be won and prize bingo, where various forms of prizes can be won, not directly related to the stakes paid.
Book	Running a 'book' is the act of quoting odds and accepting bets on an event. Hence the term 'Bookmaker'.
Casino games	A game of chance, which is not equal chance gaming such as roulette and blackjack etc.
Chip	Casinos in the UK require you to use chips to denote money. They are usually purchased and exchanged at a cashier's booth.
Coin pusher or penny falls machine	A machine of the kind which is neither a money prize machine nor a non-money prize machine
Crane grab machine	A non-money prize machine in respect of which every prize which can be won consists of an individual physical object (such as a stuffed toy) won by a person's success in manipulating a device. i.e. a grab mechanism.
Default condition	These are prescribed in regulations and will be attached to all classes of premises licence, unless excluded by the council.
Equal Chance Gaming	Gaming which does not involve playing or staking against a bank.
Fixed odds betting	If a gambler can establish what the return on a bet will be when it is placed, (and the activity is not 'gaming' see below), then it is likely to be betting at fixed odds.
Fixed Odds betting terminals (FOBTs)	FOBTs are a type of gaming machine which generally appear in licensed bookmakers. FOBTs have 'touchscreen' displays and look like quiz machines familiar in pubs and clubs but offer several games, roulette being the most popular.
Gaming	Gaming, in reference to gambling, can be defined as 'the playing of a game of chance for winnings in money or monies worth,

Term	Description
	whether any person playing the game is at risk of losing any money or monies worth or not'. Gaming is also the common term for the playing of online video games and should not be confused.
Gaming Machine	Any type of machine allowing any sort of gambling activity including betting on virtual events but not including home computers even though users can access online gaming websites.
Licensing Objectives	<p>The licensing objectives are three principal goals which form the basis of the Act. Stakeholders who have an interest in the Act need to try and promote these objectives: The licensing objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime. • Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way. • Protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
Lottery	<p>A lottery generally refers to schemes under which prizes are distributed by chance among entrants who have given some form of value for their chance to take part. A lottery is defined as either a simple lottery or a complex lottery. A simple lottery is one where people are required to pay to participate, and one or more prizes are allocated to one or more members of a class and the prizes are allocated by a process which relies wholly on chance. A complex lottery is where people are required to pay to participate, and one or more members of a class and the prizes are allocated by a series of processes where the first of those processes relies wholly on chance. Prize means money, articles or services provided by the members of the class among whom the prize is allocated. (It should be noted that the National Lottery is not included in this definition of lottery and is regulated by the National Lottery Commission).</p>
Mandatory condition	A condition which will be set by the Secretary of State (some set out in the Act and some to be prescribed by regulations) which will be automatically attached to a specific type of premises licence. The council will have no discretion to alter or remove these conditions.
Money prize machine	A machine in respect of which every prize which can be won because of using the machine is a money prize.

Term	Description
Non-money prize machine	<p>A machine in respect of which every prize which can be won because of using the machine is a non-money prize. The winner of the prize is determined by:</p> <p>(i) the position in which the coin or token comes to rest after it is inserted into the machine, together with the position of other coins or tokens which have previously been inserted into the machine to pay a charge for use, or</p> <p>(ii) if the insertion of a single coin to pay the charge for use enables the person using the machine to release one or more tokens within the machine, the position in which such tokens come to rest after release, together with the position of other tokens which have previously been released.</p>
Odds	The ratio to which a bet will be paid if the bet wins, e.g. 3-1 means for every £1 bet, a person would receive £3 of winnings.
Off-course betting operator	Off-course betting operators may, in addition to premises away from the track, operate self-contained betting premises within a track premises. Such self-contained premises will provide facilities for betting on both events taking place at the track (on-course betting), as well as other sporting events taking place away from the track (off-course betting). In essence such premises operate like a traditional high street bookmaker. They will however only normally operate on race days.
On-course betting operator	The on-course betting operator is one who comes onto on a track, temporarily, while races are taking place, and operates at the track side. On-course betting operators tend to offer betting only on the events taking place on the track that day (on-course betting).
Pool Betting	<p>For the purposes of the Gambling Act, pool betting is made on terms that all or part of the winnings:</p> <p>1) Shall be determined by reference to the aggregate of the stakes paid or agreed to be paid by the people betting</p> <p>2) Shall be divided among the winners or</p> <p>3) Shall or may be something other than money. For the purposes of the Gambling Act, pool betting is horse-race pool betting if it relates to horse-racing in Britain.</p>
Regulations or Statutory instruments	Regulations are a form of law, often referred to as delegated or secondary legislation. They have the same binding legal effect as Acts and usually state rules that apply generally, rather than to specific people or things. However, regulations are not made by Parliament. Rather, they are made by people or bodies to whom

Term	Description
	Parliament has delegated the authority to make them, such as a minister or an administrative agency.
Representations	In the context of the Gambling Act representations are either positive statements of support or negative objections which are made in relation to a licensing application. Representations must be made in time, e.g. during a designated notice period.
Responsible authority (authorities)	Responsible authorities (RAs) are agencies which have been appointed by the Gambling Act or regulations to fulfil a designated role during the licensing process. RAs must be sent copies of all licensing applications and have the power to make representations about such applications. RAs also have the power to ask for licences to be reviewed. For Leeds the RAs include West Yorkshire Police, The local Safeguarding Children Board, Leeds City Council's Development Department as well as several others.
Skill machine / Skill with prizes machine	The Act does not cover machines that give prizes because of the application of pure skill by players. A skill with prizes machine is one on which the winning of a prize is determined only by the player's skill – any element of chance imparted by the action of the machine would cause it to be a gaming machine. An example of a skill game would be trivia game machines, popular in pubs and clubs, which require the player to answer general knowledge questions to win cash prizes.
Spread betting	A form of investing which is more akin to betting and can be applied either to sporting events or to the financial markets. Spread betting is regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
Stake	The amount pledged when taking part in gambling activity as either a bet, or deposit to the bank or house where the house could be a gaming machine.
Statement of principles document	A document prepared by the council which outlines the areas that applicants need to consider before applying for gaming permits.
Table gaming	Card games played in casinos.
Tote	"Tote" is short for Totaliser, a system introduced to Britain in 1929 to offer pool betting on racecourses.
Track	Tracks are sites (including horse tracks and dog tracks) where races or other sporting events take place. Examples of tracks within the Leeds district would be Elland Road Football ground and Headingley Stadium.

Appendix 2 Large Casino

The status of the Large Casino is that a premises licence has been granted. The following process will apply should the current licence cease to exist because it has either been surrendered or revoked.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Act introduces three new categories of casino: one regional casino, eight large casinos and eight small casinos. In 2006 the council submitted a proposal for a regional and large casino to the Casino Advisory Panel.
- 1.2 On 15th May 2008 the Categories of Casino Regulation 2008 and the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Large and Small Casino Premises Licences) Order 2008 was approved. This specified which licensing authorities could issue premises licences for large and small casinos. Leeds City Council was authorised to issue a large casino premises licence.
- 1.3 On 26th February 2008 the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport issued the Code of Practice on Determinations Relating to Large and Small Casinos (Code of Practice). The council will comply with this Code which sets out:
 - a. the procedure to be followed in making any determinations required under Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Schedule 9 to the Gambling Act 2005 and
 - b. matters to which the Licensing Authority should have regard in making these determinations.
- 1.4 The council recognises that applicants may either apply for a casino premises licence or a provisional statement. As for all premises licences, applicants for a casino premises licence must fulfil certain criteria in that they must:
 - a. hold or have applied for an operating licence from the Gambling Commission; and
 - b. have the right to occupy the premises in question.
- 1.5 Should an applicant be unable to meet these two criteria they should apply for a provisional statement.
- 1.6 Unless otherwise specified, any reference to the application and procedures for a premises licence for a casino in the following parts of this section will also include the application and procedures for a provisional statement for a casino.
- 1.7 Where a provisional statement application is successful, the council may limit the period for which the statement will have effect. This period may be extended if the applicant so applies.
- 1.8 The council will ensure that any pre-existing contract, arrangement or other relationship with a company or individual does not affect the procedure for

assessing applications to make it unfair or perceived to be unfair to any applicant.

- 1.9 In deciding on both stages the council will take heed of any current Codes of Practice, current Regulations and guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Gambling Commission.
- 1.10 The council has not passed a “no casino” resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005 but is aware that it has the power to do so. It may choose to exercise this option should there be only one application for a large casino premises licence or should, where there is more than one application, those applications fail to meet the council’s aspirations for benefit for the Leeds metropolitan area. Should the council decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy with details of that resolution and any such decision will be made by full Council.
- 1.11 As per Part 8, Section 210 of the Gambling Act 2005 the council will not have regard to whether a proposal by the applicant is likely to be permitted in accordance with the law relating to planning or building and any licensing decision will not constrain any later decision by the council under the law relating to planning or building.
- 1.12 The council does not have a preferred location for the new large casino. Applicants can submit proposals for any site or location within the Leeds metropolitan area and each will be judged on its own individual merits.

2. Application Process

Stage 1

- 2.1 The council will publish an invitation calling for applications. This invitation will be published in a trade newspaper, journal, or similar publication. It will state the latest date the application must be made and the place from which a person may obtain an application pack.
- 2.2 The part of the application pack which relates to stage 1 will include, as a minimum, the following:
 - Guidance for applicants
 - Application form for Stage 1
 - Example notices
- 2.3 With regard to stage 1 of the application process, the general principles as stated in Part C of this gambling policy will apply to all applications.

- 2.4 At stage 1 the Licensing Committee or sub-committee, will determine, if there are valid representations, which applications would be granted if they were able to grant more than one application.
- 2.5 At stage 1, the council will not consider whether any of the applications is more deserving of being granted.

Stage 2

- 2.6 Should more than one applicant pass through stage 1, the process will proceed to the second stage with each successful applicant being invited to submit information about how their application would, if granted, benefit the area.
- 2.7 The part of the application pack which relates to stage 2 will include, as a minimum, the following:
- Stage 2 evaluation methodology, including scoring matrix
 - Details of current Licensing Committee
 - Details of the Advisory Panel
 - Terms of reference for Advisory Panel
 - Example Schedule 9 agreement
 - Glossary
 - Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030
- 2.8 At stage 2, the procedure will follow the DCMS Code of Practice. However, the Code leaves individual councils to determine the detail of their own procedure.
- 2.9 The council will not bear any abortive costs of the unsuccessful applicants and their participation in all phases of the licence process is conducted entirely at the applicants' risk.

Advisory Panel

- 2.10 It is recognised that the Licensing Committee does not necessarily have specialised expertise required to fully evaluate each application. It will seek professional expertise from officers of the council. Where this expertise is not available, it may seek independent expertise from outside the council.
- 2.11 For this purpose, the Licensing Committee will appoint a non-statutory panel to assist it in the evaluation of the stage 2 application process. This panel will be called the "Advisory Panel". The Advisory Panel will evaluate each application using the evaluation methodology and scoring provided in the application pack.
- 2.12 To ensure there are no conflicts of interest, applicants will be provided with a list of Advisory Panel members. Where objections are made, it will be necessary to give details of the substance of such objection. These objections will be considered by the Licensing Committee before the evaluation of stage 2 applications commence.

- 2.13 The Advisory Panel will engage in discussions with each second stage applicant with a view to the particulars of an application being refined, supplemented, or otherwise altered to maximise the benefits to the Leeds metropolitan area that would result from it (should it be granted).
- 2.14 The Advisory Panel will report its findings to the Licensing Committee. The report will be made available to the applicant before being submitted to ensure that the information provided within it is accurate. Should the applicant disagree with the evaluation, this will be noted and reported to the Licensing Committee, together with any necessary changes to the Advisory Panel's report.
- 2.15 The Licensing Committee will consider all the applications at Stage 2, and the report of the Advisory Panel. They will evaluate the proposals, in line with the principles below and determine which application, if granted, is likely to result in the greatest benefit to the area. This will involve an evaluation of the benefits and the likelihood of their delivery.
- 2.16 The Licensing Committee will instruct officers to complete negotiations on any written agreements made under Paragraph 5(3)(b) of Schedule 9 of the Act. Once the negotiations have been completed officers will report to Licensing Committee who will then grant the licence to the successful applicant and reject the remaining applications.
- 2.17 In line with paragraph 5.7.4 of the Code of Practice, in determining the principles the council intends to apply in making any determination for a casino premises licence, the council has had specific regard to the following:
- a. The financial and other contribution a second stage applicant proposes to make to the Leeds metropolitan area,
 - b. The likely effects of an application on employment, the local economy and regeneration within the authority's area,
 - c. Whether, and the extent to which, the benefits offered are pursuant to an agreement under paragraph 5(3)(b) of Schedule 9 or otherwise.
- 2.18 In line with paragraph 3.3 of the Code of Practice, in determining the principles the council intend to apply at Stage 2, it disregarded the existence of any contract, arrangement or other relationship already in place; and will
- put in place arrangements to ensure that any such contract, arrangement or other relationship does not or apparently, prejudice its ability to conduct the procedure fairly; and will
 - prepare a register of interests disclosing their interest in any contract, arrangement or other relationship with an applicant or a person connected or associated with an applicant.

3. Principles

3.1 At stage 2 the applicant will be required to state and demonstrate the benefit that they can bring to Leeds metropolitan area.

3.2 The council will seek to determine the greatest benefit through the following principles:

Financial To seek to maximise the financial return to the council.

Social To use any financial return accrued to facilitate the delivery of programmes and projects that support the Council's social and economic inclusion agenda, for the benefit of the Leeds metropolitan area.

Economic To secure a positive and significant economic impact for the local economy through the provision of a Large Casino in Leeds.

4. Evaluation Criteria

4.1 The council will publish a detailed evaluation methodology, which includes the information applicants are required to supply to support their application, and the weight that will be placed on each criterion. This evaluation methodology will be included in the application pack.

4.2 Applicants should carefully examine the evaluation methodology and tailor their application accordingly to ensure that they maximise benefits in accordance with this methodology.

4.3 In line with paragraph 5.7.4 of the Code of Practice, and the principles stated at 16.37 of this policy, the council has selected the following criteria which they will use to evaluate and score applications:

Financial Contribution This criterion relates to 16.33a and the first and second principles

Socio-economic This criterion relates to 16.33b and the second and third principles

Risk and deliverability This criterion relate to 16.33c and all three principles

Financial Contribution

4.4 The council is seeking to identify and quantify the level of financial contribution that could be secured for the Leeds metropolitan area. It is expected that the

contribution will comprise a mixture of annual payments received from the applicant and a lump sum payable upon signing of any agreements and on specified dates and/or events thereafter.

- 4.5 The financial contribution will be used by the council to establish and maintain the council administered Social Inclusion Fund (SIF) which will facilitate the delivery of programmes and projects that support the council’s social and economic inclusion agenda, for the benefit of the Leeds metropolitan area.
- 4.6 The financial contribution will be evaluated in terms of its ability to fund a credible and sustainable SIF. As such a mixture of upfront and annual payments is required.
- 4.7 The scoring of financial contributions will be weighted as follows:

1.0	1.0 Financial Contribution	33%
1.1	Net Present Value of total financial offer	
1.2	Upfront capital payment paid to the council on completion of the Schedule 9 Agreement	
1.3	Net Present Value of annual cash sum offer	
1.4	Credibility of financial assumptions and offer	

- 4.8 Further detail including the information required, its format and how the submission will be evaluated can be found in the evaluation methodology included in the stage 2 application pack.

Socio-economic

- 4.9 The council is seeking to identify and quantify the level of expected net socio-economic benefits that could be secured for the Leeds metropolitan area based on the projected gross levels applicants believe their proposals will generate.
- 4.10 The council will expect to see that the applicant has tailored its proposals specifically to the requirements of Leeds through research and detailed assessment of the physical, social, and economic position as outlined in its vision documents. These documents will be made available in the stage 2 application pack.
- 4.11 Applicants should have regard to the proposed location of the premises, regarding meeting the licensing objective which seeks to protect children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. Applicants will be asked to provide information related to the area in which their proposed development is situated in their strategy and vision documents.
- 4.12 Applicants will be asked to provide information on how their development will impact on employment and training, including amongst others, graduate

training, NEETs, and vocational qualifications as well as opportunities for Leeds businesses and the local supply chain.

4.13 Applicants must demonstrate a firm commitment to mitigation of negative impacts and ensuring residents’ safety and health is not put at risk by the large casino. Attention should be focussed on mitigation for the most vulnerable in society and for those living closest to the proposed casino and applicants must ensure that problem gambling issues do not increase in the Leeds area. Applicants must provide an assessment of the social, equality and health impacts of their proposed casino developments and provide mitigation plans to minimise and eliminate negative impacts. Applicants should also commit to supporting the ongoing monitoring of negative social, equality and health impacts of the large casino and make contractual commitments in the schedule 9 agreement on all mitigation measures proposed.

4.14 The scoring of the socio-economic benefits will be weighted as follows:

2.0 Socio-economic	34%
2.1 Strategy and vision for proposed development	
2.2 Economic Benefits (Gross):	
- Net contribution to local economy (including direct employment and GVA)	
- Credibility of economic assumptions	
2.3 Net social impacts	

4.15 Further detail including the information required, its format, data requirements and how the submission will be evaluated can be found in the evaluation methodology included in the stage 2 application pack.

Risk and deliverability

4.16 At stage 2 the council will assess the risk and deliverability of the proposed scheme. The council will wish to consider what legal and financial assurances there are that the proposed development will be delivered within 5 years, and that the promised benefits will both materialise and be maintained. Firm evidence is required that all benefits and development proposed can be funded and a contractual obligation with penalties for non-delivery is required.

4.17 The application pack will include a template agreement under paragraph 5(3)(b) of Schedule 9 to the 2005 Act (‘a schedule 9 agreement’). Such an agreement will be negotiated with the applicants during the stage 2 evaluation process. This agreement will include a list of the benefits proposed, along with delivery targets and details of the penalties for non-delivery. Applications where

the benefits, including delivery of the development itself, are made subject of contractual obligation and where the applicant provides damages for non-delivery are likely to receive greater weight in the evaluation process.

4.18 The council is aware that the casino application may form part of a wider development proposal or be a new development. A casino development with firm contractual commitment to be fully operational within a 5 year timescale with proof of funding and with meaningful payment proposed for late or non-delivery will score more highly than a casino development that is not supported by a contractual commitment and/or meaningful payments for late or non-delivery and/or proof of funding. Any part of a wider development proposal which is not directly required for the delivery of the casino will score more highly if the applicant commits to completing the wider development within a 5 year timescale, proposes meaningful payment for late or non-delivery and provides proof of funding. These commitments will be contained within the schedule 9 agreement and the five year timescale will start from the signing of the schedule 9 agreement. Applicants must demonstrate that all development proposals are credible.

4.19 The scoring of risk and deliverability will be weighted as follows:

3.0 Risk and deliverability	33%
3.1 Contents of the Schedule 9 Agreement	
3.2 Deliverability:	
- Financing	
- Financial Standing	
- Right to occupy the site/premises	
- Credibility of approach to implementation	

4.20 Further detail including the information required, its format and how the submission will be evaluated can be found in the evaluation methodology included in the stage 2 application pack along with a template schedule 9 agreement.

**Produced by
Entertainment Licensing
Leeds City Council
Civic Hall
Leeds
LS1 1UR**

Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening



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

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

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

Directorate: Citizens and Communities	Service area: Entertainment Licensing
Lead person: Susan Duckworth	Contact number: 0113 395 1863

1. Title: Review of Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy 2005-2027

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

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

Under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005, the Licensing Authority is required to prepare a statement of principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under this Act. This process is to be repeated every three years from 31st January 2007.

The consultation process is laid out clearly in the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement)(England and Wales) Regulations 2006 and the Guidance to Licensing Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission.

This screening form considers both the content and adoption of the reviewed policy and the public consultation process.

3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

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

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

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

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

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

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

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

The concerns relate to gambling and vulnerable people. Vulnerable is defined in the policy as:

The Gambling Commission, in its Guidance to Local Authorities, does not seek to define ‘vulnerable persons’ but it does, for regulatory purposes, assume that this group includes

“people who gamble more than they want to, people who gamble beyond their means and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to, for example, mental health, a learning disability or substance misuse relating to alcohol or drugs.”

However, in their Vulnerability Statement they also state:

“We know that adults may be in a vulnerable situation at any age, but young adults may be particularly vulnerable to gambling related harms due to a combination of biological, situational and environmental factors.”

Page 17 – 22 of the Policy seeks to consider vulnerability in the context of the licensing objective:

“Protection of children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.”

Vulnerable people may well have protected characteristics and have been at the forefront when reviewing the policy.

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

The impact on vulnerable people specifically relates to gambling premises which are embedded within the community such as betting shops and adult gaming centres. Betting shops are plentiful and on every high street. There is an increase in high street bingo and gaming centres. These premises have highly addictive gaming machines, offering casino style games. The increase in the availability of these machines is of concern nationally. Additional requirements under the Gambling Commission’s Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) seek to address risks to vulnerable people.

One of the three licensing objectives specifically relates to children and vulnerable people, as above. Care and consideration has been taken to consider all definitions of vulnerability, and the impact gambling may have. As the council takes a 'whole council' approach to gambling harms, both the measures described in the policy, and the consultation on the policy itself have been considered carefully through consultation with organisations who represent people who could be considered vulnerable to gambling harm.

• Actions

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

This is the sixth triennial review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy. At this review the council does not seek to remove any of the protections included in other versions of the policy. It does seek to include additional requirements and suggested measures for licence applicants to consider when completing the local area risk assessment and making their application. These measures specifically address concerns for vulnerable people.

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

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

6. Governance, ownership and approval

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

Name	Job title	Date
Nicola Raper	Head of Entertainment Licensing	23 July 2024
Date screening completed		23 July 2024

7. Publishing

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

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

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

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

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

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Appointment of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

Date: 31 October 2024

Report of: Interim Assistant Chief Executive – People, Digital & Change

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The purpose of the report is to invite Council to approve the recommendation of the Employment Committee to appoint Ed Whiting to the role of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

It is expected that Ed Whiting will commence in role on 6 January 2025. The current interim arrangements will remain in place until then.

Recommendations

- a) To note the contents of this report.
- b) To seek Council approval to the recommendation of the Employment Committee of 24 October 2024 to appoint Ed Whiting to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

What is this report about?

- 1 The purpose of the report is to seek Council approval to the recommendation of the Employment Committee of 24 October 2024 to appoint Ed Whiting to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.

Background

- 2 Officer Employment Procedure Rules, Part 4(l) of the Constitution sets out the requirements for the recruitment and appointment of the Council's Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. This process commenced following Tom Riordan's announcement in May of his intention to leave later in the year. To ensure compliance with the Constitution and leadership continuity, Council approved interim Chief Executive arrangements at its meeting of 11 September 2024.
- 3 The appointment of a Chief Executive is a Council (non-executive) Function. Part 3 Section 2A of the Constitution delegates the responsibility for making recommendations regarding the appointment of the Chief Executive to the Employment Committee for which Terms of Reference are set out in Part 3, Section 2B(g).
- 4 The Employment Committee comprised of Cllr James Lewis (Chair), Cllr Debra Coupar, Cllr Jonathan Pryor and Cllr Alan Lamb.
- 5 Under the direction of the Employment Committee, the Chief Executive recruitment and selection process involved:
 - Deployment of a specialist search consultant (Penna Plc) to engage with potential candidates at an international, national and regional level and from across multiple sectors.
 - National hard copy and online advertisement with a supporting recruitment microsite.
 - Longlisting Assessment based on covering letter, application and CV.
 - Shortlisting Assessment based on Technical Interviews involving a peer Chief Executive, and video presentations.
 - Five separate Stakeholder Panels. The Panels: Children & Young Person Panel, Partner Panel (involving health, third sector, police, business, and higher education leaders), Member Panel (involving cross party members and Scrutiny/Committee Chairs), Senior Officer Panel (Directors and Chief Officers) and a Workforce Panel (involving trade union officers, staff network chairs and the Freedom to Speak up Guardian).
 - Leadership Scenario Assessments & References.
 - Final Interview with the Employment Committee.

In addition to these formal assessments, the shortlisted candidates had the opportunity to meet with members of the Executive Board and attend two Ward Visits (Harehills and Kirkstall) hosted by members and community leaders.

- 6 The Employment Committee carefully considered the feedback received from the assessments and have unanimously recommended the appointment of Ed Whiting to the post of Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
- 7 All members of the Executive Board were subsequently invited to present any material and/or well founded objections to their recommendation within the specified period. No objections were received, and the Officer Employment Procedure Rules have been duly followed.
- 8 A brief summary of Ed Whiting’s biography and employment history is included in Appendix 1.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 9 The Chief Executive is the Head of Paid Service and the most senior employee of the City Council. Their primary function is to provide overall leadership and vision in developing the strategic direction of the senior leadership team and the whole organisation, and deliver the Council’s key corporate and partnership priorities in line with the Best City Ambition for Leeds. It is also a constitutional requirement for this post to be filled.

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

- Health and Wellbeing
- Inclusive Growth
- Zero Carbon

- 10 Making this appointment will ensure that there is corporate leadership to deliver the above three pillars of the Best City Ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Have ward members been consulted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
--

- 11 The proposals contained in this report have been agreed by the Leader. A range of internal and external stakeholders and partners have contributed to the decision-making process as set out in section 5 of this report.

What are the resource implications?

- 12 The Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service is an established post and is within budget provision for 2024/25 therefore no additional costs will be incurred in making this appointment.

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

- 13 There are no identified risks with the proposals set out in this report. There will be appropriate on-boarding and induction arrangements in place to ensure a smooth transition of corporate leadership.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 The approach within this report seeks to ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory requirements as set out in the Constitution.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

15 It is a requirement to ensure that the Council employs a Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service at all times and that the mechanism to do so should be pursuant to the Constitution and Officer Employment Procedure Rules. It was therefore essential for the Council to commence a robust and thorough recruitment and selection process upon announcement of Tom Riordan's decision to leave the organisation. The Employment Committee, the HR team and the retained consultants have worked closely throughout this period to ensure that the Council has been in a position to attract and appoint exceptional talent.

How will success be measured?

16 Success will be measured through the smooth and successful transition of officer leadership and the long term service and strategy delivery pursuant to the Best City Ambitions and organisational plan.

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

17 The recruitment and selection process has been co-ordinated by the Chief HR Officer and the timeline is as follows:

- Advertisement and Search (from July 2024 onwards, closing date 6 September 2024).
- Longlisting, Technical Interviews and other preliminary assessments (September to October 2024).
- Shortlisting with Employment Committee (7 October 2024).
- Stakeholder Panels and other selection (w/c 14 October 2024).
- Final Interview with Employment Committee (24 October 2024).
- Full Council Approval (13 November 2024).
- On-boarding, transition and induction arrangements (November 2024 onwards).
- New Chief Executive commences (6 January 2025).

Appendix

- Precip of the employment history of Ed Whiting.

Appendix 1

Brief biography and employment history of Ed Whiting OBE

Ed Whiting OBE

Employment History

February 2023 to date

Civil Service: Director of Cities and Local Growth in the Department for Business and Trade and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, based in Leeds, and is currently leading place-based economic growth partnerships with UK Mayors and other local leaders.

September 2016 to November 2022

Wellcome: Director of Strategy, and previously Director of Policy and Chief of Staff. Led the development of their new organisational strategy and global partnerships, and was the executive sponsor for equity, diversity and inclusion.

January 2014 to August 2016

No. 10 Downing Street: Deputy Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister and previously Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Ed has also held senior Civil Service roles in HM Treasury, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Education & Personal

Ed is very familiar with Leeds having grown up in the city. He attended Christ's College, Cambridge University reading English and History, graduating in 2003.

He now lives in West Yorkshire with his partner David, and they are foster carers to a young baby.

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Attendance at meetings

Date: 13th November 2024

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report seeks authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Smart from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months from the date of this meeting.

Recommendations

Council is asked to approve the absence of Councillor Smart from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from the date of this meeting.

What is this report about?

- 1 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision in relation to member attendance at meetings. It provides that if a member fails to attend qualifying meetings for a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the authority unless, before the expiry of that period the authority has approved such non-attendance.
- 2 Councillor Smart recently gave birth and at the time of writing this report her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was the Inner West Community Committee on 2nd July 2024.
- 3 In addition to Full Council Councillor Smart's other committee membership is the Inner West Community Committee.
- 4 This report seeks authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Smart from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months from the date of this meeting.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 It will ensure that Councillor Smart is authorised to be absent from meetings of the authority while on a period of maternity leave.

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 6 Fully operational and quorate Committees, Boards and Panels and representation on external bodies are in line with the Council's Policies and the priorities including a Member on maternity leave having permission to be absent from meetings.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 7 The relevant group whip has requested this report and has been consulted on the report.

What are the resource implications?

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

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

- 9 The key risks would be a Member on a period of maternity leave and not able to attend a qualifying meeting of the Council ceasing to be a Member of the authority. This risk is being managed by this report.

What are the legal implications?

- 10 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 is relevant in respect of this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 11 With a member absent on maternity leave no other options were considered.

How will success be measured?

12 Not applicable.

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

13 The implementation of the decision would be immediately after the decision is made.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None

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Appointments

Date: 13th November 2024

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report updates Council on a recent review of committee place allocations following a recent by-election and an appointment to a West Yorkshire Combined Authority Committee (Economy Committee).

Recommendations

- a) To approve the appointments set out in the report at paragraphs 2 and 3.
- b) To note the appointment of Councillor Martin to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Economy Committee.

What is this report about?

- 1 Following a recent by-election and at the request of a group on Council a review of Committee allocations has taken place, resulting in an increased entitlement to the Green Group.
- 2 Following consultation with the Green Group they wish to fill their new committee allocations as follows and Council are asked to agree the appointments;
 - Councillor Blackburn to be appointed to City Plans Panel.
 - Councillor Blackburn to be appointed to Adults & Health Scrutiny Board
 - Councillor Stables to be appointed to Development Plan Panel
 - Councillor M Ali to be appointed to Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board
- 3 In addition the Green Group wish to replace Councillor Carlisle with Councillor Blackburn on Scrutiny Board Strategy & Resources, Council are asked to approve this appointment.
- 4 This report also updates Council on a recent change of appointment to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Economy Committee.
- 5 At the Combined Authority meeting on 19 September, those members approved proposals to merge the WYCA Business, Economy & Innovation Committee with the WYCA Employment & Skills Committee creating a single new committee named the WYCA Economy Committee.
- 6 The Council had previously appointed Councillor Lisa Martin to both the Business, Economy & Innovation Committee and the Employment & Skills Committee.
- 7 The Combined Authority sought nominations for a member to serve on the Economy Committee and that nomination was required by 20th October 2024.
- 8 At the Annual Meeting in May Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive to provide additional nominations, or to revise existing nominations, as required by WYCA.
- 9 Following consultation with the relevant whip a decision was taken to appoint Councillor Lisa Martin to the WYCA – Economy Committee.
- 10 The proposal is for the Council to note the recent appointment to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Economy Committee
 - Cllr Martin appointed to the WYCA Economy Committee

What impact will this proposal have?

- 11 It will ensure that meetings held during that period could proceed with adequate and appropriate membership levels and the Council has appropriate representation on external bodies.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 12 Fully operational and quorate Committees, Boards and Panels and representation on external bodies are in line with the Council's Policies and the priorities.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

13 Consultation has taken place with the relevant group(s) on the Council.

What are the resource implications?

14 There are no specific resource implications associated with this report.

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

15 The key risks would have been lack of representation on external organisations and incomplete representation on local Committees, Boards and Panels. The risk is being managed by the appointment(s) in this report.

What are the legal implications?

16 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

17 The deadline was such that if the appointment had not been made Leeds would have missed the deadline for appointing to the new Committee and the Committee would not have had a full or appropriate membership.

How will success be measured?

18 Not applicable.

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

19 The implementation of the decision would be immediately after the decision is made.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None

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Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report, 2023-24

Date: 13 November 2024

Report of: Chief Planning Officer

Report to: Full Council

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The annual report, covering the period 2023-24 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- The annual report describes the work of the three Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel, within the context of the terms of reference for each Panel. The report is not intended to describe the work of the Planning and Sustainable Development service as a whole but provides information on activity, workloads, delivery of key schemes and projects. The report looks back on the year, as well as considering the challenges to come.
- The work of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel is key in the delivery of Best City Ambition priorities, either directly or indirectly through the delivery of high-quality homes, employment land (inclusive growth), health and wellbeing, responding to the Climate Emergency and through sustainable place-making, to deliver safe, strong communities.

Recommendations

- a) Council is asked to receive and note the Annual Report.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Following changes to Council Procedure Rules agreed by full Council in May 2016, an Annual Report reporting the work of Plans Panels is to be presented for the consideration of full Council. This Annual Report covers the period 2023-24.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 2 The Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development, the three Plans Panel Chairs and Development Plan Panel Chair have been consulted on this report. This report is presented for information and comment.

What are the resource implications?

- 3 This report has no specific resource implications.

What are the legal implications?

- 4 This report has no specific legal implications.

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

- 5 The Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel operate within formal Terms of Reference and other protocols as set out in the Council's Constitution, therefore there are no specific risks identified.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 6 The work of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel in delivering planning permissions for social housing and assisted living accommodation as well as delivering permissions for new schools, supports the Council to meet its ambitions. Through the Section 106 legal agreement process, employment opportunities for local people can be delivered. The planning process is closely tied with the health and wellbeing and climate change agendas, through the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy and the role of the Development Plan Panel is key in policy development. Through the Local Plan Update, as a priority - policies to tackle the scale and urgency of the Climate Emergency are being updated and refreshed.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 7 Not applicable

How will success be measured?

- 8 There is ongoing monitoring of systems and processes as well as an annual review of the Panels terms of reference to ensure they remain fit for purpose and are robust.

What is the timetable for implementation?

- 9 Not applicable

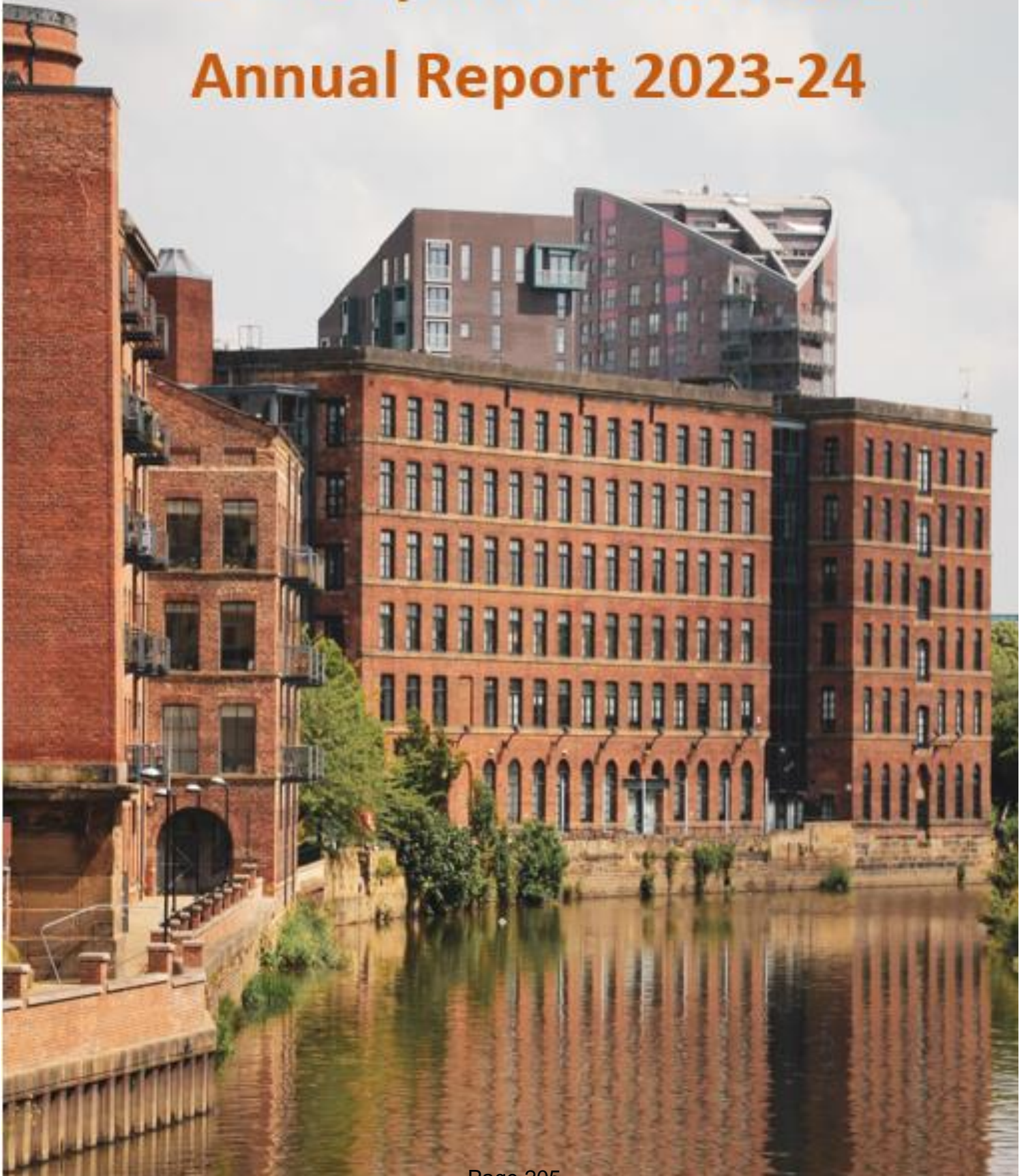
Appendices

- 10 Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report, 2023-24

Background papers

- 11

Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel Annual Report 2023-24



Introduction

Welcome to this Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel Annual Report, the first one in my time as Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development. The three area Plans Panels are authorised to discharge or delegate all Council (non-executive) functions relating primarily to planning applications. With regard to the Development Plan Panel (DPP), this is an Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to both the Executive and Council regarding the Authority's Local Plan.

The focus of this report is to summarise and highlight, the work undertaken by the three Area Plans Panels and the Development Plan Panel during 2023-24. Planning Enforcement falls outside the remit of these Panels and is not therefore covered in scope of this report.

This report highlights some of the key activities in this period and describes some of the major achievements in helping deliver the Best City ambitions for Leeds. As well as reflecting on the reporting period, this Annual Report also looks ahead to 2024-25 and describes some of the key challenges coming forward.

The applications coming before the Plans Panels are those which are not delegated to the Chief Planning Officer and are listed as “Exceptions” in their Delegation Scheme and ensures that significant or more contentious applications have Member oversight. These applications can be challenging, balancing the current and future needs of the district, delivering the inclusive growth needed, whilst still taking account views of local communities, in meeting both social and environmental objectives. Several applications in the reporting period have been contentious, requiring the Plans Panels to navigate through sensitivities, as well as maintaining focus on matters within the remit of Planning and setting aside matters dealt with by other legislation or agencies. However, the national legislative and policy driven framework within which planning operates, twinned with decision making processes, as endorsed by the Council’s Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, has ensured that decisions are robust, transparent and lawful.

The work of DPP continues to set ambitious planning policies for Leeds, that respond to our net zero, inclusive growth and health and well-being priorities. The Remitted Parts of the Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP) were adopted in January 2024, drawing the SAP process to a full close, with the Inspector’s report concluding that the remitted part of the SAP was legally compliant and sound. DPP has also endorsed progress on the Local Plan Update “Your City, Your Neighbourhood, Your Planet”; delayed by a Written Ministerial Statement at the end of 2023. Good progress has been made, through DPP workshops and meetings, on the evidence base and potential options for the Leeds Local Plan 2040. Further consultation will take place once the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been published and the implications for the Plan accounted for (the deadline for comments on the NPPF consultation draft closed on 24th September). In addition, various planning reform proposals including the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act and the changes to the NPPF have also been discussed by DPP.

Throughout 2023, Members were provided with updates on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act; some provisions had been implemented prior to the General Election in July 2024 and the new Government is continuing with the planning reform agenda, at some pace. Details continue to emerge and will have implications for the Local Planning Authority and consequently for the work

of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel, who will respond accordingly. This is especially key given the ongoing budgetary and resourcing pressures.

Finally, the work of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel continues to deliver positive outcomes for the district and the people of Leeds. It has not been an easy year but one which showed the strength of the Local Planning Authority and of Leeds as a Council, where elected members and council officers work collaboratively and positively to help deliver this Council's ambitions. I would like to express my thanks in particular, to members of the Plans Panels and Development Plan Panel and Council Officers involved in the planning process for enabling long term investment, environmental improvements – through a Plan-led process, and any ensuring negative impacts upon communities are mitigated. We look forward to another successful year ahead.



Councillor Jonathan Pryor

Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development

Plans Panel activity 2023-24



30 Plans Panel meetings and 4 Development Plan Panel meetings



Pre-application presentations for new homes including Springhead Road Holbeck, The Headrow, Kirkstall Road



Almost 7,000 new homes received consent at Plans Panel, including 561 affordable homes



Pre application presentations for Student Accommodation including SOYO Quarry Hill and Land at York Street



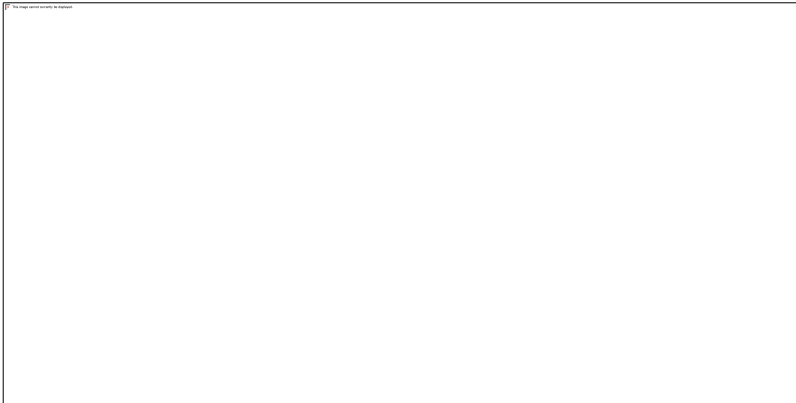
Over £16m in offsite contributions from approved schemes delivered through Section 106 agreements

Generated over £10m

in Community Infrastructure Levy through approved schemes

Significant schemes considered by the Plans Panels

Development sites that form part of the East Leeds Extension.



These 3 sites will deliver 700 houses within the Middle and Northern Quadrants, adjacent to the East Leeds Extension. The developments provide a mix of units, policy compliant levels of affordable housing, sustainable drainage solutions, significant areas of landscaping and open space with policies in respect of accessible

housing and space standards also met. Before coming to a decision on the applications, Members considered a series of reports relating to these developments and had significant input into the final form of the schemes.



Application 22/06503/FU for a 100% affordable housing block of 78 flats on a council owned Quarry Hill site

Partly funded by S106 affordable housing contributions, this development demonstrates how the S106 contributions collected as part of revised affordable housing policy for Build to Rent developments, has been used to provide affordable housing operated by registered social landlords in city centre locations.

23/05228/FU – a mixed-use hotel and ground floor commercial uses including a council gym on part of the Kirkgate Market site fronting George Street.

This site will contribute to regeneration of the market. The proposal also helps safeguard the future of the market and improves a gap in the street and the setting of nearby listed buildings.





22/04852/FU – A co-living residential proposal for a 10 storey building at Holdforth Court, Brussels Street.

The scheme will regenerate a vacant site and provides a form of high-quality shared accommodation. It is the first to be approved pursuant to the adoption of a co-living advice note prepared in consultation with Development Plans Panel.



22/04827/OT – Mixed use proposal delivering significant residential, office, commercial and community uses

This scheme is south of Sweet Street on a nearly 4 Ha. cleared site with improved connections to Holbeck. It represents placemaking on a more strategic scale and helps to connect the city centre and regeneration of the south bank physically to communities in Holbeck.



23/05271/FU – Demolition of the Core shopping centre and provision of student housing and ground floor commercial uses with an extended public realm/street network.

This scheme will help to maintain the vitality of the central area of the City Centre by addressing the current challenges posed by the Core shopping centre.

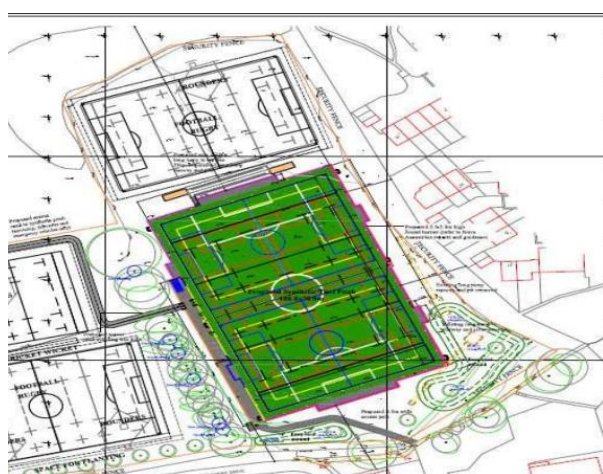
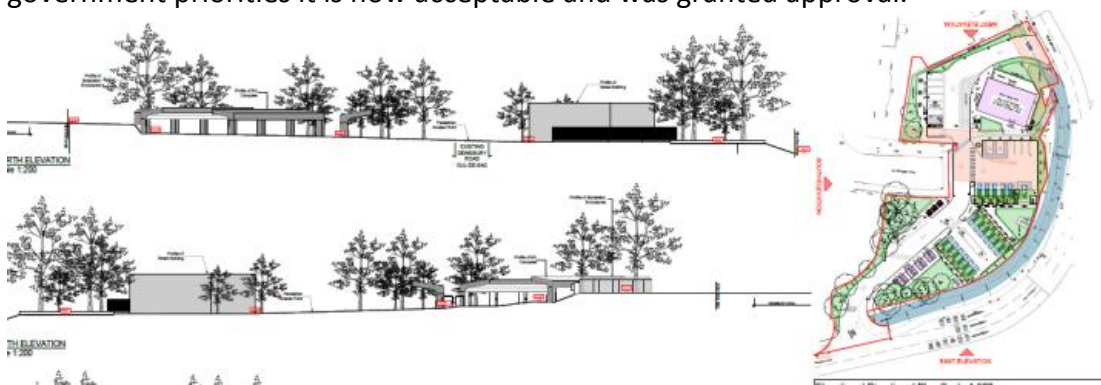


23/02335/FU – an approx.180 bed student housing proposal on a Council capital receipt site, Burley Street and Park Lane

Regeneration of this site which is at a prominent location on a route to and from the city centre. It also provides good quality student housing which helps to relieve pressure on HMO use of potential family housing in other areas of the city.

23/03322/FU - Site of The Former White Bear, Dewsbury Road, Tingley

The proposal was for a service station for electric vehicles only, located just off the M62 on a site that had a long history of Highways safety and amenity objections. However, due to changing government priorities it is now acceptable and was granted approval.



22/03466/FU - Guiseley School, Fieldhead Road, Guiseley an application for a new artificial grass pitch with floodlighting; storage container; new emergency access; relocation of existing long jumps; associated landscaping works.

This application involved some contentious issues. The application received an approval following two deferrals to ensure all matters were considered.



22/06335/RM - Land at Owlcotes Road, Pudsey, Reserved matters application (appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale) application for 50 dwellings and 4 apartments . This application also involved careful consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty. The application was considered by Panel three times, before it determined the application imposing conditions to address a range of mitigations

considered to be required.



20/02710/FU - Cartwright House, Springwell Road, Holbeck was for the demolition of existing building and construction of a 30 Storey residential development totalling 345 apartments with ancillary commercial space, landscaping and external amenity space. The application originally was submitted at 36 storeys following a pre application for a 40-storey development. It was approved at 30 Storey and after Panel consideration included a requirement for a family friendly ethos including internal play provision, It is clad largely in glass and with an elliptical

footprint, it should be a striking addition to the Leeds skyline when constructed.

Development Plan Panel

The main focus of the Development Plans Panel has been progressing updates to the following:



The Local Plan Update

“Your City, Your Neighbourhood, Your Planet”, Development Plan Panel Members endorsed the Pre-Submission Changes consultation in September 2023 which then took place from October – December 2023 with 44 responses received. This Plan focuses on delivering new planning policies to help address the climate emergency. However, following the close of the consultation the former Government published a Written Ministerial Statement with a view to restricting Local Planning Authorities from adopting planning policies that set local energy efficiency standards which exceed building regulations. In the light of comments received at consultation, the Written Ministerial Statement (restricting the ability of local planning authorities to set their own operational carbon targets) and changes to regulations that govern Biodiversity

Net Gain (BNG), revisions to the Plan are being considered.

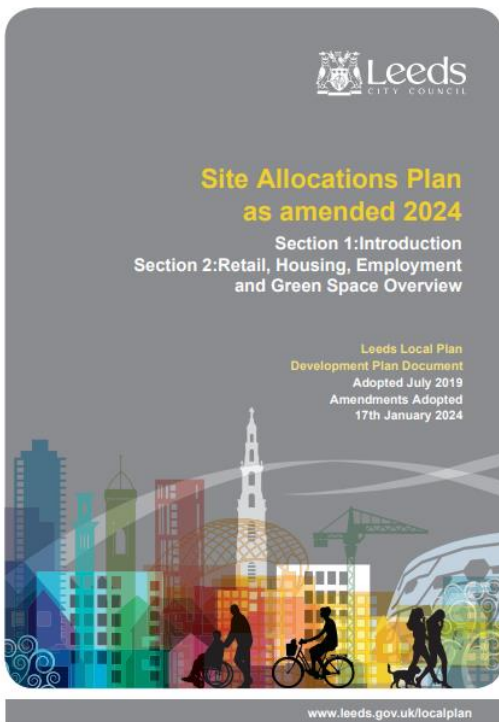
Leeds Local Plan 2040

Significant progress has been made on the Issues and Options version of the Plan with:

- A series of topic-based DPP in-person workshops to help explore evidence and develop policy options took place from January to March 2024.
- Completion of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
- Further evidence base work continued across all topics, including employment, transport, green belt, locational approach and minerals and waste.
- The large task of site assessment work on 900+ sites began following the close of the ‘call for sites process’, the completion of an urban capacity exercise, and the design of a consistent site assessment methodology.



Site Allocations Plan



The Remitted Part of the Leeds Site Allocations Plan was adopted in January 2024. This draws the Site Allocations Plan process to a full close, with the allocation of site EG2-37 (Barrowby Lane) for general employment. The Inspector’s report concluded that the remitted part of the SAP was legally compliant and sound. Being previously located in the Green Belt, the allocation of site EG2-37 required the demonstration of Exceptional Circumstances which the Inspector was satisfied were demonstrated. The District now has a modest oversupply of employment land, which helps inclusive economic growth and helps resist speculative development on unallocated sites.

Biodiversity Net Gain

DPP has been considering the impacts of the new national BNG mandatory requirements, in response to the depletion of ecological resources. Introduced by the 2021 Environment Act, BNG became mandatory for major applications in February 2024 and other application types in April 2024. It requires a 10% net gain improvement on land, at time of receipt of an application, so developments leave habitats in a better state for wildlife than before. BNG will mean there is greater technical scrutiny on biodiversity through the planning system and there is an opportunity for the Council to act as a broker with the purchase and sale of biodiversity units for developers to fulfill policy obligations.

The Environment Act sets out a system for Habitat Banks, where the impact of development will be calculated and then it will be determined whether BGN can be achieved on or ‘off site’. If ‘off site’, units must be purchased by developers to fund necessary enhancement projects. A report to the February 2024 Executive Board, established the principle of the Council setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (a Habitat Banking Vehicle (HBV)), to enable the Council (rather than the LPA) to sell habitat units via the HBV, in line with the Environment Act 2021. Whilst positive, this is a complex process, and work is being finalised to set out the operational arrangements.

Co-living Guidance

Given the emergence of the relatively new form of accommodation in the District, a “Co-Living Technical Guidance Note”, was agreed in November 2023, to assist the determination of planning applications. The purpose of this is to put in place a consistent approach to dealing with this evolving sector, with a view to embedding further Policies as part of the Leeds 2040 Plan, referenced above. As part of formulating and agreeing the guidance note, Members of DPP visited the Oppidan Life Co-Living scheme in Manchester in October 2023.

Reflecting on the year

Member training

All Plans Panel members and substitute Plans Panel members in 2023-24, have undertaken the prescribed compulsory training. Additionally, a programme of discretionary member training was made available to all members of the Council, with the following sessions offered:

- Developer contributions
- Landscape planning and Trees.
- Enforcement and contaminated land
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Conservation

Joint Plans Panel

A meeting of the Joint Plans Panel took place in September 2023, (an informal meeting of all the Plans Panel and Development Plan Panel) and discussed:

Member training Offer

As a basis to improve the clarity of the compulsory training programme, documentation of the member training offer for Planning and Sustainable Development was prepared and has been further updated to take account of digital opportunities for member training and timescales for accessing compulsory training. This was considered and subsequently agreed by Joint Plans Panel in September 2023.

Changes to the Public Speaking Protocol and Planning Code of Good Practice

As part of the regular review of the services' governance documents, two reports were considered by the Joint Plans Panels for consultation; the first was the '*Protocol for Public Speaking*', which further clarified arrangements for public speaking at Panel. The purpose of this was to bring the approach further in line with GDPR requirements and to provide greater transparency and clarity on the process for decisions made, not in accordance with the officer recommendation. In relation to the '*Code of Good Practice*', Joint Plans Panel were consulted on changes on Members' contact with developers, in the interest of probity and in the interest of clarity, removing duplicate information which was already in other documents.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Several contentions applications (including some referred to above), have been considered by the Plans Panels in 2023-24, relating to impacts on Protected Characteristics. Such applications have been dealt with carefully and sensitively in accordance with our protocols and legal requirements. The service carried out Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) on the proposals in compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty to give proper consideration and due regard to the needs of diverse groups of people. An EIA is an evidence-based approach designed to help the decision-making processes to demonstrate that the Council has considered the equality impacts of its decisions. The core purpose of carrying out an EIA is to analyse a proposed activity against the three specific requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and use the outcomes of that analysis to inform

further decisions and action aimed at satisfying the discharge of the PSED which may include mitigating potential adverse impacts, or else to provide clear justification for continuing with a proposed course of action. In all applications, due regard was very carefully given and where possible, measures were put in place to mitigate the impacts of the development. Further Member training on this issue will be delivered as part of the mandatory Autumn Update training in November 2024.

...and looking ahead

Government reform of planning

There are many and wide-ranging proposals coming forward as part of the Government's reform of planning, all of which will impact on the way new homes and other development is delivered. Full details are yet to emerge and the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which is anticipated in the new year 2025. Proposals include the calculation of local authority housing requirements, boosting the delivery of Affordable Housing and revisions to the Plan-making process.

Member and officer safety at Plans Panel meetings

There have been a series of incidents at Panel meetings over the last year, which have raised concerns amongst Panel members and officers about security and inappropriate behaviour at meetings. Incidents include shouting, interruptions and acting aggressively from the public gallery. More recently, a number of incidents have occurred, which have taken place outside of the reporting period of this Annual Report. In response to these incidents, a comprehensive suite of measures have been introduced to tackle these issues. These are being kept under review. The purpose of making reference to these issues here, is to give Council the necessary reassurance, that these safeguards are now in place.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

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

34 Chair's Opening Remarks

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair highlighted that this was the first Executive Board meeting since Mariana Pexton's recent appointment as the Council's Interim Chief Executive and welcomed Mariana in her new role.

Also, the Chair noted that this would be the final Executive Board meeting attended by Martin Farrington, the Director of City Development, prior to his retirement. The Chair paid tribute to Martin for his efforts and achievements throughout his time at Leeds City Council.

35 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.

36 Late Items

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

37 Declaration of Interests

Regarding the report entitled, 'Leeds City Council's Response to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Mass Rapid Transit Public Consultation', Councillors Lamb and Lewis, in the interests of transparency, both respectively drew the Board's attention to their positions on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Board. However, both Members confirmed that it did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion at today's meeting in their capacity as Executive Board Members (Agenda Item 18, Minute No. 51 refers).

38 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

COMMUNITIES, CUSTOMER SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

39 Safer Leeds Annual Update

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report presenting the annual update from the Safer Leeds Community Safety Partnership, which in Leeds is the Safer Leeds Executive. The report highlighted the progress which had been made over the past 12 months on

the key deliverable actions arising from the 9 priority areas as included within the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan 2021 – 2024.

The Board welcomed Chief Inspector Jonathan McNiff, West Yorkshire Police to the meeting, who was in attendance for the consideration of this item.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the progress being made together with the developments in relation to the key priority areas. Emphasis was also placed upon the leading role played by the Safer Leeds Executive in the partnership working undertaken in this area. The Executive Member highlighted how this report should be considered alongside the respective Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership annual reports on today's agenda, given the significant partnership work being undertaken across those bodies.

The Executive Member thanked all Council officers involved in this service area, partner organisations for the key role they played and also Councillor D Coupar for her leadership throughout her time as Executive Member with responsibility for community safety.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, an update was provided on the work being undertaken following the disorder experienced in Harehills on 18th July 2024. Emphasis was placed on the significant short, medium and long term actions being taken to support the Roma community together with the wider community of Harehills. The ongoing citywide approach being taken towards the promotion of community cohesion was also highlighted. The key role played by local Ward Councillors, Council staff and partner organisations both on the evening of the disorder and following that was highlighted, with thanks being extended to all of those parties for their continued efforts in this area. Further to this, Councillor S Arif highlighted the positive relationship established between the Council and the Romanian consulate. In conclusion, it was noted that the Council would work with West Yorkshire Police on a formal debrief of the incident, with any findings being shared appropriately.

In response to a Member's enquiry, an update was provided on the effectiveness of the community safety policies and procedures in place in Leeds. Emphasis was placed on the need to strike the correct balance between improving residents' confidence in services in order to encourage them to report issues when they are experienced, whilst at the same time working to reduce the prevalence of incidents taking place. The work of the performance and analytical team was highlighted, which produced the relevant data sets that sat behind the policies. It was highlighted that such data had illustrated that the procedures in place were effective. It was undertaken that further detail could be provided separately to the Member in question through Council officers, the Executive Member and Chief Inspector McNiff.

Chief Inspector McNiff and Councillor Coupar reiterated the strong partnership working regarding community safety which was established in Leeds.

In response to a Member's enquiry, further detail was provided on the scrutiny of the Mayoral Policing function. It was noted that the Council worked closely with the Mayor's office, with there being an effective and strong working relationship in place, and whilst there were challenges, these were no different to other partnerships of this nature. Specific examples of effective partnership working in this area were provided. It was undertaken that if the Member in question had any specific enquiries on such matters, then these could be responded to in more detail separately.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the submitted Safer Leeds annual update report, together with the full overview document, as presented at Appendix 1, be noted.

40 Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report presenting the proposed Leeds Community Safety Strategy for the period 2024-2027. The report highlighted how the strategy would provide strategic direction for the Leeds Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which in Leeds is the Safer Leeds Executive. The report sought the Board's endorsement of the Strategy with the recommendation that it is referred to Full Council for approval and formal adoption as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

The Board welcomed Chief Inspector Jonathan McNiff, West Yorkshire Police to the meeting, who was in attendance for the consideration of this item.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member highlighted that the proposed strategy would replace the Safer, Stronger Communities: Leeds Plan (2021-24) and that it had been informed by strategic intelligence assessment and through a wide-ranging consultation exercise. An overview of the strategy's key priorities was provided. It was also noted that Leeds had been awarded £600,000 from the Government's Community Recovery Fund.

Members were supportive of the proposed strategy.

The Executive Member and the Chief Officer (Safer, Stronger Communities) extended their thanks to all involved in the compilation of the strategy and the associated consultation exercise.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Leeds Community Safety Strategy 2024-2027, as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be endorsed, with the Board's agreement that this Strategy be referred to Full Council with a recommendation that it be formally adopted;
- (b) That it be noted that the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment will lead and implement the Strategy, which will supersede the Leeds Community Strategy 2021 – 2024;

- (c) That it be noted that this Strategy forms part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and therefore the above resolutions are not eligible for Call In.

(As indicated in resolution (c) above, given that the above decisions were being made in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, they were not eligible for Call In)

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, ACTIVE LIFESTYLES AND CULTURE

41 Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual report 2023/24

The Director of Adults and Health submitted a report presenting the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) annual report for 2023/24 together with the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board's Strategic Plan. The annual report provided an update on the work of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board, the steps taken to implement the Board's strategy, together with an outline of the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews held during 2023/24.

In presenting the report the Executive Member advised that whilst the Independent Chair of the LSAB, Richard Jones CBE, could not be present at the meeting, it was noted that two key themes that he would have raised were the collaborative working which had taken place to embed safeguarding across partner organisations, and also the invaluable work of the city's frontline staff in this area.

The Executive Member provided an overview of the Board's key ambitions, with the range of actions being taken around the citizen led approach towards safeguarding being specifically highlighted. The Independent Chair of the Board, together with all of the Board Members were thanked for their role in this important area.

The importance of the LSAB Strategic Plan (April 2023 – March 2026), which was also appended to the report, was highlighted. It was noted that the strategic plan presented all related objectives and actions that respective agencies were contributing to.

Responding to a Member's specific request, it was undertaken that periodic meetings would be arranged between that Member and the Independent Chair.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board was provided with further detail regarding the statistic that 32% of safeguarding concerns arose from care home settings, with information being provided on the sources of those concerns, together with the actions which were being taken to address such matters and to ensure that people were being cared for in the most appropriate way. It was also noted that it was common for care home settings to have a higher number of referrals. An update was also provided on the work being undertaken with the whole range of care providers in Leeds, including home care providers, in relation to the reporting of safeguarding concerns.

Also in response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received an update on the work which continued to be undertaken to review data around referral levels of safeguarding concerns. It was identified that there were lower levels of referrals experienced in certain geographical areas with ethnically diverse communities. The range of work being undertaken as a result to increase awareness and share information across all communities was noted.

In conclusion, the Chair extended his thanks to Richard Jones CBE, Independent Chair of the LSAB, together with the other Board Members for the role they played in this important area.

RESOLVED – That the contents and recommendations of the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2023/24, as submitted to the Board, be noted.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

42 Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2023/24

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for 2023/24. The report outlined the activity that had taken place during the year in relation to the Safeguarding Partners' statutory duties to work together in exercising their functions of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Included within the update were details regarding developments in practice, and the progress made in relation to priorities, learning, scrutiny, inspections and statutory responsibilities.

The Board welcomed David Derbyshire (Independent Scrutineer), Gill Marchant (Head of Safeguarding/Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Adults, NHS) and Superintendent Dan Wood (West Yorkshire Police) to the meeting for the consideration of this item.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member highlighted how the LSCP annual report provided an overview of the city's arrangements for safeguarding children during 2023/24. It was noted that such arrangements had been reviewed over the past year, a process supported by the new Independent Scrutineer, David Derbyshire. The positive outcomes from the recent Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) into serious youth violence were highlighted, including the strong multi-agency relationships of the LSCP partners.

The Director of Children and Families highlighted that the submission of the annual report was in line with the reporting requirements as set out in the Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 statutory guidance. It was also noted that the report provided an update on the progress made against the agreed priorities during 2023/24 and also on the work undertaken to review safeguarding arrangements to ensure that they were in line with statutory guidance. The commitment to continued improvement in this area was reiterated.

Thanks was extended to all those involved in the crucial work of safeguarding children throughout the city, including frontline practitioners and their managers.

David Derbyshire, Independent Scrutineer, addressed the Board, providing an overview of his experiences since taking up this role nearly one year ago and highlighting the key points arising from his statement as included within the LSCP annual report.

A Member highlighted the progress which had been over the past year, the work which had been undertaken and the positive way in which challenges had been responded to.

Responding to an enquiry regarding unregulated care homes in Leeds, it was undertaken that the Director would meet with the Member in question on this issue to provide further detail. However, assurance was provided that the Council did work closely with Ofsted on such matters.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the work undertaken to further strengthen the safeguarding children arrangements in Leeds, as set out within the submitted report, be endorsed;
- (b) That the Board provide its continued support for the city's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children and young people.

43 Youth Justice Service Plan - 2024-2027

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the refreshed Leeds Youth Justice Service Plan for the period 2024-27 and provided an update on the work undertaken and progress made in respect of the previous plan which covered 2021-24. The report sought the Board's endorsement of the plan with the recommendation that it is referred to Full Council in November 2024 for approval and formal adoption as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that the plan had a strong commitment to a 'child first' principle. The impact of poverty and deepening inequalities were highlighted as key issues, with the report setting out the work being undertaken to address such matters.

Responding to a Member's request, the Director undertook to provide the Member in question with a briefing on the issues covered in the submitted report.

In response to a Member's enquiries regarding the re-offending rates and also first time offender rates presented, further information and context was provided on those statistics, together with details on the range of actions and interventions being taken in this area in order to reduce offending behaviours in children across the city.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Leeds Youth Justice Service Plan, as submitted to the Board, be endorsed, with the Board's agreement that the Plan be referred to Full Council in November 2024 with a recommendation of approval and formal adoption as part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework;
- (b) That it be noted that the responsible officers for the implementation of such matters are the Service Delivery Manager, Leeds Youth Justice Service; and the Head of Service, Children Looked After and Youth Justice Service. That it also be noted that the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board has statutory responsibility to monitor performance, ensuring the delivery of service improvements and the meeting of local priorities.

(Given that the above decisions were being made in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, they were not eligible for Call In)

44 Outcome of consultation on proposals to expand Broomfield South SILC by 100 places, as part of a school rebuild, and the establishment of a permanent satellite site for post-16 provision

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting proposals to expand Broomfield South Special Inclusion Learning Centre (SILC) by 100 places, as part of a school rebuild, and through the establishment of a permanent satellite site for post-16 provision. Specifically, the report provided details of the outcome from the public consultation undertaken and sought the Board's approval to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposals.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the key aspects of the proposal. It was noted that whilst the Council had established 450 specialist learning places across the city since 2020, the need for specialist education in Leeds continued to increase.

Members highlighted their support for this proposal.

In response to a Member's enquiry, an update was provided on the arrangements in place regarding associated consultation, and it was confirmed that local Ward Councillors were supportive of the proposals.

Also, responding to an enquiry regarding how the proposals may impact upon post-16 transport costs, it was noted that any impact would be dependent upon where children and young people using the facility lived. However, it was felt that the benefits which would be realised by the new provision would significantly outweigh any potential risks caused by potential increased transport costs in the future. It was thought that in terms of post-16 transport costs, the proposals were likely to be cost neutral.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the outcome of the public consultation undertaken for the proposals, as presented within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the publication of a Statutory Notice on the proposals to expand Broomfield South SILC by 100 places, as part of a school rebuild, and establish a permanent satellite site of Broomfield South SILC for post-16 provision at Arlington Business Centre, White Rose, be approved;
- (c) That it be noted that the implementation of the proposals will be subject to the outcome of the proposed Statutory Notice and future decisions by Executive Board;
- (d) That the intention for a further report to be presented to the December 2024 Executive Board meeting detailing the outcome of the Statutory Notice, be noted;
- (e) That it be noted that the implementation of the rebuild and expansion of Broomfield South SILC will be subject to the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications, as indicated in paragraphs 26- 29 of the submitted report;
- (f) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Deputy Director for Learning.

45 The Child Poverty Strategy For Leeds

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report which provided an overview of, and a further update on the Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds and the work undertaken as part of the strategy, including the actions being taken in response to ongoing post pandemic and cost of living priorities.

The Executive Member provided an overview of the key aspects within the report, highlighting the consultation work undertaken as part of the refresh process, and noting the Government's establishment of a task force on child poverty and its plans to publish a national Child Poverty Strategy.

Members supported the proposals and the need to focus on the actions to eradicate child poverty in the city.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the refreshed and ongoing strategic framework in place to mitigate the impact of child poverty, and the work being undertaken by the Council and other partners in the key areas of activity, as detailed within the submitted report, be endorsed;
- (b) That the need to promote the work of the Child Poverty Strategy across the city and across Council directorates, and also through our wider city partnerships in order to highlight the impact of poverty on children and their families, be acknowledged;

- (c) That it be noted that the responsible officer for the implementation of such matters is the Deputy Director, Social Care, Children and Families.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

46 Leeds Joint Strategic Assessment 2024

The Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report presenting the Leeds Joint Strategic (Needs) Assessment (JSA) 2024 report, following Health and Wellbeing Board's consideration of the JSA in July 2024. The report noted that the Council and the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board have an equal and joint statutory requirement to work through the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board to produce a JSA, with the purpose being to assess current and future health and social care needs in Leeds in order to inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, shape priorities and guide the use of resources.

The Leader introduced the report, highlighting how the data within the JSA would be used to inform decision making moving forward, with the aim of addressing the challenges which have been identified as part of the process.

The Executive Member for Equality, Health and Wellbeing highlighted how the JSA had been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board and would be used throughout the Assessment's lifespan, as it allowed the city's health needs and challenges to be clearly identified. As such, it was reiterated that the JSA would be used to inform priorities with the aim of addressing identified challenges and needs. It was noted that the report also provided details of work undertaken across the city to address the policy implications arising from the previous JSA published in 2021.

A Member highlighted the importance of the JSA, the need for it to be integrated into the work of the Council moving forward and the value of Scrutiny Boards considering it. It was noted that Scrutiny Board Strategy and Resources had considered the JSA on 16 September 2024, and that other Scrutiny Board chairs had been in attendance at that Scrutiny Board meeting.

In conclusion, the Board's thanks was extended to all partners who had been involved in the co-production of the JSA.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Joint Strategic (Needs) Assessment 2024 report, as presented at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, including the policy implications drawn from the analysis, be noted;
- (b) That the areas for further exploration and integration into future JSAs, as set out in paragraph 9 of the submitted report, be agreed;
- (c) That the comments made during the Board's discussion on such matters, be noted.

RESOURCES

47 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 - 2029/30

The Chief Officer, Financial Services submitted a report presenting an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2025/26 – 2029/30, and which provided details of both the context and the factors that influence the shape of the strategy. The report noted that the intention was to submit budget savings proposals to future Executive Board meetings in advance of the proposed 2025/26 budget being submitted to the Board in December 2024.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting the currently estimated General Fund budget gap which existed over the 5-year period that the Strategy covered, including the budget gap relating to 2025/26. Further details were provided on the context and the associated challenges that the Council faced, including inflationary pressures and also increased demand regarding adult and children's social care. It was noted that the Strategy also covered the Council's Capital Programme, Housing Revenue Account and Dedicated Schools' Grant.

Members discussed the budget gap detailed within the report relating to 2025/26 and the liaison taking place with Government regarding Local Government finances.

Responding to a Member's specific comments regarding the high costs of external residential placements for children looked after, the Board received an update on the current position in Leeds in relation to demographic and demand pressures, with it being highlighted that this continued to be a significant national issue. Further detail was provided on the Council's sufficiency strategy and the work that continued in Leeds to develop in-house residential care provision. It was noted that the Council continued to work closely with Ofsted on such matters. Members also received an update on the recent announcements made by the Government aimed at tackling national issues regarding children's external residential placement provision.

Members noted the actions that continued to be taken to reduce associated pressures where possible and to address the General Fund budget gap detailed with the report. Whilst it was noted that proposals to contribute towards addressing this position would continue to be submitted to Members for consideration, the significant scale of the challenge faced was emphasised. With regard to related proposals being brought forward, it was noted that there was a clear timetable in place for Member engagement and Scrutiny consideration.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30, as presented in the submitted report and appendices, be noted;

- (b) That it be noted that budget savings proposals will be received at future Executive Board meetings in advance of the Proposed Budget for 2025/26 being received by Executive Board in December 2024.

48 Financial Health Monitoring 2024/25 - July (Month 4)

The Chief Officer Financial Services submitted a report presenting the Council's financial performance against the 2024/25 revenue budget, as at month 4 of the financial year. The report also provided an update on the month 4 position in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) and the Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund.

In presenting the report the Executive Member provided an overview of the key points in which it was noted that as at month 4 of the financial year, the Council was forecasting a General Fund overspend of £22.2m. The key areas of overspend were noted together with the reasons for those. The Executive Member also highlighted the range of mitigating measures being taken to address the overspend.

The scale of the challenge being faced in terms of addressing the General Fund budget gap, as discussed under the previous report on the Medium Term Financial Strategy was reiterated, with it being highlighted that nationally Local Authorities continued to experience similar challenges.

In considering this matter, the Board acknowledged that a number of matters linked to the information within this report had already been discussed as part of the previous agenda item on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That it be noted that at July 2024 (Month 4 of the financial year), the Authority's General Fund revenue budget is reporting an overspend of £22.2m for 2024/25 (3.6% of the approved net revenue budget) after the application of reserves and within a challenging national context. That it also be noted that a range of actions are being taken to address the position as detailed within the submitted report;
- (b) That it be noted that at July 2024 (Month 4 of the financial year) the Authority's Housing Revenue Account is reporting a balanced position;
- (c) That it be noted that known inflationary increases, including demand and demographic pressures in Social Care and known impacts of the rising cost of living have been incorporated into the reported financial position. The position assumes a pay settlement of 3.5%, with the final pay award for 2024/25 yet to be agreed. That it also be noted that these pressures will continue to be reviewed during the year and reported to future Executive Board meetings as more information becomes available, and that proposals would need to be identified to absorb any additional pressures;

- (d) That it be noted that where an overspend is projected, directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action plans to mitigate their reported pressures and those of the Council's wider financial challenge where possible, in line with the Revenue Principles as agreed by Executive Board in February 2024 through the annual Revenue Budget report;
- (e) That it be noted that the reported position reflects that the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve of £3m will be reduced to £1.5m and that the budgeted contribution of £3m to the Strategic Resilience Reserve will not be made in 2024/25, with it also being noted that these planned contributions have been applied to the in-year position to reduce the overspend due to the significant financial pressures that the Council is facing. That it also be noted that provision is made in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for a base budget contribution of £3m to each reserve from 2026/27.

49 Core Business Transformation Programme - Progress Update

The Chief Officer, Financial Services submitted a report which provided an update on the progress of the Core Business Transformation Programme - a programme aimed at transforming and modernising 'back office' services and underpinned by a technology refresh. The update report looked to provide the Board with the latest position and assurance in respect of the programme delivery framework, programme and workstream management and governance arrangements.

The Executive Member presented the report, providing an overview of the programme's objectives and an update on the progress being made. It was highlighted that the programme was not only about introducing new digital solutions, but also about refreshing the Council's approach to become more efficient in its delivery of its core business.

Responding to a Member's specific enquiry regarding the implementation of the Council's new payroll system, the Board received assurance that the delivery of this system was on track and, whilst some contingency had been used, it was also on budget. It was noted that whilst delivery was slightly later than originally planned, this was due to the processes in place to learn from others and also to ensure a robust testing process was completed prior to implementation, given the significance of introducing such a critical system. It was also highlighted that this matter had been considered by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and is scheduled to be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Board also.

The Member in question was offered a further briefing on such matters, if required.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the submitted report, together with the details provided in the progress report as presented at Appendix 1, be noted, with it also being noted that a further update will be provided in 6 months.

50 **Recognition of Inspirational Women**

The Director of Strategy and Resources submitted a report which sought approval for the installation of panels within the Civic Hall Council Chamber commemorating six inspirational women from the city's past. The report outlined the outcomes from the consultation undertaken on this proposal and also recommended that consideration be given to how more women could be recognised in the future, and that moving forward such recognition be increasingly reflective of the city's diversity.

The names proposed to be initially installed on the plaques in order to recognise their contributions to the city were:

- The Barnbow Lasses;
- Leonora Cohen OBE;
- Gertrude Paul;
- Alice Bacon CBE;
- Beryl Burton OBE; and
- Ivy Benson.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member thanked all Members of Council for the cross-party support for, and engagement in the development of the proposals. Thanks was also extended to all officers involved, with specific reference to Tom Riordan, outgoing Chief Executive, for their roles in this initiative.

The importance of recognising the inspirational women of Leeds in this way was highlighted, together with the overwhelmingly positive response to the public consultation which had been received. The Board confirmed its support for the proposals and welcomed that further work would be undertaken on a cross-party basis so that the role of more inspirational women could be recognised moving forward, in order to further reflect the diversity of the city, and which it was hoped would prove to be inspirational to future generations.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the results of the consultation undertaken, as detailed within the submitted report and appendix 1, be noted;
- (b) That the proposals within the submitted report for plaques to be installed within the Civic Hall Council Chamber, be approved, subject to listed planning consent being received;
- (c) That the proposals within the submitted report for further work to be undertaken in order to recognise further inspirational women in future years, be approved, with approval also being given for this recognition to be increasingly reflective of the diverse nature of the city.

ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

51 Leeds City Council's Response to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Mass Rapid Transit Public Consultation

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing an update on the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) proposals for West Yorkshire and which sought the Board's endorsement of the Council's proposed response to the consultation exercise being undertaken by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) on the proposed routes for phase one of the MRT scheme.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted the Council's support for WYCA's plans to bring mass transit to West Yorkshire and provided an overview of the proposals set out in the report together with details of the Council's proposed response to the consultation.

The significant importance of introducing mass transit to the city was emphasised, together with the with economic impact and associated opportunities in areas such as housing growth it would generate.

In supporting the development of an MRT network, a Member highlighted that whilst the lines initially established as part of this scheme would not run directly through all areas, there was a need to ensure that the wider benefits arising from the establishment of an MRT system were effectively communicated to all communities in Leeds and West Yorkshire. The Member then suggested that this aspect be included within any response provided to WYCA.

Responding to the comments made, Members discussed the approach being taken by WYCA on the current public consultation exercise. Further to this, the following was highlighted:-

- that the proposals currently being consulted upon were seen as the beginning of an MRT network for West Yorkshire and not the end;
- in respect of mass transit, it was acknowledged that West Yorkshire had a lot of progress to make when compared with other areas of the country;
- that the establishment of an MRT network would be alongside other initiatives, such as the delivery of bus franchising in West Yorkshire;
- in terms of public engagement, in addition to WYCA's public consultation on MRT, the Board's attention was drawn to the consultation exercise being undertaken on the Local Transport Plan which was wider in scope.

In response to a concern raised regarding the capacity of WYCA in delivering this initiative alongside other ongoing projects, it was highlighted that the Council, through the Highways and Transportation team was providing its full support to WYCA on this matter.

Responding to a Member's specific enquiry, it was undertaken that the Member in question would receive further information outside of the meeting

on the current position regarding the White Rose Railway Station, Leeds Bradford Airport Parkway and Thorpe Park Railway Station.

In conclusion, the Chair acknowledged the comments which had been made during the discussion.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Council's overall support for the proposals as outlined within the submitted report, be noted, with it being recognised that this is early consultation. That the key points in the submitted report regarding areas where the Council will need greater clarity as the MRT scheme is developed, be noted;
- (b) That Leeds City Council's preference of route option L1 via Calverley Street and Infirmary Street and L6 via Elland Road, Elland Road Stadium and Ring Road Beeston in the Leeds Line corridor, be endorsed;
- (c) That the Leeds City Council response that further discussions are required with WYCA in respect of the route options on the Bradford Line in order for Leeds City Council to state a preference, be endorsed;
- (d) That Leeds City Council's broad support of the Sustainability and Placemaking strategies, be endorsed, whilst noting that further discussion is required with WYCA to develop the detail, and how it will be implemented through the design;
- (e) That the response to WYCA's public consultation on the MRT scheme (being undertaken by WYCA in its role as sole promoter), which is presented at Appendix A to the submitted report, be endorsed.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES

52 Leeds Food Strategy - Report on Progress

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report providing an update on the delivery of the Leeds Food Strategy, which was a long-term vision for the sustained provision of healthy and affordable food in the city. Through the strategy delivery plan, the report drew Members' attention to several key areas, with the report also seeking the Board's approval of the governance, delivery and key performance indicators relating to the strategy, together with amendments to both the objectives and action plan.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the key elements within the strategy and the key actions being delivered, highlighting how the strategy closely aligned with the three strategic pillars of the Best City Ambition. The cross-directorate approach being taken in this area, together with the partnership working with the third sector was noted.

Responding to a Member's comments about the resource implications arising from the strategy and whether the aims and outcomes could be achieved in a more efficient way, it was clarified that there were no additional costs to the Council arising from delivering the strategy. It was also noted that the aim was to deliver outcomes through existing Council services and external organisations and helping them to work more collaboratively and towards the strategy's objectives. The importance of promoting the strategy's aims within communities was also highlighted.

In response to a further enquiry about how outcomes would be measured, one specific example was given regarding the routine data which was now received around the proportion of adults reporting to eat 5 fruit or vegetables a day.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the governance, delivery and key performance indicators of the Leeds Food Strategy, as detailed within the submitted report and appendices, be approved;
- (b) That the progress made against the actions in the strategy, as presented in the submitted report / appendices be noted, and that the amendments to both the objectives and action plan, as detailed, be approved.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00PM, FRIDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2024

EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

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

53 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.

54 Late Items

There were no formal late items of business submitted to the Board for consideration, however, supplementary information had been provided to Board Members and published ahead of the meeting. This was in the form of Appendix 2 to Item 9 (Children and Young People's Transport Policy: Outcome of consultation on proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)). This Appendix 2 presented the Scrutiny Board Children and Families Working Group statement relating to the proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 SEND learners, which had been submitted following the Scrutiny Board's agreement of the statement at the meeting held on 9th October 2024. (Minute No. 60 refers).

55 Declaration of Interests

There were no Disclosable Pecuniary Interests declared at the meeting.

56 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

EQUALITY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

57 Plans for New Hospital Provision in Leeds

The Interim Chief Executive of Leeds City Council submitted a report which provided an update on the current position regarding the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's (LTHT) proposals for new hospital provision in the city as part of the Government's New Hospitals Programme. This would see existing hospital facilities on the Leeds General Infirmary site being replaced with new state of the art buildings and equipment. It was also noted that proposals included the creation of a Leeds Innovation Village as part of a wider Innovation Arc. The report reconfirmed the support which had been provided by a range of city partners and sought the Board's endorsement of the proposed approach to Government for the swift delivery of the programme in Leeds.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting that the Government's New Hospitals Programme had been the subject of significant delays since its establishment in 2019 and that the current Secretary of State had commissioned a review of the programme in order to put it on a sustainable footing. In advance of the Chancellor's upcoming Budget statement, the Executive Member highlighted that the purpose of the report was to call on the Government, in partnership with colleagues from LTHT to accelerate funding to deliver the new hospital programme for Leeds. Thanks were extended to Councillor Lamb for his support, and also for the work being undertaken to facilitate a cross-party letter to Government on such matters.

The Board welcomed Professor Phil Wood, Chief Executive, LTHT, and Jenny Ehrhardt, Director of Finance, LTHT, who were in attendance for the consideration of this item.

Professor Wood highlighted the readiness in Leeds to proceed with the programme, provided an update on the preparatory progress made to date and emphasised how this facility would not only be key to delivering state of the art health care for Leeds residents, but would have critical importance for the region and the north of England generally. Also noted was how the proposals were consistent with both local and national policy. Emphasis was placed upon the fact that LTHT's estate backlog remained challenging and would continue to accelerate whilst the new facility was awaited. It was noted that the proposals for Leeds were part of an ambitious regeneration development that included the Innovation Village, which would have a significant impact in terms of inward economic investment and job creation. An update on the progress made to date on the first phase of that initiative was provided.

The Leader thanked all involved from within the Council and from the LTHT and all other partner organisations for their continued efforts in this process, their collaborative approach and for providing a clear message of support. The significant healthcare benefits that would be realised as a result of the proposals were reiterated, as were the wider economic benefits from the development of the Innovation Arc.

In considering this matter, Councillor Lamb welcomed the report, reiterated the cross-party and 'Team Leeds' approach being taken and highlighted the importance of ensuring that the support of Leeds MPs was also gained on this matter.

Councillor Lamb moved several proposed amendments to the recommendations in the submitted report, Specifically that:

- Recommendations (a) and (b) remain unchanged;
- Recommendation (c) becomes recommendation (d), and that a new recommendation (c) be added as follows, '*The Executive Board is asked to note that four years of delays have so far cost the NHS Trust £300 million and further delays owing to the latest Government review of the NHS New Hospital Programme (NHP) will cost the NHS considerably more*'; and

- The original recommendation (d) becomes recommendation (e), and that be amended to read as follows, '*The Executive Board requests that, given the Department for Health and Social Care/Treasury review of the new hospitals programme, Executive Board make a submission to the Treasury before the Budget on 30 October, clearly stating the importance of modernised hospital provision in Leeds and requesting that the Leeds scheme be permitted to go ahead without delay. The Leader and Executive Member for Equality and Health and Wellbeing have sought cross-party support for a letter in support of the Council's submission*'.

Those proposed amendments were then seconded by Councillor Venner, and with the Board's agreement, it was -

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the strategic importance to Leeds of replacing existing hospital facilities on the Leeds General Infirmary site with new state of the art buildings and equipment, be noted, with the progress made so far by LTHT and partners of the Leeds Innovation Partnership including the Council, University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett University, also being noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the new hospital programme will deliver a boost to the health of children and adults, act to regenerate the existing and surrounding site and promote innovation and research across Leeds;
- (c) That it be noted that four years of delays have so far cost the NHS Trust £300 million and that further delays owing to the latest Government review of the NHS New Hospital Programme (NHP) will cost the NHS considerably more;
- (d) That the call to Government, as outlined within the submitted report, to approve and to subsequently accelerate the new hospital programme in Leeds, serving as critical regional health infrastructure, be supported;
- (e) That, given the Department for Health and Social Care/Treasury review of the new hospitals programme, agreement be given for Executive Board to make a submission to the Treasury before the Budget on 30 October 2024, clearly stating the importance of modernised hospital provision in Leeds and requesting that the Leeds scheme be permitted to go ahead without delay. That it also be noted that the Leader and Executive Member for Equality and Health and Wellbeing have sought cross-party support for a letter in support of the Council's submission.

58 Fast Track Cities: One Year On (2024)

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which provided an overview of the Fast Track Cities initiative, the achievements in Leeds in the last twelve months, as well as the ambitions for the next year. The report noted that Fast Track Cities is a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world in which participants declare a commitment to ending HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis (TB) epidemics by 2030.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member provided an overview of the initiative and the ambitious nature of it, the actions which continued to be taken, the challenges which were being faced and the progress that had been made over past year. It was also highlighted that in February 2023, Leeds became the first city in the Yorkshire and Humber region to become a Fast Track City.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information on the ways in which progress in this area would be monitored and measured, with it being noted that indicators relating to HIV and blood-borne viruses were part of a dashboard which was considered by the city's Health Protection Board, as part of the Team Leeds health protection processes. It was undertaken that such dashboard data would be shared with Board Members for information.

It was also noted that in the most recent data there had been increases in several indicators, which was partly due to the fact that more testing was being undertaken. Further information was then given on the approach being taken to manage such matters moving forward.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the achievements of the Fast Track City initiative, as detailed within the submitted report, be recognised;
- (b) That the future ambitions of the Fast Track City initiative, be supported, and that the development of the Leeds: Getting to Zero Action Plan also be supported, together with the aim of reducing the stigma and misinformation associated with TB, HIV and Hepatitis.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

59 The Annual report on Academic Outcomes

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the outcomes from the statutory assessments and examinations which took place during the 2022/23 academic year in primary and secondary state-funded schools in Leeds (both maintained schools and academies) and which covered the Early Years Foundation Stage through to Key Stage 5.

The Executive Member introduced the report and thanked all children and young people who had undertaken assessments and examinations for their efforts. Thanks was also extended to all teachers and those, including parents and carers, who had supported students throughout what could be challenging times for children and young people. An overview of the performance of Leeds pupils when compared to the national average was provided, with it being noted that Leeds was not complacent in respect of the progress which was being made, and that work would continue to improve the outcomes for all children and young people at every stage of education, especially those who faced additional challenges.

In noting the outcomes within the submitted report, a Member highlighted the positive local and national results which had been achieved by the students, and how such positive results reflected upon the educational reforms of the previous Government.

Responding to a specific enquiry, Members discussed the complex, national issue of attendance in schools, which it was highlighted, had been exacerbated by the pandemic. Further details were provided on the partnership approach being taken to improve attendance and engagement in education, with it being noted that this was a priority for Leeds. It was also highlighted that this matter was being considered by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board and also the multi-agency Children and Young People's Partnership. Bearing in mind the context of the pandemic and the range of challenges faced by children and young people as a result, Members emphasised how the pupils' achievements detailed within the submitted report were all the more significant.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the performance against headline measures for pupils in Leeds in 2023 in comparison to national data, as presented within the submitted report, be noted;
- (b) That the actions taken by Local Authority services to support maintained schools and academies in their work to improve outcomes in Leeds, be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the data presented within the submitted report has previously been discussed at Children and Families Scrutiny Board on 18 July 2024.

60 Children and Young People's Transport Policy: Outcome of consultation on proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Further to Minute No. 10, 19 June 2024, the Director of Children and Families submitted a report presenting the outcomes from the public consultation exercise undertaken on proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The report detailed proposed next steps and sought approval of an updated Children and Young People's Transport Policy, as presented at Appendix 3.

Supplementary information had been provided to Board Members and published ahead of the meeting in the form of the Scrutiny Board Children and Families Working Group statement regarding the proposed changes to transport assistance for post-16 SEND learners. This had been submitted following the Scrutiny Board's agreement of the statement at the meeting held on 9th October 2024. The statement was presented as Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member extended her thanks to Children and Families Scrutiny Board for the work that it had undertaken in

this area. Also, it was highlighted that the Local Authority's duty was to provide home to school transport assistance for children with SEND of statutory school age, and that although it was the parents' responsibility to provide transport arrangements for post-16 year old learners with SEND, the Council had continued to provide substantial assistance. With regard to the proposals within the report, it was noted that they had followed consultation undertaken with young people and their families. The Board was also advised that the proposals would reduce the significant overspend which existed in this service area, whilst maintaining a discretionary transport offer for post-16 students with SEND. The provisions which would be put in place to support those affected were also noted.

In acknowledging the reasons for a review being undertaken, a Member raised his concerns in respect of the proposals and in doing so relayed to the Board an individual concern which had been raised with him, advising that this was representative of others he had received. The Member sought reassurance that the implementation and communication of the proposed policy would be proactive and would be centred around the needs of children, young people and their families, and that for instance, there would be flexibility on the 20-mile radius cap being proposed. In raising such concerns, the Member suggested that further work needed to be undertaken and perhaps a deferral of the final decision was required in order to provide the necessary assurance to parents and families around the approach which would be taken to implement the proposals.

In response, whilst acknowledging the impact of the proposals, it was noted that the current policy was unsustainable. It was also noted that the matter had been considered in detail at Scrutiny Board, where the challenges being faced had been acknowledged, and it was confirmed that the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board had been accepted.

Assurance was provided to the Board that the proposed policy would take into consideration the individual needs of children, young people and their families, and where such individual needs required provision outside of the agreed policy, then in those exceptional circumstances the policy would provide flexibility to deliver that. A commitment was also provided that communication and engagement would continue with the parents, carers, children and young people affected using a range of methods.

Further detail was also provided on the actions being taken regarding the delivery of SEND provision in Leeds, with the aim of minimising the need for learners having to travel significant distances outside of the city wherever possible. The opportunities arising from the proposals in relation to independent travel were also highlighted. As part of the discussion on this report, clarification was also provided to Members on several specific areas within the proposed policy.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That in general terms, the contents of the submitted report, be noted;

- (b) That the outcomes from the consultation exercise, as agreed by Executive Board at its meeting on 19 June 2024, be noted;
- (c) That approval in principle be given to the proposed Children and Young People's Transport Policy (October 2024) as presented at Appendix 3 to the submitted report, which details how a stepped model of transport assistance would be offered to eligible young people with SEND in post-16 education. Transport assistance would in future be made available on the following basis, depending on eligibility and the level of transport need, assessed against the policy:-
 - (i) limiting post-16 transport assistance to learners with SEND, living 3 or more miles from their education setting;
 - (ii) provide Independent Travel Training and a free bus pass (or equivalent cost) for a young person who is able to travel independently or could make the journey to their learning setting on public transport accompanied by an adult as necessary;
 - (iii) issue a Personal Transport Allowance for post-16 learners with SEND, as set out in paragraph 8 (b) of the submitted report;
 - (iv) the consideration of transport assistance for applications made against the exceptional circumstance criteria set out in the Children and Young People's Transport Policy (October 2024) as detailed at Appendix 3 and as detailed in paragraphs 24-25 of the submitted report.
- (d) That it be noted that implementation would be with effect from the commencement of the new academic year (September 2025) and that transitional arrangements would apply to the application of the new policy, as detailed in paragraph 22 of the submitted report;
- (e) That it be noted that a Children and Families Scrutiny Board Working Group meeting took place on 24 September 2024 to discuss the recommendations detailed within the submitted report and due to timing associated with Executive Board agenda publication and the Scrutiny Board meeting schedule, the resulting Working Group Statement was circulated to Board Members as supplementary information which forms Appendix 2 to the submitted report;
- (f) That further to the approval in principle of the Policy (resolution (c) above), it be noted that any further amendments to this policy would be taken in accordance with existing delegations by the Director of Children and Families.

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

61 Little Owls Nurseries Review

Further to Minute No. 7, 19 June 2024 and Minute No. 22, 24 July 2024, the Director of Children and Families submitted a report which provided an update on the withdrawal of service from three Little Owls settings and on the 'market

sounding exercise' undertaken in relation to a further twelve settings, as previously approved by Executive Board. In addition, the report provided recommendations to Executive Board regarding proposed next steps in relation to those further twelve settings.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting that in response to the financial challenges faced and as part of the review undertaken in relation to the Little Owls Nurseries, Executive Board had previously resolved to undertake a market sounding exercise in relation to the future of those twelve Little Owls nursery settings referenced within the report. The Executive Member provided an update on the work undertaken to date on this exercise together with details of the proposals regarding the future of those settings. As part of any next steps, assurance was provided that engagement would continue with parents and carers, and that actions would be taken to ensure that any new providers continued to deliver a number of issues which had been identified as key by parents and carers during the engagement process. Such matters would be considered on a setting-by-setting basis, and if it was deemed that those critical needs were not met in a specific setting, it was noted that the default position would be for the Council to continue as the provider.

A Member raised a specific enquiry and concern regarding the extent to which child poverty was being taken into consideration as part of the proposals. In response, the Board was provided with assurance that the issue of child poverty remained a key concern in Leeds. It was also noted that whilst the appended Equality Impact Assessment took a broader view on such matters given that the submitted report invited the Board to agree the principle of a series of changes, the bespoke and localised discussions which would take place with potential providers moving forward would allow issues such as child poverty to be considered in detail. However, it was reiterated that the default position would be for the Council to continue as the provider, should it be deemed that any potential provision arrangements were not suitable for a specific setting.

Clarification was provided to the Board that the Local Authority's statutory duty in this case was to ensure sufficiency of childcare provision, with it being noted that as part of the proposals, Leeds would retain at least nine directly delivered nurseries, which was more than any other comparator city and significantly beyond the Council's statutory duty, reflecting the commitment to early years provision in Leeds.

The Board discussed the financial basis on which the review had been undertaken and the proposals being made. Members also discussed the issue of daily fee levels, with the Board receiving further information on the process by which appropriate consideration would be given to such matters, as part of the individual discussions with any potential providers. Responding to a specific enquiry regarding potential fee levels which had been identified as part of the expression of interest exercise, it was undertaken that further detail could be provided to the Member in question, if required.

A Member raised a concern regarding the Call In status of the report, as they felt that the submitted report should be eligible for Call In and recommended that the status of the report should be changed so as to be eligible for Call In. In response, it was confirmed that the report was not eligible for Call In as the matter had already been through the Call In process.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the activity undertaken to withdraw from service provision at three settings, as agreed by Executive Board in June 2024, be noted;
- (b) That the work undertaken to date in relation to the agreed 'market sounding exercise' regarding the following settings, be noted:-
- Shepherds Lane
 - Meanwood
 - St Mary's Hunslet
 - Hawksworth Wood
 - City & Holbeck
 - Parklands
 - Quarry Mount
 - Bramley
 - Hunslet Rylestone
 - Osmondthorpe
 - Rothwell
 - Burley Park
- (c) That the recommendations set out for each of those settings detailed in resolution (b) (above), be agreed, as set out below:-
- (ci) That the overarching proposal, be agreed, that subject to a successful outcome of detailed discussion with schools and alternative providers, none of the twelve settings identified in resolution (b) will be retained by Leeds City Council for direct delivery. In the event that those detailed discussions do not progress to a satisfactory conclusion, the Council's default position will be that settings are retained by the Council and directly delivered;
- (cii) That the recommendation to engage in detailed conversations with neighbouring schools around their interest in operating Little Owls nurseries at St Mary's Hunslet, Parklands, Hawksworth Wood, Quarry Mount, be agreed, and if required, agreement be given to a procurement process and other statutory consultation processes with the individual neighbouring schools;
- (ciii) That the recommendation to enter a formal procurement process with alternative providers for the future provision at the following settings: Shepherds Lane, City and Holbeck, Hunslet Rylestone, Rothwell, Meanwood, Bramley, Osmondthorpe and Burley Park, be agreed;
- (d) That it be noted that the Director for Children and Families has delegated authority to make the operational decision to move forward with individual providers for the settings set out in resolution (ciii) above.

(As referenced within paragraph 33 of the submitted report, the resolutions above are not eligible for Call In, as they are a direct consequence of implementing a previous key decision on such matters which had been the subject of a previous Call In)

(Under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, Councillor A Lamb required it to be recorded that he voted against the decisions referred to within this minute)

RESOURCES

62 Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report regarding the review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy. The report detailed the outcomes from the consultation undertaken, presented the updated draft Policy for the Board's endorsement and asked the Board to refer it to Full Council with a recommendation that it be formally adopted.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting the statutory requirements for the Local Authority to produce a policy and noted the associated consultation exercise that had been undertaken, which included the consideration of the draft policy by the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board. The partnership approach being taken towards addressing the issue of gambling harm across the city was also highlighted.

Responding to a Member's enquiry about the low level of responses received to the associated consultation exercise, assurance was provided that the level of response was expected, and was a reflection of the comprehensiveness of the policy, the fact that regular consultation was undertaken and given that where appropriate, the policy had been adapted in the past to incorporate responses previously received.

An enquiry was raised regarding the Authority not being informed by the Gambling Commission about an establishment's breach of its operating license. In response, it was noted that the Council had written to the Commission in order to make its concerns known with a request that the Council be kept informed of such matters in future. It was also noted that there had not been any further breaches that the Council had been informed of since that incident.

Noting the Public Health team's involvement in the field of Licensing activity, further information was provided on the actions which were being developed in this area. It was noted that whilst this process was in its relatively early stages Members had welcomed Public Health's involvement, and given the limited resource available, actions were being taken to ensure that such resource was being used as effectively as possible.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report and appendices be noted, including the final draft Statement of Licensing Policy which includes the outcomes from the statutory consultation exercise and any comments/recommendations from Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board; and

- (b) That approval be given to refer the final draft Statement of Licensing Policy, as presented, to Full Council, with a recommendation that it is formally adopted.

(Given that the above decisions were being made in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, they were not eligible for Call In)

63 Financial Health Monitoring 2024/25 – Month 5 (August)

The Interim Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, Traded and Resources submitted a report providing an update on the Council's financial performance against the 2024/25 revenue budget, as at month 5 of the financial year. The report also presented the August (Month 5) position in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Schools' Budget (DSG) and the Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Fund.

In presenting the report the Executive Member provided an overview of the key points in which it was noted that as at month 5 of the financial year, the Council was forecasting a General Fund overspend of £22.0m. The Executive Member also highlighted the range of mitigating measures being taken to address the overspend.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board noted that the savings proposals which were established for the current financial year were largely being achieved, and that the overspend being experienced was due to the increased demand in both children's and adults' social care services. The range of work being undertaken to mitigate the current overspend was highlighted, with the scale of the challenge faced being reiterated.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That it be noted that at August 2024 (Month 5 of the financial year) the Authority's General Fund revenue budget is reporting an overspend of £22.0m for 2024/25 (3.6% of the approved net revenue budget) after application of reserves and within a challenging national context. That it also be noted that a range of actions are being undertaken to address this position as detailed within the submitted report;
- (b) That it be noted that at August 2024 (Month 5 of the financial year) the Authority's Housing Revenue Account is reporting a balanced position;
- (c) That it be noted that at August 2024 (Month 5 of the financial year), the DSG budget is projecting an in-year pressure of £15.1m which equates to 2.73% of the total estimated DSG funding;
- (d) That it be noted that known inflationary increases, including demand and demographic pressures in Social Care and known impacts of the rising cost of living have been incorporated into this reported financial position. The position assumes a pay settlement of 3.5%, with the final pay award for 2024/25 yet to be agreed. That it also be noted that these pressures will continue to be reviewed during the year and

reported to future Executive Board meetings as more information becomes available, and that proposals would need to be identified to absorb any additional pressures;

- (e) That it be noted that where an overspend is projected, directorates, including the Housing Revenue Account, are required to present action plans to mitigate their reported pressures and those of the Council's wider financial challenge where possible, in line with the Revenue Principles as agreed by Executive Board in February 2024 through the annual Revenue Budget report.

64 Revenue Savings Proposals for 2025/26 TO 2027/28

Further to Minute No. 47, 18 September 2024, which presented the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2025/26 – 2029/30, the Interim Assistant Chief Executive – Finance, Traded and Resources submitted a report providing details of a first tranche of savings proposals to contribute to closing the Council's projected revenue budget gap over the next three financial year period and to meet the statutory requirement to achieve a balanced budget for 2025/26. The report noted that 'savings proposals' was a collective term used in this context to apply to reductions in expenditure and increases in income.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that the submitted report presented the initial revenue savings proposals for the Board's consideration, totalling £37.4m. It was noted that subsequent reports would be submitted to the November and December 2024 Board meetings presenting further savings proposals.

Responding to a Member's enquiry, the Board received further information regarding potential implications should National Insurance Contributions be increased in the future. Also, it was confirmed that whilst the current financial monitoring position assumed a pay settlement of 3.5% for 2024/25, every 1% in addition to that equated to approximately £4.3m cost to the Council.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the 'Business as Usual' savings presented in the submitted report be noted, and that decisions to give effect to them shall be taken by the relevant Director or Chief Officer in accordance with the Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive functions);
- (b) That the Board's agreement be given for consultation to commence, where required, with regard to the 'Service Review' savings proposals detailed within the submitted report, and that it be noted that decisions to give effect to them shall be taken by the relevant Director or Chief Officer following any consultation period, in accordance with the Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive functions) and decision-making framework, save where the Leader or the relevant Portfolio Holder has directed, or the Director considers that the matter should be referred to Executive Board for consideration;

- (c) That it be noted that additional savings proposals will be brought to Executive Board for consideration at its meetings on 20th November 2024 and 11th December 2024;
- (d) That it be noted that further savings will be required to close the Council's estimated budget gaps in the years 2026/27 and 2027/28, and that proposals on such matters will be brought to future meetings of Executive Board.

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

ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

65 Highway Maintenance Strategy Review

The Director of City Development submitted a report providing an update on the work being undertaken to address the highways maintenance backlog in Leeds in the face of current and historical financial challenges.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member highlighted that this report followed a White Paper Motion resolution from the full Council meeting held on 20th March 2024. It was noted that whilst the Council had provided almost £200m of Capital investment in highways maintenance since 2010, a backlog of £288m still existed, which had been exacerbated by inflation and also adverse weather conditions. It was noted that the challenges faced were being experienced by Local Authorities nationally. The Executive Member extended his thanks to Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for the work which they had undertaken in this area, and reference was also made to the joint letter being sent to Government on such matters in the names of Councillor Bithell as relevant Scrutiny Board Chair and Councillor Pryor as relevant Executive Member.

The Board welcomed Councillor Bithell to the meeting, who was in attendance for the consideration of this item in her position as Chair of the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board. The Scrutiny Board had produced a statement on this matter which was appended to the submitted report for the Board's consideration. Councillor Bithell thanked Members and officers involved in this piece of work and acknowledged the high level of activity and innovation being undertaken by the service. The scale of the challenges being faced were also highlighted. Councillor Bithell provided an overview of the key conclusions and recommendations of the Scrutiny Board, as highlighted in the appended statement.

In considering the report, a Member raised several enquiries regarding the current position with respect to Network North funding, the service's utilisation of the latest technology and innovation, and also regarding the latest backlog position.

Regarding the Council's current highways maintenance backlog position and the worst affected Ward within that, it was undertaken that this information would be provided to the Member in question.

The Board received further information on the actions which continued to be taken in order to innovate the service and adapt to new technology in this area. It was noted that experiences would be shared with other Local Authorities in order to ensure that best value was delivered. It was also highlighted that the service wanted to embrace the Scrutiny Board's recommendations and also embrace new technology, with it being emphasised that highways maintenance remained a key priority of the Council. Responding to a further question, it was noted that associated review work continued to be undertaken and that at the appropriate time, recommendations would be brought forward which covered new ways of working across the whole of the highways service.

In conclusion, the Executive Member extended his thanks to Highways Services for the vital work that they continued to undertake throughout the city.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report, including the maintenance strategy and policy as presented, be noted and endorsed;
- (b) That it be noted that the submitted report was considered by the Infrastructure, Investment, and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board at its July 2024 meeting and that a Scrutiny Board Statement has been submitted to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development and which is attached to the submitted report at Appendix B.

66 Leeds City Council Vote in the Leeds Business Improvement District 2025-2030 Ballot

Further to Minute No. 14, 19 June 2024, the Director of City Development submitted a report presenting the finalised 2025-2030 Business Plan from Leeds Business Improvement District (LeedsBID) and which set out the themes and work streams that LeedsBID would focus upon in its next term of 2025-2030. The report also provided information about the Council's financial contribution as a BID levy payer.

The Executive Member introduced the report, highlighting that LeedsBID would cover an expanded geographical area for the forthcoming term and recommending that the Council vote in favour of LeedsBID for a third term (2025-2030) based upon the submitted business plan.

Members welcomed the proposals within the submitted report.

With regard to the expanded geographical area, a Member highlighted the importance of ensuring that effective communication was established with those businesses which would now be included within the LeedsBID area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the LeedsBID business plan (2025-2030), as appended to the submitted report, which sets out the organisation's plan of delivery in its third term, be noted;
- (b) That approval be given for Leeds City Council as a LeedsBID levy payer, to vote in favour of LeedsBID for a third term (2025-2030), based upon the appended business plan, thereby enabling the opportunity for significant investment of circa £18.75m in Leeds city centre through the activities of LeedsBID;
- (c) That the resource implications for the Council arising from a successful BID ballot, as detailed within the submitted report, be noted;
- (d) That the responsibility of the vote be delegated to the Interim Director of City Development;
- (e) That the Director of City Development (and/or the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment (or a delegate of)) be requested to meet with LeedsBID on a quarterly basis to advocate that the needs and asks of Leeds City Council and those of the communities that the Council represents are met;
- (f) That the Interim Director of City Development be requested to write to LeedsBID to ask that they work with the Council in order to consider destination marketing branding that applies to Leeds city centre as a place, to ensure that visitor experience is optimised and that where possible, any unnecessary duplication is removed;
- (g) That the Interim Director of City Development be requested to write to LeedsBID to ask that a copy of its Forward Plan is provided in December annually to allow Leeds City Council time to consider any resource implications and provide advice to LeedsBID accordingly.

CLIMATE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES

67 Climate Emergency Annual Report

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment submitted a report presenting the annual review of the work that continues to be undertaken both on a Council and a citywide basis following the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019. The report also reflected upon wider changes which have occurred both regionally and nationally that are relevant to the city's decarbonisation.

In introducing the report, the Executive Member extended his thanks to officers involved in the delivery of this work, and also to Members for their efforts in this area. Special reference was made to Councillor Dye as Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, together with all other Members of that Committee.

An overview was provided on the progress being made and the actions which had been taken to reduce carbon emissions in Leeds over the past twelve months. It was noted that such actions were being delivered both via cross-directorate activity and collaboratively with external partners.

A Member raised an enquiry regarding a recent press report regarding the use of incinerators and their potential impact upon the environment. It was noted that significant work had been undertaken following that press report in order to provide reassurance on the use of the RERF (Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility) in Leeds and how it continued to contribute towards the carbon reduction agenda. It was emphasised that at the current time, the RERF provided the best solution. It was then undertaken that the detailed response which had been prepared on such matters would be shared with the Member in question for their information.

RESOLVED – That the progress being made in Leeds’ ambition to become the first net-zero city in the UK, as set out within the submitted report, be acknowledged.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: FRIDAY, 18TH OCTOBER 2024

**LAST DATE FOR CALL IN
OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS:** 5.00PM, FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2024



COUNCIL MEETING – 13th NOVEMBER 2024

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP1	4/11/24	5/11/24

Submitted by:	Councillor Alan Lamb
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Leader of Council
Relevant Director	Director of Strategy and Resources

This Council notes that the Labour Government inherited the fastest growing economy in the G7, with mortgage interest rates falling and inflation back to the Bank of England target after the impact of the COVID pandemic and the energy price crisis because of the war in Ukraine.

The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts that growth will now be lower, inflation will rise and mortgage interest rates will increase as a result of the Chancellor's budget on 30 October.

The OBR also forecasts that the policies in the budget directly:

- increase tax take to an historic high at 38 per cent of GDP by 2029-30;
- lower medium-term GDP growth to 1.5 per cent;
- push up CPI inflation, projected to rise to 2.6 per cent by 2025;
- increase borrowing by £19.6 bn this year and by £32.3 bn over the next five years;
- reduce real household disposable income by 2029;
- raise the bank rate and five-year gilt yield higher than forecast; and
- cut wages by £7.5 bn as a result of a hike in employers' national insurance.

This Council rejects the Chancellor's tax on jobs, which will hit businesses in Leeds. According to the OBR: *"policy changes leave nominal and real earnings growth lower over the remainder of the forecast as employers pass on the national insurance contribution rise"*. The OBR further notes: *"in 2025/26 firms will pass on 60 per cent of the higher costs to workers and consumers, via lower wages and higher prices"*.

Council believes this budget is a tax on working people.

Councillor Alan Lamb

Deadlines for submission

White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Page 249

- Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
- Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)



COUNCIL MEETING – 13th NOVEMBER 2024

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP2	4/11/24	5/11/24

Submitted by:	Councillor Sandy Lay
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Equality, Health and Wellbeing)
Relevant Director	Director of Adults and Health

This Council is dismayed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not commit in her recent Autumn Statement to funding approvals for the long planned new hospital buildings on the Leeds General Infirmary site, as requested via letter by all political groups on Leeds City Council.

Council is concerned that further delay to getting spades in the ground on this project will lead to higher construction costs for the taxpayer, a drag on economic growth in the city, and worsened health outcomes for our citizens.

Council calls on the Government to recognise the significant investment already made to demolish and clear the city centre site for construction, and to confirm the inclusion of this project as one of those ‘in build’ schemes that qualify for ‘swift’ delivery through the New Hospital Programme, and for the funding to be committed by the end of this year.

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Cllr Sandy Lay

Cllr Stewart Golton

Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
 - Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
 - Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
- (including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

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COUNCIL MEETING – 13th NOVEMBER 2024

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP3	4/11/24	5/11/24

Submitted by:	Councillor Luke Farley
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Resources)
Relevant Director	Interim Assistant Chief Executive – People, Digital and Change

This Council supports the Government’s new landmark Employment’s Rights Bill that will improve the lives of thousands of workers in Leeds by raising living standards for all.

Council welcomes measures in the Bill to provide protection against unfair dismissal from day one; establish parental and bereavement leave from day one; end exploitative zero-hour contracts; end unscrupulous practices of fire and rehire and fire and replace; make flexible working the norm where practical; deliver stronger protections for pregnant women and new mothers; and strengthen statutory sick pay.

Council supports the Bill will establish a new Fair Work Agency to enforce employment rights such as holiday pay and provide support to employers looking for guidance on how to comply with the law.

Council further supports the Government’s commitment to increase the national living wage by 6.7% to give a much-needed pay rise to thousands of low paid working people in Leeds, and is a significant step towards delivering a genuine living wage for all workers.

Council is pleased the Bill will modernise Trade Union laws to help in their vital role representing workers’ interests and improving working conditions.

Council believes the Bill will complement this Administration’s achievements on inclusive growth in Leeds and as part of this Council commits to bring a report to a future Executive Board meeting to ensure the measures in the bill support work to ensure the future of our city is more inclusive and that all in the city can benefit from the Leeds economy growing.

Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
- Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
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