

Report of the Director of Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 15th November 2017



Subject: The Leeds Preparing for Adulthood Strategy 2017 - 2022

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

A key part of the 'Best City' Vision for Leeds is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children, young people and families – a Child Friendly city. The Vision makes clear that improving the lives of children and young people is a central priority for the Council and its partners, as set out in the Best Council Plan.

Central to the Children and Families Act 2014 is a strengthened emphasis on improved outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It is the case that young people with SEND underachieve in Leeds compared to their peers nationally. This is why delivering improved outcomes and destinations for young people with SEND into adulthood is of great importance locally and so closely aligns to strategic plans and priorities.

Work has been underway since early 2016 to coproduce a city-wide Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) vision and strategy (appendix 1). The aim was to achieve a shared vision with intended outcomes, strategic priorities and indicators which demonstrate a positive impact on young people with SEND as they transition into adulthood. An easy read version of the strategy has also been produced (appendix 2).

The development of the PfA strategy has been influenced by strategic thinking that aligns to the Commission on the Future of Local Government. Specifically Proposition 4: Devising a new social contract.

The strategy has been co-produced and seeks to raise collective aspirations with young people with SEND so they can plan and prepare to live ordinary and fulfilling lives into adulthood.

The PfA Strategy presents a bold ambition for the City, outlining four outcomes. Young people (with SEND) aged 14-25 will...

1. Be enabled, empowered or supported to take part in learning, training or employment opportunities
2. Be able to live as independently as possible
3. Have friends and relationships and be able to make a positive contribution to the community they live in
4. Be enabled, empowered or supported to enjoy the best possible health and well-being

To help raise awareness of the strategy across the Executive Board this paper sets out the background, the strategic fit and how the vision and strategy has been designed using a co-production approach, working with key stakeholders including young people, families and partners from education, health and care across the city.

Recommendations

1. Executive Board are asked to acknowledge the work to date and support and agree the intended outcomes of the Preparing for Adulthood Strategy 2017 – 2022.
2. Executive Board are asked to support and promote the supported internship programme across the council and its partners by offering supported internship placements, and embedding the ask in the social value commissioning framework and the Child Friendly Leeds Employers network.
3. Executive Board are asked to note that the Head of the Complex Needs Service is the responsible officer for the implementation of the Strategy.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To help raise awareness of the PfA strategy across the Executive Board this paper sets out the background, the strategic fit and how the vision and strategy has been designed using a co-production approach, working with key stakeholders including young people, families and partners from education, health and care across the city.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Complex Needs Service (Children and Families Services) provides leadership across the Children's Trust arrangements for the implementation of SEND aspect of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 2.2 Enabling young people with SEND to move successfully into adulthood fits with the vision of Leeds to be: a child friendly city and a compassionate city with a strong economy. It is not only in the best interests of the individuals and families involved but also for the communities of Leeds and the city as a whole that collectively we have high aspirations for our children and young people with SEND and support them to transition into adulthood and reach their full potential. That may be: employment, independent living, participating within an inclusive community, as well as meeting their health and well-being needs.
- 2.3 With the right support, many young people with SEND can build the skills, confidence and independence they need to be leaders of their own lives. For some young people with the most complex needs, it's about celebrating the small steps towards maximising autonomy and life experience. Preparation for adulthood is all about aspirations and opportunities and enabling young people and young adults to reach their full potential.
- 2.4 Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 transforms the system for disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN), so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The reforms create a system from birth to 25 through the development of coordinated assessment and Education, Health And Care Plans; improving cooperation between all services responsible for providing education, health or social care; and giving parents and young people greater choice and control over their support.
- 2.5 The SEND reforms focus on the following themes:
- 👉 Working towards clearly defined outcomes
 - 👉 Engagement and participation of parents and young people
 - 👉 Joint Commissioning and developing a Local Offer of support
 - 👉 Coordinated assessments and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
 - 👉 Personalisation and personal budgets.

Preparation for adulthood is a key element of the reforms that cuts across all of these themes. The preparation for adulthood outcomes are set out in the SEND code of practice and are a central feature of the Leeds PfA Strategy 2017-2022. Preparing for adulthood means preparing for:

- 👉 higher education and/or employment – this includes exploring different employment options, such as support for becoming self-employed and help from supported employment agencies
- 👉 independent living – this means young people having choice, control and freedom over their lives and the support they have, their accommodation and living arrangements, including supported living
- 👉 participating in society, including having friends and supportive relationships, and participating in, and contributing to, the local community
- 👉 being as healthy as possible in adult life

2.6 The transformation of the system for disabled young people and those with SEND is intended to ensure that services consistently support the best outcomes for them by ensuring that that children, young people and their parents have greater choice and control in decisions and that their needs are properly met.

2.7 Earlier in 2016 a decision was taken that the necessary developments had been made to comply with the Children and Families Act 2014 and we were in a good position to turn our attention to the intended benefits of the Act: to deliver improved outcomes and destinations for young people with SEND into adulthood. Work commenced to build on our successful implementation by co-producing a city-wide Preparation for Adulthood vision and strategy.

2.8 In May 2016 it was announced that Leeds was successful in our bid to become one of 9 national demonstrator sites for the work we are doing on PfA. The three areas we focused on for the national demonstrator site were Education Health and Care Plans, strategic engagement of children and young people & parent and carers, and the Local offer. The national evaluation report was published in May 2017.

3 Main issues

3.1 Our initial research suggested that only a handful of local authorities across England have co-produced a PfA vision and strategy. We engaged with the national lead for Preparation for Adulthood (funded by the DfE) who offered support and facilitated city wide coproduction events in 2016 and 2017 that were opened by, the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Children and Families (Cllr Yeadon and Cllr Mulherin respectively) and the Chief Executive.

3.2 The co-production activity that lead to the production of the PfA strategy included a series of workshops, focus groups, surveys, lessons in some of the special schools across the city, a review of 90 Education, health and Care Plans and two large city wide events.

- 3.3 During the extensive co-production activity we explored the key things young people, families and partners from across education, health, care, voluntary and community sector felt were important in their lives.
- 👍 Skills and qualities young people feel they have
 - 👍 Where young people want to live in the future and who with
 - 👍 What jobs young people want to do in the future
 - 👍 What young people want to do for fun in the future
 - 👍 What young people said their big dreams or ambitions for the future are
 - 👍 Barriers facing these ambitions and the support young people said they would need.
- 3.4 Running alongside the co-production of the PfA strategy 2017 – 2022 we established a supported internship pilot to start delivering positive change and to enable, empower and support more young people to be ready for the world of work and to become employed. The learning and the experience gained from this has also helped to shape the PfA Strategy. The Supported Internship Pilot worked with the Special Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs), Swarthmore, Leeds City College and the Light House Futures Trust.
- 3.5 A supported internship is a course offered by colleges and post 16 providers. They aim to help young people with learning difficulties and disabilities achieve paid employment by giving them the skills and experience they need through learning in the workplace.
- 3.6 Every supported internship is different, as every young person has different abilities and career aspirations. The students spending most of their time at the employer's premises where they will be treated as an employee and expected to comply with job conditions. 33 young people started on the supported internship pilot 2015/16 (academic year)
- 3.7 Supported Internships are now part of the Child Friendly Leeds (CfL) asks of employers. A menu of asks have been created and are shared with the CfL employer networks which has enabled conversations and relationships with employers to be developed and supported internship placements brokered. A focussed CfL employer's network is being planned for November where a group of supported interns are going to present to the ambassadors seeking to recruit more employers providing supported internships.
- 3.8 Supported internships have continued to be rolled out during 2016/17. During the academic year 2016-2017 there have been 37 learners from across the city's SILCs, Leeds City College and Swarthmore Post-16 College who have taken part in a supported internship. Supported internships have taken place across 26 different employers such as Yorkshire Water, The Holiday Inn, charity shops, cleaning services and Leeds City Council. Of these 37 internships, 6 have been at Leeds City Council, including in schools administration, catering and local libraries. There are plans to increase the number of internships and reach out to a greater number of employers during the rest of this academic year and in the beginning of the next.

- 3.9 Given the inclusive approach to developing the strategy over the past 18 months, it was agreed that the draft PfA strategy document go out to consultation during June – July 2017. The draft strategy was e-mailed with a consultation response form to our key partners, the list has over 1000 e-mail addresses.
- 3.10 The draft strategy and response form were also available on the local authority's website. CfL, PfA, Forum Central and other partners helped to raise awareness of the consultation via twitter.
- 3.11 To promote accessibility an easy read version of the draft strategy and response form was also produced and received positive feedback from Forum Central, LYPFT Easy-on-the-i team, parents, carers and some staff.
- 3.12 Whilst some of the responses were from individuals, others responded on behalf of teams or services, such as the transitions service and adult social care.
- 3.13 The feedback was analysed and put into broad themes:
- 👍 Strategy effectiveness (mainly to do with outcomes, indicators, priorities and actions)
 - How progress is measured
 - Content
 - Implementation
 - Relationship between outcomes, priorities, indicators
 - 👍 Funding
 - 👍 Transitions
 - 👍 Layout/design
 - 👍 Content
 - 👍 Language
 - 👍 Missing content
- 3.14 The plan is to launch the strategy through the complex needs newsletter, social media and at various partnership groups and boards. The strategy will be a key feature of the next annual Preparing for Adulthood city wide event in spring 2018. Work to deliver the strategy will be reported to and governed by the Complex Needs Partnership Board, a sub group of the Children and Families Trust Board.
- 3.15 The PfA Strategy presents a bold ambition for the City, outlining four outcomes. Young people (with SEND) aged 14-25 will...
5. Be enabled, empowered or supported to take part in learning, training or employment opportunities
 6. Be able to live as independently as possible
 7. Have friends and relationships and be able to make a positive contribution to the community they live in
 8. Be enabled, empowered or supported to enjoy the best possible health and well-being

4 Corporate Considerations






4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 As detailed above, and commented on at a recent children's scrutiny committee, extensive consultation and engagement activity has been undertaken to co-produce the PfA strategy.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been completed and concluded a full EIA is not necessary (Appendix 3)
- 4.2.2 The strategy aims to raise aspirations and ensure that children and young people aged 14-25 with SEND live fulfilled and ordinary lives. We will share good practice examples and promote the work being done around the strategy by allowing young people to share their own experiences and inspire other young people through videos, talks in schools; complex needs newsletter articles, takeover events and use of social media platforms.
- 4.2.3 The four preparing for adulthood outcomes will be measured by a series of indicators, both sets of which are detailed in the strategy. There will be a further, more detailed action plan that will set out how the SEND partnership will work together to measure the impact of the strategy. The strategy will be steered by strategic work overseen by the complex needs partnership board and children and families trust board.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The PfA Strategy fits with the vision of Leeds to be the best place it can be: a child friendly city and a compassionate city with a strong economy as set out in the Best Council Plan. It is not only in the best interests of the individuals and families involved but also for the communities of Leeds and the city as a whole that collectively we have high aspirations for our children and young people with SEND and support and enable them to transition into adulthood and reach their full potential. That may be: employment, independent living, participating within an inclusive community, as well as meeting their health and well-being needs.
- 4.3.2 The PfA Strategy also supports the Leeds Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021 through contributions to the outcomes of:
-  People will live longer and have healthier lives
 -  People will live full, active and independent lives
 -  People's quality of life will be improved by access to quality services
 -  People will be actively involved in their health and their care
 -  People will live in healthy, safe and sustainable communities
- 4.3.3 The strategy has helped to influence recent service redesign within employment and skills and young people with SEND are now a priority group for key employment and skills activity across the city.
- 4.3.4 To support the delivery of supported internships and raising aspirations around employment close links have been made with the corporate social value work and

details about supported internships. The lead for the PfA Strategy is named in the guidance for commissioners.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The Leeds Preparing for Adulthood strategy 2017-2022 will enable the local authority and the wider children and families trust partners to focus our efforts on improving the preparing for adulthood outcomes and turning the curve on the indicators set out in the draft strategy. Ultimately, successfully implementing a shared PfA strategy would deliver improved destinations and outcomes into adulthood and would enable, empower and support more young disabled people to live as independently as possible. It is estimated that equipping a young person with the skills to live in semi-independent instead of fully supported housing could reduce their lifetime support costs by approx. £1m.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The PfA Strategy will enable us to fulfil our legal duties on preparing for adulthood as defined in the SEND code of practice.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The Preparing for Adulthood Strategy outlines the intended outcomes, key priorities and indicators that will provide a framework for all services in Leeds to support them in how they work with young people and families to empower and enable them as they prepare for adulthood. The PfA strategy will reduce the risks of not improving the key outcomes for young people 14-25 with SEND.
- 4.6.2 Whilst resources reduce and demand and complexity of need increases, it will be essential to ensure effective leadership capacity is in place to drive the strategy across the SEND partnership across the City.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Significant work has been undertaken to co-produce the PfA Strategy. The strategy will enable partners to focus resources and understand the part they play in achieving the key indicators and enable the outcomes to be achieved.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board are asked acknowledge the work to date and support and agree the intended outcomes of the Preparing for Adulthood Strategy 2017 – 2022.
- 6.2 Executive Board are asked to support and promote the supported internship programme across the council and its partners by offering supported internship placements, and embedding the ask in the social value commissioning framework and the Child Friendly Leeds Employers network.
- 6.3 Executive Board are asked to note that the Head of the Complex Needs Service is the responsible officer for the implementation of the Strategy.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.