

Report of Director Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 21 March 2018



Subject: Refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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

1. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It is one of the family of plans that supports our Best City ambitions and their delivery through our Best Council Plan. Our ambition of being the best city for children to grow up both supports and evidences our broader ambition of a strong economy within a compassionate city. The plan is being refreshed to take account of local priorities, including those of our young people, the current national picture, and evolving local challenges.
2. This a refinement of our current plan recognising our strong shared commitment and building on the progress made. We will continue to obsess but with our third obsession - attendance - being expanded to **improve attendance, achievement, and attainment**. This includes a disproportionate focus on those children and young people where there is a greater risk of them not reaching their potential. This is in respect to both their learning outcomes and their broader well-being. We want our children to have the best opportunity for successful and fulfilling adult lives.
3. Young people have expressed a strong opinion that reliable, safe and affordable transport is a priority. This is now reflected in the new plan a priority for the city to address.

4. The new plan coalesces the current 14 priorities to ten and adds in the new transport priority. Our focus on outcomes and are we making a difference remains, to support this key measures have or are being revised.

Recommendations

5. Executive Board are asked to:

- Agree the changes that will be made to the CYPP, which will ensure that Plan remains relevant and focused on the children and young people who most require support and on raising their learning outcomes.
- Recommend to Council the adoption of the revised CYPP (following the consultation process; and discussion and approval at Children and Families Trust Board), covering 2018 to 2023.
- Agree that updates on the CYPP priorities will be: reflected in Best Council Plan monitoring; undertaken by the Children and Families Trust Board; and provided six monthly to Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is being refreshed to maintain momentum and commitment to improving outcomes for Leeds children and young people, integral to our best city aspirations. Central to this is that we remain focused on the children, young people, and families who most require support, on the impact of child poverty and on ensuring all children make good progress in their learning. This report provides a final draft for Executive Board and then Council approval. The rationale for the revisions are outlined in this report.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. Leeds is a large, dynamic and complex city facing significant and stubborn challenges. Outcomes are not always good enough and are not always consistent across the city and for different groups and communities.
- 2.2 The CYPP was launched in 2011, and has been refreshed twice; once in 2013, and again, following the January 2015 Ofsted inspection. This refresh will cover the period 2018 to 2023 and takes account of the current national picture, and evolving local challenges. Changes include a revision to the priorities and indicators, and an amendment to the 'how we'll do it' section to reflect the changing priorities within the city. Throughout we remain committed to the same conditions of wellbeing that we want for all our children and young people; that all children and young people:
- are safe from harm
 - do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life
 - enjoy healthy lifestyles
 - have fun growing up
 - are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence

The CYPP plan on a page is presented in Appendix 2.

- 2.3 The CYPP has, since 2011, supported and guided the partnership approach in Leeds, focused around the three obsessions, to improve outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. The changing national picture, and the evolving local situation requires the partnership to ensure that the CYPP remains focused on the most vulnerable children and young people who need the greatest support and intervention.
- 2.4 Leeds is a DfE Partner in Practice, as a result of the 2015 Ofsted inspection; is currently the only core city to be judged as good overall; and is one of only a handful of local authorities across the country with an outstanding judgement for leadership, management and governance. Leeds' Partner in Practice programme is based on creating the conditions for children's services and partner agency practitioners to work more closely together, providing more holistic support, advice and interventions for children, young people and families. The programme is also

concerned with improving the quality of practice both in Leeds and with other local authorities.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 At the heart of the refresh is the expansion of the third obsession, from improve school attendance, to **improving attendance, achievement, and attainment**, to be known as the 'triple 'A' obsession'. This includes a disproportionate focus on pupils from disadvantaged groups so that all children and young people - particularly those who are vulnerable to not making good progress in their learning - are able to realise their potential.
- 3.2 The majority of pupils in Leeds achieve in line with their peers nationally, however some pupils are at greater risk of not making good progress in their learning this includes children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those who experience other vulnerabilities to reaching their potential. There are many complex issues that cause this disparity; some reflect the regional and national pictures, some are specific to Leeds. Vulnerabilities to good progress in learning are reflected in those pupils eligible for free school meals, students who speak English as an additional language, and pupils who have special educational needs and disabilities. At the heart of the triple 'A' obsession is keeping the whole school community engaged, and ensuring that all those people who touch the lives of children and young people in Leeds help pupils to attain and achieve their potential so that they are ready for a life of learning.
- 3.3 The unprecedented changes in the curriculum and assessment system in recent years require an update of many of the indicators contained within the CYPP (for example, the key stage four headline measure). This refresh affords an opportunity to reflect these changes and ensure the CYPP remains relevant in a changing education landscape.
- 3.4 Appendix one contains the proposed revised priorities and indicators that will take the CYPP forward. The refresh provides a chance to coalesce the existing 14 priorities into eleven, and to align a revised set of indicators to those priorities. Whilst there are three fewer priorities, there is no reduction in the scope and ambition of the CYPP. Two current priorities - promote sexual health, and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour - are combined into one new priority: support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours.
- 3.5 In consultation with young people an eleventh priority, improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable (public) connected transport for young people, was added. Leeds young people view this as a key priority. Concerns include transport around the edges of the city, the cost, and the manner in which many young people are treated on public transport. The inclusion of this priority reinforces the maxim that children and young people's voice and influence are at the heart of the CYPP.
- 3.6 Taking this forward will be based on the approach of the CYPP of bringing city partners and young people together to find solutions, these conversations have begun. These will look at ideas that can quickly make a difference, how the resources of the council and partners can be brought into this new priority and to

the influence and support the Council and Trust Board can provide. Further discussions about how best to measure this priority, and how to track progress will take place over the next 12 months. It is envisaged that Children and Families Trust Board will support the ongoing work of the Leeds Youth Council, for whom transport has been a priority for a number of years.

- 3.7 The revised indicators include a tightening of some definitions, and a replacement of obsolete/less relevant indicators with more appropriate indicators. This will allow us to track impact and show improved outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. Much of the change is related to the changing school curriculum and assessment frameworks. Previous indicators have been replaced with the current headline indicators (Progress 8 replacing 5 A*-C GCSEs, including English and maths, for example) so that pupils' progress can be tracked within Leeds, and compared to their peers nationally.
- 3.8 Aligning the indicators more explicitly to the priorities, and staying true to Outcome Based Accountability, will ensure that the revised indicators are appropriate, relevant, and demonstrate the impact that the CYPP is having. The central question of 'what difference have we made' remains the key driver.
- 3.9 While the plan should and does focus on greatest need we remember it is a children and young people's plan and having fun growing up remains one of the 5 key outcomes that drive the well-being of young people. For this plan we have reinforced this by adding fun growing up as a fourth principle or behaviour that underpins all activity, alongside voice of the child, staying focused on outcomes and acting restoratively.
- 3.10 The 'how we'll do it' section of the plan outlines the key areas of focus; how we will address the conditions that create barriers for children, young people, and their families; and the broad areas of action that will break down those barriers and improve conditions of wellbeing and outcomes across Leeds. Challenging child poverty' is placed at the centre of the CYPP recognising the impact that poverty can have on families and on outcomes for children and young people. Addressing this is both about mitigating the impact of poverty on child outcomes and working better as a city to support adults and families to address the causes of poverty. Children live in families and changing the experiences and behaviours of adults is integral to taking the plan forward and to the involvement of services and partners beyond those focused on children. Other changes to this section include 'A life ready for learning' being replaced by 'attaining and achieving' to align with the revised third obsession; and the introduction of restorative early start (RES) teams that will focus help where it is needed earlier is acknowledged under 'early help'. RES teams are part of the DFE Partner in Practice work.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The CYPP is the strategic plan of the Children and Families Trust Board. That Board has overseen the development of the plan. This brings together voices from across the children's sector and beyond, including elected members,

schools, health bodies and the third sector. Young people held a takeover of Trust Board, where the plan was consulted on, with those views incorporated into existing feedback. This includes the new, eleventh, priority, improving access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected public transport for young people. Children and young people's voice and influence is at the centre of our approach and a child and there will be a child and young person's version of the plan.

4.1.2 In addition to the involvement of lead members through the Trust Board all members were informed and asked for feedback through Community Committee networks. The draft plan was presented to Children's and Families Scrutiny Committee, their formal response is presented in appendix 3. The Committee's conclusions were both supportive and useful in refining the plan. Points of emphasis and clarity have been taken on board and wording changed. It is recognised that aspects of how the plan develops are to be worked through and that the Committee should be kept updated on these developments and overall performance. This will happen at least 6-monthly and will reflect both the headline measures and the key issues behind them especially in respect to learning and the improvements needed for groups vulnerable to poor learning outcomes.

4.1.3 The CYPP is a key city plan and forms part of the 'family of strategies' that help deliver the Council's 'best city' ambition. It supports child aspects of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and young people learning and skills and overall readiness for adulthood aspects of the Inclusive Growth Strategy. As such it is integral to the delivery of the overarching Best Council Plan.

4.2 Equality and diversity/cohesion and integration

4.2.1 Some young people are statistically more likely to have relatively poor outcomes, for example those with learning difficulties and disabilities; those from some ethnic minority backgrounds; those with English as an additional language; those living in deprived areas; poor school attenders; and those involved in the social care system.

4.2.2 The purpose of the strategic and operational activity relating to this this area of work is to help all children and young people achieve their full potential. A central element of this is to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children, young people, and families who experience inequality of opportunity or outcomes are identified and responded to at the earliest possible opportunity.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The CYPP forms part of the family of plans that support the overarching Best Council Plan. Elements of the CYPP appear in the Best Council Plan, and work is taking place so that the refresh of both documents reference the other plan. This will ensure consistency across both plans. The current Best Council Plan (2017/18) has a Child Friendly City priority, which directly supports the CYPP and vice versa and this has continued into the new Best Council Plan 2018/19 to 2020/21, which was adopted by Council in February 2018.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 There are no specific resource implications from this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information and call in

4.5.1 This report has been produced in compliance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The CYPP has been released for consultation by the Director of Children's Services, incorporating the views of young people, Children and Families Trust Board, Scrutiny (Children and Families), and elected members. This report is not eligible for call in in line with Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.2, which states that 'the power to Call In decisions does not extend to decisions made in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules'.

4.6 Risk management

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

4.6.2 Children and Families Trust Board receives six-monthly updates on the progress against the priorities; Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) also receive updates. Internal management information is provided to services at a granular level on a more frequent basis to ensure that any dips in performance are immediately identified. The directorate's practice improvement process considers the whole system, making sure that good practice is disseminated across all teams.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Much progress has been made since 2011; the children's partnership in Leeds is mature and strong, and has retained cross-party support; outcomes for children and young people in Leeds have improved; Ofsted has acknowledged the improvements made throughout the system; and Leeds has raised its profile nationally through the Partners in Practice programme and its successful bids for Innovation Fund monies. However, we need to do more, and do it faster, to close the gap for disadvantaged groups/vulnerable learners.

5.2 The refreshed CYPP is at the heart of everything that is being done to improve outcomes for children and young people in Leeds. The revisions to the priorities, indicators, and 'how we'll do it' section ensure that the CYPP remains relevant, and that Children and Families Trust Board have the right information with which to challenge and support the partnership in Leeds.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board are asked to:

- Agree the changes that will be made to the CYPP, which will ensure that Plan remains relevant and focused on the children and young people who most require support and on raising their learning outcomes.

- Recommend to Council the adoption of the revised CYPP (following the consultation process; and discussion and approval at Children and Families Trust Board), covering 2018 to 2023.
- Agree that updates on the CYPP priorities will be: reflected in Best Council Plan monitoring; undertaken by the Children and Families Trust Board; and provided six monthly to Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

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.

Appendix one - priorities and indicators

Priorities	Indicators	Comments (blank is no change)
1. Help children and parents to live in safe and supportive families 2. Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected	1. Number of children who need to be looked after	
	2. Number of children and young people subject to a child protection plan	
	3. Number of parents experiencing a second or subsequent instance of having a child or children enter care	Addition. Relates to successive and separate incidents of children entering care
	4. Number of children and young people with a child in need plan	Addition
3. Support families to give children the best start in life	5. Percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage	
	6. Infant mortality rates	Addition
4. Increase the number of children and young people participating and engaging in learning 5. Improve achievement and attainment, for all 6. Improve at a faster rate educational outcomes for vulnerable children and young people	7. Percentage of new school places in good and outstanding schools	
	8. Attendance at primary and secondary schools	
	9. Number of fixed-term exclusions from primary and secondary schools	
	10. Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths at the end of Key Stage 2	
	11. Progress 8 score for Leeds at the end of Key Stage 4	
	12. Destinations of young people with special educational needs and/or disability when they leave school	
7. Improve social, emotional, and mental health and well-being	13. <i>Placeholder – New measure based on progress with Future in Mind Strategy measures</i>	To be agreed an appropriate measure

Priorities	Indicators	Comments (blank is no change)
8. Encourage physical activity and healthy eating	14. Prevalence of children at age 11 who are a healthy weight	Reworded previous indicator (obesity levels at age 11)
9. Support young people to make good choices and minimise risk-taking behaviours	15. Proportion of young offenders who re-offend	New measure, replacing first time offenders measure
	16. Under-18 conception rates	Reworded to more closely match definition
	17. Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions - under-18s	Reworded to more closely match definition
10. Support young people into adulthood, to be ready for work and a lifetime of learning	18. Percentage of students achieving a level 3 qualification at age 19	
	19. Number of young people who are not in employment, education, or training, or whose status is 'not known'	
11. Improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people	20. <i>Placeholder - transport for young people</i>	Eleventh priority added following feedback from young people - need to scope and agree appropriate measure