



## Leeds 2018-23 Children and Young People's Plan

### Introduction

1. There is a requirement, in accordance with the Constitution of Leeds City Council for the Scrutiny key policies, which form part of the Council's budget and policy framework, during their development. The Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) is one such policy. This was considered by the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) on the 25 January 2018.
2. The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Board of the deliberations and conclusions of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) in order to support the decision making process of the Executive Board.

### Evidence and Information Considered

3. The Director of Children and Families submitted a report to the Scrutiny Board which provided the latest draft of the refresh and set out the proposed changes. The report stated that the expansion of the third obsession, from improve school attendance, to improving attendance, achievement, and attainment, to be known as the 'triple 'A' obsession', is at the heart of the refresh.
4. Following significant evidence gathering to support the Scrutiny Board's inquiry into the impact of child poverty on attendance, achievement and attainment, the Board welcomed the increased emphasis on pupils from disadvantaged groups so that all children and young people - particularly those who are 'vulnerable learners' - are able to realise their potential.

5. A draft copy of the Leeds 2018-23 Children and Young People's Plan was presented to the Scrutiny Board.
6. The following representatives were in attendance to participate in debate, provide information and to respond to Members questions and comments.
  - Steve Walker – Director of Children's Services
  - Councillor Lisa Mulherin – Executive Board Member – Children and Families
  - Sue Rumbold – Chief Officer, Partnerships
  - Peter Storrie – Head of Performance Management and Improvement
  - Chris Hudson – Policy Planning and Procedures Leader

### Deliberations and Conclusions

7. We were reassured that in preparing the draft CYPP there had been wide consultation, this had included children and young people and their families. We noted that the three obsessions remained, with the inclusion of improvement to attainment and achievement and that challenging child poverty is now at the centre of the plan. We were also advised that there would be links to other strategies including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Inclusive Growth Strategy for Leeds to ensure that there is a strong child focus.
8. We sought clarity regarding the addition of safe and affordable transport to the 11 priorities and were advised that this had been highlighted as a priority by young people. We raised our concern regarding



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the known general difficulties in securing affordable bus services and were advised that there is a need to consider how young people and the Council could be influential, particularly whilst there are ongoing transport discussions as part of the Leeds Transport Strategy. Young People are already starting to engage with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and public transport providers.

9. We reaffirmed our view regarding the need to work in full collaboration with partners and other council departments on priority areas that can impact negatively on a child's ability to prosper, learn and have fun. In particular poor housing and areas influencing poverty such as welfare and debt management.
10. We highlighted the importance of children and young people being able to engage in physical exercise and cultural activities and ask that the Local Authority continues to be mindful of the affordability of Council provided services to ensure that those on low incomes or larger families are not excluded due to cost.
11. We stressed the importance of children and young people being supported to have strong, positive and sustained relationships. Whilst we acknowledged that this may be implied across Children's Services strategies, plans and practice we requested that this be made more prominent in the draft CYPP.
12. The need to close the gap in attainment and achievement between vulnerable learners and their peers is an area regularly debated by this Scrutiny Board. Therefore we requested that the rate of improvement in educational

outcomes for vulnerable children and young people be prominent in future performance reports presented to this Scrutiny Board.

13. We sought clarity of the wording of part 3, parents having a child removed for a second or successive time 'How we'll know if we have made a difference', and were reassured that this would be amended to provide greater clarity before the CYPP is submitted for approval by Full Council.
14. Taking into consideration the aspect identified in this report the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) endorsed the proposed changes to the CYPP, which will ensure that the plan remains relevant and focussed on the children and young people who require the most support.

### **Recommendation**

The Executive Board is recommended to note the deliberations and conclusions of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) when considering the draft Leeds 2018-23 Children and Young People's Plan before submission to Full Council approval.

Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)  
Statement for the Executive Board - Children and Young Peoples Plan  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2018



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