

# The refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan

Date: Wednesday 06 July 2022

Report of: Director of Children's Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

## Brief summary

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. The plan is being refreshed to take account of the current national picture, and evolving local challenges.

This report provides an overview of the planned refresh process, including wider consultation in September/October 2022 and a final approval date of summer 2023. The refresh process is in the early planning stages and this report is a first opportunity for Scrutiny members to review the existing plan and to discuss areas of the CYPP that may be changed during the current refresh process.

## Recommendations

- a) Note the outline timetable for the refresh of the CYPP, which includes several opportunities for informal and formal consultation around the current and proposed content of the CYPP.
- b) Consider the questions at point six of the report as a starting point for the discussion around the CYPP refresh.
- c) Indicate how Scrutiny would like to be involved in the refresh process.

## What is this report about?

- 1 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. It sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children and young people to grow up in, and to be a Child Friendly city. Leeds is a big 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 Children and young people's plans were a statutory requirement between 2006 and 2010. Whilst the statutory requirement for CYPPs was rescinded in 2010, Leeds - like many local authorities - chose to continue to maintain its CYPP as the overarching strategic plan that guides the children's partnership in the city. The current iteration of CYPP was launched in 2011 and has been refreshed three times; in 2013, in 2015, and in 2018. This refresh will cover the period 2023 to 2028 and takes account of the current national picture and evolving local challenges. A copy of the current plan is in appendix one.
- 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. Whilst the number of indicators and priorities have altered across the last ten years, the CYPP has retained much of its content, with its vision, three obsessions, and five outcomes being the driving forces of the Plan. Progress has been made against key areas of the Plan leading to subtle alterations during each refresh. The current refresh will look to continue this theme of evolving the Plan rather than making wholesale changes.
- 4 The challenge of the changing national picture, and the evolving local situation requires the partnership to ensure that the CYPP remains focused on the vulnerable children and young people who most need support and intervention. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is addressed through associated strategies, such as the 3As Strategy, and the cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation will have an impact on children and families. Both issues are factors that may slow progress against the priorities in the Plan but are unlikely to be explicitly referenced in the final CYPP.
- 5 Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) is a tool for planning and performance management. It is action- and outcome-focused. The CYPP uses OBA to bring people together to improve shared outcomes by moving from talk to action. It asks three simple, yet powerful, questions: 'what are we doing?', 'how well are we doing it?', and 'are we making any difference?'. OBA brings a focus to what is most important, keeping detail at an appropriate level: the three obsessions are at the centre of this approach. The CYPP does this by highlighting priorities and measures that everyone in the children's partnership can recognise and contribute towards; it acknowledges the myriad of plans and strategies (such as the 3As Strategy, and the SEND and Inclusion Strategy) where greater detail and more granularity is found and does not try to duplicate or replicate what these plans and strategies are in place for.
- 6 Scrutiny are asked to consider a number of questions during this discussion, which will help shape the early development of a draft Plan. This draft plan will form the basis of the autumn consultation exercise.
  - Mental health and wellbeing is currently referenced, but could this issue be enhanced? What would Scrutiny want to be in there, and how would it be measured?

- The current Plan includes reference to children having fun, but not children playing. Should play feature in the refreshed plan? How could this be measured?
- The climate emergency is a major concern for young people (who want adults to take action): how can Scrutiny engage with young people to advocate on their behalf?
- A formal consultation will take place in the autumn; what areas would Scrutiny like to see in the online questionnaire?
- Transport was included for the first time in the current Plan. Does this remain a priority and what influence does Scrutiny have to focus on this if it remains?
- Equality and diversity is not currently referenced in the Plan. How are we celebrating differences, and making people feel accepted (link to refugees) - no specific outcomes but perhaps an approach?

### What impact will this proposal have?

- 7 The CYPP is the shared vision for everyone working with children and young people in Leeds. The refreshed plan will set out the key priorities for both the Council and the partnership over the next five years and will help to improve outcomes for children and young people living in Leeds, with a specific focus on vulnerable children and young people who required the most support and intervention.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 8 Ensuring that children in all areas of the city have the best start in life and enjoy a healthy, happy, and friendly childhood is a focus of the health and wellbeing pillar in the Best City Ambition. The inclusive growth pillar has a focus on ensuring that young people have the skills and job opportunities to help them realise their potential.
- 9 Consultation with young people in recent years has highlighted that climate change and the climate emergency are key concerns of children and young people, but young people want action taken by adults, which do not fit within the remit of the CYPP.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: All wards

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 10 The CYPP is a citywide, partnership, plan and therefore affects all wards. A formal consultation exercise is planned for the autumn of 2022.

### What are the resource implications?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 In the four years since the CYPP was last refreshed both the local and national context have significantly altered. The CYPP requires a refresh to acknowledge the significant changes that have affected children and young people in recent year as well as establishing the partnership's response to those issues. The CYPP has guided the children's partnership throughout the last ten years and has worked in parallel with Child Friendly Leeds to improve outcomes and opportunities for children and young people in Leeds. For these reasons a sympathetic refresh was deemed to be most appropriate compared to no refresh, or a radical design of the CYPP.

### **How will success be measured?**

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

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

16 Appendix two contains an outline timetable for the refresh, with the aim of the refreshed CYPP being approved at Full Council in June or July 2023. The Director of Children's Services is responsible for the Plan's implementation.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix one contains the current CYPP. At the last refresh, an eleventh priority was added because of consultation with children and young people: access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people. Several of the twenty performance indicators were also new.
- Appendix two contains an outline timetable for the refresh process, with the aim being that the refreshed CYPP is approved at Full Council in June/July 2023. A consultation exercise in September/October 2022 will allow for a final draft of the proposed CYPP 2023-2028 to be produced and progress through the Council's accountability and approval process for a final approval at Full Council next year.

## **Background papers**

- There are no additional papers for this report.

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

## The way we work

### Making connections

Developing quality connections, conversations, and relationships with children, families, and professionals is how we work in Leeds

### Valuing families

Children live in families  
Families create communities  
Communities create cities

### Three mindsets

Always remember...  
Do the simple things better  
The child is the client  
Safeguard and promote the welfare of children

### Four behaviours

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

### And a relentless focus on the question...

What is it like to be a child or young person growing up in Leeds and how do we make it better?

## Our city

### About Leeds

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

### Working together

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

### Find out more

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



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



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



Making Leeds a child friendly city

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

## What we'll do

1

### One vision

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

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### Five outcomes

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

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

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### Eleven priorities

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

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### Three obsessions

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

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

## How we'll do it



## Behaviours that underpin everything we do

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



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

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



## Appendix two: outline timetable for the refresh of the CYPP

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Planned start date</b>	<b>Planned end date</b>
Initial discussion at Scrutiny (Children and Families)	06 July 2022	06 July 2022
Shaping of draft CYPP and consultation exercise	July 2022	August 2022
Informal discussions with key partners	July 2022	August 2022
Formal consultation, likely through an online questionnaire	September/October 2022	November 2022
Final review at Scrutiny (Children and Families)	January 2023	February 2023
Council accountability and approval process (Executive Board, CLT etc)	February 2023	May 2023
Approval at Full Council	June/July 2023	June/July 2023