

Appendix One

Update on Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds

1. Main issues

This report will provide an update of Thriving, the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy and progress of the workstreams that sit underneath the strategy. It will also detail our responses to the post pandemic and cost of living crisis, in terms of ongoing work, impact and next steps.

1.1 National picture ¹

In FYE 2021, there were 2.92 million children (aged 0 to 19) living in families in Relative low income and 2.37 million children (aged 0 to 19) in Absolute low income across the United Kingdom; 81% of children were aged under 16 for both measures.

In the United Kingdom, the proportion of children aged under 16 in low income families was 19% for Relative low income and 15% for Absolute low income.

At a local level, the proportion of children of children aged under 16 living in low income families varies greatly, ranging from 3% to 42% across local authorities for Relative low income and from 3% to 39% for Absolute low income.

Some groups, such as children, lone parents, those with disabilities and people from ethnic minorities are more likely to experience poverty, to remain in poverty for longer and to experience deeper poverty than others.

The proportion of families in poverty where at least one adult is in work reached a record high in 2019-20 with two thirds of families in poverty having someone in work²

Research published in June 2022³ suggests 10,356 more children living in English local authority areas became looked after than would have been the case had poverty levels remained at 2015 levels. The research team's modelling showed that within English local authorities, between 2015 and 2020, a 1% increase in child poverty was associated with an additional five children entering care per 100,000 population.

1.2 Local picture in Leeds

22% of Leeds' population is living in relative poverty after housing costs are deducted from income. This equates to approximately 174,000 people⁴.

24% of children, (36, 496) were living in relative low income families BHC in 2019/20. This is an increase of 1% (1634) children since 2018/19.

1.3 Cost of living crisis

The cost-of-living crisis is having a severe impact on families with children. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the war in Ukraine, Brexit and austerity have all increased pressures on low-income households and the most vulnerable in society, as well as pushing many additional households to experience financial uncertainty and hardship for the first time.

A full and comprehensive report⁵ on the cost-of-living crisis and actions being undertaken by the Council and partners from a welfare and financial inclusion perspective was presented by the Director of

¹ [Children in low income families - Local area statistics](#)

² [Only good, well-paid work is a route out of poverty | TUC](#)

³ [Child Poverty & children entering care](#), The Lancet, June 2022

⁴ DWP, [Households below average income \(HBAI\)](#)

Please note: data collection for HBAI FYE 2021 (released in 2022) was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the figures produced are subject to additional uncertainty and may not be strictly comparable with previous years. Therefore, figures for FYE 2020 (released in 2021) have been referred to as most the most reliable and up to date source.

⁵ [Corporate report template for committee and officer decisions \(new\) \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#)

Communities, Housing and Environment to Executive Board in July 2022 on “Understanding and addressing the cost-of-living crisis”, and a follow up report is being presented to Executive Board in October 2022.

More families are experiencing debt and nearly 11 million people, one in five adults across the UK, have fallen behind with at least one household bill payment, according to a new report from the Money Advice Trust. A survey of 2,000 adults detailed the extent to which rising prices are already impacting households, with women, those from ethnically diverse communities and those relying on benefits being worst affected.⁶

Rising prices could mean an increase in absolute poverty and material deprivation. The Resolution Foundation estimate that absolute poverty will rise in 2022/23 by 1.3 million including 500,000 children.⁷

Energy

The government recently announced a two-year plan to cap the cost of household energy so the average bill is £2,500 a year. Although much lower than Ofgem’s £3,549-a-year projection, £2,500 still represents a doubling of average energy bills in the space of a year and a £500 increase since April 2022.

The cap is therefore unlikely to significantly reduce the number of households falling into fuel poverty this winter. Those with high energy needs can still expect to pay more than the £2,500 average.

Food

The latest figures from the British Retail Consortium (BTC) found that food prices rose at their fastest pace since 2008 in the year to August as the war in Ukraine continued to help drive up prices. The rising price of milk, cheese and eggs has pushed food inflation to its highest level for 14 years.

In April 2022, a study by the Food Foundation⁸ found 7.3 million adults live in households that said they had gone without food or could not physically get food in the past month, which includes 2.6 million children. This is compared with 4.7 million adults in January and equates to a 57% increase.

Recent analysis from Joseph Rowntree Foundation⁹, showed certain ethnic minorities, especially Black households, are the most likely to be struggling with household bills and going without essentials; 83% of Black households, 81% of households with mixed ethnicity and 76% of Asian households on low incomes have gone without essentials in 2022 or experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days, compared to 56% of White households¹⁰

Welfare

The uplift to Universal Credit implemented during the pandemic has now ended and the changes announced in recent Budgets are only beneficial to some working UC households. Citizens Advice¹¹ estimate that the removal of the £20 resulted in £66 million in lost income (per annum) to UC claimants in Leeds alone.

In February 2020 (pre-pandemic), 33,715 people were claiming Universal Credit in Leeds, this increased to a high of 74,515 people in March 2021. The latest data shows that in May 2022, that figure has now reduced to 70,722 Universal Credit claimants, however this remains more than double the pre-pandemic level.

All wards in Leeds have seen an increase in people claiming UC due to not being in employment, with the highest impact on our poorest wards. The most affected wards are Gipton and Harehills, where claimants have increased from 10.6% of WAP, 2,210 claimants in March 2020 to 20.9% of WAP, 4,345 in April 2022, and Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward where claimants have increased from 11.0% of the working age population, 2,068 claimants in March 2020 to 17.3% of the working age population, 3,254 claimants in April 2021. Below details the information of wards across Leeds details UC claimants.

⁶ [Impossible choices Cost of Living briefing Money Advice Trust.pdf \(moneyadvice.org.uk\)](#)

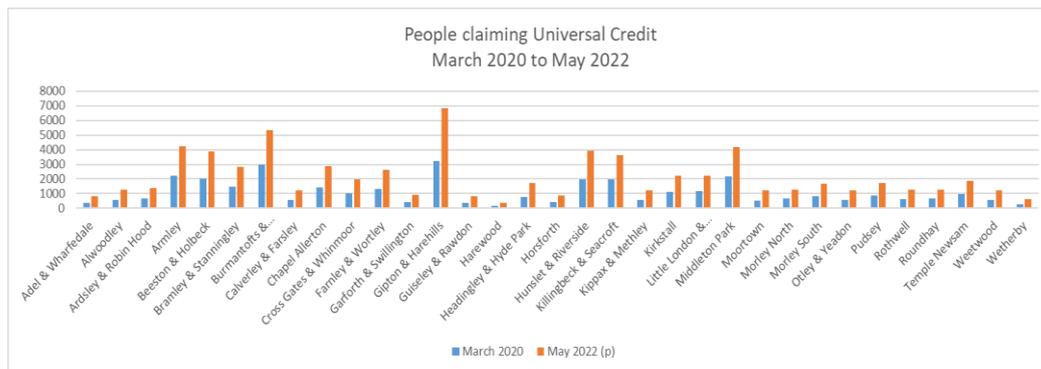
⁷ [Inflation Nation • Resolution Foundation](#)

⁸ [Millions of adults missing meals as cost of living crisis bites | Food Foundation](#)

⁹ [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) June 2022

¹⁰ [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) March 2022

¹¹ [Excess Debts \(citizensadvice.org.uk\)](#) August 2020



Child poverty campaigners are warning that around 45% of people claiming Universal Credit are having deductions taken out of their payments - at an average of £62 a month which are usually taken to recover money owed for a variety of debts and advances. The Commons' work and pensions select committee put forward a proposal to ministers in July to pause automatic payments to the government and other third parties taken out of people's benefits, to ease cost of living pressures. However, the proposal was rejected by the government.

New research from Child Poverty Action Group shows that families subject to the benefit cap will be £65 a week worse off from April, compared to if they weren't capped. This is because benefits are going to be increased in April but capped families won't see any of this extra support.¹²

The Trussell Trust published research in September 2022 that found 40% of people claiming Universal Credit are skipping meals. They reported that almost two-thirds (64%) of claimants spending July's first Cost of Living payment from government on food.

1.4 The Leeds Approach

In 2016, Children & Families started to develop a plan around mitigating the impact of child poverty across Leeds. In 2017/2018, a scrutiny enquiry on child poverty recommended that Children & Families integrated more of a central focus on child poverty. The first Child Poverty Impact Board met in 2018 and Thriving: The Child Poverty Strategy for Leeds was launched in 2019.

The child poverty strategy has been co-created with children, young people, families with direct experience of poverty, third, private and public sector, schools, academics and other organisations.

We know that the feeling of being in poverty, the feeling of being excluded and the feeling of being ashamed can impact a child for the rest of their life. We don't want this in Leeds. So, we are working together, as a city, to reduce the impact of poverty on young people.

This is our moral imperative.

There are seven workstreams which sit under the Child Poverty Impact Board:

1. Readiness for learning and school-aged education
2. Housing and provision
3. Empowering families and safeguarding
4. Financial health and inclusion
5. Transitions and employment
6. Best start for health and wellbeing
7. Green spaces

Our Ambitions

- We will be innovative, together, to break down the barriers that poverty creates.

¹² [https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/post/Benefit_Cap_Inflation_Briefing_Sep22_0.pdf]

- We will be brave, together, to revolutionise the way that Leeds works with children, young people and families who live in poverty.
- We will fight, together, to ensure that every child and young person who experiences poverty can thrive.

Thriving has **five fundamental principles**:

- 1) All work needs to be informed by the knowledge of children, young people and parents/carers
- 2) All projects need to work with a wide variety of partners
- 3) The focus is on changing structures, not individuals
- 4) We need to reframe the language and understandings that are used
- 5) Research is incorporated into every project

3.0 Main issues

This section provides an update on each impact workstream, the projects that sit within the impact workstreams and details responses to COVID-19, impact and next steps.

3.1 Financial Health & Inclusion

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want every family to be equipped with the support, guidance and opportunities needed to live financially secure and stable lives.*** This workstream is led by Lee Hemsworth, Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare Communities and Environments.

The main projects are: Financial health and inclusion support directly to families; Increasing engagement in wider support and guidance to families to support financial health and inclusion; and Ensuring knowledge and understanding of financial health and inclusion issues and support.

3.1 Priority 1: Increasing engagement in financial health and inclusion support directly to families

Update on recent activities

The key areas of activity for priority 1 are the Healthy Holidays programme, Household Support Fund, and Free School Meal uptake.

Healthy Holidays

Leeds City Council leads the Healthy Holidays programme, which has been running since 2018, in partnership with Leeds Community Foundation. The programme provides enriching activities and healthy food to school aged children who are eligible for Free School Meals across the city.

Leeds has received £3.5 million from the Department for Education to run food and activity programmes over the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2022. Funding rounds have been run for schools and third sector organisations, with over 120 schools funded and 50 third sector organisations funded. Over 20 council provisions are also running, consisting of community hubs, Breeze and the youth service. The programme's focus is around food and activity support, but it provides a huge range of benefits to children, young people, families and organisations in Leeds.

Additional support will be provided by a fantastic range of council and external providers, which compliment the programmes. Food support will be provided through Catering Leeds, Fareshare, Rethink food, Hamara and Give a Gift. Active Leeds are running swimming catch up programmes, Parks & Countryside's will provide trips, and information leaflets will be distributed to providers.

Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pension's Household Support Fund delivered by local authorities in England is to support those most in need with the costs of food, fuel and essential items. The funding initially ran

from October 2021 to March 2022, it was extended from April to the end of September 2022, and has since been extended from 1st October 2022 to the end of March 2023. Each extension of funding has involved a change in criteria and the remit of the fund, which has therefore meant a different approach to allocating the funding has been required.

For funding from April to October 2022, Leeds City Council received £7.1m. DWP guidance stated at least one third of the total funding must be spent on families with children and at least one third must be spent on pensioners, with up to one third other households. This is a change from the first Household Support Fund criteria which stated that at least 50% of the funding should be spent on households with children. Funding has been used as follows;

- Direct cash awards to 64,000 in receipt of council tax support who are also; pensioners, families with children, and working age households without children
- Support for care leavers on low income
- Funding for charities and food aid providers
- Welfare support for vulnerable individuals
- Funding for Section 17

In terms of the next round from October 2022 to the end March 2023 of funding the final guidance and confirmation on the amount that Leeds has not yet been received.

Free School Meals

See data below

Outcomes and outputs

Healthy Holidays

For Easter 2022, schools, council providers and third sector organisations reached:

- 5514 primary aged children
- 1428 secondary aged young people
- 6942 children and young people in total
- 20,000 on site attendances
- 35,000 portions of food distributed

Evaluation of Summer provisions is now underway, full details of which will be provided in future reporting.

Household Support Fund

By the end of September 2022, the funding has been used to;

- Provide Fuel support for over 16,000 families in receipt of Council Tax Support
- Support 700 care leavers on low income, with food and fuel costs.
- Funding for charities and food aid providers through the Leeds Food Aid Network, Baby Bank and Zarach.

Free School Meals

The number of children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM) has increased substantially over recent years. In January 2020 (pre-pandemic) 25,473 children were eligible. By January 2022 this has now increased by 7,413 to 32,886

Data from the January 2022 census showed out of the 32,886 FSM eligible pupils, 7,625 were reported to not take up the offer of the FSM (76.8% take-up). It should be noted that in January 2021, schools were partially closed due to the pandemic and schools reported expected take-up on a normal day. Rates of school absences may also have been increased in January 2022 due to the pandemic, which may have had a further impact on data.

Next steps

In terms of Healthy Holidays the 2022 programme is currently underway. Easter & Summer provisions have now concluded, therefore the focus is now on summer evaluation and Christmas delivery.

Planning for the next stage of the Household Support Fund once further details have been received from government.

3.2 Priority 2: Increasing engagement in wider support and guidance to families to support financial health and inclusion

Update on recent activities

In terms of engagement in wider support and guidance, current focus is on the Uniform Re-use scheme and gambling-related harm work.

Leeds School Uniform Exchange (LSUE)

Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Foundation have funded Zero Waste Leeds (ZWL) to bring a co-ordinated uniform reuse scheme to the city. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the amount of uniforms sent to waste, reduce the stigma of wearing second hand clothing and tackling poverty through encouraging more families to reuse and donate rather than to feel pressured to buy new uniform every term.

Uniform exchange promotional events supported by ZWL are now taking place across the city, during half term and seasonal periods. Various regular weekly exchanges have now also been established, alongside other support services such as food pantries.

In addition to the uniform activities, ZWL has also coordinated a Winter Coat Campaign and established the 'Together for Sport' project, for the donation and distribution of sport kit and equipment.

Gambling Related Harm - Update on recent activities

The My Health, My School Survey analysis for 2020/2021 has been undertaken and figures remain consistent with those from previous years. Further detail is provided in the next section of this update.

A gambling survey is currently being undertaken with secondary schools and Further Education settings (PSHE, Pastoral and Safeguarding Leads), which aims to find out more about:

- views/experience regarding whether gambling is an issue for young people in their setting
- knowledge of support services
- training needs
- confidence to teach the topic
- current teaching practice including resources currently used

Leeds City Council has now launched Harmful Gambling Guidance for all staff. This guidance aims to support staff experiencing gambling related harms, whether it is caused by their own gambling or that of a loved one.

A 'One Minute Guide' on Gambling and young people has now been approved for distribution to the Children's Directorate workforce.

Outcomes and outputs

LSUE

There are now 273 exchanges operating in the city, covering 92% of schools in Leeds. Work is now ongoing to provide targeted support and encouragement to approximately 20 identified schools that are without an exchange.

The Leeds School Uniform Exchange Facebook page has 2300 members, and a further 30 independent Facebook exchanges have also been established.

Gambling Related Harm

The My Health, My School Survey analysis showed that 1988 secondary school pupils completed the gambling questions within the survey. Of those, 24% reported they had gambled, 0.6% reported gambling as a cause of concern or worry (an increase of 0.2%) and 49% reported they need better information on learning material in school on gambling.

Next steps

LSUE – Next Steps

Work will continue to develop LSUE across the city, including alongside Healthy Holidays. The project was funded until September 22 and has recently been agreed to provide additional funding until the end of 2022 with that focus switching to providing coats hats and gloves.

ZWL is now exploring opportunities for supporting Ukrainian Refugees with School Uniform, coats and potentially other clothing items via a coordinated approach led by the Reginald Centre as a central access point.

ZWL are now providing refresher training, and project updates to LCC and partner agencies such as Community Hub staff, Childrens Social Services, Healthy Schools Steering & Healthy Holidays Steering Groups etc to optimise awareness of the project amongst frontline staff and services.

Gambling Related harm

The findings of the gambling survey will be analysed and will inform the children and young people's gambling work stream, alongside the results from the My Health, My School Survey.

Once fully implemented in Leeds City Council, the Financial Inclusion Team and Public Health will be working with other anchor organisations in the city to implement their own Harmful Gambling Guidance to support employees.

3.3 Priority 3: Ensuring knowledge and understanding of financial health and inclusion issues and support

Update on recent activities

A range of awareness raising sessions have been undertaken over the past 3 months focussed on financial health and inclusion issues. These have included sessions on financial wellbeing, illegal money lending, money mules, Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space), gambling harms and young people gambling & gaming.

Each session has been facilitated by the financial inclusion team in collaboration with the relevant partners organisations and experts. Sessions have been promoted across the council and attended by a range of services including services working directly with families with children. On average each session has had around 25 participants, with over 140 people attending overall.

Work is currently underway to explore how targeted support around energy and utilities can be provided to Gypsy and Traveller families in Leeds, particularly those living on LCC Settled Sites (Cottingley Springs & Kidacre Park) and families engaging with GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange).

Outcomes and outputs

Continuation of the FI training offer – further training session for Childrens Service staff (including schools) scheduled for January 2023 alongside key partners – Citizens Advice Leeds & Welfare Rights Unit

As reported above.

Next steps

Work for this priority over the coming months will include;

- Establishing a clear and concise narrative using poverty statistics, data and local evidence.
- Ensuring financial inclusion related support is available and accessible for Ukrainian Refugees in the city.
- Working with Green Doctor and other advice services to ensure financial inclusion related support (particularly around energy and utilities) is available and accessible for the Gypsy and Traveller Community in Leeds.

4 Best Start for Health & Wellbeing

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want every Leeds baby from conception to age two to have the best start in life, especially those who are the most vulnerable.*** This workstream is led by Kathryn Ingold, the Chief Officer - Public Health.

4.1 Priority 1 Preparation for Birth and Beyond (PBB)

Update on recent activities

The virtual PBB courses continue to run with good attendance from pregnant people and their support partner. The sessions are delivered in partnership by 0-19 service and children's centres with 4 courses being delivered per month on a rolling programme. Face to face courses are running alongside the virtual courses and are now running 4 per month. In the 6-month period from Jan-June 161 pregnant people and over 100 partners/supporters attended virtual courses (23 courses delivered in total) and 85 pregnant people attended face to face courses (16 courses delivered in total). Face to face groups are now becoming more popular again, and are now organised with Children's Centres for at least 3 months in advance.

The practitioner PBB forum continues to run quarterly to ensure that practitioners are skilled and confident in facilitating the sessions. The most recent forum was 13th June and had a focus on the Covid-19 vaccination for pregnant and breastfeeding women, with a presentation from a nurse supporting targeted roll out.

Outcomes and outputs

Verbal feedback from virtual sessions continues to be positive, with many commenting on how much they have learned about caring for baby and about baby brain development. The electronic survey has been reintroduced with a reminder to complete at the end of each session.

Many of the recently run virtual courses have seen large numbers of fathers/partners attending the sessions, fathers/partners have commented that they feel much more part of the pregnancy journey and that they feel more informed and involved.

Feedback from face-to-face sessions:

- The session is very engaging, and the presenters are very nice and very informative.
- Very relaxed and easy to digest information.

- Seeing other people at a similar state of pregnancy.

One thing you have enjoyed about the session.

- Learning about the benefits of breast feeding.
- To hear specific information after reading everything on google.
- Made me feel more positive about breast feeding.
- Thorough intro to breastfeeding.
- Very informative and valuable information.
- Questions clearly answered.

Feedback from virtual sessions:

- Good advice re Baby buddy app - I've downloaded this and looked in the break, looks really good.
- Really useful to learn about talking to baby and the positive impact this has
- Really liked imaging what baby will look like and also watching the videos seeing the interactions and communicating with baby
- Helps to manage my own expectations of what I can get done in addition to looking after baby
- Baby cues was interesting, mimicking from birth. playing music or singing to the bump.
- Found feeding cues helpful.
- Generally very informative about the benefit of breast feeding but it was delivered in a way that I felt didn't put pressure on me
- Learnt - really useful safe sleeping tips thank you and I've just bought some sleeping bags online. Thanks very much
- One thing we have learnt how to put the baby to bed properly. One thing we have changed is no teddies in cot and one thing that could be better can't think of anything

Next steps

Continue the rolling programme of courses including 4 virtual courses 4 face to face courses per month.

Promote and use the Baby Buddy app to in PBB sessions with expectant parents

To include information from the new WY&H Safer Sleep package in the sessions for parents

The infant mental health service is providing on-going training to enable more practitioners to be able to facilitate the courses.

4.2 Priority 2 - Baby Buddy App

Update on recent activities

Baby Buddy is a parenting app that is free to use. It provides evidence-based support and information throughout pregnancy and the first year, which is accessible at any time. The most recent data (June 2022) show that 47% of expectant and new parents in Leeds are using the app, this has risen from 33% in September 2021. Leeds is the top local authority for the numbers of fathers downloading and using the App, with over 5 times more downloads by fathers than any other local authority.

In the early stages of COVID-19 the app was updated to reflect relevant guidance and has continued to do so throughout the pandemic, providing a central point of evidence-based information for users 24/7.

Baby Buddy 2.0 launched on November 22nd 2021. The new App has been completely updated with additional functions including content up to the first birthday, information for fathers/partners, choice of place of birth and in App support plans/spaces.

A short-term project to launch and promote version 2 of Baby Buddy between Best Beginnings and Leeds City Council ended in March 2022 (from Oct 1st-March 31st, 2022), please see full report attached and

highlights below. We continue to work closely with Best Beginning around the Baby Buddy app and hope to secure additional funding to enable further supplementary work as opportunities arise. We continue to engage expectant and new parents with the App during routine and opportunistic contacts, at groups and via promotional activities and events.



Final report - Leeds
Trailblazer Programm

Outcomes and outputs

Latest data available - The Baby Buddy app had 2489 registrations over the period Jan-June 2022

- 414 average monthly downloads by users in Leeds
- Highest age range users 24-34
- Higher than national average user numbers from those speaking Romanian, Chinese, Arabic and Spanish
- The majority of users are registered as mothers, with nearly 10% being registered as fathers/partners
- 86% of users report it is helping them to feel closer to their baby
- 95% of users report it is helping them to learn more about their pregnancy
- 94% of users report it is helping them feel confident in caring for their baby
- 76% of users report it is helping them to look after their mental health
- Chapel Allerton, Killingbeck and Seacroft and Kirkstall wards are the top 3 wards for downloads

Next steps

To continue to work with Best Beginnings and services/organisations on the interconnected workstreams and activities to increase the uptake of Baby Buddy 2.0 in Leeds. This includes

Ensuring the Leeds bespoke promotional resources are shared and displayed in places families visit, including libraries, children's centres and health centres

Sharing the bespoke training and promotional videos across services in Leeds

[Leeds Trailblazer Square Local 60s](#)

[Leeds Trailblazer Promo 2m20s](#)

Collating feedback via the App and via the Champions from new and expectant parents

Explore opportunities for additional partnership working with Best Beginnings and Baby Buddy app.

4.3 Priority 3 Economic wellbeing pathway

Update on recent activities

The 0-19 Public Health Integrated Nursing Service has an economic wellbeing pathway linked to their internal intranet, making it accessible to all practitioners. The pathway describes how the 0-19 PHINS and Early Start practitioners will support families to achieve economic wellbeing. This includes support to families to:

1. Maximise income
2. Manage debt
3. Access support services
4. Reduce fuel bills
5. Develop financial literacy
6. Access education and work

The pathway includes links to a vast range of support that practitioners can signpost to.

The Service directory developed during Covid continues to be used by staff and has been made available for distribution to other services.

Over the past 6 months the service has continued to receive and distribute food vouchers for families in food poverty, specifically to families with children under 2 years.

Outcomes and outputs

The 0-19 PHINS practitioners continue to support families with social and economic needs through their mandated contacts with children and families. Needs are identified and reviewed with practitioner's enquiring about food availability, debt, benefit entitlement and employment. They signpost/refer families to benefit support, healthy start vouchers, child benefit application process and local support networks including One Stop centres, Children's Centres or libraries.

For Q1 22/23 there were 1733 economic interventions.

Next steps

Ongoing monitoring of the economic wellbeing pathway, with an update on the overall number of families receiving support via the economic pathway.

Continual updating of the service directory ensures parents are given correct information and new services are included.

5.0 Housing & Provision

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want to support every family and young person living in social housing in Leeds to achieve a sustainable tenancy***

This workstream is led by Gerard Tinsdale, Chief Officer Housing, Resources and Housing.

5.1 Priority 1 – Joint Working Between Housing and Children's Social Work Teams to Support Families in Council Tenancies

Update on recent activities

Representatives from local Housing team and Children's Social Work area teams attending each other's team meetings to discuss common issues, problem solve and ensure family's needs are being met.

Housing Management attendance at the Children's Health and Disability (CHAD) Operations Group meeting to foster closer working and improve the referral process, the group are working to improve the referral process, explore other options for minor works to existing assets, and train Housing and Customer Service Staff on the best route to obtain help for tenants with disabled children.

Housing and Early Help Hubs managers meeting to strengthen referral pathways for early intervention and housing teams becoming part of the multi-disciplinary pathways meetings in the hubs to ensure a well-considered, inclusive offer of intervention for families and prevent tenancies failing.

Housing staff attendance at Domestic Violence and Abuse Briefing to help staff identify the signs and indicators and the impact of domestic violence and abuse on victim-survivors and increase understanding of how domestic violence and abuse affects adults, children and families and how they can be supported.

Housing staff attendance at West Yorkshire Trauma Informed Foundation Training promoting understanding of the barriers to engagement and awareness of how to appropriately respond to a person that has suffered trauma, improving confidence, communication, and insight about the approaches for engaging with and supporting families to achieve better outcomes.

Current themes:

Significant increase in the level of debt owed by tenants in arrears compared to the same period last year – difficulties continue with engaging some families in the support process and collaborative multi agency approach is often the most successful at overcoming barriers.

Increased approaches to local housing teams for help with foodbank referrals. Staff also report talk of foodbanks cropping up more frequently in conversations with tenants who generally manage their tenancies well and do not seek support from the local housing office.

Outcomes and outputs

Case study Mr and Mrs A – couple with 2 children

Mr and Mrs A had fallen into rent arrears which prompted contact from their Housing Officer, they reported they were struggling financially and were missing meals but prioritising their children. The officer made a referral to the local foodbank for assistance, contacted the duty and advise them at Children's Services who subsequently made a referral for a Family Support worker.

Visits to the property by the Housing Officer revealed elements of disrepair Mr and Mrs A stated they had not been reporting repairs because of their debt and were avoiding having the Council in their house for fear of enforcement action over their debt.

Telephone appointments were arranged with a HOI to go through their income and explore any extra financial help they may be entitled to unfortunately there wasn't, but the HOI managed to reduce their debt repayments leaving the family with more money to spend on essentials.

Joint visits took place with the Housing Officer, Family Support Worker and Surveyor to further support with the practicalities of managing their tenancy, parenting, and addressing the disrepair in the property.

All repairs have now been carried out at the property, the family have regular contact with their Family Support Worker and Housing Officer and although still in debt with their rent they have paid of a significant amount and have so far stuck to their payment arrangement.

Next steps

Continued Housing attendance at Children's Health and Disability (CHAD) Operations Group meeting to collate identify any common problems / areas so that targeted communication and training can be provided where needed, particularly seeking to reduce the number of CHAD referrals that should be dealt with via other pathways, e.g. extending a hand rail on a staircase in a Council property could be picked up by the Repairs Team without need for Children's Services involvement.

Continued engagement with Housing and Early Help Hubs to formalise referrals / communication between teams and increase early intervention for families to prevent tenancies failing.

5.2 Priority 2 – Refreshing the Rehousing Pathway for Care Leavers

Update on recent activities

Work continues the LGA-funded project to improve the rehousing pathway for young people (16 -17).

The consultant has completed the first draft of the report which covers:

- The national and local context relating to young people in housing need.
- Upstream universal work with young people and families on housing and future options.
- Targeted early intervention work to avert a crisis of homelessness.
- What happens at the point a 16/17-year-old is or may be homeless.
- Supported housing options in Leeds.

- Settled accommodation with support options.

The detail within the report is based on available data, relevant policy and strategy documents, semi-structured interviews with internal and external stakeholders, including some young people, dip sampling of 20 recent cases of homeless 16 and 17 year olds, visits to some services and the author's own knowledge of youth housing options and homelessness.

Consideration has been given to the national context in terms of child poverty, the impact of Covid -19 on young people and on housing and homelessness, cost of living crisis, the housing crisis. Also, the local picture regarding young people, population, deprivation, and the local housing market.

Recommendations have been made within the report, which cover several dimensions of work with this age group, from upstream prevention work through to assisting those who are unable to remain in their family home or network.

Outcomes and outputs

Dip sampling showed that most teenagers who go on to become homeless at the age of 16 or 17 are already known to Children's Services due to other risks and needs. There are an impressive range of universal and more targeted services for children, young people and families in communities, but there are gaps for some 16 and 17 year olds, often those most at risk of homelessness, especially if they are no longer at school or college. They do not have 'touch points' to services and are at risk of being out of sight when they are at highest risk of homelessness.

Young people learn about housing and their options locally from their families and peers, but this can be supplemented by the provision of local information provided by the local authority or another agency. Realistic information and advice can cover in some detail the realities of living independently and the extent to which some housing options are limited for young people in a local area. At this point, information and advice should also signal to young people where they can go for advice if they need it.

What young people said:

- "They didn't teach us about life – about this - they taught us about passing qualifications. There was no 'what's next?'"
- "They told us about what's in a cell in your body, but not how to actually live".
- "No one gives you a heads up - so you are obviously going to fail and then everyone gets mad at you."
- "I wish we'd learned about money and how to budget."

What young people said about living in non-commissioned 'exempt' supported accommodation in Leeds:

- "My house is so lonely."
- "... advice is 'don't work'. The rent is not affordable if you're working."
- "You're not allowed visitors or family in."
- "My social anxiety is horrible."
- "I find it too overwhelming now - I don't want to sound ungrateful but it's too much, all the bills and it's a massive house."

When asked what they needed at the point of housing crisis young people responded:

- "We need something stable, that's there, that's not going to change, that you know you can rely on."
- "There needs to be more places where you can actually talk to someone."
- "There should be more centres for young people - it's better than being on the street."

Next steps

Task and finish groups have been created to work through the recommendations made on the various themes:

- Upstream universal work with young people and families on housing and future options
- Targeted early intervention work to avert a crisis of homelessness
- What happens at the point a 16/17-year-old is or may be homeless?
- Supported housing options in Leeds
- Settled accommodation with support options

5.3 Priority 3 – Supporting Families in Council Tenancies to Maximise their Income

Update on recent activities

Context

Between January 2022 and March 2022 our Housing Officers Income (HOI) have secured additional income for:

Jan £14,234.87 Families with Children

Jan £97,821.29 Families Without Children

Total £112,056.16

Feb £40,458.63 Families with Children

Feb £67,726.10 Families Without Children

Total £108,184.73

Mar £19,439.32 Families with Children

Mar £75,608.66 Families Without Children

Total £95,047.98

Between April 2022 and June 2022, our Housing Officers Income (HOI) have worked with 1165 Households in total and have been able to secure around **£663k** in additional income for them.

Between April 2022 and June 2022, we worked with 319 households with Children. This work generated around of **£226k** of additional income.

This works out as an average of around £711 of additional income per family supported

In July and August 2022 our HOI generated **£43,000** of additional income for families with children and **£93,000** for families without children – making a total of **£147,000**

We have been able to secure income for households with children from 16 sources. The 5 top income streams which have generated the most for households with children are:

- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- DHP
- Council Tax Support
- Disability Benefits

Overview

We have seen a reduction in the total number of individual households supported compared to the same period last year. However, we have seen an increase in the number of households with children supported when compared to the same period.

Current themes

Due to cost-of-living increases tenants are reporting they are finding it harder to make ends meet, as neither benefit levels nor wages have increased accordingly.

HOI's have noticed an increase in referrals/enquiries relating to pensioner benefits, with some pensioners advising of a need to return to the job market following retirement.

Many tenants have advised that their utility providers are less willing to help with emergency top up credit. Advisors are reporting an increased number of requests for food parcels in recent months.

Outcomes and outputs

Case Studies 1

Referral made to HOI following tenant contact with local councillor

Miss X is a single mother to 2 children and has long standing mental health concerns. She is unable to venture outside of her home and has struggled to engage with services. When our HOI became involved Miss X was being supported by another service, but the relationship had broken down and Miss X had started drinking heavily again.

The property had outstanding repairs and following engagement with our HOI, access to the property was granted and works undertaken to the property. Our HOI undertook a full benefit health check, including Council Tax Support and PIP review and they made a referral to Green Doctor to assist with energy support. Our HOI identified that Miss Z was not receiving the disability element within her ESA claim and assisted with claiming this, including making a backdated award. Miss X is now £69pw better off and was also awarded a backdate of around £14500. Miss X has advised the HOI that she is now completely debt free with money to spare. HOI advises that Miss X now feels that she can trust people again and is in regular contact with any questions regards her benefits.

Case Studies 2

Referral made to HOI as Miss G had fallen into arrears as only able to work part time due to parental responsibilities.

HOI contacted Miss G and identified the need for a benefit health check. Miss G was currently receiving only partial Housing Benefit, based on part time income and Child Tax Credit award, and was struggling to meet the shortfall which has led to an increasing arrears balance. Miss G advised that the pressure of worrying about her tenancy was impacting her mental health and affecting her relationship with her children. The health check identified that there was an ongoing HB overpayment being deducted from her weekly award of around £22. Our HOI contacted Leeds Benefit Service and was able to reduce the ongoing overpayment deduction to £5 resulting in an increased monthly income of £75.36, enabling tenant to cover the new shortfall of £5pw. HOI also obtained a one off DHP award of £930 clearing the rent arrears balance in full.

Case Studies 3

Referral made to HOI as Miss C was struggling financially after having to leave work to care for her mother who had since passed away.

Miss C is a single mother with one dependent child. Following the passing of her mother, who held the tenancy at the property, Miss C and her son were now occupying a large property. Miss C had made a claim for UC, but UC would not cover the housing cost contribution as Miss C did not have a signed tenancy agreement in her name. Our HOI assisted Miss C in obtaining Use & Occupation status, as she was ineligible to succeed the tenancy. Our HOI assisted in getting the housing cost element added to her UC claim and applied for it to be paid via a managed payment to landlord.

Our HOI also assisted in making an application for DHP to cover the 25% under occupancy charge whilst alternative accommodation was sought. This was granted with an additional lump sum payment made to clear the outstanding arrears balance in full. This was awarded for 6 months to enable a move to a more affordable property.

Miss C was not in receipt of Council Tax Support and our HOI assisted with an application which was successful. This included a backdated award, clearing Miss C's outstanding Council Tax arrears.

Miss C has since moved with her son to a 2-bed property and has her own tenancy with housing costs being paid in full. She is also now seeking a return to full time employment and is confident that she will not be out of work very long. Miss C advised that, thanks to the assistance of the HOI, she was able to focus on grieving for her mum knowing that she was being fully supported with regards to her benefits and housing situation.

Next steps

Continuing to strengthen our partnership working and training offer to staff to enable ongoing support to tenants with their energy costs through referrals, help with emergency fuel vouchers and support contacting suppliers.

6.0 Employment & Transitions

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want every young person and family to have the relevant skills and experience to access and secure well paid employment.*** This workstream is led by Martyn Long, Head of Service Employment and Skills

6.1 Priority 1 - Raise awareness for access to employability and skills provision to support people into work and/or improve their skills.

Update on recent activities

- **SEND Next Choices** event took place at Leeds First Direct Arena on 23rd June 2022. This was the first time a city-wide event aimed at supporting young people who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has taken place. A total of 66 exhibitors participated, offering jobs, apprenticeships, volunteering, training opportunities and other support. 1,800 young people attended with the initial feedback very positive, a full evaluation report is currently being prepared.
- **Festival of Learning** Employment and Skills collaborated with the Luminare Education Group, West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and Leeds University to deliver a two-day event, 31st May, and 1st June 2022, at White Rose and Trinity Leeds Shopping Centre's. The festival is a national campaign which promotes and celebrates the benefits of adult learning and reskilling. More than 2,000 people engaged and Adult Learning are in the process of contacting all those who expressed an interest.
- **Intercultural Cities Programme** the Council of Europe visited Leeds on 29th and 30th June 2022 to develop an understanding of the work taking place in Leeds around diversity and inclusion. Employment and Skills showcased the work the service delivers and how programmes are design with diversity and inclusion at the forefront. The delegates were given examples of current initiatives including locality-based employment programmes, the work to support migrant communities settling into Leeds through the skills offer and the Leeds Anchors Network.
- **Leeds Digital Careers Festival 12-16 September**
 - **Tech, Coffee and Chat drop in sessions over the summer to provide information about digital skills**
 - 10 sessions delivered in total (1 at Armley, 1 at Compton, 2 at Deacon House, 1 at Dewsbury Road, 1 at Reginald and 4 sessions at the Printworks Campus)
 - **Festival community workshops which took place during the week**
 - 15 sessions were planned (3 each at Armley, Compton, Deacon House, Dewsbury Road, Reginald and 2 sessions at the Printworks Campus). Due to low take up only 5 events went ahead (1 session at Armley, 2 workshops at Reginald and 2 at Printworks) due to low
 - **No of attendees:**
 - Armley (2 attended the workshop, 6 people engaged with in market-stall area)
 - Dewsbury Road (engaged with 5 people)
 - Reginald (11 attended National Careers Service workshops and 10 attended hundo workshop and engaged with 15 people in market-stall area)
 - Printworks (3 people signed up for 10am workshop and 2 people signed up for 11am workshop).

- School were invited to receive a presentation to provide information about digital apprenticeships as well as encouraging students to attend the arena event
12 schools took up the offer – Cockburn John Charles, Morley Academy, Woodkirk Academy, Dixons Unity Academy, Leeds City College, Ralph Thoresby High School, UTC, West SILC, Benton Park School, Prince Henrys Grammar school, Abbey Grange C of E Academy, Guiseley School
1269 young people in total.
- **Showcase event at Leeds First Direct Arena**
1700 visitors
51 digital employers and training providers

Outcomes and outputs

Parents can access a range of employment support services and the data shows that between April to June 2022 a total of 6,058 customers accessed Employment and Skills, of whom 62% (3,737) are from the 20% most deprived SOAs in the city. 20% (1,241) had a child under 16 years of age and 7% (419) were lone parents. While this information is requested of service users, a number prefer not to provide this information.

| April – June 2022 | No. of residents supported | Residents supported with a child under 16 yrs | | Lone Parents supported | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---|------------|------------------------|------------|
| | | Number | % of total | Number | % of total |
| Jobshops | 989 | 337 | 34% | 153 | 15% |
| Employment Hub | 1,304 | 352 | 27% | 162 | 12% |
| Adult Learning | 3,465 | 523 | 15% | 95 | 3% |
| Total | 5,758 | 1,212 | 16% | 410 | 7% |

Next steps

- **Sector Ready Programmes**
 - **Restaurant Ready** planning is taking place for the sixth cohort.
 - **Construction Ready** a new programme aimed at getting people into opportunities in construction. The 10-day programme took place on the 4th -15th July 2022 at Leeds City College Printworks campus. 8 people completed the course and are currently undergoing there CSCS Card exam and have work trials arranged.

6.2 Priority 2 - Connecting parents / carers to Family Learning provision to enhance children's learning through activities, techniques and games delivered in schools

Update on recent activities

The pandemic has continued to affect children's communication and language development, with many partners reporting increased levels of children entering reception with delays in their speech and language progress. The requests for courses to promote phonics, English development, and maths, particularly for those in reception and year 1 continue to be in huge demand and remain a key focus of delivery for the Family Learning team. Partners are also reporting that the pandemic has had a negative impact on children's personal, social and emotional development, with many children lacking confidence in a group setting and not meeting all the requirements for school readiness. Again, this a key area of focus for the team.

ESOL provision continues to increase with a new course being delivered in Little London. There are plans to extend to the east and south of Leeds in the near future.

Outcomes and outputs

- In this period, 14 courses were delivered across 8 venues.
- There have been 98 learners and 110 enrolments on courses so far.
- There is currently a 96% retention rate.

Next steps

- Adult Learning, FEML team will be supporting the Healthy Holidays Programme at the Dennis Healey Centre throughout July and August
- Engagement sessions planned for the Inner West and East Cluster in September, in line with the new school term. Parents from within the identified schools in the clusters will be invited to speak to the Family, English and Math and Language (FEML) team with regards to areas they would like additional support in.
- Adult Learning supported the Little London Community Day on the 23rd July by holding an information stall and talking to residents about the benefits of adult learning including digital activities.

6.3 Priority 3 - Ensuring career information, advice and guidance supports young people to move into Education, Employment or Training (EET) from school

Update on recent activities

- SEND School Sessions delivered workshops in Leeds SILCs to prepare students and teachers for the SEND Next Choices event. The workshops included activities to prepare students to ask questions to exhibitors at the event.
- The monthly editions of the Supporting your Careers Curriculum Newsletter, April - June have been distributed via the Leeds for Learning system to 206 contacts in schools across Leeds.
- The final CEIAG Network meeting of the 2021/22 academic year took place on 8th June 2022 and included presentations from Channel 4 about the school's talent programme and from the Leeds Manufacturing Alliance. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) provided an updated about the new career's hubs.

Outcomes and outputs

School Engagement delivered apprenticeship presentations and attended careers fairs during April – June 2022 at Allerton High, Carr Manor, Cardinal Heenan, Lawnswood Leeds City College, Leeds College of Building, Leeds West White Rose Academy, Royds Academy St Marys Menston and Temple Moor East. A total of 2,813 young people engaged.

Next steps

- School Engagement events and visits were in Q2, July-September 2022, including Allerton High, Cockburn John Charles, Dixons Academy, Horsforth, Pudsey Grangefield, Ralph Thoresby and Temple Learning Academy.
- To highlight the Apprenticeship opportunities available with a range of employers in the city a series of videos are to be produced. These films will be published on www.apprenticeshipsinleeds.co.uk

7 Empowering Families & Safeguarding

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want to change the structure around social care to better support children, young people and families living in poverty.*** This workstream is led by Farrah Khan, Head of Service / Principal Social Worker, Children and Families Service.

7.1 Priority 1 – Connecting services to better support families

Update on recent activities

Over the past 12 months we have worked with Leeds Childrens Charity based @ Lineham Farm to provide Christmas, Easter and EID gifts to children across Leeds. The Childrens Charity offer:

“The children we support are mostly aged between 7 and 11, and suffer abuse or neglect in their daily lives, live in poverty, or act as a young carer for a parent, sibling or other relative. Some children come for a day of respite, others for a week. They are referred to us by schools or social workers with the full support of

their family or guardians. We work closely with schools in the most deprived areas of Leeds so that we can help as many of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children as possible”.

Recently the GRT team were invited to take a group of 20 children for the day and they had such a great time meeting the animals, playing in the fields, learning bushcraft and playing on the climbing wall. Lineham Farm is approximately a 14-minute drive from Harehills, yet we experienced children who were born in Leeds of Roma heritage asking if we were in a different Country. The impact of poverty is evident here, and we want to do more to support families to access the countryside as it is full of free activities. Outcomes and outputs – to include data and case studies and focus on equality and diversity when reporting

All children had a great time, and for some children this was the first time that they’d been outside of Harehills one of our most deprived areas of Leeds.

Next steps

- The Yorkshire Dales has been voted the best park in Europe, yet we have children living in Leeds who have never experienced the Countryside. Research tells us the positive impact that nature can have on mental and physical wellbeing. We would like to work with travel companies to seek free daily riders and collate a list of useful countryside walks/ activities that families could engage with.
- Work with the Childrens Charity to continue to provide offers to the most disadvantaged children in Leeds.
- Plan a residential for GRT families in Summer 2023 at Lineham Farm.

7.2 Priority 2 – tackling inequality in accessing services and support

Update on recent activities

We have been working on advocacy in partnership with Advonet to support parents attending Child Protection Conferences. This work has come from the Family Led Decision Making Workstream which has enabled the voice and influence of family members accessing our services to influence change. This has included areas of;

- Workforce Development
- Recruitment
- Access to services

Outcomes and outputs

A third of questions used in Social Work interviews have been devised by family members who have accessed services.

Members from the Have your Say group have delivered a development session at the Deputy Directors session for all managers.

Next steps

There was a further Have Your Say event on 19th Sept to review progress and the feedback will be collated for the next reporting period.

Working more closely with Adult and Health Services as poverty affects adults and children.

7.3 Priority 3 – Workforce Development

Training on poverty is part of the key core training offer for social care staff.

The Framework for Practitioners is used across the directorate.

Outcomes and outputs

We see evidence at the weekly referral review meeting that managers are understanding the difference between neglect and poverty in decision making. There is clear empathic decision making evidenced by work being directed to Early Help Practitioners when the needs are for support only. Sc17 is used appropriately.

Next steps

Poverty aware practice is a Theme of Practice Week on 19th Sept 2022. (Now rescheduled to Jan 23 due to the additional bank holiday)

Working with the Leeds and Wakefield Teaching Partnership so that all social work students are aware of impact and extend of poverty on children and families.

8.0 – Readiness for Learning

The aim of this workstream is: ***We want to improve the educational experiences and outcomes of children and young people who live in poverty.***

8.1 Priority 1 Early Years - Take up of free nursery places for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds **Update on recent activities**

NESTA - 2 key projects have progressed through the NESTA partnership between March and July 2022

- Attendance research undertaken over the summer term to understand more about parental views re attendance at early years settings for eligible 2-year-olds. Initial reports highlight that more effective communication may be needed with families to outline the value and purpose of early years education.
- Randomised Control Trial re communication – indicated that the type of letter issued to families who may be eligible does not influence take up rates.
- Leeds has returned to the Golden Ticket approach of notifying families of their eligibility for 2YO provision.
- Home learning activity packs continue to be distributed by children's centre family outreach workers to all families who are eligible to take up a 2-year-old place; during the visit a discussion takes place to encourage take up.

Outcomes and outputs

Early findings from Attendance research and 'Letters' Randomised Control Trial have been shared with the LA.

Termly data outlines that Leeds currently has a take up of 73% of eligible children for 2-year-old funded places in early education. This is ahead of the national average (72%), and although this figure is a termly snapshot, it indicates an improvement on the past 3 years annual figures (2019 - 67%, 2020 -65%, 2021 - 65%).

98% of children claiming 2YO funding in Leeds are claiming between 12.51 and 15 hours, compared to 88.6% nationally.

Take up of 3 and 4-year-olds is at 92%. Variation in areas continues.

Next steps

NESTA Programme Board to:

- Provide strategic oversight and coordination for the work relating to this priority.
- Review the outcomes of the first two partnership research projects to determine next steps, actions and priorities for Year 2 of the NESTA partnership.
- Review take-up data and identify key geographical areas for focussed work.

The Family Information Service is exploring ways of making the eligibility checking process more straight forward and efficient for parents of 2YOs via an online portal.

Target to increase the take up of 2 and 3 years olds for the next three years in high needs clusters and those with lower take up, and targeted groups i.e. children open to CiN and CP Plan with action plan. There will be targeting of 170 CIN, CP and CLA children aged 2-4 not taking up early learning offer through social workers, Early Help Hubs RES teams, Early Start teams.

8.2 Priority 2 – Emotional Health and wellbeing/ Mental Health

DfE Wellbeing for Return to Education

Three phases of the DfE Wellbeing for Return to Education have been delivered, since implementation in 2020. Phase 3, delivered in the 2021-2022 academic year, is a free core offer for one day to every school in Leeds focusing on making meaning of social, emotional, mental health needs and extended school non-attendance - two key themes from school feedback. An early years' offer is in development.

Headteacher Support Offer

The headteacher support offer is being developed to support wider leadership teams. The local authority is exploring and implementing initiatives that enable school leaders and governors to support whole staff wellbeing.

My Health My Schools Survey

The Health and Wellbeing Service reviewed the 2020-21 My Health, My School (MHMS) survey question set with partners to publish a refreshed MHMS survey for the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year. All schools participating in the survey access their own data and can use the results to plan and access interventions and support accordingly. The survey is included in the actions within priority 4 of The Refreshed 3As Plan.

Outcomes and Outputs

DfE Wellbeing for Return to Education

Initial evaluation was undertaken and was completed by the end of September 2022. 23 primary schools, one secondary school and one SILC. All 19 settings evaluated so far are at either 4 or 5 out of 5 in terms of impact.

Qualitative feedback from schools includes:

'Having someone to steer our conversation and have us think about a wide range of influencing factors, which led to us thinking more about X's mum and the support she needed. We have now facilitated this family support to be put in place which has had a massive impact'.

'Feeling more confident to try new things'

'Developed the understanding of the staff who attended session 1 around the young person's SEMH which has now been applied to understand other children more'

'Use it in pastoral meetings every two weeks - bring a different child to discuss as a group'

'Pupil who session 1 was focused around will be Star pupil of the term because of his progress! All his assessment scores have gone up - because he's been in lessons more. Will now attend some assemblies without issue'

Headteacher Support Offer

Two part-time (1 FTE) experienced headteachers are now in post and working on the development of the service offer and new strategies to support wellbeing.

My Health My Schools Survey

The Health and Wellbeing Service cleaned the 2021-22 raw data over the summer and will shortly be making the results publicly available on the Data Mill North. In promoting the survey, the key performance indicator targets of The Refreshed 3As Plan have been met:

- Registered: 253 (91%) of schools have registered on the My Health, My School website.
- Completed: 17,090 children and young people (Y's 5-11) from 175 Leeds schools have completed the 2021-22 survey.

Next steps

Headteacher Support Offer

The new service is currently focused on preparation, planning and setting a solid base from which to build. Ensuring effective discussion on future strategies is key to ensuring that the service has impact from September 2022.

My Health My Schools Survey

From September 2022 a new 'School Resource Pack and Pupil Campaign Tool' is being made available to schools to support them with analysis and reporting survey results to identify key areas for development, interventions, and action plans. The pupil campaign tool comprises dedicated PowerPoint presentations for pupils to share results with peers to appreciate what is going well in school and what is going not so well in the key survey themes. Opportunities for pupil voice will underline ownership and support change on key issues in school.

8.3 Priority 3 – The 3 As strategy - working with schools to improve attendance, achievement and attainment.

Update on recent activities

The two-page plan can be found here - [The 3As gateway | Leeds for Learning](#)

3As Strategy

- The original 3As Strategy has been **renamed The Refreshed 3As Plan** and is now being utilised by teams across Children and Families Services to deliver the priorities and actions detailed in the plan. The 5 key priorities of the refreshed plan are:
- **Priority 1** - All children in Leeds are supported to improve their fluency in reading taking into account their individual needs
- **Priority 2** – All children, young people and families are supported to access and regularly attend early years education settings, schools, and post-16 education settings to benefit from learning opportunities, protective factors, and enrichment activities
- **Priority 3** - Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families receive timely and appropriate support to achieve their best possible outcomes and prepare for adult life
- **Priority 4** – All children and staff working in learning settings are supported with their wellbeing
- **Priority 5** - All children make the best start to each stage of their learning

Outcomes and outputs

- **A Refreshed 3As** – Good Learning Places Board has a standing agenda item where focus is placed on one of the priorities that sits within the refreshed plan. Highlight reports are submitted by action leads and board members are given the opportunity to reflect on progress and further actions required. At the recent board meeting in May 2022, priority 4 was the focus. As mentioned below, the Children's Mayor's event at Bardsey Primary School went ahead in July.
- In addition, officers fed back about the headteacher support offer for wellbeing, where the focus is on setting up quality transition activities between the new and current post-holders, as well as

ensuring effective discussion on future strategies. This will ensure that the service has maximum impact from September 2022.

- In working in partnership with colleagues in health and social care to develop a city-wide trauma informed service the following is part of the update provided to GLPB –

“Over the last few months, the strategy development group have been working to put together the foundations of the strategy. The strategy is aimed at professionals working at a strategic level across the system and is based on 6 elements which make up the approach: ‘prevention’; ‘organisational development’; ‘workforce development’; ‘collaboration with communities and partners’; ‘helping and healing’; ‘evaluation and research’. The draft strategy has been shared with a wider reference group (those that expressed an interest in being involved who attended the Compassionate Leeds event in Nov 21) for feedback. Ongoing work is now focusing on identifying the key actions and outcomes which will form our approach in Leeds”.

- Zulaykha Hussain, from Bardsey Primary, is the 2021/22 Leeds Children’s Mayor and is nearing the end of her term. She recently held a ‘Togetherness Event’ at her school as part of her impressive winning manifesto that emphasised the impact that COVID-19 had on children, young people and their families. The event provided families with the opportunity to remember loved ones who sadly lost their lives as a result of the pandemic. It brought people together to share happy memories and enabled them to leave a lasting memory through the means of a permanent mural. MindMate supported the event and an impressive £750 was raised. Voting for the next Leeds Children’s Mayor is now open!

The Headteacher at Bardsey Primary, Graham Parry, commented “We are incredibly proud of Zulaykha for organising such a thoughtful event for the school community. She is a great example of a 'typical' Bardsey pupil - empathetic, eager to help, creative and kind, and she has set a brilliant example to others through her work as Leeds Children's Mayor. The atmosphere throughout the school during her togetherness event was wonderful; it was calm, reflective and gave children the opportunity across all ages to talk about some important themes. What Zulaykha has created is more than just a one-off event; it is a blueprint for other schools who want to re-engage with their community after the effects of the past two years and a legacy here at Bardsey as we will definitely be holding more togetherness days in the future.”

Next steps:

- The work being undertaken for each of the priorities and their subsequent actions will continue in the coming months. In addition, a progress report will be presented to Scrutiny Board in November 2022.
- Learning settings will be approached for feedback on their engagement with officers leading the priorities and actions. This feedback will also be incorporated into the Scrutiny Board report.

8.4 Priority 4 – Support for Vulnerable learners

Activities to respond to COVID are being phased into ‘business as usual’ practice.

SEND and Inclusion Strategy

The SEND and Inclusion Practice Framework is in development with all teams in Learning Inclusion supporting its implementation. Key focuses of support are SEMH, communication and interaction, as identified through Families of Schools and data analysis.

Trauma Informed City

Leeds Compassionate City (trauma Informed) in tandem with the early help review has developed a strategy which includes the impact of systemic trauma.

Children at risk of exclusion

Two new exclusion posts have been in place since September 2022, Exclusions Lead Officer and Children Missing out on Education and exclusions lead. The Attendance Lead post has also been successfully recruited to.

Outcomes and outputs

SEND and Inclusion Strategy

The SEND and Inclusion Practice Framework Steering Group and Discovery Phase Groups have been established to work restoratively with partners on identification of first phase of practice development. By December 2022, the aim is to have identified areas within the framework to develop in collaborative forums with schools and partners.

Piloted Graduated Approach toolkit for SENCOs in 25 settings, available online.

Trauma Informed

Draft Strategy produced for Compassionate Leeds: A strategic framework for trauma awareness, prevention and response.

Key report – trauma and education produced by WY ICB colleagues.

Early help review completed.

Children at risk of exclusion

The new posts will strengthen the local authority support to attendance and exclusions and work to develop the offer to schools in line with new attendance regulations. In addition, the post will be able to support the Leeds SAFE Taskforce, led by the Deputy Director of Children and Families (Learning), in relation to engagement in learning for children at risk of involvement in serious youth crime.

Next steps

Following the pandemic, it was important to broaden the scope of the priorities and reporting. Next steps are to revisit priorities and refocused in light of the new context.

Considerations will be guided by the Child of the North Report¹³, published by Research Partnership in November 2021 which states the poverty as the lead driver of inequalities between children in the north and their counterparts in the rest of the country leading to worse physical and mental health outcomes, educational attainment, and lower lifelong economic productivity; and Leeds education data and outcomes of the SEND review.

9.0 Green Spaces

The aim of this workstream is We want to improve access to green spaces by improving the quality of existing green spaces, influencing the location and quality of new local green spaces through the Planning System, creating an online map of all Leeds green spaces, and making travel to green spaces easier, safer and more affordable

Priority 1 / Project 1 Lincoln Green Mini-Holland

Update on recent activities

¹³ [Child-of-the-North-Report-FINAL-1.pdf \(thenhsa.co.uk\)](#)

Improvements to Lindsey Gardens play area – including new equipment primarily for children aged 8-12 – are now complete and proving very popular.

Play improvements provided as part of Highways project to make key roads through Lincoln Green safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Outcomes and outputs

Success of new play features to be measured through ongoing engagement with Shakespeare Primary School as part of Play Sufficiency project led by LCC Active Leeds officers.

Next steps

Other public realm improvements under development with Housing colleagues.

Priority 2 / Project 2 Green Spaces Mapping

Update on recent activities

Project in partnership with Strategic Planning Data & Intelligence colleagues to develop an up-to-date interactive digital map of all green spaces in Leeds including: spaces managed by Parks & Countryside, privately managed/maintained public open spaces, accessible natural green space, amenity space on Housing land.

It is intended for the map to be used by officers to investigate options for quality and accessibility improvements, will also investigate how best to make the map useable for the public.

Outcomes and outputs

It is expected that it will take 6-12 months to map all green spaces in Leeds. As each Ward is completed in this period, we will be able to start using the data to inform assessments of quality and propose improvements, and potentially start making the map publicly available.

Next steps

The team have acquired data sets for Gipton & Harehills and are currently undertaking detailed work to map the green spaces, aiming to have a draft map ready to share in October 2022.

Priority 3 / Project 3 Draft Green Spaces Design Guidance

Update on recent activities

Drafted guidance for how green spaces should be designed in planning applications for proposed developments, was presented at Leeds City Council Planning Board for discussion on Tuesday 9th August.

Outcomes and outputs

Once guidance published, ongoing monitoring of use by officers and resulting green space quality will be carried out.

Next steps

If agreed at Planning Board, the guidance will be presented at a Plans Panel Chairs meeting (at the request of the Chief Planning Officer). Aiming for publication on the Council website in winter 2022.