

Children and Young People's Plan refresh: summary of consultation

Date: Wednesday 25 January 2023

Report of: Director of Children and Families

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 is being refreshed to ensure that it remains relevant in improving outcomes for children and young people. The refresh includes a formal, online consultation, which ran between 07 November and 12 December 2022. This report provides a summary of the consultation, with specific reference to the proposed changes to the CYPP. The outputs from this consultation will shape the development of a refreshed CYPP, which will be approved at Full Council in summer 2023.

142 responses were received from the online consultation; 67 young people contributed their views through 'child friendly' sessions held in youth groups and schools. Comments from both these sources are included in the appendices of this report. There is broad support for the proposed changes with further discussion required to ensure that the health 'obsession' addresses a range of views raised in the consultation.

Recommendations

Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- a) Offer views on the response to comments received from the consultation, which is detailed in appendix one.
- b) Note the route to adoption at Full Council in the summer.

What is this report about?

1. The Children and Young People's Plan (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. The Plan is being refreshed, with a formal consultation exercise taking place in November and December 2022. The results from this consultation exercise are summarised in this report.
2. A draft refreshed CYPP will proceed through the Council's accountability and approval process with the aim for adoption at Full Council in summer 2023. The refreshed CYPP will cover the period 2023 to 2028, with a formal launch date likely to be in September 2023, to coincide with the start of the next academic year.

What impact will this proposal have?

3. 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.
4. The consultation exercise provides a range of comments, opinion, and evidence that will be used in to refresh the CYPP. Young people have been included in the consultation exercise to ensure that the voice of children and young people is central to the refreshed CYPP.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

5. The current CYPP has priorities and measures that align to two of the three pillars. Part of the consultation for the refresh of the CYPP asked how the plan can contribute to the Zero Carbon pillar, by considering a climate emergency priority. The positive response to this question means that is likely that a climate emergency priority will be included in the refreshed CYPP.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

6. Two discussions were held with Scrutiny, in June and September 2022. These early discussions informed the proposed changes that formed the basis of the formal consultation exercise. The online consultation ran throughout November, before closing on 12 December. 142 responses were received with responses received from all but two of Leeds' wards. Each question (see appendix two) saw at least two-thirds of respondents 'strongly agree', or 'agree' with the proposed changes, with one question seeing a 90 per cent combined agree rate.

7. Various partnership meetings were attended, where the consultation questions were discussed in addition to questions specific to those partnership meetings. School governors were also encouraged to complete the questionnaire and share with their peers. A child-friendly 'session plan' was provided to practitioners who work with young people's group, to ensure that the consultation exercise reached as many young people as possible. 67 young people contributed through sessions with various young people's groups; a sample of their comments are incorporated in appendix two.
8. The 12 Wishes were originally developed in 2021 and were refreshed for the tenth birthday of Child Friendly Leeds in July 2022. Three years' worth of consultation took place, capturing the voice of 80,000 children and young people in Leeds, with some of the most important issues being safe places and spaces to play and to have fun, young people's voices to be heard and listened to, a focus on mental health and wellbeing, and a growing concern about climate change. The views of young people from the consultation exercises for the 12 Wishes have been incorporated into feedback from the CYPP-specific consultation and will help shape the development of the refreshed CYPP. It is proposed to align future updates of the Wishes and the CYPP so that young people's voices remain central to the CYPP.
9. A draft CYPP will be shared with Executive Board on 16 March. The plan will then proceed through the Council's approval route with the aim for it to be adopted at Full Council on 23 June.

What are the resource implications?

10. There are no specific resource implications from this report.

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

11. 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?

12. 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.

Appendices

13. Appendix one lists the proposed changes to the CYPP, and the response to those comments. The information in this appendix will directly inform the development of a refreshed CYPP. The revised Vision will retain the phrase, "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". A climate change/emergency priority will be introduced, and the language of the Plan will be reviewed to ensure that it is appropriate and accessible.

14. Appendix two contains an analysis of the response to the survey, including the proportion of respondents who agreed or disagreed with the proposals for each question, and a representative selection of comments. The data show strong support for the proposed changes to the CYPP, with work required to ensure that appropriate language is used on the health obsession. Contextual information will be included in the refreshed CYPP to establish how other strategies link to the CYPP, placing the CYPP as the overarching strategic document that drives work across the children's partnership in Leeds.

Background papers











- There are no additional papers for this report.

Appendix one: The responses to the proposed changes to the CYPP






Proposed change	Summary of comments received, response
<p><i>Revisit the wording of the Vision</i></p> <p>Current 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</p> <p>Proposed 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 where children live in loving and nurturing families. Through our vision and obsessions we invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city by providing opportunities for play and for having fun, as well as improving outcomes and providing young people with the skills for life</p>	<p>Negative responses to removing the phrase: “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”. Retain this phrase</p> <p>New proposed 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 where children live in loving and nurturing families. We invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city by improving outcomes and providing young people with the skills for life, as well as opportunities for play and having fun. We recognise the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds</p>
<p><i>Combine two obsessions to create a new, expanded one</i></p> <p>Combine improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school; and reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training into a learning destinations obsession: increase the number of pupils continuing to a sustained education, apprenticeship or employment destination in the year after completing post-16 study</p>	<p>Some concerns that combining the attendance and NEET obsessions loses the focus on key areas, and ignores younger children with its emphasis on the end of education, but broad support for the proposed change</p> <p>Possible new wording: Increase the number of pupils continuing with education or taking up an apprenticeship or employment opportunity the year after completing post-16 study</p>
<p><i>The introduction of a health-focused obsession</i></p> <p>Suggested wording: increase the number of children that are a healthy weight; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed</p>	<p>Positive comments to introducing a new health obsession. Some mixed comments about the focus and specific wording of this obsession. Broad agreement that ‘mental health’ should feature prominently either in the obsession or the wider plan.</p> <p>Commit to a health-focused obsession, refine the focus/wording with health colleagues</p>

Proposed change	Summary of comments received, response
<p><i>Wording and language</i></p>	<p>Is 'obsession' the correct word to use? Some comments about the potentially negative connotations of 'obsession'. Would 'passion' be a better choice? Determine whether 'obsession' should change. If not, provide a rationale</p> <p>Don't over-complicate the language, ensure plain English, simple outcome-focused language</p>
<p><i>Outcomes</i></p> <p>Retain the five outcomes with the only proposed change to all children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles. Change to all children and young people enjoy healthy lives</p>	<p>Strong agreement to make this change, although some concern that 'healthy lives' could exclude children with a disability who are unable to 'live healthy lives'</p>
<p><i>Priorities</i></p> <p>Introduce a climate change priority</p>	<p>Strong support for the concept of acknowledging climate change but some concerns about whether this priority fits with the CYPP, and how this could be turned into a measurable and appropriate action</p>
<p><i>Priorities</i></p> <p>Retain the existing transport priority (improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people) and add a new priority, which will focus on sustainable transport: encourage the greater use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, scooting, and public transport</p>	<p>Strong support for this proposed change, although some comments concerning inclusive transport for children with a disability. A suggestion that the sustainable transport priority should sit in the climate change priority</p>






Appendix two: An analysis of the responses received, with a sample of comments

2. We are proposing to change the wording of the Vision					
Answer choices			Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like the vision, but I think there should be more emphasis on those who are vulnerable and have deprived backgrounds I am really glad to see that 'play' and 'having fun' has been included in the proposed vision. It is really important that children's well-being - and not just their well-becoming (the process of turning them into 'successful' adults) is prioritised, particularly in light of the current state of children and young people's mental health. Play is crucial to our ambitions to be a child friendly city Is 'play' aimed at younger children, does it patronise older young people? Don't drop the wording around vulnerable and deprived backgrounds Loving and nurturing is important to include
1	Strongly agree		28.99%	40	
2	Agree		37.68%	52	
3	Neither agree nor disagree		13.77%	19	
4	Disagree		13.04%	18	
5	Strongly disagree		6.52%	9	
3. We will retain the children looked after obsession: safely and appropriately reduce the number of children looked after					
We are proposing to combine improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school; and reduce the number of young people not in education, employment and training into a learning destinations obsession					
Answer choices			Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal is vague and does not appear to place focus on the importance of the 3A's in contributing to lifelong learning and wellbeing. We should have precision in what we are seeking to achieve It is important to recognise that there are many aspects to children and young people's lives. There can't be too heavy a focus on attainment I agree with this but will it remove focus from younger children? As a parent with teenagers I support the need to highlight the multiple destinations and opportunities for learning that are not school or typical "education" based post-16 What about education for SEND children and specialist and targeted support? Young people in care should have views and opinions on the placement heard more often Important to celebrate achievement, this is wider than academic results
1	Strongly agree		31.21%	44	
2	Agree		39.72%	56	
3	Neither agree nor disagree		14.18%	20	
4	Disagree		10.64%	15	
5	Strongly disagree		4.26%	6	





4. We are proposing to introduce a health-focused obsession to reflect an increasing focus on both the physical and mental health of our children and young people: increase the number of children that are a healthy weight; and improve the timely access to healthcare when needed

Answer choices			Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than physical and mental health it should focus on physical and emotional wellbeing, including mental health • Agree but needs to be careful and done correctly. Parents and children can be affected when labelling 'healthy weights' and there can be a lot of pressure when parents are faced with 'healthy eating' vs what they can afford/what the child will eat etc • Mental health of young people is a massive priority for the plan. I think it needs to be stronger in the obsession, as outcomes are much wider than healthy weight and access to healthcare • Need to incorporate the principles of becoming a Marmot City • Love the intent to improving access to health care • Unhappiness with the focus on healthy weight - too blunt
1	Strongly agree		45.39%	64	
2	Agree		37.59%	53	
3	Neither agree nor disagree		7.09%	10	
4	Disagree		7.09%	10	
5	Strongly disagree		2.84%	4	






5. We will retain our five outcomes with the only proposed change to all children and young people enjoy healthy lifestyles. We are proposing to change it to all children and young people enjoy healthy lives

Answer choices			Response per cent	Response total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think lifestyles is more clearly focused on the conditions and behaviours that lead to a healthy life, rather than the very general "lives" which is the whole of the life-course and includes factors we cannot change such as illnesses children may develop that are not avoidable • I feel the word 'lives' is broader than 'lifestyle' so covers more areas which I agree is better • Lives is better, more holistic. Lifestyles could suggest a transient choice that ebbs and flows over time. Lives is all encompassing • Not disabled children have healthy lives though do they, by the nature of their disability and health needs. This excludes those who can't be healthy • There's no mention of inclusivity for disabled children
1	Strongly agree		32.14%	45	
2	Agree		51.43%	72	
3	Neither agree nor disagree		12.86%	18	
4	Disagree		2.86%	4	
5	Strongly disagree		0.71%	1	

6. Most of the priorities will be retained without change. We are proposing to introduce a new priority on the climate emergency following comments from young people

Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total		
1	Strongly agree		55.32%	78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd be interested to know how this one manifests itself via a CYP Plan - is it about what CYP can do to contribute to the climate emergency? • Really good idea to include what young people have commented they want • Agree in principle but it would depend on the exact wording • This is much needed and reflects the 12 wishes • Whilst climate change is an issue for us all and clearly young people feel strongly about it - I am not sure how this fits with a CYP plan? Although not adverse to it either • We must recognise the disadvantage experienced by children from ethnic minority heritage in the education and youth justice system • Align with the wording from the 12 Wishes
2	Agree		30.50%	43	
3	Neither agree nor disagree		9.22%	13	
4	Disagree		4.96%	7	
5	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0	

7. We are proposing to retain the existing transport priority (improve access to affordable, safe, and reliable connected transport for young people) and add a new priority, which will focus on sustainable transport: encourage the greater use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, scooting, and public transport

Answer choices		Response per cent	Response total		
1	Strongly agree		45.71%	64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do agree with this change however the emphasis should be on affordable sustainable transport • Disabled accessibility to transport still has huge gaps which impact on quality of life • It's not always safe or attainable for children to work/cycle when they live in isn't a safe environment and parents have to get to work • Good transport links essential to allow CYP to access education and further careers. Also need to look at protecting and enabling those vulnerable CYP access to transport systems safely • I don't understand why sustainable travel isn't part of the climate emergency priority • Key is cost - we should have free transport like young people in London, free for groups like care leavers
2	Agree		44.29%	62	
3	Neither agree nor disagree		6.43%	9	
4	Disagree		2.86%	4	
5	Strongly disagree		0.71%	1	