

FAIRER, HEALTHIER LEEDS: 0-5s RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of these recommendations is to fulfil Marmot Principle 1: Give every child the best start in life. Marmot principles focus on health equity - ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity for good health by working to improve the social determinants or 'building blocks' of health. These recommendations challenge Leeds to strengthen work on prevention and early intervention to achieve health equity and reduce health inequalities.

In Leeds "*Best Start*" is defined as covering the period from conception until a child's second birthday. Recognising that there are significant opportunities to address health inequalities early in life, there is agreement to expand the definition and focus of the work to cover children aged 3-5 years. This will combine existing work on 'Best Start' with Early Years work led by the Children's Directorate into a 'Best Start and Beyond' programme that address health and health inequalities in children aged 0-5 years.

A wide group of partners are responsible for delivery of these recommendations: public health, education (early years, primary, secondary and further education); social care; early help; housing; welfare rights and financial inclusion; the Leeds Public Health Integrated Nursing Service; maternity; inclusive growth; NHS (primary, secondary, mental health); third sector; universities and Leeds Academic Health Partnership. Consistently and transparently engaging with and listening to the families of 0-5s will be critical to delivering the recommendations successfully.

Leadership for health equity

1. The Leeds Children and Young People's Partnership to be accountable for delivering these recommendations and ensuring that the voices of children aged 0-5 and their families/carers are at the centre of implementation.
2. Leaders to convene partners across Leeds to develop and deliver an integrated *Best Start and Beyond strategy* focussed on prevention and the reduction of health inequalities of children aged 0-5.

Partnerships for health equity

3. Stakeholders responsible for delivering strategies and services for 0-5 year olds and their families/carers to maximise partnership working to reduce health inequalities.
4. The *Leeds Best Start and Beyond* partnership to mobilise a clear Start for Life offer with a focus on reducing health inequalities.
5. All partners to improve understanding of and take actions to reduce persistent inequalities experienced by children aged 0-5 and families/carers from culturally diverse communities.
6. All partners to improve understanding of and take actions to reduce persistent inequalities experienced by children aged 0-5 and families/carers living in Leeds most deprived neighbourhoods.
7. Partners to embed health equity assessments of strategies and services for 0-5 year olds and their families/carers, to ensure inequalities are addressed.

Communication for health equity

8. All partners delivering the *Best Start and Beyond strategy* to connect and clearly communicate universal and proportionate offers to children aged 0-5 and their families/caregivers through a central communication platform.