

Joint Commissioning for Children and Young People across our Health and Care Partnership in Leeds



Across the Leeds Health and Care Partnership we work together to improve outcomes for everyone in Leeds. We do this by building a shared understanding of population need and working together to invest as early as possible.

The context for joint commissioning across the Leeds system is vast and practice can be seen across many areas including maternity, mental health, complex needs, physical health services and social care for children, young people (CYP), their families and paid carers for example those in residential care homes. In addition to the way in which we commission and work together to deliver our universal preventative health services, we also take a public health approach to improving the health of our CYP's population.

Joint Commissioning Strategy

The Leeds Health and Care Partnership developed the Joint Commissioning Strategy for CYP (the Strategy) to set out how we (the Integrated Care Board in Leeds-Place and Leeds City Council) will work together to jointly commission our offers to CYP, with a particular focus on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The Strategy has been refreshed in October 2025 building on the priorities identified in the first draft of the Strategy when it was launched in 2023. The original priorities were based on feedback from partners across the Leeds system to look at where we could make collective improvements to our processes to improve outcomes for CYP, their parents and carers.

The Strategy aims to deliver on our collective vision for Leeds whilst responding to the voice of children, young people, parents, families, carers and professionals.

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“You need to improve access and support to children and young people on the neurodevelopmental pathway.”

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What has happened...

- Reviewed several digital tools and are considering how these can be tested within Leeds to improve assessment pathways.
- We now have a needs led offer within the Preschool Autism pathway and all families referred now have access to additional support.
- We have piloted a needs led support pathway for school age children within selected school Clusters and will now evaluate and consider how we can implement across Leeds.
- We continue to develop the [MindMate Neurodiversity Information hub](#).

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“You need to respond to the transitional needs of our 18-25-year-old cohort with SEND.”

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What has happened...

- The Children and Young People’s Population Board has sponsored a piece of work to look at how we improve the coordination of transitions work occurring across the city to better understand what the scope of current improvement programmes are and relationships between these.
- This work continues to be a priority within the Joint Commissioning Strategy for 2025.

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“You need to agree the joint commissioning arrangements and delivery of Personal Budgets for children and young people with SEND which may contain elements of education, social care and health funding.”

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What has happened...

- We are in the process of reviewing the funding model for health provision in Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) which includes the development of Personal Budgets.
- We have recruited additional resource to review, and quality assure the health provision detailed within EHCPs.
- The increased capacity within the Health SEND team has enabled health needs to be identified through the decision-making panel process, which were previously being overlooked. Case officers in SENSAP are now using this expertise to ensure that health needs and provisions are accurately reflected in EHCPs, particularly where uncertainty exists.

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“You need to review the health offer for Children who are Looked After to understand their needs and ensure they have access to appropriate support to meet these needs.”

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What has happened...

- We delivered a short-term project; 'Understanding the health needs (both physical and mental) of Leeds children who are looked after (CLA)'.
- An action plan responding to the recommendations of the project is being delivered which reports directly to the Corporate Parenting Board and the Joint Commissioning Group.
- We have recruited additional capacity to effectively support children within the CLA Health team.

Priorities 2025 – 2027



Complex Needs

We will continue to work with partners across the system to identify areas of risk earlier with an aim to prevent needs escalating. This will ensure we appropriately target our services to children with complex needs, improve their outcomes whilst exploring opportunities to reduce system costs to ensure we get best value for Leeds pound investment.

Children's Equipment Service (both school and in the community)

We will develop an efficiency plan for the service to ensure we can manage demand within a jointly agreed funding envelope which also includes demand prediction process.

Personalisation

We will ensure that personal budgets are available and easily accessible for CYP with additional needs/disability (SEND).

Clinical Needs in Education Settings

We will develop clear multi-agency plans to ensure the safe and effective delivery of nursing care to CYP in educational settings.

Neurodiversity

We will improve access and support (including reasonable adjustments) to CYP on the neurodevelopmental pathway (with or without a diagnosis).

Ensuring best quality service provision

We will provide quality assurance for CYP with complex needs and disabilities in care and education settings

Children Looked After health offer

We will review the current health offer to ensure we have a responsive, sufficient and quality offer for children who are looked after.