



# updates

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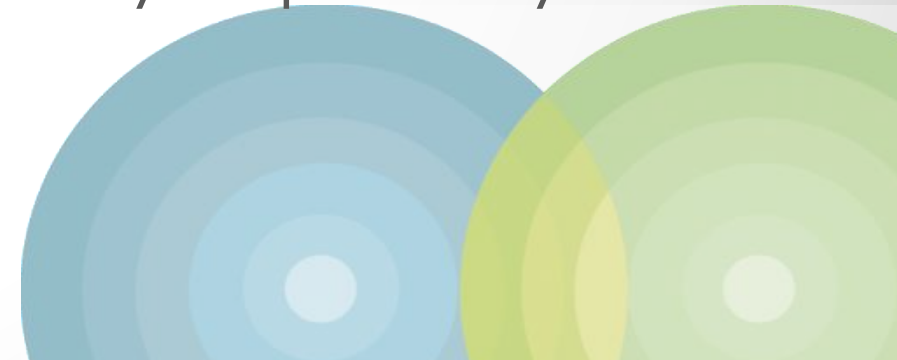
# Current situation

- R rate in the UK is currently 0.7-0.9 across England; London 0.8-1.0;north west 0.8-1.0
- Vaccination rate- 88.6%
- Booster / 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Vaccination -69.9%
- Cases – 19386
- Deaths- 433
- Admissions- 3321 (all data 7 day rolling totals)
- All data showing downward trend



# Current situation

- China- numbers rising again. The country has a zero Covid policy – hence lockdowns. Poor vaccine uptake and the government will not use any imports , only their own and this has a low effectiveness rate
- Variants- Omicron BA2 and BF7.
- Present across Europe but not impacting due to vaccine uptake etc.
- ‘Flu- medium level activity for the NHS in terms of admissions
- Good levels of vaccine uptake especially in primary schools
- RSV rates up as expected
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# Hesley phase 1 report

- Following on from the findings of this report ( as at our last meeting ) the government has ordered a review of the LADO structure and function.
- This was announced by the Education Minister and will involve the DfE and other departments .
- The Hesley group has now closed all three residential special schools and their associated children's homes ( Doncaster area)



# LADO role criticisms

- The review found that the LADO function in Doncaster did not effectively collate information from different sources to analyse patterns of concerns about staff at the settings, meaning children were not adequately safeguarded.
- It said there was a lack of communication about staff conduct between the Doncaster LADO function and those of the placing authorities for the children in the schools.
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel chair Annie Hudson said the report's findings showed that the "system of checks and balances which should have detected that things were going wrong simply did not work".



# LADO role criticisms:

- Before the national review was initiated, Doncaster council commissioned an independent review of the town's LADO service – then run by the now defunct Doncaster Children's Services Trust – which recommended a number of improvements.
- These included multi-agency training to raise the service's profile, more consistent applications of thresholds for referral to it and strengthened governance by the Doncaster Children's Safeguarding Partnership. The council told the review these actions had all been completed, and that the review also provided assurance about the current effectiveness of the service.



# Urgent actions re. LADO:

- The investigating / review panel wrote to directors of children's services in August 2022, urging them to carry out a series of actions to provide assurance around the care of disabled children placed in residential special schools registered as children's homes. These were for:
- LADOs to urgently review all referrals, complaints or concerns regarding these settings over the past three years to ensure they have been appropriately dealt with. As part of this, they must inform placing local authorities of any outstanding enquiries regarding staff still working in these establishments.
- Directors of placing authorities to ensure that reviews are carried out of children in these settings to ensure they are in safe placements, with any concerns being shared with the local LADO if the threshold for referral is met.



# Urgent actions re. LADO:

- Directors of children's services are expected to confirm that they have taken these steps in a report to their DfE regional improvement support lead by the end of this month, as well as reporting findings to local safeguarding partners.
- Ongoing Panel / Hesley phase 2 to look at systemic issues





## Final report of the Commission for Young Lives/ Anne Longfield

- Fourteen month long process- interim report already published- “Hidden in Plain Sight.”
- Wide reaching recommendations across education , families , children’s services , society as a whole.
- Some short term / others far longer term .....



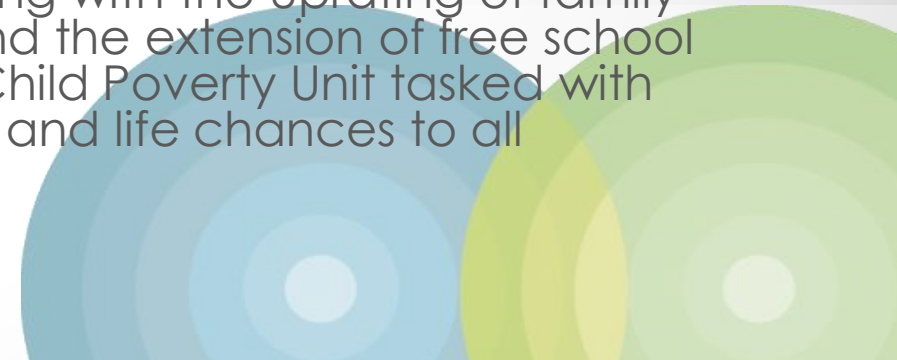
# Final report of the Commission for Young Lives- recommendations

**1. Introducing a new Sure Start Plus programme - a Sure Start for Teenagers.** A universal offer that is placed initially in the areas of greatest need and is a mechanism for bringing local services together and providing bespoke services for families and children who need it. The Commission has chosen to incorporate the name 'Sure Start' as it is a well-recognised and well-respected programme, which it believes was a mistake to dismantle.

2. Setting an ambitious target of 1,000 Sure Start Plus Hubs by 2027 to co-ordinate and deliver health and education support for vulnerable teenagers. Established in and around schools, the hubs will be run by charities, public bodies, business, and philanthropy organisations.

3. Recognising the crisis of teenage harm and violence is a national threat and is made a national priority by the Prime Minister. A national strategy to reduce risk should be drawn up and delivered, and monthly COBRA-style meetings held to drive and monitor progress. Responsibility for all young people policy goes to a renamed Department for Children, Schools and Families with leadership at Cabinet level.

4. Helping young people and their families out of poverty beginning with the uprating of family benefits in line with inflation, ending the two-child benefit cap, and the extension of free school meals to all families receiving Universal Credit. Re-establishing a Child Poverty Unit tasked with reducing and then ending child poverty to level up opportunities and life chances to all communities.



# Final report of the Commission for Young Lives- recommendations

5. A one-off mental health recovery programme, financed in part by a levy on social media companies and mobile phone providers. Young people should be guaranteed mental health treatment from Children and Young People's Mental Health Services in 4 weeks, with a guarantee of next day emergency treatment for young people at risk of self-harm and suicide. Accelerate the rollout of mental health teams in schools in the two thirds of remaining schools who do not have provision and introduce a new programme of social prescription.

6. A national mission to identify and remove racial bias in the systems that are currently failing many Black, Brown and Minority Ethnic children. The disproportionate numbers of Black boys in the youth justice system and in every part of the social care landscape is shocking. The Commission agrees with the Lammy Review recommendation to 'explain or reform' racial disparities in the youth justice system and believes it should be applied to other systems that are responsible for keeping children safe and improving children's lives.

7. Introducing a new "Family First" approach in government and local agencies to build and strengthen the capacity of, and resilience of, families with vulnerable teenagers. This would include a bespoke scheme led by the Department for Children, Families and Schools, within the Government's existing 'Supporting Families' programme, specifically targeted at families with teenagers, and would be delivered through Sure Start Plus hubs or schools.

8. Reforming the children's social care system, including implementing the MacAlister recommendations, funding more new local children's homes and specialist youth foster carers, and encouraging the expansion of kinship care.



# Final report of the Commission for Young Lives- recommendations

9. Recruiting an army of Youth Practitioners to inspire, support and guide young people in their community, administered by a collaboration of national charities. The Commission believes an additional 10,000 youth practitioners are required. They would integrate with pastoral staff in school and youth justice teams to provide universal and specialist support.

10. Opening all school buildings before and after school, at weekends and during holidays, to provide safe and appealing places for teenagers, staffed by community groups, youth practitioners and volunteers and financed by funds from dormant bank accounts and National Lottery community funding.

11. Encouraging a new era of inclusive education, ending the culture of exclusion in schools, and helping all children to succeed. Support primary schools to end exclusions in all primaries by 2024, extend SEN support, a greater focus on nurture and therapeutic support for vulnerable children, a new 'inclusion measure' to inform Ofsted judgements, and the scrapping of Pupil Referral Units with specialist provision established in and around schools instead.

12. Reforming the youth justice system to accelerate moves towards a fully welfare-based, trauma-informed Child First approach. Aim to replace Youth Offender Institutions with secure schools and secure children's homes. Introduce a statutory definition of Child Criminal exploitation

- <https://thecommissiononyounglives.co.uk/commission-on-young-lives-publishes-its-final-report/>
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# Other reports awaiting responses

- Independent Care Review-final report
- IICSA final report
- Panel findings re. Arthur Labinho-Hughes / Star Hobson
- CMA final report.
  
- Lots on the go !

Chris

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