

Alliance for Life Chances Case for Support

The Challenge

The challenges brought by childhood inequality in Bradford are huge in scale, and have complex causes.

In 2019, Bradford was ranked the 13th most deprived local authority in England and 2nd most deprived in Yorkshire and Humber. It's also the country's youngest city. Already low, Bradford's educational and health outcomes were made much worse by the Covid pandemic. Disadvantage and deprivation are deepening, creating wide gaps in learning and health outcomes between children living in different areas of our district.

Children in the North are more likely to live in poverty (27% greater chance) than those in the rest of England (20%). Poverty is 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, lower educational attainment, and lower lifelong economic productivity (57% more likely to live in an area with low income families).

But behind these figures, are the young lives of Bradford's children. Individuals with the potential to achieve great things, and to change the world.

A bold ambition to build an Alliance for Life Chances

We now have a unique opportunity to change direction, to bring partners together, to make rapid and sustained progress - so that children, young people and their families can thrive, achieve their potential, and realise their dreams, irrespective of where they live.

Over the past five years, partners brought together by the Bradford Opportunity Area have broken new ground, implemented innovative and successful projects which are changing the narrative, having impact, and are creating momentum towards a much more positive future for our young people.

ALC's aim is to tackle structural inequalities that exist in both health and education for children and young people in Bradford by championing evidence-informed approaches. Our ambition is modelled on the Feltham Convening Project, as delivered by the Reach Foundation. We will bring together partners to achieve collective change. We will make a sustained, positive difference to young people from cradle to career, through key transition points from birth to the age of 25.



Providing timely support is vital. Addressing a child or family's needs early on can reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in a child's life.

Early Intervention Foundation (Eif), 2021

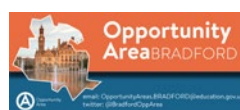
Our vision, by 2040: Children and young people in Bradford...

- ✓ are living healthy, emotionally well-adjusted lives
- ✓ have equity of access to educational opportunities
- ✓ live in communities which are safe and thriving
- ✓ aren't held back by their health, learning and economic needs

Our Alliance will work together with our individual and collective connections to drive change forward. Our major partners will work with and for our communities to support initiatives that reduce inequalities, and create rich opportunities to achieve success.

We ask you to sign our pledge, give your personal backing and that of your organisation. We ask for your support, and for you to join with us to change things. This is a once in a generation opportunity to turn the tide in the battle to tackle the impact of poverty on the lives of Bradford's children and young people.

Our current partners include:





Supporting Us

The ALC will drive forward a number of ground-breaking initiatives over the next 5 years. We will then set a strategic trajectory to drive forward long-term, structural change to promote sustained reduction of inequalities. Whilst key projects may change over the next 20 years, our ambition and drive to reduce inequalities for children and young people in Bradford and beyond will stay the same.

All of our projects are aligned to four key themes:

Act Locally A data-driven, place-based approach which will improve outcomes for children – working in small Bradford localities of around 10,000 children. We will use data science to reveal the interactions and intersections between multiple factors impacting the lives of children and young people. Our approach brings together practitioners from across different services - such as health, education, policing to co-produce interventions with our communities.

Centre for Applied Education Research Working to reduce health barriers to learning, and leading on nationally-significant projects. Designing and delivering innovative projects such as Glasses in Classes, which ensures all children receive vision screening in schools, and free glasses where needed so more children are able to read by the age of 7.

Activity Beyond the School Gates Focusing on Careers, Enterprise Education and employability skills. We are building on projects that have already yielded results: 4,000 children have already received enhanced careers support. Young women have been supported to access careers and further education in STEM career areas. Every Bradford school has received help to develop essential employability skills.

Activity Inside the School Gates Maintaining links with the Government's Priority Areas programme, we will drive forward targeted interventions to support improved educational outcomes across all key stages.

We need to raise an initial £3.9m per year to

Grow and develop place-based Local Convening Groups across the Bradford district that will:

- ✓ Shape service delivery according to local priorities and need, utilising the assets of schools and early years settings
- ✓ Develop local commissioning through a small funding pot, which will purchase activity and resource to meet local priorities
- ✓ Target response to those children and families not yet being reached by services, through a designated Family Support Worker in school
- ✓ Work with schools and local communities on being neurodiverse-friendly and utilising a new data profiling tool as a way of being responsive to the local needs.

Develop Bradford's Evidence Active Network:

- ✓ Training and deploying a network of school research champions who implement and evaluate research-informed initiatives in their educational settings. These champions will be the ground forces who will drive forward change across our school network.

Deliver School Support Expert Webinars; Bringing together health and education professionals to enable tailored solutions for issues facing schools

Continue to build our coalition of support through engaging organisations, businesses and communities in our pledge of support

Supporting the Alliance for Life Chances means:

- ✓ Driving down inequalities at locality level
- ✓ Using evidential approaches that change the way we work for better outcomes
- ✓ Putting the voice of children and young people at the heart of service delivery
- ✓ Championing social mobility
- ✓ Influencing policy to ensure it reflects an integrated approach to reducing inequalities

The Opportunity

The conditions are in place to make rapid progress.

Bradford is uniquely able to model smarter place-based planning and delivery of services. Our founder group, The Centre for Applied Education Research (CAER) has a global profile, leading the way with ground-breaking research and innovative public policy. A community comprising the Universities of Leeds, York, Leeds Trinity and Bradford, CAER has the expertise to inform, model and evaluate innovative projects and to inform and model complex system change. Including the world's largest cohort study: Born in Bradford – Age of Wonder, Bradford is already generating a growing body of evidence on factors affecting children's development, spanning health, education, care and environment.

CAER is already leading the way in supporting the roll-out of innovative practices which are improving outcomes for children.

Through supporting the Alliance for Life Chances you will

- ✓ Be able to show your support by putting your name as a key supporter to our pledge
- ✓ Be invited to see our work in action and meet our system leaders from our Partnership Board
- ✓ Be invited to see our 'Act Locally' work through one of our Local Convening Groups
- ✓ Visit the Centre of Applied Education Research and the Bradford Institute of Health Research at the Bradford Royal Infirmary Campus
- ✓ Have access to a range of events that aim to demonstrate the need to tackle inequalities, further build our coalition of support and showcase our work
- ✓ Receive updates on impact
- ✓ Be part of a remarkable success story in Bradford

Interested in finding out more? Get in touch at;
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