



## Case for Support: Stakeholders and Schools



**Education  
Alliance for  
Life Chances**

TACKLING INEQUALITIES FOR OUR CHILDREN

## Background

The Education Alliance for Life Chances was established following the Department for Education's Opportunity Area £16m investment in Bradford between 2017-2022. EALC is a collective impact organisation which brings together partners from all of the major organisations concerned with children and young people's wellbeing across the District and connects these organisations with Bradford's 232 schools. Unique to EALC's whole-system approach is our partnership with the Centre for Applied Education Research (CAER). This is the research and development arm for the Bradford District which connects cutting-edge academic research with on-the-ground practitioners, ensuring that our work is based on the best available evidence.

## Context

Current systems for serving young people are fragmented. This is contributing to poor health and educational outcomes for children. Low-income families face multiple disadvantages and the help they get is often uncoordinated and challenging for them to engage with. Things have worsened in recent years because of increased demand, reduced funding, and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here in Bradford there are over 200 schools, serving around 90,000 pupils. Most schools belong to 29 independent academy trusts. A range of public sector bodies have responsibilities for children's wellbeing including Bradford Council, Bradford Children and Family Trust and the Bradford District Care Trust. However, schools and public sector organisations have minimal opportunities to communicate effectively on shared issues. This fragmentation makes it difficult for organisations to work together, and service providers often struggle to get schools to take up their offers of support. As a result, the right support at the right time is often not available for children in need, and this negatively affects their education and health outcomes.

These challenges are not unique to Bradford. However, the Education Alliance for Life Chances (EALC) is.

This represents an opportunity for Bradford. We have a coalition of system leaders committed to working together. We have expertise in data and research. We have all the pieces of the jigsaw, and want to work with all people and organisations who share our vision to pull things together.

## Our Vision ✓

For every child in Bradford to have good life chances.

## Our Purpose ✓

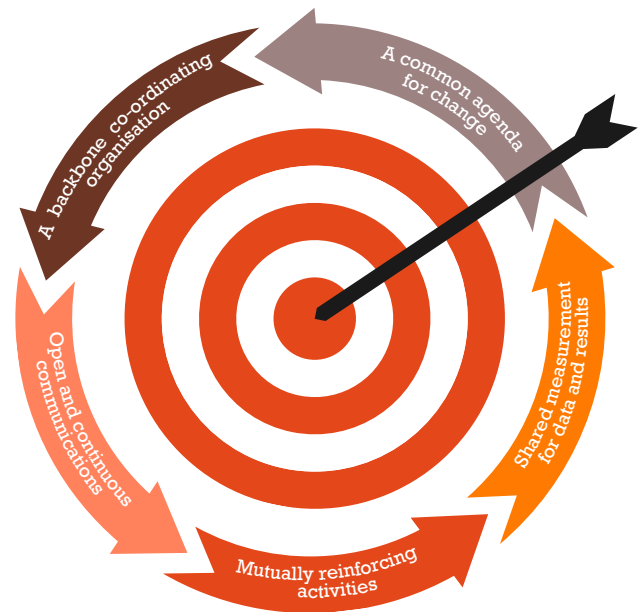
EALC will help to tackle childhood inequalities by connecting key organisations in Bradford's public and voluntary sectors with all schools (by schools we mean all people and places that help children learn).

Our partnership with CAER will test and pilot cutting-edge interventions in schools, developed by Bradford's research community. With EALC's leadership Bradford can lead the way in innovative scientific solutions, which can be scaled to other areas.

## Our Collective Impact ✓

When organisations work together in a structured way with a common agenda to achieve social change it is called collective impact.

This approach is working in other areas, e.g. the Reach Foundation in London, Liverpool City Combined Authority and the Harlem Children's Zone in New York.



## Who are we?

Education Alliance for Life Chances is uniquely placed to help our education settings to improve the life chances for Bradford's children. EALC is hosted by Bradford Birth to 19, one of our key partners, based in central Bradford.



## Our People

Our Partnership Board is committed to collaborative and connected work to improve the life chances of children and young people. Around the table are senior leaders from our NHS Hospital Trusts, the Local Authority, West Yorkshire Police, our faith community, the University research sector, schools and voluntary and community organisations.

## Our Experience

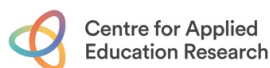
Our team has the proven ability to deliver successful outcomes at scale across the Bradford district. Skilled at navigating complex challenges and systems, we produce simple solutions for schools. Strong relationships enable us to bring partners together so that schools get better, children's results improve and better life chances are secured. We have secure trusting relationships in place with all Bradford schools.

## Our Track Record

Our team has previously delivered a £16m programme of system change across Bradford (Bradford Opportunity Area 2018 - 2022). We:

- ✓ Secured a formal education-led partnership
- ✓ Increased system capacity
- ✓ Placed schools at the heart of efforts to improve outcomes
- ✓ Brought research-informed practice to schools enabling evidence-led decision-making and classroom interventions

## Our Partners



# Our 20-Year Ambition

It might take a generation before Bradford's most disadvantaged children have life chances which are equal to that of their peers. This bold and ambitious plan will require long-term structural change across the range of services and institutions which deliver support to Bradford's children and families. EALC will secure our ambition through a series of manageable 3-5 year delivery plans.

## Our first delivery plan (2023-2027):

### 1. Schools piloting innovative approaches to tackling childhood inequality

EALC will use its partnership with CAER to develop Bradford into a unique testbed for innovative solutions, which can be scaled to other areas. Cutting edge interventions developed by Bradford's research community, which would otherwise be difficult to implement, will be piloted in education settings across the district. EALC will also connect schools to CAER so that they can make use of data, tools and research insights to improve health and education outcomes.

### 2. Schools leading data driven, place based partnerships

Our 'Act Locally' Convening Partnerships bring together schools, stakeholders and communities to work on solutions to local problems. Currently trialed in Keighley, Holme Wood, Manningham & Girdlington we intend to scale and replicate to other areas.

Each Act Locally area will:

- Agree a collective 'Statement of Intent' which will outline the targeted problem, and agree a set of implementable actions and key recommendations through a convening partnership. This will allow this partnership to secure permissions, resources and support.
- Use a 'community budget' to commission more support from local voluntary organisations that can support the identified issue.
- Develop designated schools and early years settings as community hubs for integrated 'cradle to career' support, which will allow families to more effectively access a range of support. CAER's connected data will be used to share information more easily.
- Act Locally Convening Partnerships will have support from CAER researchers and academics with an interest in their identified issue. They will provide relevant data and research insights to help them make evidence-informed decisions.

### 3. Tackling system wide, education issues

EALC will work across systems and organisational boundaries to convene commissioners and decision makers around key issues affecting pupils, and work within existing governance structures to achieve a coordinated response for schools. Examples of system wide education issues include:

- Improving school attendance
- Child health in schools
- Effective support for neurodiverse children

## 4. Tackling teacher recruitment, retention and training

Bradford's education leaders state that teacher recruitment and retention is a top concern. We aim to secure financial investment to deliver this ambition and if successful we will make it a key priority to tackle within our first delivery plan. Our first #TeamBradford campaign will aim to stabilise, grow and develop our teacher workforce:

- We want to attract and retain more teachers for Bradford schools through an incentive campaign
- We want to support our children and young people to aspire to work in schools in the district themselves, to build an education workforce for the future.
- We want to work with partners to create credible Bradford career progression routes for teachers, supporting robust succession planning, all the way to Headship
- We want to provide teacher training that meets Bradford's expressed local needs. Where possible this will include cross sector workforce upskilling.

We have begun to work on numbers 1, 2 and 3 and require financial investment to sustain these and start work on number 4.

### Working with us

We want to work with all people and organisations who share our vision. We will not duplicate support that is already provided elsewhere in the system, and we want to ensure support for schools is coordinated. This will be achieved through building the broadest possible coalition to support EALC's mission, and we invite everyone and anyone who wants to contribute to join us.

We are seeking financial investment to build on what we have started and deliver what we have set out in our first delivery plan. We estimate that we will need an initial investment of £5million, a relatively small investment compared to the total education spending in Bradford.

For more information:

[www.bradfordbirthto19.co.uk/educationalstrategy/ealc](http://www.bradfordbirthto19.co.uk/educationalstrategy/ealc)

[ealc@stedmundsbradford.org.uk](mailto:ealc@stedmundsbradford.org.uk)

@EALC\_Bradford



## Our young people

We will talk to and listen to the voice and views of children and young people. We will support the work of established groups such as the 'Bradford Citizens Alliance', 'Child Friendly City' Initiative and 'Young Ambassadors'.

We'd like to work with our young people on the following:

- Their concerns and priorities – the issues they ask Bradford's leaders and decision makers to take action on
- CAER's Research and Development work – engaging children and young people (through schools and early years settings) as part of scientific research and randomised control trials
- Place based work – e.g. involving young people in creating solutions in our Act Locally areas

## Our communities

We will listen carefully to our communities to build a positive relationship with them. This may take time but we want to get it right for the people and young people we are working with.

Our work will be underpinned by the following principles:

- We will find a pace that will drive momentum but is also right for those involved
- Our work will be inclusive
- We are open to all offers of support
- We want our Act Locally priorities to be decided by communities and young people
- We will listen carefully and encourage input and feedback
- We will use measurable targets so we know our action effective
- We aim to empower the communities and young people we work with
- We aim to bring a 'can do' attitude to our work

