



# Act Locally

Schools leading data driven, place based partnerships for children

## Statement of Intent

Manningham and Girdlington

### Acting Locally to identify needs and vulnerabilities and work together to provide solutions

Schools and early years setting as at the heart of communities. We can enable them to act as a hub of co-ordinated, multi service delivery. This will help grow local cross sector community partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people.

In Bradford, three 'Act Locally' partnerships have been established, to trial the approach, in Holme Wood, Manningham & Girdlington and Keighley; all areas of high and multiple deprivation. Built around and led by local schools, each partnership brought together local policy makers – from health, education, care and policing - with residents, front line professionals, and members of our University research community.

Each partnership started by working together to agree 3 area priorities, key actors in each area, and identify sources of data, including lived experience. From this point, the Act Locally groups were able to provide a mandate for change, from the community, and to speak as one to local commissioners and decision makers, to seek resources, permissions and support.

In Manningham & Girdlington the Act Locally group have prioritised **mental health of female pupils and parents**.

### Mental health of female pupils and parents is a priority:

- Many services are at capacity and specialist services e.g. CAMHS have waiting lists that are still far too long
- Often assessments are repeated and this wastes time
- Lack of funding for schools specifically to target mental health (prevention and early intervention)
- Increased school non-attendance (often related to mental health and vice versa)
- Under diagnosis/misdiagnosis of autism in girls
- Need to educate parents about good mental wellbeing to help recognise declining mental health in themselves and their children

### Community voices say:

*"We really need to work with parents and communities to reduce the stigma and misconceptions around accessing early help"*  
(Family Hub Worker)

*"We must stress the importance of early years support from birth, both in terms of long term outcomes for children and school readiness because many children face multiple challenges following the pandemic who are now starting school"*  
(Early Years Practitioner)

*"No support should be more complex than the children we are trying to support"*  
(Leader from Bradford District Care Trust)



## Our community mandate for change:

Our Manningham and Girdlington Convening Partnership (between schools and practitioners, providers and VCS organisations) feels open and transparent in terms of understanding mental health in our local context. If anything, it has cemented that we need courage and not permission to 'act locally, and in partnership with others, on the 'wicked issues' that trouble our schools and pull heavy on public services. We recognise our parents and young people need to be part of our solution to drive change and ultimately improve the mental health of female pupils and parents who live in Manningham & Girdlington.



## The data demonstrates:

Substantially more girls are reporting problems with their mental health than boys. This is the case for Anxiety, Depression, Eating Disorders and Self-harm. In the case of anxiety, this may be exacerbated further as pupils get closer to leaving school.

**(The Born in Bradford Age of Wonder Secondary school survey (2022-23) – pre-release data)**

## Our Convening Partnership has committed to a set of actions that will:

- Establish our intent (through this collectively agreed statement)
- Enable further conversations with partners, communities and decision makers
- See 'micro collaborations' between schools and other services that can work together to provide a connected offer locally e.g. Dixons Allerton Wellbeing Hub
- Further support deep listening (and active action) to young peoples voice and feedback e.g. 'neighbourhood organising' through Citizens UK and Priestly Academy Trust
- Introduce all Manningham & Girdlington schools to access the Living Well Schools offer
- Introduce Manningham & Girdlington schools to Bradford West Family Hub offer
- Enable exploratory conversations with commissioners of services already established locally and where a 'redirection' of resource may better meet the needs of our pupils and parents

## We recognise we can't tackle this issue all on our own and we need help unlocking barriers, therefore:

- We'd like to understand what data backs our collective experience of the issue locally
- We'd like expert input from academics from the Social, emotional and mental health Research and Develop theme of the Centre for Applied Education Research. This will help us answer:
  - What interventions could help female pupils and parents?
  - Can you help conduct a research trial to test support that would help locally?
- We'd like local and national commissioners to listen to our recommendations for change. These include:
  - The 'learning symposium' format is repeated in the other two Act Locally areas to explore the 'wicked issue' in further detail, understand the current offer of support locally and identify gaps and apply a solution based approach to joint action and where action requires a system or resource decision that a set of agreed recommendations are developed.
  - The findings from our July Learning Symposium are fed into the district wide work already underway around 'No wrong front door'
  - Trusting our local knowledge and backing our approach (through a call to action/ further investment/ resource reconfiguration) for creative local solutions to manage issues like mental health

### Our partners

