**Outreach Hub mapping exercise**

# Aim

The aim of this document is to present the findings of the mapping exercise for the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub. The report demonstrates the results of the mapping and shows who the target student population are and may have a barrier to higher education. This report aims to pinpoint which problems/issues are prevalent in which areas and how this will influence the work of the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub.

# Context

The Reach Pathways Outreach Hub is part of the Pathways Uni Connect programme. The purpose of the Outreach Hub is to help schools, colleges and community groups access information knowledge and guidance about higher learning and to provide a platform for wider collaboration. The Reach Pathways Outreach Hub aims to add value by providing relevant information in one easily accessible place for all secondary schools, colleges and other organisations in the area.

Investment and activities linked to the Outreach Hub are intended to provide infrastructure and support for wider schools, colleges and other partners in the target areas. This mapping exercise increases the understanding of the local landscape and helps to ensure that any signposting and activity are developed in a tailored approach to help address any challenges identified within the local area.

Target areas for the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub can be found below:



*Table 1: A table to show the target areas for the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub*

A list of schools partaking in the Pathways targeted outreach can be found in the Appendix (*appendix 1*). Otherwise, please follow the link below to find an interactive map that displays our target schools, IMD data and more:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1WNLeIps23KWg46XyAS9Yo_yI57H-Q9Fp&usp=sharing>

# Methods

Two different routes were implemented to help the targeting for the Outreach Hub. IMD heat maps or the Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) were used to assess the level of deprivation within each district and Google was used to search the council (city and county) websites for reports about the population of young people and target groups within the areas. Information was also found on the Gov website to allow a comparison between data from Leicestershire and England.

Predominantly the below websites were used:

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk>

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/>

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk>

# Findings

**Leicester City**

Leicester is ranked 21st out of 326 local authorities in England and 41% of Leicester’s population aged 0-15 years live within the 20% most deprived areas nationally. Continuing to tackle child poverty, improve educational attainment, boost jobs and the local economy will be crucial to improving the health of this generation’s children (Leicester City Council, 2017).

Nearly 60,000 children attend Leicester City schools, most of these are resident in the city. The school population is diverse, with many young people deriving from deprived backgrounds and some with complex additional needs (Leicester City Council , 2019);

* 54% of Leicester pupils speak English as an additional language; there is a total of 184 different languages spoken at pupil’s homes.
* 17% of Leicester pupils claim FSM and more may be eligible.
* 17% of Leicester pupils have some SEN support.

According to the Leicester City Council 2016 indices of deprivation report, 44% of people in Leicester live in the 20% most deprived areas in England whilst only 1% of Leicester residents live in the 20% least deprived areas in England. Amongst this, 1 in 3 people live in areas of high education deprivation.

When looking at the Leicester City IDACI 2015 data (Leicester City Council , 2019), only 2 of Leicester’s MSOA’s (middle super output areas) fall within the least deprived quintile 5; the majority sit within quintiles 1 and 2. Some of the most deprived areas within the city coincide with areas that are known for higher concentration of social housing such as New Parks, Mowmacre & Stocking Farm and Eyres Monsell. For education, skills and training all LSOAs (lower layer super output areas), apart from 1, in the above 3 areas are in deciles 1 and 2 (most deprived), this represents a need in those areas.

Other areas within the most deprived quintile are Braunstone West, Newfoundpool, City Centre, Saffron, Spinney Hill, Northfields, Crown Hills and Netherhall & Thurnby Lodge.

Underrepresented Groups

Within Leicester City, there are large cohorts of specific, underrepresented groups. For example, the Looked After Children (LAC) cohort in Leicester is greater than the national average. In Leicester there are currently 662 LAC (Leicester City Council , 2019). Since 2013 there has been a 30% increase in children in Local Authority care in Leicester compared to a national average of 11%. A quarter of LAC in Leicester receive SEN support.

The rate of LAC in Leicester has increased from 63 per 10,000 children in 2010, to 70 per 10,000 children in 2015. The rate of LAC in Leicester has been consistently higher than England and the East Midlands (Leicester City Council, 2017).

Leicester City has a higher proportion (58%) of male LAC which has been consistent over time and is similar to the picture for England. Of the 565 children in care in Leicester on 31st March 2015: 365 (65%) were white; 95 (17%) were of Mixed ethnic origin; 55 (10%) were Asian/Asian British; 45 (8%) were Black/Black British. The ethnic make-up of the city’s LAC population does not reflect the distribution of ethnic groups within the 0-18 years old population of Leicester. It is worth nothing that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are often absorbed into the LAC numbers.

Leicester City Council state that closing the gap between the educational attainment of looked after children and all young people is a high priority in the city. Recommendation from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA recommendations, n.d.) suggests that schools, colleges, the local authority and health services should continue to collaborate and build upon on current momentum to enable all children to achieve good educational and personal outcomes that prepare them for adulthood.

Access to higher education is much lower for young people who have been in care. In 2017-18 only 12 per cent of pupils who were looked after continuously for 12 months or more entered higher education compared to 42 per cent of all other pupils (OFS, 2020). For this reason, Care Leavers should be considered as a target group for the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub.

According to the Disabled Children Service (DCS), there are currently 432 children on the DCS disabled children register and 1189 children are registered as disabled within the city (not all disabled children appear on the DCS register). It is worth noting that some of the children may have more than one disability.

There are a range of disabilities in young people aged 13-18 years in Leicester (see appendix 1). Unfortunately, for some of the young people on the disability register, progressing to FE or HE may not be the right path. However, for a number of the children with disabilities, HE is a possible route and working with organisations such as the DCS would help the Outreach Hub to access these students and created meaningful targeted interventions.

Students with disabilities are often overlooked in Widening Participation literature and are therefore simply missed by HEI WP teams. Estimated data suggests that people without disabilities are more likely to be in HE by the age of 19 than those with a disability. However, the data does demonstrate that this could reflect the lower attainment that disabled people achieve at GCSE and A Level (Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills , 2009).

Nonetheless, the number of students with a disability applying to HE has increased continuously for the past few years and universities are being encouraged to break down further barriers to support applicants with a disability and ensure they receive all of the correct information regarding DSA and more (Department for Education , 2019). If the outreach hub can support these learners as an underrepresented group, it will help the individual HEI’s APP targets too.

**Leicestershire**

In comparison to Leicester, Leicestershire is less deprived overall. However, when looking at IMD data, there are pockets of deprivation across the county too (IMD, 2019). Blaby, Whetstone, Melton and Charnwood host neighbourhoods that fall amongst the least deprived; there are a few wards that fall within 30% most deprived (Egarton, Sysonby, Mountsorrel) but otherwise, all wards and LSOA’s sit within the 4th decile and above. Oadby and Wigston wards sit within the 30% most deprived decile and this is reflected in the Pathways targeted schools.

Loughborough has more pockets of deprivation. Loughborough Hastings and Loughborough Storer wards are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country. These areas are surrounding by wards that are particularly affluent so may often get missed. North West Leicestershire also hosts pockets of deprivation, with the wards of Greenhill and Castle Rock sitting within the most deprived decile.

Melton and Harborough districts also host neighbourhoods that are predominantly in the 4th decile and above. Hinckley Clarendon ward sits within the 2nd decile and should be considered as a target ward and Welland in Harborough sits within the 3rd decile, amongst the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods.

In 2019, young people, under the age of 20, represented (approximately) 22.7% of the Leicestershire’s population (CQC, 2019). Amongst the population of young people, Leicestershire has a low NEET figure (2% in 2017) in comparison to most of the East Midlands (Leicestershire County Council , 2017).

Approximately 91% of the county’s population belong to white ethnic groups and within this, 17.6% of school age children are from an ethnic minority group. In comparison to Leicester city where over half of young people have English as an additional language, only 7% of secondary school pupils in the county are EAL. This falls well beneath the national (2017) average of 16% (SEND strategy, 2017).

It is worth noting that Leicestershire remains the lowest-funded county council in the country. This could impact service delivery and improvement (or lack of) as a result (Leicestershire County Council, 2019).

Underrepresented Groups

Although increasing, the number of LAC in Leicestershire remains lower than the average of their statistical neighbour. Leicestershire has 41 per 10,000 LAC, whereas the statistical neighbour average is 50.6 per 10,000 children (Children & Family Services, 2017). As of the 31st March 2018, there were 555 looked after young people in Leicestershire. With this number steadily increasing since 2012, there is a likely to be far more in 2020. There has also been an increase in the number of unaccompanied children recorded as seeking asylum year on year which will be reflected in the above statistics (CQC, 2019).

Another underrepresented group in HE, and perhaps an under supported group, is Care Leavers. In Leicestershire in 2017, only 46.9% of care leavers were in education, employment or training. As such, an Ofsted Inspection highlighted a lack of focus in Care Leavers’ provision which led to an expansion of service for those over 21 who had additional needs or were still in education (Leicestershire County Council , 2017).

**Rutland**

Rutland are positioned within the 25 local authorities with the lowest levels of child poverty across the UK (Leicestershire County Council, 2018). The most deprived area in Rutland is Greetham which sits with the 5th decile, meaning it is amongst the 50% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. The vast majority of Rutland residents live in less deprived areas; over 26,000 people (67.5% of the total population) live in neighbourhoods in the three least deprived deciles nationally (Leicestershire County Council, 2018). Nonetheless, as mentioned in the Leicestershire County Council JSNA, it is important to recognise that a direct comparison between a city, rural and urban areas is not possible; there are different opportunities, challenges and barriers that arise.

In 2016, Rutland’s population of 5 to 19-year olds was estimated to be a total of 6,752 with the vast majority of the county population (97.1%) belonging to White ethnicities, including White British and White Irish. 98.2% of the Rutland population (over the age of 3) have English as their main language (Leicestershire County Council, 2018).

Underrepresented Groups

In March 2017, there were 40 under 18s in Rutland that were classified as looked after. This equates to 51.8 per 10,000 population which is significantly better than the national average of 62 per 10,000 population. Although there has been an increase in LAC in Rutland in the previous years, they still have the lowest number of LAC of any local authority in England (Leicestershire County Council, 2018) so this shouldn’t be a particular target group in Rutland.

One of the underrepresented groups that is situated in Rutland are Service Children. There are two British Army barracks located in Rutland and the military population accounts for 5.7% of the population. Nationally service children are over represented in the underperforming educational groups particularly at primary level and service children are around one third less likely to enter higher education when compared to the general population. There is a national recognition of a need to provide additional educational support through the schools for service children and this is addressed by schools receiving a Service Pupil Premium (Leicestershire County Council, 2018).

**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**

Young Carers

A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides regular, on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances. A young person becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate for that child, risking impacting on his or her emotional or physical wellbeing or educational achievement and life chances (Joint Carers Strategy, 2012).

Census data tells us that there are over 105,000 carers across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). Nearly 2000 of the 105,000 (2%) LLR carers are aged between 0-15 years, and 203 of these young carers provide 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week (Joint Carers Strategy, 2018).

Across Leicestershire, over 90% of carers are from a white ethnic background and in Rutland it is 99%, however, in Leicester City this figure is just over 50% with the remaining majority of carers coming from an Asian/Asian British background (Joint Carers Strategy, 2018).

The Joint Carers Strategy referenced above is a joint strategy between Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council and their respective NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups. The development of the strategy suggests that there is a need within the city and county and that collaboratively, it is important to support young carers. The strategy (Joint Carers Strategy, 2018, page 23) suggests that “Young Carers say they often miss education due to their caring responsibilities” and states that “Young adult carers should have the same opportunities to access education, employment and training as their peers.”.

# Conclusion/recommendations

The research and findings mentioned above demonstrate that there are specific underrepresented groups within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that are often missed and fall through the gaps of current outreach provision within FE and HE. There are a number of pre-existing organisations that already work with the groups below that the Outreach Hub can support in a sustainable manner. It is recommended that the key target groups for the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub are as follows:

1. **Looked After children**
2. **Care leavers**
3. **Disabled children**
4. **Young Carers**
5. **Students that live within deprived areas**

Whilst there are other underrepresented groups present in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, they are far less prominent than the groups mentioned in the findings section (Opinion Research Services, 2017). For example, Leicester has a small population of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. Gypsy and Traveller people generally live on 3 sites across the city and most Roma people live in houses in the East Park Road and Narborough Road areas. There are about 100 children and young people from Gypsy and Traveller backgrounds in Leicester (Leicester City Council, 2017). Whilst this group would benefit from intervention, with the limited time and resource available to the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub, I’d recommend that we target our interventions to those larger groups.

Service Children were particularly prominent in the findings regarding Rutland. The majority of service children (81%) in Rutland attend either Catmose College or Casterton College (Leicestershire County Council, 2018). With Catmose already being one of the schools selected for the Pathways targeted outreach work, this could be something we establish there or develop as a separate entity depending on the need identified by the school. With a pre-existing relationship, I anticipate that they would be able to direct us further.

1. Looked After Children

The Outreach Hub should work with Looked After Children as there is an identified need across Leicester and Leicestershire. Having worked with the Virtual School in both city and county previously, we can support and supplement their pre-existing work in a sustainable manner. It is recommended that to begin work with this target group, contact is made with both Virtual Schools to identify current projects and gaps in provision.

1. Care Leavers

The old NNCO partnership, REACH, used to previously work with Care Leavers and although numbers of participation may be small, the information was always greatly received. Care Leavers have additional support available to them for further and higher education but may not be aware. For example, Leicestershire County Council is committed to providing a bursary to Care Leavers who attend higher education and to support them with accommodation too (Leicestershire County Council, 2018). Universities will have a transition team that can support Care Leavers through the process and I think it would be excellent to identify some role models and case studies moving forward.

1. Disabled Children

The Reach Pathways Outreach Hub should target their effort to working with young people with a disability. All HEI’s within the county have disability teams, student support and transitions to help students with disabilities to feel comfortable and confident within HE. Working with special schools and the DCS, to identify students who may be able to progress, should be the first step.

1. Young Carers

Young Carers should be a target group for the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub as a need has already been identified by the relevant councils hence the development of the Young Carers Strategy. The strategy looks to commit to not only recognising but addressing the difficulty young carers face when accessing education, employment and training. Identifying and starting to eliminate these barriers is something the Reach Pathways Outreach Hub could and should support with.

1. Students that live within deprived areas

Pathways targeted schools outreach already covers some of the low progression areas such as Mowmacre & Stocking Farm, Eyres Monsell, Saffron, New Parks, Beaumont Leys, Belgrave, Castle Rock,Greenhill and more. DMU Local also already supports groups in Beaumont Leys, Newfoundpool and Netherhall & Thurnby Lodge. Therefore, it is suggested that efforts are focused towards students that live in the wards that are not currently receiving specific community or school outreach, such as Spinney Hills, Northfields, Crown Hills, Braunstone West, and the City Centre.

Representation and accessibility

Lastly, it is imperative that any information shared by the Outreach Hub is accessible for all and representative of those underrepresented groups mentioned above. One recommendation is that important items of information are translated into the most common languages found within the city – this would be particularly useful for parent’s information for example. To improve knowledge and understanding in low progression neighbourhoods, it could be beneficial to target IAG outreach towards parents and carers too. Often parents, carers and teachers are gatekeepers to the students and their future so it would be beneficial to focus efforts in this area to ensure Pathways are offering accessible information and guidance about higher learning. Ideally, additional information on funding and bursaries for groups such as LAC, Care Leavers and those with a disability should be included on the Outreach Hub. Often students are completely unaware of the additional support and become increasingly concerned and/or don’t declare on their UCAS application and therefore, miss out.

Suggested websites/organisations to explore further for support and/or governance:

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/support-for-carers/help-for-young-carers/>

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/welfare/child-care>

<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/adjusting-to-student-life/transitions/care-leavers.aspx>

<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/adjusting-to-student-life/transitions/asylum-seekers.aspx>

<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/wellbeing-disability/disability-advice-support/index.aspx>

<http://www.ycrg.org.uk/>

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/directories/information-and-support-directory/young-leicestershire>

<https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/leicestershire-virtual-school/students/university>

<https://youngleicestershire.org.uk/>

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/effective-practice/>

<https://www.becomecharity.org.uk/for-professionals/propel/>

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Opinion Research Services. (2017, May ). *Leicester City and Leicestershire GTAA*. Retrieved from Leicester City and Leicestershire GTAA: https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/gypsy\_traveller\_and\_travelling\_showpeople\_accommodation\_assessment/gypsy-traveller-and-travelling-showpeople-accommodation-assessment-report.pdf

SEND strategy. (2017). *Leicestershire Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy.* LCC and NHS.

# Appendices

Appendix 1*: A table showing the Pathways targeted outreach schools and their wards.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School name** | **Ward** |
| New College Leicester  | Western  |
| Beaumont Leys School  | Beaumont Leys |
| Wigston Academy | Wigston All Saints |
| Wigston College  | Wigston All Saints |
| Babington Academy  | Beaumont Leys |
| Tudor Grange Samworth Academy | Eyres Monsell |
| English Martyrs Catholic School  | Abbey  |
| Sir Jonathan North College  | Knighton |
| Catmose College | Barleythorpe  |
| Brookvale Groby Learning Campus  | Groby |
| The Lancaster Academy | Knighton |
| Countesthorpe Leysland Community College  | Countesthorpe |
| Rushey Mead Academy  | Rushey Mead |
| De Lisle College  | Loughborough Garedon |
| Charnwood College  | Loughborough Garedon |
| Harington School  | Barleythorpe |
| John Ferneley College  | Melton Sysonby |
| King Edward VII Science and Sport College (Coalville) | Castle Rock  |
| South Wigston High School  | South Wigston |

Appendix 2*: A table showing the breakdown of disabilities of young people in Leicester ages 13-18 (DCS, 2019)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | ADHD | ASD | Behaviour Difficulties  | Cerebral Palsy  | Down Syndrome  | Epilepsy | Genetic Disability or Genetic Disorder | Global Development Delay | Hearing Impairment Disability | Learning Difficulty Disability | Medical Condition | Mental Health Difficulties | Muscular Dystrophy | Physical Disability Other | Sensory Disability Other | Spina Bifida | Visual Impairment Disability | Other Need |
| **13** | 3 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| **14** | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| **15** | 10 | 14 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| **16** | 4 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| **17** | 3 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| **18** | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| **Total** | **28** | **47** | **48** | **3** | **4** | **15** | **4** | **13** | **7** | **69** | **15** | **16** | **1** | **12** | **10** | **0** | **6** | **34** |
| 0 - 21 | 60 | 189 | 146 | 12 | 13 | 38 | 15 | 46 | 35 | 191 | 48 | 42 | 2 | 37 | 58 | 3 | 32 | 93 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Child poverty measure** | **Leicester** | **England** |
| 1. Child poverty after housing costs | 41% | 30% (UK) |
| 2. Income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) 2015 | 28.4% | 20% |
| 3. Children in low income families (under 16) 2016 | 23.0% | 17.0% |
| 4. % Eligible and claiming free school meals | 17.4% | 15.4% |

Appendix 3: *A table showing the child poverty measures in Leicester and England* (Leicester City Council , 2019)