

Is personal, social and emotional development an inequalities issue for children in Lambeth?: Comparing developmental milestones of 5-year-olds in the LEAP wards with the rest of Lambeth

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INTRODUCTION

Lambeth Early Action Partnership (LEAP) is a programme to better the lives of children in four wards of Lambeth (Stockwell, Coldharbour, Vassall and Tulse Hill). LEAP aims to support the personal, social and emotional development (PSED) of children in the area, as well as their communication and language development and diet and nutrition. PSED at 5 is an outcome we can measure to provide an indication of the PSED needs of our community.

The percentage of reception children in Lambeth reaching at least expected PSED has increased in recent years: 84% for 2017/18. However, proportionately fewer children living in the LEAP wards reach at least expected PSED than children from other Lambeth wards.

➡ The four wards were selected for A Better Start because they showed greatest need in priority outcome areas.

📈 Social & emotional development is critical for brain development and has consequences throughout the life-course (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2004)

❤️ LEAP aims to effect positive change in these areas.

AIM

💡 Understand more about the differences in PSED between reception-age children who live in the LEAP area and those who do not, and any inequalities that underpin this.

❓ Consider what this means for the LEAP programme and wider early years strategy.

METHODS

- Validation of submitted EYFS data for multi-year analysis 2012/13 – 2017/18 (6 years).
- Geographical comparison based on child residence (LEAP Vs Non-LEAP). Non-Lambeth residents excluded.
- Analysis of EYFS data for reception:
 - Descriptive – Residence, sex, ethnicity, pupil premium status, term of birth.
 - Analytical – Linear regression by residence, sex, ethnic groups, pupil premium status and term of birth/ multiple regression analysis.

WHAT THE DATA TOLD US?

Descriptive

A smaller proportion of children achieved at least expected PSED in the LEAP wards compared to non-LEAP (3% gap) between 2012/13 and 2017/18. Wards with fewer children achieving at least expected PSED tend to also be wards with a greater proportion of children eligible for pupil premium. Children eligible for pupil premium are 1.6 times more likely to live in a LEAP ward than a non-LEAP ward.

Multiple regression

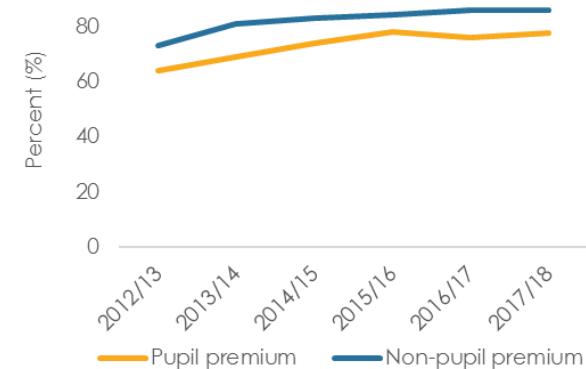
LEAP resident pupils are less likely to reach at least expected PSED compared to non-LEAP (Lambeth) residents ($p<0.0001$).

All ethnic sub-groups are less likely to reach at least expected PSED compared to White British pupils across Lambeth (all $p<0.0001$). Portuguese pupils are 3 times less likely to reach at least expected PSED than White British pupils ($p<0.0001$).

Differences in ethnic groups are not significant or have low significance when analysis includes only children eligible for pupil premium.

Pupil premium status is significantly associated with PSED across Lambeth, children eligible for pupil premium are 1.7 times less likely to reach at least expected PSED ($p<0.0001$).

Residence	Category	Odds ratio	95% conf. limit	
			LCI	UCI
Non-LEAP	Reference			
LEAP	1.18	1.08	1.29	
Ethnic sub-groups	White British	Reference		
	African	2.11	1.83	2.43
	Other Black	2.43	1.96	3.00
	Other White	1.94	1.65	2.27
	Caribbean	2.35	2.01	2.75
	Portuguese	3.17	2.57	3.90
	Asian	1.82	1.48	2.23
	Mixed	1.66	1.42	1.94
Pupil premium	Non-pupil premium	Reference		
	Pupil premium	1.68	1.63	1.83



KEY MESSAGES

Children from Lambeth are significantly less likely to achieve at least expected PSED if they live in the LEAP wards than non-LEAP Lambeth wards.

Further analysis revealed that children eligible for pupil premium are significantly less likely to achieve at least expected PSED in reception than children not eligible for pupil premium, and children of non-White British background are significantly less likely to achieve expected PSED than their White British peers.

The LEAP wards have a greater percentage of children eligible for pupil premium and a greater percentage of children from African, Caribbean and Portuguese backgrounds than other wards in Lambeth. These differences could help to explain the variation seen for LEAP children.

Early social and emotional skills are said to lay the foundations for more complex skills learned as a child grows [EYF, 2018]. In 2017, the EIF & JRF found a higher prevalence of behavioural and emotional problems among disadvantaged children, which could impact on opportunities well into the future. Further research could enhance our understanding of how social disadvantage and where families live interact to impact children's social and emotional development.

Where disadvantage exists, the more likely that developmental gaps will manifest and amplify as children grow older [EPI, 2019 & EIF, 2017]. It is vital to tackle the developmental impact of social disadvantage as early as possible to support positive outcomes and reduce inequality for children in the LEAP wards and beyond.

WHAT IS LEAP DOING?

There is a comprehensive social and emotional workstream offered in the LEAP wards.

LEAP's suite of services support families and children from birth and continue throughout the early years via a network of interventions, child, parental and family support, workforce development and community action.

Our social and emotional development services aim to support parent and infant attachment, reduce domestic conflict, improve overcrowded home environments and champion mental wellbeing and confident, responsive parenting.

Find out more about our social and emotional programme of work here: <http://www.leaplambeth.org.uk>

Set up with funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, LEAP is part of the "Better Start" initiative for families from pregnancy until their child is four.