

Annual Learning Report 2021/2022



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Introduction

LEAP delivered services in an area of Lambeth where young children experience greater inequalities than children in the rest of the borough. The LEAP area is home to almost a fifth of children under 4 in Lambeth. While some LEAP services were only available to families living in the LEAP area, others were available to all families living in Lambeth, and some were open to anyone who wanted to attend.

LEAP was a collective impact initiative, which means that all its services and activities linked together and worked towards shared goals to improve outcomes for young children. Because of this, LEAP faced the challenge of linking data from multiple services and agencies to

evidence its impact on a wide variety of outcomes. To address this challenge, it took an innovative approach to evaluation, developing nested Theories of Change and a Data Integration Platform.

LEAP's Annual Learning Report 2021/2022 combines and analyses data from over 20 services and four capital investment programmes. The goal of the ALR was to:

- + Assess LEAP's reach within Lambeth;
- + Summarise progress towards the programme's medium- and long-term outcomes; and
- + Identify areas for learning and improvement.

Methods

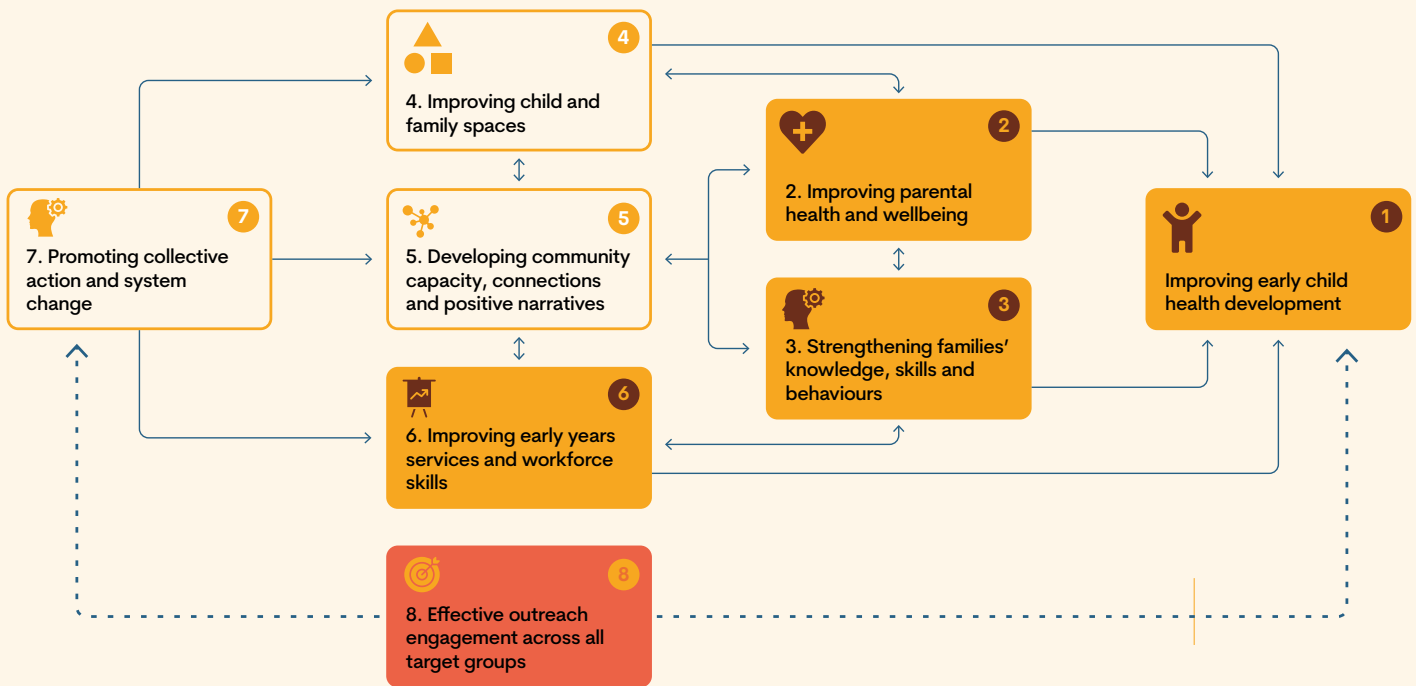
The research team used Stata to analyse data from LEAP's Data Integration Platform about families taking part in LEAP services. This enabled the team to find out how many families, parents/carers and children engaged with the programme. The report also features analysis of access to services across a range of characteristics including age, gender, ethnicity, locality, area deprivation and more, as well as different types of LEAP services and sessions that families engaged with.

Additionally, the report explores outcomes data for four domains of LEAP's Programme Theory of Change:

- + Improving early years services and workforce skills;
- + Strengthening families' knowledge, skills and behaviours;
- + Improving parental health and wellbeing; and
- + Improving early child health and development.

For validated outcomes measures, the team tested for a statistically significant change in participants' scores *after* participation in a service, and explored differences between groups of participants using regression modelling.





Findings/Results

Reach (by ethnicity)

LEAP reached over 14,200 individuals between 2015–2022 (6,966 children and 7,239 parents and carers).

Of all the children engaging with the programme, 40% were from a White background, and 31% from a Black background.

41% of pregnant women who engaged with the programme were from a White background, and 43% were from a Black background, which was similar to overall figures from the maternity booking services of the two NHS trusts covering the LEAP area.

Adult family members who engaged with LEAP services were more likely to be from a White background (38% of fathers, 49% of mothers and 50% of other family members). Overall, the ethnicity profile of LEAP participants is similar to that of the Lambeth population.

Conclusion

The reach figures found in the report indicated that LEAP was working steadily towards its goal of reaching 10,000 children over the course of the programme, as well as showing that the families reached were broadly representative of the local population in demographic terms.

Outcomes

LEAP services achieved important improvements in outcomes for parents and children across many developmental areas. For children, wellbeing and engagement were improved in nurseries with a nature-focused curriculum, and family relationships improved after specialist parent-infant relationship support.

Parents attending parenting programmes developed closer bonds with their child during pregnancy and early childhood, while those attending communication and language courses improved their home learning environment. Pregnant women with a BMI of at least 25 receiving specialist support increased their activity levels.

Domestic abuse caseworkers supported their clients to feel safer and less distressed.

Encouragingly, the research also showed the positive impact LEAP made to children, parents and carers across the four outcomes domains featured. Taken together, these indicated that the programme was making at least a substantial part of the intended difference for families in the LEAP area.

The full report is available to read at:

<https://story-of-leap.leaplambeth.org.uk/reports/leap-annual-learning-report-2021-2022/>