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Supplementary information for Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) on 13 February 2014

Pages 1-2: Agenda item 10 – Supplementary information in relation to appendix 2 of the report into improving school attendance

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Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 13th February 2014

**Subject: Item 10 - Supplementary Information Recommendation Tracking
Improving School Attendance – Appendix 2 Recommendations 2 and 11.**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

- The Recommendation Tracking - Improving School Attendance report was published on the 4th of February 2014. Since publication additional supplementary information has been provided in addition to the information contained in Appendix 2 of the published report, as follows:

Appendix 2	
Recommendation 2	70 of 266 schools have a named attendance governor and where there is none, the chair would take this role (the majority of named attendance governors are the chairs). Without exception, attendance is an item on the headteacher's report at every governing body meeting for discussion and many governing bodies also utilise the sub-committee meetings that shows a distributive leadership/challenge model providing a detailed scrutiny of attendance at the school.
Recommendation 11	The admission policy for Leeds community and voluntary controlled schools uses both a sibling priority and a priority for the school nearest to a child's residence to support families to be able to access a nearby school. Whilst there are an increasing number of own admitting authority

	<p>schools, i.e. Academies, Free Schools, Trusts and VA schools that have their own admission policies, the vast majority have retained a nearest school or feeder school criteria which prioritises local children. In addition the local authority is a statutory consultee on all policies and checks them to ensure fairness and that no children are left without access to a local school. Where any concerns exist we would seek to resolve them with the school.</p> <p>When looking at school place capacity and planning any changes we consider local clusters of schools and the historical patterns of parental preference. We would always seek to ensure that even where there may be constraints on individual schools, that sufficient capacity is planned into areas so that parents can access a school within a reasonable distance. A new post has recently been created and appointed to within the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team specifically to focus on the short term need for places, for those within the current round of applications for reception and year 7, and also for in year transfers, to give an increased focus on meeting the needs of these families in their localities. We seek to work with schools to ensure sufficiency of good local places.</p>
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Recommendations

2. Members are asked to:

- Consider the supplementary information provided in addition to the published version of Appendix 2 of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) agenda for 13th February 2014.

Background papers¹

3. None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.