



SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds on
Thursday, 7th June, 2007 at 9.30 am

(A pre-meeting will take place for ALL members of the Board at 9.00 am)

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

J Chapman	-	Weetwood
J Elliott	-	Morley South
S Hamilton	-	Chapel Allerton
R Harington	-	Gipton and Harehills
W Hyde (Chair)	-	Temple Newsam
B Lancaster	-	Moortown
J Langdale	-	Temple Newsam
T Murray	-	Garforth and Swillington
K Renshaw	-	Ardsley and Robin Hood
Whip's Nominee	-	Conservative
Whip's Nominee	-	Conservative
Whip's Nominee	-	Liberal Democrat

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Mr E A Britten*	-	Church Representative (Catholic)
Prof P H J H Gosden*	-	Church Representative (Church of England)
Mr R Greaves	-	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)
Mr C Macpherson	-	Parent Governor Representative (Special)
Mrs S Knights	-	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)*

(* subject to confirmation by the Scrutiny Board – please see agenda item 8)

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A G E N D A

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1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded)</p>	
2			<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public</p>	
3			<p>LATE ITEMS</p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes)</p>	
4			<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To declare any personal/prejudicial interests for the purpose of Section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 13 of the Members' Code of Conduct</p>	
5			<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting</p>	
6			<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on Thursday, 19th April 2007, and Thursday, 17th May 2007</p>	1 - 12

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
7			<p>MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>To note the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2007</p>	13 - 16
8			<p>CO-OPTIONS TO THE BOARD</p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which seeks Members' approval of co-options to the Scrutiny Board</p>	17 - 18
9			<p>TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p>To consider a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invites the Board to note the key constitutional changes relevant to the Scrutiny arrangements</p>	19 - 22
10			<p>WORK PROGRAMME - SOURCES OF WORK AND ESTABLISHING THE BOARD'S PRIORITIES</p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invites Members to agree the details of the Scrutiny Board's Work Programme for the forthcoming municipal year</p>	23 - 26
11			<p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION</p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invites Members to consider the performance management information for 2006/07 which is relevant to the Scrutiny Board's portfolio</p>	27 - 38

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12			<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Thursday, 5th July 2007 at 9.30 a.m. in the Civic Hall, Leeds</p> <p>(Please note that a pre-meeting is scheduled for all members of the Board at 9.00 a.m.)</p>	

Agenda Item 6

SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor R D Feldman in the Chair

Councillors J Chapman, B Cleasby, J Lewis,
K Renshaw and B Selby

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:
(VOTING)** Mr E A Britten - Church Representative (Catholic)
Prof P H J H Gosden - Church Representative (Church of
England)
Mrs S Knights - Parent Governor Representative
(Primary)

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:
(NON-VOTING)** Mr T Hales - Teacher Representative
Ms C Foote - Teacher Representative
Mrs S Hutchinson - Early Years Development and
Childcare Partnership
Representative
Mr P Gathercole - NCH Representative
Ms T Kayani - Youth Work Partnership
Representative

124 Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED – That Councillor R D Feldman be appointed Chair of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) for the duration of this meeting, as Councillor Bale, the appointed Chair of the Scrutiny Board for the 2006/07 municipal year had submitted his apologies for absence from the meeting.

(Councillor R D Feldman took the Chair)

125 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda a draft Scrutiny Board Statement regarding the 14-19 Review of Education and Training Provision in Leeds which was to be considered in relation to agenda item 12, a draft version of the Scrutiny Board's contribution towards the composite Annual Report for 2006/07 which was to be considered in relation to agenda item 13, and a report entitled, 'Progress with Area Management Boards Across the City' (Minute Nos. 135, 136, and 133 refer respectively).

Both the draft Statement regarding the 14-19 Review of Education and Training Provision in Leeds and the draft version of the Scrutiny Board's contribution towards the composite Annual Report had been unavailable at the time of the agenda despatch and needed to be considered and approved by the current membership of the Scrutiny Board, prior to the conclusion of the current municipal year.

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The information contained within the report entitled, 'Progress with Area Management Boards Across the City', which had also been unavailable at the time of agenda despatch had recently been sought by the current membership of the Scrutiny Board, and therefore also needed to be considered prior to the conclusion of the municipal year.

126 Declarations of Interest

Mrs S Knights declared a personal interest in relation to the agenda item entitled, 'Progress with Area Management Boards Across the City', as she had been appointed onto the Area Management Board for North West Leeds (Minute No. 133 refers).

A further declaration of interest was made at a later point in the meeting (Minute No. 132 refers).

127 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of the Chair, Councillor J Bale, Councillors A Harrison, V Kendall, L Mulherin and Mr C Macpherson.

128 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 8th March and 29th March 2007 be approved as correct records.

129 Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5th March 2007 be noted.

130 Young People's Scrutiny Forum - 'Catching the Bus'

Further to Minute No. 9, 9th June 2006, a report was submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought the Board's approval of the final report and recommendations of the Young People's Scrutiny Forum entitled, 'Catching the Bus', a copy of which had been appended to the report for Members' consideration. The Board was also invited to help ensure that the report was widely circulated and that formal responses to the Forum's recommendations were submitted for consideration to the July 2007 meeting of the Board, or its successor.

Diane Whiteley-McLean, Senior Youth Worker, Youth Service, Leanne Rivers, Reach Out and Reconnect (ROAR), and Gaby Paradis, The Project, were all in attendance to present the information detailed within the report and answer any questions raised. Rosemary Archer, Director of Children's Services, was also in attendance.

Having received an overview of the key themes detailed within the report from those representatives present, the Board congratulated the Young People's Scrutiny Forum both on the way they had conducted the inquiry and on the production of the resulting report. A question and answer session then ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

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Key Issues Arising from the Inquiry

- Members acknowledged that the inquiry had found the **issue of cost** to be the most significant barrier to young people travelling by bus in Leeds, and enquired what the anticipated cost of travel would be for young people if further concessionary fares were introduced;
- Having enquired about the financial impact that the **cost of travelling by bus to and from employment** had upon young people in Leeds, Members learned that as a considerable proportion of employment undertaken by young people was on a part time basis, the cost of travel could have a significant financial impact upon young people;
- Members endorsed the particular significance of several issues highlighted within the report, such as the **reliability of services and routes, the relationship between bus drivers and young people** and the **marketing of concessionary bus travel**;
- The Board emphasised the correlation between the reliability of bus services and other issues such as **passenger safety**, discussed the decreased frequency of bus services on an evening and the impact that this had upon the range of activities undertaken by young people during such times.

Proposed Actions Following the Report's Publication

- Members emphasised the need to ensure that the findings of the report were not lost sight of, and proposed that responses to the inquiry's recommendations were sought from all relevant parties. In response, the Board learned that a meeting had already taken place with representatives of the Youth Council in order to progress the issues raised by the inquiry, and that **formal responses to the report's recommendations** were to be submitted to the Scrutiny Board for consideration;
- The Board made reference to the possibility of using the recommendations within the report which related to concessionary bus travel, as part of a wider programme to promote **environmental issues** with young people;
- The Director of Children's Services congratulated the Young People's Scrutiny Forum on the production of the report, concurred with the views of the Board in relation to the value of the work undertaken, and stated that copies of the report had already been circulated to members of **Corporate Management Team** so that a co-ordinated approach could be taken when addressing the issues raised;
- The Chair of **Scrutiny Board (Development)** suggested that the report could be circulated to members of Scrutiny Board (Development) for consideration, as it was felt that several issues arising from the report fell within the remit of that particular Board;
- Following confirmation by the Young People's Scrutiny Forum that it hoped the Scrutiny Board would lend its support to the pursuit of the issues raised by the inquiry, Members proposed that the document was circulated to representatives of all relevant organisations, with formal responses to the report's recommendations being sought and submitted to the July 2007 meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services), or its successor.

General Observations

- The Board discussed the relative **working conditions of bus drivers** in Leeds and the impact that such conditions had upon recruitment levels. Members then learned of the attempts being made to improve the levels of service provided by bus drivers in Leeds;
- The Board considered the **negative image** that was often associated with young people generally, and the need for such an image to be addressed.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked the Young People's Scrutiny Forum once more for the work which had been undertaken as part of the inquiry.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the final recommendations and report of the Young People's Scrutiny Forum entitled, 'Catching the Bus', be approved;
- (b). That formal responses be sought from all relevant officers and organisations to the recommendations within the report, and submitted to the July 2007 meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services), or its successor;
- (c). That in compliance with the wishes of the Young People's Scrutiny Forum, the Board ensures that the report be widely circulated and given appropriate consideration by all relevant parties.

131 Implementing the Children Act: April 2007 Update

Further to Minute No. 90, 11th January 2007, the Board received the latest in a series of reports from the Director of Children's Services, which updated Members on the progress made in relation to the implementation of the Children's Act 2004 in Leeds. The report also sought to advise Members on the progress made in respect of a range of issues within the Director of Children's Services Unit, present an overview of key budgetary information as previously requested, and provide examples of several major activities which had taken place across the children's services portfolio.

Rosemary Archer, Director of Children's Services, Adam Hewitt, Public and Political Executive Support Manager, Children's Services Unit, and David McDermott, Strategic Leader, Resources and Assets, Children's Services Unit, were all in attendance to advise Members of the main issues detailed within the report and to respond to any questions raised.

Following a brief summary of the key issues within the report from the Director of Children's Services, a question and answer session ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

Development of Children's Trust Arrangements in Leeds

- Members asked how many new posts had been created as part of the **Director of Children's Services Unit** and where there had been internal transfers to the Unit from other departments, whether the original posts had been deleted in order to prevent duplication. In response, Members learned that no positions had been deleted to date, a situation which reflected new ways of working. The Board also noted that including

administrative staff and transfers from other departments, there was a total of 26 posts within the Unit;

- Clarification was sought on the role and responsibilities of the newly appointed **Public and Political Executive Support Manager**;
- Members discussed the recent appointment of the five **Locality Enablers** in Leeds.

Consolidation of Resources

- Clarification was sought on the budgetary information detailed within the report, and the extent of the **resources** allocated for the provision of children's services which fell within the Board's remit and could potentially be scrutinised;
- Following Members' enquiries into the review of the **financial reporting systems** which was currently being undertaken, the Board was advised that the systems were being reviewed in line with the recent changes to the children's trust arrangements in Leeds.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report and Members' comments arising from the report, be noted.

132 The Joint Area Review and the Children and Young People's Plan Review

A report was submitted by the Director of Children's Services which sought to update Members on the progress made in relation to the preparation for the **Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and Joint Area Review (JAR)** of children's services later in the year, in addition to engaging the Board in the ongoing review of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan.

In addition to the information detailed within the report, a summary of the emerging issues from the Children and Young People's Plan Review was tabled at the meeting for Members' consideration.

Rosemary Archer, Director of Children's Services, Adam Hewitt, Public and Political Executive Support Manager, and John Maynard, Strategic Leader, Intelligence and Innovation, all from the Director of Children's Services Unit, were in attendance to answer Members' questions.

Members of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) made the following comments arising from their discussion on the emerging priorities for the Children and Young People Plan Review:-

The Review Process for Leeds' Children and Young People's Plan and Issues for Possible Inclusion

- Members acknowledged the work being done to review the Plan, especially in light of **national changes in the requirements for the Plan**;
- Members stressed the need for **clear action plans** to complement the priorities identified within the finalised Plan;
- They also highlighted that there needed to be **clear and explicit links to the Vision for Leeds themes of Narrowing the Gap and Going Up a League**, demonstrating how the Children and Young People's Plan links

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to the wider agenda for the city, and how resources were being targeted at the most deprived communities in partnership with other agencies in the city;

- That leaders within Children's Services needed to be aware and alert to the fact that policies instituted for good reasons may have unintended consequences, for example a deliberate drive to reduce **exclusions** from school resulting in additional stress for school staff that also needed to be addressed;
- The need to be wary of having only one **measure of success** for some issues. For example, Members indicated that the issue of behaviour should not just be measured in terms of the numbers of exclusions, as the underlying issues were far wider and more complex than simply the number of pupils permanently excluded from school, however positive a reduction in this figure was in its own right;
- The Board asked that officers considered whether there were issues arising from the Board's recommendations in its inquiry report on adoption in Leeds that should be reflected in the Plan;
- The Board indicated that the Plan should include reference to **transitional issues** between children's services and adult services.

Comments Relating to the Provision of Children's Services in Leeds

- Members welcomed the emphasis on **mental health services** as an identified priority, and stressed the need to increase the availability of preventive services and early intervention;
- Members challenged the availability of **effective child health measures**, recognising that this was considered to be a national problem. They noted that attempts were being made to address this challenge at a local level;
- Members had ongoing concerns about **community access to PFI schools** in relation to **extended services**;
- The Board raised concerns over the reduction in the number of staff who had experience of teaching young people with learning difficulties, and the resultant burden which was being placed upon Teaching Assistants;
- Clarification was sought on whether all schools in Leeds were part of an extended services cluster, with particular reference being made to the North West Leeds Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC).

General Observations

- Members noted the relatively low rates of children on the **Child Protection Register** in Leeds and sought further details on the Local Authorities which Leeds had been compared to as part of the process. In response, Members were assured that such information would be provided to the member in question.

In conclusion, Members resolved that they needed to agree arrangements for the Scrutiny Board to **monitor progress** against the priorities and actions in the revised Children and Young People's Plan on an ongoing basis in the new municipal year.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the progress made against the priorities and actions in the revised Children and Young People's Plan be reviewed by the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services), or its successor, on an ongoing basis throughout the new municipal year.

(At this point in the meeting, the Chair extended his best wishes, on behalf of the Board, to Councillor Cleasby, who had been nominated to serve as Leeds City Council's Lord Mayor for the 2007/2008 municipal year)

(Councillor Cleasby left the meeting at 11.30 a.m. at the conclusion of this item)

(Mr P Gathercole declared a personal interest in relation to this item due to being a representative of NCH which provided services to Looked After Children)

133 Progress with Area Management Boards Across the City

The Board received a report from the Chief Executive of Education Leeds which advised Members of the ways in which start up funding for Area Management Boards (AMBs) had been spent in addition to the proposals which had been made in relation to the current round of funding. The report also provided Members with a summary of the improvements made in relation to **behaviour levels and attendance management in Leeds**, in addition to the extent to which **systems of inclusion** had been established throughout the city.

Appended to the report for Members' information was the Terms of Reference and Performance Management Arrangements for Leeds' AMBs, in addition to the draft 2007/08 funding allocation for AMBs.

Bob Stott, No Child Left Behind Project Director, was in attendance to present the information detailed within the report and answer any questions raised.

Having received a brief summary of the information within the report, a question and answer session ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- Having raised concerns over **behaviour** currently being experienced in Leeds' schools, Members enquired how Education Leeds and AMBs were actively addressing such behavioural problems, whilst also providing adequate **support to staff** in this field. Members then requested that further information on this issue was submitted to the Board, or its successor, in the new municipal year, and that when such information was submitted, appropriate representation from Education Leeds was requested;
- The impact that the development of the AMBs would have upon the role of **Pupil Referral Units (PRUs)** in Leeds;

- The Board discussed how the initial funding allocation for the AMBs had been spent;
- Members made enquiries into the links between **AMBs, Area Committees** and Children Leeds wedge structures in Leeds, and whether there would be an element of duplication between them.

In conclusion, the Chair stated that all the issues raised at today's meeting would be pursued, and requested that a further report addressing such issues was submitted to the Board in the new municipal year, with appropriate representation from Education Leeds being sought.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report and Members' comments arising from the report, be noted;
- (b). That a further report addressing the issues raised by Members at today's meeting be submitted to the Board, or its successor, in the new municipal year, with appropriate representation from Education Leeds being requested.

134 Scrutiny Board Draft Statement - Departmental Communications

A report was submitted on behalf of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought Members' approval of the final draft version of the Scrutiny Board's statement relating to Departmental Communications, a copy of which had been appended to the report for Members' consideration.

Following a referral from Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this issue, Members agreed to establish a working group to consider those Departmental Communications which fell within the Board's remit. Having met with relevant officers in March 2007, a draft statement on behalf of the Board was produced for approval.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) statement concerning Departmental Communications, as appended to the report, be approved.

135 Scrutiny Board Draft Statement - 14-19 Review of Education and Training Provision in Leeds

A report was submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought the Board's approval of the final draft version of the Board's statement relating to 14-19 Review of Education and Training Provision in Leeds, which had been circulated to Members for consideration prior to the meeting.

Following an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Board in March 2007, which had considered the Review of 14-19 Education and Training Provision in Leeds, a draft statement of the Board, incorporating Members' comments, was prepared and circulated prior to the meeting for Members' consideration.

Having agreed to incorporate several revisions to paragraphs 21, 24 and Recommendation 2 of the draft document, it was

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Thursday, 7th June, 2007

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That subject to the inclusion of several revisions which had been proposed, the statement of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) on the Review of 14-19 Education and Training Provision in Leeds be approved.

136 Annual Report 2006/2007

A report was submitted on behalf of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which sought Members' approval of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) contribution towards the composite Scrutiny Board Annual Report for 2006/2007.

Members noted that the final text of the Annual Report would be subject to the approval of the remaining Scrutiny Board inquiry reports from the current municipal year.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) contribution towards the composite Scrutiny Board Annual Report for 2006/07 be approved.

137 Minutes of Executive Board

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 4th April 2007 be noted.

(At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair thanked all members of the Board for their attendance and contributions throughout the municipal year, and reminded all those present that subject to Members' availability, an additional meeting of the Board had been proposed for 9.00 a.m. on Thursday, 17th May, 2007, to formally approve the draft Scrutiny Board inquiry reports into the Implications of Trust Schools for the Local Authority and Youth Services)

(The meeting concluded at 12.02 p.m.)

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SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

THURSDAY, 17TH MAY, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor J Bale in the Chair

Councillors J Chapman, B Cleasby, V Kendall,
J Lewis, K Renshaw and B Selby

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:
(VOTING)** Mr E A Britten - Church Representative (Catholic)

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:
(NON-VOTING)** Mrs S Hutchinson - Early Years Development and
Childcare Partnership Representative

138 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services).

139 Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared personal interests in relation to agenda item 6 entitled, 'Inquiry into the Implications of Trust Schools for the Local Authority', due to their respective positions as either school or college governors (Minute No. 141 refers):-

Councillors Chapman, Cleasby, Kendall, Renshaw, Selby, Mr E A Britten and Mrs S Hutchinson.

Councillor J Lewis declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 6 entitled, 'Inquiry into the Implications of Trust Schools for the Local Authority', due to being a governor of Kippax North Primary School and Methley Primary School, both of which were currently exploring early adopter status (Minute No. 141 refers).

140 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors R D Feldman, Harrison, Mulherin, Professor P H J H Gosden, Mr C Macpherson, Ms C Foote, Mr P Gathercole and Ms T Kayani.

141 Inquiry into the Implications of Trust Schools for the Local Authority

Further to Minute No. 115, 8th March 2007, a report was submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invited Members to formally approve the Board's final report and recommendations following its inquiry into the implications of trust schools for the local authority. The report also invited Members to request that officers formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations in the new municipal year.

Appended to the report for Members' consideration was a draft version of the Scrutiny Board inquiry report.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) inquiry report into the implications of trust schools for the local authority be approved;
- (c). That relevant officers be requested to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations, as detailed within the report, in the new municipal year.

142 Inquiry into Youth Services

Further to Minute No. 79, 14th December 2006, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which invited Members to formally approve the Board's final report and recommendations following its inquiry into Youth Services. The report also invited Members to request that officers formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations in the new municipal year.

Appended to the report for Members' consideration was a draft version of the Scrutiny Board inquiry report, together with a letter received from the Director of Children's Services which detailed the Director's advice in relation to the report's recommendations. Members noted that the advice had been submitted to the Board following appropriate consultation with both the Lead and Support Executive Members for Children's Services.

Members acknowledged the advice received from the Director of Children's Services, and highlighted the Director's comments specifically concerned with recommendation one of the report, which stated that the recommendation would 'prove valuable' when shaping Leeds' Youth Offer in the future. The Board then agreed that having taken the Director's advice into consideration, the draft report should remain unchanged.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) inquiry report into Youth Services be approved;
- (c). That relevant officers be requested to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations, as detailed within the report, in the new municipal year.

(As it was the final meeting of the current municipal year, the Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all members of the Board and relevant officers for their hard work and attendance throughout the year, and extended his best wishes on behalf of the Board to Councillor Cleasby who had been nominated to serve as Leeds City Council's Lord Mayor for the 2007/2008 municipal year)

(The meeting concluded at 9.15 a.m.)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor G Driver in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, B Cleasby,
P Grahame, B Lancaster, T Leadley and
R Pryke

Apologies Councillor J Bale

90 Late Items

The Chair indicated that in accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he had agreed to accept as a late item of urgent business the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/07, which had not been ready at the time of agenda despatch, because this was the last scheduled meeting of the Committee in the 2006/07 municipal year, and it was important for this report to be approved for submission to Council at the earliest possible opportunity, rather than be left for the newly constituted OSC to deal with after the Annual Meeting.

91 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor Grahame – Gambling Act 2005 – Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy – Leeds Large Casino Development – personal interest in her capacity as a member of a casino (Agenda Item 9, Minute No 95 refers)

Councillor Anderson - Gambling Act 2005 – Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy – Leeds Large Casino Development – personal and prejudicial interest in his capacity as Chair of the Leeds Casino Task Group (Agenda Item 9, Minute No 95 refers)

Councillor Lancaster - Gambling Act 2005 – Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy – Leeds Large Casino Development – personal interest in her capacity as a member of Gala Bingo (Agenda Item 9, Minute No 95 refers)

Councillor Leadley – (a) Request for Scrutiny – Disability Equality Scheme – personal interest in his capacity as a relative of a disabled person (Agenda Item 10, Minute No 96 refers) and (b) Draft Annual Report – Planning Performance – personal interest in his capacity as a Member of Plans Panel West and the Development Plan Panel (Agenda Item 12, Minute No 98 refers)

Councillor Cleasby – Draft Annual Report – Planning Performance – personal interest in his capacity as a Member of the Development Plan Panel (Agenda Item 12, Minute No 98 refers)

92 Minutes - 5th March 2007

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

93 Minutes - Executive Board, 14th March 2007

Further to Minute No 85 of the OSC meeting held on 5th March 2007, the Chair drew Members attention to Minute No 209 of the Executive Board meeting held on 14th March 2007, and the fact that the Executive Board had now formally requested OSC to undertake a Scrutiny Inquiry into Leeds Comprehensive Performance Assessment issues, with particular focus on the Council's predicted CPA position in future years.

RESOLVED – That subject to the above, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 14th March 2007 be received and noted.

94 Scrutiny Inquiry - "Narrowing the Gap" - Draft Final Report

The Committee considered a draft of its proposed final report in respect of its Inquiry into the Council's 'Narrowing the Gap' strategic priority, together with the responses of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing, Councillor Harris, Joint Leader of the Council and Executive Member (Central and Corporate) and the Director of Leeds Initiative to the Committee's recommendations.

Various suggested amendments were discussed. Overall Members considered that they were not in a position to finalise their report until they had discussed again with the respondents their various responses, and that another special meeting of OSC should be arranged in order to enable these discussions to take place.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development, in consultation with the Chair, arrange a further meeting of the Committee to finalise this report.

95 Gambling Act 2005 - Council's Statement of Gambling Policy - Leeds Large Casino Development

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report regarding proposals to review and revise Part F of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, which dealt with the way the Council would handle any applications for a large casino licence in its area, following Leeds' successful bid to licence a new large casino in its area.

Michael Romagnoli, Legal and Democratic Services, attended the meeting and informed Members that last week's decision in the House of Lords effectively meant that the Government was going to have to review and rethink its strategy in respect of casinos, which gave the Council longer to review and refine its own policies. He therefore proposed that a full and revised report be submitted to a future OSC meeting.

RESOLVED – That in the circumstances, consideration of this matter be deferred to a later date.

(NB Councillor Anderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item (see Minute No 91) and left the meeting whilst this item was being discussed)

96 Request for Scrutiny - Disability Equality Scheme

Further to Minute No 83, 5th March 2007, the Committee considered a further report submitted by the Chief Officer (Executive Support), as requested by Members at the last meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That in the light of the evidence received, the Committee endorses the Council's approach to a combined equality scheme, and does not consider an Inquiry is warranted at this time
- (b) That an update report be submitted to OSC in six months time.

97 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules - Guidance Notes

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report relating to some proposed minor variations to the Scrutiny Board Guidance Notes to take account of changed circumstances

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the proposed removal of guidance notes 1 and 8 be approved for the reasons outlined in the report.
- (b) That the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development be authorised to make other minor changes in relation to officers job titles within the guidelines.

98 Draft Annual Report to Council

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a draft of the proposed Annual Report of Scrutiny Boards, which had to be submitted annually to Council. Each of the other Scrutiny Boards was considering their contribution to the report during the current cycle of meetings.

RESOLVED – That the proposed final draft, incorporating the contribution of the other Boards, be submitted for consideration at the extra OSC meeting referred to in Minute No 94.

The meeting concluded at 11.27 am.



Originator: Kate Arscott

Tel: 247 4189

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7th June 2007

Subject: Co-options to the Board

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for co-options to the Board.

2.0 Background

2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, which relates to scrutiny, states that in addition to elected Members appointed by Council, the relevant Scrutiny Board dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives in accordance with statutory requirements:

- One Church of England diocese representative
- One Roman Catholic diocese representative
- Three parent governor representatives

2.2 A relevant Scrutiny Board is a Scrutiny Board of a local education authority, where the Board's functions relate wholly or in part to any education functions which are the responsibility of the authority's Executive. If the Scrutiny Board deals with other matters, these representatives shall not vote on those other matters, though they may stay in the meeting and speak.

2.3 The Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses have nominated Professor Gosden and Mr Britten to continue as their respective representatives.

- 2.4 The current parent governor representatives are
- Mr Cluny Macpherson (special) - term of office expires 11th January 2009
 - Mr Robert Greaves (secondary) – term of office expires 18th October 2009
 - Mrs Sue Knights (primary) – term of office expires 25th June 2010
- 2.5 In addition, Article 6 of the Constitution allows that each Scrutiny Board shall be entitled to appoint up to five non-voting co-optees.¹ Each Scrutiny Board may also appoint up to two non-voting co-opted Members to assist with a particular scrutiny Inquiry.
- 2.6 During 2006/2007 Scrutiny Board (Children’s Services) made the following non-voting co-opted appointments:
- Two teacher representatives –Ms Celia Foote and Mr Tim Hales
 - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership – Mrs Sandra Hutchinson
 - A representative of NCH – Mr Paul Gathercole
 - A representative of the Leeds Youth Work Partnership – Ms Taira Kayani
- 2.7 In making these appointments, Members were keen to ensure coverage of each of the major service areas within children’s services.
- 2.8 An alternative approach was considered at the time, which was to invite a nomination from the Leeds VOICE Children and Young People Services Forum. Members agreed in principle that this alternative approach should be adopted for the coming municipal year. The current NCH representative, Mr Gathercole, is also a member of the Children and Young People Services Forum.
- 2.9 The Leeds VOICE Children and Young People Services Forum is a representative forum for around 500 local voluntary, community and faith organisations. It was established in May 2003 to enable the sector to contribute to the development of service planning for children and young people through
- Representation on strategic groups both locally and citywide
 - Consultation with organisations, children and young people
 - Communicating up to date news, sharing good practice and signposting support and advice
- The Forum is represented on the Children Leeds Partnership and each of the five District Partnerships.
- 2.10 If the Scrutiny Board were to invite a nomination from the Children and Young People Services Forum this would be a generic representative, who would be expected to reflect views across the range of voluntary, community and faith group services to children and young people.
- 2.11 In the event that the nomination from the Children and Young People Services Forum did not have social care experience, the Scrutiny Board would still have the option to co-opt someone with such a background for relevant inquiries.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider co-options to the Board for the coming year.

¹ Co-option would normally only be appropriate where the co-opted Member has some specialist skill or knowledge which would be of assistance to the Board.



Originator: K Arscott

Tel: 247 4189

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7th June 2007

Subject: Terms of Reference

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council's change programme has established the posts of five Directors and two Assistant Chief Executives:

- a) Children's Services – incorporating the Local Area Agreement (LAA) theme of 'Children and Young people'
- b) Adult Social Services – incorporating the LAA theme of 'Healthier Communities and Older People'
- c) Environment & Neighbourhoods – incorporating the LAA theme of 'Safer and Stronger Communities'
- d) City Development – incorporating the LAA theme of 'Economic Development and the Environment'
- e) Resources
- f) Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Planning and Improvement)
- g) Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

1.2 This has necessitated the need to review Scrutiny Board arrangements.

2.0 Main Issues

2.1 Arising from a review of Scrutiny Board arrangements Full Council agreed on 24th May to map Scrutiny Boards to *Director* portfolios, (with an Overview and Scrutiny Committee mapping on to the two Assistant Chief Executive portfolios). Council also agreed a Scrutiny Board to look specifically at leisure and cultural issues.

Scrutiny Boards Mapped to Director Portfolios

OFFICER	SCRUTINY BOARD
Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Policy Planning and Improvement), Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) Plus co-ordinating/advisory role	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Director of Resources	Scrutiny Board (Resources)
Director of City Development	Scrutiny Board (City Development) Scrutiny Board (Culture & Leisure)
Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods	Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)
Director of Children's Services	Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)
Director of Adult Social Services	Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care)

2.2 This arrangement has coherent links with the LAA and the White Paper's drive to encourage scrutiny to focus on more strategic issues.

2.3 The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) are attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note the arrangements for Scrutiny as agreed by full Council and to note this Board's terms of reference.

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

1. In relation to **Children's Services**¹, to exercise the functions of a Scrutiny Board including the following:
 - (a) to review or scrutinise the exercise of any council or executive function, or any other related matter²;
 - (b) to make reports or recommendations to Council or the Executive in connection with the exercise of any functions of the Council or the Executive including proposals for changes to policies and practices;**
 - (c) to receive and review external audit and inspection reports;
 - (d) to act as the appropriate Scrutiny Board³ in relation to the Executive's initial proposals for a plan or strategy within the Budget and Policy Framework; and
 - (e) to review corporate performance indicators and to make such reports and recommendations as it considers appropriate.

2. To receive and monitor formal responses to any reports or recommendations made by the Board.

¹ These are the functions delegated under the officer delegation scheme (council functions) and the officer delegation scheme (executive functions) to:

- the Director of Children's Services;
- the Chief Officer (Early Years and Youth Services); and
- the Chief Officer (Children's Social Services)

but excluding those matters assigned to the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) under the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 as amended.

² including matters pertaining to outside bodies and partnerships to which appointments have been made by the authority

³ under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

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Originator: K Arscott

Tel: 247 4189

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7 June 2007

Subject: Work Programme – Sources of Work and Establishing the Board's Priorities

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report proposes guidelines for the development of a work programme for the Scrutiny Board.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that the most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for the Council highlighted the need to focus on the corporate priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan. Formulating scrutiny work programmes that demonstrate linkage to the Council's Corporate Plan is, therefore, an ongoing activity, as outlined in the 2005/6 and 2006/7 Scrutiny Annual Reports.
- 1.3 Members will also be aware that the CPA harder test focuses on performance management and the involvement of Members. This includes having a record of focused Member involvement in performance and identifying areas of under performance. The newly agreed, more robust, method for dealing with budget and performance information will therefore be embedded into the scrutiny process during 2007/8, as agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A separate item on performance management appears later on in this agenda.
- 1.4 Developments with the Local Area Agreement priorities and targets may also form a potential source of work throughout the year for the Board.

2.0 WORK PROGRAMME

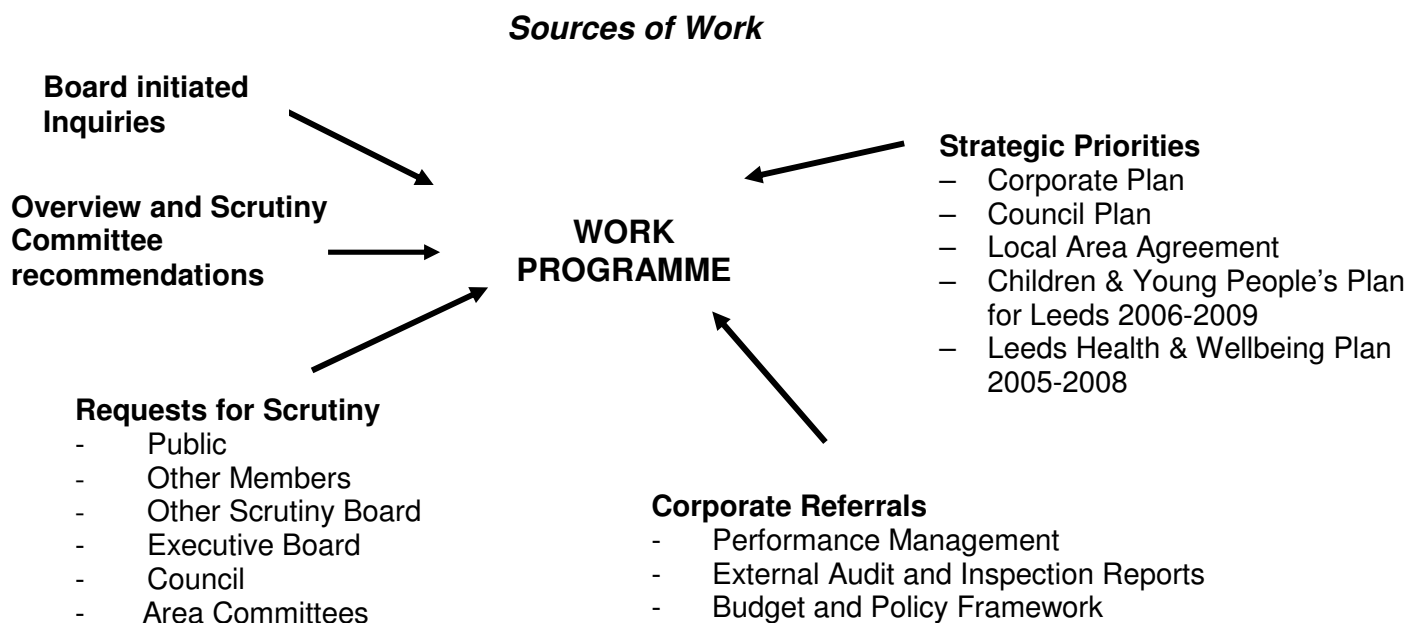
2.1 Scrutiny Boards perform a number of roles. These include:

- holding the Executive to account including the review of executive decisions;
- review and development of policy;
- performance monitoring and review in relation to the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2005/08 and Council Plan;
- evaluating and monitoring initiatives and pilot work;
- undertaking tasks as determined within the Council's Constitution.

2.2 The development of a manageable work programme enables Members to undertake:

- Effective planning of the Board's time and workload;
- The identification of priorities for inquiry, based on the Corporate Plan 2005/08 priorities;
- The allocation of financial and human resources to support the Board;
- Planning of evidence from councillors, officers and potential external witnesses allowing the provision of written submissions in advance where required;
- Informing the public in advance of the Board's proposed activities, thereby enhancing their ability to participate.

2.3 Scrutiny Board work comes from a number of different sources:



2.4 In addition, the 2007 Democratic Services survey of members' opinion of the scrutiny function highlighted possible areas for further work. A relatively low level of member satisfaction with "the extent of scrutiny of external partners" indicates that this area might be usefully explored. A lower level of satisfaction "that scrutiny recommendations make a difference" has been partially addressed in the 2007/8 scrutiny action plan with the introduction of SMART recommendations and a new method for tracking and monitoring recommendations in 2007/8.

- 2.5 These different elements will require forward planning and the Board will need to consider giving priority to the Corporate Plan 2005/08 strategic outcomes. The Board will also need to create a manageable workload. Over the last few years of Scrutiny Board work, experience has shown that the process is more effective if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time. The Board is advised to consider the benefits of single item agendas (excluding miscellaneous information and minutes) in order to focus on all the relevant evidence and complete inquiries in a shorter period of time. There are various mechanisms available to assist the Board in concluding inquiries quickly whilst the issues are pertinent, such as working groups and site visits.
- 2.6 Previous experience has shown that the majority of work is initiated by the Board itself and given that there will be a number of competing demands, this work needs to be carefully selected in order to reflect the priorities associated with the relevant strategic outcome within the Corporate Plan 2005/08 and Council Plan to ensure the Council is achieving those stated aims.

Work programming

- 2.7 The Director of Children's Services, Chief Executive of Education Leeds and the Executive Members for Children's Services have been invited to attend this meeting of the Board to contribute to discussions about the Board's work programme.
- 2.8 Following those discussions, it is suggested that the Board agrees an outline work programme that prioritises the issues to be investigated. The work programme would need, in accordance with the protocols, to fairly reflect minority party concerns.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are requested to agree issues for inclusion in the Board's work programme.



Originator: Kate Arscott

Tel: 247 4189

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7th June 2007

Subject: Performance Management Information

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report presents performance management information relevant to the Scrutiny Board's portfolio, covering the full 2006/07 year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Performance management information is routinely reported to all Scrutiny Boards on a quarterly basis, in line with arrangements agreed through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Attached as Appendix 1 is the 2006/07 performance information relevant to the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) portfolio. Officers will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to member's questions arising from the performance information.

2.3 In addition the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be considering a corporate report which highlights performance issues across the council arising from the year end performance information, in line with the new arrangements. Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to refer any particular matters of concern to individual Scrutiny Boards for further investigation. Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets on 4th June. Any referrals relevant to this Scrutiny Board will be reported verbally at the Board meeting. Appendix 2 is an extract from the report to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is relevant to this board.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the Board considers the performance information and highlights any areas for further scrutiny, as part of developing its work programme for 2007/08.

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Accountability Reporting Guidance

Column No.	Column Title	Key Description	Colour Code
1	Reference	<p>An indicator can have multiple references allowing it to be identified for different purposes. For example indicators included in the CPA assessment are prefixed with CPA.</p> <p>Listed below are the prefixes used to identify the different indicators types.</p> <p>CPA – The indicator is included in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) BV – The indicator is part of the Best Value suite of indicators LKI – This indicator is one of Leeds Local Key Indicators CP – This indicator supports objectives within the Corporate Plan LAA – This indicator is part of the Local Area Agreement</p>	
4	Frequency and Measure	<p>This column identifies how frequently the performance information is collected, eg annually This column also identifies if the data is a percentage (%), a Number (No.) or collected in days</p>	
5	Good Performance	<p>This column identifies if the performance information in columns 6,7 and 8 should increase or decrease if the service is performing well. You may also see yes or no in this column. There are a number of performance indicators where the audit commission do not specify if the results should rise or fall, for these indicators good performance is N/A.</p>	
8	Current position	<p>The blue shading identifies that data is not available. This will be for one of two reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The indicator is reported annually - this can be identified by checking the frequency column 2. The information was not available by the reporting deadline, in which case there will be an explanation in the comments column 	
9	Predicted Full Year Result	Predicted full year result will meet target	
		Although the full year result will not meet target, a tolerance has been set which scores the indicator as amber	
		Predicted full year result will not meet target	
10	Year on Year Improvement	Improvement in performance year on year	↑
		Decline in performance year on year	↓
		No improvement or decline in performance year on year	↔
11	All England Top Quartile Based on 2005/06 Year end data	Leeds performance = Top Quartile	
	Satisfaction indicators are based on the 2006/07 quartile information	Leeds performance = Median Quartiles	
	(Will be updated for 2006/07 in January 2008)	Leeds performance = Bottom Quartile	
12	Core Cities Average (Based on 2005/06 Year End Data)	Core Cities comparisons are taken from our following benchmarking partners – Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. To ensure data quality we only compare audited and verified information supplied by the Audit Commission.	
13	Core City position 1 = Top - 8 = Bottom (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	This column details where the 2005/06 result is ranked in the results of the 8 Core Cities, with 1= top and 8 = bottom. This is currently based on 2005/06 year-end data. We anticipate receiving the 2006/07 year end data by February 2008.	
14	Data Quality Issues – Together with projected performance, data quality issues are part of the risk assessment process that is undertaken for each performance indicator included in this report	Significant Concerns	
		Some Concerns	
		No Concerns	

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Children and Young People Quarter 4 Performance Report 2006/07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Reference	Title	Service	Frequency & Measure	Good Performance	2005/2006 Year-End	2006/07 Target	Current Position as at 30 April 07	Predicted Full Year Result	Year on Year Improvement Trend	All England Top Quartile (Based on 2005/06 Quartile Information)	All England Bottom Quartile (Based on 2005/06 Quartile Information)	Core City Average (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	Core City position 1 = Top 8 = Bottom (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	Data Quality Issues	Comments
BV-222a	Percentage of leaders of integrated early education and childcare settings funded or part funded by the local authority with the qualification at level 4 or above.	Childcare and Early Years Development Services	Annually %	Rise	7.30	10.00	7.10	7.10	↓	35.00	16.00	22.00	8	No concerns	At present there is some ambiguity around the result for this PI. As a result investigative work is being undertaken to understand the elements that should be included in the calculation i.e. which settings should be included LEA and settings that receive NEG or just LEA. The Audit Commission have been contacted to find out this information and colleagues in other authorities have also been contacted. In addition, the service is currently undertaking a workforce audit to establish the qualifications childcare staff across all sectors in Leeds. This information will then be stored in a database and kept up to date by centre managers informing the relevant officer of any changes. The findings of this audit will be available at the end of June. Once both the query has been resolved and up-to-date record of qualifications is known, there will be robust information to calculate this PI.
BV-222b	Percentage of leaders of integrated early education and childcare settings funded or part funded by the local authority which have input from staff with graduate or post graduate training in teaching or child development.	Childcare and Early Years Development Services	Annually %	Rise	60.00	70.00	100.00	100.00	↑	100.00	20.50	74.13	4	No concerns	All 324 childcare settings have either a qualified teacher on site or have support from advisors who have qualified teacher status. The transformation fund aims to ensure that all settings have somebody with an Early Years Professional Status by 2015.
CP-EY50a LKI-EY3a	Number of families supported with childcare, including before and after school clubs where parents are in work	Childcare and Early Years Development Services	Quarterly No.	Rise	1,565.00	1,662.00	1,724.00	1,724.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	This higher than anticipated result is likely to be due to a significant increase in families accessing the centres across the city. It is also likely to be due to the successful self promotion and publicity of the centres themselves.
CP-EY51a LKI-EY2a	Number of places in children's centres	Childcare and Early Years Development Services	Quarterly No.	Rise	1,554.00	N/A	1,796.00	1,796.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	No target was set for this indicator in 2006-07 - this is because the next phase of children's centres will not be completed until March 2008 and therefore no reliable prediction of available places and take up could be made.
CP-EY51b LKI-EY2b	Number of integrated places in schools	Childcare and Early Years Development Services	Quarterly No.	Rise	2,031.00	2,577.00	2,425.00	2,425.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	Result has not met the annual target as no children's centres were integrated onto school sites during the last quarter of 2006-07. Registrations tend to occur in the first two quarters of the year. No centres were expected to open in the final quarter of 06/07. As mentioned in EY51a, Phase 2 children's centres are all due to open before April 2008.
CP-CS57	Reduce the number of young people who have a fear of crime	Community Safety	Survey No.	Fall						N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Some concerns	The information for this indicator will be collected in a survey being undertaken by the Health Initiative team in conjunction with Education Leeds. The first results should be available by the end of June.
CP-CS58 CYP-PoC7	Reduce the number of first time offenders who are under 18 years of age by 5%	Community Safety	Survey No.	Fall	1,925.00	1,993.00	1,875.00	1,875.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Some concerns	An analysis of the following areas has led to the excellent result for this indicator 1. First time offences. Analysis has been undertaken and the root causes addressed through Education Partners and the Police. 2. Looked after Children as an at risk group for minor reported offences with work undertaken to minimise the instances of police intervention for misbehaviour through restorative Justice interventions and training.
BV-197 CYP-BeH12 LAA-CYP17	Change in the number of conceptions to females aged under 18, resident in an area, per thousand females aged 15-17 resident in the area, compared with the baseline year of 1998	Education Leeds / Leeds PCT	Annually %	Fall	-7.90	Year on Year Decline	-2.90	-2.90	↓	-18.20	-4.50	-4.10	5	Some concerns	Progress slow and variable. Need to implement or upgrade activity against all the 'deep dive' levers including appointment of champion at Board level. Young people with additional needs and at risk to be targeted to enhance education and other positive outcomes. (NCLB)
BV-183a CPA-H14	The average length of stay in bed and breakfast accommodation of households which include dependent children or a pregnant woman and which are unintentionally homeless and in priority need	Homeless and Advisory Service	Monthly weeks	Fall	0.45	0.50	0.70	1	↓	1.00	4.25	1.93	2	No concerns	CPA - Upper threshold B&B accommodation only used in extreme cases.
BV-183b CPA-H15	The average length of stay in hostel accommodation of households which include dependant children or a pregnant woman who are unintentionally homeless and in priority need	Homeless and Advisory Service	Monthly weeks	Fall	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	↔	0.00	17.00	8.10	1	No concerns	CPA - Upper threshold. No temporary accommodation provision in Leeds that meets the definition of hostel accommodation for families.
BV-203 CPA-H22	The percentage change in the average number of families placed in temporary accommodation.	Homeless and Advisory Service	Quarterly %	Fall	3.88	5.00	24.00	24	↓	-16.00	19.09	2.47	3	No concerns	CPA - Mid threshold. See highlight report.
CP-CSP52	Increase the take up of cultural and sporting opportunities amongst 5-19 year olds - Libraries, Museums & Galleries, and Arts & Events	Libraries	Annually No.	Rise	143,723.00	148,600.00	227,429.00	227,429.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Some concerns	Large increase in result due to extension of age range to incorporate 17-19 year olds (full age range is now 5-19 year olds), as well as a larger number of events run by the Arts & events service and a rise in the number of library users who utilise PCs instead of hiring books.
CP-CSP52c	Increase the take up of cultural and sporting opportunities amongst 5-19 year olds - Parks & Countryside	Parks and Countryside	Annually No.	Rise	7,376,002.00	Year on Year Increase	11,593,361.00	11,593,361.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	Result is based on extrapolation from a survey of 2,500 children and 2,000 young people registered on the BreezeCard database. This indicator now measures take up among 5-19 year olds as opposed to 5 to 16 year olds, therefore comparison with previous years' performance is indicative only.
BV-99B1 CP-TM53	Number of children (aged under 16 years) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions	Road Safety	Annually No.	Fall	51.00	64.00	39.00	39.00	↑	11.00	27.00	45.50	6	No concerns	Figures relate to calendar year 2005
BV-99B2 CP-TM53	Percentage change in the number of children (aged under 16 years) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions since the previous year	Road Safety	Annually %	Fall	-10.53	-12.30	-23.50	-23.50	↑	-26.45	22.20	-4.64	3	No concerns	Figures relate to calendar year 2005, compared to 2004

Children and Young People Quarter 4 Performance Report 2006/07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Reference	Title	Service	Frequency & Measure	Good Performance	2005/2006 Year-End	2006/07 Target	Current Position as at 30 April 07	Predicted Full Year Result	Year on Year Improvement Trend	All England Top Quartile (Based on 2005/06 Quartile Information)	All England Bottom Quartile (Based on 2005/06 Quartile Information)	Core City Average (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	Core City position 1 = Top 8 = Bottom (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	Data Quality Issues	Comments
BV-99B3 CP-TM53	Percentage change in the number of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions since the 1994-98 average	Road Safety	Annually %	Fall	-43.96	-29.70	-57.10	-57.10	↑	-55.73	-29.58	-35.24	3	No concerns	Figures relate to calendar year 2005, compared to the 1994/98 average.
BV-43a	Percentage of statements of special educational need issued by the authority in a financial year and prepared within 18 weeks excluding those affected by "exceptions of the rule" under the SEN code of Practice	SEN and School Attendance	Monthly %	Rise	96.25	100.00	100.00	100.00	↑	100.00	95.73	90.24	5	No concerns	Performance has improved to 100%. Improvements have been made including the strengthening of partner engagement in the statementing process. Further improvements have been planned and are now being delivered.
BV-43b	Percentage of statements of Special Education Need issued by the authority in a financial year and prepared within 18 weeks including those affected by "exceptions of the rule" under the SEN Code of Practice	SEN and School Attendance	Monthly %	Rise	78.23	83.90	88.40	88.40	↑	95.40	72.45	79.26	6	No concerns	Performance by 10% points. Improvements have been made including the strengthening of partner engagement in the statementing process. Further improvements have been planned and are now being delivered.
BV-45	Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in secondary schools maintained by the local education authority	SEN and School Attendance	Annually %	Fall	8.70	8.30	9.20	9.20	↓	7.26	8.30	9.51	2	No concerns	After a steady rise since 2000-01 when attendance was below 90%, attendance fell by about half a percent in 2005-06. In part this was due to a major flu outbreak in the Autumn term, but not entirely; schools receiving extended support managed to increase their attendance. Another contribution to the decline elsewhere is the change in regulations about study leave where students who would formerly have been marked present are now coded as absent. Despite the marked increase in authorised absences, unauthorised absence continued its overall downward trend of the past five years. The drop in secondary attendance also occurred nationally and in statistical neighbours, albeit by a smaller amount, resulting in a widening of the gap between attendance in Leeds and that observed nationally and in comparative authorities.
BV-46	Percentage of half days missed due to total absence in primary schools maintained by the local education authority	SEN and School Attendance	Annually %	Fall	5.40	5.20	5.70	5.70	↓	5.13	5.98	6.01	1	No concerns	After improving consistently in previous years, attendance in primary schools fell by 0.35% in 2005-06. This drop in attendance also occurred nationally and in statistical neighbours. Attendance in Leeds primary schools remains slightly above the national figure and that for statistical neighbours.
CYP-POC6	The number of permanent exclusions from schools maintained by the Local Education Authority	SEN and School Attendance	Annually No.	Fall	120.00	70.00	84.00	84.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	2005/06 academic year saw a further significant drop in permanent exclusions with the number falling by a half over the last two academic years. Performance in Leeds is in line with statistical neighbours and below the national average rate of exclusion.
BV-181a	Percentage of 14-year old pupils in schools maintained by the local education authority achieving Level 5 or above in the Key Stage 3 test in English	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	70.00	72.00	70.00	70.00	↔	77.00	69.00	63.38	2	No concerns	Performance was unchanged in 2006 after a significant rise in 2005. Comparative performance has improved with Leeds performance now above the Statistical Neighbour average and the gap with the national average has closed from 4 to 2% points given the decline in national performance
BV-181b	Percentage of 14-year old pupils in schools maintained by the local education authority achieving Level 5 or above in the Key Stage 3 test in Mathematics	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	70.00	74.00	75.00	75.00	↑	77.00	70.00	63.82	1	No concerns	There has been very strong improvement in 2006 with best level of performance ever seen in Leeds. Performance is in line with the statistical neighbour average and has significantly closed to be 2% below the national average.
BV-181c	Percentage of 14-year old pupils in schools maintained by the local Education Authority achieving Level 5 or above in the Key Stage 3 test in Science	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	65.00	71.00	69.00	69.00	↑	74.00	64.00	58.24	1	No concerns	There has been significant improvement in 2006 building on improvement in 2005. Improvement is in line with the rate of improvement in statistical neighbours and above the national rate of improvement, although Leeds performance remains below the national average.
BV-181d	Percentage of 14-year old pupils in schools maintained by the Local Education Authority achieving Level 5 or above in the Key Stage 3 test in ICT	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	65.00	71.00	68.00	68.00	↑	73.83	63.23	59.57	2	Significant concerns	There has again been year on year improvement. Target setting is becoming more realistic as the understanding of requirements becomes better established in schools, the 2007 target is 72 which is very challenging but achievable. No comparative data is available for this indicator for 2006. Data quality - this is a national data issue, data for this indicator is only available for half of Leeds schools
BV-194a	% of pupils achieving level 5 or above in Key Stage 2 English	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	26.00	39.00	32.00	32.00	↑	29.00	23.00	21.25	1	No concerns	There has been a significant improvement in performance. Leeds rate of improvement is consistent with improvements in national and statistical neighbour averages and Leeds results remain in line with the average and above statistical neighbour authorities.
BV-194b	% of pupils achieving level 5 or above in Key Stage 2 Maths	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	31.00	39.00	33.00	33.00	↑	32.00	27.00	25.63	1	No concerns	Improvement has been achieved in 2006. Performance is in line with the national average.
BV-38 LAA-CYP4	Percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the local education authority achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent.	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	49.70	58.00	52.20	52.20	↑	58.30	49.40	47.13	4	No concerns	The rise in the 5+A*-C indicator means that for the first time over half the students in Leeds achieve this benchmark standard at age 16, an increase of 10% since 2002. The increase in 5+ A*-C was marginally higher than the national improvement rate.
BV-39	Percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the local education authority achieving 5 GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*-G including English and Maths.	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	84.90	94.00	84.50	84.50	↓	90.80	85.90	81.80	1	No concerns	There was a marginal decline in this indicator. While support focused on students at the C/D borderline remains successful in improving the 5A*-C indicator the focus needs broadening to ensure improved performance for this indicator 5A*-G and for students at risk of not gaining any qualifications.
BV-40	Proportion of pupils in schools maintained by the authority achieving Level 4 or above in the key stage 2 Mathematics test	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	76.00	83.00	76.00	76.00	↔	77.43	72.05	70.06	1	No concerns	Performance remains at levels seen in 2005, statistical neighbour authorities and national averages also remained stable. Leeds performance is in line with the national average.

Children and Young People Quarter 4 Performance Report 2006/07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Reference	Title	Service	Frequency & Measure	Good Performance	2005/2006 Year-End	2006/07 Target	Current Position as at 30 April 07	Predicted Full Year Result	Year on Year Improvement Trend	All England Top Quartile (Based on 2005/06 Quartile Information)	All England Bottom Quartile (Based on 2005/06 Quartile Information)	Core City Average (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	Core City position 1 = Top 8 = Bottom (Based on 2005/06 Year-End data)	Data Quality Issues	Comments
BV-41	Percentage of pupils in schools maintained by the local education authority achieving Level 4 or above in the Key Stage 2 English test.	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	79.00	81.00	79.00	79.00	↔	81.18	76.00	72.79	1	No concerns	Performance remains at levels seen in 2005. Statistical neighbour authorities and national averages have marginally improved in this period and Leeds remains in line with national and statistical neighbour averages.
CP-SI50 CYP-BeH7 LAA-CYP11	Increase in the percentage of pupils who participate in at least 2 hours of PE/ Sport each week	School Improvement	Annually %	Rise	74.00	75.00	83.40	83.40	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Some concerns	The implementation of an enhanced PESSCL (PE Sports and Sports Club Links) strategy, including support to establish schools sports partnerships in all wedges of the city, has led to survey results for 2005/06 academic year showing a 10% improvement with Leeds performance above regional and national averages.
CYP-EcW2 LAA-CYP19	The percentage of 16-18 year olds that are NOT in education, employment or training (NEET)	School Improvement	Annually %	Fall	10.20	8.40	8.80	8.80	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Some concerns	A significant improvement has been recorded in 2006. This is due to improved retention for the second year of study, through an improved preparation for study programme, allowing students to access more suitable levels of courses and subject areas.
CYP-EnA6	The proportion of schools that were scored 2 or better by OFSTED for overall effectiveness.	School Improvement	Quarterly %	Rise	52.00	N/A	59.00	59.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	65 schools out of 110 (59%) inspected were rated good or better in 2006/07. Comparative data available for the 05/06 academic year shows that 63% of schools in statistical neighbours achieved these inspection grades. National performance in 2005/06 academic year was 58%, 68% for the 2006 autumn term.
CYP-PoC3	The proportion of children and young people that report they have been bullied in the last 12 months	School Improvement	Annually %	Fall						N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	The information for this indicator will be collected in a survey being undertaken by the Health Initiative team in conjunction with Education Leeds. The first results should be available by the end of June.
CYP-ST511	The proportion of children and young people that report they have been affected by bullying, harassment or discrimination at school or in the community due to their ethnicity	School Improvement	Annually %	Fall						N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	The information for this indicator will be collected in a survey being undertaken by the Health Initiative team in conjunction with Education Leeds. The first results should be available by the end of June.
CYPP-EcW1	The percentage of pupils leaving year 11 that are NOT in education, employment or Training (NEET)	School Improvement	Annually %	Fall	8.15	7.10	8.19	8.19	↓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	A slight increase has been recorded in 2006, although this is likely to be due to a much larger fall in the proportion of pupils recorded as 'Unknown'. Pupils recorded as 'Unknown' are more likely to be classed as NEET as they have a higher probability of disengagement with the support system.
BV-161 CP-CF54 A4	The ratio of the percentage of those young people who were looked after on 1st April in their 17th year (age 16) who were engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19 to the percentage of young people in the population who were engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19.	Social Services for Children & Families	Quarterly %	Rise	0.73	1	1	1	↑	0.91	0.65	0.69	4	No concerns	
BV-162 CP-CF55 LAA-CYP13 C20	The percentage of children on the register whose cases should have been reviewed that were reviewed	Social Services for Children & Families	Quarterly %	Rise	97.70	99.00	98.20	98.20	↑	100.00	100.00	99.18	3	No concerns	The end of year result relates to seven individuals who did not receive their review on time. If these reviews had been completed within the appropriate timescales, 100% of reviews would have been completed.
BV-163 CP-CF56 C23	The number of children looked after for six months or more who were adopted during the year as a percentage of children looked after	Social Services for Children & Families	Quarterly %	Rise	4.53	5.50	7.30	7.30	↑	9.50	5.60	7.49	7	Some concerns	Data provided on best estimate basis only at this stage, as the number of looked after children cohort has not been established.
BV-49 CP-CF52 A1	Stability of placements of children in care. The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year.	Social Services for Children & Families	Annually %	Fall	10.43	13.00	7.78	7.78	↑	No Information supplied by the Audit Commission	No Information supplied by the Audit Commission	12.20	1	Significant concerns	Data provided on best estimate basis only at this stage, as the number of looked after children cohort has not been established.
BV-50 CP-CF53 LAA-CYP13 A2	Educational qualifications of children looked after (interface indicator with education services) by reference to the percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at grades A*-G or a GNVQ	Social Services for Children & Families	Quarterly %	Rise	52.00	50.00	40.00	40.00	↓	59.00	46.00	50.82	2	Some concerns	This indicator relates to children leaving care who were at least 16 at the time that they left care. This information is provisional only at this stage. The data quality concerns relate to establishing the cohort. The numerator for this cohort is 40 The denominator is 100. This includes 19 unaccompanied asylum seeking looked after children most of whom have not attended school. Without including asylum seeking children performance would have been at 49%. 2006/07 has seen an unexpected rise in unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Leeds of about 150% in the last 12 months. There was therefore no budget provision allocated to meet this unanticipated need. Extra resources have now been allocated to the specialist team out of the additional funds for frontline services in order to ensure that these young peoples needs are being met appropriately.
CP-CF51 LAA-CYP14	Ensure 15% of children looked after by the council achieve the equivalent of 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* to C	Social Services for Children & Families	Quarterly %	Rise	14.56	15.00	6.00	6.00	↓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	Current best estimate
CP-CF57	Number of children coming into care for the first time in the year	Social Services for Children & Families	Annually No.	Fall	319.00	267.00	386.00	386.00	↓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Some concerns	Current best estimate
CP-CSP52b	Increase the take up of cultural and sporting opportunities amongst 5-19 year olds - S&AR	Sport	Annually No.	Rise	854,400.00	800,000.00	1,031,050.00	1,031,050.00	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No concerns	Result exceeds the annual target and the upper threshold, due in part to the opening of the John Smeaton Leisure Centre in early 2007 and also higher performance in a number of other centres.

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BV-221a	The percentage of young people aged 13-19 gaining a recorded outcome compared to the percentage of young people who participate in youth work in the local authority area (benchmark 60% of participants)	Youth Service	Quarterly %	Rise	28.90	54.00		See Comments		59.00	29.00	46.71	6	Significant concerns	<p>Since the inception of this PI there has been a lack of clarity about what is considered a recorded outcome. Despite this the Youth Service has developed a definition which is based on the guidance from the Audit Commission and from consultation with youth work colleagues. However, there is still some work to do though to embed this definition across all the youth work providers for the Leeds area.</p> <p>Due to there still being some debate about what is a recorded outcome and the fact that outcomes recorded by the voluntary sector have been included this year when previously they haven't to this years extent, the end of year result for 2006/07 is exceptionally high. A significant amount of duplication is also likely to have contributed to this high figure.</p> <p>To address these issues and help the services further develop the processes of recording youth work activity, some work will be undertaken with the Policy and Performance Unit for the Learning and Leisure Services, the corporate Data Quality Matters Sub Group along with the authorities internal auditors.</p>
BV-221b	The percentage of young people aged 13-19 gaining an accredited outcome compared to the percentage of young people who participate in youth work in the local authority area (benchmark 30% of participants)	Youth Service	Quarterly %	Rise	24.10	25.00	23.80	23.80	↓	25.00	10.00	16.00	1	Significant concerns	<p>The result for this indicator is slightly below its annual target. It is calculated by means of a manual count using figures provided by youth service teams, projects and voluntary sector organisations, most of which is derived from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Team's DEAMs MIS (DEAMs is a system specifically developed to count D of E outcomes). There are some data quality issues surrounding the manual counts which may have exaggerated the result through some double counting, however there is confidence that the final results are fairly accurate. The development of a new MIS solution is expected to address data quality issues from 2007-08 onwards.</p> <p>The accreditation related targets have consistently shown themselves to be one of the most difficult targets for the Youth Services to reach. Paradoxically, for 05/06 the target of 18% actually came in at 24.1%. As a result of this, with hindsight, an over ambitious target of 25% was set for 06/07. One long standing and on-going concern in respect of this particular P.I. relates to the cost of accreditation.</p>
LKI-YS1 CP-YS50	The level of reach into the resident 13-19 population (against a benchmark of 25%)	Youth Service	Quarterly %	Rise	22.70	23.00	47.20	47.20	↑	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Significant concerns	<p>The significant increase in the number of partners engaged in the Leeds Youth Work Partnership, and therefore providing their youth work statistics, has had a positive impact on the year-end figure. Last year six partners were providing youth work statistics; this number has now gone up to 24 and is still growing. In addition, in quarter four the service was able to catch up on the backlog of records that needed to be counted against this PI which also accounts for this increase.</p> <p>As there is currently a significant amount of manual counting of youth work sessions largely due to the number of people providing youth work that don't have access to Youthbase i.e. the voluntary sector and specific projects such as PAYP and Youth Service Connexions Team etc, the service recognises that there is likely to be some significant double counting. However, the new management information system that has been procured will resolve this issue in 2007-08 as it will be available to all youth work providers who wish to use it and will eradicate much of the manual counting.</p>

	Result	Target*
Percentage of indicators achieving target at year end - based in Predicated Full Year Result	45%	Greater than 53%
Percentage of indicators showing a year on year improvement	64%	Greater than 67%
Percentage of indicators showing a year on year decline	27%	Less than 22%
Percentage of indicators in All England Top Quartile	28%	Greater than 12%
Percentage of indicators in All England Bottom Quartile	28%	Less Than 34%

Children and Young People

This report highlights key issues raised by the indicators included in the Q4 performance report. These are grouped under the Every Child Matters five outcomes.

Be Healthy

Key Issue: Teenage Conceptions

Why is it important?

This is a key issue because reducing teenage conceptions is a national PSA target for central government and an important local target for children's services in the Children and Young People's Plan. One reason that this is a national target is because teenage conception rates in the UK are significantly higher than in other comparable countries. It is a local target because reduction in teenage conception in the city has been slower and less consistent than in many other areas. Teenage conception is an important measure as it is a good proxy measure for young people's wellbeing.

What are we doing about it?

The lead services within the children's partnership for teenage conception, the PCT and Education Leeds, were tasked with reviewing partnership and commissioning arrangements. This is now complete and an action plan has been agreed and is now being implemented.

Stay Safe

Key issue: the proportion of children coming into care

Why is it important?

This is a key issue because the children are placed in care due to severe problems in their home life, because children in care generally have poor outcomes, and because rising numbers poses a significant challenge to services in responding to the needs of these children and young people. A significant driver of rising numbers of children in care in Leeds is the growth of children and young people that arrive in the city as unaccompanied asylum seekers. It should be noted that this indicator needs to be used with care due to the number of factors involved. In particular, previous inspections of social care have indicated that thresholds are correct and children are placed in care appropriately.

What are we doing about it?

We are responding to this rise in numbers in a range of ways. Firstly there is a strong focus on wider preventative support and services through children's

trust arrangements and the associated growth in parent and family support services and improved assessment and early identification. Secondly work is underway within social care to improve information on children in need, particularly around unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Enjoy and Achieve

Key Issue: GCSE results

Why is it important?

GCSE results have seen sustained and significant improvement in standards over recent years, so that 2006 was the first year where over half of students in Leeds gained 5 or more grades A*-C. However, despite this improvement results are still below target and the national average. In addition results for vulnerable groups continue to be an area for development because, despite improvement, there remains a significant gap for many young people, as can be seen in the figures for Looked After Children. Lastly, measures of the progress made between Key Stages (value added) remains weak, in part because schools have focused on pupils at the borderline between grades C and D. Attainment is vital for young people in ensuring progression *to further work and learning and its role in determining future life chances*

What are we doing about it?

Secondary standards continue to be a key focus for schools, the authority, Education Leeds and partners. There are a wide range of programmes working to provide schools with support and challenge, from the work of the National Strategies team to the use of experienced headteachers as School Improvement Partners, to the No Child Left Behind programme that is developing collaborative networks of schools to support inclusion. Over the next year new projects will include: the Achievement for All initiative that will provide targeted support for schools facing the most significant challenges, the Personalisation Programme that will develop more tailored support for individual learners and lastly the recruitment and work of a headteacher to better coordinate support for Looked After Children within a 'virtual school'.

1.1 Key Issue: Attendance

Why is this important?

Attendance is important because it is one of the main statutory targets for schools as well as central and local government. Attendance is important because it is a proxy measure of each learner's engagement and enjoyment of school, as well as the support and commitment of parents and lastly the focus and effectiveness of schools. Attendance at school is important to children and young people because not only is it vital if they are to learn but also to ensure that they are in a safe environment and away from behaviours that could put themselves or others at risk.

What are we doing about it?

Education Leeds is working in close partnership not just with local schools but also with the DfES because of the challenges faced in Leeds as in many other big cities. Feedback from the DfES is very positive about the range and efficacy of the Attendance Strategy, and monitoring has shown a very positive impact on targeted schools. However, as can be seen from the data, attendance fell overall in the 2005/06 year, mainly due to a decline in attendance in schools not previously targeted by the Strategy. After a resultant review there has been agreement to enhance the local strategy with improved partnership working between attendance teams, wider school improvement services and networks of schools in order to share expertise and develop more capacity across the city.

Make a Positive Contribution

1.1.1 Key issue: Youth Services Outcomes

1.1.2 Why is this important?

Engaging young people through the youth service is important in providing positive opportunities within their communities. The recent Best Value survey and consultation for the Children and Young People's Plan emphasised that activities for young people was an important issue for young people, parents as well as the wider community. Accredited activities through youth provision are important to provide structure and achievement for young people and to support wider learning within school.

However, as the attached figures show, there is a high degree of uncertainty at present over the performance of the service due to weaknesses in management information. This was raised at inspection in 2004.

1.1.3 What are we doing about it?

The Youth Service is working with corporate services to address these weaknesses through priority work to improve data quality and procure and implement a new management information system.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

No issues for comment on current performance report.

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