

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 12 December 2013

Subject: Cluster Inquiry – Session 2

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

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28 June 2013, the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) considered its work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year. It was acknowledged that the Board had expressed during two meetings, 14 March 2013 and 25 April 2013, a wish to conduct an inquiry which would consider the role and function of Cluster Partnerships and value they have in the delivery of localised services to children, young people and their families.
- 1.2 Terms of reference were agreed by the Scrutiny Board on the 10 October 2013.
- 1.3 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
 - The lines of Cluster accountability to organisations within and external to the Local Authority.
 - Cluster governance arrangements and framework
 - Partnership engagement, representation and participation. To identify if there is good representation and participation from partner organisations at a local level across the city.
 - The performance of Clusters and the management of performance and financial information. Ensuring measures are in place which secures total accountability for resources and performance which demonstrates the difference that partnership activities are making across the City.
 - The improvement measures in place to enhance the performance of Clusters where it is required.

- The extent of collaborative and supportive working relationships between Clusters.
- Outcomes for Children and Young People as a result of Cluster intervention and operation to ensure that local investment is providing good value for money and having a positive impact on children, young people and their families.

2.0 Submission of evidence – December Meeting

2.1 In accordance with the terms of reference the Scrutiny Board has requested information on the following areas:

- a) Six month Cluster performance reports (April – September) and Cluster performance and reasoning behind differences in performance.

A series of statistical data is appended to this report.

- Appendix A - provides City level information for September 2013 and April 2013 which identifies key measures as defined in the Children and Young Peoples Plan and provides comparative national and statistical neighbour information.
- Appendix B - details key indicator information at cluster level for September and April 2013.
- Appendix C – tracks the progress of each cluster on the three main obsessions defined in the Children and Young Peoples plan.
- Appendix D – provides a summary of the number and rate of young people who are NEET by cluster - October 2012 to October 2013
- Appendix E – provides an overview by cluster of children who are subject to a Child Protection Plan or are Looked After.

- b) Role of Local Authority in improving performance, providing intervention and providing support

- c) Cluster to Cluster collaborative working, support and sharing of good practice.

- Appendix F - provides a summary of best practice sharing supported through the cluster meeting structure. Also provided is the document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children Supporting Effective Early Intervention and Prevention Services in Leeds Clusters – Twenty Practice Points' which provides an example of the requirement to work collaboratively. Further information will be provided at the Scrutiny Meeting

- d) Significant challenges including socio-economic impacts faced by specific Clusters

- Appendix G provides demographic information for each cluster which provides an overview of Children and Young People in the City from BME communities and the number who speak English as an additional language (table 2 and 3). Tables 4 to 6 provide the Scrutiny Board

with information which identifies the clusters with significant challenges due to deprivation or financial hardship.

- e) Distribution of funding and monitoring of expenditure to ensuring resources, financial or otherwise, are fully utilised and investment is made appropriately.
- f) Cluster membership, partnership engagement, participation and effectiveness at a local level. Further supplementary documentation will be provided in advance of the meeting

2.2 In addition to information circulated in response to questions raised at the first session on the 14th of November, evidence will be submitted to the Board as follows:

- Power point presentation explaining key points as listed in paragraph 2.1.
- Information appended as detailed in paragraph 2.1

2.3 On the 16th of January 2014 the Scrutiny Board has agreed to follow a similar approach to that successfully adopted for its inquiry in 2012 on School Attendance. Two 'case study' areas were identified and instead of a formal Scrutiny Board meeting, half of the members went to each area for the morning. In both areas Board Members had the opportunity to talk to practitioners and speak to parents and young people, before reconvening for a round table discussion about their findings. Provisionally the two cluster areas selected for this inquiry are the Temple Newsam and Beeston, Cottingley and Middleton clusters.

2.4 The visits will enable the Scrutiny Board to focus on (but not exclusively) the following:

- The cluster business plan and how performance is monitored and managed.
- Significant current challenges for the cluster and examples of any that have been overcome.
- Scope of partnership engagement, representation, communication and participation in the cluster
- Working with other clusters and sharing of good practice.
- Where the cluster has made a difference. Particular initiatives or improvement measures that have been successful.
- Any examples of where local investment is/has providing good value for money and is having a positive impact on children, young people and their families.
- Barriers that are preventing the cluster from making progress in any of the priorities defined in the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

3 Corporate Considerations

3.1 Consultation and Engagement

The Board will undertake consultation where it is deemed appropriate in order to conduct this inquiry or gather necessary evidence.

3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

- 3.2.1 The Equality Improvement Priorities 2011 to 2015 have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.
- 3.2.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.
- 3.2.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.
- 3.2.4 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

3.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

This inquiry will assist in achieving outcomes and priorities as defined in the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2011-2015 and the Child Friendly City Priority Plan.

3.4 Resources and Value for Money

There is no resource or value for money implications relating to this report. At the conclusion of the inquiry any identified impact will be reported in the final inquiry report.

3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

None

3.6 Risk Management

None

4.7 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to:

- 4.7.1 Note and consider the information contained and referenced in this report, and presented verbally to the Board on the 12 of December 2013.
- 4.7.2 Make recommendations as deemed appropriate.
- 4.7.3 Note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information to extend the inquiry should the Children and Families Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence during this session.

4.8 Background documents¹

None

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.