



---

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Executive Board**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

---

**Subject: The 2007 Review of the Children and Young People's Plan and the Annual Performance Assessment**

---

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Board  
Decision

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Executive Board for the 2007 Review of the Children and Young People's Plan.
2. Under the new arrangements for the Children's Services Inspection Framework each local authority and its partners is required to annually undertake and publish a review of its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This review is then used as the main self-assessment of progress and outcomes that is used by inspectors to inform the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) and Joint Area Review (JAR). In addition, each year at the same time as the CYPP Review the authority must provide seven self-assessment grades for the Annual Performance Assessment of local authority children's services.
3. The CYPP Review has been underway since early this year but has had to adapt to ongoing changes to the Inspection Framework during this period. The Review has involved the full range of partners from across the Children's Trust Arrangements and has included considerable consultation with key stakeholders including children and young people, parents, elected members, partnership groups and service staff and managers.

4. The Review forms a self-assessment for both the local partnership and inspectors and has been used to inform the self-evaluation grades for the Annual Performance Assessment. In addition the Review has provided a timely opportunity to refresh the strategy, action plans and management arrangements for the Children and Young People's plan to support the work of children's services and prepare for the Joint Area Review in December this year.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Executive Board's endorsement of the 2007 Review of the Children and Young People's Plan (see the 'arrangements for the report' section below).

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 The first Leeds Children and Young People's Plan was approved and published in 2006. The plan is for the period 2006-2009 and included the overall strategy, needs analysis, priorities and an annual action plan for delivery.

- 2.2 Between January and April this year the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and OfSTED published a series of significant changes to the Children's Services Inspection Framework and the related guidance on Children and Young People's Plans. The main features of the changes were as follows:

- All local authorities and partners are required to undertake and publish an annual review of their Children and Young People's Plan.
- This annual review will replace previous self-assessment processes and form the main evidence of self-evaluation for inspection.
- All local authorities to be subject to Annual Performance Assessment (APA) each autumn. This will be a light touch process with only one day's visit from inspectors and limited 'desk top' assessment by inspectors. This APA will consider *local authority* children's services contribution to improving outcomes, overall effectiveness and capacity to improve. The APA grades will contribute to the authorities overall Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) assessment.
- All remaining local authorities not yet inspected under the OfSTED Joint Area Review (JAR) process will be subject to a revised inspection regime. The new JAR process will be more limited and targeted on key issues and areas of underperformance and risk. All JARs will include a common core agenda of *all local services* collective contribution to: safeguarding; outcomes for Looked After Children; outcomes for children with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities; service management; and capacity to improve. In addition inspectors will select a small number (expected to be between three and five) of areas for more detailed investigation, based on an assessment of performance and risk.

## **3.0 The Children and Young People's Plan Review 2007**

- 3.1 The CYPP Review has been underway since early this year but has had to adapt to ongoing changes to the Inspection Framework during this period. The Review has involved the full range of partners from across the Children's Trust Arrangements and has included considerable consultation with key stakeholders including children and young people, parents, elected members, partnership groups and service staff and managers. Key features of the process have included:

- Multi-agency project team: the Review has been led by a multi-agency team including all major council services as well as the Primary Care Trust and voluntary sector representatives
- Involvement of children and young people: including events, workshops and an online survey of over 1,000 local children and young people
- Involvement of elected members: including members workshops, consultation briefings with all Area Committees, Scrutiny Board discussion
- Involvement of local partners: including seven multi-agency 'Outcome Conversation' review and planning workshops, Children Leeds partnership

discussions, online surveys and briefings for wider groups e.g. Headteachers' Forum

3.2 The Leeds CYPP Review has been designed to form an effective self-assessment for both the local partnership and inspectors, but has also been used as an opportunity to refresh the local strategy and action plans for children's services. The full document is structured as follows:

- A restatement of the Leeds approach and strategy for children's services
- Updated priorities for the local partnership
- A review of outcomes, progress and the effectiveness of local services
- The APA self-assessment grades
- Updated annual action plans

#### Arrangements for the Report

3.3 Due to the size of the plan, a final copy will be sent separately to all Executive Board Members. A copy will also be available electronically on the Leeds Council website and by request of the clerk named on the front of these papers in line with standard practice.

3.4 In line with a recommendation made by the Executive Board when it considered the Children and Young People's Plan in 2006, Council agreed to authorise the Executive Board to make any necessary in year amendments to the Plan subject to the amendments being reported to the next available Council meeting. As such, the amendments presented to Cabinet will also be reported for information to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

4.1 There are no direct implications for Council Policy and Governance.

### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal and resource implications from this report.

### **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The Children and Young People's Plan Review provides both a rigorous self-assessment of outcomes and progress as well as a renewed framework for integrated working within children's services.

### **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Executive Board is recommended to:

- Approve and endorse the 2007 Children and Young People's Plan Review