

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

**Date: 13 November 2014**

**Subject: Raising Educational Standards in Leeds – Learning Improvement**

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 the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the Scrutiny Board was presented with the Annual Standards Report (Early Years Foundation Stage, Primary & Secondary Schools). The report summarised the achievement of learners in Leeds at all key stages, including Early Years Foundation Stage in 2013. It also outlined the action taken by the Council to fulfil its responsibilities to support, monitor, challenge and intervene as necessary.
- 1.2 Considering the information presented in April 2014, the Scrutiny Board at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2014 resolved to undertake an inquiry looking at the Learning Improvement Service and the impact, influence and value of this service in raising educational standards in the city and narrowing the attainment gap, particularly in early years.
- 1.3 Terms of reference were agreed by the Scrutiny Board on the 11 September 2014.
- 1.4 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
  - Strategies and systems in place to secure learning improvement with Learning Providers for children and young people from the age of 2 years.
  - Improving outcomes for Children and Young People by identifying:
    - a) the quality of service provided by and the performance of the Learning Improvement Service
    - b) the impact the Learning Improvement Service is having on learning providers across the city to improve educational standards

c) the effectiveness of the Learning Improvement Service in narrowing the gap in attainment and progress and ensuring children and young people are ready for learning.

d) if Learning Improvement Service intervention and operation in Leeds is providing good value for money and is sustainable going forward

- The extent of collaborative, supportive and productive relationships between the Learning Improvement Service and Learning Providers.

## **2.0 Submission of evidence – November 2014 Meeting**

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

### Improving educational outcomes

- Statutory requirements for Leeds City Council regarding improving standards of education, including non-maintained schools.
- Strategic plan for learning improvement (including partnership arrangements, commissioning, brokerage)
- School Improvement Ofsted Framework (including previous Learning Improvement Service Ofsted inspection reports for Leeds, (if any))
- Schools and Learning Provider data and how this is used.
- Arrangements for monitoring, challenge, intervention and support
- Identification of underperforming Learning Providers and reacting to this.
- Learning Improvement Service relationships with Learning Providers and Supporting Leadership and management in schools (reference Maths and English Inquiry)
- Learning Improvement Service relationship with school governors to ensure there is strong governance and challenge in schools.
- Learning Improvement Service relationship with Clusters and Community Committees to drive improvement in target areas

2.2 In addition to information attached evidence will also be submitted verbally to the Board. Further inquiry sessions are also scheduled for January, February and March 2015.

2.3 The Scrutiny Board has agreed to follow a similar approach to that successfully adopted for its inquiry in 2013/4 on Cluster Partnerships. Case study areas were identified and visited instead of a formal Scrutiny Board meeting. Board Members had the opportunity to talk to practitioners before reconvening for a round table discussion about their findings. This is provisionally scheduled to take place in January 2015.

## **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

### **4.0 Recommendations**

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

- a) Note and consider the documented information provided and presented verbally to the Board on the 13 of November 2014.
- b) Make recommendations as deemed appropriate.
- c) 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.

## **5.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None

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<sup>1</sup> 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.