

**RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY BOARD( CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)**  
**SPECIALIST INCLUSIVE LEARNING CENTRES (SILCS)**  
**Proposed Action Plan**

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Actions proposed</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b>  <b>That Education Leeds reviews the funding model for the SILCs, to reflect changing patterns of service delivery and the levels of funding required to support them</b></p>	<p><i>SILC Strategy Group Priority 2</i>            Funding proposals have been agreed by SILC Strategy Group. After further work, to be progressed through School Forum.</p>	<p>Paul Barker, Education            Leeds</p>	<p>October 2006 in preparation for April 2007</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b>  <b>That Education Leeds carries out further analysis of the projected future numbers of pupils and their distribution between partnerships and SILC sites, in order to inform further work on funding, accommodation and partnership development.</b></p>	<p>Completed. To be kept under regular review as parental preference drives numbers</p>	<p>SILC Strategy Group</p>	<p>November 2005</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b>  <b>That Education Leeds considers the place of partnership models such as Hollybush where specialised SILC units are sited on mainstream campuses within the overall accommodation strategy for the SILCs.</b></p>	<p>Completed. Developing partnerships such as Hollybush are a core part of the SILC Strategy. The current group of pupils have quite high care needs, it is anticipated that there will be two primary and two secondary high care SILC partnerships in the City although Hollybush may not be one of these as the accommodation was not planned with this group in mind.</p>	<p>SILC Strategy Group</p>	<p>November 2005</p>

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<p><b>Recommendation 4.</b>  <b>That the Director of Children's Services and Education Leeds produce clear, co-ordinated and updated information, in a readily accessible manner, to guide parents and professionals through the maze of services for children with special educational needs.</b></p>	<p>Alert Children Leeds Management Team of the Scrutiny Board recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update the written information currently available to parents and review the circulation and availability of this information.</li> <li>• Review the web based information available to parents in order that it might be more easily accessed.</li> </ul>	<p>Frances Bernstein, Planning Team, Education Leeds</p> <p>Frances Bernstein, Education Leeds</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>August 2006</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 5</b>  <b>That the Director of Children's Services and Education Leeds devise a programme of training/ visits to enable professionals to gain first hand experience of current inclusion practice.</b></p>	<p>Education Leeds to liaise with colleagues in the Acute Trust to arrange an appropriate professional development programme for those professionals with a key role in the early support for the parents of children with disabilities.</p>	<p>Frances Bernstein, Education Leeds</p>	<p>January 2007</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 6</b>  <b>That Education Leeds leads in developing a communications strategy for the SILCs Strategy, to ensure that parents are engaged in the ongoing development of the SILCs and also kept informed of progress and choices in relation to their own child's educational provision.</b></p>	<p><i>SILC Strategy Group Priority 8</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a city wide SILC Newsletter</li> <li>• Each SILC to produce a newsletter to share successes and achievements</li> <li>• Each SILC to identify a colleague to keep EL Communications Team informed of media opportunities</li> <li>• Review and update appropriate websites</li> </ul>	<p>Michael Purches, SILC Strategy Group / Dee Reid, Education Leeds</p>	<p>March 2006 (date to be reviewed in September 06)</p>

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<p><b>Recommendation 7</b></p> <p><b>That Education Leeds considers how the outreach role of the SILCs can be further supported and developed.</b></p>	<p><i>SILC Strategy Group Priority 3e</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach services for pupils with Physical and medical needs and pupils with autistic spectrum condition are already in development</li> <li>• The outreach role of SILCs in relation to other needs to be defined and agreed by the SILC Strategy Group and SILC Forum.</li> <li>• Funding approach to SILC outreach to be agreed by SILCs, Education Leeds and schools</li> </ul>	<p>Paul Barker, Education Leeds</p>	<p>March 2006 ( to be reviewed in September 06)</p> <p>April 2007</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8</b></p> <p><b>That Education Leeds facilitates a strategic review of the partnership provision associated with the SILCs and in particular the number of partnerships operated by the North West SILC, informed by future funding, accommodation plans and pupil number projections.</b></p>	<p>Completed. A review has been carried out based on the number projections as described in Recommendation 2 above.</p> <p>The review of partnerships in the North West has been completed and as a result one Children's Centre partnership and two primary partnerships have been ended.</p>	<p>Paul Barker, Education Leeds</p> <p>Michael Purches, Principal, North West SILC</p>	<p>May 2006</p> <p>May 2006</p>

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<p><b>Recommendation 9</b></p> <p><b>That Education Leeds ensures that appropriate and robust professional support in relation to change management is available to all schools subject to reorganisation, in the best interest of the pupils whose educational experience will be affected by the changes taking place. Also that Education Leeds ensures that the resources for this support are explicitly identified when proposals for reorganisation are put forward.</b></p>	<p>Completed. Since the transformation of special schools in 2004 the Organisational Change Team has been established and has the capacity to support all schools facing a significant change. Education Leeds ensures that resources for this support are explicitly identified when proposals for reorganisation are put forward.</p>	<p>Organisational Change Team</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 10</b></p> <p><b>That Education Leeds continues to provide the support and resources that are required for the leadership and management of the NW SILC in order to continue to build the trust and confidence of all in the future provision of excellent education and care for its pupils.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Task Group of senior leaders from the SILC and Education Leeds officers has been operating since September 2005</li> <li>• Organisational Change Team support to the Leadership Team and Governors</li> <li>• Consultant support to SILC Management Team</li> </ul>	<p>Helen Pemberton, Quality Assurance Advisor, Education Leeds</p> <p>Andrew Hobbs, Organisational Change Team Leader, Education Leeds</p> <p>Paul Barker, Education Leeds</p>	<p>Current priorities run to July 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 06 – Aug 07</p>

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<p><b>Recommendation 11</b>  <b>That the Director of Children's Services and Education Leeds work with partners to ensure the following issues which emerged during our inquiry are given further attention, and that they report back to us on the action being taken on each issue:</b></p>			
<p><b>11. (1) Clear transition plans for pupils at all stages, developed in conjunction with parents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure current support for young children with severe and complex needs moving in to early years provision and then on to a school setting is established from a project to a robust structure</li> <li>• Review primary secondary transfer processes with particular reference to pupils with the most severe and complex needs in all settings</li> <li>• Progress Quality Inclusive Pathways project to improve 14+ offer to young people with lifelong support needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Andrea Richardson, Early Years Team, Children's Services</p> <p>Paul Barker, Education Leeds</p> <p>Pete Vickers, VINE Manager Children's Services</p>	<p>April 2007</p> <p>October 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>11. (2) The inclusion of information about the SILCs in admissions information and on the admissions preference forms.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review admissions information to ensure appropriate advise to parents about admissions to SILCs is given</li> <li>• Review Yr 5 review process as described in 11.(1) above</li> </ul>	<p>Viv Buckland, Admissions and Transport Team Leader, Education Leeds</p> <p>Paul Barker, Education Leeds</p>	<p>June 2006</p> <p>October 2006</p>

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<p><b>11. (3) Ensuring that parents are kept informed from time to time of changes in policy or legislation which may affect the choices open to them for their children's education.</b></p> <p>And:</p> <p><b>11. (4) Ensuring that information on services available to parents incorporates non-statutory services.</b></p>	<p>Review the processes employed by Parent Partnership Service to carry out this statutory function</p>	<p>Wendy Winterburn, Parent Partnership Co-ordinator, Education Leeds</p>	<p>September 2006</p>
<p><b>11. (5) Development of the Parent Partnership Service's profile with SILC parents.</b></p>	<p>Review the current interface between SILCs/ SILC parents and the Parent Partnership Service which now has an identified officer for each SILC</p>	<p>Wendy Winterburn</p>	<p>September 2006</p>
<p><b>11. (6) The possibility of the direct payments scheme being applied to children's care needs in education.</b></p>	<p>Begin discussions with Social Services colleagues regarding the direct payments scheme</p>	<p>Paul Barker, Education Leeds</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>11. (7) Reviewing funding to the Portage Service</b></p>	<p>Since September 2005 the Portage Team has nearly doubled the number of families receiving services. The need for additional capacity will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2006.</p>	<p>Lorraine Farrington, Early Years SEN Team Co-ordinator Education Leeds</p>	<p>October 2006</p>

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<b>11. (8) Exploring opportunities for the SILCs and their pupils and parents to benefit from the Extended Schools Agenda.</b>	Align the SILC Strategy with the Extended Schools Strategy	Mark Hopkins, Extended Schools Co-ordinator, Education Leeds Paul Barker, Education Leeds	Begins on June 20 <sup>th</sup> 2006. Action Plan to be drafted by September 2006
<b>11. (9) Tackling contractual barriers to the SILCs working with existing PFI schools.</b>	Education Leeds is unaware of any barriers but this will be kept under review.	Paul Barker, Education Leeds	Ongoing
<b>11. (10) Clarifying the meaning of '1:1' support to avoid misunderstanding of entitlement</b>	Seek understanding between Education Leeds and schools of levels of support and appropriate descriptors	Paul Barker/ Margery Page, Acting Team Leader, Psychology and Assessment Service, Education Leeds	December 2006
<b>11. (11) Providing opportunities for staff development in both mainstream and SILC settings in relation to inclusion and appropriate curriculum delivery, particularly at secondary level.</b>	<i>SILC Strategic Priority 5b and 5c</i> CPD programme for 2006-07 planned.	Jean Basson, Training Co-ordinator, Education Leeds SILC Continuing Professional Development Group	June 2006
<b>11. (12) Developing an outreach role for staff in experienced partnership schools</b>	See Recommendation 7. Above		
<b>11. (13) Partnership school representation on the SILC Board</b>	Consultation on establishing a SILC Forum underway.	Andrew Hobbs, Education Leeds	October 2006

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<b>11. (14) Further development of health support to enable the most effective use of specialist resources</b>	Developments in extending health support through; additional appointments, training of support staff and more flexible deployment of skills overseen by Health Inclusion Group.	Health Inclusion Group- Chair, Jean Baker, Children's Services Manager East Leeds Primary Care Trust	Ongoing
<b>11. (15) The need for future consultation to inform realistic and challenging discussion of proposals</b>	Advice to Education Leeds and SILC Strategy Group about proposals which require wider consultation to be within remit of SILC Forum	Andrew Hobbs, Education Leeds	December 2006
<b>11. (16) Consider appropriate governance structures to reflect the partnership nature of SILCs.</b>	Propose to SILC Strategy Group governance options which SILCs and their mainstream partners might adopt to promote effective governance of partnership arrangements.	Richard Smith, Governor Support Team Leader, Education Leeds	December 2006