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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 13 September 2007

Subject: Services for 8-13 year olds - Draft Terms of Reference

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the board's first meeting in June, members agreed to carry out an inquiry into services for 8-13 year olds in Leeds as one of their major pieces of work this year.
- 1.2 The board appointed a small working group to draft terms of reference for the inquiry. The working group met with the Chief Officer for Early Years and Youth Service on 31<sup>st</sup> July to discuss the potential scope for the inquiry.
- 1.3 The draft of the terms of reference have been attached for members' consideration.

### 2.0 Views of the director and executive member

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules Guidance Notes also require that, before embarking on an inquiry, the board seeks and considers the views of the relevant director and executive member. These views will need to be taken into account in finalising the terms of reference.
- 2.2 The following comments have been received:  
*"Thank you for deciding to look into this issue for your review. We look forward to working with Members and supporting this work. The terms of reference provide a helpful starting point. May I suggest that to strengthen the impact the review can make you might like to include in the scope of the inquiry a specific reference to looking at what opportunities are available for young people aged 8-13 to participate in decision-making and influencing issues that affect them. Increasing young people's participation is a key aspect of how we want to develop children's services and an area where, whilst there is a range of existing good practice that members can look at, we also know that we can do more. Members' ideas around opportunities to do this would be helpful."*

### 3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The board is requested to agree the terms of reference for the inquiry.