

**Report of: Nigel Richardson, Director Children's Services**

**Report to: Inner North East Community Committee**

**Report author: Gillian Mayfield – Area Head Targeted Services (ENE)**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**To: Note**

## **Title: Children's Services Update Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report provides the Inner North East Community Committee with an update on activity and progress of Children's Service's against the Children and Young People's Plan and an overview of some of the key activities and issues in the area.

### **Main issues**

1. Appendix 1 provides a summary of data relating to the Children and Young Peoples Plan. Child protection numbers show a modest reduction in the same period (27, from 34; 4.7 per cent of the overall cohort). There was a marginal increase in the number of child protection and safeguarding contacts being made to the council's Duty and Advice Team (child protection front door). The number of contacts to Duty and Advice that then became a referral to be followed up by social care fell slightly, suggesting no increase in need.
2. In 2015, 65.9 per cent of five year-olds living in the area reached what is known as a good level of development, this represents an improvement of 3.6 percentage points from the previous year, and is a higher figure than the city average of 61.7 per cent. Performance at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 also saw an improvement from the previous year.
3. Inner North East pupils perform better than the city average, with 80.9 per cent achieving level 4 or above in reading writing and maths (2.9 percentage points above

the city average), and 61.0 per cent gaining at least five GCSEs, including English and maths (5.5 percentage points above the city average).

4. Leeds attendance levels remained high for the 2014/15 academic year accepting they were, due to illness, marginally down on the previous year. Attendance levels for pupils living in the Inner North East are above the city averages, although both primary (96.4 per cent, down by 0.2 percentage points) and secondary (95.1 per cent, down by 0.3 percentage points) fell slightly.
5. Demand for school places continues to be a challenging process. Birth rates and up to date health information give broad indicators to the need required across the city and within localities. However, the increasing fluctuation in the volume of new arrivals into the city (both domestically and internationally) is increasing the pressure for learning places and the uncertainty in predicting need in the future.
6. As birth rates fluctuate there is a need to balance carefully the need for temporary and permanent places. This is for two reasons: firstly to ensure that the limited capital funding available is targeted appropriately, and secondly to minimise the likelihood of over-provision in an area which then leads to less popular schools becoming vulnerable. With 2016 the largest birth cohort to enter Reception classes, there is an anticipated city wide need for an additional 750 places (of which 600 are permanent places) required in primary just to meet the birth rate increases. To date 465 additional places have been agreed with Governing Bodies, with a further 210 places secured subject to preference data confirming demand for places.
7. In the latest wave of Free School applications, Dixon's Academy received approval for a 2FE primary and a 4 FE secondary through school; and the Fair Access Group in Roundhay received approval for a 2FE primary school. Both have engaged with the Council prior to application and approval and are due to open in Sept 2017. More information can be found about school places in the Children's Services Report to Children's and Families Scrutiny Board (see background documents).
8. Clusters are the predominant structure for the delivery of non "specialist" services for children and young people in the city. The Inner North East incorporates a large part of the ARM Cluster and part of Networks Cluster. Clusters began life as extended services for Leeds schools and have grown to engage a range of partners who provide early help, early intervention and prevention services for children, young people and families.
9. The Leeds citywide cluster model is a unique partnership approach for supporting vulnerable children and families. It has citywide endorsement and nationally from the Leeds Ofsted 2015 Report, which stated that the cluster model is **"effective at identifying needs and offering timely early help to pupils"**, **"helping to drive improvements in all pupils' attendance"** and that through the cluster model **"there are extensive early and targeted help services available to families at**

**the first emergence of a problem, delivered by knowledgeable, confident and well-trained practitioners.”**

10. Since 2012, cluster funding has included an annual £5.2m top slice investment by Schools Forum of the dedicated schools grant. The government is introducing new funding regulations from April 2017 so 2016/17 will be the last year that Schools Forum can top slice funding to clusters. After this it is expected that this additional funding will go directly back into school budgets.
11. Discussions are now taking place with School Governing Bodies to encourage them to re-invest in their cluster in order to sustain the work that is taking place.
12. Additional funding has been secure for Clusters through the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) with each cluster receives £30,000 per year over the next two years (subject to match funding) to support access for children and young people to resources and services to support their emotional and mental health. Referrals have been coming through to clusters since April 2016 via the Mindmate SPA (Single point of access) and the data collated will help to identify key areas of demand and where there are gaps in services which will help to direct resources into localities and types of provision needed.
13. Information about services to meet the needs of children and young people with emotional and mental health issues can also be found in the Leeds local offer, which brings together and describes our full ‘offer’ for the families of children and young people with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs and makes this available in one place online, so that it’s easier for families to find the help they are looking for. The link for the local offer can be found in the background documents listed below.
14. Appendix 2 provides the Committee with a summary of the type of activity that is delivered via the ARM cluster which will include the provision funded through the CCG and some of the services that can be access via Mindmate Single Point of Access. A similar report for Networks cluster can be provided on request.

## **Conclusion**

1. The Clusters are the main structure around which services for children and families are provide in the Community Committee Area.
2. Changes to the funding formula in 2017/18 presents a risk that mean that the Cluster(s) become unsustainable in their current form which will have a significant impact on non-statutory services.
3. School Governing Bodies are crucial to ensuring the continuity of the Clusters by agreeing to pay back into the Cluster.

## **Recommendations**

4. That Members who also sit on School Governing Bodies are asked to support the ongoing funding of Clusters from 2017 and beyond.
5. That Members welcome the breadth and type of activity delivered through the Cluster.

## **Background documents**

[Scrutiny report - Children's Services 10th March 2016](#)

[Mindmate single point of access](#)

[families version guide to SEMH services](#)