

Report of the Head of Scrutiny**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)****Date: 21 July 2016****Subject: Inquiry Terms of Reference Formulation – Children's Centres**

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. Summary of Main Issues

Leeds City Council has an ambition to be the best council in the UK: fair, open and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all our communities are successful. The vision encompasses the aim to be a Child Friendly City by 2030. The methodology for delivering this vision is defined in The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2015-19 from good to great which details five headline outcomes one of which is to ensure Children and Young People do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life. The CYPP also states that supporting children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning is a priority.

At the meeting on the 16th of June 2016, the Scrutiny Board discussed the annual work programme which encompassed debate about the future sustainability of Children's Centres. This resource is considered a valuable asset by the Board particularly the support that is provided directly to infants and their families.

This report provides guidance to the Scrutiny Board in order to outline terms of reference should the Board wish to focus on Children's Centres as a major inquiry for 2016/17.

Supporting information detailed in appendix 1 provides an overview of Children's Centres in Leeds. This information, and information provided at the meeting on the 21st of July 2016 should assist in the formulation of outline terms of reference.

2. Scope for Inquiry

When determining the terms of reference for any Scrutiny review the Board should consider:

- What are the specific areas/issues that require further Scrutiny/where can Scrutiny add value?
- What are the desired outcomes linked to this review?
- Timetable - Is there a specific deadline linked to this review?
- Evidence - What information is required?
- Witnesses - Who needs to be involved?

The Board should also note that in line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference.

3. Recommendation

The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) is recommended to:

- a) Note the information contained within Appendix 1.
- b) Determine if an inquiry is to be undertaken, the scope of the inquiry and the outline terms of reference.
- c) With reference to b), request that the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer consult with the relevant Director and Executive Board Members regarding terms of reference and report back to the next meeting with draft terms of reference for agreement.
- d) Note that terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

4. Background papers¹ - None used

¹ 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.