



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 17 January 2008

Subject: Services for 8-13 year olds

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

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 as one of their major pieces of work this year. A copy of the agreed terms of reference is attached as appendix 1.
- 1.2 The first and second formal sessions of the inquiry were held in October. Session three and part of session four were held in December.
- 1.3 An important feature of most of the Board's major inquiries is a programme of visits, which enable Members to gain first hand experience of the services being scrutinised. Unfortunately, it was not possible to complete the programme of visits before the Board's December meeting. Therefore the sharing of findings from the visits, and discussion of the emerging conclusions and recommendations from the inquiry, were postponed until this meeting.
- 1.4 The following visits were organised as part of the inquiry:
- Ireland Wood Primary School – ESNW extended services cluster
 - Weekenders Club – play scheme for disabled children
 - Leeds City Athletics Club Junior Disability Group
 - Information – including the Hub and Breeze websites
 - Hillside reception centre – Play is Sorted provision through BARCA

- Bankside Primary School - School Council

1.5 The members who took part in these visits have produced notes, which will be circulated to Board members in advance of the meeting.

1.6 The Acting Chief Officer for Early Years and the Youth Service will attend the meeting to discuss any emerging issues with members.

1.7 The above evidence completes the scheduled activities for the board's inquiry. The board is therefore requested to consider whether it now has sufficient information to complete its inquiry and to consider the conclusions and recommendations to be incorporated into the draft inquiry report.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The board is requested to consider the issues raised by the visits undertaken as part of the inquiry.

2.2 The board is requested to consider the emerging conclusions and recommendations to be reflected in the draft report of the board's inquiry.