

COUNCIL MEETING – 10th JANUARY 2018

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP3	19/12/17	2/1/18

Submitted by:	Councillor Ryk Downes
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Children and Families)
Relevant Director	Director of Children and Families

This council notes with concern worsening trends in a number of areas of children's services including:

- Low educational attainment, with Leeds the second worst council in the worst performing region in England for reading, writing and maths among primary aged children and persistent gaps in attainment for children receiving free school meals and with English as an additional language
- Worsening Ofsted results, in which the number of primary schools that have received a worse score in their 2017 assessment is three times higher than the number that have improved
- Continued reliance on external providers for residential care and independent foster care agencies, which are currently projected to overspend by £1.2 million
- Reduced senior management capacity to improve services

This council is deeply concerned at the effect this decline in service quality is having on vulnerable children and young people in the city.

This Council lacks confidence in the current policies in place to deal with these issues and calls for the creation of an independent cross-party commission to investigate these issues and develop sustainable solutions for the city that will halt the decline in support for our most vulnerable children and help create the infrastructure needed to place the service on a stable footing.

Deadlines for submission

White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons**(whips have agreed an earlier submission date of Tuesday 19th December 2017 due to the Bank Holidays)*
 Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
 Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
 (including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
