

Originator: Roy Sayers

Tel: 0113 2243868

REPORT TO LEEDS ADMISSION FORUM

Date: 25th November 2008

Venue: Civic Hall

Time: 4.00pm

Report on the birth rate across Leeds and its impact on admissions to primary schools
(Detailed report to follow)

BACKGROUND

Overview

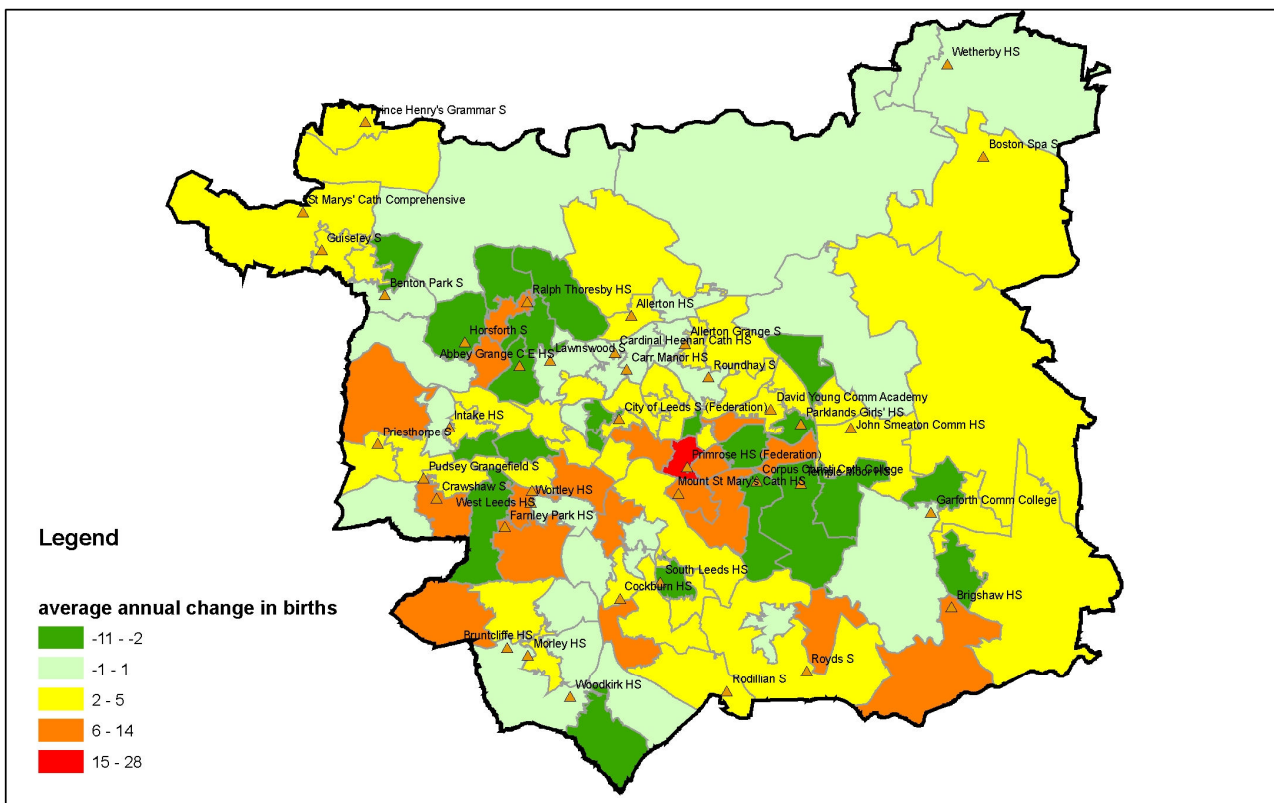
As described in the report submitted to the forum on October 7 2008, the overall birth rate in Leeds has been increasing since 2001/2. The purpose of this report is to

- (i) analyse in greater detail the birth rates in different parts of the city
- (ii) identify those areas where the increase in births could have a negative impact on admission to primary school
- (iii) report on strategies to address identified issues.

Birth rates across Leeds

Every September the School Organisation Team receives data on the city wide 0-5 population from the Child Health team at St Mary's Hospital, Armley. Over the years this has gradually improved in quality, and we are now reasonably confident that it gives a good picture of the city. There remain some issues in areas around the edge of the city, where parents may access child health services from one authority and education services from another. The School Organisation team is aware of these, and takes steps to resolve them.

The average annual changes in births over the past three years has been calculated for all the middle super output areas in Leeds and mapped. (See attached map.)



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Thursday, October 23, 2008 09:40:58
G:\GIS\New Projects\School Organisation\City Wide\birth rates 2008.mxd

0 1 2 4 Miles

As can be seen from the map, there is great variation around the city. The average annual change in births varies from -11 (i.e. dropping by 11 births per year) to 28 (increasing by 28 births per year). There are a number of hotspots in inner east Leeds. Large parts of the north east and north west show little or negative growth.

Areas where high birth rate could adversely affect primary admissions

The school organisation team divide the city into various planning areas, based on geographical clusters of schools that tend to draw pupils from a similar area. The team regularly monitors pupil projections and provision in these areas, and the last such review was on 20 November 2008. In a situation where births are increasing rapidly, there could be cases where Reception provision may be a problem, even though overall capacity is sufficient. It should be noted that reliability of projections decreases as they project further into the future.

[There will follow information giving details of city-wide projections and provision, and also details of particular parts of the city where projections suggest possible admission issues in future.]

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Forum note the efforts being made to monitor the birth rate in different parts of the city and its impact on primary admissions, and to plan provision accordingly.