

2008 AUDIT COMMISSION SCHOOL SURVEY – Leeds results

The survey captures the perceptions and judgements of schools on services provided locally and their effectiveness in securing improvements in the outcomes for children and young people. This year's survey had 82 national questions, these were unchanged from 2007. In addition there were eight questions which were determined locally. The results of the survey are used to inform children's services and partners service improvement plans.

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Response rate

Thank-you to the 121 schools that took part in the survey. This represented 45% of Leeds schools and included 23 secondary schools and 89 primaries. While down from 54 % in 2007 the Leeds rate remains well above the national of 34%. RM has kindly supported the survey through the donation of Asus minibook computers and Canon camcorders as prize draws for schools completing the survey.

Headlines

2008 has seen strong improvement in satisfaction levels. 43 questions have shown statistically significant improvements in satisfaction with no questions declining

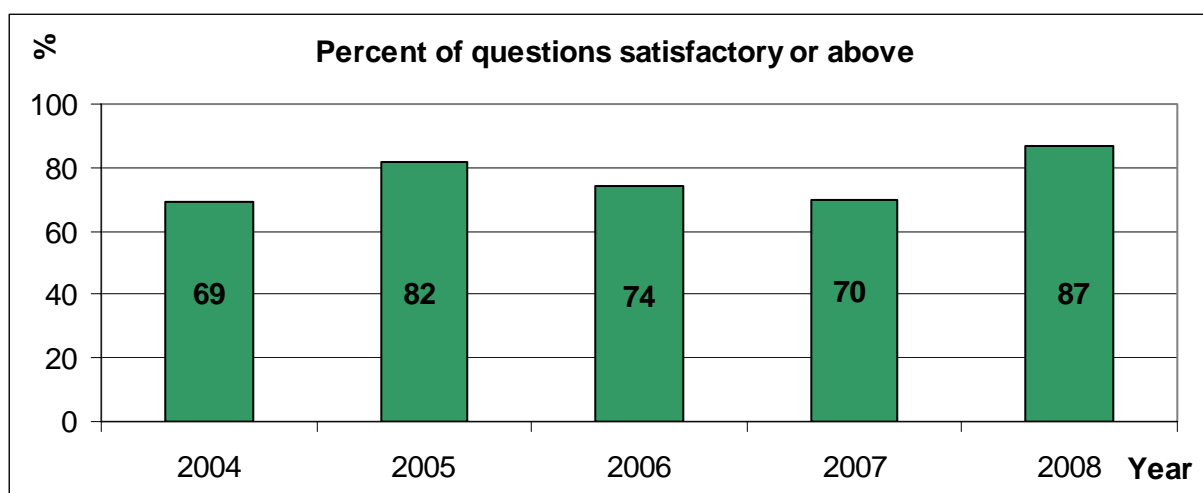
significantly. The number of questions where on average schools are dissatisfied has declined from 23 in 2007 to 11 this year. In terms of comparison to other authorities there has been a strong reduction in the number of questions ranked in the bottom quartile of local authority averages. These are the best ever results for the survey in Leeds. This is especially pleasing given the changes in the nature of the survey in Leeds. This is especially pleasing given the changes in the nature of the survey in recent years from a customer survey of LEA services to schools to more of a partnership survey of schools opinions on the services available locally to support good outcomes for children and young people.

Table 1: 2007 - 2008 headlines

	2007	2008
Questions statistically significantly better than previous year	21	43
Questions statistically worse than previous year	3	0
Questions rated as above all participating councils' average	10	39
Questions rated as below all participating councils' average	72	43
Questions ranked in the top quartile of all councils	3	5
Questions ranked in the bottom quartile of all councils	28	8

Table 2: Numbers and percentage of questions by satisfaction level 2004 - 08

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	no	%	no	%	no	%	no	%	no	%
above satisfactory	48	69	58	82	56	74	58	70	71	87
satisfactory	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
below satisfactory	21	30	12	17	19	25	23	29	11	13



Most improved questions

The questions showing the greatest level of improvement in 2008 are listed below; pleasingly these reflect some key children's services priorities and some previously poorly rated questions; accepting that one question remains unsatisfactory.

Table 3: Most improved Questions 2008

Question	Score	Improvement
Your council's behaviour support programmes	2.81	9%
The quality of support to enable you to use effectively the common assessment framework	2.76	9%
The effectiveness of local services in helping you to promote community cohesion	2.75	9%
Support from your council for developing personalised learning	2.71	6%
Your council's support for gifted and talented pupils	2.63	6%
Local services support for promoting sexual health and reducing teenage pregnancies	2.79	6%
Local services support for children and young people seeking to cease smoking and substance abuse	2.69	6%
Local services help for families in danger of harming or neglecting their own children	3.11	6%
Your council's challenge to your school to perform better	2.11	6%
Your council's support for combating bullying	2.36	6%

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

While some questions did show a decline these were not considered statistically significant and therefore are not highlighted in this report.

Questions with high levels of satisfaction

The ten questions with the highest levels of satisfaction out of the 82 are listed below. Comparison of the 2007 and 2008 rankings shows with the exception of support for combating bullying that these have been the highest ranking questions for the past two years, they are focused on child protection, financial management, core school improvement activity and the combating of racism.

Table 4: Top 10 questions with the highest levels of school satisfaction

Question	Score	2008 rank	2007 rank
Training, advice and support on child protection	1.87	1	1
Your council's financial information, including comparative data for schools	1.90	2	2
The clarity of guidance on when to make a child protection referral	2.08	3	3

Question	Score	2008 rank	2007 rank
Your council's support for combating discrimination and racism	2.10	4	4
Your council's effectiveness in challenging your school to perform better	2.11	5	7
Your council's support to improve resource and financial management in your school	2.19	6	5
Your council's support to develop self-management in your school	2.23	7	6
Your council's support for raising attainment in your school	2.26	8	9
Your council's definition of monitoring, support and intervention	2.33	9	8
The effectiveness of your council's support for combating bullying	2.36	10	18

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

Questions rated as unsatisfactory

11 questions had responses from Leeds schools that were on average unsatisfactory. Five of these are close to satisfactory. Of the six with lower levels of average satisfaction five have shown significant improvement. Low satisfaction with accessibility of social workers responsible for Looked After Children has remained largely unchanged and support for building management has become unsatisfactory, although the change in the score from 2007 is not statistically significant.

Table 5: Questions with average school satisfaction below satisfactory

Question	Score	Change +/-
Meeting the mental health needs of children and young people	3.38	5%
The accessibility of the social workers responsible for LAC	3.34	1%
Deflecting children and young people from anti-social behaviour	3.20	5%
Community and regeneration programmes take account of the needs of children and young people	3.18	4%
Council provision for pupils out of mainstream schools	3.15	4%
Help to families in danger of harming or neglecting their own children	3.11	6%
The effectiveness of the local Youth Service	3.09	3%
Reducing the fear of crime in children and young people	3.06	1%
Provision for 14-19 education	3.05	3%
Support to improve building management and development in your school	3.03	-2%
Local services in support for young carers	3.03	2%

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

Shaded = statistically significant change

Primary and secondary differences

There are 11 questions with statistically significant variations between the average primary school and secondary school response. The table below is ordered from the greatest difference down to the least statistically significant difference. In all cases primary schools are on average more satisfied.

Table 6: Questions with significant difference between primary and secondary school responses

Question	Primary	Secondary
The effectiveness of your council's behaviour support programmes	2.68	3.41
Support for meeting the needs of pupils with EAL	2.63	3.35
Council provision for pupils out of mainstream schools	3.02	3.73
The effectiveness of your council's educational psychology support	2.58	3.27
Support for meeting the needs of pupils from minority ethnic groups, refugee families and Traveller communities	2.58	3.15
Support for teachers with a designated responsibility for LAC	2.46	2.95
Your council's support to develop self-management in your school	2.15	2.64
The quality of the information you receive about the LAC in your school	2.78	3.14
The effectiveness of your council's specialist learning support	2.67	3.05
The support from local services for road safety	2.31	2.75
The effectiveness of the leadership of senior officers of your council	2.60	2.95

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

Questions rated as unsatisfactory by primary schools

Primary schools rated 11 questions on average as unsatisfactory. However five of these have high levels of unable to comment / unknown with 43% to 82% of schools giving these responses, these questions have not been included in the list below. Concerns tend to focus on support for at risk children and young people.

Table 7: Questions with average primary school responses below satisfactory

Question	Score
Meeting the mental health needs of children and young people	3.31
The accessibility of the social workers responsible for LAC in your school	3.25
Services interventions to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour	3.20
Community and regeneration initiatives take account of the needs of C&YP	3.19

Question	Score
The effectiveness of local services in reducing children and young people's fear of crime	3.12
Local services support to help families in danger of harming or neglecting their children	3.12

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

Questions rated as unsatisfactory by secondary schools

Secondary schools rated 18 questions on average as unsatisfactory, only one of these had a high level of unable to comment responses, this has not been included in the list. Important to note is that the overall averages for Leeds tend towards primary responses given the higher number of primary schools. As a result secondary school concerns can be obscured in the overall Leeds results. Five questions while unsatisfactory have shown significant improvement unfortunately three have also shown significant decline in satisfaction, these being support for pupil with English as an additional language, support for pupils from BME communities and support for building management. There are six questions where secondary responses are below satisfactory while primary responses are above. These include: support for EAL pupils and ethnic minorities; information on LAC pupils, and; behaviour, specialist learning and educational psychology support.

Table 8: Questions with average secondary school responses below satisfactory

Question	Score	Significant Change
Council provision for pupils out of mainstream schools	3.73	Better
The accessibility of the social workers responsible for LAC	3.68	
Meeting the mental health needs of children and young people	3.50	
Your council's behaviour support programmes	3.41	
Services interventions to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour	3.35	Better
Support for meeting the needs of pupils with EAL	3.35	Worse
The effectiveness of your council's educational psychology support	3.27	Better
Local services support to help families in danger of harming or neglecting their children	3.26	Better
The effectiveness of the local Youth Service	3.25	
Support for meeting the needs of pupils from minority ethnic groups, refugee families and Traveller communities	3.15	Worse
The quality of the information you receive about the LAC in your school	3.14	
Community and regeneration initiatives take account of the needs of C&YP	3.11	
Support to improve building management and development in your school	3.09	Worse
The effectiveness of your council in enabling C&YP to contribute positively to their local community	3.05	

Question	Score	Significant Change
The effectiveness of your council's specialist learning support	3.05	Better
Management of the procedures for re-admission of excluded pupils	3.05	
Consultation and communication with schools in the development of the Children and Young People's Plan and any updates	3.05	
Support for promoting sustainable development in schools	3.05	

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

National and statistical neighbour comparison

As the table below shows there has been a significant improvement in comparative satisfaction levels with 39 questions having levels of satisfaction above the national average, up from 10 in 2007. The number of questions in the bottom quartile has dropped from 28 to 8.

Table 9: 2007-08 National quartiles in which Leeds responses fall

National Quartile	2008	2007	National Quartile	2008	2007
First	5	3	Third	35	44
Second	34	7	Fourth	8	28

Questions in the top quartile are focused on support for financial management in schools, child protection guidance and the promotion of community cohesion. Questions in the bottom quartile are early years education, support for governing bodies, the promotion of sport and exercise outside of school, enabling positive community contributions, **support to young careers, effectiveness of 14-19 provision, community and regeneration initiatives focus on children and young people**, and consultation on the Children and Young People's Plan. Only three of these questions are on average rated as unsatisfactory by Leeds schools. (These are highlighted in **bold**)

All but one of Leeds statistical neighbours took part in the survey. For twenty-five questions Leeds performance was above the statistical neighbour average. For support for combating racism Leeds schools' satisfaction was higher than all statistical neighbours. Satisfaction with the promotion of sport, recreation and exercise outside the school was lower than all statistical neighbours, although the response was comfortably above satisfactory.

Local questions

Local authorities are able to add additional local questions to the survey. As the survey is quite extensive Leeds adds just an additional 6 questions. These were also used in 2007 and all questions have improved satisfaction levels from 2007. Satisfaction with healthy schools is now rated as better than good. The

effectiveness of local services in promoting effective parenting while improving remains unsatisfactory. Secondary schools are also on average dissatisfied with the effectiveness of substance misuse programmes.

Table 10: Local questions satisfaction levels

Questions	Score
National Healthy Schools Scheme	1.98
The effectiveness of the school nursing service	2.54
The effectiveness of substance misuse programmes	2.77
The effectiveness of local services in promoting effective parenting	3.08
The effectiveness of local services in developing cultural opportunities and facilities	2.46
Support to schools for managing key points of transition for children and young people	2.84
Support for developing partnerships between schools and with other organisations	2.60
The council's development of and support for transformational leadership in schools	2.70

Score 1= very good, 2= good 3= satisfactory, 4 = poor, 5 = very poor

Summary of responses by outcomes

The surveys 82 questions are grouped under the 5 ECM outcomes and service management, the sections below summarise the responses under each of these headings.

Being Healthy – 8 questions

Five of the eight questions under being healthy have shown significant improvements in satisfaction levels. However local services effectiveness for meeting the mental health needs of children and young people remains a key concern. Comparative performance for promoting exercise, sport and recreation outside of school is poor although the question has good levels of satisfaction ranked 22nd in Leeds responses.

Highest ranked question	11 th	Advice to parents for keeping children and young people in their care healthy
Lowest ranked question (out of 82)	82 nd	Meeting the mental health needs of children and young people
Questions statistically significantly better	5	
Questions below satisfactory	1	
Questions above the national average	4	
Questions below the national average	4	

Staying Safe – 12 questions

Five of the twelve questions under staying have shown significant improvement in satisfaction levels. Several questions have high levels of satisfaction including support for child protection, combating racism, combating bullying, promotion of road safety and health safety. Reducing children and young people's fear of crime and support for families at risk of harm or neglect are questions with less than satisfactory responses.

Highest ranked question	1 st	Training, advice and support on child protection
Lowest ranked question (out of 82)	77 th	Local services support to help families in danger of harming or neglecting their children
Questions statistically significantly better	5	
Questions below satisfactory	2	
Questions above the national average	7	
Questions below the national average	5	

Enjoying and Achieving – 33 questions

This outcome area has the greatest number of questions reflecting the origins of the survey, the focus on support to schools and the core education role of schools. In 2007 only 4 questions were above the national average now over half are with 14 questions having significantly improved. It is very positive that questions with the high levels of satisfaction relate to core school improvement activity, including raising attainment, improving school management and the effectiveness of challenge to schools. With the three unsatisfactory questions: building management has narrowly become unsatisfactory; the provision for pupils out of mainstream provision while improving remains below satisfactory; and the accessibility of social workers for looked after children remains unchanged and well below satisfactory.

Highest ranked question	2 nd	Your council's financial information, including comparative data for schools
Lowest ranked question (out of 82)	81 st	The accessibility of the social workers responsible for looked-after children
Questions statistically significantly better	14	
Questions below satisfactory	3	
Questions above the national average	17	
Questions below the national average	16	

Positive Contribution – 6 questions

Half of the questions in this outcome area have significantly improved. In comparison with national responses only one question is above the national average, the opportunities for children and young people to have their voices heard on decisions that effect them. This is also the question with the highest overall satisfaction levels. Three questions are below satisfactory, only one of these has shown significant improvement, services interventions to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour. The others are support to young careers and the effectiveness of the youth service.

Highest ranked question	21 st	Opportunities for children and young people to make their voices heard
Lowest ranked question (out of 82)	80 th	Services interventions to deflect children and young people from anti-social behaviour
Questions statistically significantly better	3	
Questions below satisfactory	3	
Questions above the national average	1	
Questions below the national average	5	

Economic Well-Being – 3 questions

While only three questions this outcome area remains an area for ongoing improvement although importantly secondary schools now rate provision of 14-19 education as above satisfactory. Overall two questions remain unsatisfactory and in the national fourth quartile of responses, these being: community and regeneration initiatives take account of the needs of C&YP and the effectiveness of the provision for 14-19 education in meeting local needs.

Highest ranked question	68 th	Advice to your pupils on their future beyond your school
Lowest ranked question (out of 82)	79 th	Community and regeneration initiatives take account of the needs of C&YP
Questions statistically significantly better	1	
Questions below satisfactory	2	
Questions above the national average	0	
Questions below the national average	3	

Service Management - 20 questions

This area has shown good improvement with three quarters of the questions improving significantly. No questions are now rated as below satisfactory and half of the questions are now above the national average for school satisfaction levels. In 2007 only 3 were above the national average and 6 were rated as unsatisfactory. Contained within these questions are key themes in the development of children's services and while there are clear areas for improvement the improvements in satisfaction are evidence of the increased partnership and engagement of schools in these transformational agendas. There have also been good improvements in questions relating to support for vulnerable groups.

Highest ranked question	6 th	Support to improve resource and financial management in your school
Lowest ranked question (out of 82)	70 th	Consultation on the planning and review of the budget for children's services
Questions statistically significantly better	15	
Questions below satisfactory	0	
Questions above the national average	10	
Questions below the national average	10	

Areas for development

While overall this has been an extremely positive survey there are 28 questions that raise some concerns and that are worth considering in the context of service improvement. The table below highlights questions in the national fourth quartile of performance and those rated unsatisfactory overall and/or by primary and secondary schools. While overall no questions have shown a significant decline in satisfaction secondary school responses considered alone do show four questions with significant declines in satisfaction levels, these are referenced in the table below.

Key issues from the 2008 survey are:

- Meeting the mental health needs of children and young people and the accessibility of the social workers responsible for LAC remain areas with low satisfaction. In secondary schools information on LAC is also an issue.
- Questions relating to youth provision and support, especially for young people at risk of or engaged in anti-social or negative behaviours.
- Low and declining secondary school satisfaction in respect to English as an additional language and support for meeting the needs of ethnic minorities.
- While not a significant change support to improve building management and development in your school is now rated as unsatisfactory.

- Low satisfaction with how community and regeneration programmes take account of the needs of children and young people.

Table 11: Potential areas for concern

Question	Fourth Quartile	Below Satisfactory			Significant decline in satisfaction - Secondary
		All schools	Primary schools	Sec. schools	
Meeting the mental health needs of children and young people		x	x	x	
The accessibility of the social workers responsible for LAC		x	x	x	
Deflecting children and young people from anti-social behaviour		x	x	x	
Community and regeneration programmes take account of the needs of C&YP	x	x	x	x	
Council provision for pupils out of mainstream schools		x	x	x	
Help to families in danger of harming or neglecting their own children		x	x	x	
The effectiveness of the local Youth Service		x	x	x	
Reducing the fear of crime in children and young people		x	x		
Provision for 14-19 education	x	x	x		
Your council's support to improve building management and development in your school		x		x	x
Local services support for young carers	x	x	x		
The provision for early years education	x				
Support in developing the effectiveness of your governing body	x				
The promotion of sport, recreation and exercise outside the school	x				
Consultation with schools in the development of the Children and Young People's Plan	x			x	
Enabling C&YP to contribute positively to their local community and to the environment	x				
Your council's support to develop self-management in your school					x
Support for the needs of pupils with English as an additional language				x	x
Support for the needs of pupils from minority ethnic groups				x	x
Advice from local services to pupils on their future beyond school			x		
Your council's behaviour support programmes				x	
Management of the procedures for re-admission of excluded pupils				x	
The effectiveness of your council's specialist learning support				x	
Your council's educational psychology support				x	
The quality of the information you receive from your council about LAC in your school				x	

Question	Fourth Quartile	Below Satisfactory			Significant decline in satisfaction - Secondary
		All schools	Primary schools	Sec. schools	
Council's support for promoting sustainable development in schools				x	
The enabling of children and young people to contribute positively to their local community				x	
The preventative strategy to reduce the number of children who go into care				x	

Note: Questions with average satisfaction of 2.5 or better have not been included

Qualitative responses

Outlined below are comments made by schools as a response to survey questions. While not representative of the opinion of all schools these comments are often insightful and reflective of some of the stronger school opinions.

Being healthy

- x Very high **teenage pregnancy** rate in our area. As a leafy suburb we are underfunded in Leeds but have significant problems.
- x The current allocation of a sexual health worker (c 2 hours per week) to support with **sex education** linked to teenage pregnancy has been valued by the school. I understand this is to be withdrawn for next year; a real shame.
- x Not confidently sure about services for sexual health, smoking, substance abuse - more relevant to high school.
- x The astounding and unacceptable rise in the **cost of school meals** now going to severely impact on families who may return to less healthy packed lunches
- x **School Meals:** still not responsive enough or risk-taking
- x REFERRALS TO AGENCIES RE **MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS**(CAMHS)DO NOT SEEM TO IMPACT ON THE CHILD IN SCHOOL OR PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL. THERE IS VERY LITTLE FEEDBACK ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF REFERRAL. FAMILY DOCTORS DO NOT SEEM TO TAKE PARENT CONCERNS SERIOUSLY.
- x Particular concerns about provision for a large number of students with **mental health** problems. Access to support very limited.
- x More **mental health** professionals need to be in schools (or swifter referrals)
- x **Mental health** referrals poor lack of contact with CAMHS.
- x Impossible to contact **CAMHS** through schools - biggest problem for us.
- ✓ I believe the **Healthy Schools** initiative is very effective.
- x There are **no local services** for the Farnley community!
- x Hard to access **local services** on a continual, sustainable basis - often left to schools to solve

Staying safe

- x WHERE A SITUATION DOES NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR **SOCIAL CARE INVOLVEMENT** IT CAN TAKE AN EXCESSIVELY LONG TIME TO ACCESS SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL AND FAMILIES FROM OTHER AGENCIES. PAPERWORK EXPECTATIONS CAN BE EXCESSIVE.

- ✗ I believe that **Social Care** take too long to respond to referrals and quite often cases are dropped after an initial visit to the family home, when things 'seem' to be fine.
- ✗ We have had no **police support** for our children since April. Support for children and families is inconsistent.
- ✗ usually reactionary _ then still insufficient support - again left to schools
- ✗ There is a capacity issue with regards to 2.12. There appears to be little joined up thinking in this area. (**Families in danger of neglect**)
- ✓ The **Stephen Lawrence Award** is a good initiative
- ✗ The authority only seem to chase data on racism.
- ✗ & ✓ **ROAD SAFETY SUPPORT IN SCHOOL IS GOOD BUT I CANNOT GET CYCLE TRAINING IN SCHOOL DESPITE REPEATEDLY TRYING**
- ✗ Not enough help to improve **parking outside school**
- ✗ **CAF** processes slow and little impact on individuals. Schools have to fight hard for provision.
- ✗ **Attendance** team in Education Leeds has been of little or no support to school. When support has been asked for it has been unable to provide it.
- ✗ **2.7 safeguarding** - Not as good as Bradford - they are very responsive to our needs with a looked after child from Bradford.

Enjoying and achieving

- ✗ X - organised by Burley Park
- ✗ We have 3 gypsy Roma pupils with very low attendance and have had no support from the **Travellers service**.
- ✗ Support for **traveller communities** once in school is very poor. Attendance management is poor and has suffered many re-structuring activities which have limited impact
- ✗ Our **attendance** has now been a key issue in two Ofsted inspections and we have had inadequate support with this from the attendance officers.
- ✗ **Attendance** team now too small to be effective - lack of regular contact - too slow to respond to persistent absenteeism - no real powers to make parents comply.
- ✗ **Attendance** team has been very poor in supporting the school and has failed children.
- ✗ We are a PFI SCHOOL and so some of these statements are applicable There needs to be flexibility in the **transport arrangements for parents of children with SEN/Statements** who chose a school not of the authority's choice.
- ✗ Support for **school nursery** is poor: too much focus on private sector. Now Ed Leeds involved, hope it'll improve
- ✗ **Support for SEN is too focussed on KS2 and 3**, needs more earlier.
- ✗ **Admissions** were terrible this year. They have exceeded our limit twice!!
- ✗ PLENTY OF PAPER RESOURCES BUT IN THE PAST SUPPORT WAS FAR BETTER WHEN ADULTS SPEAKING **DIFFERENT LANGUAGES** WORKED IN SCHOOL TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,
- ✗ QUALITY OF PAS DEPENDS ON EXPERIENCE OF EP. **Psychology**
- ✗ **Ed Psychs** change too often SEN funding not enough and really slow process
- ✓ I think the **finance department** is particularly good, accurate and helpful.

- × I do believe the council could do more to increase sustainability in schools by providing them with the same or similar **recycling services** as householders. At the moment schools are treated as commercial groups and this is unfair.
- × **all service provision dependent on individual officer** - last year scores MUCH lower because of QA this year new SIP is fantastic, so hard to give 'Council' an objective score - as former QA still SIA in other schools and only 'chance' that we have new SIP

Making a positive contribution

- × Hopefully our new Youth Services leader will be more involved with the community
- ✓ **COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER HAS PROVIDED GOOD SUPPORT AS PART OF PLANNED PROGRAMME AND IN RESPONSE TO INDIVIDUAL CASES.**

Achieving economic wellbeing

- × These ratings relate to the Bramley area. Also to **young people who have difficulties in school**; their needs are not being met.
- × **PROVISION FOR OUR PUPILS BEYOND PRIMARY SCHOOL IS VERY POOR. HIGH % ARE NOT PLACED IN HIGH SCHOLS OF THEIR CHOICE. APPEALS PROCEDURE HARD TO FOLLOW.**
- × I think a lot more needs to be done on the **14-19 agenda**.
- × As a primary these questions seem out of our remit!!
- × 5.3 - less consultation and more action! **Community and regeneration programmes**

Service management

- × Set up of a phase 2 **children's centre** for my school and three others has been a fiasco.
- × **Children's centre** development very slow in outer areas
- × More *transparency of how funding* is allocated and who makes decisions to redirect funding streams.
- × 12 THERE STILL SEEMS TO BE WEAKNESSES IN SYSTEM AND **ACCESS TO CERTAIN AGENCIES** IS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO THIS SCHOOL. **Help of local services to promote well-being**
- × 11 There is a concern that the pressure to reduce children in care might lead to some children remaining in a home where that is not in their best interest. **Preventative strategy**

Questions proposed by the council

- ✓ The development of a **Leadership College** within the City to train and provide succession planning for all leaders of children's services is particularly welcome.
- × SOME **TRANSITION** VERY GOOD, SOME IS APPALLING, DEPENDENT ON SCHOOL. OTHER AGENCIES PROVIDE SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAMMES.
- × 6 - **Transition**, particularly in PRU and BESD environments is still a concern and this is linked directly to the progress of behaviour continuum.
- × Funding eg for Deeside project has been reduced limiting my school's ability to access **substance misuse programmes**
- × Large amounts of money should be available to all schools to **promote the arts and music** within schools as an alternative approach to raising standards for young people with trained professionals.
- × Lots of talk little action! Recruitment and retention of **school leadership** poor

- × & ✓ 4 - **PSA** initiative is certainly having an impact and one would hope that funding would continue beyond 2009.

Further Comments: overall strengths and weaknesses of services

- × & ✓ Where **people have experience** and know the school and area service is good. Where **new people** arrive and quickly move on, little progress is made.
- × & ✓ improvement seen in some aspects but not all - Several services are hit and miss **depending on which staff member you** are speaking to - advice varies between personnel. Promises to get back to you with answers don't generally happen.
- × The reorganisation of various key departments who support our most needy children (e.g. **school nurses, attendance improvement officers, SEN support, relocation of social services**) has meant that primary schools cannot access the professional help we need.
- ✓ The **strategic leadership** and overview of Education Leeds continues to be good.
- ✓ **Strong leadership** from Education Leeds senior leadership team.
- ✓ Continued good capacity to improve through **strong senior leaders**
- ✓ Very **strong leadership from the top** which has had the effect of raising morale of senior leaders in schools. Some very good areas eg. **finance, community cohesion, music(Artforms), healthy schools.**
- ✓ The **financial support** for school is very good. Education Leeds values Headteachers and supports their development.
- ✓ I think that Chris Edwards is be congratulated on his **leadership of Education Leeds**. His positive attitude has been uplifting.
- ✓ The council offers this school excellent support in **financial, data and personnel support**. Other areas of strength include the **healthy school agenda and extended schools**.
- ✓ Strengths: SIP, **advice from H&S, some personnel, finance officers.**
- ✓ Strengths: **Financial Advice**
- × Weaknesses: **Inclusion, Every Child Matters**
- ✓ Strengths are **strategic planning** and a good understanding of what the issues for the city are.
- × Weaknesses are a delay in **transferring policy into practice**.
- ✓ Improving through **School Improvement Partners, Ed. Psych (seem more available)** but would not have the experience to say where they are deteriorating.
- × & ✓ **Much better this year**. Still issues with inconsistency of staffing
- ✓ I think there has been an overall **improvement in the services** on offer from Leeds City Council during the 11 years I have worked for them.
- × & ✓ The services provided by **Education Leeds** are generally good. Co-operating with other service providers is a challenge which is (temporarily?) causing some slowing down of progress.
- ✓ Overall I feel that over the last few years **council services have generally been very good**, and they are still improving.
- ✓ **Attendance team** reduced so much that loss of efficacy - more staffing needed in Ed Pysc team to improve accessibility to schools. Excellent use of BEST teams around city to consolidate a broader service
- ✓ **Attendance team is a disgrace**. My school has not had an attendance officer all year. If I want a home visit i have to do it myself as a head (which I do).for vulnerable pupils. Well done!

- ✓ Constant departmental reorganisation, and changes to personnel who are familiar with school families, has had a big detrimental affect on the effectiveness of the support we receive.
- ✓ Admissions have been a farce this year. I am very disappointed in their service. They appear unaware of issues in schools or of children's welfare.
- ✗ Still have concerns about **SEN issues** - especially for children with **mental health problems**. I also have 1 major concern with **Children's Centres** and the **service to very disadvantaged families** - who are not in work or training.
- ✗ **Personnel services** are deteriorating in the advice they give to school in relation to in school management issues.
- ✗ **Personnel issues** are a cause for concern. Frequent changes of personnel and expensive charges for issues beyond normal issues.
- ✗ **personnel services** are deteriorating year on year. **financial services** are declining. constant restructuring impacts adversely on service provision the E SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM LEA
- ✗ Deteriorating: **Staffing and Personnel Advice**
- ✗ Deteriorating: **payments team**.
- ✗ constant **change of personnel** is frustrating considering the fee I pay.
- ✗ **Development of buildings/schools under PFI and BSF** are clear strengths and are capable of accelerated improvement within the councils capacity.
- ✓ Overall there appears to be a more coherent plan to link up Social Care, Health and Education in order to meet the holistic needs of each child. **Childrens Leeds now appears more coherent** and there is a definite commitment from them to drive the agenda's
- ✗ Biggest strength is the clear vision and commitment for developing a **unified Childrens Service**.
- ✗ much operates without reference to Schools. **Health** has not yet engaged with the core offer. Multi-agency work is not yet in place.
- ✗ & ✓ **Targetted issues** are responded to well. **Coordination** over many departments and a separate education service from the childrens services is still relatively weak.
- ✗ & ✓ One would have to say **variable** - some are excellent, others need more transparency. There may have been opportunities to find out about this - just as a new head I may have missed some.
- ? I do not wish to comment
- ✓ **Healthy school's and child protection** are the strongest of all the services.
- ✗ **Too many changes of personnel** leading to time wastage.
- ✓ **Health and Well being** is a developing strength/ no areas of great weakness
- ✓ The **healthy schools** agenda is improving rapidly!
- ✓ Having been in the school two terms I have found the local **Extend Schools Service** to be well motivated and the staff dynamic in supporting pupils in the local community.
- ✓ **Financial Services** for schools are a strength of Education Leeds.
- ✗ **Personnel Services** need to be improved and phone calls returned to school giving prompt and accurate advice.
- ✗ **Extended services and access for special needs pupils** across the whole city could be improved.

- × Clarity of direction in terms of **inclusion and community cohesion**.
- ✓ Lots of opportunities for minority groups. Excellent opportunities for **senior leadership development**.
- × On occasions lack of transparency with **funding allocations**.
- × Although the local authority have lots of services available for schools they are generally not specific enough to the areas the school is in or takes **too much time to access due to red tape**.

Further Comments: services improving/deteriorating & council's capacity to improve

- ✓ **Good**
- ✓ **Capacity to improve is very good.**
- ✓ Work around **Children's Centre's** is improving.
- × & ✓ There is a willingness and capacity to improve services, particularly in relation to **Inclusion** but progress is slow, particularly with the LILS.
- × The LA's capacity to offer suggestions or **challenge schools** to improve has been below par.
- × Support for excluded pupils. Support for children with severe **behavioural problems** - more PRUs?
- × **Payroll service** has little continuity as there is no single point of contact for this school.
- ✓ & × Overall I am **optimistic**. However, the **youth service** continues to decline and **social services struggle**.
- × Much needs to be done on the topics of **alcohol, drugs, crime** (violent) but most importantly the aspirations of all young people.
- × Greater provision of **support for middle leaders** especially non-core subjects. In my experience the entitlement provision in other authorities is better thought through and provided for.