



REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE : 15th NOVEMBER 2006

SUBJECT : 2006 Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People in the City of Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected : All

Specific Implications For :

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Board Decision

Eligible for Call In

Not eligible for Call In
(details contained in the report)

SUMMARY

In May 2006 Leeds City Council Children's Services had the annual performance assessment (APA). The Annual Performance Assessment makes judgements about:

- the council's children's services and the specific contributions they make to improving outcomes for children and young people
- the council's capacity to further improve these services.

The findings of the APA identify that Leeds City Council's contribution to outcomes for children and young people in the city is good (3).

1.00 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.01 The purpose of the report is to summarise the findings of the 2006 annual performance assessment (APA) process for Leeds. The letter advising Leeds of the outcome of the 2006 APA assessment is attached at Appendix 1.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In 2005, the first Annual Performance Assessments were undertaken in children's services authorities by Ofsted and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The Annual Performance Assessment provides the rating for the council's children's

services in the CPA.

- 2.02 The Annual Performance Assessment makes judgements about:
- the council's children's services and the specific contributions they make to improving outcomes for children and young people
 - the council's capacity to further improve these services.
- 2.03 The grade descriptors used by the inspectors use a ranking of 1-4 where:
- 1 is a service that does not deliver the minimum standard for users – Inadequate
 - 2 is a services that delivers only the minimum requirement for users – Adequate
 - 3 is a service that delivers consistently above the minimum requirements for users – Good
 - 4 is a service that delivers well above the minimum requirement for users – Excellent/ Outstanding
- 3.00 Key Issues**
- 3.01 The findings of the APA identify that Leeds City Council's contribution to outcomes for children and young people in the city is Good (3). In summary the findings are:
- The contribution of ***the local authority's children's services*** in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people – Grade 3
 - The council's overall ***capacity to improve*** its services for children and young people – Grade 3
 - The contribution of ***the local authority's social care services*** in maintaining and improving outcomes for children and young people – Grade 3.
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- 3.02 The APA states that the Council has continued to make improvements in children's services, involving them in consultation processes to aid planning. The council has engaged its partners well, and this is reflected in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The plan identifies a clear set of objectives supported by action plans, which allocate responsibilities and set out clear measures of success. It recognises the gaps and shortfalls that the council and its partners need to address in order to achieve better outcomes for children and young people.
- 3.02 In 2005, the council was assessed as providing good social care services for children and young people and was judged as having a good capacity to improve. The 2006 assessment confirms that Leeds council now provides good education and continues to provide good social care support for children and families.
- 3.03 The children's services grade will provide the score for the children and young people service block in the comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) and will be published to the Audit Commission. The social care judgement is for CSCI information only.
- 3.04 The full letter is attached in appendix 1 and a summary of the key strengths and areas for improvement is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Key strengths and areas for improvement

Key strengths	Areas for improvement
<p><i>Being healthy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint commissioning arrangements • community based health services through schools and children’s centres • prompt referrals for young offenders manifesting acute and non-acute mental health difficulties • schools enabling learners to be healthy. 	<p><i>Being healthy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy • improve the access of young offenders to substance misuse assessment and intervention services.
<p><i>Staying safe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • robust and well embedded case file audit system • social worker allocation to children on the register and looked-after children • effective child protection registration system reflected in reviews, duration on the register and repeat referral rates • stable placements for most looked-after children • good transition planning for children with disabilities • schools ensuring learners stay safe. 	<p><i>Staying safe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the timeliness of reviews for looked-after children • improve the completion of core assessment within prescribed timescales • all residential care provision fully meeting the national minimum standards.
<p><i>Enjoying and achieving:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early years provision • number of schools causing concern • range of innovative ideas to tackle weaknesses in attendance. 	<p><i>Enjoying and achieving:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attainment at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 • reduce the levels of unauthorised absence.
<p><i>Making a positive contribution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovative ways of engaging young people to encourage them to participate and contribute to planning processes • minimise the risk of looked-after young people offending • year-on-year increases in the proportion of young people reached through publicly funded youth services. 	<p><i>Making a positive contribution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the engagement of looked-after children in their reviews.
<p><i>Achieving economic well-being:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • childcare regeneration services that enabled parents to receive training and employment • support offered to care leavers • opportunities in school to prepare for future well-being • development of a robust 14 to 19 strategy. 	<p><i>Achieving economic well-being:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve attainment levels for 14 to 19 year-olds.

Key strengths	Areas for improvement
<p><i>Management of children's services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarity of vision and innovative approach to council structure • needs analysis to improve services • approaches to workforce planning and development. 	<p><i>Management of children's services:</i></p>

- 3.04 The APA letter identifies several areas where the Joint Area Review or the next APA will focus. These include:
- Effectiveness of the directorate structure to deliver the agenda of Every Child Matters.
 - Effectiveness of the contraception and sexual health services for young people.
 - Effectiveness of measures to raise attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4.
 - Success of the programme to reduce unauthorised absence.
 - Actions taken on the outcomes of the 14 to 19 strategy reviews.

Joint Area Review

3.05 In addition the APA, the Council has now had confirmation of the date of the joint area review (JAR). The fieldwork inspection will take place between the 3rd and 14th December 2007. The JAR will take place at the same time as the corporate performance assessment (CPA). Further reports will follow outlining the JAR process and the Council framework for preparing for the JAR and CPA inspections.

4.00 RECOMMENDATION

4.01 Executive Board are asked to note the report.