Report to Children's Services Scrutiny
The Impact of Population Growth on Children's Services in Leeds

Produced by Education Leeds on behalf of Children's Services

Introduction

1. This report addresses the following scrutiny lines of inquiry in respect of Leeds City Council's children's services.

    - Sources of population information currently available to children's services management to inform future demand for services
    - Current population growth data, including any analysis of particular trends or patterns within the data
    - How services use population information to predict demand and plan the supply of services
    - National contributions on best practice in the collection and use of timely and accurate population data

    In considering these areas we are addressing the questions of:

    - *how good is our information and how do we make it better?*
    - *how well do we use the information, and how can we improve?*

2. Understanding population changes contributes to the sound needs analysis required for the effective commissioning of services and to underpin service planning and improvement. In terms of estimating future need this is primarily developed around the statutory responsibilities of school place planning where Education Leeds has a duty to promote and ensure the highest quality of provision, to secure sufficient provision, to keep under review all provision and has a general duty to secure value for money for the city in the commissioning or provision of all services.

3. In understanding population implications it is important to recognise that Leeds is a large and diverse city. The local authority covers a large geographical area, including the main urban conurbation of Leeds, but also a number of surrounding towns and villages and also more rural areas. Leeds is a collection of varied and unique communities with high deprivation, relative affluence, and communities in between. There are areas characterised by high density, relatively low-cost rented accommodation and areas characterised by predominantly owner-occupied comparatively high cost housing. There are large regeneration schemes in parts of the city but also many new high-rise flats in the centre of the city. There is also a comparatively large student population. In short, there is no simple characterisation of the Leeds local authority area and its population.

4. The information used in Leeds is sound and consistent with national good practice, both information on current populations and predictions of future changes. This accepts that improvements are being made and will always be sought to be made to the available information and to the projection methodologies, both locally and nationally. In Leeds there are a number of information sources on population numbers that all contribute to an overall demographic picture. While practice is good there is scope for improvement in the integration of information sources and in the level of detail produced around localities and sub-populations. Better integration of information and information resources to

improve business intelligence is an ongoing challenge that Leeds City Council, the NHS and other partners are committed to, and will at all times need to be underpinned by the highest information policy and data security standards.

5. The information available is well used in core areas within children's services. Information informs the needs analysis behind the children's and young people's plan which in turn drives the priorities of all children's services. In addition to school place planning the use of demographic information is developing strongly around early year's provision and is also used in service review work such as the development of the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy. There is recognition that existing information could be shared more widely and that there are gaps in our information. Addressing these will involve both improvements within children's services and ensuring children's services are involved in and supporting business intelligence developments at corporate and city levels. As a children's services we need to share better what is already produced, join together to address gaps in information and support the ongoing development of the information infrastructure in Leeds, including IT systems.

Sources of population information currently available to children's services management to inform future demand for services

6 The information available to children's services is considered in terms of:

- National data sources
- NHS information
- Education and Early Years information
- Other Services

The paragraphs below highlight the range of ongoing data available locally and the strength of the data in terms of planning services for children and young people. It shows that there are a number of sources. However, most represent a partial picture and alone they do not predict future trends. Further detail is available in appendix one. This places each of these sources in respect of their suitability in the context of school place planning and looks at how the information is used to generate projections of future pupil numbers.

7 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the key source of population information for local authorities. Mid year population estimates and bi-annual population projections are made for the resident population of Leeds. This information is modelled on changes to the last census. While useful it lacks detail and is based on 5 year age bands and gender only; is not responsive to short term changes; and only identifies the resident population not the proportion accessing services. As a consequence additional local information is needed for effective planning.

8 Live birth data and local age group data, for example numbers of 3-4 year olds, is available from the NHS by postcode. This data is most accurate around births with inconsistency developing as children age and families move. This information is used in the school place projection system and for the planning of early years provision.

9 Education Leeds and schools undertake a pupil level census three times a year. This is a comprehensive census of all children and young people attending local schools. The

data validates previous projections and establishes the patterns by which demand for school places in latter years can be projected. Admissions data, both places preferenced and places allocated, is used to validate projections and to highlight changes in demand for particular schools.

10 Given the broad make up of early years providers, data has not always been complete or consistent. However, more formal processes and associated monitoring are leading to improvements in both accuracy and usefulness, especially in highlighting any changes in population between birth and the ages of three and four.

11 Other sources of information include 6 monthly updates on the numbers of refugee and asylum seekers which provides additional intelligence for service projections, especially in some areas of the city. Child benefit and tax credit data are used by early years to identify the proportion of families claiming benefit within specific catchments. Housing data is used to inform projection systems. However, while it is straightforward to identify new housing developments, understanding the implications of when that housing will be occupied and by whom makes projections more difficult.

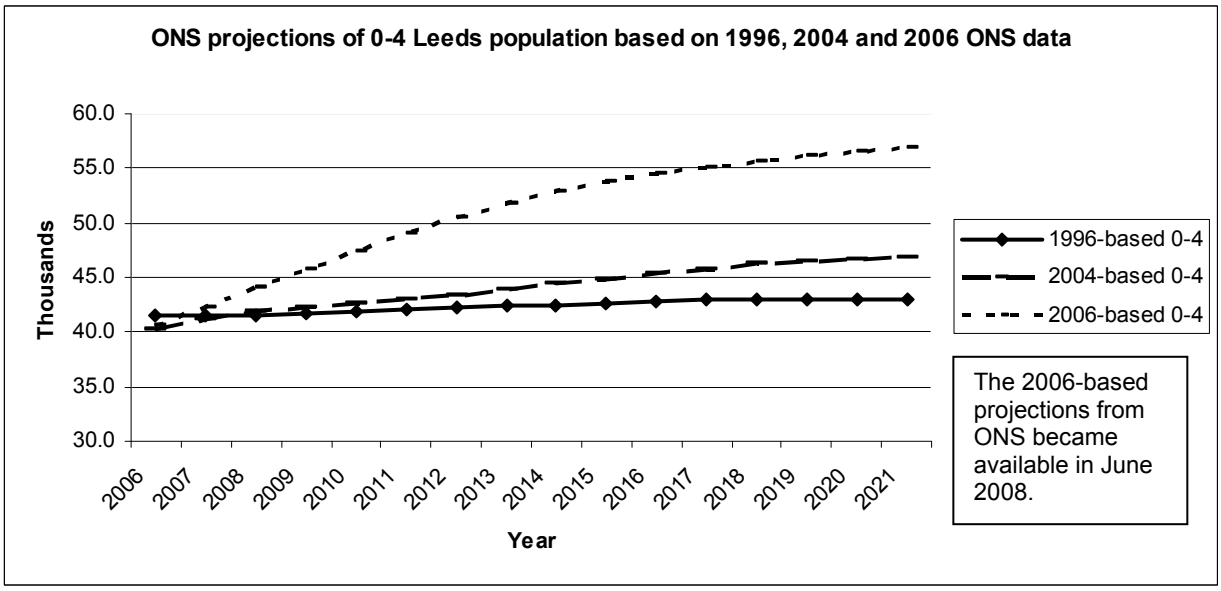
Current population growth data, including any analysis of particular trends or patterns within the data

12 This section considers:

- Overall trends
- Births in Leeds
- Inward migration

13 **Overall Trends**
The most recently published Office for National Statistics (ONS) birth projections for Leeds indicate continuing growth until 2018. As with all projections, they are the product of a set of assumptions and are regularly adjusted. From time to time the Office for National Statistics (ONS) updates its long term population projections, and these can differ very significantly from earlier projections. The following graph illustrates the extent to which ONS projections for the under five population of Leeds have changed with different iterations.

14 The graph shows how the ONS projections of under fives in Leeds have taken very different trajectories, with the most recent projections showing the steepest increases. Looking at the year 2021 the projected under five population for that year changes from 43,000 to 56,000 in different projections. With the 2006-based projections (issued in 2008 and the most up-to-date available,) the increase from 40,600 to 54,500 (34%) between 2006 and 2016 is one of the fastest-growing rates in the country.



15 **Pupil Numbers**

The table below shows actual numbers of children on the roll of Leeds primary schools by year group over the past six years. This relates to provision where there is local authority accountability.

Table 1 Primary Pupil Numbers

National Curriculum Years								
Year	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	NOR
2003/4	7828	7921	8002	8188	8160	8335	8403	56837
2004/5	7487	7853	7897	7987	8171	8137	8348	55880
2005/6	7441	7517	7859	7866	7979	8165	8183	55010
2006/7	7508	7471	7504	7839	7839	7949	8176	54286
2007/8	7743	7567	7459	7476	7813	7812	7959	53829
2008/9	8082	7794	7577	7430	7474	7824	7833	54014

Based on school census information
R- reception class NOR – number on roll

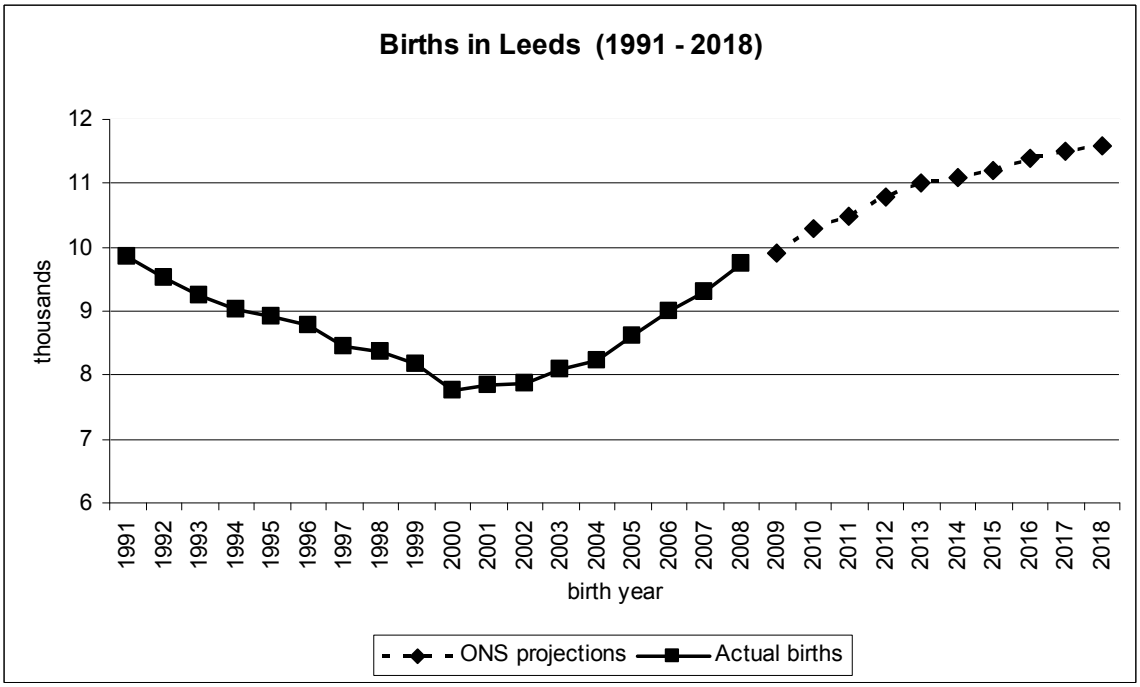
The following table shows the actual numbers on roll of Leeds secondary schools (including the academy) over the same period.

Table 2 Secondary Pupil Numbers

National Curriculum Years										
Year	7	8	9	10	11	11-16 Total	12	13	14	11-18 Total
2003/4	8628	8734	8474	8486	8386	42708	2978	2224	169	48079
2004/5	8218	8632	8762	8444	8442	42498	3116	2271	204	48089
2005/6	8160	8224	8608	8757	8391	42140	3149	2346	229	47864
2006/7	7986	8171	8221	8572	8678	41628	3320	2350	227	47525
2007/8	7955	7966	8146	8212	8536	40815	3327	2429	247	46818
2008/9	7760	7944	7974	8158	8194	40030	3641	2540	276	46487

16 **Births**

Between 2002 and 2008 the number of births per year in Leeds rose from 7,800 to 9,600. The following chart shows the number of births in Leeds and current Office for National Statistics (ONS) projections for future births for the city. After a long period of decline throughout the 1990s the total number of births reached a low point at the turn of the century, stabilised at a low level for a few years, but since 2005 has been increasing at a significant rate.



17 This rising trend in births is a national issue. Looking at the growth between 2001 and 2007 it is apparent that growth in Leeds is more pronounced (19.2%) than either the national average (England 16.1%) or the regional average (Yorks & Humberside 14.6%). The table below shows these increases in the number of births over that period. There has also been a significant increase in the overall population of the city over the same period, 6.4% (46,000) compared to a national average of 4.1%.

Table 1: Comparison of Leeds births, with national and regional trends 2001 to 2007 including selection of near neighbours and Core Cities

	Births 2001	***Births 2007***	***Percentage increase***
England	564,000	655,000	16.1%
Yorks & Humber	56,000	64,200	14.6%
Leeds	**7800**	**9300**	**19.2%**
Wakefield	3300	3900	18.2%
Birmingham	14426	16975	17.7%
Bradford	7200	8300	15.3%
Kirklees	5000	7000	14.0%
Calderdale	2300	2600	13.0%
Newcastle	2875	3238	12.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics

18 At a national level women are having, on average, 1.92 children in England and Wales according to the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for 2007. This is an increase from 1.86 in 2006 and is the sixth consecutive annual increase from a low point in 2001 where the TFR was 1.63.The last time the TFR exceeded 1.92 was 34 years previously in 1973 when it was 2.00. (Office for National Statistics, December 2008)

At the local level, the picture is similar, or even more pronounced:

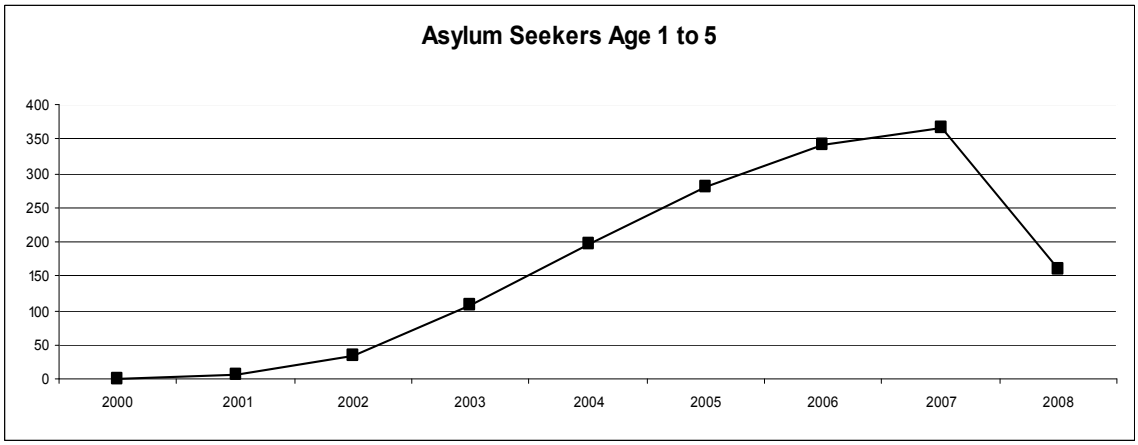
- Leeds has experienced a 26.5% increase in births between 2002 and 2008, based on NHS data.
- Actual live births in Leeds are outstripping the revised ONS projections
- Highest fertility rates are found in deprived areas of the city - 71.5 births per thousand women aged 15-44, compared to 43.4 per thousand for non-deprived areas (Leeds Maternity Health Needs Assessment 07/08 – 08/09)

Overall the fertility rate in Leeds is historically below national and regional levels but somewhat typical of large metropolitan centres and areas with high student populations.

19 **Inward migration**

There have been three main sources of in-migration to Leeds since 2000.

- Leeds is a regional hub and a growing city and appeals to migrants from home and abroad. The financial sector grew rapidly, and a large number of jobs were created, attracting people nationally and regionally, as well as exerting a 'pull' effect on people living in areas surrounding Leeds. In addition, the universities continued to expand, with many students choosing to remain in Leeds after graduating. In 2000 there were 45,848 students enrolled at the City's two universities. By 2008 this had risen to 59,655, a 30% increase over the period.
- There was a large growth in the number of refugees and asylum seekers (AS/R) applying to come to UK, rising from 34,000 in 1997 to 84,000 in 2002. (Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 22 August 2006). Between the years 2000 and 2007, the number of 1-5 year-old asylum seekers in Leeds rose from 0 to 366. This trend has now started to decline.



- In the past five years there have been a large number of economic migrants from EU countries, particular recent accession states such as Poland. Data on this effect is

extremely difficult to obtain, since these migrants are not required to register their arrival or departure in the UK.

20 A research team at the University of Leeds (including Professor Phil Rees and Dr Peter Boden) has developed a model for the projection of ethnic group populations in UK local authorities. It has looked specifically at the impact of international migration estimation upon population estimates and projections. Immigration has become a dominant driver of population growth in Leeds but the research team has questioned the robustness of ONS assumptions on international migration flows to the city (Boden and Rees, 2009). Administrative data sources have been used as evidence to suggest that net immigration assumptions for Leeds may be too high, possibly by up to 35%. If this is correct this would mean that the 0-4 curve will stabilise closer to 50,000 than the 56,000 shown for 2021 in the graph in section 14 above.

How services use population information to predict demand and plan the supply of services

21 This section focuses on:

- Use of population information in strategic planning and commissioning
- Use of population information in terms of statutory provision (school places)
- Use of population information in planning the wider children's services

22 **Strategic Service Planning And Commissioning**

A comprehensive needs analysis was undertaken in 2007 to inform the ongoing development of the Children and Young People's Plan. This used Office for National Statistics population projections to look at how the population will change. These projections focused on the whole of Leeds and are only disaggregated by set age bands. While providing an overview the information was not detailed enough to inform commissioning for particular age groups, areas of the city or groups of young people.

23 To date the development of children's services commissioning has had a strong focus on addressing priority outcomes. It is recognised that a broader understanding of need including more detailed demographic information would improve commissioning and strengthen service planning. Children's services is therefore committed to the development of good business intelligence and to working collectively to achieve this, recognising that this agenda extends beyond children's services. The local neighbourhood index is an example of city efforts in this area. Significant improvement in demographic intelligence is likely to be long term and dependent on improved data collection, IT infrastructure improvements and robust data sharing arrangements.

24 Accurate estimates and projections of population, both for specific groups and for areas of the city are required to inform commissioning of services for both children's and adults' services. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for health and well-being stated the need to develop further longer term projections. One of the key themes emerging from the JSNA is the changing population, including the impact of increased life expectancy, the rise in the number of older people, the changing age profile of ethnic minority communities and the impact of migrant workers. The need to enhance the

forecasting element of the JSNA has led to a proposed project in NHS Leeds Information Services to improve population projections. Developing a detailed understanding of how the population of Leeds is likely to change going forward is regarded as an imperative, although it is acknowledged while there is scope to improve, forecasting gaps will remain. This process will be overseen by the Joint Information Group and will look at improving projections for localities as well as segments of the population. This group involves representatives of Leeds City Council including representatives of children's services.

25 An example of improvement includes ongoing work led by the Disability Programme Board to develop a better understanding of the needs of children and young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, through greater integration of inter-agency information. This will include analysis of trends to improve our understanding of changing levels of need.

26 In terms of the relationship between the population and the funding that comes to the City Council from central government, funding is based in part on ONS population projections. The DCSF provide three-year budget forecasts at the start of each Comprehensive Spending Review but in the main budgets at service and school level are set either without specific reference to population data or are based on existing numbers rather than future projections of numbers.

27 **School populations**

Accurate pupil projections are vital at local, area and city-wide levels for a number of purposes. Individual school budgets are based on current and projected pupil numbers. At an area level, the projections are interrogated to determine priorities for school place reviews and underpin all of the proposals for structural change that emerge from these reviews. At a city-wide level pupil projections underpin bids for major capital investment, for example Leeds' successful Building Schools for the Future (BSF) submission, and Private Finance Initiative (PFI) allocations and are used by the DCSF to calculate annual capital allocations. They also contribute to review work such as that concerning the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy and future options for behavioural provision.

28 Pupil number projections are maintained and used for a variety of purposes but predominantly in keeping overall provision under review, matching supply of places to demand as far as possible, and in discharging a statutory responsibility to secure sufficient local provision. Children are entitled to a place at a local school, particularly at primary age, so in reviews of provision we consider all schools in an area together, consider all population and other data for that area, and following dialogue, recommend a course of action for the future that seeks to match future supply with anticipated demand.

29 Following a period of declining population earlier this decade, these reviews typically sought to remove surplus provision. In recent years, as the population has begun to increase, reviews have considered the need for growth and how this could be delivered. In each case, an area review takes a local view of the particular factors affecting that area and produces a recommendation appropriate for that community and for the particular circumstances it faces.

30 With secondary schools pupil projections have underpinned and continue to underpin the major infrastructure investment being delivered through the BSF programme and the

Academies programme. The overall funding available is determined by projections of future numbers. Individual projects within the programme have been individually scoped to meet identified need, with the wider geographical area meeting the anticipated future needs of the communities they are to serve.

31 Population trends are being used to model and project future requirements for the city in making provision for a range of special educational needs. They will underpin discussions and proposals for the future development of specialist provision and support for special educational needs in the city.

32 Pupil projections are maintained as a live system, updated at least twice per year. In the autumn, with the latest annual birth data, and in the spring with school census data replacing the projected numbers for the current year and updating the projections for future years based on new and current information. During the summer these projections are extracted from the live system and published electronically, individual school projections having first been validated with the schools. These are published on the Education Leeds website and made available to services.

33 At any point in the year live projections might be used to inform new or ongoing area reviews. Current numbers and future projections would be shared with schools and governors as a starting point in understanding the issues facing the schools in an area and initiating a discussion about possible responses. A series of area-based round table discussions covering the whole city will take place this term to inform and update schools and governors of the current population trends and their implications, promote local engagement with the issues, and start a process of generating creative and constructive options to respond to these issues. Pupil projections and their implications also form part of ongoing and regular discussion with partners such as the Catholic and Church of England Diocesan Authorities.

34 **School Place Projection Methodology**

The DCSF published a comprehensive "Guide to Making Projections of Pupil Numbers" in 2006 which identifies some 79 aspects of good practice. The projections systems used in Leeds conform to the guidance. The DCSF are currently working on a Projections Toolkit which they have indicated will be available imminently.

35 Local projections are externally validated through, for example, the annual surplus place return. Our latest projections and methodology have been submitted to and accepted by the DCSF every year since they have been required. Our BSF wave 1 submission included rigorous external validation of pupil projections prior to allocation of funding. Other bid processes have worked positively for us. We also maintain regular dialogue with colleagues within the region to maintain currency within the projection system. Leeds was identified for best practice by the Audit Commission for managing surplus places – case study in recent report (http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/primarytoolkit/cs/cs8/).
Detail on the projection methodology in respect of primary and secondary pupil numbers is outlined below.

36 Primary
Reception intakes are generated by applying the proportions of children recently admitted into each school from various post code areas, to the birth data for those

postcode areas. An average of the past three years' proportions has been used to even out year–on-year differences, to be responsive without over reacting to one-off events. In simple terms, recently established patterns are projected to continue. This model has served us well in a situation of declining rolls and birth rates.

However, having reached a situation of minimal useful surplus and increasing birth rates, the need for responsiveness has led to the use of one year weightings. For other year groups the previous year-on-year transfer rates (cohort survival rates) are calculated and applied to the current population. Individual school projections are not capped by their admissions limits. Individual school projections are always aggregated by planning areas and analysed in that context to ensure a full understanding of total demographic need in an area, how any oversubscription or surplus space may affect other schools, and how overall demand can best be met.

To allow for planned new housing, additional pupil projections are generated from planning application data. A yield of 25 primary aged children per 100 family type dwellings is used, and a build rate of 70 dwellings per year per development. This is then added to the nearest school to each development. Finally we apply uplift factors (currently based on free school meals and new arrivals as a proxy for deprivation and inward migration) since we know the model will under project in times of rising birth rate and increasing cohort survival rates.

37 Secondary

The forecasts for pupils entering secondary schools are generated by applying the proportions of pupils from feeder primary schools recently admitted into a school to children coming up through those same primary schools. Projections methods employ an average of the last three years' proportions, again to even out year-on-year differences. Again they are not capped, and need to be analysed by area of the city to allow full interpretation. Secondary projections do pick up the constant migration and growth of the city as they are based on actual children who are already in our primary schools. Therefore, they are more robust than the primary projections.

Previously we have considered factors such as new housing and migration as additional manual inputs when reviewing an area and determining a course of action to manage pupil places, alongside preference data, performance data and any other relevant contextual information. We now have a situation of rising birth rates, increasing cohort survival rates, and few surplus places, and it is vital that we plan sufficient capacity into the system.

All projections based on past history, whatever method they use, will tend to under estimate when faced with increasing rates of change in the underlying data, as is currently being seen in Leeds. Therefore, we have introduced weighting factors which will automatically generate an allowance for these factors in primary projections. The factors identify the schools most affected by the key issues and adjust the projections and ensure sufficiency of provision. The detailed forecasts have been aggregated and further validated against city wide trends. Secondary projections should be more robust since they use actual pupil numbers.

Additional information on these methodologies can be found in appendix two.

38 **Other Children's Services**

Overall population information and projections are most directly relevant for universal services and this is reflected in the use of demographic information is most developed and regularly used. Details of the Early Years and Youth Service issues are outlined in the paragraphs below. For more targeted and acute services demand is driven by a range of factors in addition to overall population. There are exceptions such as numbers of unaccompanied asylum seekers where actual population numbers are defined. In terms of service review, like the Leeds Inclusive Learning Strategy, analysis of demand and underlying populations is undertaken. Council service planning guidance highlights changes in demographics as an area to be considered when planning the next year's activity.

39 The Early Years Service mainly uses 0-5 year olds data supplied from the PCT for the planning of provision. The data is analysed at postcode level and then grouped into planning areas which align with Education Leeds and with children's centre reach areas. The planning area analysis has developed over the past 3 years and shows the trends at each age group within the various areas. This coupled with sufficiency data shows whether certain parts of the city need more early years provision (either private or maintained) due to an increase in numbers or whether there is too much provision as numbers or demand decline within a particular area. The 'sufficiency assessment' of child care provision is a statutory requirement. Following the first audit in 2007, a second is required by 2011. Essentially this compares the provision of childcare places across the city with the demand for places. The Early Years service has developed a sophisticated methodology which ranks providers in terms of whether they are full, have less than 5 surplus places or more than 5 surplus places. Currently contact is on an annual basis with a response rate of 97% of providers. Surveys of parents, including hard reaching parents are carried out to supplement the data from providers and the information provided by Leeds NHS data sets. This increasingly comprehensive and reliable data set will act as an early warning system for pressures on school places in particular areas of the city.

40 The children's centre reach areas were established within the last year and enable planning not just of childcare provision but also adult provision. These areas are essential for family outreach workers to target 'hard to reach' families and offer services within the local children centre. Again 0-5s data is mainly used but additional datasets, for example teenage parents and workless households are also used to report trends.

41 Population figures influence the allocation of Youth Service Resources. While the Youth Service provides youth work for the 11 to 19 age range, the priority, in line with national requirements, is for 13 to 19. Each ward in the city receives a proportion of the budget according to a long standing formula with associated ward service targets. The formula means that 50% of resources are allocated based on the 13 to 19 population and the other 50% is determined by social deprivation data. Changes in population including growth will impact on this method of allocating resources and target setting.

42 To look at future developments, Education Leeds organised a workshop on 9th September with three main objectives

i) to identify what data sources are available that might better inform population projections (including improvements planned to existing data sources and accessibility)

ii) to identify any current practice or receive suggestions that might lead us to use

existing or additional data in a better way, and

iii) to be clear with our partners what we could offer by way of information and expertise to support effective population planning.

The workshop was well attended, with positive contributions from partners including NHS Leeds and the University of Leeds (School of Geography). There was much discussion on the various data sources available, strengths and weaknesses of this data and likely improvements, and identification of new data sources to which access could be sought (for example a Border Agency database for information on people new to the country). The pupil projection methodology was explained and considered but not challenged. There was acknowledgement of the many historical issues with data collection, cleaning, maintenance and compatibility between systems, but also a general agreement that this was continually improving.

National contributions on best practice in the collection and use of timely and accurate population data

43 In terms of school place planning we have considered how comparable local authorities project future numbers, and consider our approach to be consistent with these. Sheffield and Manchester are offered as examples.

In Sheffield (our nearest comparable neighbour) their methodology follows very similar principles to ours.

- They compare the School Census data to Area Health Authority data for reception to year 6 pupils for that catchment area, and then apply this ratio to the under 5's data to generate projections.
- Their AHA uses GP data already for the older cohorts, so it is more reliable than our health visitor data has been, but they still find issues with it.
- All other changes to the data are made outside the basic mathematical model, and provided as a commentary alongside numerical projections.

  Housing data is specifically managed in this way because it is significant in size, but hard to model with any certainty, particularly with reference to the influence of preferences and changes in plans / timings.
- They do not attempt to use preference data because it can change very quickly, and has many influences so is not easy to model.

In Manchester, they too have a similar projection methodology to Leeds, adapted to local circumstances, and using the same types of data. They too have been experiencing a significant increase in nursery and reception numbers, beyond the level projected and more than could be attributed to birth rate increases. Birth rates in Manchester have been increasing steadily but slowly across the City, but at different rates in different areas. In their view the reason for their sudden surge in demand is more likely to be linked to increased inward population migration.

Conclusions

44 This report provides a children's services response to the questions posed by Scrutiny

for the first stage inquiry into the implications of the changes in the Leeds population of children and young people. The questions explore how good our population information is, how well is it used and how can it be improved. Prediction of population trends is well developed around the statutory requirement of school place planning and Leeds' practice compares well with national practice. There is improvement with Early Years practice and strong links between the work of Early Years and Education Leeds. Overall whilst current practice is good and consistent with comparator authorities and national practice, it is focused on core areas and there is potential to broaden the use of the information available. There are assumptions inherent in population information especially when it is translated into future population projections, implying that projections must be made carefully and in line with recognised good practice.

45 The need for good demographic information is recognised within children's services, across Leeds City Council and public services in Leeds and nationally. This is especially in terms of quality and breadth, with a need for greater detail around localities and various cohorts within the overall population. To obtain this requires better integration of information and investment in the business intelligence infrastructure / IT systems. These are broader issues than for children's services alone. However, it is important that children's services are actively involved in developing and championing the children's and young people's aspects of this work.

46 While some aspects of this work are long term there are actions that can be taken in the short term to improve the use of demographic data in strategic commissioning and service planning:

1. Review existing children's services arrangements around data coordination. Ensure a strategic data group is in place to coordinate and share practice around key needs analysis information including demographic data. The terms of reference should be sufficiently strategic with links into Children's Service Leadership Team.
2. Ensure appropriate links between the above group and the Joint Information Group coordinating city-wide work in this area and other relevant city initiatives.
3. For the group outlined in 1 to agree how demographic data could be shared better across the children's services. It should also identify where wider city initiatives will not meet the needs of children's services and where additional work is required. This may require some investment but will avoid expectations that each service needs to replicate capacity in this area. The strategic data group would identify how information could best be produced and shared to meet collective needs.
4. Continue to make improvements in school place projections in line with national good practice.

Appendix One

Current sources of children and young people's population data

The table below identifies the different data sources available to and used in school place planning and more generally by children's services.

Key
Source = who owns and manages the data set
Quality = judgement on the data quality and completeness for the purpose of projecting future pupil numbers 3 = No concerns 2= Limited concerns 1=Some concerns 0=Significant concerns

Data Type	Source	Quality	Used in School Place Projection System	Potential Improvements	Supporting information
Live birth data, Sep-Aug by Postcode	PCT annually from Child health Services	3	To update projection system every September with the number of children born by postcode area.	Currently looking into ways of using super output areas instead of postcode areas and how best to include housing developments as a factor.	
3-4 yr old data by postcode	PCT annual extract / snapshot from live system	2	Used to look at age group trends over last 3 years grouped by school planning areas, also used for planning of early years provision	Look into using other cohorts instead of just 0-1s	Has been modelled as alternative to using birth data to project school places. However, in the past the supplied data was inconsistent and consequently less reliable.
Child benefit data/tax credit	Job centre plus	1-local 3-national	Used within early years as part of the SEF (self evaluation form) to identify no. of families claiming benefits within their reach area.	Data protection issues restrict access (NB ContactPoint will exist which attempts to track all children in England but it is designed to assist with safeguarding and enabling a multi-agency response, not for interrogation for other purposes)	Not possible as it stands to use with our current projection system as data supplied at SOA level and that any figures under 10 are not quoted due to data protection issues.
Pupil Level School Census (formerly PLASC)	Education Leeds Sep Jan May	Jan 3 Oct 2-3 May 2	Backbone of projection system. Provides basis for calculating proportion of birth cohort that arrives in reception and all subsequent projections. Captures location and number of children in schools, enabling monitoring and extrapolation of trends to form projections, and provides data to validate projections	Timeliness can be improved.	Oct and May used to validate projections and assumptions and to make changes and to investigate individual schools and areas
LCC Early Years provision	Early Years team	2-3		Improved systems currently being developed within early years. Needs linking with to be able to review areas and spot what	Early years planning of provision. Lack of data historically from private providers means data is not complete or consistent. However,

Data Type	Source	Quality	Used in School Place Projection System	Potential Improvements	Supporting information
				changes have occurred in areas between being born and 3/4 yr olds.	introduction of Nursery Education Grant and associated reporting means this will become a more valuable source of data from now onwards.
Admissions allocations data	Education Leeds Feb-Mar	2		The introduction of full co-ordination will make cross-Authority information more secure	Used between March and September to validate projections and provide early indication of emerging trends. However, not all parents engage at this stage and allocated places are not all accepted
Admissions preference data	Education Leeds Dec	2			Early indication of emerging trends and validation of projections. Useful supporting information about relative popularity/demand for school(s)
Refugees & Asylum Seekers	Refugee & Asylum Service 6 monthly postcode	3		Could be incorporated numerically in projections	Data on refugees and asylum seekers is used to add intelligence for projections, especially in certain areas of the city.
New arrivals to Leeds	Application s for school places	0-1	Has proved elusive to capture. Until new arrivals engage or register with a public service they are difficult to count.	Continue to investigate possible sources	Economic migrants from European Union do not have to register their arrival or departure, hence making it quite difficult to quantify their impact or record their addresses.
Housing data	Planning	0-1	Number of children generated by new housing is calculated. Is used to add intelligence to projections and inform decisions around need for places.	High quality housing data now supplied on a regular basis. With some assumptions on phasing, data can be incorporated into projections.	Problems of phasing of housing (knowing when it will actually be built and occupied) and previous lack of data on nature of housing.

Appendix Two

Projection Methodology - Primary

Step 1 – Historical trends by area

- From School Census data, calculate the number of reception pupils that each school attracts from each postcode area.
- Collect individual birth data for Leeds and surrounding area, and aggregate by postcode area.
- Calculate the ratio of births to entry into reception five years later, by postcode area for each school.

Step 2 – Application of trends to latest birth data

- Apply the ratio calculated in step 1 to the latest known births for each postcode area, and aggregate the areas to create reception projections by school.

Step 3 – Transfer rates

- Apply a 3-year weighted average to the proportion transferring from one year group into the next at each school

Step 4 – Application of intelligence

- **Add housing** – Planning application data is used to generate an additional pupil projection. A yield of 25 primary aged children per 100 family type dwellings is used, and a build rate of 70 dwellings per year per development is assumed. This is then added to the nearest school to each development.
- **Apply uplift factors** (currently based on FSM & new arrivals – as a proxy for deprivation and inward migration) to both reception intake and in-year transfers, and "down-weight" according to proportion of placed pupils. This is because we know the model will under project in times of rising birth rate and increasing cohort survival rates.

Timeline

- In September each year, the latest birth data is collected, and used to project the reception intake in four years time.
- The data from January School Census is used to turn the current year from projected numbers to actual numbers, and update the birth to reception ratio, transfer rates and uplift factors. All the projections for the next four years are accordingly updated.
- Following the birth data update in September, plans are made to meet demand for the intake in two years time. Formal consultation is concluded by the following summer ready for inclusion in admissions information for parents.
- Housing data is currently collected October and April each year

Example – at July 2009:

- Projections exist for 2009/10 through to 2012/13
- Sept 09 – birth data for 08/09 collected and latest housing data - generates reception projection for 2013/14. Existing transfer rates generate higher year group projections. Plan need for 2011/12 and start consultation.
- Jan 10 School Census collected – April 10 cleaned up data available. Turns 2009/10 projections to actual numbers. Latest Housing data and updated ratios applied to update all projections for 2010/11 to 2013/14.