

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
3	<p>We recommend that the Director of Social Services considers whether a similar organisational approach to that taken in Liverpool would benefit adoption in Leeds, and reports back to us with a view within three months</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>
	<p><u>March 2010 update</u> The post was readvertised as a generic family finding post. We are interviewing on the 17th March and are hopeful of filling this post.</p> <p><i><u>July 2007 position</u></i> This proposal will be considered as part of the full review of the service as it represents a significant change to current practice and has budgetary implications Timescale: October 2007</p> <p><i><u>October 2007 update</u></i> The timescale for the review to be completed is now January 2008.</p> <p><i><u>January 2008 update</u></i> The timescale for completion of the review is now March 2008.</p> <p><i><u>July 2008 Update</u></i> The Liverpool model has been considered and rejected on the basis that the benefits from that approach can be achieved by other means in Leeds. Specifically, Leeds has instead invested in 3 additional adoption officers to help shorten the timescale for assessments – a key priority for the service.</p> <p><i><u>October 2008 update</u></i> To create extra capacity within the adoptions service as soon as possible, 1.5 of the posts available will be used to take on fostering work that has been covered by those responsible for adoptions. This will free up those staff to work entirely on adoptions. Half a post will be used to increase contact work and the other half a post will add to existing capacity. The process for filling these posts is currently being carried through. To stay within budget it has been necessary to reduce the 3 additional posts to 2.5.</p>	<p>Subject to confirmation of appointment</p>	

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	<p><u>January 2009 update</u> <i>In October the Board asked the Chair to monitor progress, with a view to signing off the recommendation once recruitment took place. The Chair has received a delegated decision report which is due to be considered by the Chief Officer (Children and Young People's Social Care) in January 2009, following which the posts can be filled/advertised.</i></p> <p><u>April 2009 update</u> <i>The Board decided in January that progress was not satisfactory, and requested a further report on the reason for the delays. This was considered by the Scrutiny Board in February 2009. The Board noted that posts had been advertised, and requested a further update in April 2009.</i></p> <p><i>The Board were informed in March that interviews had taken place for the Contact officer post and a candidate had been recommended for appointment. Only 2 applications were received for the Adoption worker posts, which were not of a standard suitable to interview. The posts are currently being re-advertised.</i></p> <p><i>A Delegated Decision report to approve a number of new fostering posts will be submitted at the beginning of April. If there are not sufficient suitable applicants for the adoption posts from the current re-advertising process, then there will be an opportunity to combine with the recruitment process for these new fostering posts.</i></p> <p><u>September 2009 update</u> <i>Interviews for these posts have been held twice, without being able to recruit either time. The posts are being readvertised in Community Care in a further attempt to recruit. Further delay has been caused by the need to go to the Redeployment Board each time the posts are advertised.</i></p> <p><u>December 2009 update</u> <i>Only one adoption post remains that has not been recruited to. This is the BME Adoption Officer post. This is being readvertised for a fourth time.</i></p>		

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9	<p>That the Director of Children's Services commissions an in-depth review of transport, to promote more effective use of existing resources and improve children and young people's access to services, and that she reports back to us within three months on progress.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>(Not for review this time.)</p>	
	<p><i>September 2008 response</i> It is agreed that an in-depth review is required, but it is not possible with the resources available in this financial year to undertake the work to scope and conduct such a review. We have however, during the last three months undertaken informal discussions with key stakeholders about opportunities to take this forward. This recommendation from scrutiny will also ensure this matter is considered a priority within the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 and beyond. Meanwhile, work is progressing to look at the current availability and use of school transport so that it better supports the offer of extended services to young people.</p> <p><i>January 2009 update</i> The position is as above with respect to this becoming a priority within the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 onwards.</p> <p><i>April 2009 update</i> Transport considerations will form an important strand of the 'places to go and things to do' priority within the new Children and Young People's Plan. This will focus more attention in this area. Key partners are continuing to work closely to identify opportunities to improve transport provision, for example in supporting the progress of Metro's Strategy for Young People.</p> <p><i>September 2009 update</i> The new Children and Young People's Plan has now been completed. This gives renewed focus to work around the 'places to go and things to do' priority. Work is continuing in support of the wider initiatives to improve transport provision for young people, including the work that Metro are planning over the autumn.</p> <p><i>December 2009 update</i> The current position is as at previous updates. The prioritisation of time and capacity to other key areas of children's services work at the present time means that the in-depth review requested cannot be carried out in the immediate future. In the meantime there is continued support for the ongoing positive work that Metro are doing with young people.</p>	<p>Next update due June 2010</p>	

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5	<p>That the Director of Children's Services produces clear guidelines which support partners to manage existing and future jointly funded activities, projects or teams, with clear lines of accountability for key areas such as personnel and performance management.</p>		
	<p><u>March 2010 update</u></p> <p><i>Director's Response (Approved by Executive Board April 2009)</i> <i>A new financial planning framework established in 2009/10 will ensure that all aspects of children's services financial planning are considered together. Detailed guidance will also be developed by a small partnership group. This will be completed by September 2009.</i></p> <p><i>Update on Latest Position/Activity May 2009</i> <i>It is anticipated that the partnership group will complete this work over the summer of 2009.</i></p> <p><i>September 2009 update</i> <i>Education Leeds has produced guidelines for schools re HR issues and 'cluster' arrangements. An HR partnership network is being established to further progress this work and produce guidance before April 2010.</i></p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
6	<p>That the Director of Children's Services produces a protocol with partners which promotes proper consultation with all partners involved in jointly funded activities, projects or teams before the removal of funding. The protocol should allow for the consideration at a strategic level of the implications of the potential loss of any such service within the overall priorities for Children's Services.</p>		
	<p><u>March 2010 update</u></p> <p><i>Director's Response (Approved by Executive Board April 2009)</i> <i>A partnership working group will be established to progress this recommendation, which will be completed by September 2009. This will link in to the financial planning framework outlined in recommendation 5 above.</i></p> <p><i>Update on Latest Position/Activity May 2009</i> <i>It is anticipated that this work will be completed over the summer of 2009. This will enable the group to set it in the context of the new Children and Young People's Plan and consider new government guidance around Children's Trust Arrangements.</i></p> <p><i>September 2009 update</i> <i>The Vulnerable Group Commissioning Partnership is progressing work re 'pooled' budget arrangements which will be taken through relevant partnership and executive arrangements prior to the next financial year.</i> <i>We will use the Co-location fund project in Seacroft and the Youth Hub project in South Leeds to further develop through practical examples protocol and guidance.</i> <i>Partners through ISCB will be asked to identify at an early stage in the budget cycle any jointly funded projects at risk.</i></p> <p><i>December 2009 update</i> <i>A development paper on Locality Governance has been prepared and shared with the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. Further work is required but the paper includes recommendations that clusters should be seen as significant partnerships within the Council's overall partnership framework. The paper includes recommendations about resource management arrangements. However, this work will need to be reflected upon within the context of the current Children's Services Leadership Review.</i></p> <p><i>The Strategic Leader (Resources) has asked all partners represented on the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board to alert him about any single agency decision which might impact adversely on existing multi-agency arrangements during the current budget planning round. He will follow up on this at the January meeting.</i></p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
2	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services reports back to us within 3 months on the steps being taken to ensure that:</p> <p>b) the children experience as seamless a transition as possible from children’s centres, regardless of which school they move on to</p> <p>d) all Children’s Centres are encouraged to form stronger ties with their Extended Services cluster where this is not already happening.</p>	<p>2(b)</p> <p>4 (not achieved)</p> <p>Progress made acceptable.</p> <p>Continue monitoring</p>	
	<p><u>March 2010 update</u></p> <p>b) Work has been done with management forums to consult across all early years sectors about transition arrangements. An agreed transition document is presently in press. It will encompass a training programme for staff from all early years settings and hopefully their feeder schools. A launch is also in preparation for the summer term. The training programme will then be disseminated over the next twelve months to EY foundation stage coordinators in schools, children's centre teachers, early years professionals and managers of all early years provision.</p> <p>d) Senior managers in the Early Years Service are supporting Children’s Centre managers to attend extended services clusters meetings, both contributing to and leading developments. Increasingly they attend Locality Leadership sub groups which look at the range of services across localities and how they can be better integrated.</p> <p><i><u>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</u></i></p> <p><i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>b) We have developed guidance to ensure children experience seamless transition from their Children’s Centre. This will be a focus for training at the newly established EYFS leadership and management forums from September.</i></p> <p><i>c) The Quality Improvement Teams across the two services are being revised in light of this report and the requirements of the Early Years Outcomes Duty to ensure a clear referral route for advice and support.</i></p> <p><i>d) Heads of Children’s Centres Services are ensuring that Children’s Centre managers attend extended services clusters meetings, both contributing to and leading developments.</i></p> <p><u>December 2009 update – 2c only</u></p> <p><i>The recent appointment of Early Years Consultants has improved the capacity to support and advise settings in promoting these ties. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Leadership forums have been established which involve lead EYFS practitioners from schools, Children’s Centres and settings to attend within wedge localities to facilitate partnership working. One common referral system is in place for any setting requiring support or advice with EYFS issues. Universal EYFS training and networks across all sectors are supporting practitioners in establishing and maintaining partnerships.</i></p>	<p>2(d)</p> <p>2</p> <p>(Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
4	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds report back to us within three months on the steps being taken to promote the EYFS Transition Record as widely as possible, and to encourage as many settings as possible to make use of it.</p>	<p>6 (Not for review this time).</p>	
	<p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i> <i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i> <i>The EYFS Transition Record has been created by a range of settings including day care and childminders. The record has been piloted and is due to be widely distributed from September 2009.</i></p>	<p>Next review in Sept 2010</p>	

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
7	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds report back to us within three months on how the support on offer to those groups of children identified as being at high risk of underachievement, such as Black and Minority Ethnic children and those with Special Educational Needs, is being made as seamless as possible, particularly during the transition period.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>
	<p><u>March 2010 update</u> Further analysis has been made of the EYOD data and the outcomes of minority groups. There has been training in all Children’s Centres in the Early Support programme (support for disabled children). A new appointment in Education Leeds will prioritise more targeted work with black and minority ethnic groups. Work with Bangladeshi mothers has been piloted by Shepherd’s Lane Children’s Centre- this has been recognised by the DCFS as good practice and included in national guidance.</p> <p><i><u>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</u></i> The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation. Through the work of Objective 2 in the Early Years Outcome Duty (EYOD) the Local Authority has recognised the need to use data in a way that supports service planning and early identification. For example information collated from Children’s Centres and schools identifies Gypsy Roma and Traveller children who may require specialist support in centre and at home. An Early Years Consultant (Early Years Service) is now working closely with the newly appointed EAL early years consultant (Education Leeds). An action plan has been drawn up which will ensure training and support is offered where needed.</p> <p><i><u>December 2009 update</u></i> The ongoing work of the Data Working Group – EYOD group two - has identified where data is held within the service. An LCC officer is coordinating a scoping project to ensure this information is accessible and available in one database; this work aims to be completed by February 2010. Meanwhile data has been used to target National Strategy programmes (e.g. Every Child a Talker) where they are needed most. Partnership working between LCC and Education Leeds continues and this is being monitored through the EYOD Quality Improvement Working Group. An Early Years Consultant is working closely with the Early Support Co-ordinator to ensure training is co-ordinated and reflects the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage.</p>		

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8	<p>Also, that the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds carry out a review of the funding for children with Special Educational Needs within Early Years, within the next three months, with a particular focus on ensuring that children are offered the same level of high quality support, regardless of the type of setting which they attend.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>March 2010 update</u> Extensive work is now being undertaken on a single funding formula for inclusion. Extensive consultation with all providers will commence in April 2010 with the intention of implementation of April 2011 of a new funding formula equitable across all sectors including schools.</p> <p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i> The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation. A review is being undertaken around funding for young children with disabilities across all sectors to ensure inclusion and access- this will report to the Sure Start partnership in September 2009. There is a planned programme for all Children’s Centres to undertake Early Support training by April next year- this is a national programme to facilitate parental engagement as central to all planning for their disabled child.</p> <p><u>December 2009 update</u> Earlier this year the Private Child-care Providers network and the Early Years Reference Group which oversees the implementation of flexible free entitlement for nursery education and the implementation of an equitable funding system for free entitlement in school and Private Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) nurseries, requested that a small group should look into the cost of inclusion in PVI providers. The aim of this piece of work was to develop a formula for the cost of inclusion in PVI settings and to make recommendations around the affordability for such provision in the current economic climate. The ultimate aim was to reduce barriers to inclusion in the PVI sector and ensure that this provision was sustainable.</p> <p><i>The work was undertaken by a small group of volunteers from the PVI sector and supported by early years business support. The findings of this group have been compiled into a draft report ‘the cost of inclusion in PVI settings’. This report will be ready for consultation in the new year and the results of the consultation will be incorporated into the report.</i></p>	<p>Progress made acceptable.</p> <p>Continue monitoring</p>	

<p><i>The outline recommendations are as follows</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) <i>Consultation on the following recommendations should take place</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>i) A single equitable funding system should be implemented across PVI and Maintained sector settings</i><i>ii) The amount of funding for each type of setting should be the same per unit</i><i>iii) The funding delivery system should be equitable</i><i>iv) Further investigations should be undertaken to ascertain if we are able to pay this funding to the PVI sector through the free entitlement system which would reduce the resources needed to administer the system and if this would be acceptable to PVI settings</i>b) <i>After consultation and recommendations from this are incorporated into the report, implementation should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity</i>c) <i>Further investigation needs to be undertaken on funding methods for those above the age of 5</i>		
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