

REPORT TO LEEDS ADMISSION FORUM

DATE: 16 November 2010

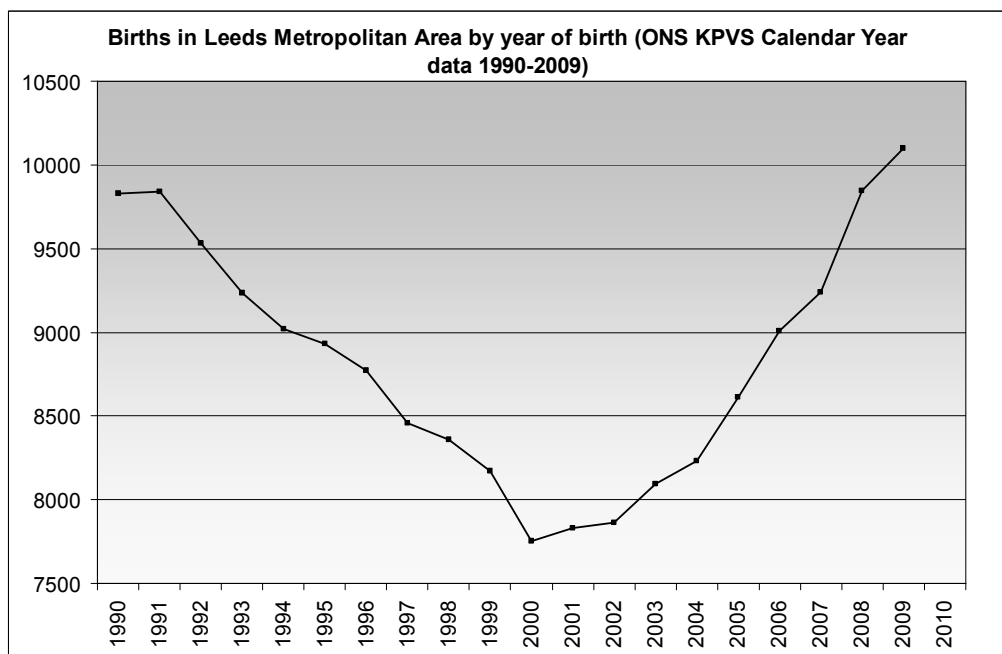
SUBJECT: DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT NOVEMBER 2010

1. Background

1.1 This report contains the school organisation team's annual update on the demographic picture in Leeds.

2. Authority wide demography

2.1 The birth rate has been rapidly increasing in Leeds for some years. From a low point of 7,600 births in 2000, the latest birth data shows 10,200 children born in the year to September 2010. To meet rising demand for school places, some 560 additional reception places have been created since 2009, and to continue to ensure one place for every child born city wide, we need to create on average 300 to 400 new reception places every year, equivalent to 10-13 new 1FE primary schools.



2.2 The pressure continues to vary across the region, with the inner east and inner north east facing the greatest pressure. In this area several adjoining planning areas all face pressure, which may mean a drop in the number of first preferences achieved, and late applicants in particular facing significant journeys to access a school place.

Planning Area	Schools	Places	Projections	
		2012	2012	2014
Burmantofts	Brownhill, Ebor Gardens, Shakespeare, St Patrick's Catholic, St Peter's CE	225	293	308
Harehills	Bankside, Harehills, Hovingham, Oakwood, St Augustine's Catholic, St Nicholas' Catholic, Woodlands, Wykebeck	505	602	646
Roundhay / Wigton	Gledhow, Talbot, Immaculate Heart of St Mary's Catholic, Kerr Mackie, Moor Allerton Hall, Moortown, Roundhay St John's CE, Highfield, Wigton Moor	480	547	573
Meanwood	Carr Manor, Meanwood CE, Mill Field, St Urban's Catholic	180	174	187
Chapel Allerton	Bracken Edge, Chapel Allerton, Hillcrest, Holy Rosary and St Anne's Catholic, St Matthew's CE	255	314	307
TOTAL	31 schools	1645	1930	2021

2.3 Pudsey and much of the outer West, along with the outer East faces some of least pressure.

2.4 Whilst the smallest year 7 cohorts will be entering secondary school in September 2011 and 2012, the numbers then begin to rise rapidly. There is very little flexibility in the secondary sector, particularly in the south and east of the City. As the 10,200 children reach reception age in 2014, we will also be facing a shortage of secondary places in some areas of the City. Planning for these larger numbers is underway, however the magnitude of birth rate increase is the equivalent to two new secondary schools each year. Clearly there will be a number of expansion plans in certain areas, prior to reaching the point of new schools. However the statutory requirement to hold competitions for any new school proposal sets out a timetable which means that we potential sites will need to be identified sooner rather than later.

3. Approach to solution finding and timelines

3.1 Having reflected on previous statutory processes the approach to planning has been improved. The informal planning discussions are now started earlier, and ward member briefings in the areas of greatest need for 2012 were held in the summer. These described the local issues, and sought input at the earliest stage to identify possible solutions to the need for additional primary places. A joint planning group including representation from School Improvement, Early Years, and Inclusion meets regularly to consider the planning of all learning places in Leeds to ensure a holistic approach.

3.2 Wherever possible Education Leeds has sought to build on the support of head teachers and governing bodies in developing proposals. This ensures the best possible outcomes for children and young people, and provides a positive and constructive platform to deliver sustainable and successful provision.

3.3 Proposals to create a further 240 permanent reception places for September 2012 are being taken to Executive Board's December meeting for permission to consult. The statutory process timeline means a final decision can be expected in July 2011 in time for parents applying for places in the autumn.

3.4 As the extent of provision required increases and options for expansion of the existing estate are minimal there is a need to become more creative and extend the range of potential solutions. New sites will be essential to the delivery of the ongoing need, and the potential for use of other council owned land and assets is being assessed. Community centres, libraries and office spaces are being evaluated, though this work is in its infancy. There are significant cost and legal implications to model. The option of renting accommodation is also being considered. Options which can be realised for 2012 include:

- Expansions
- Split site primary schools – requires sites to be relatively closely located as legally one school can only have one admissions point for each phase
- Creation of 4-19 schools – this can be by changing the upper age limit of a primary or the lower age limit of a secondary. Consideration of how to build on existing expertise in the new phase would be key.

3.5 If seeking to open a new school, the authority must hold a competition, and cannot simply open a community school. The statutory process involves consulting on a specification, inviting and evaluating bids, and making a final decision on who should run the school. This means that to establish places for 2013 we would aim to start the process in spring 2011.

3.6 Increasingly consideration of small inner city schools and larger 3FE schools will need to be given. Free Schools, which are outside of local authority control, will need to be factored into strategic planning. Some schools may offer limited permanent expansion opportunities, but be able to accommodate a bulge year, possibly until a longer term solution can be implemented. Whilst this can mean preference patterns in later years can be distorted by higher numbers of siblings gaining priority, it can offer some flexibility in areas where the birth rate fluctuates more.

4. **Conclusion**

4.1 Admissions forum is asked to note the content of the report, including:

- Significant ongoing need for additional reception places
- Significantly increasing year seven cohorts entering secondary from 2013