

Report of Director of Children’s Services

Report to Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 19th September 2011

Subject: Children’s Services Area Performance Reporting

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of Main Issues

This report aims to support elected member involvement with Children’s Services locally by helping to strengthen understanding of some key performance information at a local area level. It builds on previous Children’s Services performance reports presented to Area Committees in 2010 and earlier this year.

The contents of the report for this cycle of reporting have been refreshed to be in line with the new Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) (2011-15). A list of the new CYPP priorities and key indicators was provided in the last report and is provided again in this report. From the CYPP the report includes data on the following:

- Number of Looked after Children (LAC);
- Number of C&YP with a Child Protection Plan (CPP);
- School attendance at primary, secondary and sixth form level;
- NEET and Not Known data;
- Level 3 qualifications
- 16-18 year olds who start an apprenticeship;
- Teenage pregnancy data; and young offending data.

In addition, it is considered appropriate to provide a local update on Children’s Services inspection information on primary schools, secondary schools, school sixth forms and children’s centres; and data on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and new referrals to the Children and Young People’s Social Care (CYPSC) service as indicators of local need.

To begin with however the report provides an update on the key developments taking place in Children's Services to keep members informed of the changes happening at this transitional time.

Recommendations

To note the content of this report.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 This report aims to support elected member involvement with Children's Services locally by helping to strengthen understanding of some key performance information at a local level. It builds on previous Children's Services performance reports presented to Area Committees in 2010 and earlier this year.
- 1.2 As we work to transform and improve Children's Services across Leeds we are keen to identify opportunities to involve members in taking this agenda forward. An important component of this is giving members the data about local issues to enable more targeted and informed responses to challenges and need. Within this context it is important that members get the opportunity to engage in the performance management process and in particular receive the latest information available for the issues outlined above at an area and/or ward level.
- 1.3 The report includes a brief update on some key developments taking place in Children's Services and performance updates from the CYPP on the following:
 - Number of Looked after Children;
 - Number of C&YP with a Child Protection Plan (CPP);
 - School attendance data at primary, secondary and sixth form level;
 - NEET and Not Known data;
 - Level 3 qualifications at 19;
 - 16-18 year olds who start an apprenticeship;
 - Teenage pregnancy data; and
 - Young offending data.
- 1.4 It also includes inspection information on primary schools, secondary schools, school sixth forms and children's centres; and data on Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and new referrals to the CYPSC service.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 For the last couple of years Area Committees have received two performance reports per year from Children's Services. The content of these reports has been largely based on the priorities of the former CYPP and have evolved over time. The availability of confirmed data informed the content of the report for each cycle. Last year the February/March cycle focused on educational attainment, attendance, exclusions, Ofsted judgments and NEET whilst the September/October cycle report focused on Looked After Children (LAC) data, CYPSC assessment data and CAF data.
- 2.2 As there is now a new CYPP (2011-15) it is appropriate to review the performance information reported to Area Committees to ensure elected members receive performance information that relates to the new city wide priorities for Children's Services. The information provided will enable Area Committees to take these priorities forward at a local level and gain an understanding of how these issues relate to the needs of the communities in their areas. It should be noted that many of the priorities in the previous CYPP have been carried over into the new CYPP 2011-15 so there will be some continuity from previous reports.

2.3 The timing of when data is available will continue to have an impact on the content of the twice yearly reports although the amount of indicators that fall into this category is reduced. For some performance data there is no timing limitation and in these cases some data will be provided in both reports to give members a more up to date picture of performance on these issues. A table proposing what information will be provided in which cycle of reporting is provided at appendix 1.

3.0 Update on Key Developments in Children's Services

3.1 Children's Services in Leeds are currently undergoing an important period of change and improvement. An update is provided below on CYPP (2011-15) and Child Friendly City developments, the ongoing development of the cluster model of locality working, improvement and inspection activity and the key developments currently taking place in response to the changing national and local context around education.

3.2 CYPP Developments

3.3 The Children's Trust is driving forward the CYPP and plans to make Leeds a Child Friendly City and to minimise the effects of poverty on children and young people. Since the last report the CYPP has been approved by the Children's Trust Board (CTB) and full council (see appendix 1 - the proposed schedule of reporting includes the CYPP outcomes, priorities and key indicators). Three of the 11 priorities of the CYPP have been identified as the 'Obsessions' for Children's Services as the issues that will have most impact on children and young people's lives and likely lead to improvements on the other 8 priorities of the CYPP. The three 'Obsessions' are as follows:

- Number of Looked After Children
- School Attendance
- NEET

3.4 The Children and Young People's City Priority Plan is the plan that is delivering these 3 'Obsessions' at a city wide level for the next four years. To address these priorities action plans have been developed which will be regularly reported to the Leeds Initiative as part of the City Partnership accountability process.

3.5 The Children's Trust Board will also monitor the three Obsessions and wider set of priorities and key indicators of the CYPP for Children's Services and its partners. A schedule of reporting is being developed to ensure the CTB receives a progress update on all the priorities and key indicators at least twice per year.

3.6 The Children's Trust Board and the Council's Executive Board have endorsed the commitment of Children's Services to using an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) methodology to develop practical action plans for monitoring the CYPP priorities and improving key performance trends. The roll-out of this approach, following the successful early adopter pilot work in Bramley and Inner and Outer Pudsey, is continuing at a locality level. A rolling programme of workshops on the 3 'Obsessions' has been developed for 2011-12.

3.7 Child Friendly City

3.8 In relation to Leeds becoming Child friendly City, 5 themes have been identified as areas of focus to help Leeds achieve this status. These are:

- Play and culture
- Safety
- Voice and influence
- Rights and responsibility
- The urban environment and sustainability

3.9 To take these themes forward five working groups have been created, one for each theme. Work is currently taking place with the Youth Council and with wider groups of young people through summer Breeze events to identify some priorities for these themes. This consultation will continue into September.

3.10 The next phase will be to finalise the priorities under these themes and work with City partners and businesses to encourage them to pledge to the delivery of these priorities. In addition, a benchmarking exercise will be conducted to find out how children and young people feel about the priorities now. The same exercise is planned to be carried out in a year's time to determine the progress that has been made on them.

3.11 In the near future, the Child Friendly City Steering Group is looking to develop a communications strategy to continue to engage people on this agenda.

3.12 Other Locality Developments – Clusters

3.13 Developing the work of the local 'clusters' of schools and services that work closely together to meet the needs of children and young people through an integrated approach is regarded as critical to the future development and effectiveness of the service. All the service redesign work done in 2010 (following the Children's Services Review published in March 2010) has suggested we should use clusters as the basis for locality developments to help ensure we have strong universal and early preventative services, as well providing a means through which better targeted and specialist services can be delivered. In April the Children's Trust Board agreed to a set of minimum standards for clusters, covering, for example, the key partners to be involved in meetings, the frequency of meetings and key roles.

3.14 Our current focus is on developing more maturity and consistency in how different clusters across the city operate. To support this learning three 'early adopter' clusters are being used for some focused learning and development work - JESS (Joint Extended Schools and Services cluster- Beeston Hill, Holbeck, Bell Isle and Hunslet), Bramley and Inner East as a result of being identified as having disproportionately high levels of need on key indicators such as numbers of looked after children, NEET, and Free School Meals. Through these clusters an approach is being used to develop locality working, local leadership and case management. Additionally two localities Open XS (Open Extended Services - Hyde Park, Woodhouse and part of Headingley) and Seacroft Manston are focusing on the development of an Early Start Service for pre-birth to five year olds.

- 3.15 More broadly, across all clusters, cluster plans have been submitted and are being evaluated, particularly against the backdrop of the funding being held at a cluster level, as agreed through the schools forum.
- 3.16 There will also be a growing and more consistent role for elected members – over the summer proposals are being drawn up for elected member representation on the cluster partnerships, these will be considered by Member Management Committee at their next available meeting.
- 3.17 Also crucial to the next stage of the agenda is the more effective use of data and performance information. The Cluster Data Profile has been developed to provide context for a cluster in terms of identifying the needs in that area. It can be used to inform cluster development and planning of activities to address particular issues. Version 4 of the Cluster Data Profile was released in April 2011.

3.18 Improvement and Inspection Activity

- 3.19 Children's Services is currently subject to a Department for Education (DfE) Improvement Notice. The latest position following a regular progress meeting between Leeds and the DfE on 20 May is included in the note attached at appendix 3. In summary the DfE recognises that significant improvements have been made, there is increased confidence and clarity in leadership and an openness to external challenge and support. The note also states that the DfE recognises the ongoing challenges of consistency and sustainability. It suggests the Improvement Notice could be lifted as it comes to an end in October 2011 provided that the results of the next announced inspection demonstrate sufficient evidence of improvement on the ground.
- 3.20 We anticipate that Leeds will be subject to an announced inspection of Looked after Children and Safeguarding before October 2011. The necessary work is underway, with full corporate support, to make the appropriate arrangements for such an inspection. The results of this inspection will then inform the overall annual assessment of Children's Services in Leeds which will be published in November 2011.

3.21 Developing an Integrated Children's Services

- 3.22 Significant work is taking place to develop the new structure for Children's Services that will deliver a more integrated approach to delivering services to children, young people and families. Three out of the four tier 2 (Deputy Director and Chief Officer) posts have been appointed, with recruitment to the final post scheduled for the autumn. The tier 3 and 4 (leadership and senior management) structure and job descriptions have been consulted and agreed. The recruitment to these posts will take place during August and September.
- 3.23 Progress is being made on the proposal to develop cluster based child protection teams working with high level children in need and children subject to child protection plans, in addition to specialist teams for looked after children. Finally, a new Head of the Integrated Safeguarding Unit has been appointed.

3.24 The Changing Education Context – The Leeds Education Challenge

- 3.25 Education has been an important issue for Leeds over a number of years and in recent years significant improvements have been achieved. However, there is still much more to do in terms of educational outcomes, both in overall improvements and particularly in respect of vulnerable groups. To support an understanding of the change happening locally it is important for all members to have an overview of the current context that is shaping the education landscape in Leeds.
- 3.26 In March, Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, wrote to all local authorities, advising of rises in floor standards for primary and secondary schools and requesting that each local authority develops plans for improving performance in all schools below the floor standards.
- 3.27 In response to this letter, Leeds developed and submitted a copy of the Leeds Education Challenge. This provided the necessary details to reply to the Secretary of State's letter and set that response within a broader approach to school improvement and the ambitions of the Children and Young People's Plan. The Leeds Education Challenge document can be provided to members on request. It sets out some very clear pledges and ambitions for change in the city.
- 3.28 This submission to the DfE is an important development for Leeds, particularly in the context of the current national policy change for schools. The Leeds Education Challenge very clearly puts schools themselves at the heart of driving improvement, whilst reflecting the supporting role and expertise that the local authority can offer, and placing schools at the heart of wider children's services locally – linking in to the discussion above about clusters. The plan represents work in progress, and is currently the subject of significant discussions with headteachers, governors, members and partners. During the summer term, these discussions culminated in a major conferences for Leeds head teachers on 12 July. Over 200 heads attended this conference and Area Committees can be provided with more feedback as required.
- 3.29 Part of developing the Leeds Education Challenge was an independent review of education in Leeds, which has been undertaken by Sir Tim Brighouse and another nationally recognised colleague, David Woods. This took place in March and included conversations with a wide range of colleagues including headteachers, education staff, senior officers and politicians. The findings of the review were a key part of the conference on 12 July and again can be shared with members on request.
- 3.30 A Member's Seminar on current education issues was organised during August, as an opportunity to bring members up to speed with the latest developments and engage them in those developments. Discussions with Area Committees and political groups will further support ongoing engagement with this important area of change.

4.0 Performance Update

- 4.1 The performance information below has been presented under the CYPP outcomes. Additional performance information is provided alongside some CYPP key indicators to provide a fuller picture of progress in these areas. Please note performance

updates against the key indicators are provided where there is performance data available for this cycle of reporting.

4.2 Children and Young People are Safe from Harm

4.3 Number of looked after Children (LAC) is one of the three 'Obsessions' of the new CYPP. Data on the number of LAC is included in Appendix 3 alongside data on Child Protection Plans (CPP) as at 30.06.11. To put this information in context, data on the number of New Referrals to Children & Young People Social Care (C&YPSC) is provided in this appendix along with Common Assessment Frameworks (CAF) data that demonstrates some of the preventative strategies the council is trying to embed in the Children's Partnership.

4.4 Children and Young People Do Well at Levels of Learning and Have the Skills for Life

4.5 School Attendance at Primary and Secondary Schools is another of the three 'Obsessions' of the new CYPP. In Appendix 4 half terms 1-5 data is provided for the academic year 2010/11 by area and ward. This data has been provided by schools and covers 97% of schools in Leeds. This data will be confirmed by the Department for Education in spring 2012.

4.6 The number of young people who are NEET is another of the three 'Obsessions' of the new CYPP. The definition of NEET changed recently nationally to enable in-year comparison between periods. Previously the cohort of young people changed on a regular basis due to people dropping out of education on their 19th birthday. In the new definition the cohort of young people now only changes once a year in September. In addition the measure of young people in education was previously based on the location of the educational institution now it based on the residency of the young person. The impact of these changes has been that local areas are more accountable for the outcomes for their young people. Due to the definition changes it is not possible to accurately compare performance under the new definition with that of previous years.

4.7 Young people are classed as Not Known if they have not had contact with the Connexions service within a certain period. How regular the contact needs to be depends on whether the young person is NEET or EET. Figures for NEET and Not Known as at 30th June 2011 are provided by area and ward in Appendix 5.

4.8 Two further indicators to report under this CYPP outcome are: Level 3 qualifications at 19 and the number of Children and Young People between the ages of 16 and 18 who start an apprenticeship. These figures can only be reported at a city wide level.

4.9 In relation to the former, Level 3 qualifications relate to 2 A levels or the equivalent. For the academic year 2009/10, 46.7% or 4,392 young people achieved level 3 at 19. Over the last 5 years Leeds performance has improved by 6.3 percentage points (%pts) compared to a national improvement of 7.6%pts and of 8.1%pts across statistical neighbours. Future improvement looks more encouraging with the 2011 cohort at age 18 being 4.4%pts above the 2010 cohort at the same point, which is a faster rate of improvement than nationally.

4.10 The number of young people who start an apprenticeship is a new indicator in the CYPP. At the end of 2009/10 1,306 young people started an apprenticeship. At the 30th June 2011 this figure increased to 1,805. This significant increase in apprenticeships is a result of some focused work in this area which includes:

- Leeds Apprenticeship Challenge – a campaign to achieve 100 pledges from 100 new employers in 100 days. 162 Leeds employers who had never been involved in apprenticeships before signed up to offer 375 apprenticeship vacancies to young people.
- First ever major event to promote Apprenticeships to Year 11 pupils held on 18 May 2011 - attracted over 1,000 young people and their parents/carers.

4.10 As a result of this work Leeds is now one of the largest employers of apprentices in the country with over 400 new starts in the past year.

4.11 Children and Young People Choose Healthy Lifestyles

4.12 The rate of teenage pregnancy per 1,000 15 to 17 years olds is the indicator that will be used to demonstrate progress against the CYPP priority: Promote sexual health. There is a 14 month delay in the data as there can be a gestation period of up to 42 weeks after conception and parents have up to 6 weeks to register a birth.

4.13 At March 2010, the rolling quarterly average for the teenage pregnancy rate per 1,000 15-17 year olds was 46.6%. This is an improvement on the June 2009 result of 47.4%. A local level action plan to address teenage pregnancy is in the process of being produced by the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Partnership. This action plan will include actions to address the issues that lead to teenage pregnancy as well as support teenage parents.

4.14 Children and Young People are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence

4.15 The proportion of 10-17 year olds offending – is the indicator that will be used to demonstrate progress against the CYPP priority: 'Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour' in the new CYPP. The baseline of offenders aged 10-17 as a percentage of the general population was 2.7% based on the 2009-10 data. The percentage for 2010/11 fell to 1.9% based on the proxy GP registration data.

Final year end (2010-11) position for the CYPP Offender indicator

	Number of Offenders	10-17 Population (GP Registrations)	10-17 Offender Percentage
City Total	1305	68,163	1.91%

5.0 Update on Inspections in Services

5.1 As provided in previous reports, inspection information for service settings is provided in Appendix 7. Performance information is provided for primary and secondary schools and sixth forms at an area level and SILC (Specialist Inclusive

and Learning Centre) and PRU (Pupil Referral Unit) at a citywide level as at 14.07.11.

- 5.2 A new inspection regime for Children's Centres commenced in September 2010. Since September 15 Children's Centres have been inspected 73% of which have been judged as being good or better.

6.0 Corporate Considerations

- 6.1 There are no corporate considerations in this report.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1 There are no consultation and engagement considerations in this report.

8.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity or Cohesion and Integration implications of this report.

9.0 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 9.1 A significant proportion of the information included in this report relates to the Children and Young People Plan 2011-15

10.0 Resources and Value for Money

- 10.1 There are no resource implications in this report.

11.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 11.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

12.0 Risk Management

- 12.1 There are no risk management implications in this report

13.0 Conclusions

- 13.1 Not applicable as this report is information based.

14.0 Recommendations

- 14.1 Area Committees are requested to note the content of this report

15.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Proposed Schedule of Information for Area Committee Reporting for 2011/12

Appendix 2 - Note of the Leeds Children's Services Meeting with the DfE: 20.05.11

Appendix 3 - LAC, CPP, New Referrals, and CAF Data by Area

Appendix 4 - Primary & Secondary School Attendance data by Area and Ward
Appendix 5 - NEET and Not Known data by Area and Ward.
Appendix 6 - School Inspection Data by Area