

## Report of Director of Children's Services

### Report to Outer West Area Committee

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Subject: Update on locality cluster developments in the outer west**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            |
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Calverley and Farsley, Farnley and Wortley, Pudsey |   |  |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" 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?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:                           |   |  |
| Appendix number:  |   |  |

### Summary of main issues

1. Update on cluster partnership working
2. Update on progress re lead member representation on cluster partnerships
3. Presentation by the Headteacher from the Pudsey cluster on locality working

### Recommendations

4. The paper is noted

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update members on citywide and local developments on locality working including membership partnership governance groups.
- 1.2 To highlight some of the current good practice in an outer west cluster.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Local clusters are key to the partnership and delivery arrangements for children's services in Leeds. The purpose of each partnership is to:

- enable local settings and services to work together effectively to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families
- build capacity to improve the delivery of preventative and extended services to meet local needs ('universal plus')
- promote the ambition of a child friendly city across the locality

This builds on cluster partnerships and networks which have developed across the city in recent years and complements partnership arrangements at area and city level.

- 2.2 Cluster partnerships in Leeds are the local expression of the statutory duty to work in partnership and the duty to co-operate placed on relevant partners to improve children and young people's well being.
- 2.3 The cluster partnerships aim to support integrated locality working in a consistent, open, transparent and accountable manner, encouraging democratic involvement from local elected members and the involvement of a range of partners.
- 2.4 Cluster partnerships will be linked together through Area Children and Young People's Partnerships. These will support the sharing of good practice, collective efforts to improve outcomes at an area level and provide a link to citywide partnership arrangements through the Children's Trust Board and Leeds Safeguarding Children Board.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 A paper has been drafted by children's services on elected member representation on cluster governance. This will be going to the member management committee in October.
- 3.2 The developing role of the clusters as the delivery of children's services.
  - Cluster partnerships were set up to support schools to achieve the extended services core offer and to enable early intervention through multi agency working – principle partners = schools, children's centres, police, elected members, youth service, VCFS
  - City wide the value of cluster partnership has been recognised as offering a suitable structure to develop the city's plan for locality children services – where children

service providers can work together to support the best outcomes for children, young people and their families – and where decisions on priorities/funding can be taken.

- Budgets for clusters – The Schools Forum agreed to ‘top slice’ school budgets and an allocation through formula to clusters. Clusters have also applied and have been commissioned by other funding – TaMHS (targeted adolescent mental health), Area Inclusion Partnerships and many others.
- LCC is committed to developing locality teams and as a consequence the role, importance and potential of the cluster partnership has moved up several gears – please see Children Leeds website. The clusters are seen as the place to deliver on the 3 obsessions – preventing NEET, reducing LAC and raising attendance. It is anticipated that clusters will report to Children Leeds on progress against these areas.
- Cluster governance. There is a variety of cluster governance arrangements – some are Trusts, some Joint Collaborative Committees and others informal partnerships. They all have a chair and cluster manager. Local Authority Partners are joining the cluster partnership meetings to directly connect Nigel Richardson to each cluster offering challenge and support.
- The Outcome Based Accountability workshops are aimed at ensuring the clusters sharpen their action plans around these obsessions and ensure other partners work to support these in each area – cluster JCC will hold these partners to account. The first report from clusters to CTB will be in October 2011. A dashboard of information on LAC, CP cases etc for each cluster – this will be the baseline for reporting progress.
- All clusters are currently remodelling referral routes to support – this is for requests for support in relation to attendance - but also other multi agency referrals anticipated through this route. Some clusters have been working in this way for sometime – others are developing their own care and support referral route starting with requests for support to attendance services. These meetings will be held at least monthly and in some of the larger clusters fortnightly. A list of anticipated partners is overleaf.
- Family support. Many clusters have remodelled their structures to enable more capacity around family working. The caseload for the Family Support workers will come from the care and guidance meetings outlined above.

3.3 The Outer West Area wards cover the Pudsey and Farnley clusters and also part of the Aces cluster. Data for all three clusters has been attached.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Not applicable.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 Not applicable.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

#### **4.3.1 Children Leeds 11 priorities, the 3 for the first focus being:-**

Help children live in safe and supportive families

Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement

Increase numbers in employment, education or training.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

#### **4.4.1 Not applicable.**

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

#### **4.5.1 Information policies and practice across agencies is currently being developed**

### **4.6 Risk Management**

#### **4.6.1 Uncertainty of funding post 2013.**

## **5 Conclusions**

#### **5.1 Locality working is the direction of travel for all children's services and their wider partners.**

## **6 Recommendations**

#### **6.1 That all partners continue to develop and support this work, to ensure improved outcomes for all children, young people and their families within the outer west localities.**

## **7 Background documents**

#### **7.1 Cluster data profiles for the Farnley, Pudsey and Aces clusters**

#### **7.2 Children's Trust Board Paper, Cluster Partnerships Standard Terms of Reference.**