

Children's Trust – Children and Young People's Plan Report Cards April 2012

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 27 April 2012

Population: All children and young people in Leeds

Outcome 1: Children and Young People are safe from harm

Priority 1: **Obsession** Help children to live in safe and supportive families

LCC lead: Steve Walker

CTB lead: Jane Held and Bridget Emery

Why is this a priority Outcomes for children are better when they are able to live safely within their own family and community. The high numbers of looked after children in Leeds impacts on the resources available to provide preventative services aimed at supporting children to live within their families safely.

Amber
↔

Indicator RAG: 4th quartile against 2011 national results **Partnership DOT:** Progress achieved around early intervention and service redesign including management of referrals

Story behind the baseline

Curve:

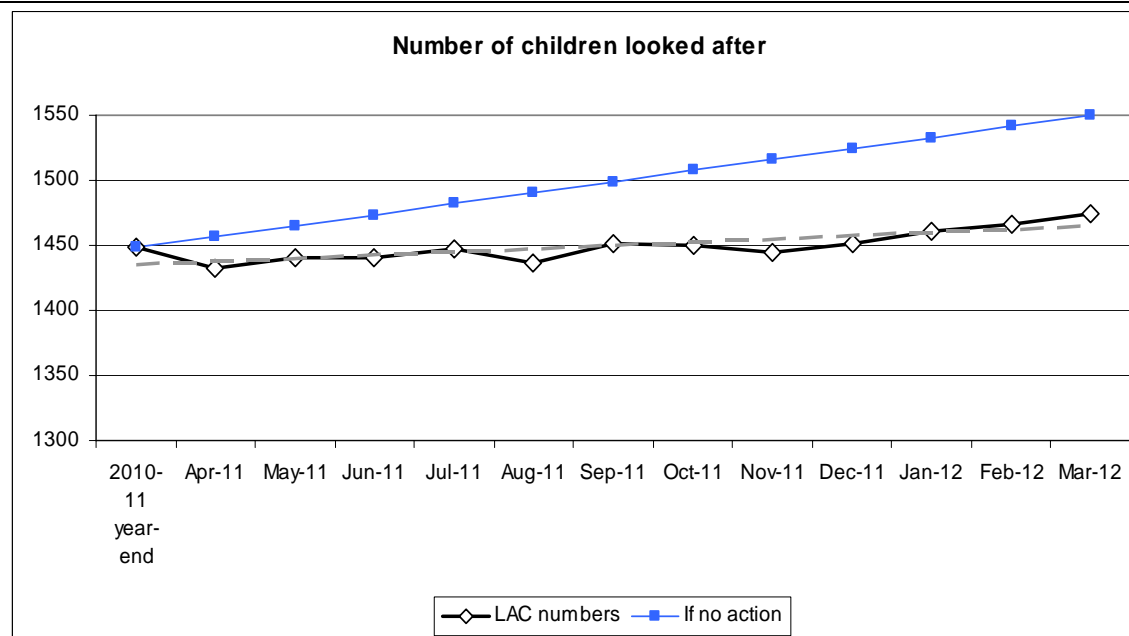
For the majority of the past year the overall number of children looked after has been largely stable. However the final quarter has seen a small rise in numbers with a provisional end of March 2012 figure of 1,474 this compares to 1,448 at the beginning of the year, an increase of 1.8%. This increase is in line with the previous year. Regional benchmarking is indicating higher average increases of around 4.4%. The Leeds increase is in the context of the significant service redesign and any short term implications of the move to this new service model must be viewed in the context of longer term potential improvement.

There is a small increase in the proportion of the looked after population that comes from the 0-4 year age range in January 2012 this was 30.8% compared to 28.6% in January 2011. The 11-15 range is where there has been a slight decline from 30% to 27% of the population.

Children and young people from a mixed heritage background are over-represented in the looked after cohort making up 12% of the cohort, whereas those from an Asian background are under-represented comprising 4% of the cohort. Those from a Black background also make up 4% of the Looked After Children population.

The past year (March 2011 and January 2012) has seen a 31% increase in the number of independent fostering agency (IFA) placements from 206 to 270 and the number of external residential placements has also risen from 76 to 89 a 17% increase. Regionally the share of placements in agency foster care is rising. These are important in budgetary terms given the relatively high costs of these placement types. In addition to reducing the need for children to enter care efforts are ongoing to support successful transition out of care and to reduce use of IFA and external residential placements.

What do children and young people think The Children's Rights service has worked with younger LAC in a children's home to produce a range of stories to illustrate our promise to looked after children and assist them to understand the changes in their lives. These powerful stories will be published. LAC young people took part in a consultation exercise around increasing school attendance. Issues were identified which they felt made school life more difficult for them. These results will be shared with Corporate Carers and the multi agency looked after management group; actions will be identified and progress against these reviewed



<p>What we have done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Social Work & Looked After Children Service introduced in March 2012 - specialist looked after children's teams will focus on permanence for looked after children. • Begun to implement recommendations from Professor Thorpe with increased capacity at the Contact Centre Screening Team and weekly review of all requests for service currently being developed. • Increased the number of adopters approved (32 in whole of 10/11, 43 in 11/12 to date) and the number of children adopted between April 2011 and January 2012 compared to the previous financial year. • Leeds is taking part in local & national research initiatives looking at the breakdown of adoption placements and is a national lead authority working with the DfE on making the adoption process more timely. • Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) workshops on reducing the need for children to become looked after have taken place in half of all clusters. Provision of monthly data to cluster managers to support local intelligence. • Procedure in place to ensure appropriate Children's Centre services are provided to looked after children and children subject to child protection plan not currently in receipt of these services. • Ringfenced local authority solicitor time to progress the discharge of Care Orders in respect of children subject to placement with parent regulations. • Final therapist in South team in post. Launch event held on 15th March. • Submitted a bid to the Governments Troubled Families Initiative. Early indications are that Leeds is seen very positively as a potential early adopter, which could be worth approx £8M over the next three financial years. • Completed a consultation exercise on the CAF process through which 250 responses were received. Working with Mark Peel from Loughborough University to analyse these responses. 	<p>New actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising the CAF process to concentrate on identifying and meeting the additional needs of children and families, with support and advice from Professor Harriet Ward from the Centre for Child and Family Research and Mark Peel from Loughborough University. • Analyse the data collected on the Family Intervention Service to monitor the impact of the new service. • Early Start Teams, based in children's centres, will identify and work with families and place children for the free two year-old childcare places in children's centres, specifically targeting those likely to become looked after. • Pilot the new adoption assessment process being developed by the DfE and national lead authorities of which Leeds is one. • Undertake review of all children placed under Placement with Parent Regulations for longer than 12 months. • Launch new fostering and adoption web site. • Identify a new funding stream for the MST Child Abuse and Neglect project following withdrawal of NSPCC. This project would be only the second such team in the UK and would provide evidence based intervention for families where young people are subject to a Child Protection Plan. • Increase the use of Family Group Conferencing to support children to safely remain within their families. • An equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration impact assessment has been commissioned. This will examine the representation of different ethnic groups in the looked after children population and consider how the early intervention and preventative measures in place are supporting children and young people from all backgrounds to remain safely in the care of their families and communities.
<p>What works locally Increasing numbers of children exiting care through better focus on adoption, Special Guardianship Orders, supporting older children into independence and re-visiting plans for children looked after under voluntary agreements with parents.</p>	<p>Data development The data development needs from the LAC obsession OBA workshops to be collated, analysed and responded to. The second round of data analysis for the Placement Sufficiency Plan to be undertaken and further data requirements identified.</p>
<p>Partners with a role to play Children and young people, parents, schools, health visitors, family outreach workers, police, VCFS, childcare services, Youth Offending services. Community groups, drug and alcohol services, probation, adult services, housing, media, business, GPs, transport services, mental health (CAMHS).</p>	

Children's Trust – Children and Young People's Plan Report Cards April 2012

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 27 April 2012

Population: Pupils in Leeds schools (Years 1-11)

Outcome 2: Children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life

Priority 3a: **Obsession** Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement

LCC lead: Paul Brennan

CTB lead: Keith Gilert and Matthew Ward

Why is this an obsession There are strong links between attendance, attainment, being NEET and youth offending. Particular pupil groups who experience multiple poor outcomes are more likely to have poor attendance, e.g., those living in deprived areas; looked after children; pupils eligible for free school meals; pupils with special education needs and some BME groups.

Primary Amber
Secondary Amber



RAG: Secondary 4th quartile Primary 3rd quartile against national results **Direction of travel:** Local efforts embedding with the start of evidence of impact

Story behind the baseline

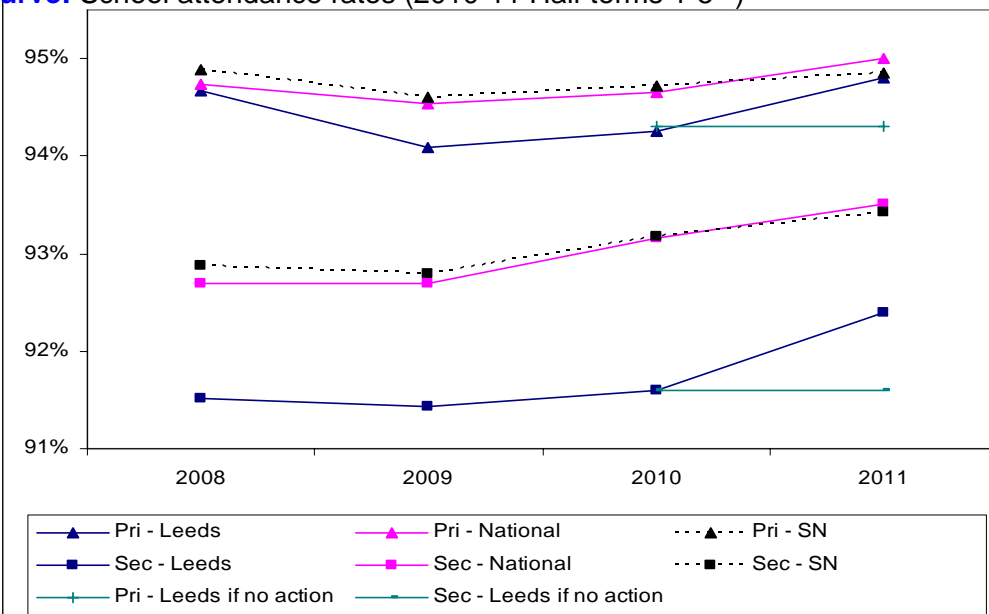
DFE published updated absence data for 2010/11 at the end of March. Attendance in Leeds primary schools improved by 0.4%pts in 2010/11 to 94.8% narrowing the gap to national (95%) and statistical neighbours (94.9%). In Leeds secondary schools attendance improved by 0.8%pts to 92.4%, while this represents strong improvement and the highest levels recorded in Leeds attendance remains lower than national (93.5%) and comparable authorities (93.4%). While secondary authorised absence levels are in line with national unauthorised is 2.5% compared to 1.4% nationally.

Illness is the biggest reason for absence across all phases. Medical and dental appointments during school hours also contribute to around 5% of all absence from school. In the primary phase, it is significant that poorest attendance is seen in year 1. This is a trend reflected nationally and is therefore not just a Leeds issue.

The level of "agreed family holidays" is lower in Leeds secondary schools than nationally, whereas "not agreed family holidays" are higher. This evidences Leeds' schools willingness to challenge requests by parents to remove their children from school for holidays. Primary pupils, however, are twice as likely to be absent from school during term time due to requests for holidays. Many clusters are taking collective action in their 'turning the curve' action plans to develop consistency around authorising term-time holiday requests.

While the vast majority of children in Leeds attend school regularly without the need for any additional or targeted support a significant cohort of children miss an unacceptable amount of school. In 2010-11 the percentage of primary pupils persistently absent (PA), missing 15% or more of school (new DfE definition), was 4.3%, a good improvement from 5.5% in 2009/10 but 0.4%pts above national levels. In secondary schools 11.2% of Leeds pupils were PA, a reduction from 13.1% in 2009/10 but higher than national 8.4%. There is a significant over-representation of pupils in the secondary PA cohort who are eligible for free school meals, and pupils who have special educational needs; in particular pupils whose need is classified as "School Action Plus."

Curve: School attendance rates (2010-11 Half terms 1-5 ¹)



¹ Half-terms 1 to 5 of the 2010/11 academic year, the most recent period for which comparative data is available. Source: school census. SN = statistical neighbour

What do children and young people think

As part of local research undertaken into the reasons for persistent absence, young people told us that the key factors in absence are: problems at home and with parents; issues with the curriculum and lessons; and bullying was also mentioned as a factor. Groups such as young carers had particular issues affecting their school attendance.

What we have done

- Guidance and Support meetings are now well developed in most clusters. These are multi-agency meetings for discussing cases where low attendance is causing concerns, and where strategies for supporting families are agreed.
- The governance structures of the Leeds Education Challenge have been further developed and the strand on family and community engagement (termed “Beyond the school gate”) acknowledges that positive engagement with young people’s families and communities is essential to ensuring that children are in school.
- Clusters continue to hold Outcomes Based Accountability workshops to gather a wide range of partners, to address attendance and persistent absence. To date 23 clusters have done so. From these workshops “Turning the Curve” activity plans that have been produced. A consistent theme and commitment in these plans is to early intervention.
- Provided the parents of 140 school-aged children with evidence based parenting programmes that have improved their parenting skills, and reinforced the important of good school attendance.

New actions

- Developing media communications for parents and carers on key messages relating to attendance, and where relevant co-ordinating these at a regional level.
- Continue with recruitment of targeted services leaders and deploy these to clusters, as well as supporting clusters who wish to employ their own targeted services leaders.
- Ensure that the plan for Raising the Participation Age (RPA) incorporates cluster-led work on improving attendance. From 2013 local authorities become legally responsible for identifying young people who are not participating, and schools and colleges become legally responsible for promoting good attendance for 16 and 17 year olds.
- Support partnerships of schools to participate as pathfinders in the DfE’s National Exclusions Trial. Although the background to this project is not specifically about improving attendance, its objective is to improve the experience of pupils who are at risk of exclusion through earlier intervention, and these are often pupils who typically have poor attendance.

What works locally

Strategies to improve attendance are most successful where these are based on working holistically with a family to address all of their support needs, rather than attendance being seen as only the responsibility of the attendance improvement officers to resolve. Guidance and support meetings enable such holistic responses to be developed.

Data development

A dashboard is currently being developed to report attendance monthly to clusters, including persistent absence and unauthorised absence. There are some coverage and data approval issues to resolve. Circulation is scheduled for the summer term.

Partners with a role to play

Children and young people, parents, schools, health visitors, family outreach workers, police, VCFS, childcare services, community groups, drug and alcohol services, probation, adult services, housing services, IAG providers, media, business, Chamber of Commerce, GPs, transport services.

Children's Trust – Children and Young People's Plan Report Cards April 2012

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 27 April 2012
Outcome 2: Children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life
LCC lead: Paul Brennan
Population: Young people of academic age 16, 17 and 18 (age on 31 Aug)
Priority 4a: **Obsession** Increase numbers in employment, education or training (EET)
CTB lead: Martin Fleetwood and Alison France

Why is this an obsession Being in EET increases young people's confidence, prospects and economic independence and therefore supports the city's overall economic performance. By targeting groups and areas where NEET is a particular challenge, we can raise aspirations and prospects for young people who often have multiple poor outcomes. The current economic downturn presents challenges for young people looking to enter the workplace for the first time.

Amber ↑

RAG: Gap to national performance latest results 4th quartile **Direction of travel:** Good rates of young people in learning and coordination of effort

Story behind the baseline

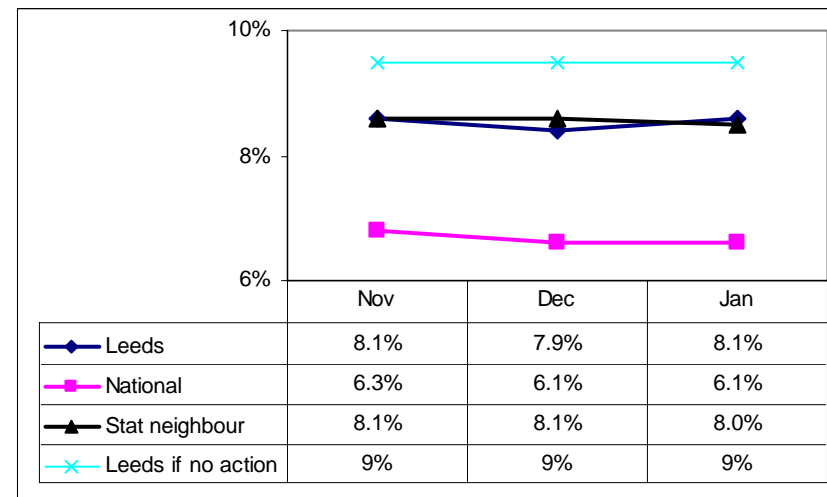
Curve: Percentage of young people who are NEET (Nov 11–Jan 12)

At the end of January there were 1919 NEET young people in Leeds. This is the “adjusted NEET” figure including some young people whose actual status is not known, but who are assumed to be NEET. The three month November to January average, used as the national measure for NEET, was 8.1% for Leeds. While above the 6.1% national figure the Leeds annual rate of improvement of 1% point was twice the national rate and Leeds results were consistent with statistical neighbours.

Levels of young people whose status is not known, highlighted in the quarter 3 report card, have reduced from 11.4% in November to 9.2% in January, this remains higher than the most recently reported national (8.0%) and statistical neighbour (6.2%) levels. The 11-19 (25) Learning and Support Partnership (LSP) have identified reducing the number of young people whose status is not known as a key priority.

The Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) means that young people will remain in education or training for an additional academic year after Year 11 from September 2013 and until age 18 from September 2015. Planning to reduce the number of young people who are NEET will therefore concentrate on increasing the number of young people in education or training. The January rate of young people in learning (79.6%) is slightly below the national level of 80.8%.

Some young people are statistically more likely to be NEET, e.g. some BME groups, those with learning difficulties and disabilities, care leavers, young offenders, poor school attenders, those attending the BESD SILC, PRUs or off-site learning, young parents, young carers, pregnant young women, homeless young people and those living away from their family. NEET rates also vary significantly across the city. Targeted and specialist support for young people in these groups, delivered by Prospects, igen and voluntary, community and faith sector partners, provides support for the most vulnerable young people from these groups who have specific barriers to engagement in EET that require specialist knowledge and/or interventions.



What do children and young people think A diverse group of NEET young people were consulted as part of the development of the Children and Young People's Plan. Young people said that the current economic climate had a big impact on their employability, however they also experienced other difficulties in finding employment, education or training, such as: difficulties using the systems in Jobcentres; access to IT to apply for jobs or courses; lack of confidence; struggling with interview skills; travel and financial barriers; poor reading and writing skills; and coping with complex personal circumstances.

What we have done

- A 'Leeds Guarantee' is currently in development, which will be a commitment as a city to young people aged 16-19 (25) in Leeds to ensure that they all have a place in employment or further learning. This will include pathway planning that supports entry into learning or employment, and is part of Leeds' aspiration to be a NEET-free city.
- As part of the Leeds Education Challenge and in preparation for formulating the Leeds Guarantee, a post-16 project is being undertaken to review the current 16-19 provision in Leeds. This has been commissioned to provide an independent and impartial assessment of how best to ensure viable and sustainable learning provision with the widest possible range of choices for young people.
- There are a range of measures included in the 2012/13 budget to work with businesses in the city following the idea of 'civic enterprise;' to encourage all sectors to work together to identify and create new job opportunities for young people.
- An Raising the Participation Age action plan has been developed for Leeds. Monitoring will take place through the 11-19 (25) Learning Support Partnership.
- Provided leadership and co-ordination for a Government worklessness programme delivering job coaches support to long term unemployed families.

New actions

- Between now and September 2012, continue to support schools to prepare for their new duty to deliver impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG).
- The council is working with skills providers and business partners to relaunch the Leeds Retail Academy to ensure that the city's learning offer better meets the skills needs of employers in this important sector in the local economy.
- As part of the Government's Youth Contract, Leeds (alongside Bradford and Wakefield) is being awarded funding to contract to providers that support 16 and 17 year olds into education, work, apprenticeships or training. Leeds will be able to contract to organisations, including voluntary, community and faith sector organisations, that have a successful track record in delivering support to young people from a variety of backgrounds. Full details are being negotiated as part of our City Deal.
- Jobcentre Plus are reducing caseload sizes to enable advisers to spend more time with NEET young people.

What works locally

Accurate data and tracking, increased information sharing and improved learning options have all contributed to reducing NEET.

Data development

Further work is needed around making use of data and information-sharing agreements to ensure a co-ordinated approach to sharing information about NEET young people. The Department for Work and Pensions are currently advising on future changes to enable information sharing between Jobcentre Plus and local authorities.

Partners with a role to play Schools and FE colleges, IAG providers, housing services, young people, parents and family, employers, Jobcentre Plus, offsite providers, Adult social care, Prospects, igen and voluntary, community and faith sector partners