

**Report of Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Children's Services**

**Report to Children and Families Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Subject: 2012/13 Q4 Performance Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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**

1. This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council relevant to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

**Recommendations**

2. Members are recommended to:
  - Note the Q4 performance information and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report presents to scrutiny a summary of the quarter four performance data for 2012-13 which provides an update on progress in delivering the relevant priorities in the Council Business Plan 2011-15, Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15 and City Priority Plan 2011-15.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015 is the city-wide partnership plan which sets out the key outcomes and priorities to be delivered by the council and its partners. There are 21 priorities which are split across the 5 strategic partnerships who are responsible for ensuring the delivery of these agreed priorities. The Council Business Plan 2011 to 2015 sets out the priorities for the council - it has two elements - five cross council priorities aligned to the council's values and a set of directorate priorities and targets.

- 2.1 Members will note that the delivery of City Priority Plan priorities are shared with partners across the city while the Council Business Plan sets out the Council's contribution to these shared priorities. The partnership contribution to children's elements of the City Priority Plan priorities is led by the Children's Trust Board and through delivery of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The City Priorities, framed as obsessions, form part of the 11 children's priorities. This report includes a quarter 4 assessment of progress against the Children and Young People's Plan obsessions.

- 2.2 This report includes 3 appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Performance Reports for the 3 City Priority Plan Priorities (these are the same as the “obsessions” from the CYPP)
- Appendix 2 – Children's Services Directorate Priorities and Indicators
- Appendix 3 – CYPP performance update

## **3 Main issues**

### ***Quarter 4 Performance Summary - City Priority Plan/CYPP Obsessions***

- 3.1 The projected position for the national measure of the November – January average for the percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) for Leeds is 6.6%, down from 8.1% a year before. Focused effort by Connexions providers and partners led to not-known levels falling by around 1000 between December 2012 and March 2013; at the time of writing, it is now 6.7%, well below the national rate of 7.9%. Leeds performance is better than the statistical neighbour average but there is more work to do in order to improve our performance relative to national levels.
- 3.2 The numbers of Children Looked After continue to fall, and at year end was 98 lower (6.6%) than a year ago. At the end of March the Leeds rate of children in care is 88.6 per 10,000 children and young people, a level not seen since 2009.

- 3.3 Both primary and secondary school attendance numbers dipped in autumn compared to the year before but remain above the previous year. The fall was greater in primary. Illness is the main reason for this with the Leeds position consistent with national as stated by the DFE- *The latest figures show an increase in absence levels in autumn term 2012 compared to autumn term 2011. Absence levels in autumn term 2011 were, however, exceptionally low (largely because of low sickness absence) and absence levels in autumn term 2012 remain lower than in autumn term 2010 and previous years*

### **Council Business Plan**

- 3.4 **Directorate Priorities and Indicators:** There are 5 directorate priorities and 3 are assessed as green and 2 are amber at Quarter 4. The amber priorities are:

- Develop a high performing and skilled workforce
- Put in place a joined-up children's directorate

- 3.5 In terms of performance indicators 3 green, 5 amber and 1 red. Red indicator is:

- **percentage of children's homes that are rated good or better by Ofsted** – at the end Q4 performance remained at 36% the same as that for quarter 3 as no further full inspections had been made. However provisional results for inspections since April suggest that 55% are now good or better, which would shift the indicator to amber. Additional to the full inspection each home has an interim inspection each year following the full inspections. With the interim inspections seven out of the eleven homes were judged to be making good progress. This is the highest grade that can be given at an interim inspection and means that a home has demonstrated continuous improvement in quality of care and has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations raised at the previous full inspection. This gives confidence for the next round of full inspections, particularly as a programme of refurbishment work began in Jan 2013 for six of the homes. The 2013 – 14 round of inspections commenced at the beginning of April 2013, so far four homes have been inspected and initial feedback is positive with all likely but not yet confirmed as good.

### **Children and Young People's Plan**

- 3.6 At quarter 4 the Children's Trust Board received an update against all Children and Young People's plan priorities, a summary of this is included in appendix 3. Quarter 4 also marked the end of the second year of the current Children and Young People's plan. The Trust Board reviewed progress at year 2 and reflected that overall progress against indicators was positive. There was an acknowledgement that questions of pace remained in some areas and of the continuing need to focus on equality gaps in Leeds and to continue to narrow gaps to national performance where they exist. There was a consensus on the benefits of the partnership approach and for this to continue to strengthen at city and locality levels.

Success highlighted at quarter 4 (not mentioned above)

- In February 2013 Ofsted tested key aspects of their proposed new methodology for the inspection of services for looked after children and care leavers. They noted that services for children looked after and care leavers in Leeds were improving; that Leeds embraced and encouraged innovative practice; and that the increase in the use of special guardianship reflected the strong focus on providing children with permanence. Ofsted also carried out a thematic inspection of the independent reviewing officer service in January. Ofsted highlighted the service's good practice, and will use this as a case study for one of their future national reports.
- The Children's Social Work Service was inspected by LILAC (Leading Improvements for Looked After Children) in February 2013, and passed all seven categories. Achieving this standard is a good measure of progress in developing a more child friendly city and a child-centred social work service, as the inspection is carried out by young people with experience of the care system.
- Delivery of a universal Early Years Foundation Stage training programme has engaged 473 practitioners through 22 courses since December 2012. 98 per cent of practitioners indicating that this will positively influence their practice.
- 80 per cent of primary schools are currently judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, an increase of 14 percentage points compared to the same period last year. This rise is in spite of the introduction of a more challenging inspection framework in September 2012.
- The Leeds Youth Council now has 51 members, including children and young people with additional needs, and children looked after.
- The Leeds Apprenticeship Awards allow the city to celebrate exceptional apprentices and businesses that are driving up skills in the city. A further £300,000 funding over the next three years has been agreed through the Leeds City Region City Deal to develop a Leeds Apprenticeship Hub. The Hub will build on existing resources to facilitate an improved offer for learners and employers in the city. From September 2013, further education colleges can offer direct entry at age 14. Leeds City College will launch their 14-24 apprenticeship academy; a route which provides an alternative to traditional Year 10 and 11.

3.7 The Children's Trust quarter 4 report highlighted the following 3 areas for partnership consideration:

- The latest data released by the DfE shows that 50% of Leeds 19 year olds in 2012 had achieved a Level 3 qualifications (the equivalent of two A levels), compared to 55% of state-educated young people nationally. Level 3 is reflective of the higher level skills that are a springboard to successful careers or university. The attainment gap for young people who were eligible for free school meals remains evident at 19. The raising of the participation age,

changes to 16-19 study programmes and reform of vocational qualifications present an opportunity to ensure that young people are on high quality learning pathways that maximise the potential for progression to Level 3 qualifications.

- The role of lead practitioner is a developing role but one crucial for local multi-agency working. When a child and/or family are being supported at cluster level, it is the role of the lead practitioner to co-ordinate the arrangements for this support. The intention is that all organisations within the children's trust partnership should be undertaking this role. Children's partners have been asked to support this role within their organisations including ensuring appropriate supervision arrangements exist.
- Autumn term attendance was raised. Please see paragraph 3.3. Work is underway to ensure regular attendance information is available to the partnership, including to clusters as part of the commitment to ensuring momentum is maintained.

### ***Children's Services Inspection***

- 3.8 A successful LILAC inspection and two Ofsted visits are highlighted above. Together these offer confidence for future Ofsted inspections. However the national framework for inspections is changing with the latest position being a single new Local Authority inspection for children looked after and child protection. At the same time there remains the likelihood of an inspection at any time against the interim child protection framework. A new inspection around local authority leadership of, and support for, school improvement is also being implemented.

### ***Performance reporting going forwards***

- 3.9 We are currently reviewing our performance arrangements to ensure they continue to remain fit-for-purpose. This brings opportunities to streamline a range of intelligence arrangements in the wider area of strategy and improvement and reduce bureaucracy but we are mindful that this needs to be balanced with ensuring proper accountability, decision-making and assurance. To allow time to develop, consult on and implement any new arrangements, we are proposing that we suspend Q1 performance reporting to CLT and members.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However all performance information is published on the council's and Leeds Observatory websites and is available to the public.

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

- 4.2.1 This is an information report and not a decision so due regard is not relevant. However, this report does include an update on equality issues as they relate to the various priorities.

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 This report provides an update on progress in delivering the council and city priorities in line with the council's performance management framework.

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 There are no specific resource implications from this report; however, it includes a high level update of the Council's financial position. This is in terms of the cross council priority within the Business Plan of "spending money wisely".

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

4.5.1 All performance information is publicly available and is published on the council and Leeds Observatory websites. This report is an information update providing Scrutiny with a summary of performance for the strategic priorities within its remit and as such is not subject to call in.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 The Performance Report Cards include an update of the key risks and challenges for each of the priorities. This is supported by a comprehensive risk management process in the Council to monitor and manage key risks. These processes also link closely with performance management.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 This report provides a summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the council relevant to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are recommended to:

- Note the Q4 performance information and the issues which have been highlighted and consider if they wish to undertake further scrutiny work to support improvement over the coming year in any of these areas.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.