

Children's Trust – Children and Young People's Plan Report Cards Q4 2012-13

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 10 May 2013

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 3: **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.

Amber ↓

RAG: Range of targeted services work in place **Direction of travel:** Autumn 2011's unprecedented increases in attendance not sustained in autumn 2012

Story behind the baseline

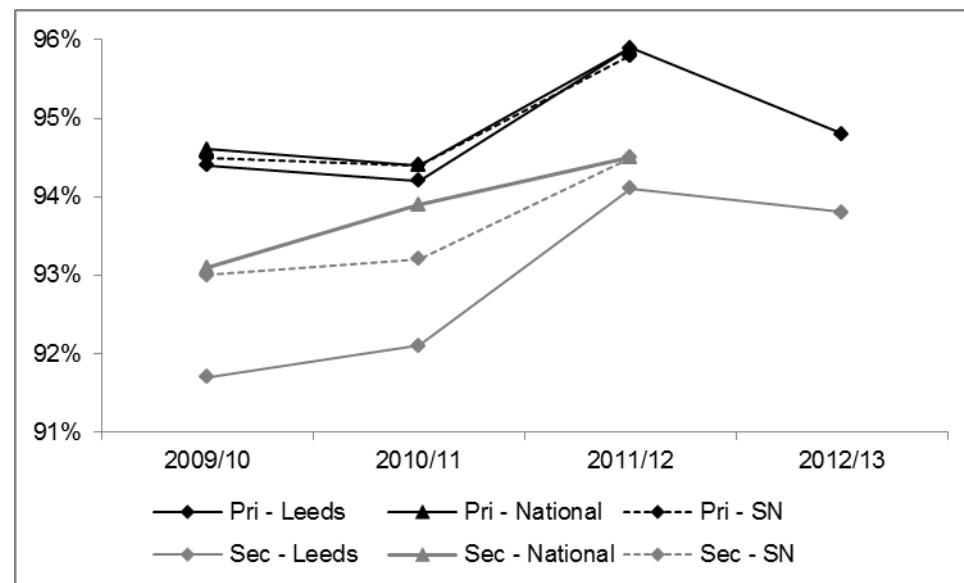
Curve: School attendance rates

Recent report cards have described the increase in attendance rates at primary and secondary schools in Leeds during the 2011/12 academic year, compared to the previous year. The most recent national comparative data (covering the autumn and spring terms of the 2011/12 academic year) shows that primary attendance for Leeds schools was in the top quartile of all local authorities nationally. Secondary attendance remained in the bottom quartile, but was the highest ever recorded in the city.

Data from the autumn term of 2012 shows that attendance rates are still higher than in the same term of 2010/11 but the increases observed in autumn 2011 have not been sustained in the autumn 2012 term. The graph shows year-on-year data relating to the autumn term from each academic year. Comparative data covering the autumn 2012 term nationally will be available in the summer term.

In primary schools attendance in autumn 2012 was 94.8% compared to 95.9% in autumn 2011. This fall of 1.1 percentage points in attendance is almost entirely accounted for by an increase in illness, with one percentage point more of total school sessions (half-days) categorised as absence due to illness in autumn 2012 compared to autumn 2011. Primary data includes attendance for Reception pupils for the first time (see new actions). Children in Reception generally have lower levels of attendance than older year groups and in autumn 2012 Reception attendance was 93.5%; lower than any other primary year group.

In Leeds secondary schools, attendance in autumn 2012 was 93.8%, which is a slight fall of 0.3 percentage points in attendance compared to autumn 2011. Similarly at secondary level most of this increase was accounted for by a rise in illness, although absence due to other unauthorised reason has increased, following decreases in recent years. This is of concern as this reason for absence is a significant contributor to unauthorised absence from secondary schools and accounts for the majority of the difference between attendance in Leeds secondary schools and secondary attendance nationally.



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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

- In January 2013, the council was able to claim additional funding from the government's payment by results scheme having demonstrated that we have improved school attendance and reduced offending and antisocial behaviour with 135 families from the Leeds Families First cohort.
- Additional targeted services support is in the process of being put in place in three of the busiest clusters (JESS, Bramley and Inner East).
- Work to improve attendance in Leeds is gaining national recognition, the local authority was asked by Southampton council to share best practice.
- Work has been taking place within targeted services to look at supporting more agencies within the partnership to take on the role of lead family practitioner, and identifying where these could be most effectively deployed.
- During 2012 77 parenting courses were delivered, targeted at families with additional/complex needs, including a need to develop better attendance habits. Parents who participated in the courses are being contacted, to assess how effective the courses have been in supporting parents to sustain improvements.
- Youth Service staff from the Denis Healey Centre have been working with the BESD SILC to enable a small number of pupils to engage in weekly learning activities at the centre as part of their extended curriculum. The project is going well due to the young people being fully engaged in the planning and evaluating of the programme and there are already signs that the group have gained confidence and self-esteem by participating.

New actions

- In the 2012/13 academic year attendance data for Reception pupils is being collected for the first time via the school census. The scope of the collection of attendance data has been extended to include that for Reception pupils following recommendations made in the review undertaken by Charlie Taylor, the then Secretary of State's Expert Adviser on Behaviour. The collection of this data means that schools and the local authority will be able to monitor the impact of work to create good attendance habits in pre-school children.
- Local authority staff are meeting with DfE representatives regarding a legislative change that comes into effect from September 2013 to remove language around "term-time holidays" and to take out references to a set number of days that can create the impression for parents that taking their children out of school in term-time is an entitlement. In future this will be considered "exceptional leave." Work will take place in conjunction with "4heads" to communicate this message to schools. Children's Trust Board members are asked to endorse the message that in a child friendly city the best place for children to be is in their learning settings and to promote this outlook within their own organisations.
- Discussions are taking place with businesses on an ongoing basis through Child Friendly Leeds work about how they can help to improve attendance. For example, Land Securities have pledged to appropriately challenge young people who use the shopping centre during the school day.

What works locally

Carr Manor Community School have been embedding the principles of restorative practice throughout the school community, as one of a range of strategies for working with young people and their families to improve attendance. There has been an increase in attendance at Carr Manor in autumn 2012 compared to the same term in the previous academic year.

Data development

When national data is published by the DfE for the autumn 2012 term, full analysis will be undertaken to compare performance in Leeds with that seen nationally and for statistical neighbour authorities. Work is taking place within Children's Services to improve the levels of coverage of weekly school attendance data, prior to this being made more widely available throughout the partnership.

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.

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Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 10 May 2013

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 children looked after in Leeds affects the resources available to provide preventative services to support children to live safely within their families.

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RAG: Ofsted state services for children looked after continue to improve **Direction of travel:** Numbers of children in care safely and are appropriately reducing

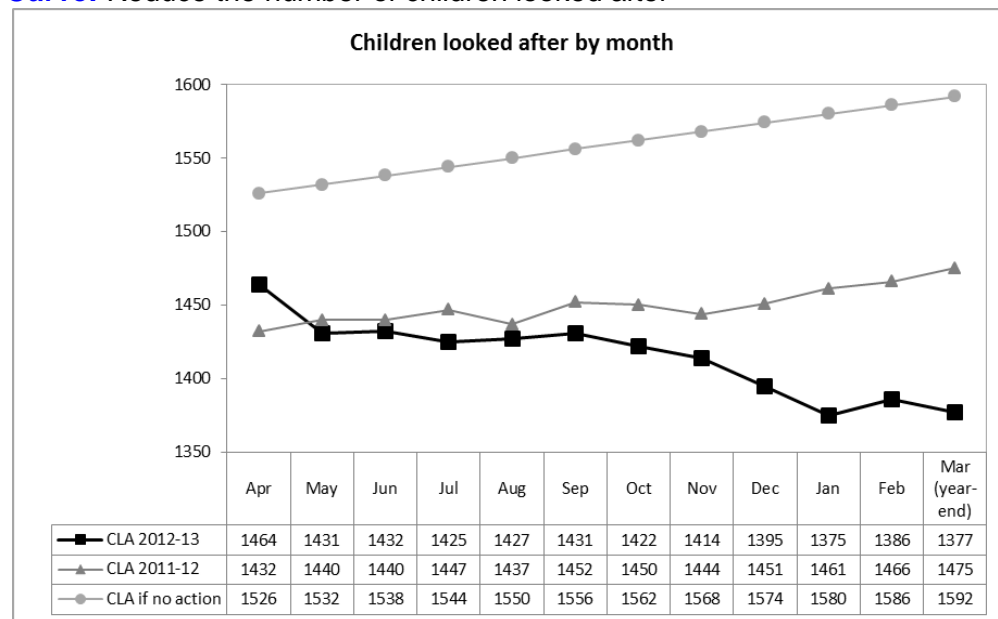
Story behind the baseline

The number of children in care at the end of March 2013 is 1,377; 98 lower (6.6 per cent) than the same period 12 months ago, and, excepting January, is also lower than at any point since November 2009. There were 10 per cent fewer starters, and almost 16 per cent more leavers, in the 2012-13 financial year than in the 2011-12 financial year, with an increased focus on care planning, addressing drift, and permanence for children looked after contributing to the reducing numbers.

There has been no significant change in the ethnic make-up of the children looked after population, with approximately 21 per cent coming from a BME background. This is slightly lower than the percentage of children on the school roll (24 per cent in January 2012) who are from a BME background.

The impact of the Duty and Advice Team is seen in the number of referrals to the Children's Social Work Service: almost 20 per cent fewer in 2012/13 than in 2011/12 (11,357 compared to 14,122). This has supported the reduction in children looked after, and helped to ensure that the Children's Social Work Service is focused on children with the greatest levels of need.

Curve: Reduce the number of children looked after



What do children and young people think LILAC is a project run by *A National Voice*, which uses a framework of quality standards for involvement which has been developed by care-experienced young people. Leeds City Council was assessed in July, and reassessed in February, achieving all seven standards. "LILAC assessors (care-experience young people) were really impressed by the dedication of staff and senior management to ensure that children and young people's participation and involvement was embedded throughout the city's Child Friendly Leeds policy and other policies in place. The Voice and Influence team in place was a very good example of this dedication seen by the LILAC assessors." (LILAC final report for Leeds City Council, 2013)

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<p>What we have done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, Ofsted tested key aspects of their new methodology for the inspection of services for looked after children and care leavers in Leeds. They noted that services for children looked after and care leavers in Leeds were improving; that Leeds embraced and encouraged innovative practice such as multi-systemic therapy, family group conferences, and early start centres; and that the increase in the use of special guardianship reflected the strong focus on providing children with permanence. • The Children's Social Work Service was inspected by LILAC (Leading Improvements for Looked After Children) in February, and passed all seven categories. This is a good measure of progress in developing a more child friendly city and a child-centred social work service; the inspection is carried out by young people with experience of the care system, and is based on the views and experiences of young people and their carers. • Mark Peel, from the University of Leicester, has started a three-month research project to establish how Leeds might develop the post of principal social worker, as suggested by the Munro Review. • The number of children placed in external residential placements has significantly reduced over the last 12 months. • Lineham Farm facilitated three family cohesion days. The aim was to bring children and their families together to enable them to participate in positive activities and share new experiences. Further discussions with colleagues in Targeted Services are underway to develop this initiative. • The Armley Lazer Centre have hosted events for young people in foster care placements, and in children's homes in the area, trying new activities and improving confidence and social skills. 	<p>New actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress has been made in developing an improved and coherent offer for social workers who want to have a career in Leeds. • The number of children in independent fostering agency placements remains a challenge, though the service expect numbers to reduce in 2013/14, as some independent foster carers join Leeds Fostering Service. • Recruitment is underway for the posts of case manager and project manager for the care proceedings pilot. • <i>05/11/12 CTB workshop:</i> After Adoption Yorkshire work in partnership with the Council to provide an independent service to Leeds citizens who are parents or relatives of adoptees, and people who have been adopted. • <i>05/11/12 CTB workshop:</i> the Family Group Conferencing service has recruited additional members of staff, and CAF processes have been simplified and streamlined to encourage greater use. Increased access to both of these strategies will ensure more children remain safely within their family networks. • <i>05/11/12 CTB workshop:</i> A new, shared service for vulnerable young people, jointly commissioned with the Environments and Neighbourhood Directorate, has reached the award stage. This will accommodate and support young people leaving care through independent accommodation with floating support. • The youth work team in the Middleton ward have worked with the Family Intervention Service to identify individual looked after young people that would benefit from specific pieces of youth work. here is a particular focus on cases where there are kinship arrangements, to offer different experiences of life skills, building friendships and interacting with peers and young people within a safe environment.
<p>What works locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing numbers of children leaving care through greater 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>Data development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policy changes to defining care leavers have led to intensive work being carried out in Leeds to ensure that the 'new' care leavers' cohort is identified and supported in an appropriate manner.
<p>Partners with a role to play Children and young people, parents, schools, health visitors, family outreach workers, police, voluntary faith and community sectors, childcare services, youth offending services, drug and alcohol services, probation, adult services, housing, media, business, general practitioners, transport services, mental health services (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).</p>	

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Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 10 May 2013

Population: Young people of academic age 16, 17 and 18 (age on 31 Aug)

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

Priority 4: **Obsession** Increase numbers in employment, education or training (EET)

LCC lead: Paul Brennan

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: Closing gap to national performance and improving rank **Direction of travel:** Substantial reductions in numbers of not knowns

Story behind the baseline

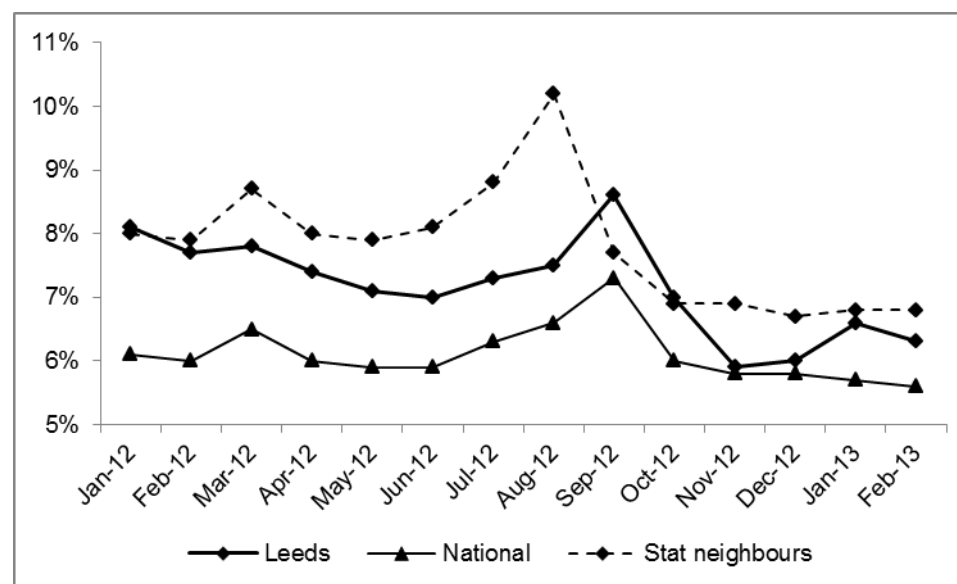
Curve: Percentage of young people who are NEET (Jan 12 – Feb 13)

At the end of February 2013 there were 1437 NEET young people in Leeds (6.3%). This is the "adjusted NEET" figure, including some young people whose actual status is not known, but who are assumed to be NEET. This is a slight increase since the quarter 3 report card, that in part can be accounted for by the substantial reduction in numbers of young people whose status is not known.

To benchmark national performance, the DfE use an average of data from November, December and January of each year. This is usually published nationally around April but is not yet available at the time of writing. The projected out-turn for Leeds for 2012 is 6.6%, a reduction from 8.1% in 2011. In November 2012 the rate in Leeds was 5.9% and the national NEET rate was 5.8%, so for the first time Leeds was in line with national performance at this point. As at February 2013, Leeds is now ranked =88 of 150 local authorities on this measure.

NEET rates tend to be highest for young people from Gypsy/Roma, White Irish, Any Other White, and White and Black Caribbean backgrounds. In the twelve months to January 2013, the biggest falls in NEET rates have been for young people from Bangladeshi backgrounds and Any Other Black Background. NEET rates are consistently lowest for young people from Indian and Chinese backgrounds. NEET rates are marginally higher for young men than young women although there are some distinctions about the characteristics of young men and women in the 16-19 NEET cohort. Around a third of young women who are NEET not currently available for work due to pregnancy or caring for their children, whereas more than 80% of NEET young men are seeking employment, education or training.

Age is a factor affecting NEET rates, with the greatest prevalence of NEET in the Year 14 cohort. The percentage of young people who are NEET in this age group is almost double that for young people in the Year 12 cohort. Young people with an identified learning difficulty or disability; young parents; young people in care or who are care leavers; and young people being supervised by the Youth Offending Service are also over-represented in the NEET cohort.



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What do children and young people think At the inaugural meeting of the Leeds Education Challenge Learners' Board in November 2012 (a board consisting of students from across the city), young people voted on the issues that they would most like to focus on. They agreed that improving careers information, advice and guidance in secondary schools was the most important issue for secondary pupils. Young people have previously come up with suggestions as to how schools could improve careers education, including: starting careers education earlier; linking the knowledge and skills developed in lessons to how they can be used in work or living independently; and organising visits from A-level students or university students for younger pupils.

What we have done

- Not known levels fell by more than 1000 between November 2012 and February 2013, due to the work undertaken by Connexions providers to contact young people during NEET sweeps and through use of Welfare Call. This means that where young people are identified as being NEET, they can be offered targeted support to help them with pathways to EET. The most recent comparative data (from February 2013) shows that the Leeds percentage of not known (7.0%) is below the national rate of 8.2%.
- At the end of January 2013, 294 young people had started on the Youth Contract Programme and 122 had successfully progressed to employment, education or training. All aspects of the programme are fully up and running with the exception of some of the specific local intervention work that clusters are still in the process of commissioning.
- The Family Learning Signature is being used in the NETWORKS and CHESS clusters to support families with their learning development. There is a strong correlation between young people being EET and positive behaviours and attitudes within their families with regard to learning.
- The Aspiration Project at South Leeds Youth Hub targets young people at risk of becoming NEET. This work enables 15 young people to participate in a programme of seven sessions, including activity during school holidays.

New actions

- Undertake evaluation of the Local Delivery RPA project that has been running to develop and implement sustainable transition models across providers and sectors to help young people who have barriers to progression to post-16 who are attending offsite learning in Year 11.
- Pilot an IAG Workforce Development project to provide IAG signposting skills to non specialist professionals and support workers who work with young people and their families and may be asked questions about post 16 learning and progression.
- The new contract for the targeted IAG service begins on 1 April. The new contract with igen replaces a number of existing contracts for Connexions service provision that were in place with a range of organisations.
- Youth provision, both city-wide and locally is at the forefront of initiatives to reduce NEET. Work will begin to implement the proposals for changes to youth provision in Leeds, to deliver a universal, targeted and specialist guarantee, determined locally through area committees.
- As part of the worklessness workstream action plan for the West North West area, youth workers with mobile technology will be deployed to target specific communities of the Inner North West to re-engage NEET 16-19 year olds on their doorsteps.

What works locally

The Youth Service at Lineham Farm provide volunteering opportunities for a small group of young people who are currently NEET to carry out tasks and activities that match their interests and enhance their employability. One young person who assisted in the kitchen has now begun working towards a qualification in catering. After working with the warden caring for the animals on site, another young person received support from the team to apply for a course in animal care at Leeds City College.

Data development

Since 2003 the Department for Education has applied an adjustment factor to the NEET figures, to reduce the impact of high levels of 'not known' records artificially suppressing the NEET percentage. From April 2013, young people will remain NEET until they have progressed to a positive activity, rather than their records defaulting to 'not known' after three months. Because of the effective work in recent months to reduce not known levels in Leeds, this change should not have a substantial impact on NEET rates.

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, the youth service, Prospects, igen and voluntary, community and faith sector partners