

COUNCIL MEETING – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2018

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP1	03/09/2018	04/09/2018

Submitted by: Councillor Dan Cohen
 Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel: Executive Board
 Executive Member/Chair: Executive Member (Learning, Skills and Employment)
 Relevant Director: Director of Children and Families

This Council believes that schools, teachers and pupils in Leeds are working hard to improve outcomes, and wishes to congratulate everyone who succeeded in their exams this year. However Council believes that there is a fundamental lack of ambition from the Council at a strategic level that is continuing to fail many young learners.

At Key Stage 2 the percentage of pupils in Leeds reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths has improved, but the pace of change is painfully slow, leaving Leeds still lagging behind national averages across many groups and measures.

Vulnerable learners in Leeds fare worse than their peers nationally. The attainment gap at Early Years between disadvantaged pupils in Leeds and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally was 26 percentage points in 2016 and 2017, whilst at Key Stage 2 the gap was even worse. SEN pupils in Leeds performed less well than SEN pupils nationally across all categories in 2016-17.

Council acknowledges the challenges involved in improving performance, but believes that for too long this administration has neglected the education side of children's services. A Council aiming to be the best in the UK should be looking to exceed, not merely reach, national averages, yet a report card of the administration's efforts over the last 8 years would surely read "must try harder".

This Council therefore calls on the Director of Children and Families to bring a report to Executive Board setting out the steps necessary to make urgent and sustained improvement to education standards at all levels in the city.

Councillor Dan Cohen

Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
- Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
- Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

