

# Public Document Pack

## **Supplementary Information for 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011 Scrutiny Board (Children & Families)**

Pages 1 - 2 – Agenda item 9 – outstanding recommendation tracking response in relation to Entering the Education System.

Pages 3 – 6 – Agenda item 10 – draft terms of reference in relation to External Placements.

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	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
8	<p><b>Also, that the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds carry out a review of the funding for children with Special Educational Needs within Early Years, within the next three months, with a particular focus on ensuring that children are offered the same level of high quality support, regardless of the type of setting which they attend.</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>(not achieved)</b></p>	
	<p><b><u>July 2011 update</u></b></p> <p>Although we are still awaiting progress on an integrated disabled children’s service the recommendations around reviewing funding for SEN in early years are still relevant. To make progress in this interim period we have made some changes around how assessment information is gathered and how finance is allocated to make the process less bureaucratic. It is still an intention to implement in full the recommendations by April 2012.</p> <p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i>  <i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i>  <i>A review is being undertaken around funding for young children with disabilities across all sectors to ensure inclusion and access- this will report to the Sure Start partnership in September 2009. There is a planned programme for all Children’s Centres to undertake Early Support training by April next year- this is a national programme to facilitate parental engagement as central to all planning for their disabled child.</i></p> <p><i>December 2009 update</i>  <i>Earlier this year the Private Child-care Providers network and the Early Years Reference Group which oversees the implementation of flexible free entitlement for nursery education and the implementation of an equitable funding system for free entitlement in school and Private Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) nurseries, requested that a small group should look into the cost of inclusion in PVI providers. The aim of this piece of work was to develop a formula for the cost of inclusion in PVI settings and to make recommendations around the affordability for such provision in the current economic climate. The ultimate aim was to reduce barriers to inclusion in the PVI sector and ensure that this provision was sustainable.</i></p> <p><i>The work was undertaken by a small group of volunteers from the PVI sector and supported by early years business support. The findings of this group have been compiled into a draft report 'the cost of inclusion in PVI settings'. This report will be ready for consultation in the new year and the results of the consultation will be incorporated into the report.</i></p>	<p><b>Progress made acceptable.</b> <b>Continue monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Suggest monitor again in 12 months</b></p>	

*The outline recommendations are as follows*

- a) Consultation on the following recommendations should take place*
  - i) A single equitable funding system should be implemented across PVI and Maintained sector settings*
  - ii) The amount of funding for each type of setting should be the same per unit*
  - iii) The funding delivery system should be equitable*
  - iv) Further investigations should be undertaken to ascertain if we are able to pay this funding to the PVI sector through the free entitlement system which would reduce the resources needed to administer the system and if this would be acceptable to PVI settings*
- b) After consultation and recommendations from this are incorporated into the report, implementation should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity*
- c) Further investigation needs to be undertaken on funding methods for those above the age of 5*

*March 2010 update*

*Extensive work is now being undertaken on a single funding formula for inclusion. Extensive consultation with all providers will commence in April 2010 with the intention of implementation of April 2011 of a new funding formula equitable across all sectors including schools.*

*September 2010 Update*

*Work is being undertaken as part of the Children's services Transformation Programme around the formation of an Integrated service for Children with Disabilities. It has been agreed to postpone the implementation of a Single Funding Formula for Inclusion until further progress has been made on this. In this financial year all children regardless of the setting they attend have been funded in the same way ( EYFFI) although not at the same level. All plans are in place to implement a single funding formula when the time is right.*

*Reduction of children at risk of language delay: Data from the Every Child a Talker programme in Leeds shows an average reduction of 21% (137) of children at risk of language delay since the programme began in September 2009. Approximately 653 children (aged 2-4, accessing early years provision in childminding, school, children centre or pre-school settings) have benefited from the targeted programme led by an Early Language Consultant in partnership between the Early Years Service and Speech and Language Therapy service. 85% (555) of children in the programme are now working at or above the expected level of development, building a firm foundation for language development when starting Reception class.*

*December 2010 Update*

*The funding solutions for disabled children remain under discussion. No further progress can be made on this until the plans for an integrated disabled children's service are further developed. Progress will be reviewed through the transformation programme in children's services.*

## Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

### External Placements

#### Draft terms of reference

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board has been tasked with carrying out a piece of work this year on each of the three Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) obsessions. The first of these relates to reducing the number of looked after children.
- 1.2 The council has adopted an Outcome Based Accountability approach to addressing the obsessions, drawing up plans to 'turn the curve' and improve performance. In relation to this particular obsession, earlier intervention is seen as key to achieving the Children and Young People's Plan priority to help children and young people to live in safe and supportive families.
- 1.3 The Board is also aware that the key budget challenge for Children's Services is managing expenditure on external placements for looked after children. This includes both the use of independent fostering agencies in place of council foster carers and also residential placements for children and young people outside of the council's own residential provision, in some cases outside of the Leeds area.
- 1.4 The current trend of both an increasing dependence on external placements and rising costs is not unique to Leeds, but it is an area that we must address if we are to be able to manage our budgets effectively at a time of diminishing resources, and also be able to reinvest in early intervention to meet our aspirations for 'turning the curve'. We have therefore decided to focus our scrutiny inquiry for this obsession on the issue of external placements.
- 1.5 We also want to emphasise at the outset that we are clear as a Scrutiny Board that safeguarding our children and young people cannot be compromised, as reflected in the CYPP outcome that our children and young people should be safe from harm. Any recommendations we make will take account of the need to ensure that our children and young people are safely provided for.

#### 2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on:
  - Opportunities to safely reduce reliance on external placements; and
  - Scope to reduce the costs of external placements that continue to be needed.

- 2.2 The Board hopes that its findings will provide a timely and positive contribution to tackling this particular obsession within the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **3.0 Comments of the relevant director and executive member**

- 3.1 This inquiry is included in the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference, reflecting one of the three obsessions in the Children and Young People's Plan, which is the multi-agency city priority plan.
- 3.2 Any additional comments from the Director and Executive Member will be reflected in the final terms of reference.

### **4.0 Timetable for the inquiry**

- 4.1 The inquiry will take place in September and October 2011, with a view to issuing a final report by the end of 2011 in order to inform the budget process.
- 4.2 The inquiry will conclude with the publication of a formal report setting out the board's conclusions and recommendations.

### **5.0 Submission of evidence**

- 5.1 The Board will receive evidence through a combination of formal Board meetings and smaller working group meetings or visits with stakeholders and relevant service providers.
- 5.2 Scrutiny Board meetings – 8 September and 6 October 2011

The following evidence will be required for the Board meetings:

- The CYPP action plan relating to the Looked After Children obsession, as background and context to the inquiry
- Data on the numbers of external placements, trends and costs
- Comparative information regarding internal placements
- Information on the actions being taken to manage demand for and costs of independent foster care placements
- Information on the actions being taken to manage demand for and costs of external residential placements
- Information on joint funding of placements
- Information on commissioning activity including regional and joint working
- Information on activity to increase internal capacity
- Information on activity to review options for exit from care
- Information on best practice from other local authorities

The October session will also include consideration of the findings from working group meetings and visits.

The board will then consider emerging conclusions and recommendations to inform the production of the final inquiry report.

### 5.3 Working Group meetings and visits

These will be scheduled as far as possible between the two formal Board meeting inquiry sessions.

### 5.4 The following potential working group meetings and visits have been identified:

Local authority residential care provision

External care provision

Independent fostering agency

Group of foster carers

Attendance as observer at Head of Service Decision and Review Panel and/or Placement Panel

Attendance as observer at Joint Funding Panel

## 6.0 **Witnesses**

### 6.1 The following witnesses have been identified as potential contributors to the Inquiry:

Children's Services officers – Children and Young People's Social Care, finance and commissioning

Partner agencies – joint and regional funding

Other local authorities/C4EO (Centre for Excellent Outcomes) – re good practice

### 6.2 The Board will always seek to include the views of children and young people and their parents and carers as evidence to its inquiries wherever possible and practicable.

## 7.0 **Equality, Diversity and Cohesion and Integration Issues**

### 7.1 Where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by the Scrutiny Boards will include

To review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the council's Equality and Diversity scheme, and on the council's Cohesion and Integration Priorities and Delivery Plan.

### 7.2 The objectives of this inquiry particularly reflect the following theme from the council's Equality and Diversity scheme:

Service Delivery – Leeds City Council provides fair access to services which meet the needs of our diverse communities and individuals.

## 8.0 **Monitoring Arrangements**

### 8.1 Following the completion of the scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.

### 8.2 The final inquiry report will include information on the detailed arrangements for monitoring the implementation of recommendations.

## **9.0 Measures of success**

- 9.1 It is important to consider how the Board will deem whether its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.
- 9.2 The Board will look to publish practical recommendations.

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