

Report of Director of Children’s Services

Report to North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 19 September 2013

Subject: Children’s Services Area Committee Update Report

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of ward(s):	Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Kirkstall, Weetwood	
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report summarises performance at area committee level, with a broader acknowledgement of city level performance.
2. The rising child population in Leeds is a key challenge with regards places at schools. This is already a known issue in primary schools, and is becoming increasingly evident in secondary schools.
3. Nine per cent fewer children and young people from the Inner North West area committee area are looked after in June 2013 than in June 2012. Seventeen per cent more referrals were received from the Inner North West area committee area in the first three months of 2012/13 than the first three months of 2011/12. Attendance, while remaining better than historic levels, has declined in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12. This is due to the exceptional low levels of sickness seen both in Leeds and nationally in 2011/12. Eighty-two per cent of primary schools and sixty per cent of secondary schools are now rated as good or better by Ofsted.

Recommendations

4. Area committees are requested to note the content of this report.
5. Area committees are asked for feedback on the report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 Children's Services directorate provides six-monthly area committee reports, in March and September. These reports inform members about local outcomes for children and young people, and support the involvement of area committees in improving these outcomes by providing an update on the work of the directorate and of the Leeds Children's Trust, including local children's cluster arrangements. The progress made against local and national agendas is also highlighted.
- 1.2 The report summarises performance at area committee level, with a broader acknowledgement of city level performance. Key issues for Children's Services are highlighted, including Ofsted inspection, basic need, and child friendly city.

2 Background information

- 2.3 As part of the ambition for Leeds to become the best city in the UK we are aiming to become the best city to grow up in - a child friendly city. This ambition will be realised by improving outcomes against the three 'obsessions', five outcomes, and 12 priorities in the children and young people's plan, which is overseen by the multi-agency Children's Trust Board and implemented locally by the 25 local cluster partnerships of schools and other key local services.
- 2.4 To improve outcomes for all children and young people, but especially the most vulnerable, Leeds has a clear strategy for ongoing service improvement. This is centred on providing better early intervention, using initiatives such as: Families First (the Leeds approach to the national troubled families initiative) 'Early Start' - which integrates local early years and health services; and restorative practices such as family group conferencing, to empower families with the support, skills, tools and confidence to address the challenges they face. By doing this successfully we can reduce the need for more significant service intervention, reducing the social and financial cost of children being taken into care.
- 2.5 Overall, progress against this strategy is continuing positively. The number of children and young people who are looked after in Leeds is safely and appropriately reducing. This has already delivered significant savings when mapped against projected numbers had they continued to rise at their past rate. Feedback from the inspection activity that has taken place so far this year reflects positively on Leeds' progress, specifically a thematic inspection of the Independent Reviewing Officer Service, and a pilot visit to examine elements of the Ofsted inspection of services for looked after children and care leavers. Ofsted has not inspected safeguarding arrangements in Leeds since 2011, indicating that Leeds is regarded much more positively than in the past. A growing number of requests from other authorities and partners to visit and view our services suggest that Leeds is gaining a national reputation for innovation and improvement.
- 2.6 However, preparation for a forthcoming inspection remains a high priority. Ofsted is introducing a new framework, *the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers* in November 2013. This significantly raises standards and expectations of local authorities, in conjunction with the earlier change in Ofsted judgements from 'adequate' to 'requires improvement'. Preparations aim to ensure that Leeds demonstrates the

progress that has been made, and the continuing improvement journey that Children's Services are on. Ofsted has also introduced a targeted inspection of local authority school improvement services. Again, thorough preparations are underway for this.

- 2.7 Strong partnerships continue to be the key to effective strategic and service delivery. On a citywide level, this is being developed positively through the ongoing development of the child friendly Leeds initiative. A number of significant businesses and organisations are now actively involved in supporting child friendly initiatives; this includes BT, Marks and Spencer, and First Direct. In total, 131 organisations have made pledges of support. This is complemented by the 146 child friendly Leeds ambassadors, including the Olympian Nicola Adams, and Leeds Rhinos player Danny McGuire. A strong partnership with the BBC has been established, which led to a successful CBBC Live in Leeds event at the start of the summer holiday. This attracted over 38,000 visitors to the city centre and provided a significant boost to the profile of the city.
- 2.8 At a local level, this partnership approach is developing through the continuing evolution of the cluster model. The recent review of area working identified the need to more clearly understand the relative roles and responsibilities of area committees and other partnership bodies, including clusters used in Children's Services. The relationship between area committees and clusters is central to this. Elected member representatives to Children's Services clusters are to be appointed by area committees, formalising the link between the two.
- 2.9 Leeds has also reached the final stages in our 'integration pioneer' bid, which, if successful, would see the city become a national pioneer in developing the way we integrate health and social care services. If successful, through our children and young people's plan, and our health and wellbeing strategy, Leeds will be better placed to make joined-up decisions about spending money and planning services, and increase the pace of implementation for the early start initiative, including services for children with complex needs.
- 2.10 Partnership with schools will continue to be crucial as we move into a new academic year. Drawing on the closer working that has been fostered through the strong relationship with the seconded head teachers, Leeds will continue to put schools at the heart of work to improve outcomes. This will be particularly critical as we move forward with the basic need agenda. The rising child population in Leeds is a key challenge in ensuring there are sufficient places at schools. This is already a known issue in primary schools, and is becoming increasingly evident in secondary schools. Leeds has been awarded a £13.8m share of £820m made available by the DfE for new school places, as part of the targeted basic need programme. The places must be delivered by September 2015. Further information will be brought to area committees as appropriate.

3 Main issues

Performance update

- 3.1 Appendix one (page nine) provides data and commentary on current performance for the area committee, which is summarised below. Data from the same period 12 months ago is used where possible for direction of travel/progress analysis. Figures may be rounded up/down in the following commentary.

3.1 Further, more detailed information is available via the following websites:

- The cluster profile (<https://www.leedsinitiative.org/ClusterDataProfile.aspx>).
- The West Yorkshire observatory (<http://www.westyorkshireobservatory.org/>).
- The Department for Education's 'in your area' website (<http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/inyourarea/areasearch.pl?search=Leeds>).

Inner North West area committee commentary

Children and young people are safe from harm - obsession: number of children in care

- 3.2 The number of children looked after who come from the Inner North West area committee area reduced by nine per cent between June 2012 and June 2013, changing from 132 to 120. This is higher than the citywide reduction of five per cent across the same period. There is a 50 per cent drop in the number of children and young people entering care in the first three months of 2012/13 (five) compared to the first three months of 2011/12 (ten), counter to the rise in care starters seen across the city in the same periods.
- 3.3 There are 101 children and young people subject to a child protection plan in the Inner North West area committee area in June 2013, a rise of one per cent (from 100) in June 2012. This is the third highest number of all area committees.
- 3.4 Exactly the same numbers of CAFs (34) were initiated in the first three months of 2012/13 when compared to 2011/12. The citywide numbers saw a 27 per cent increase across the same period.
- 3.5 Six per cent fewer requests for service were received between April and June 2013 (680) when compared to April to June 2012 (722). A 17 per cent increase in referrals was seen in the same period (197 in 2011/12; 231 in 2012/13). The conversion rate (percentage of requests for service that become a referral) has risen from 27 per cent in April to June 2012 to 34 per cent in April to June 2013. This is the second highest increase across all area committees, counter to the citywide trends seen in the last 12 months since improvements were made to our front door practice on how child protection inquiries are best handled.

Children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life - obsession: young people in education employment or training
- obsession: attendance

- 3.6 The percentage of 'not known' young people in the Inner North West area committee area has reduced by three percentage points, from seven per cent in June 2012 to four per cent in June 2013. The percentage of young people identified as NEET has risen from six per cent in June 2012 to seven per cent in June 2013.
- 3.7 There is a correlation between a reduction in not known rates, and a rise in NEET levels; the status of more young people is known after sweeps and telephone calls. Targeted support offers mean that the NEET cohort is better informed and supported in trying to find/access education, employment, or training.

- 3.8 Paragraph 3.21 outlines that 2012/13 was the second best year for attendance levels in the city but slightly down on 2011/12 largely due to autumn term sickness. Attendance between 2011/12 and 2012/13 levels in the Inner North West area committee area declined by just over half a percentage point in primary schools to 94.9 per cent, and rose by just under half a percentage point to 93.9 per cent in secondary schools. The secondary school rise is the largest of all area committees, and compares well to the citywide level, which remained at 93.7 per cent.
- 3.9 There was a sharp rise in the number of children persistently absent from primary schools in the Inner North West area committee area, rising from 130 in 2011/12 to 161 in 2012/13 - a rise of 31, or 24 per cent (the third largest percentage increase of all area committees). Persistent absence in secondary schools reduced by 22 per cent (46), from 208 in 2011/12 to 162 in 2012/13. This was the largest decrease of all area committees.

Children and young people choose healthy lifestyles, and voice and influence

- 3.10 The number of children and young people committing an offence reduced from 100 in 2011-12 to 80 in 2012-13, a 20 per cent drop. This is lower than the citywide reduction of 30 per cent.

Local Ofsted inspections

- 3.11 Iveson Primary School, which was rated inadequate at the turn of the year is now rated as requires improvement. Overall, 79 per cent of primaries are rated good or better (up from 74 per cent in December). City of Leeds secondary school was also rated as inadequate, but this school too is now rated as requires improvement.
- 3.12 There has been no change in the Ofsted ratings of the two children's homes in the Inner North West area committee area; one is outstanding, the other is adequate.

City commentary

- 3.13 The following paragraphs summarise partnership progress against the CYPP indicators, including the three obsessions. Appendix two (page 13) contains CYPP obsession indicator graphs and charts by area committee.

Children and young people are safe from harm

- 3.14 Children looked after numbers (1,358) are at their lowest point since November 2009, with June's figure five per cent lower than the same point 12 months ago. More children and young people entered care between April 2013 and June 2013 than the same period 12 months ago, but the numbers leaving continue to rise.
- 3.15 The number of children and young people subject to a child protection plan is virtually unchanged from a year ago at 897 (894 in June 2012). It is, however, six per cent lower than the December 2012 figure of 956.
- 3.16 Four per cent (311) fewer requests for service (contact received by the Duty and Advice Team), and three per cent (89) fewer referrals (those requests for service

that were deemed to require Children's Social Work Service involvement), were received between April and June 2013 compared to the same period a year ago.

- 3.17 Twenty-seven per cent more CAFs (65) were initiated in the first three months of 2012/13 compared to the same period a year ago; this is equivalent to 22 additional CAFs per month.
- 3.18 There are five per cent more Council-employed foster carers (an increase of 28, to 578) in June 2013 than in December 2012. This should rise further in the coming months, as fourteen independent fostering agency foster carers may become Council-employed. The number of family placement foster carers is four higher in June 2013 (108) than December 2012 (104).

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

- 3.19 Across Leeds primary schools, attendance declined by half a percentage point to 95.3 per cent between half-terms one to four in 2011/12 and half-terms one to four in 2012/13. There were 207 more primary age pupils being persistently absent in the first two terms of 2012/13 compared to same period in 2011/12.
- 3.20 Attendance at Leeds secondary schools was 93.8% in the first two terms of 2011/12, and this has fallen only very slightly to 93.7% in the first two terms of 2012/13. Sixteen fewer secondary school age pupils were persistently absent in the first two terms of 2012/13.
- 3.21 Although attendance at both phases has declined slightly, the most recent figures are the second best attendance rates ever recorded in Leeds. Much of the difference in attendance rates is accounted for by higher levels of absence due to sickness in the autumn term of 2012/13, compared to the autumn term of the previous year. Rates of absence due to sickness levels were at an exceptionally low level across the country in the autumn term of 2011/12, and attendance in Leeds mirrored this trend. Absence levels in autumn term 2012 remain lower than in autumn term 2010 and previous years.
- 3.22 NEET and 'not known' levels have significantly reduced across the city; NEET sweeps and the use of Welfare Call have contributed to this. Young people identified as NEET are offered targeted support to help them with pathways to EET. The graphs in appendix two show the changes in the last 12 months for each area committee, especially the reduction in the not known cohort.
- 3.23 Complementing the core devolved youth contract support programme in Leeds, local clusters and/or partnerships of clusters are being funded to deliver local innovation projects (eg providing provision of targeted mental health, counselling, and bespoke motivational programmes). The aim is to contribute to the reduction of 16 to 17 year-old NEETs in localities by increasing young people's experience and qualifications, so they have the opportunity to continue in education and successfully find work.

Children and young people choose healthy lifestyles

- 3.24 Survey work and analysis on free school meal data are still underway. An update will be provided to area committees in a later report.

Children and young people are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence

- 3.25 The number of young people committing an offence between April 2012 and March 2013 was almost a third lower than the same period in 2011/12, reflecting the national trend.

Ofsted inspections

- 3.26 Eighty-three per cent of primary schools (180) are rated as good or better in July 2013, seven percentage points higher (15 more schools) than in December 2012. Four fewer primary schools are rated as outstanding across the same period, and three more primary schools are rated as inadequate.
- 3.27 The percentage of secondary schools rated as good or better has reduced by three percentage points to 58 per cent in July 2013, from 61 per cent in July 2012 (one less school). One more secondary school is rated as inadequate.
- 3.28 There have been no inspections of children's centres in Leeds since the last update report. A new inspection framework begins in September; an update to area committees will be provided later.
- 3.29 73 per cent (eight) of the eleven directly managed local authority children's homes in Leeds are currently rated good or outstanding, a significant improvement from 36 per cent (four) that were good or outstanding at 31 December 2012. The other three children's homes are currently rated adequate/satisfactory.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 This report is for area committee meetings, which involve a wide range of partners and stakeholders. Consultation and engagement is integral to the work of Children's Services and the Children's Trust, as evidenced in child friendly city work.

4.2 Equality and diversity/cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 Equality issues are implicit in the information provided. The differences shown illustrate that there are different levels of need and of outcomes across the city. Additional equality analysis of the information provided is undertaken, and the detailed information already provided to clusters is powerful intelligence that can be used to help focus priorities and narrow the gap.

4.3 Council policies and city priorities

- 4.3.1 A significant proportion of the information included in this report relates to the city priorities for children and young people and the outcomes contained in the CYPP.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications in this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This report is not eligible for call in, due to being a Council function.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There are no risk management implications in this report. The priorities reflected in this report are monitored through Leeds City Council performance and, where appropriate, risk management processes.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Not applicable, as this report is information based.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Inner North West area committee is requested to note the content of this report.

6.2 The Inner North West area committee is asked for feedback on the report.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 There are no background documents to accompany this report.

¹ 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.

Appendix one: performance data for Inner North West area committee

Autumn 2013 Children's Services performance update

Measure	Leeds	Inner NW	Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest		
1. Number of children and young people 0-19	173,462	15,004	January 2013	24,510	17,289	11,609		
2. Percentage of children and young people	n/a	8.6%	January 2013	14.1%	10.0%	6.7%		
3. Number of primary schools	218	19	Current	28	22	15		
4. Number of secondary schools	36	3	Current	6	4	2		
4a. Number of through schools	2	0	Current	2	0	0		
5. Number of children's centres	58	7	Current	11	6	3		
<p>Commentary</p> <p>The Inner North West area committee has 8.6 per cent of the city's 0-19 population, (15,004 children and young people). There are 19 primary schools, three secondary schools, and seven children's centres located within the area committee boundary.</p>								
Keeping children safe from harm	Leeds	Inner NW			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
6. Number of children looked after	1,358	120	132		30 June 2013	389	131	22
7. Number of children entering care	106	5	10		Apr-Jun 2013	32	14	5
8. Number of children subject to a child protection plan	897	101	100	↔	30 June 2013	217	88	15
9. Number of CAFs initiated	308	34	34		Apr-Jun 2013	55	30.2	17
10. Number of requests for service	8,695	680	722		Apr-Jun 2013	1,701	794	347
11. Number of requests for service leading to a referral	2,964	231	197	↔	Apr-Jun 2013	635	282	83
12. Number of LCC-employed foster carers	578	41	40	↗	30 June 2013	83	50	23
12a. Number of family placement foster carers	108	n/a	30 June 2013	16	11	6

Commentary

The number of children looked after who come from the Inner North West area committee area reduced by nine per cent between June 2012 and June 2013, changing from 132 to 120. This is higher than the citywide reduction of five per cent across the same period. There is a 50 per cent drop in the number of children and young people entering care in the first three months of 2012/13 (five) compared to the first three months of 2011/12 (ten), counter to the rise in care starters seen across the city in the same periods.

There are 101 children and young people subject to a child protection plan in the Inner North West area committee area in June 2013, a rise of one per cent (from 100) in June 2012. This is the third highest number of all area committees. Exactly the same number of CAFs (34) were initiated in the first three months of 2012/13 when compared to 2011/12. The citywide numbers saw a 27 per cent increase across the same period.

Six per cent fewer requests for service were received between April and June 2013 (680) when compared to April to June 2012 (722). A 17 per cent increase in referrals was seen in the same period (197 in 2011/12; 231 in 2012/13). The conversion rate (percentage of requests for service that become a referral) has risen from 27 per cent in April to June 2012 to 34 per cent in April to June 2013. This is the second highest (best) increase across all area committees.

Do well in learning and have the skills for life	Leeds	Inner NW			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
13. Primary school attendance levels	95.3%	94.9%	95.6%		2012-13 HT 1-4	96.2%	95.3%	93.9%
14. Secondary school attendance levels	93.7%	93.9%	93.6%	↗	2012-13 HT 1-4	94.6%	93.3%	91.1%
15. Number of pupils persistently absent at primary	1,839	161	130	↘	2012-13 HT 1-4	417	184	83
16. Number of pupils persistently absent at secondary	3,067	162	208		2012-13 HT 1-4	474	307	162
17. Number of NEET ⁱ	1,501	118	104	↘	30 June 2013	330	149	47
17a. Percentage of NEET ⁱ	6.7%	7.0%	5.8%	↘	30 June 2013	10.5%	6.2%	2.6%
18. Number of 'not knows'	1,283	68	129		30 June 2013	408	116	41
18a. Percentage of 'not knows'	5.5%	4.0%	7.3%		30 June 2013	14.5%	4.7%	2.2%

Commentary

Attendance between 2011/12 and 2012/13 levels in the Inner North West area committee area declined by just over half a percentage point in primary schools to 94.9 per cent, and rose by just under half a percentage point to 93.9 per cent in secondary schools. The secondary school rise is the largest of all area committees, and compares well to the citywide level, which remained at 93.7 per cent. There was a sharp rise in the number of children persistently absent from primary schools in the Inner North West area committee area, rising from 130 in 2011/12 to 161 in 2012/13 - a rise of 31, or 24 per cent (the third largest

percentage increase of all area committees). Persistent absence in secondary schools reduced by 22 per cent (46) from 208 in 2011/12 to 162 in 2012/13. This was the largest decrease of all area committees.

The percentage of 'not known' young people in the Inner North West area committee area has reduced by three percentage points, from seven per cent in June 2012 to four per cent in June 2013. The percentage of young people identified as NEET has risen from six per cent in June 2012 to seven per cent in June 2013.

Voice and influence	Leeds	Inner NW			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
19. 10-17 year olds committing an offence	672	80	100		Apr 12 - Mar 13	167	67	18
Ofsted inspections	Leeds	Inner NW			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
20. Percentage of primary schools good or better	83%	79%	74%	æ	31 July 2013	93%	82%	68%
21. Percentage of secondary schools good or better	58%	33%	33%		31 July 2013	75%	56%	25%
22. Percentage of children's centres good or better	81%	60%	60%		31 July 2013	100%	88%	60%
23. Percentage of children's homes good or better	73%	50%	50%		31 July 2013	100%	58%	0%
Ofsted judgement - Inner North West	Current period: 31 July 2013				Previous period: 31 Dec 2012			
	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
24. Primary schools	1	14	4	0	2	12	4	1
25. Secondary schools	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
26. SILCs (citywide)								
27. Pupil referral units (citywide)								
28. Children's centres	0	3	2	0	0	3	2	0
29. Children's homes	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Commentary

Iveson Primary School, which was rated inadequate at the turn of the year is now rated as requires improvement. Overall, 79 per cent of primaries are rated good or better (up from 74 per cent in December). City of Leeds secondary school was also rated as inadequate, but this school too is now rated as requires

improvement.

There has been no change in the Ofsted ratings of the two children's homes in the Inner North West area committee area; one is outstanding, the other is adequate.

Secondary schools	Current period		Previous period		Direction of travel	
	Ofsted	Attendance	Ofsted	Attendance	Ofsted	Attendance
Abbey Grange Church of England Academy	2	95.2%	2	94.9%		æ
City of Leeds School	3	90.6%	4	91.6%	æ	
Lawnswood School	3	93.4%	3	92.2%		æ

Key: AY - academic year FY - financial year HT - half term ... data below five (suppressed for confidentiality)

Ofsted grades: 1 = Outstanding, 2 = Good, 3 = Satisfactory/Requires Improvement, 4 = Inadequate

¹ The citywide figure reports 'adjusted NEET' (see data definitions), the area committee figures do not take account of 'adjusted NEET'

